

YouGov / The National Autistic Society

WAAW

Fieldwork : 13th - 16th February 2015

Sample Size: 2159 UK Adults

Total	Gender		Age					Social Grade	
Base	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+	ABC1	C2DE

For the following questions, the term "autism" refers to a lifelong developmental disability that affects how a person communicates with, and relates to, other people. It also affects how they make sense of the world around them, and includes Asperger Syndrome.

Before taking this survey, in which ONE, if any, of the following ways had you FIRST heard about autism? (Please select the option that best applies. If you had not heard of autism before taking this survey, please select the "Not applicable" option)

	Unweighted base	2159	1060	1099	240	256	360	501	802	1164	995
Base: All UK Adults		2159	1038	1121	259	336	382	413	769	1187	972
By word-of-mouth from a friend/ relative		13%	12%	14%	20%	15%	14%	15%	8%	13%	13%
By knowing, or knowing of, someone with autism		25%	21%	28%	27%	23%	23%	23%	27%	23%	27%
From an information leaflet, or similar		2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	3%
From a professional who works with people with autism (e.g. doctor, social worker, care worker, teacher etc.)		7%	5%	8%	5%	6%	6%	6%	9%	9%	4%
Through a charity that works with people with autism		1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%
Through a documentary		14%	16%	12%	6%	10%	16%	13%	19%	14%	14%
Through a fictional TV programme, film or book		3%	2%	4%	1%	5%	3%	4%	2%	3%	3%
Other		5%	5%	5%	3%	6%	5%	4%	6%	5%	5%
Don't know/ can't recall		21%	20%	21%	22%	23%	20%	23%	19%	21%	21%
Not applicable - I had not heard of autism before taking this survey		0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Prefer not to say		8%	13%	4%	11%	11%	10%	7%	6%	8%	9%

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Sample Size: 2159 UK Adults

Region										Do you personally know someone who has autism? (Please select all that apply)				
North	Midlands	East	London	South	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Personally has autism	Knows of someone with autism	Doesn't know anyone with autism	Don't know	Prefer not to say	

For the following questions, the term "autism" refers to a lifelong developmental disability that affects how a person communicates with, and relates to, other people. It also affects how they make sense of the world around them, and includes Asperger Syndrome.

Before taking this survey, in which ONE, if any, of the following ways had you FIRST heard about autism? (Please select the option that best applies. If you had not heard of autism before taking this survey, please select the "Not applicable" option)

	Unweighted base	504	315	206	274	487	1786	108	214	51	24	978	922	64	24
	Base: All UK Adults	516	345	201	268	479	1809	106	184	60	29	973	928	54	18
By word-of-mouth from a friend/ relative		13%	9%	14%	15%	13%	13%	17%	14%	10%	8%	12%	16%	10%	7%
By knowing, or knowing of, someone with autism		22%	26%	24%	26%	30%	26%	16%	19%	45%	50%	48%	5%	8%	47%
From an information leaflet, or similar		2%	0%	2%	3%	2%	2%	4%	1%	-	-	1%	3%	-	-
From a professional who works with people with autism (e.g. doctor, social worker, care worker, teacher etc.)		6%	7%	10%	9%	6%	7%	3%	7%	5%	17%	10%	5%	2%	5%
Through a charity that works with people with autism		1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	3%	3%	3%	5%	-	1%	2%	3%	4%
Through a documentary		16%	17%	18%	9%	13%	15%	13%	13%	11%	1%	7%	26%	4%	13%
Through a fictional TV programme, film or book		5%	4%	2%	4%	1%	3%	3%	2%	-	5%	1%	5%	14%	-
Other		5%	5%	4%	7%	6%	5%	3%	3%	2%	7%	6%	4%	9%	10%
Don't know/ can't recall		22%	24%	20%	15%	20%	21%	31%	22%	10%	11%	12%	33%	48%	5%
Not applicable - I had not heard of autism before taking this survey		0%	1%	-	-	0%	0%	-	1%	5%	-	-	1%	3%	-
Prefer not to say		7%	7%	4%	10%	9%	8%	9%	15%	7%	-	1%	0%	-	8%

Fieldwork : 13th - 16th February 2015
Sample Size: 2159 UK Adults

Total	Gender		Age					Social Grade	
	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+	ABC1	C2DE

Please imagine that a close friend's child was diagnosed with autism...

Which, if any, of the following do you think would BEST describe your initial response? (Please select all that apply. If one of your close friend's child(ren) has already been diagnosed with autism, please think about your initial response)

	Unweighted base	2159	1060	1099	240	256	360	501	802	1164	995
	Base: All UK Adults	2159	1038	1121	259	336	382	413	769	1187	972
Anxious for the child's future		30%	26%	32%	24%	21%	26%	29%	37%	33%	25%
Curious to find out more		19%	17%	22%	24%	20%	22%	20%	16%	18%	21%
Indifference		5%	6%	4%	8%	11%	5%	4%	1%	4%	6%
I'd feel sorry for the child		20%	23%	17%	24%	19%	21%	18%	19%	21%	18%
Confused, as I wouldn't know what it meant for the child's future		10%	10%	9%	8%	8%	9%	11%	10%	8%	11%
Embarrassed		1%	2%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Proud of my friend for seeking the diagnosis		26%	20%	32%	24%	21%	22%	27%	31%	25%	27%
Supportive of the child (i.e. I'd want to help)		49%	40%	57%	56%	49%	48%	50%	46%	50%	48%
Other		3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%	4%	1%
Don't know		5%	7%	3%	4%	8%	3%	6%	4%	5%	5%
Prefer not to say		8%	13%	4%	12%	9%	10%	8%	7%	8%	9%

Now please imagine that one of your colleagues told you that they had autism. If you don't currently work, or don't have any colleagues, please imagine how you would feel if you did.

Which, if any, of the following do you think would best describe your initial response? (Please select all that apply. If one of your colleagues has already been diagnosed with autism, please describe your initial response)

	Unweighted base	2159	1060	1099	240	256	360	501	802	1164	995
	Base: All UK Adults	2159	1038	1121	259	336	382	413	769	1187	972
Disbelief		2%	3%	2%	1%	1%	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%
Worry		3%	4%	3%	6%	4%	2%	3%	4%	3%	4%
I would try to find out more about autism		31%	28%	34%	41%	25%	30%	29%	33%	31%	32%
Ask them (i.e. the colleague) about autism		31%	26%	35%	22%	32%	32%	33%	32%	33%	28%
I would avoid them		1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%
I would raise concerns to a manager		3%	4%	1%	1%	1%	4%	2%	4%	3%	3%
I would expect to receive training from my workplace about autism		16%	13%	19%	21%	13%	17%	13%	18%	17%	15%
Proud of them		20%	15%	25%	20%	19%	17%	21%	22%	18%	23%
Supportive (i.e. I'd want to help)		55%	48%	62%	55%	49%	53%	57%	58%	57%	53%
Other		3%	4%	2%	5%	3%	4%	4%	1%	3%	3%
Don't know		6%	8%	5%	5%	7%	7%	7%	6%	6%	7%
Prefer not to say		9%	13%	4%	11%	11%	10%	7%	6%	8%	9%

Region										Do you personally know someone who has autism? (Please select all that apply)				
North	Midlands	East	London	South	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Personally has autism	Knows of someone with autism	Doesn't know anyone with autism	Don't know	Prefer not to say	

Please imagine that a close friend's child was diagnosed with autism...

Which, if any, of the following do you think would BEST describe your initial response? (Please select all that apply. If one of your close friend's child(ren) has already been diagnosed with autism, please think about your initial response)

	Unweighted base	504	315	206	274	487	1786	108	214	51	24	978	922	64	24
	Base: All UK Adults	516	345	201	268	479	1809	106	184	60	29	973	928	54	18
Anxious for the child's future		28%	27%	33%	33%	27%	29%	30%	32%	41%	29%	31%	35%	13%	22%
Curious to find out more		19%	20%	27%	16%	17%	19%	22%	18%	27%	38%	20%	23%	7%	12%
Indifference		5%	5%	7%	2%	6%	5%	8%	4%	1%	2%	5%	5%	3%	6%
I'd feel sorry for the child		21%	20%	17%	23%	19%	20%	25%	15%	15%	4%	17%	28%	11%	14%
Confused, as I wouldn't know what it meant for the child's future		8%	13%	12%	6%	8%	9%	11%	11%	13%	-	7%	14%	14%	16%
Embarrassed		0%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	0%	-	5%	1%	1%	1%	-
Proud of my friend for seeking the diagnosis		29%	25%	23%	22%	26%	26%	30%	28%	27%	50%	31%	25%	23%	17%
Supportive of the child (i.e. I'd want to help)		50%	43%	53%	49%	51%	49%	41%	45%	57%	78%	60%	46%	36%	60%
Other		3%	3%	2%	4%	3%	3%	3%	1%	2%	8%	3%	2%	7%	8%
Don't know		6%	4%	2%	4%	4%	5%	8%	8%	1%	-	3%	7%	32%	-
Prefer not to say		7%	7%	4%	10%	10%	8%	10%	14%	7%	-	1%	1%	1%	11%

Now please imagine that one of your colleagues told you that they had autism. If you don't currently work, or don't have any colleagues, please imagine how you would feel if you did.

Which, if any, of the following do you think would best describe your initial response? (Please select all that apply. If one of your colleagues has already been diagnosed with autism, please describe your initial response)

	Unweighted base	504	315	206	274	487	1786	108	214	51	24	978	922	64	24
	Base: All UK Adults	516	345	201	268	479	1809	106	184	60	29	973	928	54	18
Disbelief		2%	1%	3%	3%	2%	2%	4%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	-	-
Worry		4%	2%	4%	3%	3%	3%	5%	3%	11%	5%	3%	5%	-	2%
I would try to find out more about autism		30%	36%	38%	25%	30%	31%	29%	30%	39%	47%	31%	38%	19%	25%
Ask them (i.e. the colleague) about autism		34%	28%	33%	25%	32%	31%	29%	29%	35%	41%	33%	33%	31%	50%
I would avoid them		-	0%	2%	0%	1%	1%	-	-	3%	4%	1%	1%	-	-
I would raise concerns to a manager		3%	1%	4%	2%	3%	2%	5%	3%	4%	-	2%	4%	1%	11%
I would expect to receive training from my workplace about autism		17%	15%	16%	13%	17%	16%	16%	14%	38%	39%	21%	14%	5%	17%
Proud of them		23%	18%	31%	17%	19%	21%	17%	18%	9%	16%	26%	18%	17%	24%
Supportive (i.e. I'd want to help)		57%	55%	54%	58%	55%	56%	54%	44%	62%	70%	65%	55%	49%	56%
Other		3%	2%	3%	4%	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%	3%	4%	3%	3%	7%
Don't know		5%	7%	4%	8%	6%	6%	12%	8%	2%	-	4%	9%	30%	4%
Prefer not to say		7%	7%	4%	10%	9%	8%	9%	16%	7%	-	1%	0%	2%	13%

Fieldwork : 13th - 16th February 2015
Sample Size: 2159 UK Adults

Total	Gender		Age					Social Grade	
Base	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+	ABC1	C2DE

Do you personally know someone who has autism?
(Please select all that apply)

	Unweighted base	2159	1060	1099	240	256	360	501	802	1164	995
Base: All UK Adults	2159	1038	1121	259	336	382	413	769	1187	972	
Yes, I personally have autism	1%	2%	1%	4%	3%	1%	0%	0%	1%	2%	
Yes, I have a child with autism	2%	1%	3%	0%	1%	3%	3%	1%	2%	1%	
Yes, I have a parent with autism	0%	0%	0%	-	0%	-	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Yes, I have a brother or sister with autism	1%	1%	2%	3%	2%	2%	0%	1%	1%	2%	
Yes, I have a friend who has a child with autism	13%	9%	18%	7%	10%	21%	14%	13%	14%	13%	
Yes, I have a friend with autism	4%	4%	5%	8%	8%	4%	3%	2%	4%	5%	
Yes, I have a colleague/ classmate with autism	3%	4%	2%	9%	3%	2%	3%	1%	3%	3%	
Yes, I have a partner /husband or wife with autism	0%	0%	0%	-	-	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Yes, I have another member of my close family (e.g. grandchild, grandparent, cousin, etc.) with autism	8%	6%	10%	6%	9%	9%	4%	10%	9%	7%	
Yes, I know someone else with autism	22%	16%	27%	26%	20%	19%	26%	20%	25%	18%	
No, I don't know anyone with autism	43%	47%	39%	34%	43%	38%	42%	49%	41%	45%	
Don't know	3%	2%	3%	4%	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	3%	
Prefer not to say	9%	13%	4%	12%	9%	10%	8%	7%	8%	9%	
Net: Personally has autism	1%	2%	1%	4%	3%	1%	0%	0%	1%	2%	
Net: Knows of someone with autism	44%	35%	52%	47%	44%	47%	45%	41%	47%	41%	
Net: Doesn't know anyone with autism	43%	47%	39%	34%	43%	38%	42%	49%	41%	45%	

Which, if any, of the following statements about autism do you think are true? (Please select all that you think are true only)

	Unweighted base	2159	1060	1099	240	256	360	501	802	1164	995
Base: All UK Adults	2159	1038	1121	259	336	382	413	769	1187	972	
A child with autism will grow out of the condition	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	-	0%	1%	0%	0%	
Autism only affects males	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	
The majority of people with autism are very good at maths	8%	7%	9%	11%	4%	9%	8%	9%	8%	9%	
People with autism can be over or under sensitive to stimuli like light and noise	42%	33%	51%	47%	48%	38%	46%	38%	45%	38%	
All people with autism are geniuses	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	0%	1%	2%	
Autism is caused by bad parenting	0%	1%	0%	1%	-	1%	1%	-	0%	1%	
Autism is only caused by genetic factors	8%	9%	8%	12%	4%	6%	9%	10%	7%	10%	
Autism is a mental health condition	28%	30%	26%	42%	31%	28%	26%	23%	28%	27%	
15% of adults with autism are in full-time paid employment	24%	21%	26%	17%	22%	26%	23%	26%	24%	24%	
People with autism are incapable of working	0%	0%	1%	0%	-	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	
More than 1 in 100 people in the UK have autism	25%	21%	28%	25%	28%	27%	29%	19%	25%	24%	
People with autism can't make friends and lack empathy	10%	9%	12%	8%	9%	8%	10%	13%	11%	10%	
Autism is caused by vaccines	1%	1%	1%	1%	-	2%	1%	1%	0%	2%	
Autism affects everyone differently	58%	51%	66%	61%	59%	56%	61%	57%	61%	55%	
All children with autism go to a specialist school	1%	2%	1%	3%	1%	0%	2%	1%	1%	2%	
People with autism can't play sport or do physical exercise	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	
The causes of autism are still being investigated	55%	49%	60%	48%	55%	52%	55%	58%	61%	47%	
Autism is only caused by environmental factors	0%	0%	0%	-	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
None of these	1%	1%	1%	1%	-	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	
Don't know	14%	17%	11%	9%	16%	12%	14%	15%	11%	16%	
Prefer not to say	9%	14%	4%	11%	9%	10%	8%	8%	8%	9%	

Region										Do you personally know someone who has autism? (Please select all that apply)				
North	Midlands	East	London	South	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Personally has autism	Knows of someone with autism	Doesn't know anyone with autism	Don't know	Prefer not to say	

Do you personally know someone who has autism?
(Please select all that apply)

Unweighted base	504	315	206	274	487	1786	108	214	51	24	978	922	64	24
Base: All UK Adults	516	345	201	268	479	1809	106	184	60	29	973	928	54	18
Yes, I personally have autism	1%	1%	3%	2%	1%	1%	-	3%	-	100%	1%	-	-	-
Yes, I have a child with autism	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%	2%	0%	2%	2%	9%	4%	-	-	-
Yes, I have a parent with autism	0%	-	1%	-	-	0%	0%	-	-	-	0%	-	-	-
Yes, I have a brother or sister with autism	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	-	1%	4%	2%	3%	-	-	-
Yes, I have a friend who has a child with autism	13%	11%	17%	11%	14%	13%	7%	14%	29%	20%	30%	-	-	-
Yes, I have a friend with autism	4%	4%	5%	3%	5%	4%	2%	4%	18%	26%	10%	-	-	-
Yes, I have a colleague/ classmate with autism	2%	3%	4%	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	4%	4%	7%	-	-	-
Yes, I have a partner /husband or wife with autism	-	0%	-	0%	1%	0%	-	0%	-	-	1%	-	-	-
Yes, I have another member of my close family (e.g. grandchild, grandparent, cousin, etc.) with autism	7%	6%	9%	9%	9%	8%	6%	8%	8%	14%	17%	-	-	-
Yes, I know someone else with autism	21%	25%	24%	20%	19%	22%	20%	26%	13%	26%	48%	-	-	-
No, I don't know anyone with autism	47%	43%	44%	43%	40%	43%	56%	36%	26%	-	-	100%	-	-
Don't know	3%	5%	1%	3%	2%	3%	1%	3%	1%	-	-	-	100%	-
Prefer not to say	7%	8%	5%	11%	10%	8%	9%	12%	7%	-	-	-	-	100%
Net: Personally has autism	1%	1%	3%	2%	1%	1%	-	3%	-	100%	1%	-	-	-
Net: Knows of someone with autism	42%	43%	47%	42%	46%	44%	34%	46%	66%	37%	98%	-	-	-
Net: Doesn't know anyone with autism	47%	43%	44%	43%	40%	43%	56%	36%	26%	-	-	100%	-	-

Which, if any, of the following statements about autism do you think are true? (Please select all that you think are true only)

Unweighted base	504	315	206	274	487	1786	108	214	51	24	978	922	64	24
Base: All UK Adults	516	345	201	268	479	1809	106	184	60	29	973	928	54	18
A child with autism will grow out of the condition	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	-	0%	-	-	1%	0%	-	-
Autism only affects males	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	-	-	-	-	1%	0%	-	3%
The majority of people with autism are very good at maths	7%	9%	7%	12%	8%	8%	10%	4%	7%	19%	9%	9%	6%	3%
People with autism can be over or under sensitive to stimuli like light and noise	41%	45%	43%	48%	39%	43%	36%	41%	46%	69%	54%	37%	35%	27%
All people with autism are geniuses	1%	0%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	-	5%	1%	1%	-	-
Autism is caused by bad parenting	1%	1%	-	-	0%	0%	-	-	-	-	1%	0%	-	-
Autism is only caused by genetic factors	7%	10%	11%	9%	9%	9%	7%	4%	6%	9%	9%	10%	6%	-
Autism is a mental health condition	24%	27%	34%	35%	27%	28%	23%	28%	28%	17%	31%	30%	24%	8%
15% of adults with autism are in full-time paid employment	21%	24%	30%	24%	23%	24%	21%	22%	31%	37%	30%	21%	14%	23%
People with autism are incapable of working	0%	1%	2%	-	-	0%	2%	-	-	4%	0%	1%	-	-
More than 1 in 100 people in the UK have autism	23%	23%	32%	24%	26%	25%	19%	22%	31%	77%	33%	19%	15%	30%
People with autism can't make friends and lack empathy	10%	8%	19%	12%	11%	11%	9%	5%	8%	8%	13%	10%	7%	13%
Autism is caused by vaccines	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	-	1%	1%	-	-
Autism affects everyone differently	58%	62%	57%	55%	59%	58%	60%	59%	53%	78%	73%	54%	44%	48%
All children with autism go to a specialist school	1%	0%	1%	3%	1%	1%	-	1%	5%	-	1%	2%	-	2%
People with autism can't play sport or do physical exercise	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	-	1%	-	-	1%	2%	1%	-
The causes of autism are still being investigated	54%	55%	61%	54%	54%	55%	56%	52%	57%	73%	67%	53%	39%	49%
Autism is only caused by environmental factors	0%	-	0%	1%	0%	0%	-	0%	-	-	0%	0%	1%	-
None of these	2%	-	1%	1%	1%	1%	-	2%	1%	-	1%	1%	-	3%
Don't know	16%	14%	6%	10%	14%	13%	15%	14%	19%	5%	6%	22%	46%	9%
Prefer not to say	8%	8%	5%	10%	10%	8%	9%	13%	7%	-	1%	1%	1%	28%