

# Introduction to Developmental Disabilities



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# Introduction to Developmental Disabilities

Welcome &  
Introduction

# Introduction to Developmental Disabilities

## Training Overview

- Defining Developmental Disabilities
- Prevalence of Developmental Disabilities
- Causes of Developmental Disabilities
- History of Developmental Disability Services in the US
- Types of Developmental Disabilities
- Questions and Answers

# Defining Developmental Disabilities

The **Federal Developmental Disabilities Act** defines a developmental disability as a severe, chronic disability that is:

1. Attributable to a mental and/or physical impairment
2. Is manifested before the individual attains the age of 22
3. Is likely to continue indefinitely, and
4. Results in substantial functional limitations in 3 or more **Major Life Activities**.

# Major Life Activity Limitations

Self-Care

Receptive & Expressive Language

Learning

Mobility

Self-Direction

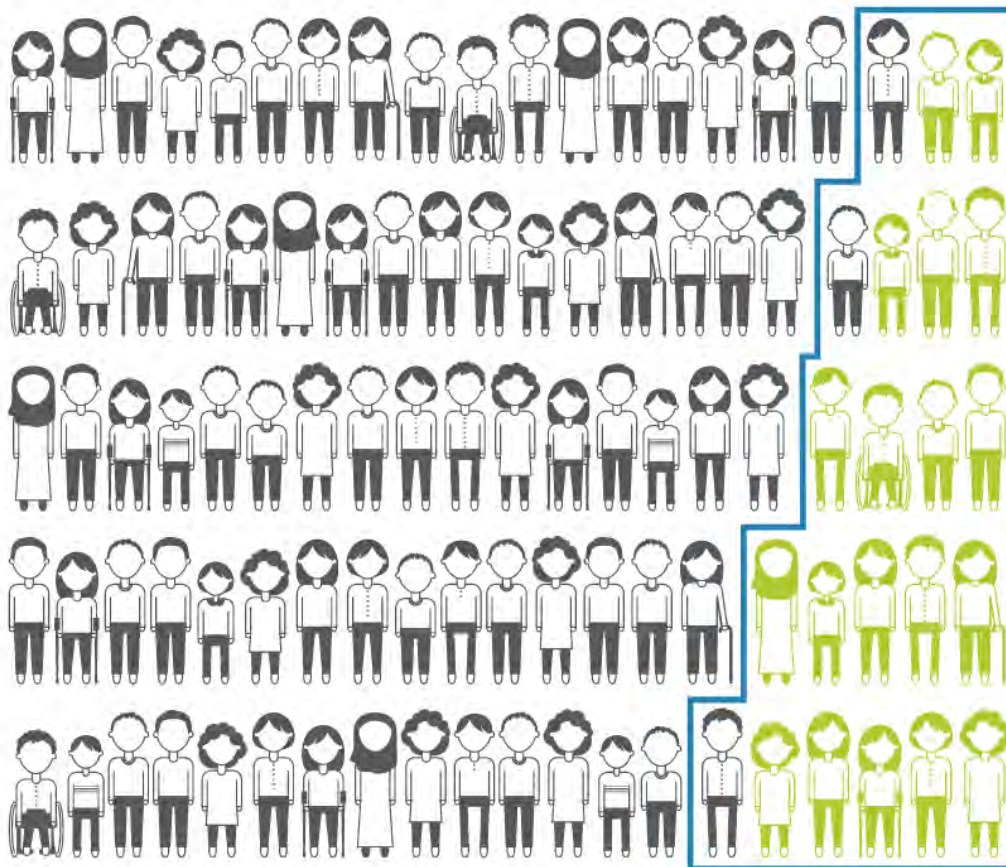
Capacity for Independent Living

Economic Self-Sufficiency



# Prevalence of Developmental Disabilities

As of 2019, **7.39 million people** in the United States had intellectual or developmental disabilities (about **2.3% of the population**).



**22% (1.58 million) were known to or served by State IDD agencies.**

**19% (1.4 million) were receiving supports through State IDD agencies.**

\*University of Minnesota – Residential Information Systems Project

# Common Causes of Developmental Disabilities

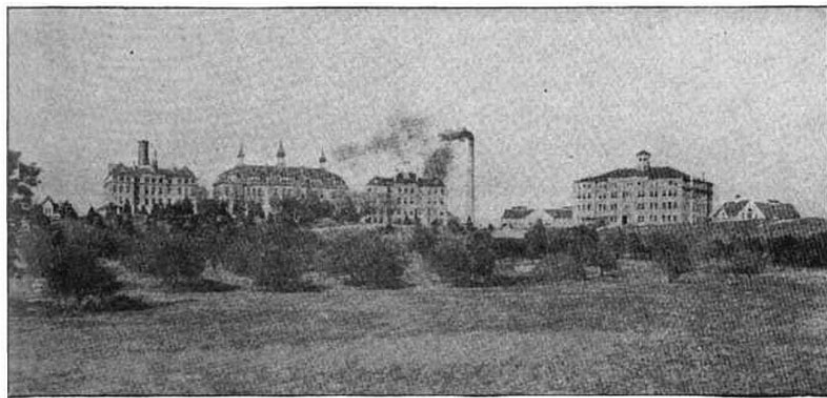
- **Genetic & Chromosomal Conditions (Roughly 40%)**
- **Infections & Illnesses**
- **Brain injuries**
- **Malnutrition**
- **Abuse & Neglect**
- **Environmental factors**



# History of DD Services

**1840's** – Social Reformers like **Dorothea Dix** begin advocating for individuals with DD.

The **Massachusetts School for Idiotic and Feeble-Minded Youth**, the first school for individuals with DD in the United States, is established in 1848.

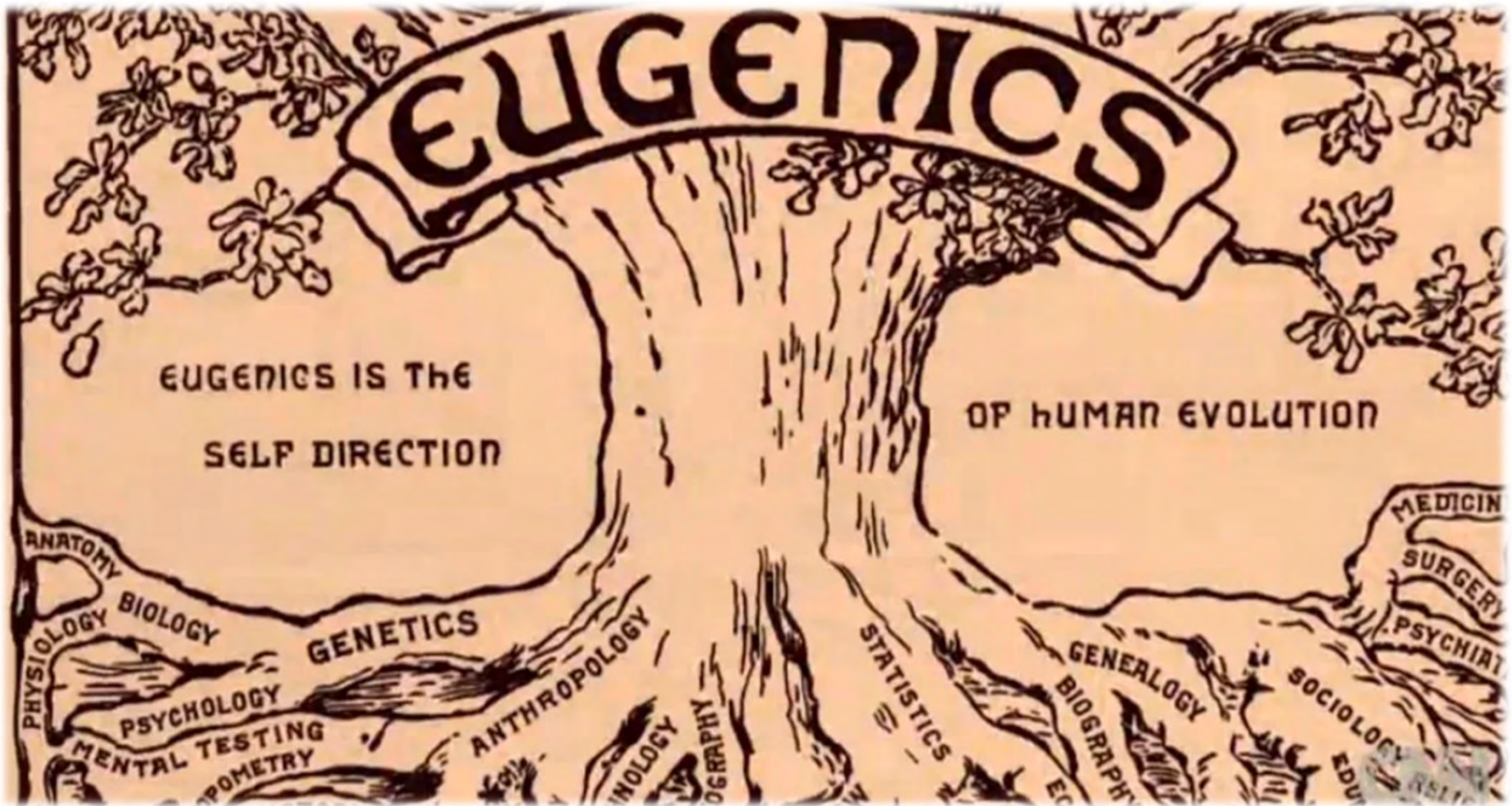


State Home for Feeble-Minded, Winfield, Kansas.

**1880's-1910's** - The first **state institutions** are established, including the **Kansas State Asylum for Idiotic and Imbecile Youth** (Winfield State Hospital) in 1881.

# History of DD Services

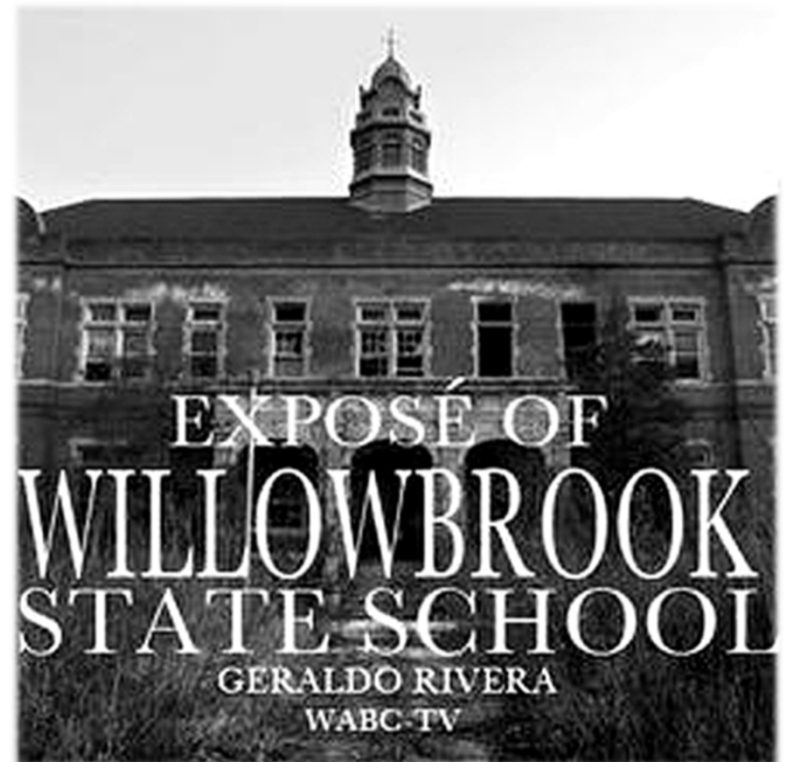
1880's-1910's



# History of DD Services

**1940's-1950's:** The **National Association for Retarded Children** (now known as **The Arc**) is founded, advocating for the rights and needs of individuals with developmental disabilities. The first medications for Mental Illness are developed following WWII.

**1960's-1970's - The Civil Rights Movement &** increased awareness of discrimination against individuals with disabilities. **Presidential Commission on MR. IDEA** is enacted. Federal funding for Special Ed begins. Publication of ***Christmas in Purgatory***, news stories about **Willowbrook**. Advocacy by parents of children with DD leads to the **establishment of community-based services and supports.**



# History of DD Services



# History of DD Services

**1980's:** The **Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act** is passed, **Deinstitutionalization** and the shift towards community-based services and supports increases.

**1990's:** The **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** is passed, prohibiting discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, transportation, public accommodations, and other areas. IDEA adds Autism to covered conditions.

**2000's-present:** The focus on **community-based services and supports** for individuals with developmental disabilities continues, with a greater emphasis on **person-centered planning, self-determination, and inclusion**. Advances in technology, such as assistive devices and communication apps, are helping to increase independence and communication for individuals with disabilities.

## Types of Developmental Disabilities

# Developmental Disabilities

## Intellectual Disability

Behavior Disorder

Brain Injury

## Cerebral Palsy

## Down Syndrome

## Fetal Alcohol

## Syndrome

## Prader-Willi Syndrome

Williams Syndrome

Angelman Syndrome

## Autism Spectrum Disorder

## Aspergers Syndrome

Fragile X Syndrome

Spina Bifida

ADHD

## Learning Disabilities

## Tourette's Syndrome

Epilepsy – Seizure Disorders

Hearing Loss

Vision Impairment

# Introduction to Developmental Disabilities

Learn about the  
**INDIVIDUALS**  
you support!



# Intellectual Disabilities

## What is the difference between an Intellectual Disability, and a Developmental Disability?

### INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

Onset/Diagnosis Before Age 18

IQ must be below 70

An **Intellectual Disability** is a type of Developmental Disability.

### DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY

Onset/Diagnosis Before Age 22

IQ can be well above or below 70

The term **Developmental Disability** refers to a broad range of physical and cognitive disabilities.

# Intellectual Disability Levels

## Mild

- 85% of ID Population (IQ Range 52 to 69)
- Generally able to learn reading, writing, math skills
- May have jobs and live independently

## Moderate

- 10% of ID Population (IQ Range 36 to 51)
- May be able to learn basic reading & writing skills
- Able to learn functional skills such as safety & self-help

## Severe

- 5% of ID Population (IQ Range 20 to 35)
- Probably not able to read or write
- May learn self-help skills and routines

## Profound

- 1% of ID Population (IQ Below 19)
- Requires Intensive Support.

# Cerebral Palsy

**What is Cerebral Palsy?**

**Prevalence**

**Causes and Risk Factors**

**Types of Cerebral Palsy**

- **Spastic CP**
- **Dyskinetic CP**
- **Ataxic CP**
- **Mixed CP**

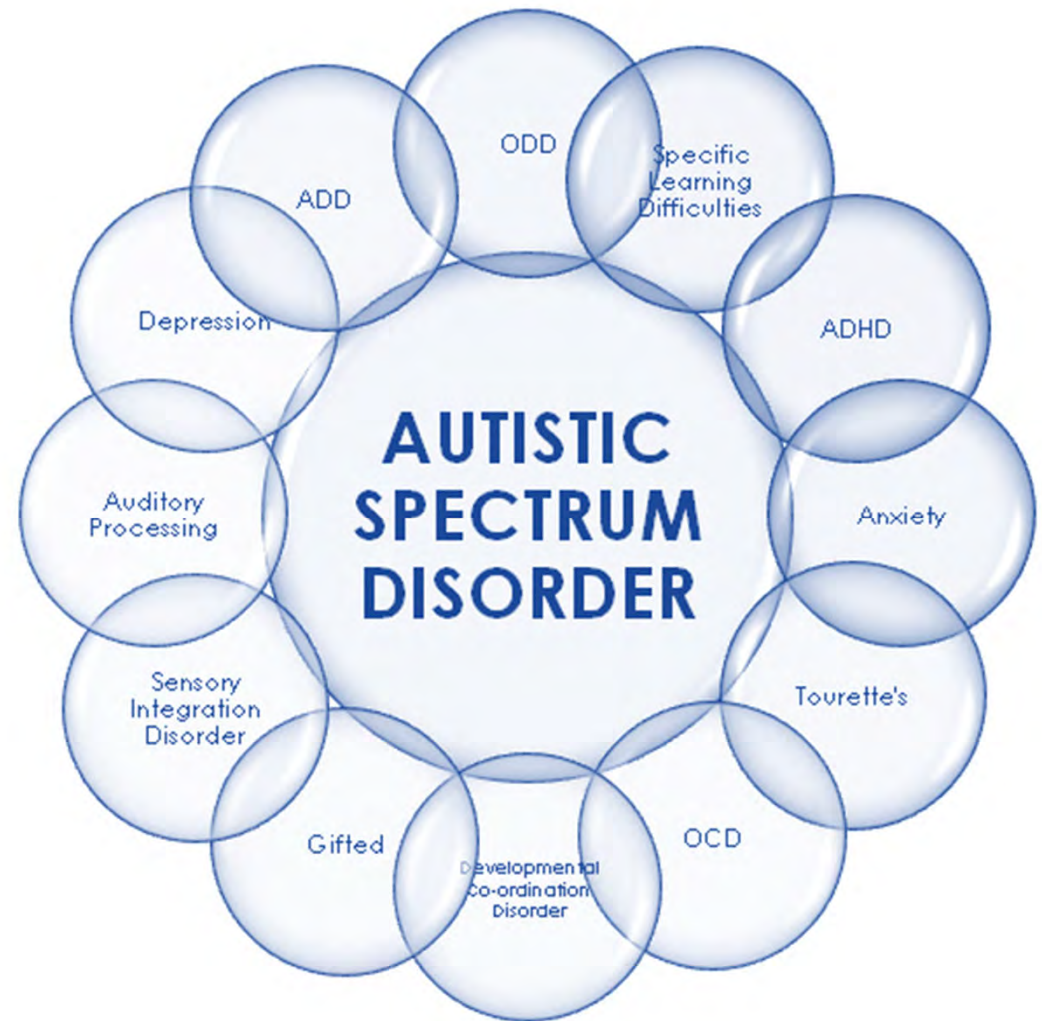
**Health & Developmental Challenges**



# Autism Spectrum Disorder

**Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)** is a neurological and developmental disorder that affects how people interact with others, communicate, learn, and behave.

Although autism can be diagnosed at any age, it is described as a “developmental disorder” because symptoms generally appear in the first 2 years of life.



# Autism Spectrum Disorder

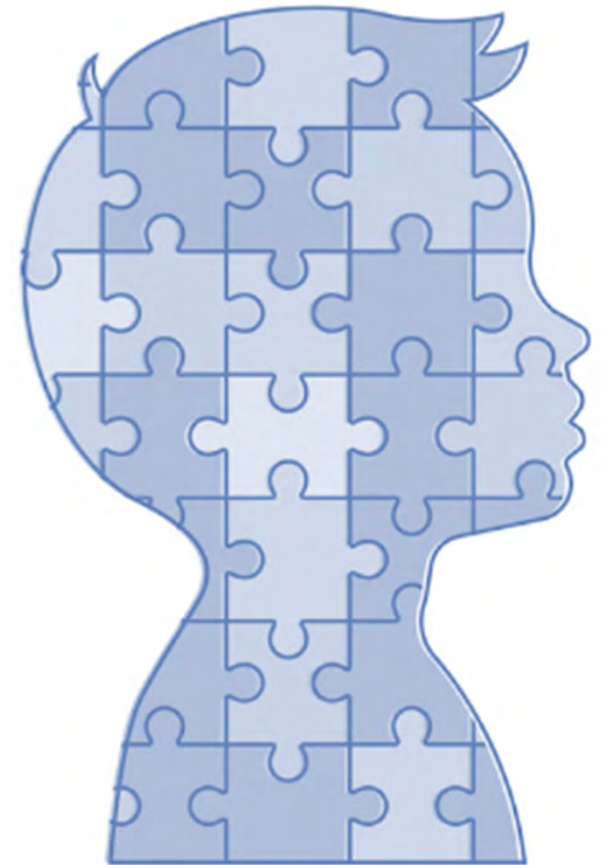
## Social Communication / Interactions

- Difficulty establishing or maintaining back-and forth conversations
- Inability to initiate an interaction
- Difficulty with shared attention or sharing of emotions and interests with others
- Atypical eye contact, posture, facial expressions, tone of voice and gestures, as well as an inability to understand these
- Lack of interest in other people
- Difficulties in pretend play
- Engaging in age-appropriate social activities
- Challenges adjusting to different social expectations.

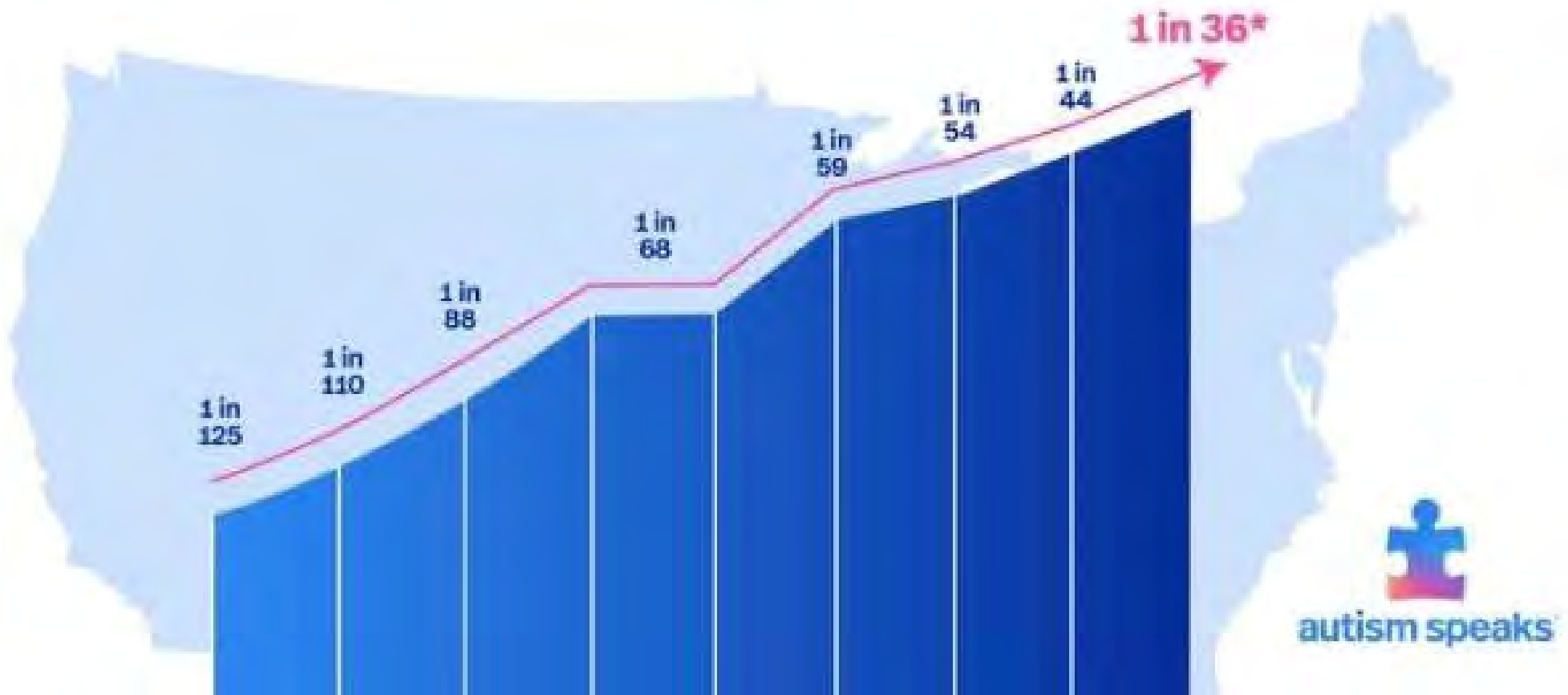
# Autism Spectrum Disorder

## Restrictive/Repetitive Behaviors

- Stereotyped or repetitive speech, motor movements or use of objects
- Excessive adherence to routines
- Ritualized patterns of verbal or nonverbal behavior
- Excessive resistance to change
- Highly restricted interests that are atypical in intensity or focus
- Hyper- or hypo-reactivity to sensory input or unique interest in sensory aspects of the environment



# Autism Spectrum Disorder



**ESTIMATED AUTISM PREVALENCE AMONG 8-YEAR-OLDS  
2000 TO 2023**

# Fragile X Syndrome

**What is Fragile X Syndrome?**

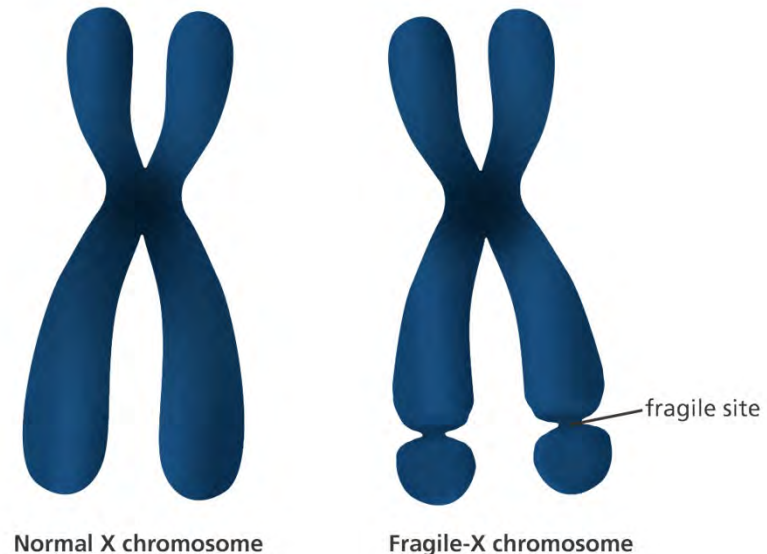
**Genetic Cause**

**Prevalence**

**Common Challenges & Characteristics**

**Common Physical Features**

**Connections to Autism**





# Fragile X Syndrome

## Fragile X syndrome: Common Physical Features

Prominent, Broad Forehead

Large Ears

Long Face

Strabismus (Squint)

Prominent Jaw, Dental

Crowding High Arched Palate

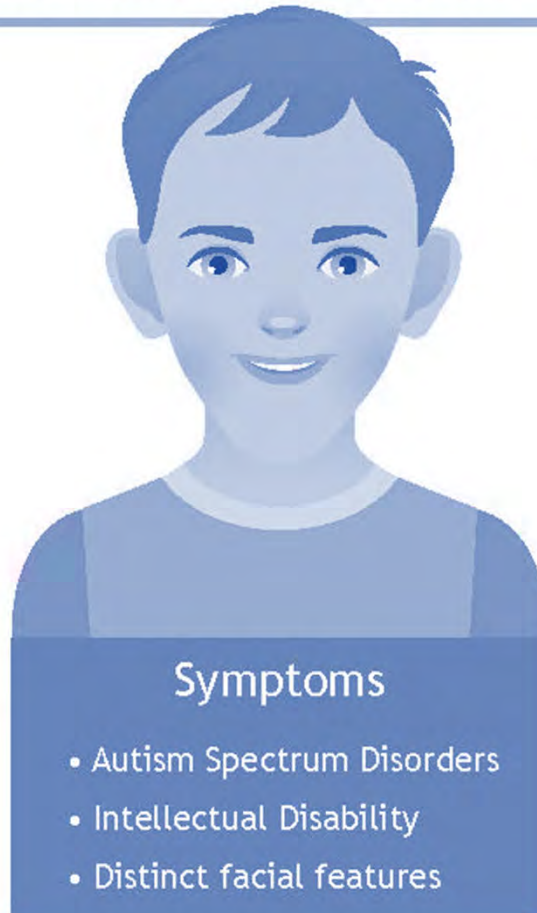
Murmur/ Mitral Valve Prolapse

Hollow Chest

Hypotonia / Joint Laxity

Scoliosis

Macro-Orchidism



### Symptoms

- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Intellectual Disability
- Distinct facial features

# Down Syndrome

**What is Down Syndrome?**

**Prevalence**

**Chromosomal Abnormality**

**Common Characteristics**

**Health Challenges**



# Down Syndrome

## Down Syndrome And Eugenics??



# Prader-Willi Syndrome

What is Prader-Willi Syndrome?

Genetic Cause

Prevalence

Common Characteristics

Developmental Challenges

Support

## Symptoms in infancy include:



- A weak cry.
- Lethargy (tiredness).
- Poor feeding ability.
- Weak muscle tone.

## Symptoms that become more apparent as children grow may include:



- Almond-shaped eyes.
- A long, narrow head.
- A triangular mouth.
- Short height.
- Small hands and feet.
- Underdeveloped genitals.

## Development and behavioral symptoms include:

- Emotional outbursts or stubbornness.
- Problems with cognitive development.
- Obsessive or compulsive behaviors.
- Sleep abnormalities.
- Not feeling satisfied after eating or eating large amounts of food.

Cleveland Clinic

# Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS)

## What is Fetal Alcohol Syndrome?

## Common Physical Characteristics

## Developmental Challenges

## Education & Prevention



# Tourette's Syndrome

**Tourette's syndrome is a neurological disorder characterized by repetitive, involuntary movements and vocalizations called tics.**

## DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA

- Have two or more motor tics (for example, blinking or shrugging the shoulders) and at least one vocal tic
- Have had tics for at least a year. The tics can occur many times a day (usually in bouts) nearly every day, or off and on.
- Have tics that begin before age 18 years.
- Have symptoms that are not due to taking medicine or other drugs or due to having another medical condition

## TYPES OF TICS

Motor Tics, Complex Motor Tics, Vocal Tics, Complex Vocal Tics

# Tourette's Syndrome

**Can a person with Tourette's stop or suppress a tic?**

**Onset and Prevalence**

**Cause**

**Treatment Options**

**Famous individuals with Tourette's...**



# Learning Disabilities

Learning disabilities are a group of conditions that affect a person's ability to learn and process information effectively.

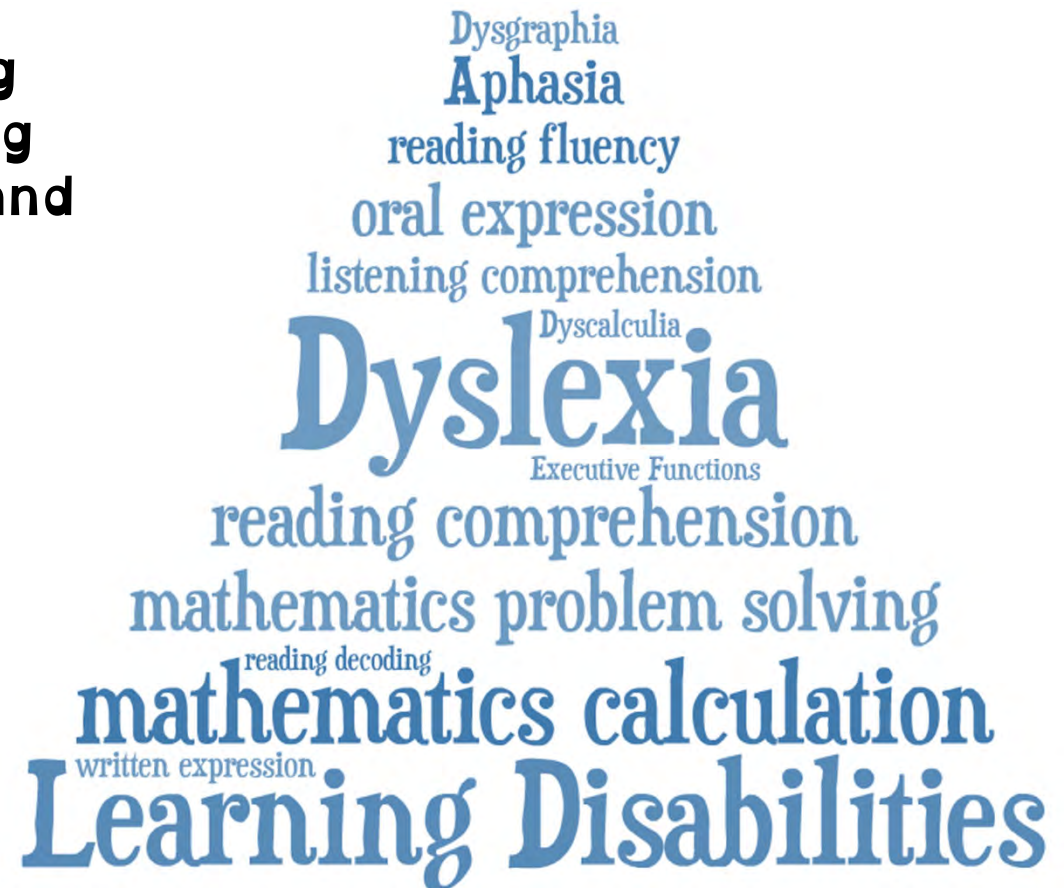
They are often diagnosed during childhood and can have a lifelong impact on a person's academic and professional success.

## Common Types

**Dyslexia**

**Dyscalculia**

**Dysgraphia**





**Thank you for joining us today!**

**Questions?**



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