

NEW CDC AUTISM DATA

to Drive Action for Children and Families

1 IN 68

8-year-old children

has been identified as having autism.

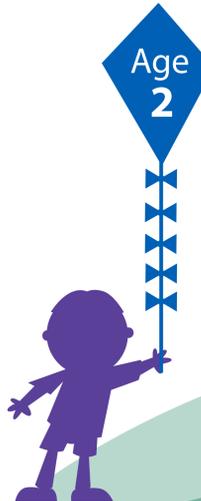
The new estimate represents a

30% INCREASE

from 2008 – 2010.



Research tells us the earlier a child with autism is identified and connected to services, the better.

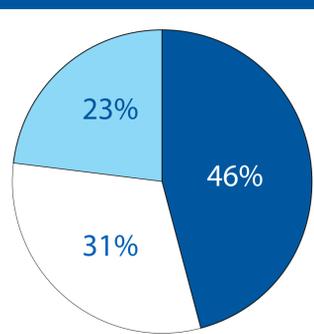


Age 2



Age 4

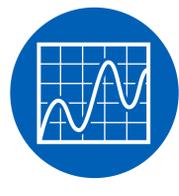
Most children were not diagnosed with autism until after age 4, even though children can be diagnosed as early as age 2.



- IQ > 85
- IQ = 71-85
- IQ <= 70

Almost half of children identified with autism have average or above average intellectual ability (an IQ above 85) compared to a third of children with autism a decade ago.

AUTISM: WHAT IS CDC DOING?



TRACKS
numbers and characteristics



RESEARCHES
risk factors



PROMOTES
early identification

PUTTING CDC AUTISM DATA TO WORK

There is an **urgent need** to continue the search for answers and provide help now for people living with autism.



TOOLS AND RESOURCES: PUTTING DATA TO ACTION IN THE COMMUNITY



1 Healthcare providers can use CDC's **Autism Case Training** to better identify and diagnose children with autism.

2 Early childhood educators can use CDC's free **checklists** to monitor developmental milestones.

WHAT SHOULD PARENTS KNOW AND DO?



If you have a concern about how your child plays, learns, speaks, acts, or moves, **take action**.

Don't wait. You know your child best.

- » Talk to your child's doctor about your concerns.
- » At the same time, call your local early intervention program or school system for a free evaluation.
- » Remember, you don't need a diagnosis to get services.
- » It's never too late to get help for your child.

Visit CDC.gov/ActEarly