

KEY FINDINGS

1. The numbers and rates of people identified as having autism in Oklahoma are increasing.
2. Early diagnosis and treatment are essential to effective care and treatment of people with autism.
3. People with autism encompass diverse populations for whom no single model program can be described as the most appropriate.
4. The Autism Working Group did not agree that a single, residential site for people with autism is needed or beneficial.
5. The various Oklahoma programs and agencies involved in providing services and support related to autism are not well coordinated and do not offer a seamless continuum over a person's lifetime.
6. Oklahoma lacks sufficient, effective training and technical assistance for caregivers, service providers and programs serving people with autism.
7. People with autism encounter difficulties as a result of insufficient understanding of the associated behaviors by the general public.
8. People with autism encounter difficulties as a result of insufficient understanding of the associated behaviors among general service providers and emergency responders.
9. Sufficient programs and services, including transition services, are not available in Oklahoma to adults (age 18 and over) with autism, especially those enabling each person to achieve his or her full potential as an adult and to be safe during a crisis.
10. Families represent a significant resource for people with autism.