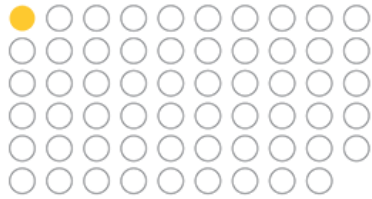




# Autism Spectrum Disorder



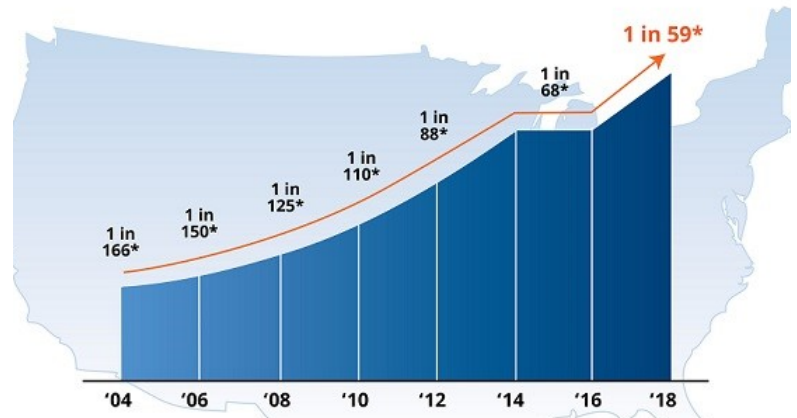
1 in 59

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder that can affect a person's communication and behavioral skills but not their physical appearance.
- According to the 2018 CDC Community Report, ASD affects 1 in 59 people in the United States making it one of the most prevalent diagnosed developmental disorders in the United States.
- It is essential to diagnose ASD at an early age so that the child has time and supports necessary to develop social skills to be fully included in society.

## Economic Costs

Autism is the fastest growing developmental disability in Oregon and the economic cost to families can be significant.

- The average medical expenditures for children and teens with ASD can exceed those without ASD by 4-6 thousand dollars per year
- Additionally, intensive behavioral interventions for children with ASD can cost \$40,000 to \$60,000 *per child per year*



## LEND Services

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) Clinic is an interdisciplinary clinic that serves infants and children of primarily low-income families.

In Oregon, there is one LEND clinic at OHSU. In 2017, LEND served 6,626 patients who received early intervention evaluation as well as diagnostic services. LEND is also vital for connecting families with community services and resources.

## Protecting Autism CARES Act

The Autism CARES Act of 2014 is being reauthorized in the FY 2019 budget. However, the budget proposal for FY 2019 cuts 47 million from the Autism CARES Act, and 31 million of those dollars are supposed to be funding LEND clinics. This cut would stop the LEND program that many American families rely on. We urge legislators to keep the current spending for the Autism CARES Act in 2019 to continue funding LEND clinics and autism research.