

Studies

[Respiratory support in patients with Down syndrome: a systematic review](#)

The population with Down syndrome (DS) makes up a significant portion of patients using short- and long-term noninvasive ventilation (NIV). However, limited data are available concerning the use and outcomes for patients with DS compared with other populations. We systematically reviewed articles providing indications, benefits, adherence and limits of long-term NIV use in the paediatric and adult population with DS.

[The Impact of Menopause on the Mental Health of Women With an Intellectual Disability: A Scoping Review](#)

Negative mental health implications of menopause found in the general population, combined with high rates of mental health conditions found in women with intellectual disabilities, provide rationale to examine the existing literature to determine the impact of menopause on women with intellectual disabilities.

[Increased observation of predictable visual stimuli in children with potential autism spectrum disorder](#)

Children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) often exhibit social communication impairments and restricted, repetitive behaviors (RRB). Previous studies have shown that children with ASD prefer observing repetitive movements over random movements, reflecting RRB symptoms, but the developmental timeline of this preference remains unclear. New evidence suggests that children with ASD may develop predictive processing abilities for repeated behaviors, providing insight into how they recognize and respond to predictable patterns.

[The global epidemiology and health burden of the autism spectrum: findings from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021](#)

High-quality estimates of the epidemiology of the autism spectrum and the health needs of autistic people are necessary for service planners and resource allocators. Here we present the global prevalence and health burden of autism spectrum disorder from the Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study (GBD) 2021 following improvements to the epidemiological data and burden estimation methods.

[“Out of sight out of mind”: attentional characteristics in mothers who have children with autism](#)

Families are faced with enormous challenges in caring for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) over a lifetime. As the main caregiver of children, mothers who have children with autism are in poor health compared to the mothers of typically developing (TD) children. Previous studies have revealed that the mental health of mothers has a direct impact on children. On the other hand, attention bias (AB) can be an important indicator of the mental status. Therefore, the characteristic of AB of mothers who have children with autism can be a window into the treatment of autism.

[Atypical early neural responses to native and non-native language in infants at high likelihood for developing autism](#)

Language difficulties are common in autism spectrum disorder (ASD), a neurodevelopmental condition characterized by impairments in social communication as well as restricted and repetitive behaviors. Amongst infant siblings of children with an ASD diagnosis – who are at higher likelihood for developing ASD – a high proportion also show difficulties and delays in language acquisition.



[Early detection of anxiety symptoms in Autism Spectrum Disorder: An exploratory study in a Spanish sample of 3–6 year old children](#)

Current research often overlooks anxiety symptoms in preschoolers with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), focusing on older children. This study examines anxiety symptomatology primarily in young children with ASD by analyzing data from 82 Spanish children aged 3- to 6 years.

[Validation of the German Glasgow Sensory Questionnaire in autistic adults](#)

We validated the German version of the Glasgow Sensory Questionnaire (GSQ), a self-report questionnaire for adults assessing the processing of stimuli regarding hypo- and hypersensitivity in seven sensory modalities.

[Periodontal diseases in Down syndrome during childhood: a scoping review](#)

Down syndrome (DS) is a genetic condition that involves the deregulation of immune function and is characterized by a proinflammatory phenotype leading to an impaired response to infections. Periodontitis is a highly prevalent chronic inflammatory disease. It has been shown that adults and teenagers with DS are more susceptible to this disease, but a similar correlation in DS children remains elusive.

[Associations of maternal perinatal depressive disorders with autism spectrum disorder in offspring: Findings from a data-linkage cohort study](#)

There is limited research on the association between maternal depression and autism spectrum disorder, and existing studies face significant limitations, including inadequate control for confounders, reliance on self-reported data, small sample sizes and lack of investigation into mediating factors. This study addresses these gaps by examining the direct relationship and the potential mediating effects of preterm birth, low birth weight and low Apgar scores.

[Psychosocial factors associated with the trajectories of interparental conflict for Australian fathers of autistic children: A longitudinal study across 10 years of child development](#)

Not much is known about how fathers experience conflict with their partners (either verbal or physical) while raising an autistic child. This study focused on understanding these experiences over 10 years, following children from the age of 4 to 14 years. The study had two main goals: (1) to track how fathers experience conflict with their partners over this time and identify different patterns to these experiences; and (2) to find psychosocial factors in early childhood that might impact these patterns.

[Injury Rates Among Children With Autism Spectrum Disorder With or Without Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder](#)

Are children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), with or without attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), at increased risk for physical injuries?

["What does 'often' even mean?" Revising and validating the Comprehensive Autistic Trait Inventory in partnership with autistic people](#)

In this study, we revised the comprehensive autistic trait inventory (CATI)—a self-report inventory of autistic traits, in collaboration with autistic people and provided preliminary evidence for its validity as a self-report measure of autistic traits in the general population. An established strength of the CATI is its ability to capture female autistic traits. Our project aimed to extend this further, to increase the inventory's accessibility, and to minimise stigma induced by deficit-based representations of autistic experience.



[Change in self-determination-related constructs in persons with severe or profound intellectual and multiple disabilities in the context of transitions](#)

This study explored the changes in self-determination-related constructs during transitions in the lives of persons with severe or profound intellectual and multiple disabilities.

[Employment situation and the formation of stigmatising attitudes towards people with intellectual disabilities](#)

This study questioned whether knowledge of the employment situation of a person with an intellectual disability affected stigmatising attitudes towards that individual among a sample of 507 people who did not have intellectual disabilities.

[Hospitalisation rates for epilepsy, asthma and insulin-dependent diabetes in 796 190 school-aged children and young people with and without intellectual disabilities: a record-linkage cohort study](#)

Objectives: To investigate hospitalisation rates for the ambulatory care-sensitive conditions of epilepsy, asthma and insulin-dependent diabetes in school-aged children and young people with intellectual disabilities in comparison with their peers.

[Effectiveness of Virtual Reality Technology Interventions in Improving the Social Skills of Children and Adolescents With Autism: Systematic Review](#)

This study aimed to systematically review the evidence supporting the effectiveness of VR technology in improving the social skills of children and adolescents with ASD.

Data

[Access to services for autism and ADHD](#)

This indicator uses routinely published data to understand access to autism services and medications prescribed for ADHD.

News

[Bild launches new coproduced resource on health and wellbeing inequalities](#)

Bild is pleased to share a new coproduced infographic explaining health inequalities experienced by people with learning disabilities. We know that people with learning disabilities often face health and wellbeing inequalities. Bild wants to support people to live long, happy and healthy lives.

[Annual Health Checks](#)

Yesterday, the government released the NHS operational planning guidance for 2025/26. The document outlines the priorities for the NHS in the coming year. A number of targets are missing from this year's guidance, including the goal for 75% of people with a learning disability to receive an annual health check.

[Woman with a learning disability celebrates cancer all-clear after initially being refused treatment](#)

A woman with a learning disability who was initially told that there was "no possible treatment" for her cancer has been given the all-clear after she took control of her health decisions with the help of disability charity SeeAbility.



[Preventable deaths of autistic people caused by lack of understanding](#)

Insufficient training and gaps in specialist support in health and social care settings are contributing to preventable deaths of autistic people, according to new research.

[Everyone has a right not to make a hospital their home](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission today published Hospital is not home, a report on the circumstances of people with learning disability and complex needs who have been in hospital for 10 years or more.

[National Down Syndrome Policy Group raises concerns over assisted dying](#)

The National Down Syndrome Policy Group (NDSPGO) and over 61 organisations representing the interests of disabled people across the UK have written an open letter raising concerns about the potential impact of legalising assisted dying.

[Disability benefits claimants at increased risk of hardship as DWP underpayments rise](#)

Disability benefits claimants receive an unacceptably poor level of service from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). In a report published today, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) warns that the DWP's understanding of vulnerable customers' experience is not good enough, with how it provides customer service overall also falling short.

[To accelerate the study of neurodevelopment, we need a transdiagnostic framework](#)

It has been more than 40 years since autism first entered the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders as a neurodevelopmental condition of childhood. And over the ensuing decades, the criteria defining the condition have evolved, along with the recognition that autism is both heterogenous in its presentation and frequently comorbid with other diagnoses.

[NHS Priorities: Learning Disability England's Rep Body Respond](#)

On 30 January 2025, NHS England published its operational planning guidance for 2025/26, this says what their targets are and what they will check in local health services.

["We continue to press for change so everyone can live equally and not live in fear"](#)

Michael Chick, Co-founder and Chairman of United Pride Friends, reflects on the challenges LGBTQ+ people have had to overcome – particularly those LGBTQ+ people who also have learning disabilities.

[A Big Conversation Around Social Care](#)

Last week, Angela Catley, Marianne Selby-Boothroyd and Mary Woodhall attended a meeting for the Social Care All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG). They share how it went...