

Impact of Resource Update: Autism Support, Healthcare & Advocacy

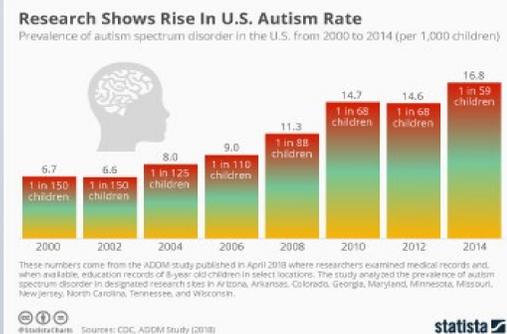
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HealthCare Studies

Introduction

The Northeast Arc Autism Support Center has been empowering and supporting families for 30 years. This organization provides accurate, unbiased, support and services to thousands of families. Some services the center provides are

- Referrals
- Resources
- Events
- Support groups for children and young adults
- Helping individuals find work
- The center works with experienced parents, professionals and brokers funded by Massachusetts Department (Northeast Arc, 2021)

Autism is a common disability that should be advocated for. Yet there is difficulty in school and healthcare settings catering to the population. Northeast Arc Autism Support center can help advocate and educate parents about IEP's and assistance in school.

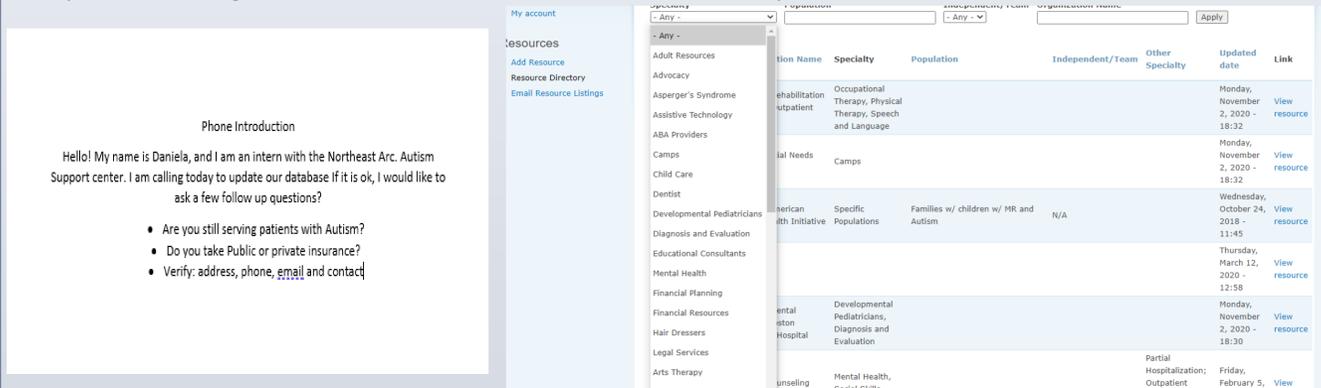


Related Literature

- While access to high-quality healthcare for individuals with developmental disabilities has been a public health concern since the deinstitutionalization of this population in the 1970s, people with ASD, still experience difficulties with accessing appropriate healthcare (Calleja, et al., 2019)
- One key message of the report is the emphasis on early identification and referral for treatment, even if a diagnosis of autism is suspected but not yet confirmed. The outcomes are better when treatment starts as early as possible (Klass, 2020)

Materials and Methods

- Connected with professionals that take a public insurance provider to ensure the organization can cater to multiple financial needs.
- Called/ emailed professional's office and ask if they have experience or are willing to gain experience working with the disabled community. Ask for specifics address, phone number, insurance provider, main contact etc.
- Formed relationship with my site supervisor, healthcare professionals and organizations that cater to autistic individuals.
- Connected with children in Autism Support Center through events, tours, and socializing. This can help with experience of signs and hands on interaction with community..



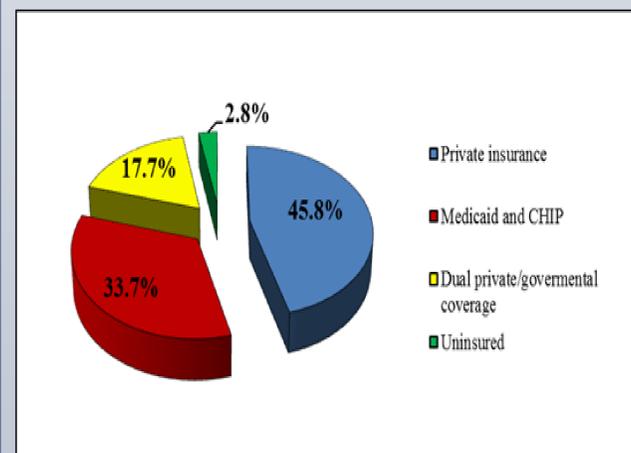
Phone Introduction

Hello! My name is Daniela, and I am an intern with the Northeast Arc. Autism Support center. I am calling today to update our database if it is ok, I would like to ask a few follow up questions?

- Are you still serving patients with Autism?
- Do you take Public or private insurance?
- Verify: address, phone, email and contact

Organization Name	Specialty	Population	Independent/Team	Other Specialty	Updated date	Link
Rehabilitation outpatient	Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech and Language				Monday, November 2, 2020 - 18:32	View resource
Camps					Monday, November 2, 2020 - 18:32	View resource
American Health Initiative	Specific Populations	Families w/ children w/ HR and Autism	N/A		Wednesday, October 24, 2018 - 11:45	View resource
Developmental Pediatrics	Developmental Pediatrics, Diagnosis and Evaluation				Thursday, March 12, 2020 - 12:58	View resource
Developmental Pediatrics	Developmental Pediatrics, Diagnosis and Evaluation				Monday, November 2, 2020 - 18:30	View resource
Outpatient	Mental Health, Social Skills		Partial Hospitalization;		Friday, February 5, 2021	View resource

Above: (to the left) Phone script created to assist with phone calls. (to the right) Database



Left: This Graph shows the percentages of families that rely on different kinds of insurance. Insurance and healthcare can be expensive, with a database such as northeast Arc's. Families find cost friendly healthcare and support. (AMA Journal of Ethics, 2014)

Results

- Searched and connected with new professionals to add to the database. Data is constantly being added, taken away and confirmed.
- Connected with approximately 150 professionals. Information was then put into the database to support families and provide accurate up to date listings.
- Data was organized by topic and updated date.
- Northeast Arc's Database breaks down barriers that keep people and access to healthcare apart through events, educating and resources. Such as IEP Programs etc.
- Due to HIPAA, I cannot disclose the number of families who use resources.

Conclusions

The Autism Support system uses the following to advance rates within healthcare.

- To help relieve some of these symptoms early intervention and ABA therapy can be very helpful at a young age. The organizations staff works together to assist and provide support and resources.
- Although there are no treatments there are suggestions and tips for parents to follow that could be helpful for their children during their development using the database I and another intern updated.
- Advocacy: teams up with parents and professionals through events to help build relationships and educate others. Firsthand experience with this through events.
- Helping individuals find jobs, such as parcels.
- Provided insight to database that provides families with healthcare/ support/ law and advocacy for their children.



Autism Parent Training
IEP / SPECIAL EDUCATION / ADVOCACY
How to Prepare for an IEP Meeting
FEBRUARY 24 at 6:30PM

Autism Support Group
If you're the parent of a child with autism, this group is for you!
Meet with other parents.
Share information, experiences and ideas.
Learn about programs, supports, services, recreational activities and more!
FEBRUARY 2 at 6 P.M.

References

- Calleja, S., Islam, F., Kingsley, J., & McDonald, R. (2019). The disparities of healthcare access for adults with autism spectrum disorder: Protocol for a systemic review. *Medicine (Baltimore)*, 98(7), 1-5.
<https://doi.org/10.1097/MD.00000000000014480>
- Klass, P. (2020, January 06). Early treatment for autism is critical, new report says. Retrieved February 06, 2021, from <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/06/well/family/early-treatment-for-autism-is-critical-new-report-says.html>

Acknowledgments

Nancy Lucier; Site Supervisor