

# Autism Acceptance

By Eve Levy



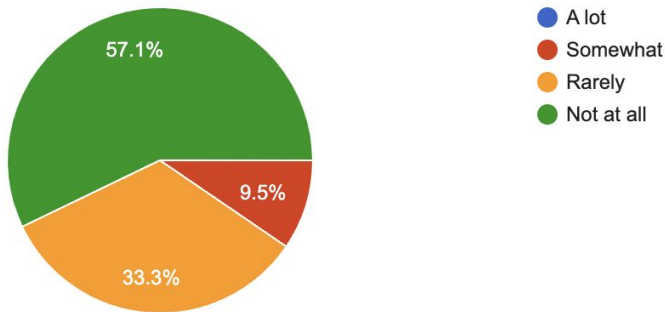
# Attention

- “The Judge Rotenberg Educational Center (JRC) in Massachusetts is a day and residential school for students with developmental disabilities that used graduated electronic decelerator (GED) to administer shocks when students exhibit harmful behavior” (Garcia, 2021).
- “More recently unearthed documents make it clear that Asperger was far more complicit in Nazi exterminations of disabled children than had been previously believed ... he knowingly sent more visibly debilitated Autistics to extermination centers” (Price, 2022).

# Need: Survey Results

How often were you taught about autism in school?

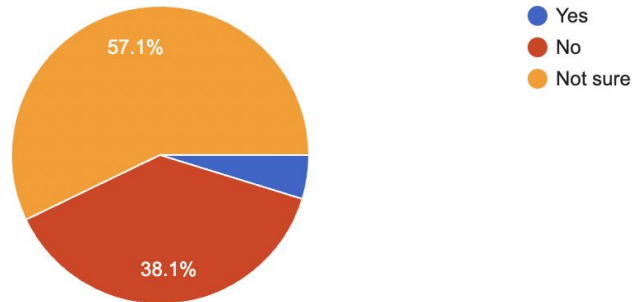
21 responses



“I knew that a tantrum at school had a penalty of no TV for one day. Discipline between home and school was consistent. Mothers and teachers were a team.” (Grandin, 1995)

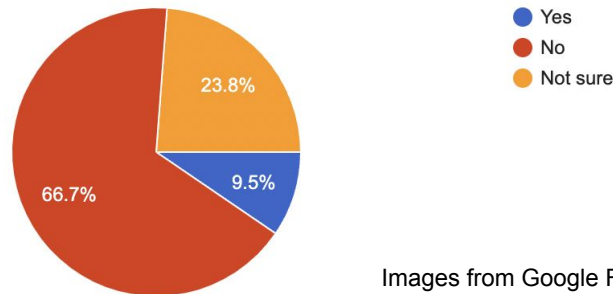
Do you think the puzzle piece is an acceptable representation of autism?

21 responses



Do you think autistic people's needs are addressed in the current school and healthcare systems?

21 responses



# Need: Statistics

## Stereotype-based

- Race: autistic POC are diagnosed over a year later on average than white people
- Assigned sex at birth: 3% and 0.7% diagnosis rate in men and women, respectively
- Strengths: most employers looking to hire autistic people are based in STEM fields
- Police brutality: 20% of autistic adults stopped by police, 5% arrested
  - Often intersects with race, making autistic POC more vulnerable
- Mental Health: 77% of autistic adults have additional mental disorders such as depression and anxiety (Cage, DiMonaco, & Newell, 2017)

# Satisfaction

What can we *collectively* do?

- Offer sensory-friendly options in public spaces
  - Make sure they are easily accessible
- Provide resources such as talk lines and, in schools and workplaces, neurodiverse discussion groups
- Support media that accurately portrays autistic people
  - Good examples: Loop, Everything's Gonna Be Okay, Sesame Street (Julia)
  - Bad examples: Music, The Big Bang Theory, Rain Man



# Visualization

“An optimal outcome will depend on the abilities and desires of the individual and the person’s family and will not necessarily emphasize conforming to typical behavior.” (Wallis, 2022)

- The general public will have a more accurate understanding of autism
- Treatment and accommodations will be suited for autistic people, instead of neurotypical people’s perceptions
- Rates of mental issues and diagnostic disparities will decrease

# Call to Action

What can *you* do?

- Let autistic people be the center of discussion on their own rights
    - Stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves
  - Accept all unique interests and perspectives
    - This goes regardless of one's neurotype
  - Educate yourself whenever possible
    - Resources on YouTube, Instagram, websites, books, journals
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