



FLORIDA
INSTITUTE
FOR CHILD
WELFARE



AUTISM ACCEPTANCE

The Autism Society declared April as Autism Awareness Month in 1970.¹

The Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN), founded in 2006, is a nonprofit led by autistic people.²

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.³

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.^{4,5}



Evidence suggests that autistic girls are underdiagnosed due to **CLINICIAN BIAS** and **DIFFERENCES** in how their symptoms present in comparison to boys.⁷

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,⁴

BLACK CHILDREN
are diagnosed
**3 YEARS
LATER**
than White children.⁹



One study found that autistic children are

**MORE THAN 3
TIMES AS LIKELY**
to enter the
foster care system
than their neurotypical
(i.e., non-autistic) peers.¹¹



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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

Early Social Interaction Project

esi.fsu.edu

Family Initiative

fi-florida.org

Florida Foster and Adoptive Parent Association

floridafapa.org

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

apdcares.org

Autism Society of Florida

autismfl.com

Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

rehabworks.org

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Learn more about the Institute's affiliate network at
[FICW.FSU.EDU/AFFILIATES](https://ficw.fsu.edu/affiliates)

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