



The Autism Society declared April as Autism Awareness Month in 1970.<sup>1</sup>

The Autistic Self Advocation Network (ASAN), founded in 2006, is a nonprofit led by autistic people. <sup>2</sup> In 2011, the ASAN began advocating for a shift in language from Autism Awareness Month to **Autism Acceptance Month** to destigmatize autism and advocate for the inclusion of autistic people. <sup>3</sup>

### **FACTS & FIGURES**



**Nationally** 

## 1 IN 4 CHILDREN

are diagnosed with AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER 4



In Florida

### 1 IN 139 CHILDREN

are diagnosed with AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER 5

This disparity may be due to an insufficient number of clinicians available to diagnose in Florida. 6

# 4 TIMES AS MANY

boys as girls are diagnosed with autism.<sup>4,5</sup>



Evidence suggests that autistic girls are underdiagnosed due to

### CLINICIAN BIAS and DIFFERENCES

in how their symptoms present in comparison to boys. <sup>7</sup>

Emerging research suggests autistic individuals are MORE LIKELY TO IDENTIFY AS TRANSGENDER OR GENDER DIVERSE.8

Autistic children are at an INCREASED RISK OF EXPERIENCING

### **MALTREATMENT**

from their caretakers. 10



As a result, autistic children are

### **OVERREPRESENTED**

in the CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM.10



Although autism presents at similar rates in different racial and ethnic backgrounds, on average,<sup>4</sup>

#### **BLACK CHILDREN**

are diagnosed

# 3 YEARS

than White children.



One study found that autistic children are

# MORE 3

### **TIMES AS LIKELY**

to enter the foster care system than their neurotypical (i.e., non-autistic) peers.<sup>11</sup>





### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & RESOURCES**

Florida Department of Education's Exceptional **Education and Student Services** 

fldoe.org/ese

Florida KidCare floridakidcare.org

Florida Early Steps floridaearlysteps.com

First Words Project

firstwordsproject.com

**Family Initiative** 

fi-florida.org

esi.fsu.edu

Florida Foster and Adoptive Parent Association

Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

floridafapa.org

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

Early Social Interaction Project

apdcares.org

autismfl.com

Autism Society of Florida

rehabworks.org

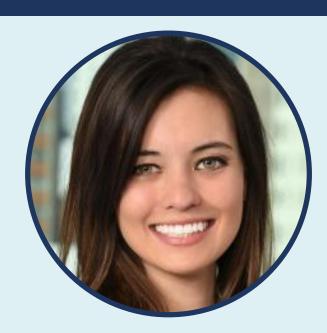


# AFFILIATE, STAFF, & PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



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### Learn more about the Institute's affiliate network at FICW.FSU.EDU/AFFILIATES

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