

Studies

[Post-traumatic stress disorder and experiences involving violence or sexual abuse in a clinical sample of autistic adults with intellectual disabilities: Prevalence and clinical correlates](#)

Autistic people appear to be at increased risk of post-traumatic stress disorder, and experiences involving violence or sexual abuse appear to be common in this population. However, knowledge concerning trauma in autistic people with co-occurring intellectual disabilities is limited. In this cross-sectional study, we explored the prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as the prevalence and clinical correlates of reported experiences of violence and sexual abuse, in a clinical sample of 88 autistic adults with intellectual disabilities referred for mental health assessment.

['Most people have no idea what autism is': Unpacking autism disclosure using social media analysis](#)

Autism disclosure – that is sharing their autism diagnosis or identity with a person or people – is a difficult decision for many autistic people. While telling people they are autistic can be positive and helpful, it can also create a lot of problems. What we have learnt is that disclosure is really complicated. Rather than asking research participants questions about what might happen, we looked at what people were saying on public social media posts (Reddit and Twitter) about what did happen.

[Understanding the contribution of intellectual disabilities nurses: Paper 3 of 4 – evaluation](#)

The overall objective of this research was to identify intellectual disability nursing interventions and their impact on the health and healthcare of people with intellectual disability. This is part 3 of a 4-part series. In this paper we report the findings from quantitative questions from an online survey of intellectual disability nurses. The objective of this part of the study was to evaluate intellectual disability nurses' confidence in their understanding of the interventions they undertook.

[Trends in mental health inequalities for people with disability, Australia 2003 to 2020](#)

Cross-sectional studies have demonstrated that people with disability have substantial inequalities in mental health compared to people without disability. However, it is not known if these inequalities have changed over time. This study compared the mental health of people with and without disability annually from 2003 to 2020 to investigate time trends in disability-related mental health inequalities.

[Why are only some children with autism spectrum disorder misclassified by the social communication questionnaire? An empirical investigation of individual differences in sensitivity and specificity in a clinic-referred sample](#)

The Social Communication Questionnaire (SCQ) is a checklist for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) commonly used in research and clinical practice. While the original validation study suggested that the SCQ was an accurate ASD screener with satisfactory sensitivity and specificity, subsequent studies have yielded mixed results, with some revealing low sensitivity, low specificity, and low utility in some settings.



[Effects of a Nonwearable Digital Therapeutic Intervention on Preschoolers With Autism Spectrum Disorder in China: Open-Label Randomized Controlled Trial](#)

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental disorder that can cause difficulty with communication and social interactions as well as complicated family dynamics. Digital health interventions can reduce treatment costs and promote healthy lifestyle changes. These therapies can be adjunctive or replace traditional treatments. However, issues with cooperation and compliance prevent preschool patients with ASD from applying these tools. In this open-label, randomized controlled trial, we developed a nonwearable digital therapy called virtual reality–incorporated cognitive behavioral therapy (VR-CBT).

[Cariprazine in Pediatric Patients with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Results of a Pharmacokinetic, Safety and Tolerability Study](#)

Cariprazine is a dopamine D3-preferring D3/D2 and serotonin 5-HT1A receptor partial agonist approved to treat adults with schizophrenia and manic/mixed or depressive episodes associated with bipolar I disorder. This study, which is the first to evaluate cariprazine in pediatric patients with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) (including children 5–9 years of age) using an oral solution formulation, evaluated the safety, tolerability, pharmacokinetics (PK), and exploratory efficacy of cariprazine and its two major active metabolites, desmethyl cariprazine (DCAR) and didesmethyl cariprazine (DDCAR).

Reports

[We deserve better: Ethnic minorities with a learning disability and access to healthcare](#)

Commissioned by the NHS Race and Health Observatory, this comprehensive recommendations review: 'We deserve better: Ethnic minorities with a learning disability and access to healthcare' has been undertaken by the University of Central Lancashire, in collaboration with Manchester Metropolitan University, Learning Disability England and the Race Equality Foundation.

Accessible Resources

[Know Your Body series](#)

Ansar Projects have created a series of accessible resources with Coppafeel! and Orchid to support people with a learning disability to know their body. The resources are the first of their kind and include accessible breast and testicular cancer information packs, self-checking cards, breast and testicular cancer symptom guides, self-checking social stories and information on what to expect if you notice a change.

News

[Autistic man should not be forced to undergo dialysis, judge rules](#)

A judge has ruled that a 26-year-old autistic man with chronic kidney disease does not have to undergo dialysis, despite hospital specialists saying there would be a "potentially fatal consequence" if he didn't have it.



[Minimal progress made to improve the lives of disabled people, report finds](#)

A new report is urging the government to improve the lives of disabled people, as currently, they are at higher risk of poverty, abuse and poor health.

[Majority of disabled children missing government exercise target](#)

A major government initiative encouraging disabled children to become more active is failing to have an impact, according to new research. Government guidelines issued last year recommend that disabled children should exercise for 20 minutes each day - but research from outdoor activity centre Calvert Lakes indicates that the majority of disabled children are not doing so.

[Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training Code of Practice](#)

Today, 43 organisations have joined together to write to the minister about the lack of an accessible version of the consultation on the Oliver McGowan mandatory training code of practice. The letter was to say it is not acceptable that people with learning disabilities do not have equal information or time to think about and respond to a code of practice on training that is about their lives.

[Number of autistic people in mental health hospitals: latest data](#)

The latest monthly [Assuring Transformation NHS Digital data](#) shows that in July 2023:

- In total 2,045 autistic people and people with learning disabilities are in inpatient mental health hospitals in England
- 65% of these people are autistic
- There are 200 under 18s in inpatient units that are autistic or have a learning disability. Of these, 95% are autistic

[Wired differently: how neurodiversity adds new skillsets to the workplace](#)

From the arts to the law, employers are seeing conditions such as autism and ADHD can have more benefits than drawbacks.

[No sleep, meltdowns and Billie Eilish: my first music festival as an autistic person](#)

Since my teenage years, I've always wanted to attend a music festival. But as an autistic person, the thought of being crammed into a loud, rowdy crowd of tens of thousands of people has always scared me. For years I avoided them. Instead, I would watch my friends enjoy themselves at big festivals from the sidelines of social media platforms.

[Manchester Piccadilly station boosts accessibility with new £800k Assisted Travel Lounge](#)

Passengers that require assistance now have a dedicated waiting lounge at Manchester Piccadilly station to make travelling by train a more pleasant experience.

[Is excess brain fluid an early marker of autism?](#)

In 2009, Mark Shen noticed something odd in the brain scan of a 6-month-old who had an older sibling with autism: excess fluid between the brain and the skull. Shen — then a graduate student in David Amaral's group at the University of California Davis MIND Institute — and his colleagues set out to quantify the amount of brain fluid from the scans of younger siblings of children with autism. Such 'baby sibs' have a 20-fold higher chance of having the condition compared with the general population.

