

PENNSYLVANIA AUTISM NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Individuals (Completed for themselves)

141 individuals over age 18 diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders completed this needs assessment module. Item-level survey results for this module are presented here in the same format in which the survey was administered.

1. What is your sex?

Male	71.6%	Female	28.4%
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2. What is your race/ethnicity? *(Check all that apply)*

African American	4.9%	Latino, Hispanic, or Chicano	2.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.4%	Native American	3.5%
Caucasian/European American	89.4%	Other	3.5%

(Please specify)

3. What is your zip code? **See Map**

4. In what year were you born (e.g. 1974)? Mean: 25.8 years old, Standard Deviation: 10.9

5. What is your current marital status?

Married	0.7%	Divorced/Separated	0.7%
Never been married	98.6%	Widowed	0%

6. Do you have children?

Yes	2.2%	No, undecided	41.0%
No, but planning on having children	16.4%	No, I do not want children	40.3%

7. Which of the following is closest to your annual income?

Under \$20,000	93.2%
\$20,000-\$39,999	3.8%
\$40,000-\$59,999	0.8%
\$60,000-\$79,999	0%
\$80,000-\$99,999	0.8%
\$100,000 or above	1.5%

8. What is your primary autism diagnosis?

Asperger's Disorder	69.8%	Autistic Disorder/Autism	11.5%
Pervasive Development Disorder (PDD/NOS)	15.8%	Other	2.9%

9. Have you ever been diagnosed with or treated for any of the following? *(Check all that apply)*

Anxiety Disorder	31.7%	Learning Disability	33.1%
Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder	40.1%	Mental Retardation/ Intellectual Disability	14.8%
Bipolar Disorder	17.6%	Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)	21.8%
Central Auditory Processing Disorder	5.6%	Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD)	12.0%
Conduct Disorder (CD)	2.8%	Seizures/ Seizure Disorder	7.0%
Depression	43.0%	Tourette's Syndrome	2.1%
Developmental Delays	22.5%	None of these	5.6%
Hearing Impairment	2.8%		
Other <i>(Please specify)</i>	14.8%		

10. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

No high school	3.0%	Some college	20.1%
Some high school	8.2%	College degree	13.4%
High school graduate/GED	47.8%	Some graduate studies	1.5%
Vocational/Technical school	4.5%	Graduate degree	1.5%

11. Are you currently in school?

Yes, high school	8.0%	Yes, graduate school	0%
Yes, community college	9.4%	No, but I would like to be	21.0%
Yes, four-year college	8.0%	No	51.4%
Yes, vocational/technical school	2.2%		



If you are not currently in school, please SKIP to question 12

11a. What is the status of your school enrollment?

Full-time	76.3%	Part-time	23.7%
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11b. Are you aware of assistance and/or resources for individuals with disabilities at your school?

Yes, but I don't use them	24.3%	No	8.1%
Yes, and I do use them	67.6%		

11c. Have you been identified by your school as needing accommodations (e.g. tutoring, special housing, counseling)?

Yes	73%	I don't know	8.1%
No	18.9%		

11d. What are your plans after graduation?

Continue education	47.4%	I don't know	21.1%
Look for full-time employment	26.3%	Other	5.3%

Please tell us about your education needs:

	I am receiving	I am receiving, but need more	I am receiving, but do not need	I am not receiving, but need	I am not receiving
11e. Special housing	8.1%	2.7%	0%	2.7%	86.5%
11f. Test-taking assistance	40.5%	2.7%	2.7%	16.2%	37.8%
11g. Academic counseling	36.1%	13.9%	2.8%	16.7%	30.6%
11h. Note-taking assistance	11.1%	2.8%	2.8%	16.7%	66.7%
11i. Tutoring	22.9%	14.3%	0%	14.3%	48.6%
11j. Peer mentoring/social supports	22.2%	2.8%	2.8%	36.1%	36.1%

Please describe any friendships you have developed by participating in the following school activities:

	Very strong friendships	Casual Friendships	No friendships developed	Have not participated
11k. Peer mentoring	2.7%	18.9%	24.3%	54.1%
11l. Dorm-sponsored social activities	0%	5.4%	13.5%	81.1%
11m. Student groups	10.8%	24.3%	24.3%	40.5%
11n. Intramural and club sports	0%	8.1%	8.1%	83.8%

→→→ Please continue answering the questions...

12. Are you currently employed?

Yes, full-time	5.8%	No, I am retired	0.7%
Yes, part-time	25.9%	No	46.8%
No, but currently looking for a job	20.9%		



If you are not currently employed or looking for a job, please SKIP to question 13

12a. Which of the following have you used/do you use to look for employment? (Check all that apply)

Internet	23.2%	Word of mouth	21.8%	Sheltered workshop	3.5%
Parent/relative connections	17.6%	Career counseling	10.6%	Other	12.0%
Newspaper	20.4%	Job fair	7.0%		
		School career placement	8.5%		

Please complete the following statements about the job search process:

12b. Finding employment opportunities is....

Very Difficult	40.8%	Somewhat Difficult	40.8%	Somewhat Easy	15.5%	Very Easy	2.8%
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12c. Filling out applications is....

Very Difficult	11.6%	Somewhat Difficult	31.9%	Somewhat Easy	42.0%	Very Easy	14.5%
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12d. Creating a résumé is ...

Very Difficult	26.1%	Somewhat Difficult	37.7%	Somewhat Easy	29.0%	Very Easy	7.2%
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12e. Getting potential employers to interview me is ...

Very Difficult	29%	Somewhat Difficult	43.5%	Somewhat Easy	26.1%	Very Easy	1.4%
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12f. Interviewing is....

Very Difficult	18.6%	Somewhat Difficult	45.7%	Somewhat Easy	30.0%	Very Easy	5.7%
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12g. Following up after interviews is....

Very Difficult	17.6%	Somewhat Difficult	42.6%	Somewhat Easy	30.9%	Very Easy	8.8%
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12h. Compared with your peers in the work force, do you feel discriminated against in any of the following ways?
(Check all that apply)

My skills are underused	12.7%	I don't receive accommodations or supports for autism	6.3%
I don't receive appropriate compensation	4.2%	None	19.7%
I am not given requested shifts	2.8%	N/A (I am not currently employed)	16.9%
I don't receive promotions/raises	4.9%		

12i. Are the employees that you work with aware of your autism spectrum disorder?

Yes, only my supervisors know	5.8%	No, it is not an issue	11.6%
Yes, only my peers/coworkers know	8.7%	I don't know	10.1%
Yes, everyone knows	14.5%	N/A (I am not currently employed)	34.8%
No, I don't feel comfortable sharing	14.5%		

→→→ Please continue answering the questions...

Please rate the following statements:

13. I feel comfortable working in a group environment.

Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
10.4%	46.7%	22.2%	20.7%

14. I feel comfortable asking my peers for information or help.

Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
15.3%	45.3%	26.3%	13.1%

15. I feel comfortable asking an authority figure for information or help.

Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
22.8%	45.6%	23.5%	8.1%

16. I feel comfortable asking an authority figure for time off from work or class.

Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
13.2%	32.6%	38.0%	16.3%

17. What is your current living situation?

Independently- alone	11.0%
Independently- with roommates	2.9%
Independently with people who are dependent on me	0.7%
On own with support	3.7%
With parents or other relatives	69.9%
In a residential facility	5.9%
In a group home	5.9%

18. How satisfied are you with this living arrangement?

Very Satisfied	31.6%
Satisfied	50.7%
Dissatisfied	9.6%
Very Dissatisfied	8.1%

19. Please describe your satisfaction with your current relationships:

	I do not have, but would like...	I do have, but would like more...	I am satisfied with my...	N/A
19a. Romantic relationships	47.1%	5.9%	14.0%	33.1%
19b. Friendships	19.1%	33.1%	41.2%	6.6%
19c. Mentors	31.6%	10.5%	33.8%	24.1%
19d. Friends to confide in	24.6%	23.1%	38.8%	13.4%
19e. Friends to socialize with	22.2%	36.3%	31.1%	10.4%
19f. Relationship with parents	1.5%	20.9%	68.7%	9%
19g. Relationship with significant other (e.g. spouse, partner)	22.2%	5.2%	10.4%	62.2%
19h. Relationship with children	8.8%	3.7%	5.1%	82.4%
19i. Relationship with siblings	7.4%	22.1%	36.8%	33.8%

20. Do you participate in the following activities?

20a. Employment	69.4% No	30.6% Yes	20.5 Avg. Hours per week Range: 4-50 hours
20b. School	70.4% No	29.6% Yes	19.6 Avg. Hours per week Range: 1-40 hours
20c. Volunteer work	80.1% No	19.9% Yes	3.8 Avg. Hours per week Range: 1-14 hours
20d. Community groups/organizations	77.2% No	22.8% Yes	6.4 Avg. Hours per week Range: 1-31.25hours
20e. Spiritual or religious activities	61.9% No	38.1% Yes	1.9 Avg. Hours per week Range: 1-10 hours
20f. Exercise	43.0% No	57.0% Yes	5.6 Avg. Hours per week Range: 0.5-40 hours
20g. Hobbies or special interests	22.6% No	77.4% Yes	16.3 Avg. Hours per week Range: 0-100 hours
20h. Household chores/ duties	21.5% No	78.5% Yes	5.1 Avg. Hours per week Range: 0.5-40 hours
20i. Social activities with friends	53.3% No	46.7% Yes	7.4 Avg. Hours per week Range: 1-28 hours

20j. **Other**

21. Are you involved in any advocacy groups? Yes 11.9% No 88.1%

22. How do you travel to school, work, or other activities?

Drive myself or use public transportation on my own	38.7%
Depend on family member or friend support	31.4%
Use transportation provided by school or work	13.1%
Other (<i>Please specify</i>)	16.8%

23. Please tell us about your therapy and service needs:

	I am receiving	I am receiving, but need more	I am receiving, but do not need	I am not receiving, but need	I am not receiving
23a. Mental Health Counseling	45.2%	10.4%	3.0%	9.6%	31.9%
23b. Speech/Language Therapy	3.0%	3.7%	0%	11.1%	82.2%
23c. Occupational/Speech Therapy	3.0%	2.2%	0.7%	14.1%	80.0%
23e. Social Skills Training	14.7%	7.4%	0.7%	23.5%	53.7%
23g. Relationship Counseling	8.1%	3.7%	0%	14.1%	74.1%
23i. Case Management	36.8%	9.0%	0.8%	9.0%	44.4%
23j. Vocational Training	10.3%	4.4%	0.7%	18.4%	66.2%
23k. Transitional Planning	10.4%	8.9%	1.5%	11.1%	68.1%
23l. Supported Employment	11.2%	4.5%	0.7%	15.7%	67.9%
23m. Career Counseling	11.8%	5.9%	0%	21.3%	61%

24. What limitations do you face in accessing these specialty health and education services? *(Check all that apply)*

Transportation	31.0%	Cost of service/My insurance does not cover available services	16.2%
Scheduling issues	14.8%	Stigma	2.1%
Shortage of service providers in the area	23.2%	Other <i>(Please specify)</i>	12.7%
No service providers in the area	13.4%	None	33.1%
Providers in the area will not see individuals with autism	5.6%		5.6%

25. How are these services paid for? *(Check all that apply)*

Private health insurance	23.9%	I don't know	22.5%
Out-of-pocket	14.1%	Other <i>(Please specify)</i>	12.7%
Medicaid (Medical Access)	52.8%		
Mental Retardation Services	7.0%		

26. In the past year, have you gone to the emergency room for behavioral or psychiatric reasons?

Yes	14.4%	No	85.6%
On how many occasions?			
Mean: 3.3 visits; Standard Deviation: 8.56			

27. In the past year, have you been admitted to a hospital or hospital-like setting for psychiatric or behavioral reasons?

Yes	9.6%	No	90.4%
On how many occasions?			
Mean: 1.6 hospitalizations; Standard Deviation: .53			



If you have not been admitted to a hospital or hospital-like setting for behavioral or psychiatric reasons in the past year, please SKIP to question 28

27a. If so, what were the specific reasons why you were admitted to a hospital or hospital-like setting? *(Check all that apply)*

Aggression	4.2%
Anxiety	3.5%
Defiant/oppositional behaviors	0.7%
Depression	3.5%
Running away from home	0%
Self-injurious behaviors	3.5%
Significant increase in obsessions	3.5%
Other <i>(Please specify)</i>	2.8%

27b. How were you admitted?

I admitted myself (201, Voluntary Treatment)	83.3%
I was admitted against my will (302, Involuntary Treatment)	16.7%

→→→ Please continue answering the questions...

28. Have you had any of the following interactions with the police? *(Check all the apply)*

Police called	16.2%
Police warning issued (other than moving violations)	5.6%
Arrested by the police	5.6%
Charged with a misdemeanor or felony	9.2%
None	68.3%
Other <i>(Please specify)</i>	9.2%



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bringing autism resources together.