

MYTH

VERSUS

TRUTH

COMMON AUTISM STEREOTYPES



People with autism don't want friends.

People with autism can't feel or express any emotion.

People with autism can't understand the emotions of others.

People with autism are intellectually disabled.

People who display qualities of autism will grow out of it. Autism only affects children.



People with autism can struggle with social skills, possibly making them seem unfriendly, but it is a matter of communication.

People with autism communicate and perceive emotions/expressions in different ways; they are not unable to feel them.

Autism affects one's ability to detect unspoken communication, but when things are said directly, people with autism are much more likely to feel empathy and compassion.

People with autism have a range of abilities, including many people with normal to high IQs and exceptional abilities.

Autism is caused by biological conditions that affect brain development and for many is a lifelong condition. Children with autism grow up to be adults with autism.

Autism is just a brain disorder.

Many people with autism have comorbidities like epilepsy, gastrointestinal disorders, food sensitivities, and allergies.

Autism is caused by bad parenting.

The theory claiming autism was caused by mothers who lacked emotional warmth has long been disproved.

The prevalence of autism has been steadily increasing for 40 years.

In the last 20 years, the prevalence of autism has increased by 600%.

Therapies for people with autism are covered by insurance.

Many insurance companies exclude autism from the coverage plan. 48 states have passed some form of autism insurance coverage laws.

EDUCATION IS THE BEST TOOL



VISIT THESE RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/> - source of myth vs truth

<https://www.autism-society.org/about-the-autism-society/publications/resource-materials/>

https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Resource_Center/Autism_Resource_Center/Home.aspx

<https://www.nationalautismresources.com/>

These and other sites offer information and resources on a wide variety of autism related topics from advocacy to schools to treatment. Support groups are available for all family members.

