

NE LINCOLNSHIRE JSNA INDICATOR SUMMARY

TITLE:	Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
Domain:	Improving the wider determinants of health
Frequency of Availability:	Annual
Time Period Of Data Analysis:	Children 2013 to 2016 Adults 2015 to 2030

AVAILABLE COMPARISONS

TYPE	AVAILABLE
National, Regional or Peer Group	Yes
Electoral Ward / NELCCG Practice	No
Neighbourhood	No
Socioeconomic Differences	No
Targets, Trends & Projections	Yes

KEY POINTS

- ASD covers a broad spectrum of conditions across a triad of impairments with significant variations between individual cases.
- There are national and local gaps in information about people with autism such as the number of people with autism and what services (if any) they use.
- Applying prevalence estimates from a national study to the local population, it can be estimated that there would be 155 children in North East Lincolnshire aged 5-9 years with ASD.
- Applying prevalence estimates from another national study to the local population, it can be estimated that there would be 45 children in North East Lincolnshire aged 9-10 years with ASD.
- North East Lincolnshire has a significantly lower rate of children with ASD as a primary SEN than the England rate, and a lower rate (not significantly) than the Yorkshire and the Humber rate.
- Latest figures from the January 2016 school census show there were 210 North East Lincolnshire pupils with SENs with ASD as the primary type of need (primary schools = 65 pupils, secondary schools = 45 pupils, special schools = 100 pupils).
- The 2015 Adolescent Lifestyle Survey determined that 8.7% of young people reported they had a limiting illness or disability, of which, 4.8% of these reported they had autism, which equated to an autism prevalence of 0.28% (n=12) of young people who completed the ALS.
- The total number of people aged 18+ years predicted to have ASD is projected to rise from 1233 in 2015 to 1276 in 2030 which overall is a modest increase of 3.5%.
- ASD is strongly associated with gender with many more males with ASD.
- There is no readily available data on the numbers of people with Asperger's syndrome and High Functioning Autism many of which are unknown to services.

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DESCRIPTION

The National Autistic Society defines ASD as a lifelong condition characterised by impairments in three main areas: social interaction, communication and the presence of repetitive behaviours (known as the triad of impairments). The term "spectrum" is used due to the significant variations between individual cases, including severity and presentation of the triad of impairments, differing IQ levels, and general functional abilities. Autistic Disorder, Asperger's Syndrome and High Functioning Autism are all types of Autistic Spectrum Conditions.

NHS Choices also defines ASD as a condition that affects social interaction, communication, interests and behaviour. NHS Choices also reports that in children with ASD, the symptoms are present before three years of age, although a diagnosis can be made after the age of three. It's estimated that about 1 in every 100 people in the UK has ASD. More boys are diagnosed with the condition than girls. There's no "cure" for ASD, but speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, educational support, plus a number of other interventions are available to help children and parents. Some people with ASD had features of the condition as a child, but enter adulthood without ever being diagnosed, however getting a diagnosis as an adult can often help a person with ASD and their families understand the condition, and work out what type of advice and support they need.

The National Autistic Society examined the variation in the estimates of the proportion of people with ASD who have a learning disability (IQ less than 70), and these varied considerably, and it is not possible to give an accurate figure. Emerson and Baines (2010) suggested that the estimate amongst children was somewhere between 40% and 67% with the average prevalence across the studies reviewed being approximately 50%. The National Autistic Society present possible reasons for the different estimates, for instance they note that some very able people with ASD may never come to the attention of services as having special needs, because they have learned strategies to overcome any difficulties with communication and social interaction and found fulfilling employment that suits their particular talents. Other people with ASD may be able intellectually, but have need of support from services, because the degree of impairment they have of social interaction hampers their chances of employment and achieving independence.

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NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE

Children and young people

Details of two studies to estimate the prevalence of autism in children are provided by the Public Health England (PHE) National Child and Maternal (ChiMat) Health Intelligence Network.

Firstly a study of 56,946 children in South East London by Baird et al (2006) estimated the prevalence of autism in children aged 9-10 years at 38.9 per 10,000 and that of other ASDs at 77.2 per 10,000, making the total prevalence of all ASDs 116.1 per 10,000.

Applying these prevalence estimates to the 2014 North East Lincolnshire population, the number of children aged 9-10 years with autism can be estimated at 15, and the number of children aged 9-10 years with other ASDs can be estimated at 30, giving a total estimate of 45 children in North East Lincolnshire aged 9-10 years with ASD.

Secondly a survey by Baron-Cohen et al (2009) of autism-spectrum conditions using the Special Educational Needs (SEN) register alongside a survey of children in schools aged 5-9 years produced prevalence estimates of autism spectrum conditions of 94 per 10,000 and 99 per 10,000 respectively. The ratio of known to unknown cases is about 3:2. Taken together, a prevalence of 157 per 10,000 has been estimated, including previously undiagnosed cases.

Applying this prevalence estimate to the 2014 North East Lincolnshire population, the number of children aged 5-9 years with autism spectrum conditions can be estimated at 155.

It is important to remember that these North East Lincolnshire figures are estimates and should only be used as a guide and that there will be inherent differences between the study and local populations.

PHE include two child autism indicators within their learning disability profile.

The first indicator is 'children with autism known to schools' which is defined as the number of pupils with ASD as a primary special educational need (SEN) per 1000 pupils, and is reported via the January school census. Figures for 2015 are presented in the table below and show that North East Lincolnshire has a significantly lower rate of children with ASD as a primary SEN than the England rate, and a lower rate (not significantly) than the Yorkshire and the Humber rate. The North East Lincolnshire figure equates to 207 children.

Number of pupils with ASD as a primary SEN per 1000 pupils with 95% confidence intervals, England, Yorkshire and the Humber, North East Lincolnshire, 2015

	Rate	LCI	UCI
England	10.8	10.7	10.8
Yorkshire and the Humber	9.3	9.1	9.5
North East Lincolnshire	8.7	7.6	9.9

Source: DfE

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The second PHE indicator is the 'percentage of school pupils identified as having an ASD'. This is the same cohort of children as in the first indicator, but expressed as a percentage of all pupils. Therefore for North East Lincolnshire this again equates to 207 children. Figures for 2015 are presented in the table below and show that North East Lincolnshire has a significantly lower percentage of children with ASD than the England percentage, and a lower percentage (not significantly) than the Yorkshire and the Humber percentage.

Percentage of pupils with ASD with 95% confidence intervals, England, Yorkshire and the Humber, North East Lincolnshire, 2015

	Percentage	LCI	UCI
England	1.08%	1.07%	1.08%
Yorkshire and the Humber	0.93%	0.91%	0.95%
North East Lincolnshire	0.87%	0.76%	0.99%

Source: DfE

Figures for 2013 to 2015 are presented in the table below and show increasing national and regional percentages of pupils with ASD, with a more static trend for North East Lincolnshire.

Percentage of pupils with ASD, England, Yorkshire and the Humber, North East Lincolnshire, 2013 to 2015

	2013	2014	2015
England	0.86%	0.91%	1.08%
Yorkshire and the Humber	0.76%	0.81%	0.93%
North East Lincolnshire	0.91% (n=218)	0.92% (n=221)	0.87% (n=207)

Source: DfE

Latest figures from the January 2016 school census show there were 210 North East Lincolnshire pupils with SENs with ASD as the primary type of need (primary schools = 65 pupils, secondary schools = 45 pupils, special schools = 100 pupils).

An Adolescent Lifestyle Survey was undertaken in North East Lincolnshire during 2015. The ALS was offered to all young people of secondary school age (years 7 to 11; ages 11 to 16 years), and was facilitated by the academies with eight of the ten secondary academies in North East Lincolnshire participating. The final report included an analysis of the responses of 52% of the registered secondary school population. Overall 8.7% of young people reported they had a limiting illness or disability, of which, 4.8% of these reported they had autism, which equated to an autism prevalence of 0.28% (n=12) of young people who completed the ALS.

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Adults

Estimates for the number of adults predicted to have ASD by age and gender and projected to 2030 are detailed on the projecting adult needs and service information (PANSI) and projecting older people population information (POPPI) systems. These systems are provided by the Institute of Public Care on licence from the Department of Health.

Figures were produced using prevalence figures from the Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey 2007 which was published by the Health and Social Care Information Centre in September 2009, and applying these prevalence figures to local ONS population estimates. The prevalence of ASD was found to be 1.0% of the adult population in England, using the threshold of a score of 10 on the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule to indicate a positive case. The rate among men (1.8%) was higher than that among women (0.2%). By applying these figures from the national survey to local ONS population projections, estimates for North East Lincolnshire were derived for up to 2030, and these are presented in the table below. The total number of people in North East Lincolnshire aged 18+ years and predicted to have ASD, is projected to rise from 1233 in 2015 to 1276 in 2030 which overall is a modest increase of 3.5%. In 2030 there is around nine times more males than females predicted to have ASD.

Number of people predicted to have ASD by age and gender, North East Lincolnshire, 2015 to 2030

	2015 Persons (Males/Females)	2020 Persons (Males/Females)	2025 Persons (Males/Females)	2030 Persons (Males/Females)
People aged 18-24	137 (124,13)	121 (110,12)	118 (106,11)	129 (117,12)
People aged 25-34	203 (182,21)	210 (189,21)	199 (180,19)	184 (166,18)
People aged 35-44	186 (167,19)	180 (162,18)	198 (178,20)	207 (187,20)
People aged 45-54	225 (202,23)	207 (185,21)	180 (162,18)	178 (160,18)
People aged 55-64	192 (173,19)	208 (187,21)	215 (193,22)	197 (176,20)
People aged 65-74	163 (146,17)	171 (153,18)	171 (153,18)	187 (167,20)
People aged 75+	127 (110,17)	145 (126,19)	174 (153,21)	194 (171,23)
Total people aged 18+	1233 (1104,129)	1242 (1112,130)	1255 (1125,130)	1276 (1144,132)

Source: PANSI / POPPI

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Figures may not sum due to rounding

Public Data Sources:	PHE Learning Disability Profiles CAMHS Needs Assessment Profiles
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