



Findings from the Life Course Outcomes Research Program

This study used data from the National Longitudinal Transition Study-2 conducted in 2009 when young adults were 21-25 years old. We explored the characteristics and services experiences of young adults on the autism spectrum who attended postsecondary education within eight years after high school, focusing on those who attended a 2-year college only.

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.

In the Workplace: Young Adults on the Autism Spectrum



In our **Employment Outcomes** fact sheet we reported that 58% of young adults with autism ever worked between high school and their early 20s. This rate of employment was much lower than young adults with other types of disabilities. Only 32% had ever worked during the first two years after high school. In this report, we take a closer look at their employment experiences.

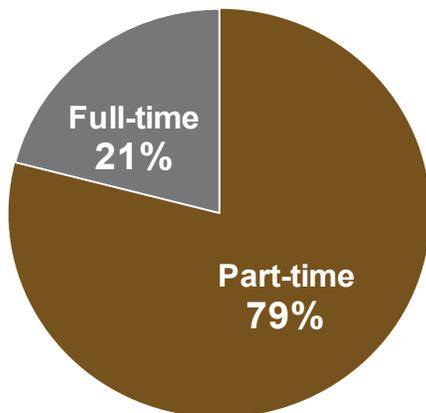
Help needed to find and keep jobs

Youth and young adults with autism often need help to find and keep jobs. Nearly 70% of those with jobs reported that their employer was aware of their disability. Of these, 39% received accommodations to support their success in the workplace. Accommodations included help to find a job (45%), testing regarding work interests or abilities (37%), career counseling to identify career matches (34%), training in basic work skills such as counting change, telling time, using transportation (34%) or training in specific job skills such as food services, computer skills (32%). One-quarter received job shadowing in which a coach observed the person working.

Some young adults with autism need additional employment-related services. During their early 20s, approximately 37% of young adults received vocational services or job training. For further information, see our **Services Cliff** fact sheet.

Most young adults with autism worked part-time, averaging \$9.11/hour. Full-time employees made less.

\$8.08
per hour
on
average.
35+ hrs per
week



\$9.11
per hour
on
average.
<35 hrs per
week

Most worked in low-wage, part-time jobs.

Young adults with autism who worked after high school held an average total of about three jobs during their early 20s. The average length of the longest job held was 26 months. Nearly 83% worked at their longest continuous job for more than one year. More than three in four workers held part-time jobs, working less than 35 hours per week for around \$9 per hour.

Range of job types

About 32% of young adults on the autism spectrum were currently employed at the time of the NLTS2 survey in 2009. One-third worked in a place where most other workers had a disability. What types of work did these young adults do at their current or most recent job?

One in five worked in office and administrative support.

Most frequent job types for young adults on the autism spectrum



Young adults on the autism spectrum, early 20s



19% worked in office and administrative support



14% worked in transportation and material moving



13% worked in production or manufacturing



12% worked in food services



11% worked in building, grounds, cleaning, or maintenance



6% worked in sales



24% worked in another area

Source: National Longitudinal Transition Study-2, Wave 5, 2009
For more information and to see the entire report, visit drexel.lu/autismindicators

How to cite the source of this information:

Roux, AM, Shattuck, PT, Rast, JE, Rava, JA, Anderson, KA, Hogan, A. *National Autism Report: Transition into Young Adulthood*. Philadelphia, PA: Life Course Outcomes Research Program, A.J. Drexel Autism Institute, Drexel University, 2015.



Life Course Outcomes
Research Program

For more information, visit drexel.edu/autism-outcomes



www.facebook.com/autismlco



[@autismlco](https://twitter.com/autismlco)