

National-level outcomes of transition-age youth on the autism spectrum

Anne M. Roux, MPH, MA



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A public health approach to autism

Primary

Reduce/eliminate avoidable causes

Modifiable Risk Factors

Craig Newschaffer, Ph.D.



Secondary

Identify symptoms early and intervene

Early Detection & Intervention

Diana Robins, Ph.D.



Tertiary

Minimize disability and promote quality of life

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Paul Shattuck, Ph.D.



**50-70,000 children with autism
turn 18 and enter the adult
service system every year.**

-Shattuck, Roux, et al 2012

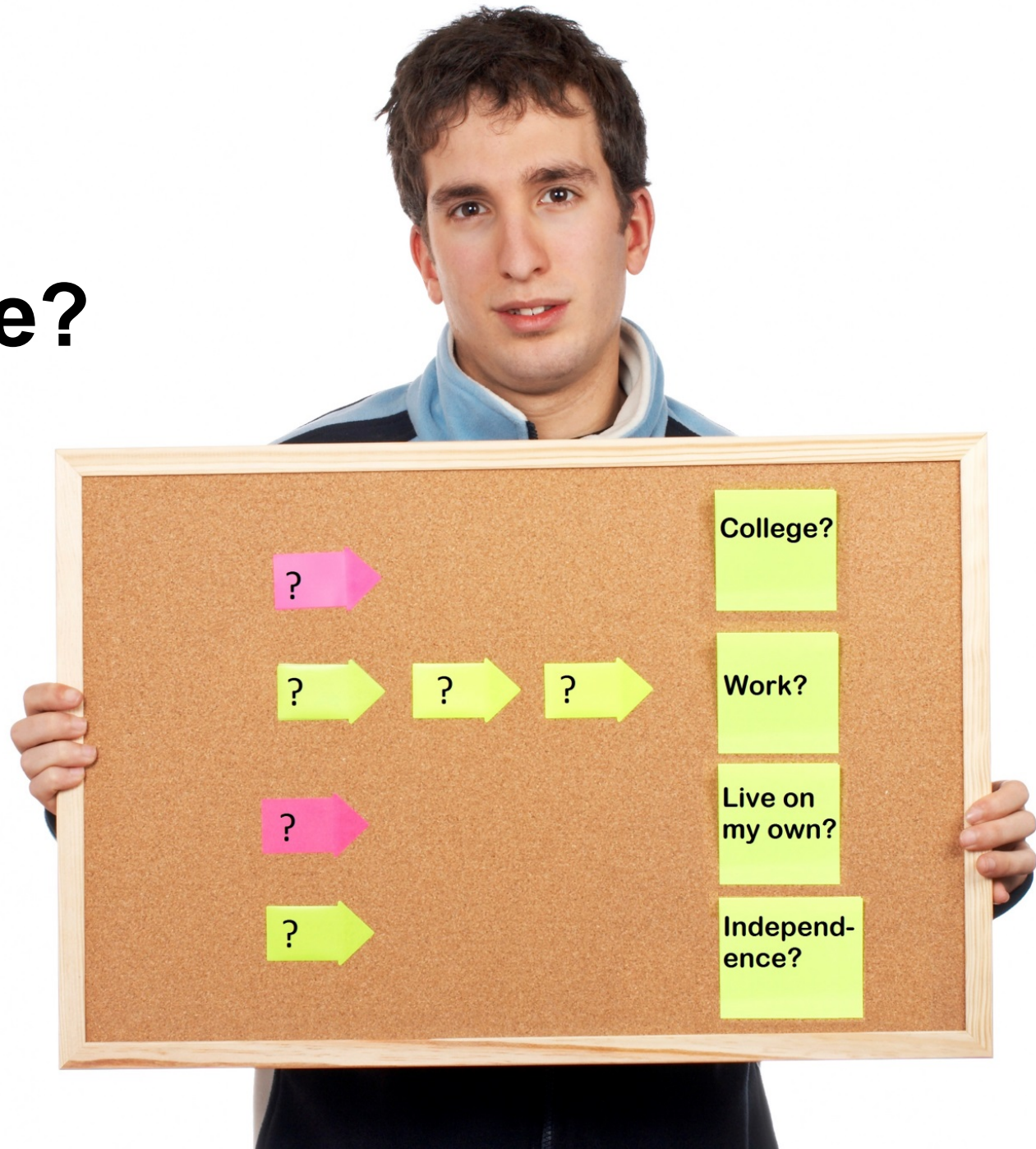


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What is a life course perspective?







National Autism Indicators Report

Transition into Young Adulthood

2015



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Data Sources

- National Longitudinal Transition Survey 2 (NLTS-2)
- Survey of Pathways to Diagnosis and Services



Outcome domains



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What were the characteristics of youth at the time of transition?

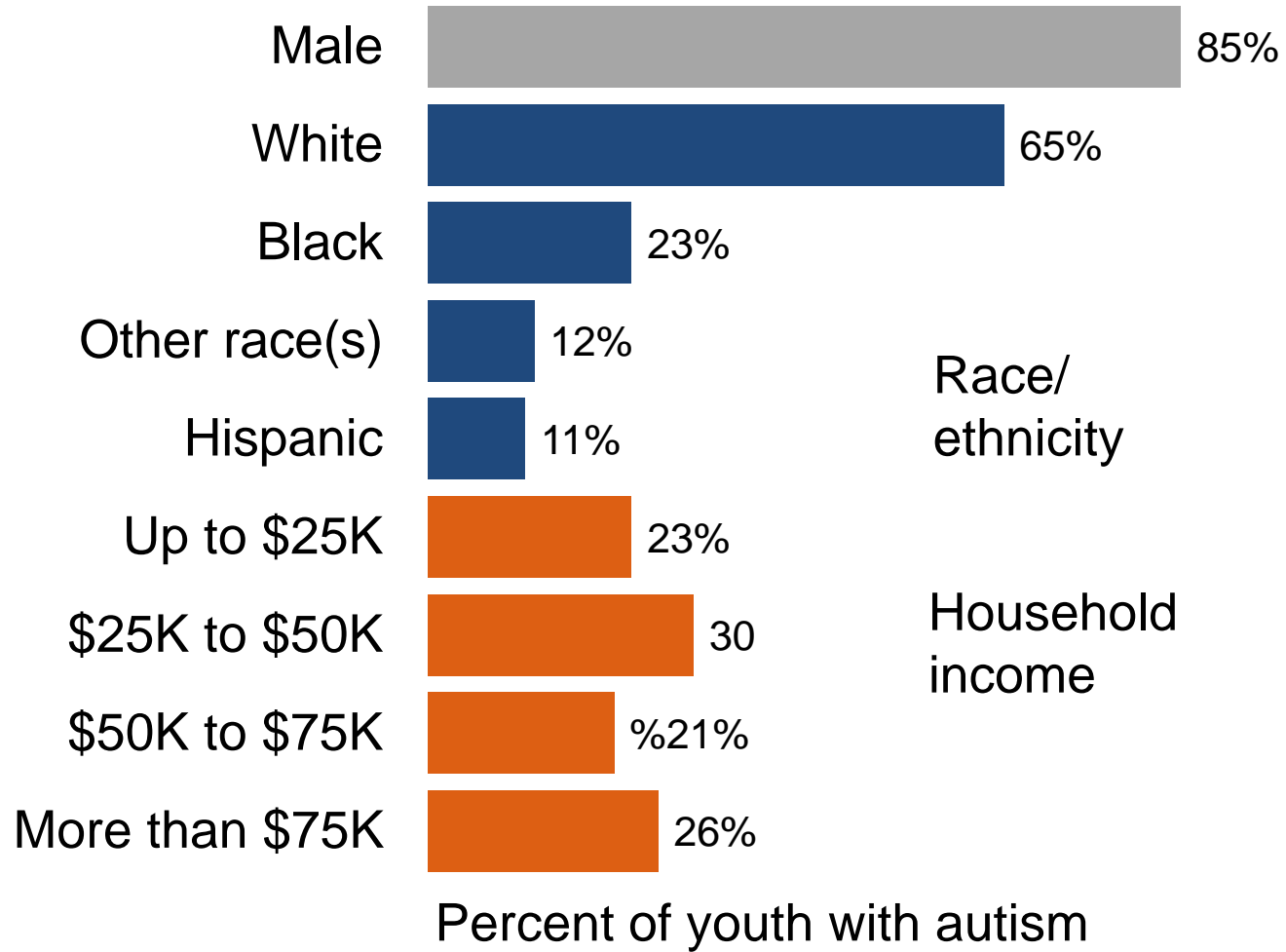


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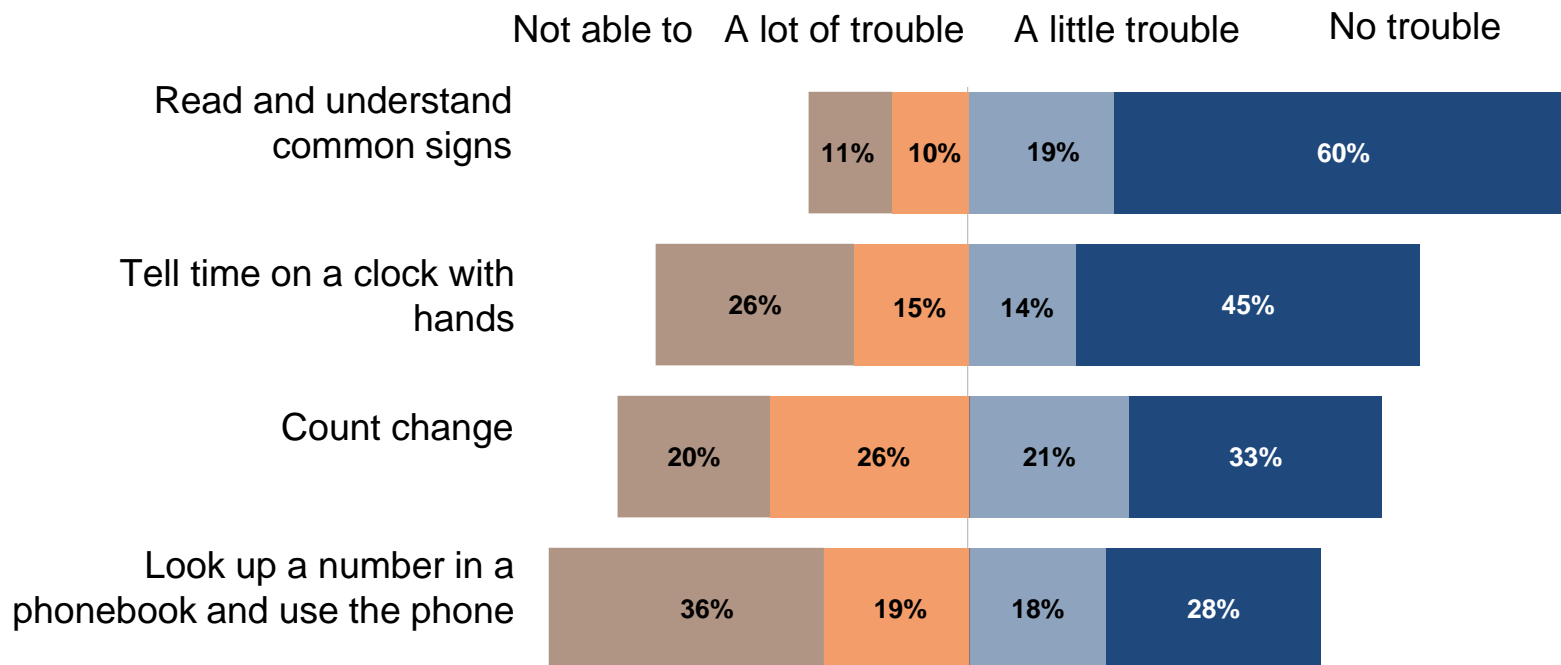


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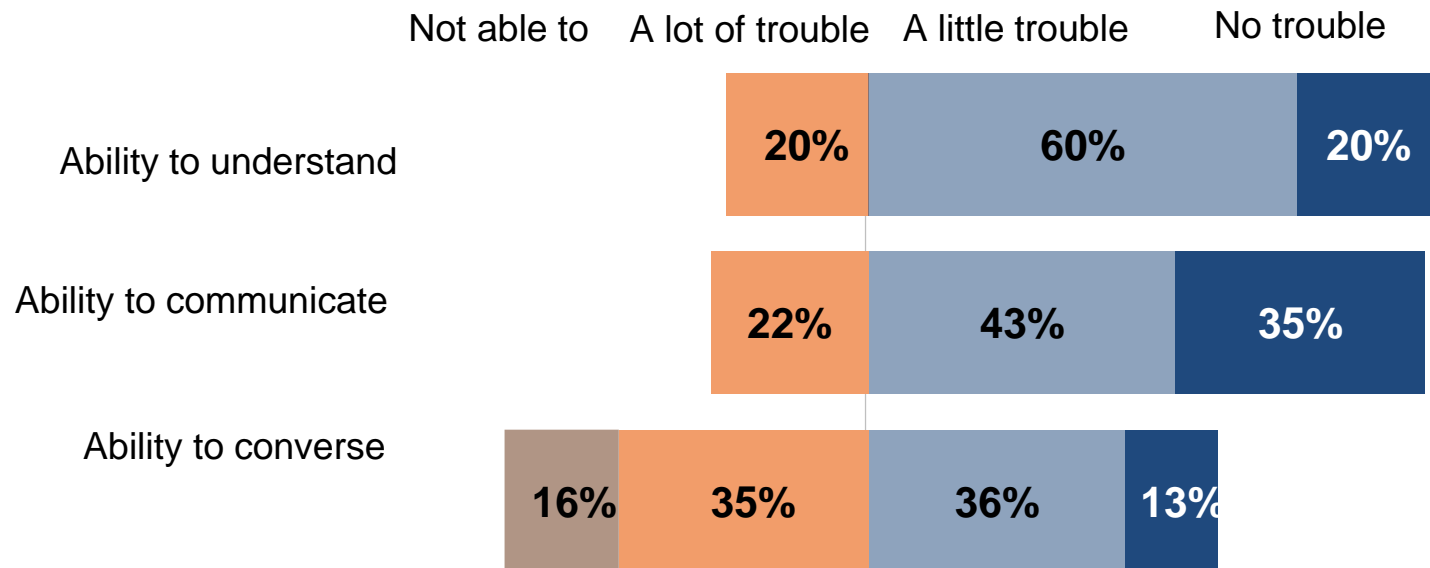
Autism Demographics



Ability to perform activities of daily living varied.



Over half had great difficulty conversing.



What supports did youth with autism receive as they entered adulthood?

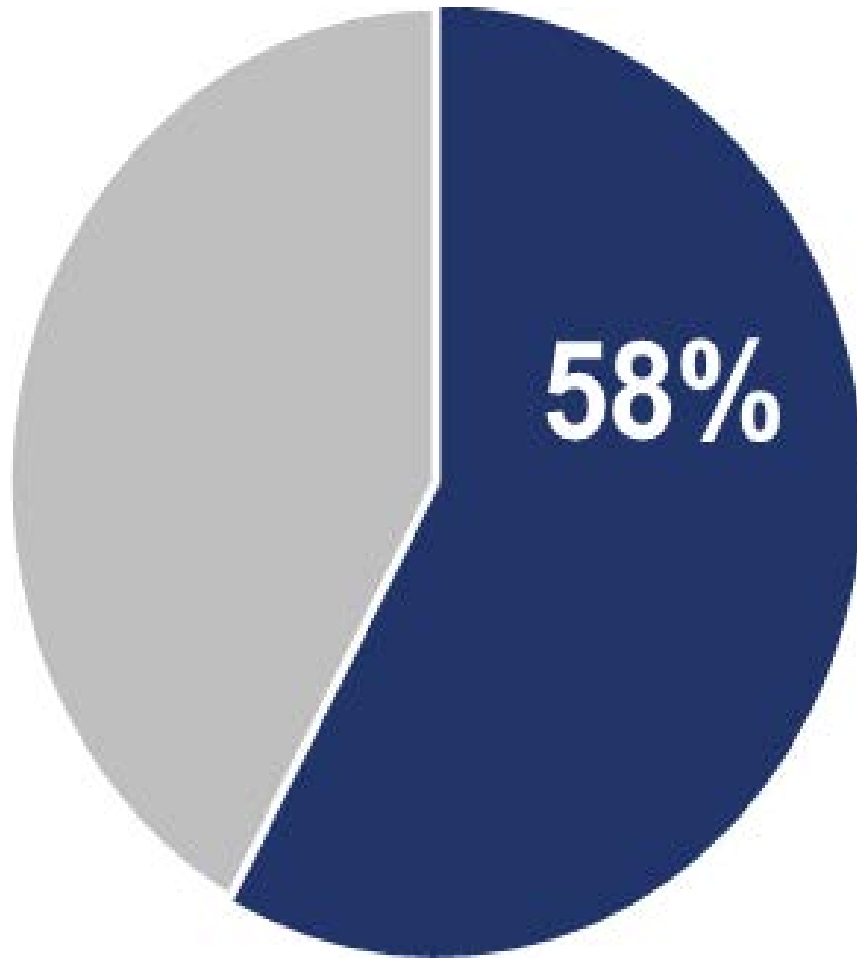


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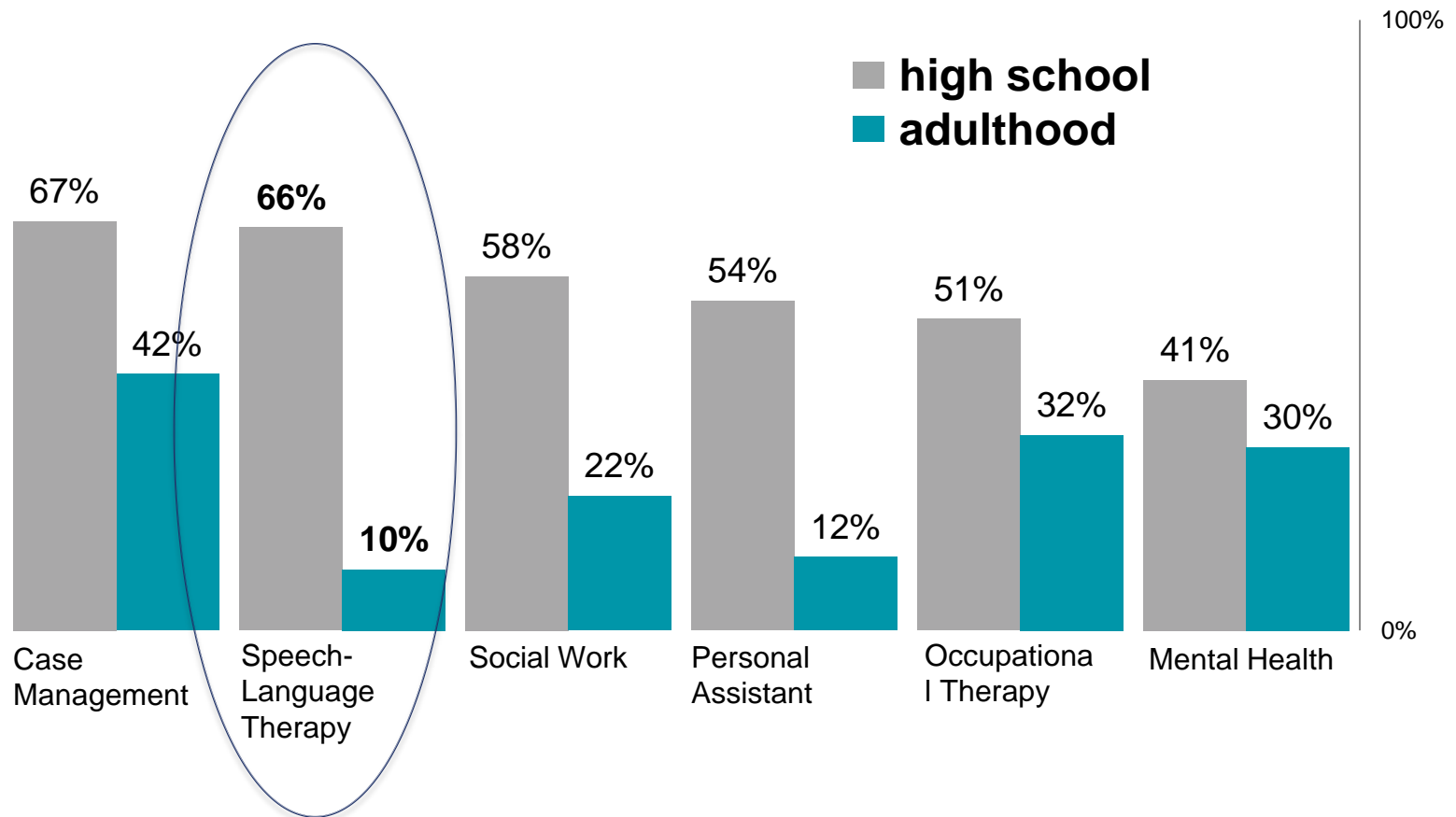
Inconsistent receipt of transition planning



of youth with autism had a transition plan by the required age according to their teachers

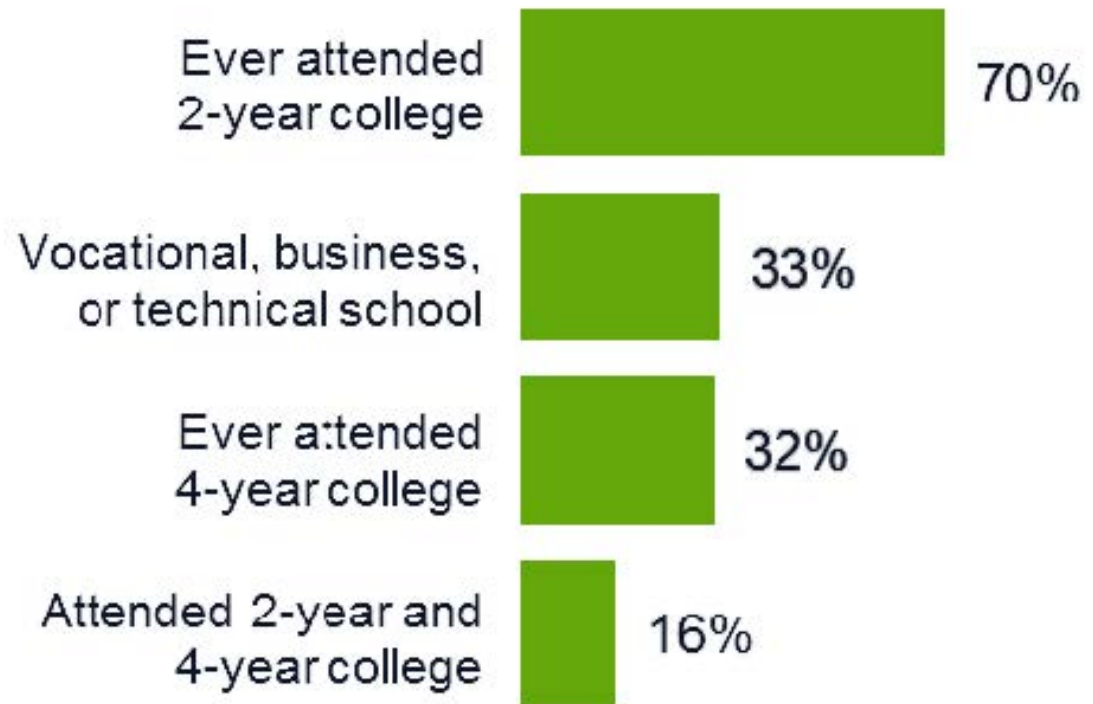
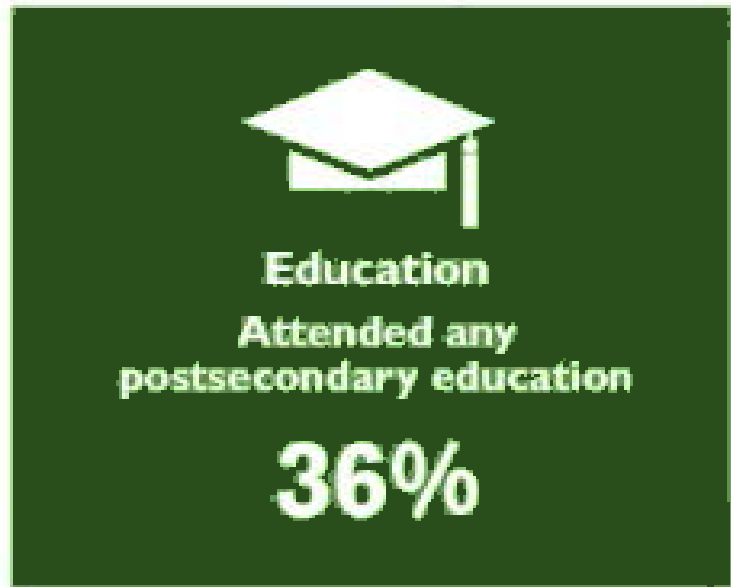


The services cliff

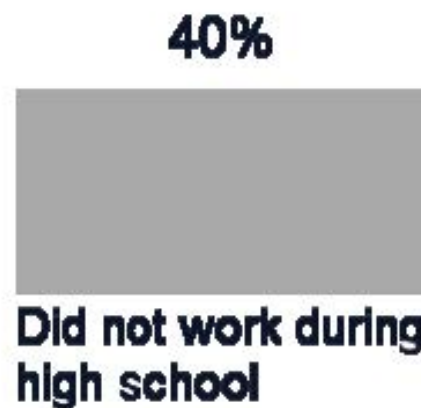


What happened to transition-age youth with autism between high school and their early 20s?

One-third ever attended post-secondary education.



Half ever held a job.



One-quarter were socially isolated.



Percent with no participation in past year



One-third had no community participation.



Percent with no participation in past year



Postsecondary Connection

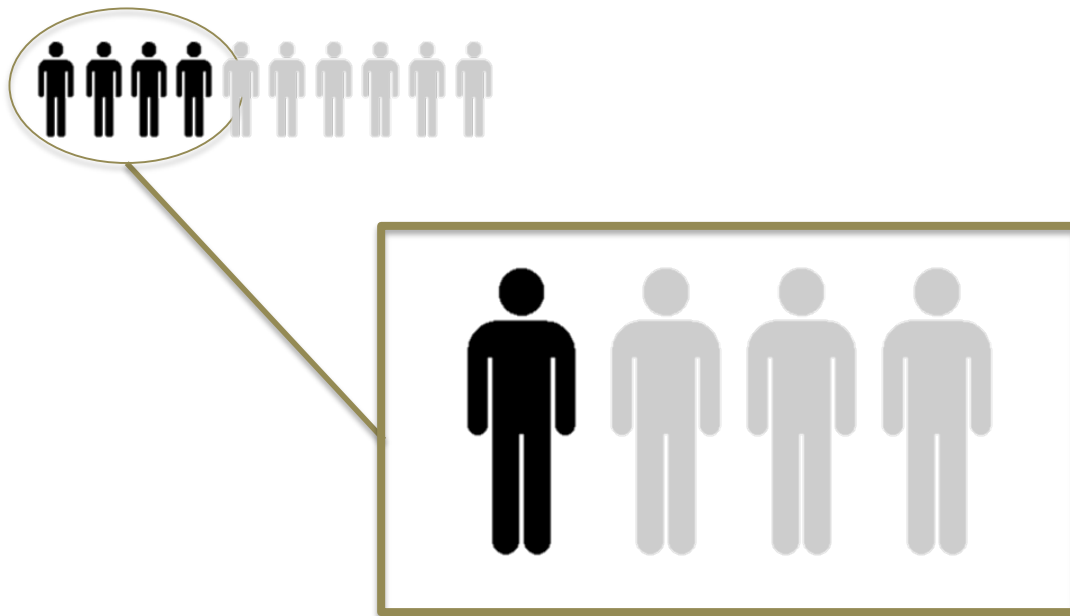
Employment

College

Voc/tech school

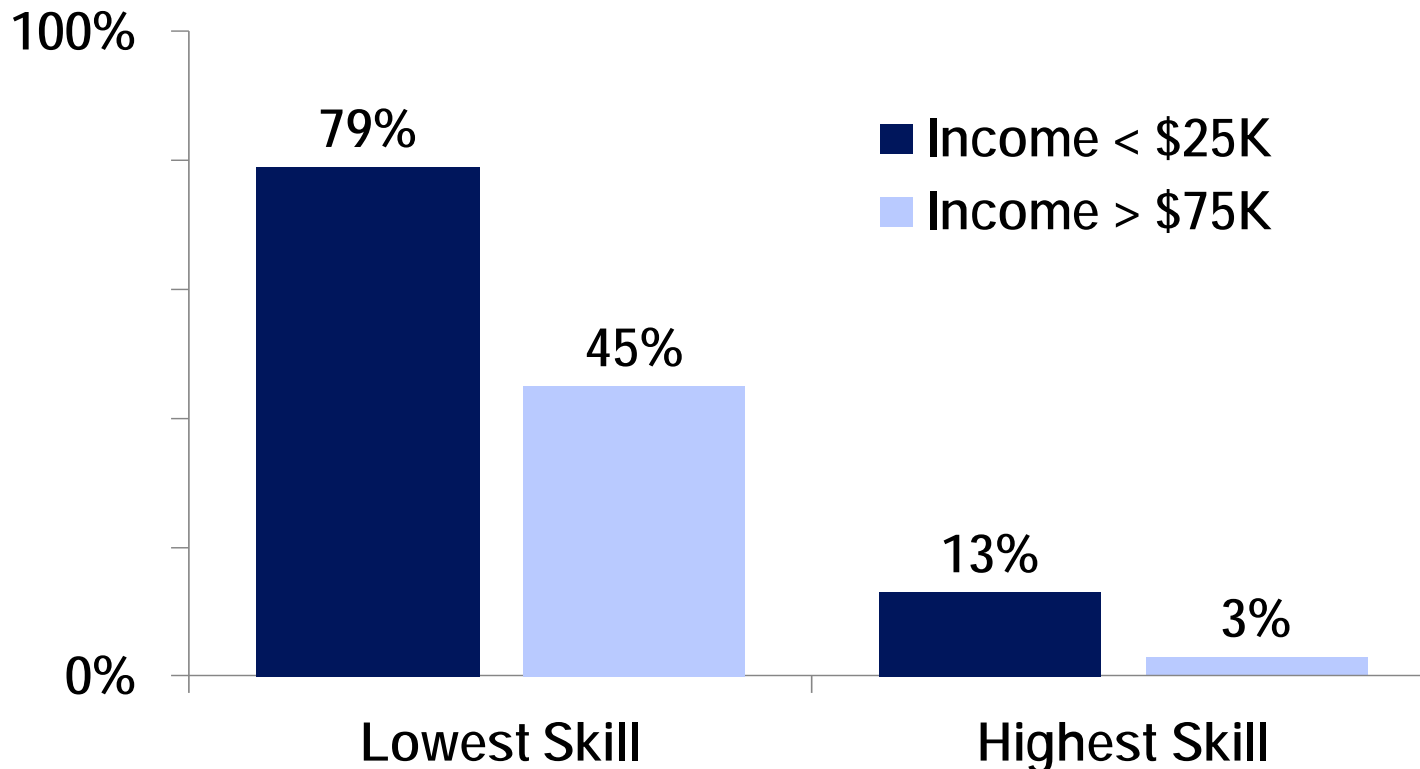


Four in 10 were completely
disconnected from both work and
continued education opportunities.



One in four disconnected young adults had **no access to services** since high school.

Disconnection levels are high in those with lower level skills and lower income.

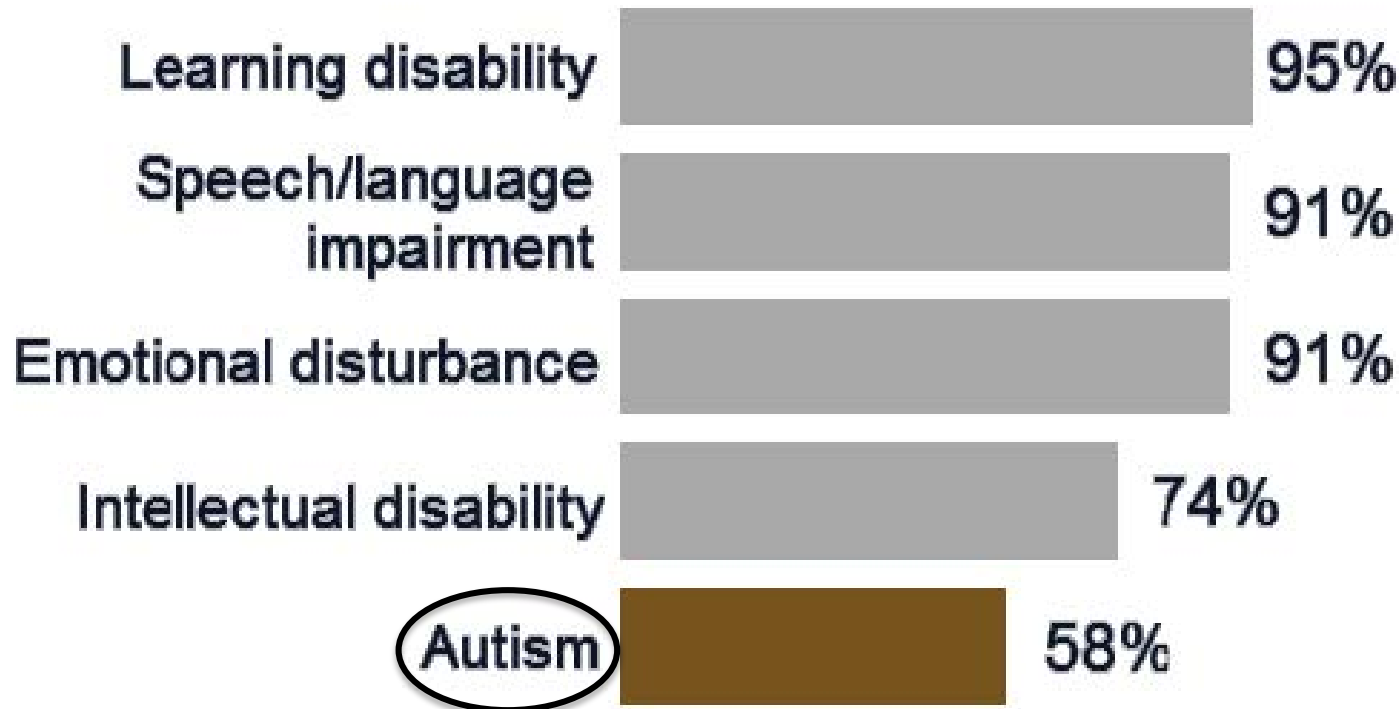


Shattuck et al, 2012. *Pediatrics* 129(6).

Insights from the NLTS2

Young adults with autism fared worse relative to those with other disabilities.

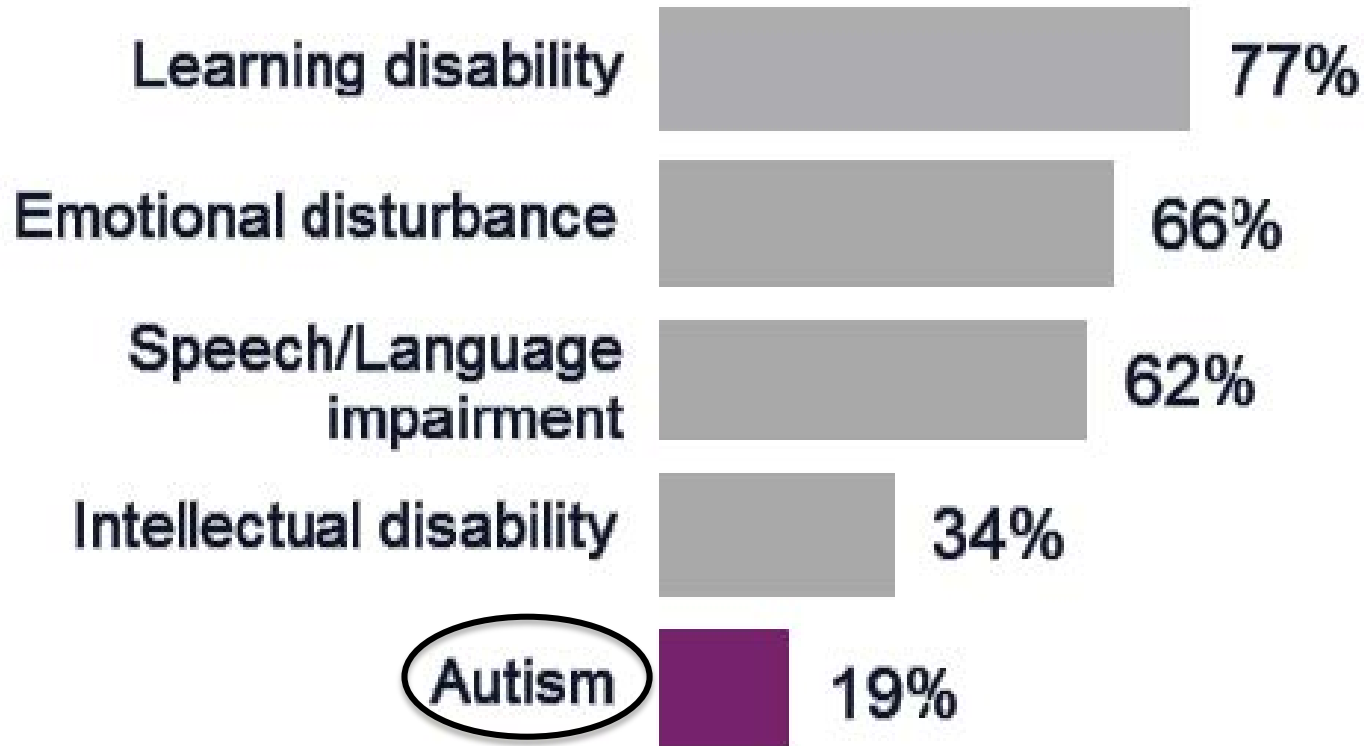
Rates of employment



Percent ever worked after high school



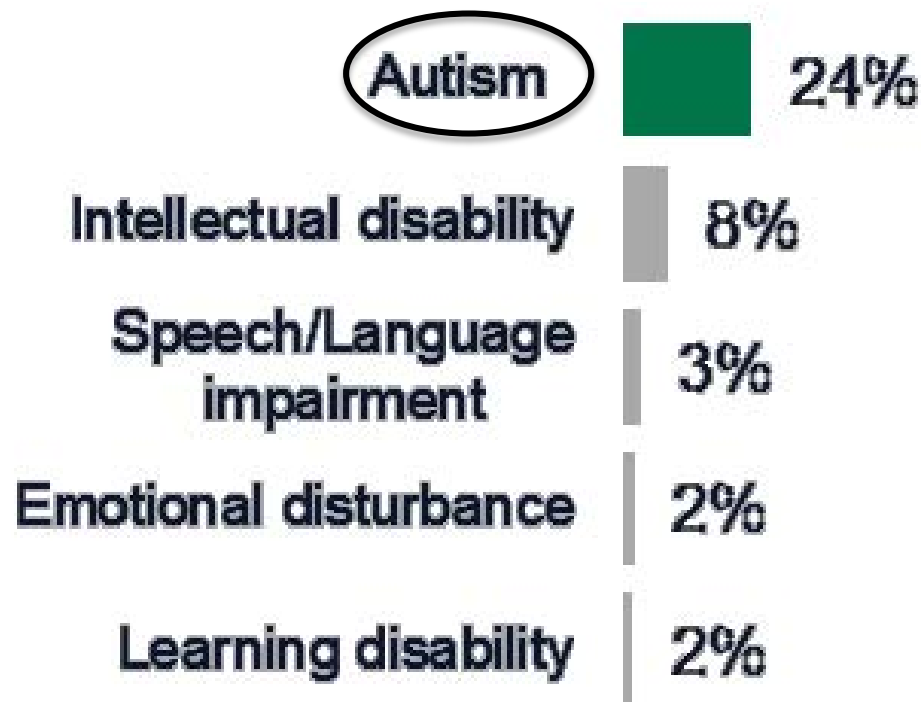
Rates of independent living



Percent ever lived independently



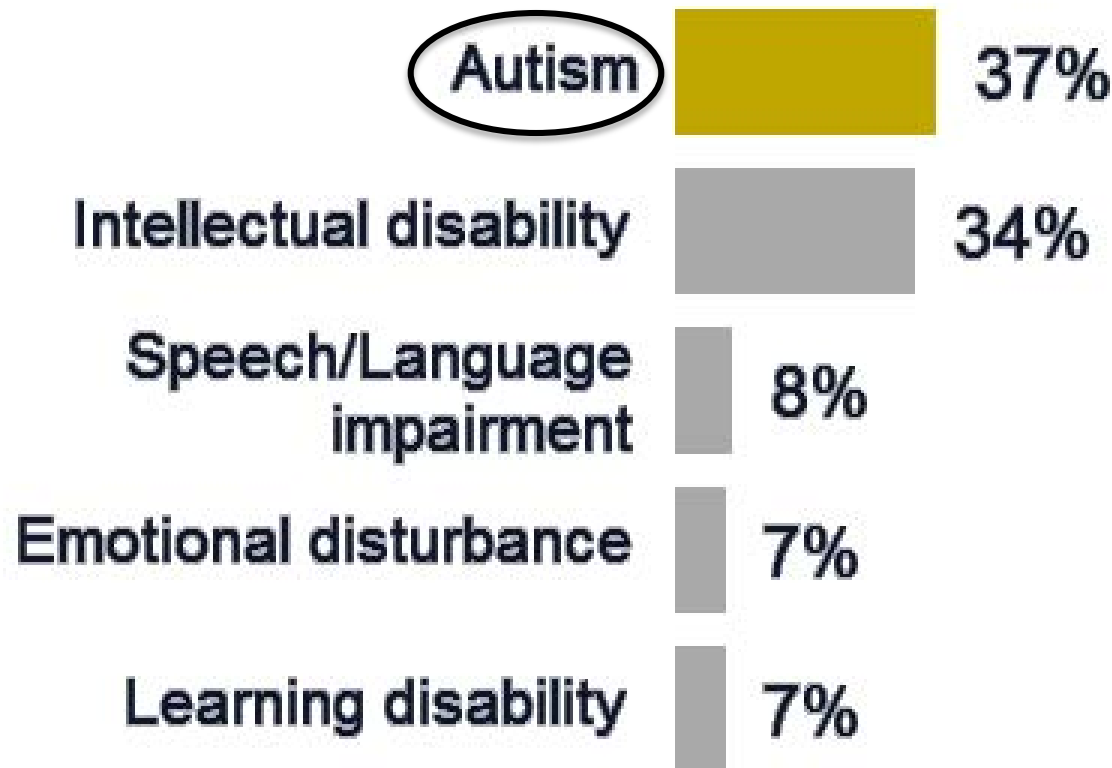
Rates of social isolation



Percent socially isolated in past year



Rates of disconnection



Percent never worked or went to school



Results



- Congressional autism caucus briefing
- Consultation with the U.S. Government Accountability Office
- NPR On Point interview
- NPR Diane Rheme show
- 7 additional media interviews
- 4 invitations for national conference presentations
- Drexel top news events of 2015



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TOPICS

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

PROJECTS

NEWS

BLOG

ABOUT



BETTER RESEARCH MEANS BETTER OUTCOMES

How can we improve the lives of people on the autism spectrum? This is the big question we at the Life Course Outcomes team are working to answer. Our award winning research informs policy and services at the community and national level in ways to improve quality of life.

We cover a wide range of topics, all related to producing better life outcomes for people on the autism spectrum.



TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD



ACCESS TO SERVICES



EDUCATION



EMPLOYMENT



EXPLORE OUR RESEARCH

Learn about major projects currently underway, and where our research is headed.



NOTABLE PUBLICATIONS

NATIONAL AUTISM INDICATORS REPORT: TRANSITION INTO YOUNG ADULTHOOD

An in-depth report on outcomes of young adults with autism following high school

INVOLVEMENT IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AMONG YOUNG ADULTS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM

Individuals with autism may be at risk for criminal justice involvement due to differences in social communication skills and behavioral characteristics.



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Looking ahead

Paramount needs:

- Population health research
- Funding for secondary data analysis
- Purposeful planning of data collection
- Longitudinal study





National Autism Indicators Report:

Vocational Rehabilitation

2016



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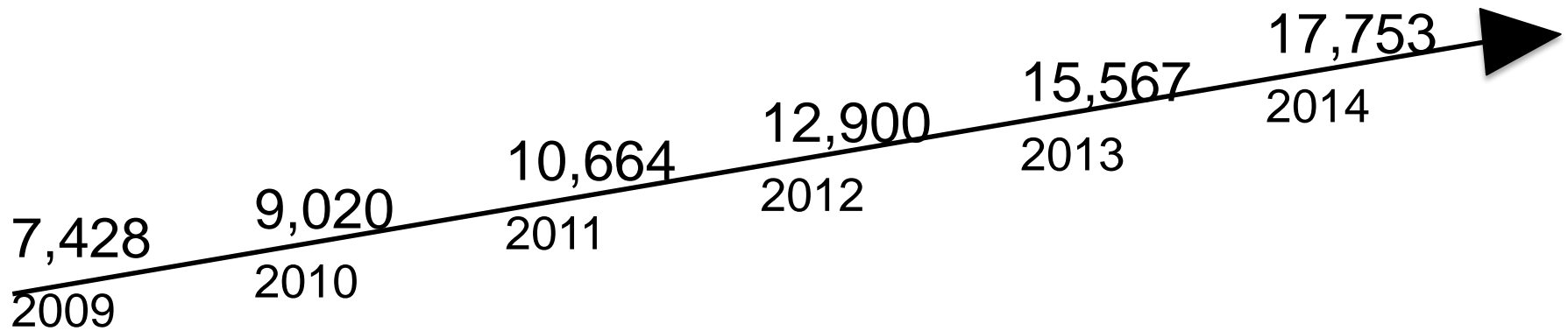


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VR and Autism

Preliminary numbers

- Nearly 18,000 applicants with autism exited vocational rehabilitation in 2014.



VR and Autism

Preliminary numbers

- Approximately 1/3 of those who applied did not receive services.
- 60% of VR participants with autism exited with employment
- Age is an important factor in employment outcomes for this group.

What we would like to know

- Size of the population who needs VR help
- Reasons families do not apply for VR help
- Reasons for not receiving services
- Why some states have better outcomes
- What works or does not works about VR
- Job placement satisfaction and match
- Movement in/out of VR over time
- Changes in need for public benefits



Information & Acknowledgments

A.J. Drexel Autism Institute's
Life Course Outcomes Research Program

www.drexel.edu/AutismOutcomes

National Autism Indicators Report

drexel.lu/autismindicators

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