

# Correlates and Turning Points of Adaptive Functioning Trajectories & Longitudinal Associations with Autism Symptoms from Early Childhood to Adolescence

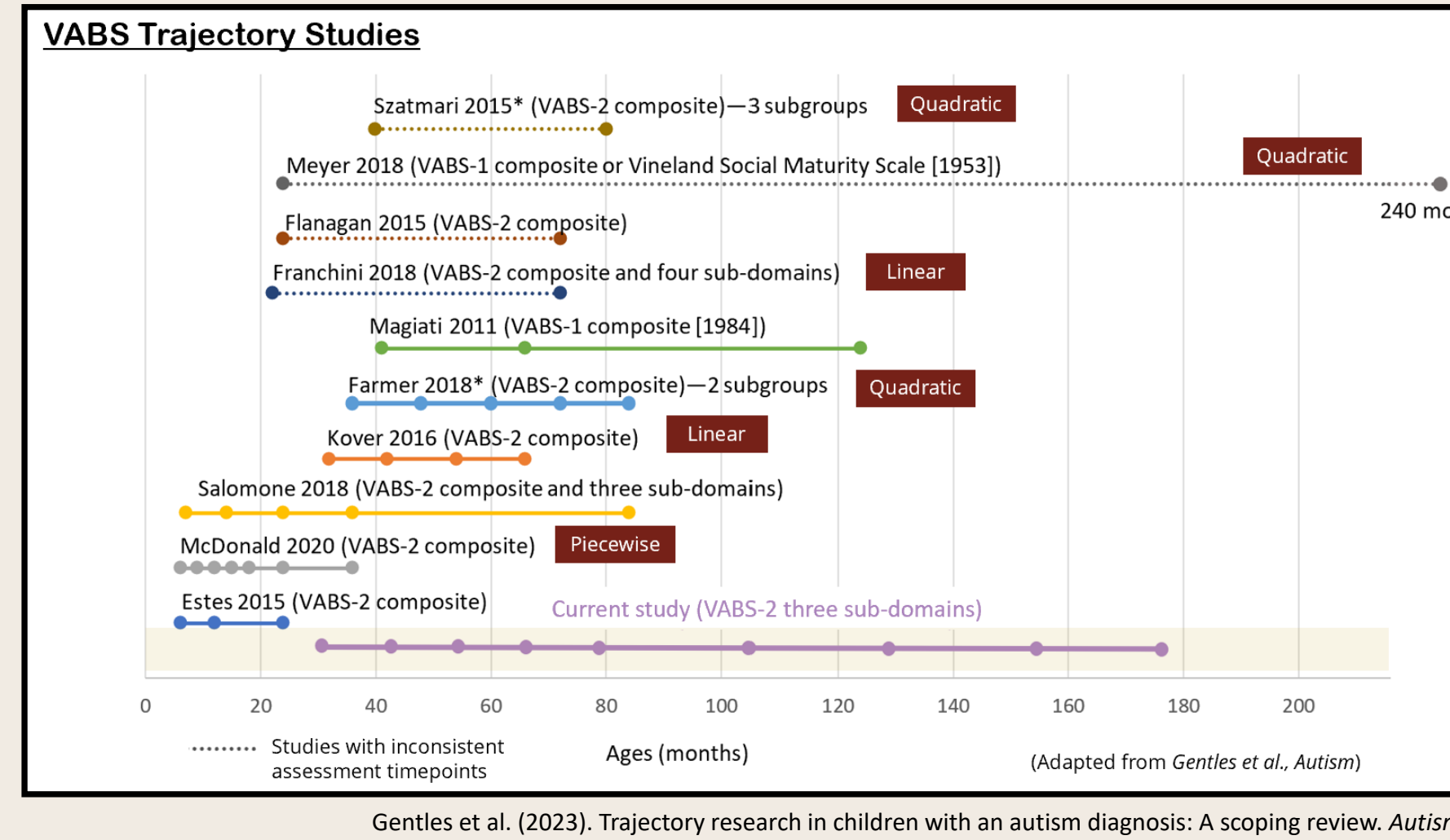
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## Background

Heterogenous adaptive outcomes in autism have been observed in previous longitudinal studies.



## Evidence Gaps

Associated characteristics beyond baseline (e.g., autism symptoms)

Turning points of adaptive functioning trajectories to inform opportunities for change

Family characteristics as covariates of trajectories (e.g., SES, immigrant status)

Global vs. Domain Score as unit of analysis  
Domain-level sources of variance were often ignored.

Data Wave vs. Chronological Age as time metrics  
Between-person age differences and within-person change were conflated.

## Research Questions

- What is the **best-fitting shape** of the latent trajectories of VABS subdomains? Are there **turning points** at certain ages?
- How many **VABS trajectory subgroups** can be identified? Is the subgroup membership associated with **child and family characteristics**?
- Do these VABS trajectory subgroups differ by **the changes of autism symptoms** from early to late childhood?

## Methods



## Participants



406 children diagnosed with autism at ages 2-5

≥ 15 years of follow-up

(with ≥ 1 timepoint of VABS data available)

(Y2005-current)

## Measures & Timeline

10 waves of data collection

Outcome Measures

VABS-II

ADOS

Domain-Level Standard Scores

Study Entry	Sequential Design	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Dx	6mos	12mos								
Wave		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Age (yrs)		2-5	2.5-5.5	3-6	5.5-7.5	7.5-8	8-9.5	9.5-10	10-12	12-14	14-17
VABS	X	X	X	X			X		X		X (12-17)
ADOS	X	X		X					X		
FBIQ (Family Background)	X	X	X			X	X	X	X		X

## Analysis

