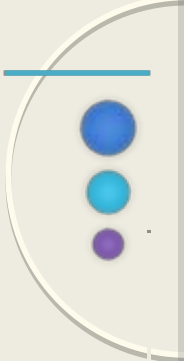




Inaugural Conference on Postsecondary Programs for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders



Presented by
ASERT: Autism Services, Education, Resources & Training



This project is an initiative of the
Eastern Regional ASERT,
in collaboration with statewide ASERT colleagues

Lindsay Lawer, Eastern ASERT Director

James E. Connell, Eastern ASERT Clinical Coordinator

ASERT is a statewide initiative funded by
the Bureau of Autism Services,
PA Department of Public Welfare

www.autisminpa.org



Housekeeping

- Who to see for help
- Travel reimbursement
- Cards for networking dinner
- Evaluation forms



Autism in Pennsylvania

Bureau of Autism Services Overview



BAS MISSION

The BAS mission is to develop and manage services and supports to enhance the quality of life for Pennsylvanians living with Autism Spectrum Disorders and to support their families and caregivers.



BAS VALUES

- Support those living with autism throughout the life span
- Support those living with autism across the spectrum
- Support families
- Every person living with autism can have an improved quality of life given the right supports delivered by trained staff
- Increased independence and self-sufficiency
- Explore innovative models

Pennsylvania Autism Census Project

The tidal wave of children with autism are transitioning into adulthood...

How do we provide for them?

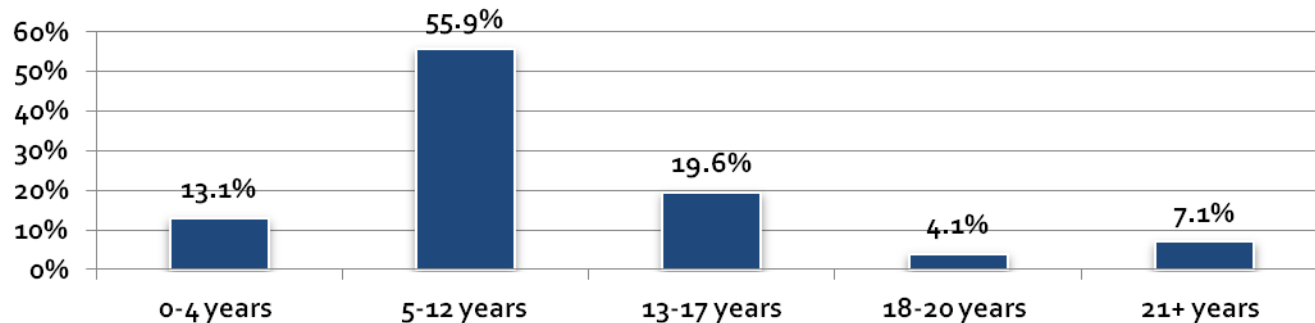


PA Autism Census Project

Findings:

- ≈ 20,000 people with autism in Pennsylvania in 2005
- Given the trend, that number has reached **25,000-30,000**

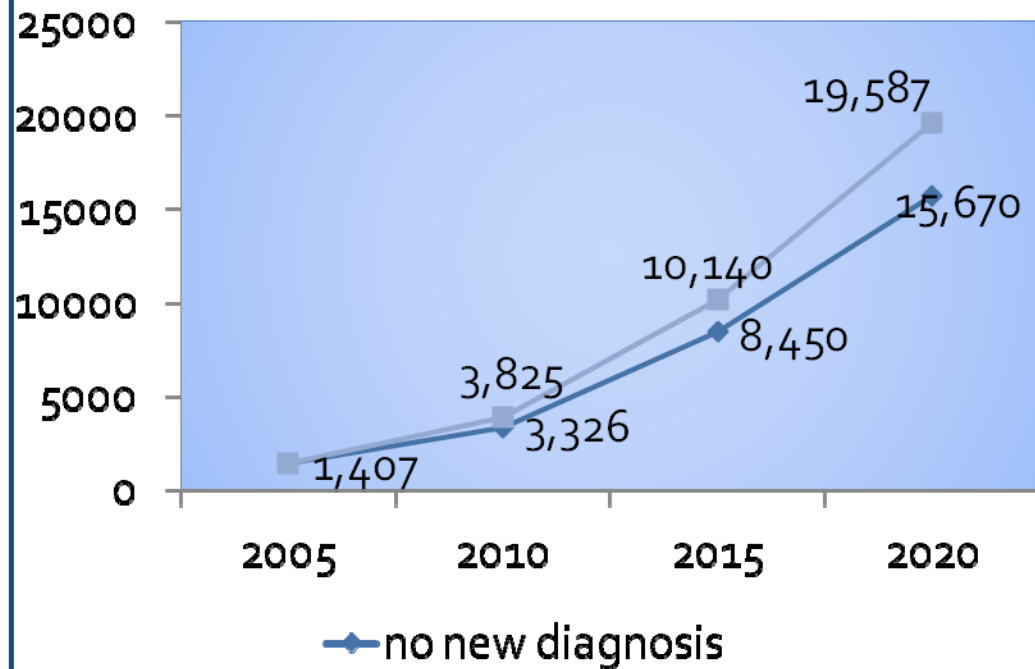
**Percent of Individuals with Autism in Pennsylvania
in 2005 by Age Group**



PA Autism Census Project

- ♦ 2005: just over 1,400 adults with autism
- ♦ 2010: 179% increase to 3,825
- ♦ 2015: 621% increase to 10,140
- ♦ 2020: 1,292% increase to 19,587

of Adults with Autism in PA





Meeting the Need

**With effective supports,
individuals with autism
are able to be part of
the community, hold
jobs, and reach their
potential to live as
independently as
possible.**



Bridge to Nowhere

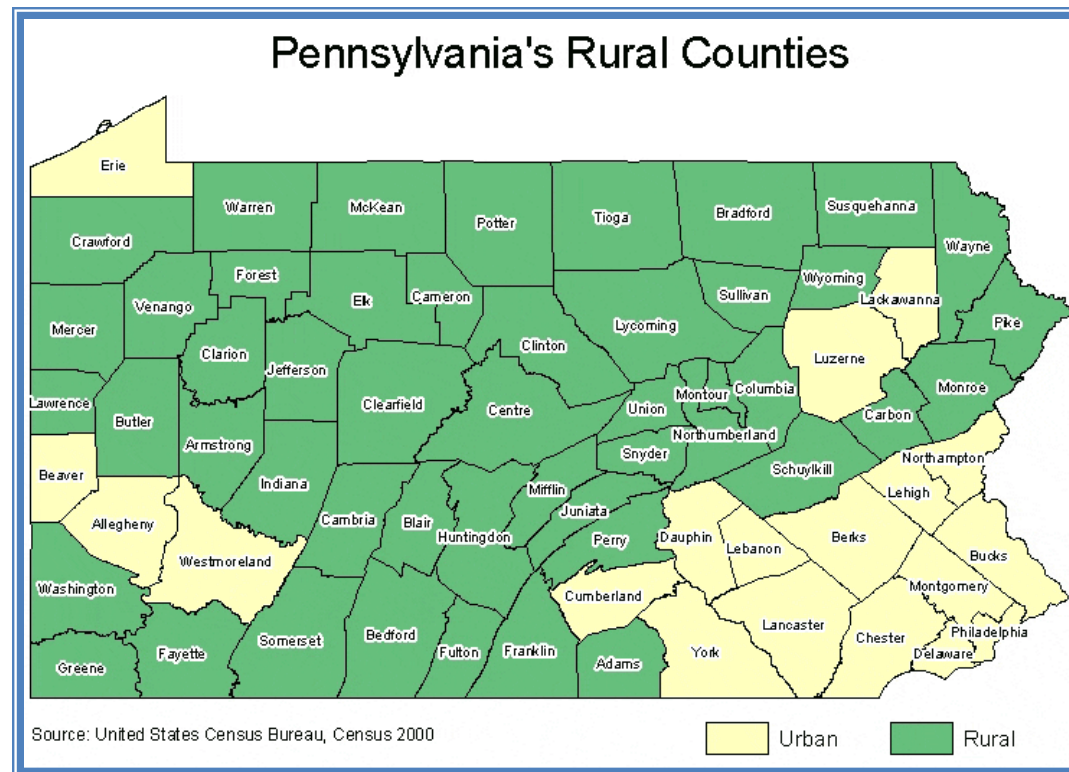
Without effective supports, we see:

- ◆ Homelessness
- ◆ Crisis intervention
- ◆ Hospitalizations
- ◆ Chemical restraints
- ◆ Justice Intersections
- ◆ High family stress
- ◆ Individuals with autism living at home with aging parents or siblings

ASERT: Autism Services, Education, Research & Training Collaboratives

- ◆ Catalyst to bring together resources locally, regionally, and statewide
- ◆ Leverage existing resources and expertise
- ◆ Address regional gaps in effective services & supports

48 out of PA's 67 Counties are Rural



2011-2014 ASERT Collaboratives

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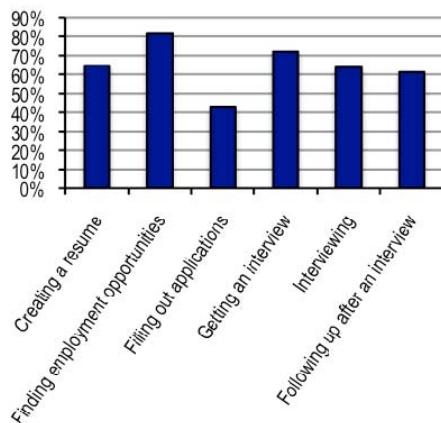
**Coming soon!
A new statewide ASERT
Website & Toll-Free
Number**

PA Autism Needs Assessment Survey

"How are the current public systems meeting the needs of individuals with autism and their families?"

www.paautism.org/asert

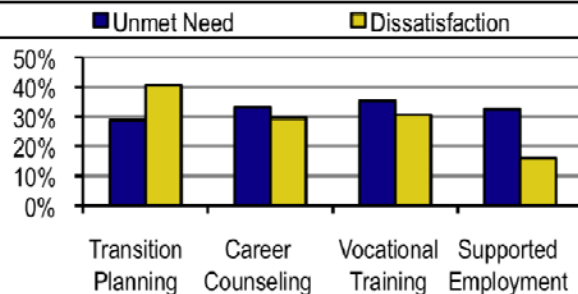
Difficulty in the Job Search Process



REPORTS PUBLISHED:

- ◆ Statewide Summary
- ◆ Service Needs
- ◆ Barriers & Limitations to Accessing Services
- ◆ Unwanted Outcomes: Police Contact & Emergency Hospital Care
- ◆ Getting a Diagnosis & Follow-up Care
- ◆ Employment Challenges
- ◆ Family Impact
- ◆ Report Recommendations

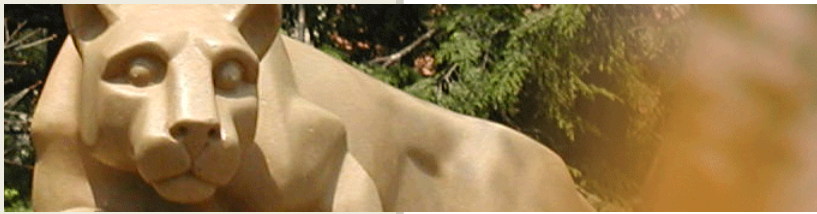
Employment & Transition Services for Adults



**Building Bridges...
What needs to happen?**



- ◆ **Streamline information and resources**
- ◆ **Connect colleges/universities to each other**
- ◆ **Collaborate with potential employers**
- ◆ **Develop cross-sector collaborations to share resources and responsibility (e.g. public-private partnerships)**



ASERTTAKES SOME FIRST STEPS



- Cross-university collaboration that results in more programs for adults with ASD offered on college campuses
- Development of internships, co-ops and job coaching opportunities
- Colleges/universities work with local businesses to develop relationships and employment opportunities

- Increased access to **traditional** programs (enter the system the same way other students do, SATs scores ,etc)
- Increased availability of, and access to, **non-traditional** programs (students experience college life, take a limited number of courses, some or most of which are audited, and get a certificate of completion for going through the program)

**What would we like to see happen
as a result of this conference?**