

## Studies

### [Autism, Obesity, and PTSD Among Adolescents and Young Adults: An Analysis of National Medicaid Claims Data](#)

Autistic individuals disproportionately experience obesity, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and a range of other adverse health outcomes, relative to both the general population and those with other developmental conditions. These individuals also disproportionately experience Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Many of these conditions emerge during adolescence and young adulthood (age 15–30).

### ['We're Not Really Into Helping, We're Into Being Useful': Service Provider Practices That Support Belonging Opportunities in the Lives of Adults Labelled With Intellectual Disabilities](#)

Social inclusion focussed on belonging is increasingly emphasised by disability advocates and policymakers, yet belonging often remains absent for adults labelled with intellectual disabilities. People labelled with intellectual disabilities often rely on service providers to support their belonging.

### [Reduced relationship-specific social touching and atypical association with emotional bonding in autistic adults](#)

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental disorder defined by social communication deficits, repetitive behaviors and restricted interests. Studies have reported aberrant sensory responses, including altered experiences of social touch, in individuals with ASD. However, the relationship between atypical social touch and social networks in ASD remains poorly understood. Social touch is used to strengthen and manage social networks in many species. Studies in general populations across diverse cultures show that the extent of permissible touch is consistently linked to the strength of emotional bonds between the toucher and the touched individual. This study examined relationship-specific patterns of social touch and their association with emotional bonding in individuals with ASD.

### [The association between cardiorespiratory fitness and resting-state functional connectivity in adults with Down syndrome](#)

Resting-state functional connectivity (FC) of the default mode network (DMN) is linked to Alzheimer's disease in people with Down syndrome (DS). In adults without DS, cardiorespiratory fitness is associated with DMN FC; however, this has not been unexplored in DS.

### [Adaptive yoga for psychological health of children having autism spectrum disorder and with intellectual disability: single case experimental design](#)

Children with multiple disabilities have developmental issues in psychological domains. Adaptive yoga tailored to individual abilities promises positive results on children with special needs. This study applies multiple baseline single-case experimental design (SCED) to establish functional relationship between yoga and psychological health of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and intellectual disability (ID).

### [The influence of indoor temperature and noise on autistic individuals](#)

This study examines the influence of temperature and noise on autistic individuals. Conventional indoor comfort questionnaires as well as pre-validated attentional tests were administered to autistic and typically developed individuals across six different environmental scenarios.

#### [Risk of Parkinson Disease in Individuals With Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)

Recent research suggests a plausible biological link between autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and Parkinson disease (PD). Nonetheless, large longitudinal studies examining the risk of PD following ASD are lacking.

#### [Association of autistic traits with inference generation in visual narratives](#)

Individuals with higher levels of autistic traits sometimes demonstrate differences with narrative comprehension compared to those with lower levels of autistic traits. One particular aspect of narrative processing that is thought to be affected by autistic traits is inferencing.

#### [Molecular basis of autism spectrum disorders](#)

Autism is a prevalent neurological disorder that affects the development of children worldwide. With the advent of genome wide association studies and whole exome sequencing methods, associated genes and molecular pathways that lead to the development of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) have garnered recent attention. However, the etiology of ASD is still rudimentary and poorly understood. Thus, understanding the specific molecular pathways that contribute to autism aids in its clinical diagnosis, management, and treatment.

#### [Identifying understudied correlations between autism & phenotypic attributes in a large family dataset](#)

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), a neurodevelopmental condition marked by restricted, repetitive behaviors and social communication difficulties, is one of the fastest-growing pediatric behavioral health concerns in the United States. Long-term outcomes significantly improve with early intervention, but diagnosis and treatment are complicated by the large range of phenotypic presentations that can be moderated by identity factors like gender and culture. Many physical and behavioral characteristics associated with the autism phenotype are not included in the screening and diagnostic instruments used in research.

## Cochrane Reviews

#### [Atypical antipsychotics for autism spectrum disorder: a network meta-analysis](#)

Individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) exhibit a wide variety of symptoms related to social interaction and behaviour. Atypical antipsychotics have been widely evaluated and prescribed to treat distressing symptoms (e.g. irritability, aggression, obsessions, repetitive behaviours, etc.) in children and adults with ASD. Still, their effects and relative efficacy remain unclear.

## Study Summaries

#### [Cast no shadow: how common are psychiatric conditions among people with intellectual disability?](#)

People with intellectual disability experience deserve parity of care – but currently experience worse health outcomes compared to those without.

## Guidance

[Guidance to support implementation of the Mental Capacity Act in acute trusts for adults with a learning disability](#)

This guidance supports trusts and community providers in enabling frontline staff to fulfil their legal requirements under the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) 2005, specifically when supporting people with a learning disability.

[Get me to hospital: When and how to use the Mental Capacity Act to convey a person to hospital for physical health treatment](#)

Decisions about taking people with cognitive impairments to hospital can be complex. They involve thinking about the person's own ability to make decisions.

[Practice tips on engaging with parents with learning disabilities](#)

Advice from a Community Care Inform guide on working with parents with learning disabilities, including a framework to help practitioners work in a relationship-based way.

## Calls for Evidence

[Mental Health Bill: call for evidence](#)

Do you have relevant expertise and experience or a special interest in the Mental Health Bill, which is currently passing through Parliament?

[Inquiry into Digital Inclusion and Health: Call for Evidence](#)

As digital systems become increasingly embedded across the NHS, questions about access, equity, and accountability are growing more urgent. The Digital Poverty Alliance's national inquiry into digital inclusion and health is gathering evidence on how this shift is affecting those least equipped to navigate it – and what must change to ensure digital transformation does not deepen existing inequalities.

## Blogs

[Health for a Good Life](#)

Kate and Lindsey share the importance of good health care for people with learning disabilities, and Bild for the Future's work on the new chapter of the Good Lives Framework 'Health for a good life'.

["It showed how kind and engaged celebrities can be, and that everyone, regardless of background or ability, belongs."](#)

Simon Cramp, Self-advocate, Campaigner and Lifetime Member of Learning Disability England, reviews new ITV Series The Assembly.

## News

[Prevent 'could be breaching UK equality laws' over treatment of autistic people](#)

The treatment of autistic people who are referred to the government's deradicalisation scheme could be in breach of equality laws, a human rights charity has claimed.

### [Mental Health Bill will not prevent unjustified detention of autistic people](#)

The Joint Committee on Human Rights (JCHR) has raised concerns that new proposals in the Mental Health Bill do not go far enough to prevent autistic people or people with learning disabilities from being detained for these conditions alone.

### [New report on commercial sexual exploitation of women with learning disabilities](#)

CSE Aware has called on the Scottish Government to commission in-depth research exploring the prevalence, dynamics and understanding of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) among women with learning disabilities. This is after a new research project found that some women with learning disabilities are involved in selling or exchanging sex, very often as a result of the exclusion and inequality they have encountered, and through the influence of individuals who seek to take advantage of these vulnerabilities.

### [MPs call for a plan to develop community support for people with a learning disability and autistic people](#)

During the Mental Health Bill's second reading in the House of Commons, MPs highlighted the importance of strong community support.

### [Autism: Children's Commissioner calls for Independent review of diagnostic support](#)

The number of children referred to mental health services for neurodevelopmental conditions like autism and ADHD has increased by almost 30% despite not being mental health conditions, according to a new report from the Children's Commissioner.

### [More support for neurodivergent children in mainstream schools](#)

Around 300,000 children across 1,200 primary schools to benefit from earlier and better neurodiversity support.

### [Number of autistic people in mental health hospitals April 2025](#)

The latest monthly Assuring Transformation NHS Digital data shows that in April 2025:

- 2,025 autistic people and people with a learning disability are in mental health hospitals in England. Of these, 1,455 (72%) are autistic.
- There are 240 under 18s in inpatient units that are autistic or have a learning disability. Of these, 230 (96%) are autistic.
- The number of autistic people without a learning disability detained in mental health hospitals has increased by 141% since 2015.

### [Mersey Care launch Learning Disability and Autism Strategic Plan](#)

A new learning disability and autism strategic plan has been published outlining Mersey Care's goals for how we will transform our care and treatment for people with a learning disability and autism leading up to 2028.

### [Empowering research in learning disabilities, autism and neurodiversity](#)

Mersey Care is committed to improving services for people with learning disabilities, autism and neurodiversity. To support this, we recently held a Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity Special Interest Stakeholder Day at Maghull Health Park.

### [Our autism services](#)

Our Autism service across Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, St Helens, Sefton and Warrington has a film for patients about 'what to expect when you come for an assessment'.

### [ADHD and autism diagnosis improved thanks to community feedback](#)

Adults in York will find it easier to seek an ADHD or autism diagnosis, thanks to local residents speaking up.

### [Positive Behaviour Support – What is your experience?](#)

Neurodiverse Collective has started a campaign about Positive Behaviour Support (PBS).

### [Laying foundations for lasting change at the 2025 International Positive Behaviour Support Conference](#)

Over two unforgettable days, delegates from across the globe gathered to explore how PBS can positively transform the lives of people with learning disabilities and autistic people. From keynote speeches, interactive workshops, wellbeing sessions and powerful personal stories the themes of empathy, inclusion, and relational support took centre stage.

### [New dental care project for people with learning disabilities](#)

A new project aims to use art and creativity to transform dental care for people with learning disabilities and identify gaps in current care.

### [Disability Charities Consortium open letter](#)

The Disability Charities Consortium (DCC) has sent an open letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rachel Reeves MP, and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Liz Kendall MP, to share concerns about the proposals in the Pathways to Work Green Paper and wider reforms to social security.