

Autism Facts

- 1 in 250 births¹
- 1 to 1.5 million Americans²
- Fastest-growing developmental disability
- 10 - 17 % annual growth
- Growth comparison during the 1990s³:
 - U.S. population increase: 13%
 - Disabilities increase: 16%
 - Autism increase: 172%
- \$90 billion annual cost⁴
- 90% of costs are in adult services⁴
- Cost of lifelong care can be reduced by 2/3 with early diagnosis and intervention⁴
- In 10 years, the annual cost will be \$200-400 billion⁵

2003 Copyright Autism Society of America. All rights reserved.

¹ Based on prevalence statistics from the National Institutes of Health (2001) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2001).

²Based on the autism prevalence rate of 2 to 6 per 1,000 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2001) and 2000 U.S. Census figure of 280 million Americans.

³U.S. Department of Education's "Twenty-First Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act" (1999).

⁴Jarbrink K, Knapp M, 2001, London School of Economics study: "The economic impact on autism in Britain," 5 (1): 7-22.

⁵ASA calculates that the annual cost of autism will increase to \$200-400 billion in 10 years.

February 2003