

*One of the first federally funded studies to research the abilities and service needs of **adults with autism.***

*Information collected may have significant implications for public policy and planning.*

### Participants will receive:

- Results of diagnostic and other testing at no cost. These could be useful in applying for services.
- Up to \$80 for their participation.
- Up to \$40 for the participation of family members and caregivers.

## AUTISM IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE LIFESPAN

### Want to Participate?

Ask us about the  
“Services Study”  
at:

858-623-2789

[asdadult@ucsd.edu](mailto:asdadult@ucsd.edu)

<http://radlab.ucsd.edu>

### Laboratory for Research on Aging and Development



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SUBJECTS #10-04-02

# Adults with Autism

## AFTER AGE 30 ...



*A Research Project*

# Adults with autism experience many life changes . . .

- In their early 20s** | The support systems available to adults with autism change drastically as they 'age out' of our state educational system.
- In their 30s and 40s** | Parents may no longer be able to meet care needs and alternative plans for care may become necessary.
- In their 50s and 60s** | Abilities and needs of adults with autism may change as they pass through middle-age.

## This research project aims to answer these questions:

### WHAT SUPPORT SERVICES ARE MOST COMMONLY NEEDED?

Supported living, group homes, and family settings are all housing options. Some adults take part in independent, supported, or sheltered employment, or participate in day programs for recreation and social interaction.

### ARE SERVICES ACCESSIBLE?

Do financial issues affect access to services? Are appropriate options available throughout the county? Ethnicity and culture will affect a family's preferences for care. Do they also affect access? Are appropriate services available for the oldest individuals?

### HEALTH

Are appropriate medical and dental providers available? Early disease detection is challenging in those with poor language and communication skills. Is health monitoring performed for these individuals?

### DO BEHAVIORAL AND COGNITIVE CHARACTERISTICS CHANGE IN MIDDLE AGE?

Do cognition and daily living skills change at the same rate in older adults with autism as in other adults? Are some abilities particularly susceptible? Do some improve with age? Motor problems are frequently seen in young adults with autism, do these worsen with age? Do problem behaviors change?

### ARE THERE FACTORS OR ACTIVITIES THAT CAN PROMOTE HAPPY, HEALTHY, SECURE AGING?

Does regular physical and social activity help maintain health and cognition? Does the choice between group living and independent living affect happiness, health and security?

## Who can participate?

Males or females with established or suspected diagnoses of autism.

- Between 30 and 70 years of age.
- At any level of ability.

## What's involved?

- Participants will meet with a trained psychologist to verify their diagnosis of autism (about 1 hour).
- Family members or care-givers will complete surveys about the participant's daily activities and the services they use (about 2 hours).
- Participants who are willing and able will do paper and pencil tasks to determine their cognitive abilities and particular strengths during a separate appointment (up to 2 ½ hours).

Help us by telling us about *your* family ...