

# Autism Spectrum Disorder

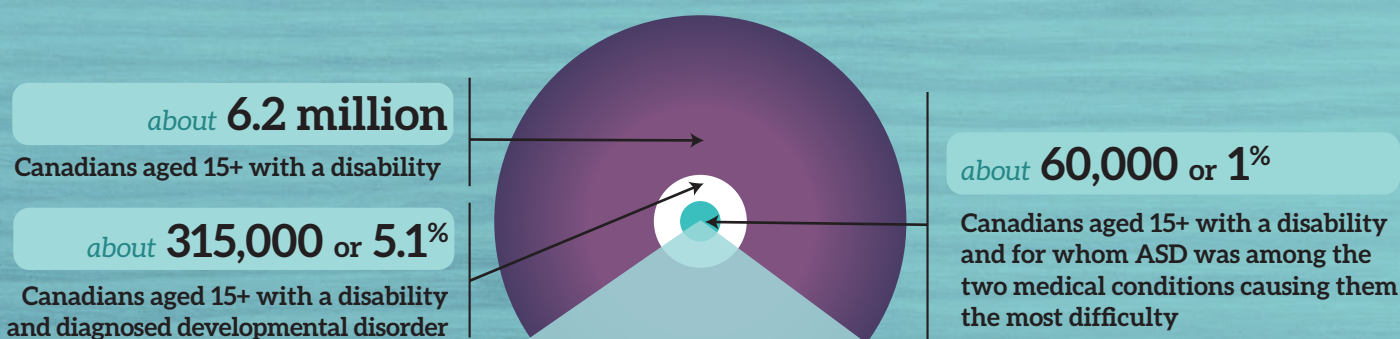
## Highlights from the Canadian Survey on Disability

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) refers to a range of conditions that can include impairments in speech, non-verbal communication, and social interactions combined with restricted and repetitive behaviours, interests or activities. Each person with ASD is unique and the term “spectrum” refers to the wide variation in strengths and challenges reflected among those with the disorder. In light of this, support needs vary by individual.

The 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD)\* is a nationally representative survey of Canadians aged 15 years and older whose daily activities are limited due to a long-term condition or health related problem. The 2017 CSD respondents were asked to identify up to two medical conditions that cause them the most difficulty. This infographic profiles individuals for whom ASD was among those conditions.

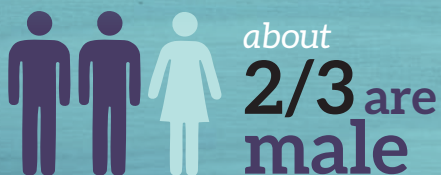
Close to half (48%) of the respondents' interviews were completed by the person most knowledgeable about their condition. This was deemed necessary when the selected person was away for the duration of the survey, did not speak English or French, was unable to participate due to health problems, or when a parent chose to respond for their child.

### POPULATION PROFILE



### OF THIS GROUP...

#### SEX



#### AGE





Of Canadians aged 15+ with a disability and for whom ASD was among the two medical conditions causing them the most difficulty...

GENERAL HEALTH



31%

COMPARED TO



61%

describe their general health as excellent or very good

of the Canadian household population aged 15+ years†

MENTAL HEALTH



16%

COMPARED TO



70%

describe their mental health as excellent or very good

of the Canadian household population aged 15+ years†

SEVERITY



55%

COMPARED TO

43%

report having severe or very severe disability

of those with any type of disability

CO-OCCURRING DISABILITIES

87%

report a co-occurring disability

with learning being the most common

followed by mental health-related



72%



55%

SUPPORT

74%

report receiving help with at least one type of everyday activity, the most common being:

help looking after personal finances



61%

getting to appointments/running errands



61%

preparing meals



53%

AIDS OR ASSISTIVE DEVICES

53%

report using at least one aid or assistive device with cognitive aids being used the most, specifically:

computer with specialized software



30%

speech-text/voice recognition software



21%

audio book or e-book device



18%

EDUCATION (AGED 20+ YEARS)



35%‡

COMPARED TO

12%

report having less than high school education

without disability

EMPLOYMENT (AGED 20-64 YEARS)



33%‡

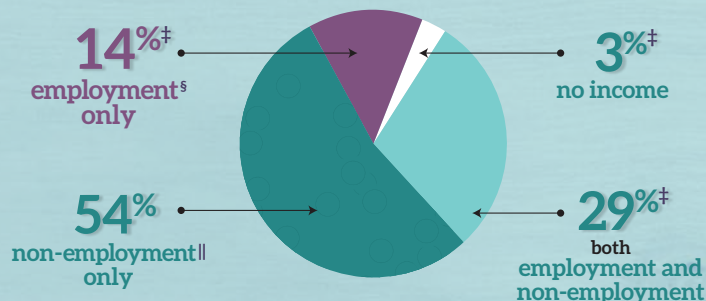
COMPARED TO

79%

report being employed

without disability

SOURCES OF INCOME (AGED 20-64 YEARS)



14%‡

employment<sup>§</sup> only

3%‡

no income

54%

non-employment<sup>||</sup> only

29%‡

both employment and non-employment

\* Canadian Survey on Disability, 2017

† Canadian Community Health Survey: Annual Component, 2017

‡ Estimates should be interpreted with caution due to high sampling variability.

§ Employment income sources include wages, salaries, tips, commissions or gratuities.

|| Non-employment income sources include workers' compensation, pensions and annuities, employment insurance, provincial or municipal social assistance or welfare, Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement, investment income, spousal support, child support, scholarships, child tax credit, Northern allowance, etc.