



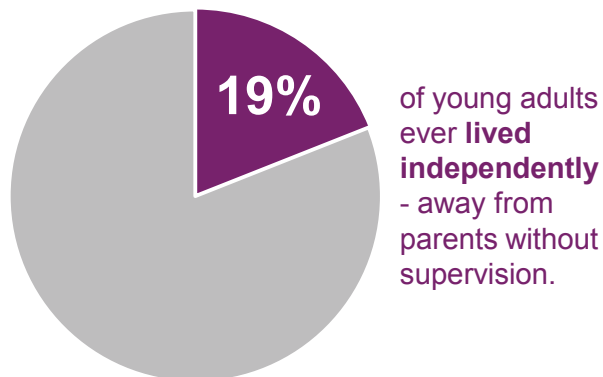
Key Findings from the National Autism Indicators Report: Transition into Young Adulthood

This fact sheet summarizes key findings from the National Autism Indicators Report which can be found here: drex.lu/autismindicators. The Autism Indicators report tracks statistics about issues facing individuals on the autism spectrum. These statistics set the stage to discover whether quality of life for those with autism and their families is improving over time.

The Life Course Outcomes Research Program is building a base of knowledge about the things other than clinical interventions that promote positive outcomes for people on the autism spectrum and their families and communities.



One purpose of special education is to prepare students for independent living.



Living Arrangements of Young Adults on the Autism Spectrum



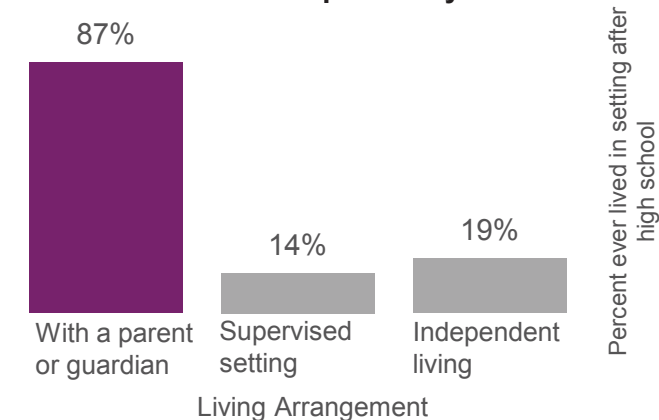
Some young adults in the U.S have their first taste of independent living after leaving high school. They may move out of their parent's home and begin living in a college dorm with a roommate or on their own. Data from the National Longitudinal Transition Study-2 (NLTS2) indicates that the majority of young adults on the autism spectrum, however, continue to live with a parent or guardian in the first years after high school.

In this report, we examine living arrangements and factors related to independent living. We used data from the National Longitudinal Transition Study-2 (NLTS2) collected in 2009 when young adults were 21 to 25 years old.

Most lived with parents at some point.

While 21% of all young adults in the U.S. lived at home with a parent during their early 20s,¹ 87% of young adults on the autism spectrum lived with a parent at some time since leaving high school. Five times as many young adults with autism ever lived with a parent or guardian in their early 20s, compared with those who lived independently or in a supervised living arrangement. Overall, few lived in supervised settings (group homes, correctional facilities, medical facilities, boarding schools) or independently (on his/her own, with a spouse or roommate, college housing). It is important to note that some people who lived in independent settings may have received supportive services to do so.

Most young adults with autism lived with parents at some point after high school, but few ever lived independently.



Source: National Longitudinal Transition Study-2

What services do they need?

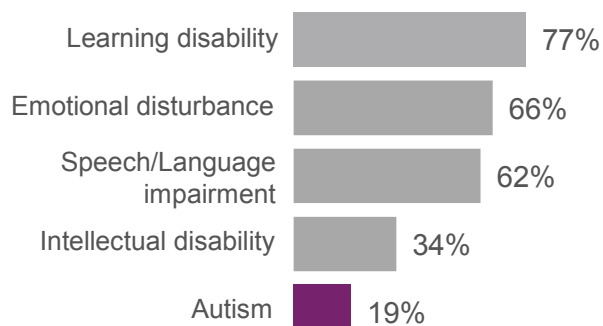
Many of these young adults have difficulty finding services that might help them live more independently. To date, there is little information published about where young adults with autism prefer to live and which services would best support them to live as independently as they would like to.

One in five young adults on the autism spectrum ever lived independently between high school and their early 20s.

Lowest rate of independent living across disabilities

In the U.S., 66% of young adults in their 20s live independently,² meaning outside of the parent's home and not in a supervised living situation such as a group home. Our own analysis of young adults with autism indicated that one in five of those with autism ever lived independently since leaving high school. In contrast, young adults with emotional disturbance and learning disabilities had rates of independent living that were triple that of their peers on the autism spectrum.

Young adults with **autism** had the lowest rate of independent living compared to their peers with other disabilities.



Percent ever lived independently

Source: National Longitudinal Transition Study-2

Living Arrangement Factors

We explored factors that may be related to living arrangements:

Household Income

Nearly 40% of young adults on the autism spectrum who were from upper income households (>\$75K) ever lived independently compared to 6% of those from the lowest income households (<\$25K).

Race and Ethnicity

The majority of those who ever lived independently were white (27%) compared to black and hispanic young adults (0%).

Conversation Ability

Nearly 45% of young adults with the highest level of conversation skills ever lived independently compared to none (0%) of those with the lowest conversation skill.

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Roux, Anne M., Shattuck, Paul T., Rast, Jessica E., Rava, Julianna A., and Anderson, Kristy, A. *National Autism Indicators Report: Transition into Young Adulthood*. Philadelphia, PA: Life Course Outcomes Research Program, A.J. Drexel Autism Institute, Drexel University, 2015.

Sources:

1. Mykyta L. (2012). Economic downturns and the failure to launch: The living arrangements of young adults in the U.S. 1995-2011. U.S. Census Bureau. <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/publications/WP2012-24.pdf>. Table A2 Number of Young Adults and Percent of Young Adults In Living Arrangement, By Age 1995-2011
2. Arnett J. (2014). Clark University Poll. Clark University. www.clarku.edu/clark-poll-emerging-adults/

