

VII. Prevalence of Psychopathology in Intellectually-Intact Youth with Autism

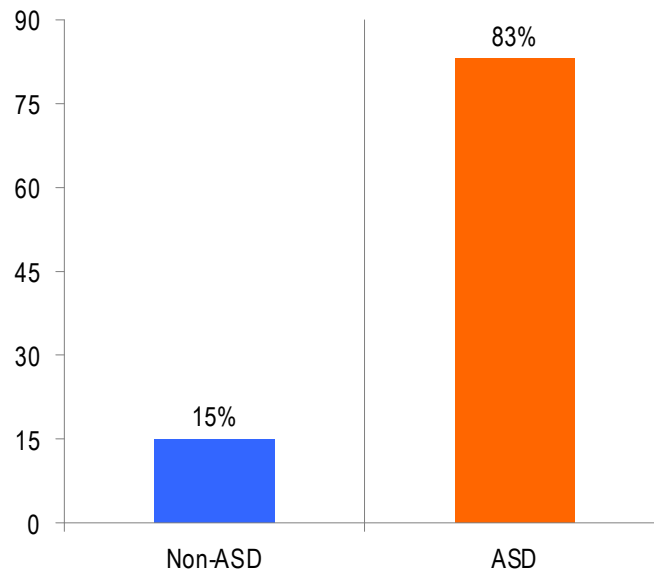
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Prevalence of Psychopathology in General Population

Emotional & Behavioral Difficulties in Children with Autism



A parent-reported survey
(2003-04)
in
School-aged Children
(4-17 years)

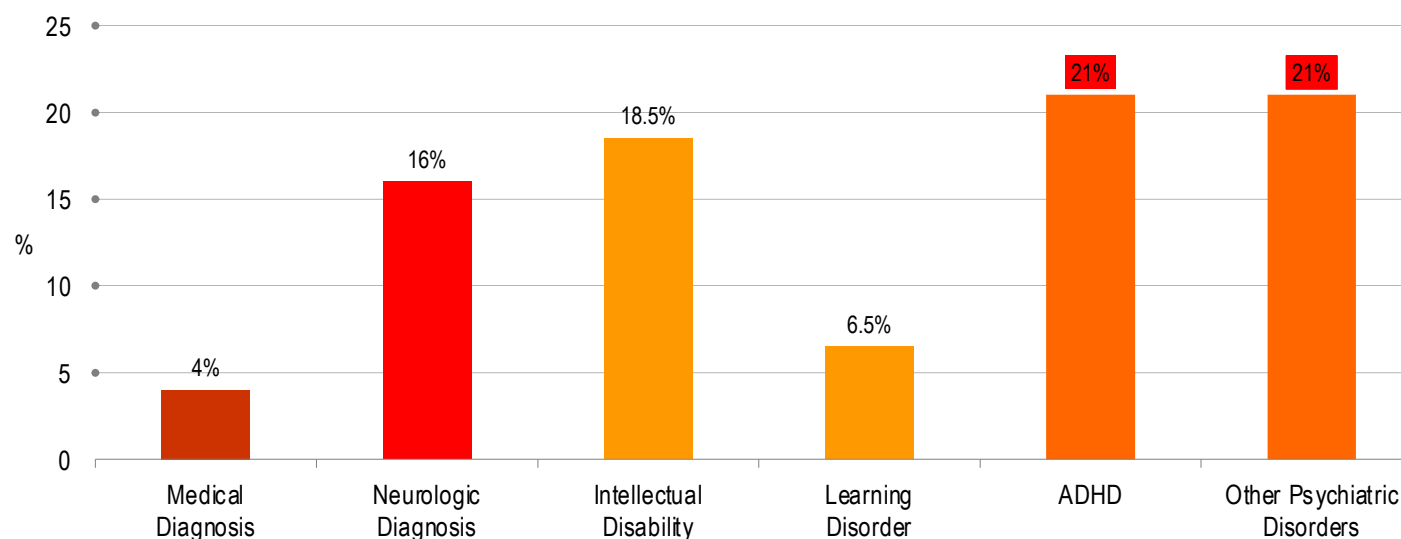
In the general population, significantly more youth with ASD suffer from mental health problems



Comorbidity Associated with ASD

Comorbidity in US population-based sample of ASD

(Medical records of children 8 years old reviewed by trained clinicians)



Psychiatric conditions are the most common comorbidity with Autism



The Heavy Burden of Psychiatric Comorbidity in Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders: A Large Comparative Study of a Psychiatrically Referred Population

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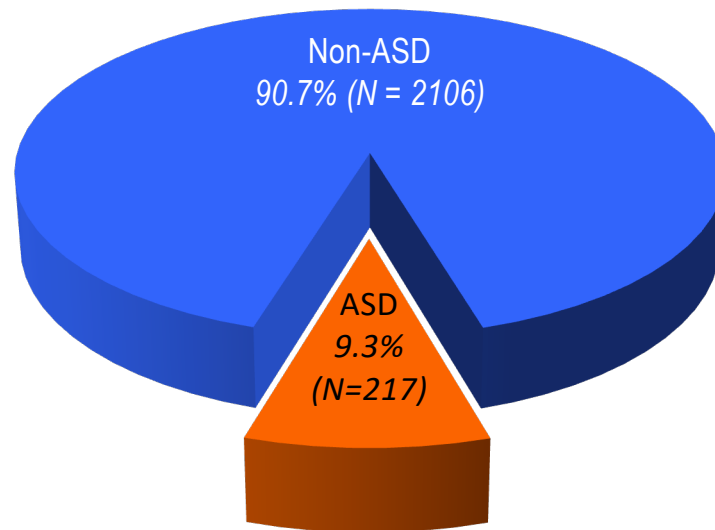
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Abstract The objective of the study was to systematically examine patterns of psychiatric comorbidity in referred youth with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) including autistic disorder and pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified. Consecutively referred children and adolescents to a pediatric psychopharmacology program were assessed with structured diagnostic interview and measures of psychosocial functioning.

high levels of psychiatric comorbidity and dysfunction comparable to the referred population of youth without ASD. These findings emphasize the heavy burden of psychiatric comorbidity afflicting youth with ASD and may be important targets for intervention.

Keywords Autism spectrum disorders · Psychiatric comorbidity · Children and adolescents

Prevalence of ASD in Psychiatrically Referred Youth



Total N: 2323

Total Duration: 15 years (1991-2006)

Male: 87%

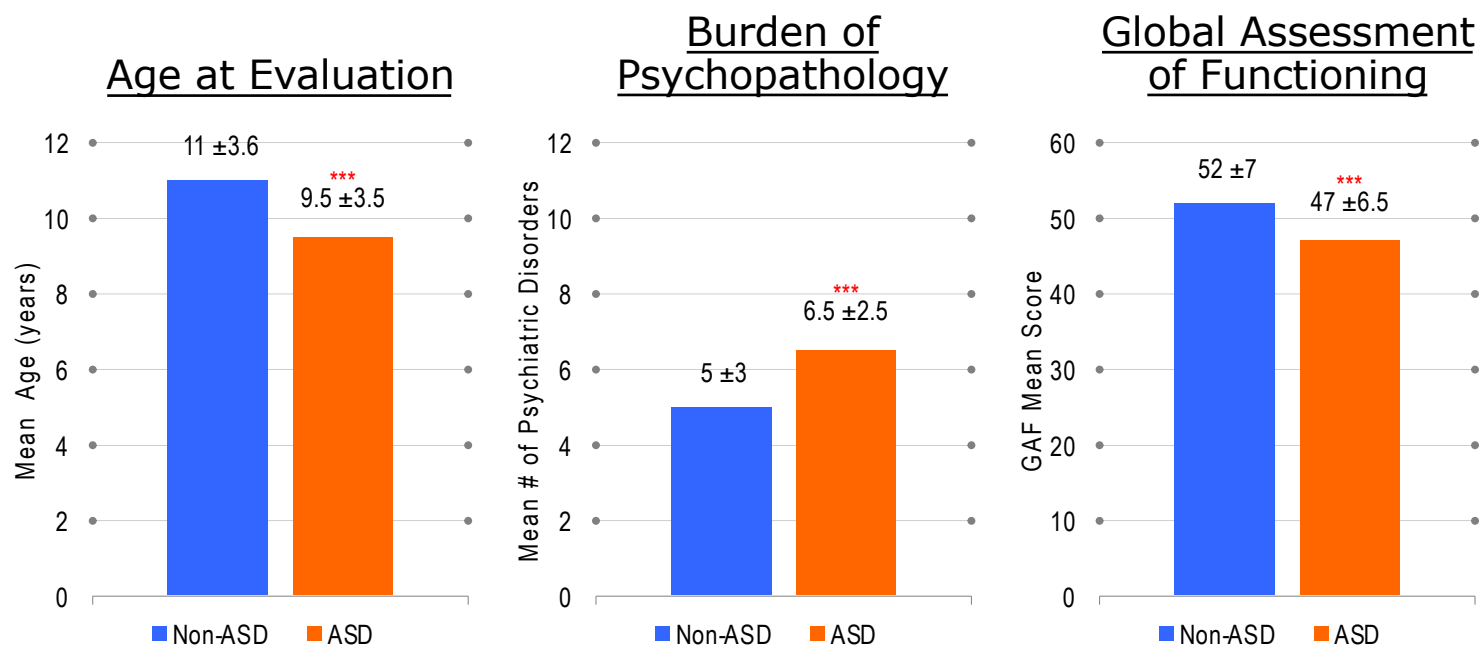
Age (yrs): 9.7 ±3.6 (3-17)

Intellectual Ability & Language Skills: Clinically not impaired in majority of the referred youth

Autism Prevalence 3x Higher than the General Population



Psychiatrically Referred Youth with ASD

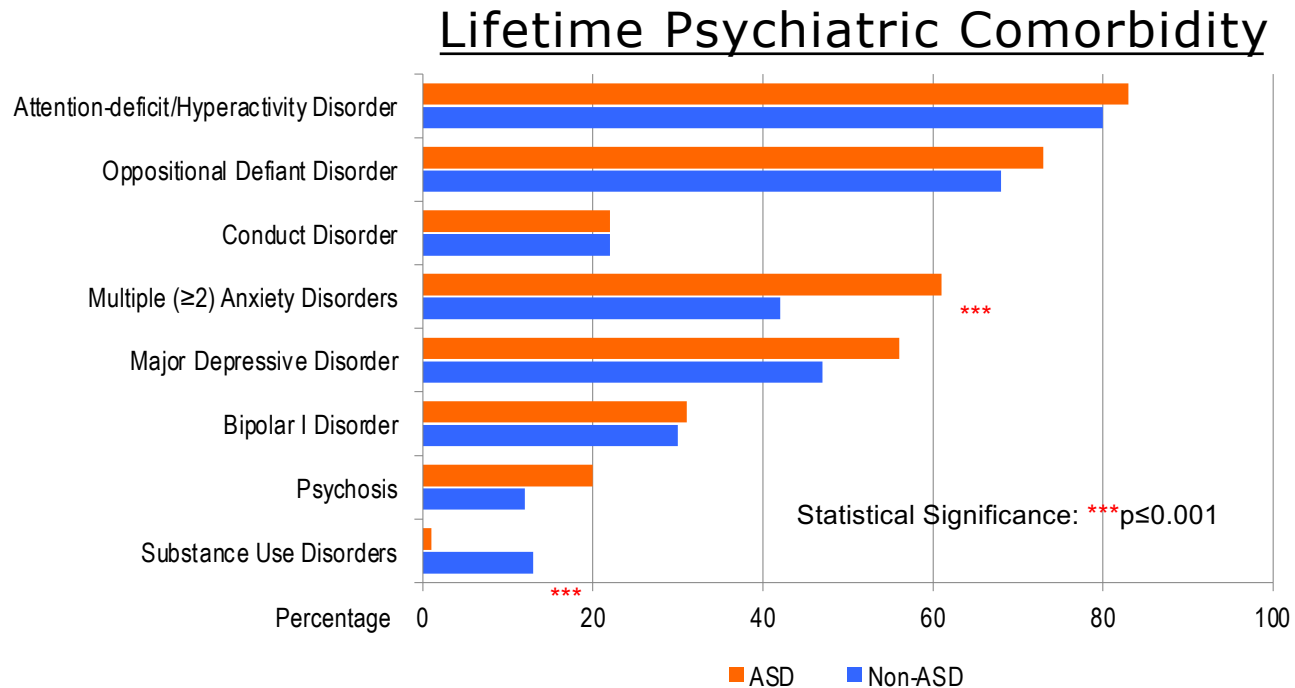


Statistical Significance: ***p<0.001

Referred at Younger Age with Greater Burden of Psychopathology & Poorer Level of Functioning



Psychiatric Comorbidity in ASD

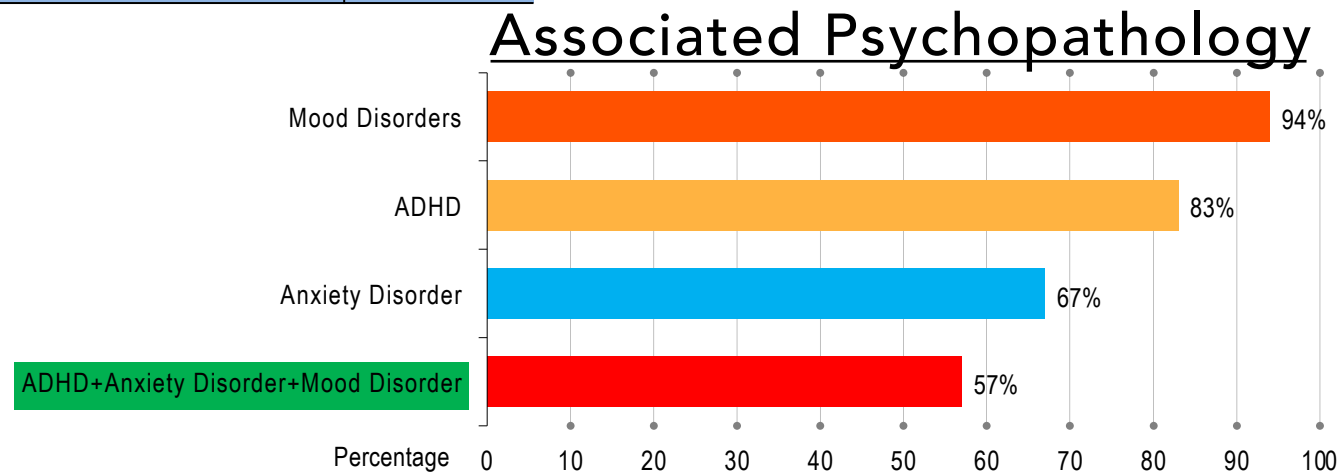


Autism youth in the psychiatry clinic suffer from psychiatric conditions at the same rate as the rest of the psychiatry clinic population



Psychiatric Comorbidity Profile in ASD

Total N	54
Age (yrs)	13 ±3 (7-19)
Male	76%
Autistic Disorder	61%
Asperger's Disorder/PDD-NOS	39%



Autism youth referred to the psychiatry clinic suffer from a combination of psychiatric conditions: ADHD, Anxiety Disorder, and Mood Disorder

