

The pros, cons and process of seeking an ASC diagnosis in adulthood



- INTRODUCTION (ELIZABETH MILNE)
- PERSONAL EXPERIENCE (LYNNE GILL)
- PERSONAL EXPERIENCE (ANNIE RYAN)
- CLINICAL PERSPECTIVE (RICHARD SMITH)
 - QUESTIONS / DISCUSSION
 - SESSION CLOSE AT 8:30 PM



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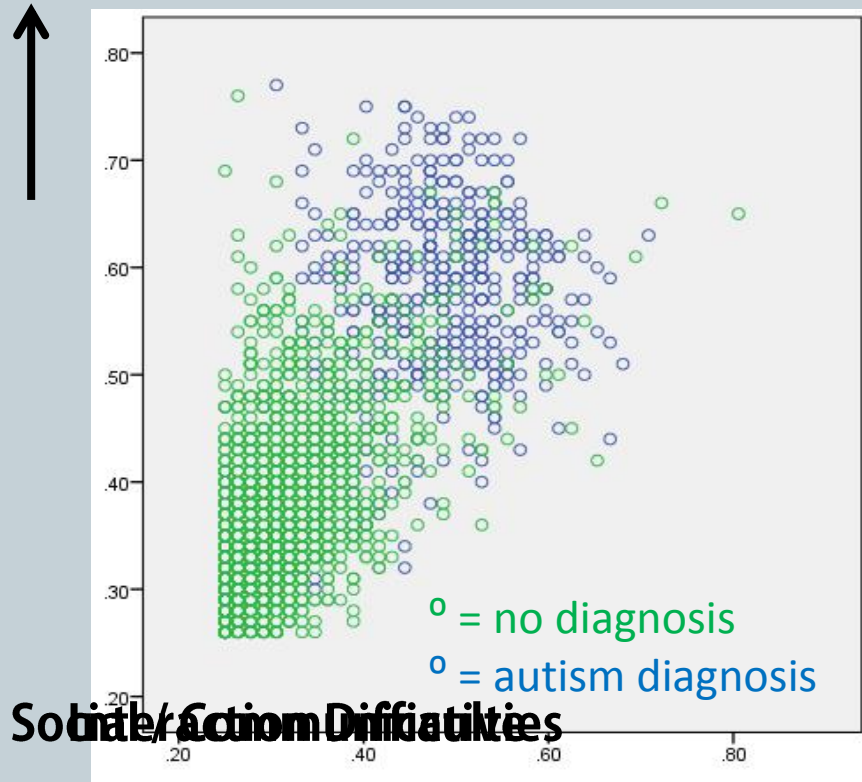
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What is ASC?



- “A lifelong neurodevelopmental disorder”
- Autism / Asperger’s syndrome / Autism Spectrum Disorder / Autism Spectrum Condition
- Not a barrier to a successful life...
- ... but does often lead to challenges and difficulties.
- Many varied profiles
 - Affects different people in different ways

The 'spectrum' of ASC



Social Interaction Difficulties

Repetitive Behaviour /
Resistance to Change

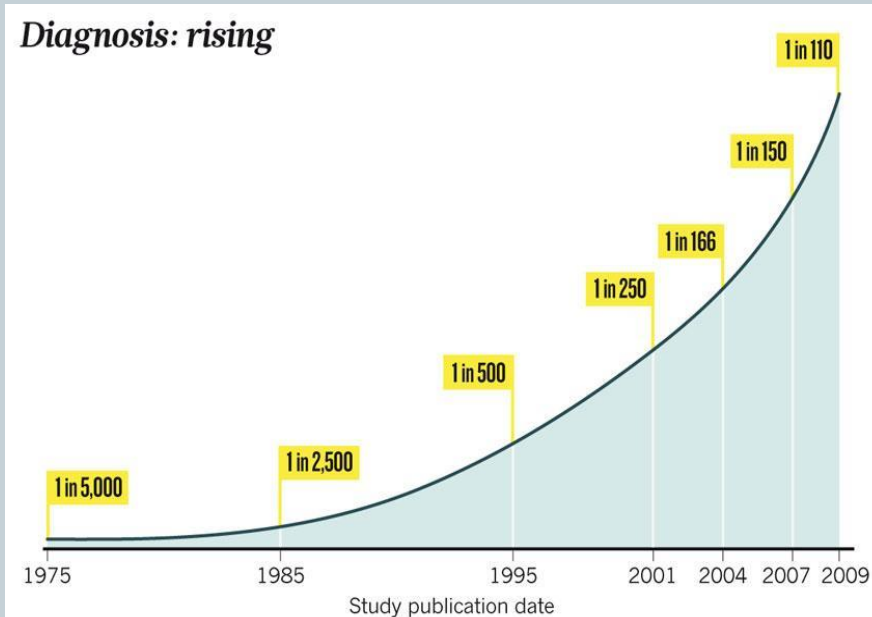


Some facts and figures



- Estimates of the number of people with ASC range from 1 in 100 (Baird et al. 2006) to 1 in 68 (CDC, USA, 2014).
- Prevalence rates for ASC have increased steadily over time.

ASC diagnoses increasing



- Why?
 - Greater Awareness
 - Evolution of diagnostic criteria.
 - Environmental Factors (?)

Source: The prevalence puzzle

<http://www.nature.com/news/2011/111102/full/479022a.html>

Increasing diagnosis of ASC in adulthood



- Increased awareness of ASC in society.
- Increased availability of services for adult diagnosis.
- Growing awareness from clinicians / research about the way in which ASC can present differently in different people – especially women.

'Hidden' Adults with ASC?



13,171 Questionnaires sent
to households

7,461 Questionnaires
returned to researchers

5,102 people eligible for
phase two (AQ20 score >5)

Phase 2: Face to face
diagnostic evaluation

**Number of people meeting
diagnostic criteria for autism
= 9.8 per 1,000
(~1 in 100)**