

Impact of COVID-19 on Families and Children with Autism

Survey info



Sent to: **70,000 families**
 Completed by: **8,000 families**
 Results collected: **March 20, 2020 - March 30, 2020**

Who participated?



Parents and Guardians
93% Female
43 years old (on average)

Their Children with ASD are
80% Male
12 years old (on average)

Where do they live?



South **33%**
 West **26%**
 Midwest **24%**
 Northeast **17%**

Disruptions in services and therapies

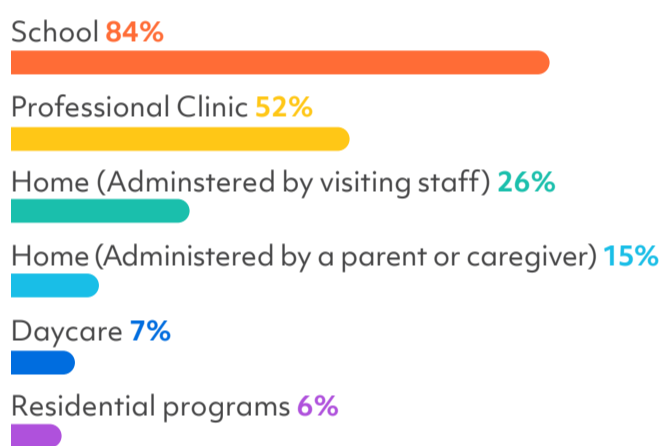
63%

of families report severe disruptions in services and therapies.

64%

of families report that speech therapy is most disrupted.

Percent of families reporting settings for services or therapies that have been disrupted



School

98%



of families report that their child's school is **closed**.

This includes responses from parents and guardians of dependent adults with ASD.

Child with autism's understanding of COVID-19

42%

of families report that their child with ASD understands information related to COVID-19 moderately well to completely.



Remote services and therapies



35% of families are receiving remote services or therapies.

43% of these families are benefitting moderately well to significantly from these services.

Child with autism's mental and emotional health

62%

of families report that their child with ASD is feeling good overall.

Percent of families that report disruptions in services or therapies have negatively impacted their child with ASD's behavior.

95%

Percent of families that report that COVID-19 has negatively impacted their child with ASD's mental and emotional health.

82%

Parent and guardian's mental and emotional health

51%

of parents and guardians are feeling good overall.

Percent of parents or guardians that report feeling stressed or overwhelmed due to disruptions in their child with ASD's services or therapies.

97%

Percent of parents or guardians that report that COVID-19 has negatively impacted their mental health.

95%

What's working?

These suggestions are from comments that parents and guardians entered through an open-ended question in the survey.

-  Social stories
-  Breaks for rest and relaxation
-  Telehealth appointments
-  Pursuing hobbies
-  Cooking for family
-  Enjoying time with family in person and virtually

Family quotes

"My child had some problems at school, like not having a good friend, not communicating well etc. Now that they're at home, they look happier and calmer."

"Emotional health is paramount. Try to keep a basic schedule of getting ready at the same time and going to bed at the same time."

"Give me the parent specific instructions on what activities/skills to work on at home during this time to help maintain a regular schedule."

Share your tips and tricks with us by using **#SPARKstrong**



info@SPARKforAutism.org