

Current Information on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Canada

Information collected from the 2019 Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth, referring to:

- Canadian population aged 1 to 17 years
- 10 provinces and 3 territories



Prevalence



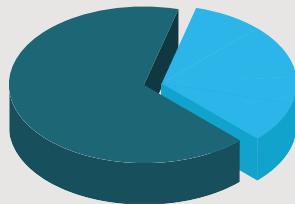
1 in 50 (2%) of Canadian children and youth aged 1 to 17 years diagnosed with ASD

- Males were diagnosed approximately 4x more frequently than females
- No statistically significant differences in prevalence were found in population group (visible minority vs not a visible minority vs indigenous), household education, or location (urban vs rural)

Age of Diagnosis

- Just over half (53.7%) of children and youth were diagnosed before the age of five
- Median age at diagnosis was 3.7 years

Co-Occurring Conditions



Among Canadians aged 1 to 17 years with ASD, over two-thirds (68.7%) had another long-term health condition

- 36.5% diagnosed with ADHD
- 48.1% diagnosed with a learning disability
- 22.1% diagnosed with anxiety disorder
- 19.9% diagnosed with other non-specified co-occurring long term health conditions



Quality of Life

Children and youth with ASD were less satisfied and happy with life, had less optimal general health, and less optimal mental health compared to those without ASD

	With ASD	Without ASD
Life Satisfaction	80.7% reported being "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with life	90.9% reported being "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with life
Happiness	45.1% reported that they were "happy and interested in life"	64.7% reported that they were "happy and interested in life"
General Health	59.3% reported "excellent" or "very good" general health	89.5% reported "excellent" or "very good" general health
Mental Health	39% reported "excellent" or "very good" mental health	84.1% reported "excellent" or "very good" mental health

Functional Difficulties

Close to three-quarters (73.3%) of children and youth with ASD had difficulty in at least one functional domain



Among those with ASD aged **5 to 11 years**, the most common functional difficulties were:

- Accepting change
- Making friends
- Learning
- Controlling behaviour
- Anxiety
- Communication



Among those with ASD aged **12 to 17 years**, the most common functional difficulties were:

- Making friends
- Accepting change
- Learning

