

CELEBRATING NEURODIVERSITY

April is Autism Acceptance Month

April 2nd is
World
Autism
Acceptance
Day

WHAT IS NEURODIVERSITY?

Neurodiversity is a term coined by sociologist Judy Singer in 1998 that defines the range of differences in individual brain functioning and behavioral traits, as normal variations within the population. The term has been embraced by neurodivergent advocates and is represented by the rainbow infinity symbol. In the context of Autism, it is the preferred symbol by advocates. The puzzle symbol that is often widely used is often associated with the organization Autism Speaks which promotes the perceived negative notion that autism needs to be "cured". The infinity symbol provides a better representation of the variant spectrum of autism and symbolizes the positive message that neurological differences are to be respected as any other human difference



ASAN'S STATEMENT ON AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

"Autism Acceptance Month was created by and for the autistic community to change the conversation around autism, shifting it away from stigmatizing "autism awareness" language that presents autism as a threat to be countered with vigilance. Ten years ago, when Autism Acceptance Month started, advocacy organizations run by non-autistic people spoke openly about working towards a future in which "autism is a word for the history books."

In contrast, autism acceptance emphasizes that autistic people belong — that we deserve welcoming communities, inclusive schools and workplaces, and equal opportunities. In the last ten years, we have seen real progress. Many autism organizations run by non-autistic people initially resisted "acceptance" language; over time, some of them have come to adopt it."*

Read the full statement here:

THE WHITE HOUSE'S STATEMENT ON AAM



A Proclamation on World Autism Awareness Day, 2021

On World Autism Awareness Day, we celebrate the countless ways that people with autism contribute to



Acceptance is an Autism: ASAN Statement on 10th Anniversary of AAM
ASAN is pleased to commemorate the 10th annual Autism Acceptance Month this year. Over the past ten years, autistic advocates have transformed our...



AUTISM, RACE & ETHNICITY



Racial and Ethnic Differences in Children Identified with ASD

This ADDM report found that the racial and ethnic differences in identifying 8-year-old children with

The Autism and Developmental Disabilities Network or ADD, is a monitoring Network affiliated with the CDC which seeks to identify commonalities as well as disparities within children diagnosed with Autism, varying by region.

ADD reports indicate that Black and Hispanic children "continued to be less likely to be identified with ASD than white children. These differences suggest that black and Hispanic children may face socioeconomic or other barriers that lead to a lack of or delayed access to evaluation, diagnosis, and services."

A study by the American Association of Pediatrics (AAP) found that Black and Hispanic children on "average were diagnosed at 65 months."

After parents expressed concerns about their child's language, development or behavior, it typically took more than three years before being diagnosed with autism. About 36% reported a significant wait time to see a professional, 42% saw multiple professionals and 14% saw at least six professionals before being diagnosed.

The delays could mean these children are diagnosed too late for early interventions and could contribute to high rates of intellectual disability

ORGANIZATIONS TO KNOW

The Autistic Self Advocacy Network

The Autistic Self Advocacy Network, or ASAN is a nonprofit run by and for autistic people, it "seeks to advance the principles of the disability rights movement with regard to autism. ASAN believes that the goal of autism advocacy should be a world in which autistic people enjoy equal access, rights, and opportunities. We work to empower autistic people across the world to take control of our own lives and the future of our common community, and seek to organize the autistic community to ensure our voices are heard in the national conversation about us. Nothing About Us, Without Us!

Autistic Women and Nonbinary Network

AWN is an organization with a mission to provide community, support and resources for Autistic women, girls, transfeminine and transmasculine nonbinary and genderqueer people, trans people of all genders, Two Spirit people, and all others of marginalized genders.

THE TRUE MEANING OF ACCEPTANCE AND INCLUSION

Our similarities bring us together, but our differences enrich our lives.

May we continue to create a society which is ever-evolving to not only accept but to embrace individuality, as well as cherish the valuable contributions that neurodivergent individuals have made to our lives.

