

Studies

[Missed opportunities for HIV testing and sexual health-related challenges in an individual with intellectual disability: a case report](#)

HIV testing remains an important tool in identifying people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). An early diagnosis of HIV can lead to a prolonged life expectancy if treatment is initiated promptly. Indicator conditions can be the first sign of an HIV infection and should therefore be recognised and consequently a HIV test should be carried out. Testing should occur in all individuals as sexuality can be experienced by everyone, and stigma can lead to the exclusion of vulnerable groups, leading to a gap in diagnosis and treatment.

[Association of congenital heart disease and neurodevelopmental disorders: an observational and Mendelian randomization study](#)

This study aims to thoroughly study the connection between congenital heart disease (CHD) and neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs) through observational and Mendelian randomization (MR) designs.

[Home- vs gym-based exercise delivery modes of two multicomponent intensity training regimes on cardiorespiratory fitness and arterial stiffness in adults with intellectual and developmental disability during the COVID-19 pandemic – a randomized controlled trial](#)

We compared the effects of home- vs gym-based delivery modes of two 8-week supervised multicomponent intensity training regimes on cardiorespiratory fitness and arterial stiffness in 17 adults with intellectual and developmental disability during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Organized physical activity participation among autistic Australians: Barriers, enablers and implications for inclusion](#)

Engagement in organized physical activities offers numerous benefits for autistic people, yet persistent barriers hinder participation, especially as individuals age. This Australian study employed a mixed methods approach to investigate the experiences of organized physical activities among 103 autistic adults and 169 parents of autistic children.

[Motivation to participate in structured physical activity for autistic youth: A systematic scoping review](#)

Autistic youth participate in less mainstream physical activity than their neurotypical peers. A scoping review was conducted to explore motivational factors influencing participation in structured physical activity for autistic youth.

[Developing and Implementing a Web-Based Branching Logic Survey to Support Psychiatric Crisis Evaluations of Individuals With Developmental Disabilities: Qualitative Study and Evaluation of Validity](#)

Individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) experience increased rates of emotional and behavioral crises that necessitate assessment and intervention. Psychiatric disorders can contribute to crises; however, screening measures developed for the general population are inadequate for those with DD. Medical conditions can exacerbate crises and merit evaluation. Screening tools using checklist formats, even when designed for DD, are too limited in depth and scope for crisis assessments. The Sources of Distress survey implements a web-based branching logic format to screen for common psychiatric and medical conditions experienced by individuals with DD by querying caregiver knowledge and observations.



[A trans-diagnostic investigation of attention, hyper-focus, and monotropism in autism, attention dysregulation hyperactivity development, and the general population](#)

The monotropism hypothesis posits that hyper-focus on interests is core to autistic cognition; moreover, hyper-focus is common in attention dysregulation hyperactivity development (ADHD). However, ADHD is partly defined by susceptibility to distraction, and research has found evidence of attention capture in autism. We investigated hyper-focus in autism and ADHD, its relationship to inattention, and whether it is related to quality of life, hypervigilance, negative repetitive thinking, and symptoms of anxiety and depression.

Briefings

[Homes Not Hospitals Campaign Briefing](#)

BASW England's Homes Not Hospitals campaign addresses the urgent issue of persistently high numbers of people with learning disabilities and autistic people in inappropriate inpatient units.

E-learning

[Autism and Suicide Awareness Training](#)

Co-produced with people from the autistic community, our Autism and Suicide Awareness Training aims to:

- Share information about autism and suicide risk
- Share real experiences
- Coach you through spotting the signs and supporting an autistic person with four different scenarios (you can choose which ones you want to complete)
- Share resources for further support

News

[Department for Education Research report on 'Reasonable Force and Restrictive Practices in Alternative Provision and Special Schools'](#)

The Department for Education have published a research report looking into schools' policies on using restrictive practices, staff training and how these incidents are recorded.

[Disabled women underrepresented in research on violence against women](#)

The World Health Organization (WHO) is calling for more research into how disabled women are affected by violence. Existing evidence shows that women with disabilities experience higher levels of violence, yet the WHO says this is largely hidden in most global data.

[Charity's long-term strategy aims to create the best life possible for people with learning disabilities](#)

The learning disability charity Hft has set out a new long-term strategy to ensure adults with learning disabilities are not forgotten or 'shut out' from society.

[Funding boost for special schools fails to address families' immediate need](#)

The government has announced an £850 million funding package to boost the number of places at special schools, but charities are concerned the funding will do little to help families' immediate needs.



[Autism Acceptance Month: autistic young people share how small changes can make a big difference](#)

This World Autism Acceptance Month (1st – 30th April), Ambitious about Autism are calling on schools, workplaces and communities to make small changes to improve the lives of autistic people. Autistic young people are more marginalised and isolated than their peers. They are more likely to be excluded from school, struggle to feel understood and supported and have lower employment prospects than other disabled people.

[Two in five disabled people experience loneliness](#)

Disabled people are significantly more likely to report feeling lonely, than the general population, with findings showing that two in five of people living with disabilities experience loneliness, compared to 29% of the general population.

[Understanding autism with children, young people and adults](#)

How can we support autistic people to thrive? New Research in Practice resources explore the importance of building a positive understanding of autism. The resources are open access for World Autism Awareness Day and Week.

[Charity reinvents traditional sports for players with complex disabilities](#)

People with complex disabilities will be able to meaningfully play snooker, rounders and badminton for the first time ever, thanks to a charity "reinventing" the traditional sports. Sense, a national disability charity, has created three new versions of sports, sensory snooker, sensory rounders and sensory badminton, after consulting with disabled people they support on the activities they most wanted to play but were unable to take part in.

[The rapidly growing waiting lists for autism and ADHD assessments](#)

With as many as 1.2 million autistic people in England, as well as up to 2.2 million people with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), providing the right support is no small ask. Jessica Morris assesses the data to reveal what is happening to referrals for autism assessments and prescriptions for ADHD medication in England and looks at what might lie behind any recent changes.

[The sudden rise of AuDHD: what is behind the rocketing rates of this life-changing diagnosis?](#)

Just over a decade ago, autism and ADHD were thought to be mutually exclusive. But in recent years, all that has changed.

[NHS faces 'avalanche' of demand for autism and ADHD services, thinktank warns](#)

Nuffield Trust says system for treatment is 'obsolete' as number of patients in England awaiting assessment hits record high.

[The Autism Show in Partnership with Brain in Hand: Your Comprehensive Resource for Autism Support](#)

The Autism Show, in collaboration with Brain in Hand, is thrilled to present the national event dedicated to providing invaluable support, information, and resources for individuals with autism, their families, and professionals. Whether you're navigating the early stages of diagnosis, facing daily challenges, or approaching significant life transitions, The Autism Show is here to guide and empower you.



[UK's black children 'face cultural barriers' in accessing help for autism and ADHD](#)

Campaigner Marsha Martin says 'there is a lot of stigma within black community' that prevents issues from being discussed.

[Introducing the Autism Inclusive Employer Award: Elevating Inclusive Excellence Across Workplaces](#)

We are thrilled to introduce the Autism Inclusive Employer Award, a pioneering initiative dedicated to acknowledging and supporting organisations that prioritise creating autism-friendly work environments. This transformative programme aims to raise the bar for inclusivity, celebrate diversity, and harness the unique talents of autistic individuals in the workforce.

[Chemical regulates light processing differently in the autistic and non-autistic eye, new study finds](#)

King's College London researchers have shown that the brain chemical GABA regulates activity in the retina of the eye in autistic and non-autistic individuals differently. Autistic people have larger responses to single light flashes in the retina of the eye and this new study shows that increasing GABA activity can reduce this response.

[Strong Female Character by Fern Brady review – moving account of undiagnosed autism](#)

The Scottish comedian narrates her traumatic experience of being 'wired differently' and why autism is so frequently missed in women.