



April is National Autism Awareness Month

April is National Autism Awareness Month, calling attention to Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) that affect 3.5 million Americans. Autism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during childhood and is lifelong. It affects a person's ability to communicate and interact with others, and can cause serious social, emotional, and behavioral challenges.

Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability but its causes are not clearly understood. Research suggests that autism often develops from a combination of genetic or environmental influences. For unknown reasons, ASD is five times more common in boys than girls. Children with autism tend to have other problems with brain function, such as seizures or epilepsy.

Diagnosis

Diagnosing ASD can be difficult since there is no specific medical test, like a blood test, to confirm a diagnosis. Doctors look at the child's behavior, developmental milestones, and parental concerns.

ASD can sometimes be detected at 18 months or younger. Early diagnosis and treatment interventions can help children learn important skills and can improve development.



Living with ASD

Family members are affected by autism in different ways, with many reporting stress and financial strain due to the expense of autism treatment and therapies which may not be covered by insurance.

While there is no cure for autism, there are a variety of treatment and education approaches that can address the behavioral challenges related to ASD. Different types of treatment include:

- Behavior and Communication Approaches
- Dietary Approaches
- Medication
- Complementary and Alternative Medicine

If you, or someone you know, is interested in addiction recovery services, primary care, or mental health care for children or adults, contact

InterCommunity. To receive services at any of our Hartford or East Hartford locations, please call 860-569-5900.

