

# Facts about Autism Spectrum Disorder

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASDs) is a neurological and developmental disability that can a wide range of challenges in social interaction, communication, and behavior. *The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental disorders, 5th edition* (DSM-5) defines ASD as the occurrence of persistent impairments in social interaction and the presence of restricted, repetitive patterns of behaviors, interests, and/or activities. ASD is best described as a complex developmental condition involving persistent challenges with social communication, restricted interests, and repetitive behavior because in prevalence, people who have this disorder approximately 23 per 1,000 in the age of 4 and/or 8 years of the population worldwide. The causes and risk factors are having a sibling with ASD, older parents, certain genetic conditions (E.G., down syndrome and/or fragile x syndrome) and a very low birth weight. According to cdc.gov website, as a results, Cumulative incidence of ASD diagnosis or eligibility per 1,000 children aged 4 years was calculated by dividing the total number of children with and ASD diagnosis and/or eligibility by each month of age by the population denominator for children aged 4 years or 8 years in 2018 which means that autistic children had been counted throughout therapy and treatment.

American Psychiatric Association. Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders. 5th ed. Arlington, VA: American Psychiatric Association; 2013. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/ss/ss7011a1.htm>

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