

Autism may be overdiagnosed in the United States

October 27 2015



(HealthDay)—As many as 9 percent of American children diagnosed with autism may not have the disorder, according to a federal government study published online Oct. 20 in *Autism*.

Researchers used a probability-based national survey to compare 1,420 currently diagnosed and 187 previously diagnosed children ages 6 to 17 years.

Approximately 13 percent of the children ever diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder were estimated to have "lost" the diagnosis. Parents of 74 percent of these children believed the modification of diagnosis was due to new information.

"The results of this study suggest that some children with [developmental](#)

[delays](#), attentional flexibility problems, or other conditions may be receiving provisional yet inaccurate diagnoses of [autism spectrum disorder](#) from nonspecialists," the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the University of Washington researchers write.

More information: [Abstract](#)
[Full Text](#)

Copyright © 2015 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: Autism may be overdiagnosed in the United States (2015, October 27) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2015-10-autism-overdiagnosed-states.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--