

# The Spectrum of Data: Visualizing Autism Statistics

## What is Autism?

Autism is a neurodevelopmental disability characterized by differences in communication, sociality, and repetitive or specific interests and routines.

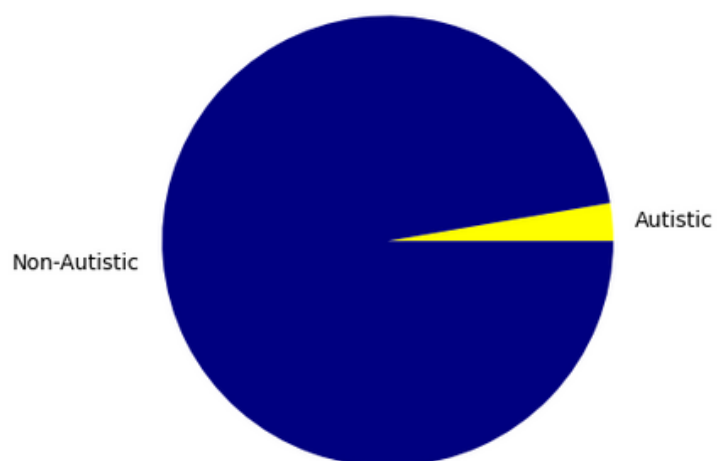
## What Does Autism Look Like?



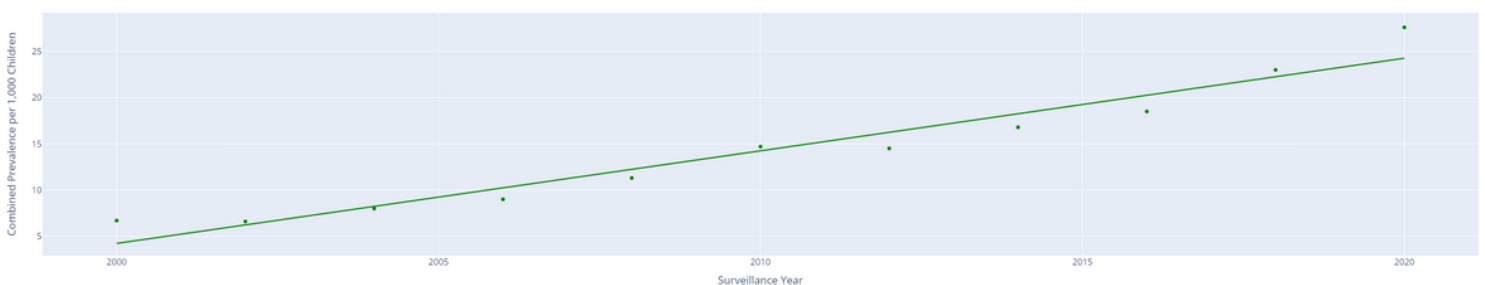
This word cloud analyzes the way that websites describe autism signs and symptoms. The main terms involve making eye contact, social skills, and play. Autistic people often don't make eye contact and may have difficulty with social situations.

## How Common is Autism?

In 2020, approximately 1 in 36 children in the United States were autistic. This is 2.7% of the population.

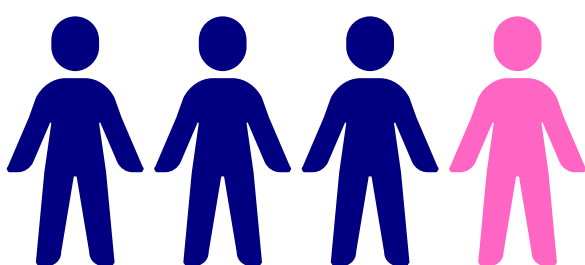


## Autism Rates over Time



Autism diagnosis rates have increased over the past 24 years. This is likely due to a combination of an increase of awareness, acceptance, and research.

## Autism and Gender



Historically, autism was viewed as a condition affecting boys and very few to no girls. However, current data suggest that the prevalence of autism is closer to three males for every one female.

## Learn More

- Autistic Self-Advocacy Network (<https://autisticadvocacy.org/>)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov))
- Medline Plus ([www.medlineplus.gov](http://www.medlineplus.gov))
- National Autism Society ([www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk))

