

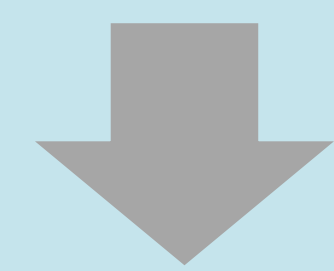
A Review on Autism Spectrum Disorder: Disclosure & Identity

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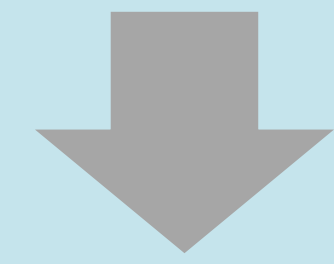
Abstract

Autism prevalence increased from 1/68 to

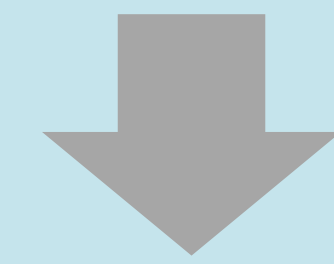
1/54 ^{4,8}



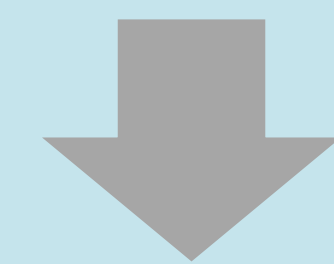
More college students with autism ¹⁴



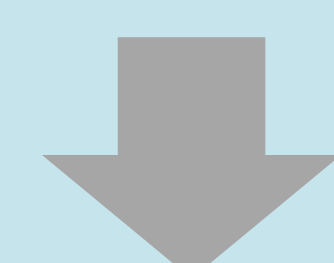
Social, academic, and self-advocacy challenges ⁵



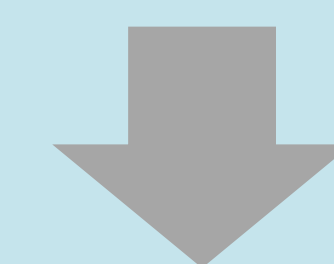
20% less likely to receive degrees, and colleges aren't prepared ^{15,5}



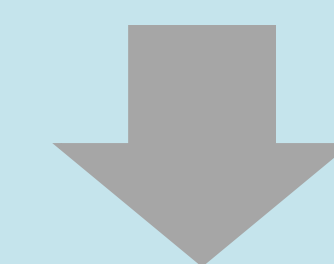
Disclosures decrease from high school to college ³



Don't disclose unless encouraged, or needing academic/social supports ³.



Benefit of disclosing in college- access to supports ¹⁵



Rise in society's acceptance of disclosing, likely due to growing knowledge about disabilities ¹

Autism Spectrum Disorder

- Can entail shortcomings in the domains of communication, language development, executive functioning, and stereotypic (sometimes repetitive) behaviors. ¹²
- Can lead to challenges with social skills, academics, and self-advocacy. ⁵
- The etiology (cause) of Autism Spectrum Disorder is unknown, but likely includes both biological and environmental components. ¹³

Identity

- Using "identity-first" language is encouraged by many advocates on the spectrum, instead of "person-first" language. ⁵
- Shifts from DSM4 to DSM 5 included removal of Asperger's as a diagnosis, which is concerning to many advocates on the spectrum due to the role the Asperger's label plays in forming a "disability identity", which can minimize stressors from discrimination and help create a feeling of in-group belongingness ¹¹

Disclosure

- ASD disclosure in college usually only occurs after enrollment and after a significant problem arises. ³
- Disclosure can help avoid negative responses/stigma towards not only the individual who needs to disclose, but also their family members. ¹
- Difficult to know if disclosure should occur, and if so, who should be disclosed to. ⁷
- Less common in college → ASD can be a "hidden" disability (not immediately noticeable), and "masking" (practicing to fit into social norms) ^{9, 10}
- People react more positively to "abnormal" behaviors when tied to a disclosure instead of just the behavior. ²
- Disclosure can help develop vulnerability, trust, and emotional growth. ⁶

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Current Study

Vignettes

- + Classmate discloses having ASD
- + Classmate does not disclose having ASD

Scales & Demographics

- + Modified Multidimensional Attitudes Scale Towards Persons With Disabilities (MAS).
- + Modified Social Distance Scale (Gillespie-Lynch et al., 2015)
- + Autism Stigma & Knowledge Questionnaire (ASK-Q).

Hypotheses

- + Personal connections → Higher ASK-Q, MAS & Social Distance scores
- + Disclosure vignette → Higher MAS & Social Distance scores
- + High baseline of ASD knowledge & low stigma levels due to participant education levels