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Free access link:

https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10803-020-04608-y

Article Overview:

This systematic review examined disparities and differences in allied health services access and use for children with autism spectrum disorder. The study included 21 publications conducted with paediatric ASD population, with most of studies based in the United States.

Key take home messages:

- Child age was one of the most consistently identified factors affecting treatment use for individuals with ASD, with older children and adolescents typically receiving fewer allied health services than younger children.
- 2. Parental income and education level impacted allied health service utilisation, whereby parents with greater income and higher education level are more likely to receive allied health services.
- 3. No evidence found regarding differences in allied health services access due to race and ethnicity, however, the authors suggested that larger national studies are needed to better characterize racial disparities.
- 4. Little evidence focusing on how specific child characteristics, such as symptom severity or co-occurring conditions, can impact service utilisation, suggesting a need for further research.
- 5. Important to note that many studies were not included in the review due to insufficient reporting of population description. Also, services that were not allied health were excluded, such as psychology.