

# Autism and Substance Use

Shawna Bush  
LEND 2018

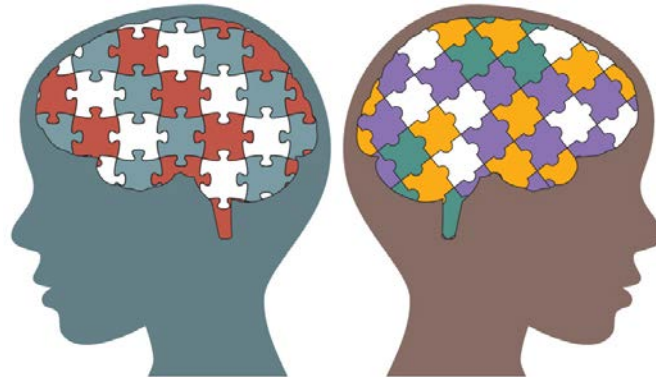




# Autism Spectrum Disorder

“Persistent deficit in social communication and social interaction” (DSM V)

“Restrictive, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, or activities” (DSM V)



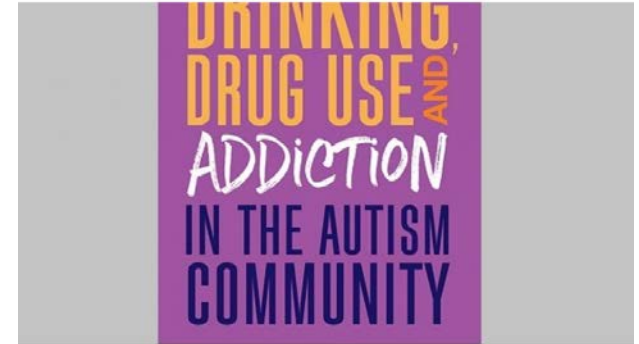




There is very little research on the relationship between ASD and Substance Use.

## UNC Employees Publish Book Linking Autism and Substance Abuse

Posted by Daniela Ocampo | Nov 8, 2017 | Health | 0 ●



Up until recently, substance use disorder was considered rare among those on the autism spectrum.

Clinical instructor at UNC's Addiction Detox Unit in WakeBrook in Raleigh Elizabeth Kunreuther and faculty member at the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities at UNC Ann Palmer decided to research and write a book about the topic but found little information on the subject.

Kunreuther says at first they weren't sure they even had enough information for a book.

<http://chapelboro.com/news/health/unc-employees-publish-book-linking-autism-substance-abuse>



# Research Questions & Hypotheses

---

Should there be a difference in the approach, prevention, and treatment of substance use disorders for adolescents with ASD?

- Because of the social deficits and restricted and repetitive behaviors seen in individuals, particularly adolescents, who have ASD; there should be a difference in the approach towards prevention and treatment of substance use in adolescents with ASD.

Are school prevention programs for substance use disorders sensitive towards the social deficits, and/or restrictive repetitive behaviors seen in adolescents with ASD?

- Because of the previous research suggesting that that it's rare for individuals with ASD to suffer from a SUD, it's likely that prevention programs are not sensitive towards the social deficits and or restrictive repetitive behaviors seen in individuals with ASD.

# Data Collection & Analysis

IRB APPROVAL

Data specifically regarding  
substance use in Health  
Education will be analyzed  
using descriptive statistics

Needs-Based Assessment  
emailed to 1912 certified CT  
Health teachers who are in  
the Educator Data System  
(EDS) for the 2017-2018  
school year

Results and Discussion to  
Follow



# References

Butwicka, A., Langstrom, N., Larsson, H., Luncstrom, S., Serlachius, E., Almqvist, C., . . . Lichtenstein, P. (2017). Increased Risk for Substance Use-Related Problems in Autism Spectrum Disorders: A Population-Based Cohort Study. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 71(1). doi:10.1007/s10803-016-2914-2

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition. Arlington, VA, American Psychiatric Association, 2013.

De Alwis, D., Agrawal, A., Reiersen, A. M., Constantino, J. N., Henders, A., Martin, N. G., & Lynskey, M. T. (2014). ADHD Symptoms, Autistic Traits, and Substance Use and Misuse in Adult Australian Twins. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, 75(2), 211–221.

Ocampo, D. (2017, November 08). UNC Employees Publish Book Linking Autism and Substance Abuse. Retrieved December 01, 2017, from <http://chapelboro.com/news/health/unc-employees-publish-book-linking-autism-substance-abuse>

Ramos, M., Boada, L., Moreno, C., Llorente, C., Romo, J., & Parellada, M. (2013). Attitude and risk of substance use in adolescents diagnosed with Asperger syndrome. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* 0376-8716 (P), 133(2), 535–540. doi:10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2013.07.022.

Santosh, P. J., & Mijovic, A. (2006). Does pervasive developmental disorder protect children and adolescents against drug and alcohol use? *European Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 15(4), 183–188. doi:10.1007/s00787-005-0517-0.

Drug Rehabilitation for Individuals with Autism or Asperger's. (n.d.). Retrieved December 01, 2017, from <https://americanaddictioncenters.org/rehab-guide/autis>