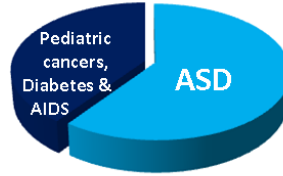


## You know someone who knows someone with autism!

Once considered rare, autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is now more common than pediatric cancers, childhood diabetes and AIDS combined.



### What is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?

ASD is a neurological disorder. Symptoms of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) varies from one child to the next, but all include difficulties with social interactions, communication and behaviour. Many individuals diagnosed with ASD also experience extreme sensory differences and anxiety.



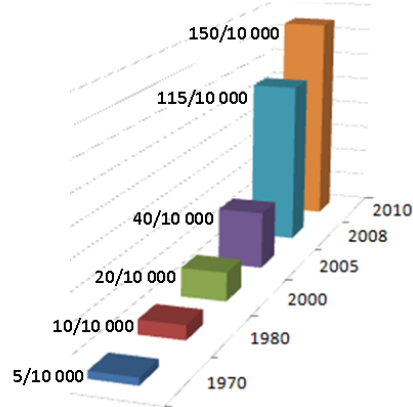
### What Causes ASD?

The cause remains unknown, however, scientists believe genetics and environmental factors are involved.



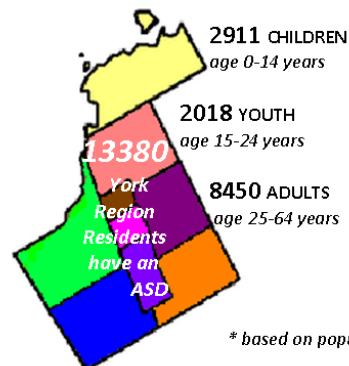
### Is the number of people diagnosed with ASD increasing?

Yes. 25 years ago research indicated that ASD occurred in 1 in 1000 births. Today the prevalence rate is 1 in 68 children. Autism is currently the fastest growing developmental disability\*.



\* NIH

### How many people in York Region have autism spectrum disorder?\*



\* based on population Census 2006



## Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in York Region

### The York ASD Partnership—What is it?

The grassroots collaboration of York Region community service providers, educators, health professionals and parents dedicated to improving the service system for people with an ASD and their families.

The York ASD Partnership connects you to people who understand Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and streamlines access to coordinated supports and services in York Region.

### Our Goals:

1. **Coordinated Access:** Any call to an agency involved in the York ASD Partnership will lead people with an ASD and their families to the appropriate resource and action.
2. **Knowledge and Awareness:** Increase knowledge and raise awareness about ASD among physicians, service providers, parents and the general public.
3. **Continuum of Coordinated Services for Children and Adults with ASD:** Coordinate individualized plans of care, including more frequent use of electronic Single Plans of Care (SPOC's)
4. **Infrastructure:** Formalized partnerships, strengthen collaborative capacity and increase transparency and accountability across the system of support.

### Our Plan:

The York ASD Partnership developed a strategic plan with community input in 2009: Improving the System of Support for Children, Youth and Adults with an ASD and their families in York Region.

### Our Future:

Children, youth and adults with an ASD in York Region living to their full potential at home, at school, at play and at work.

### Contact Us:

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