

# Childhood Poverty in Relation to Autistic Adults

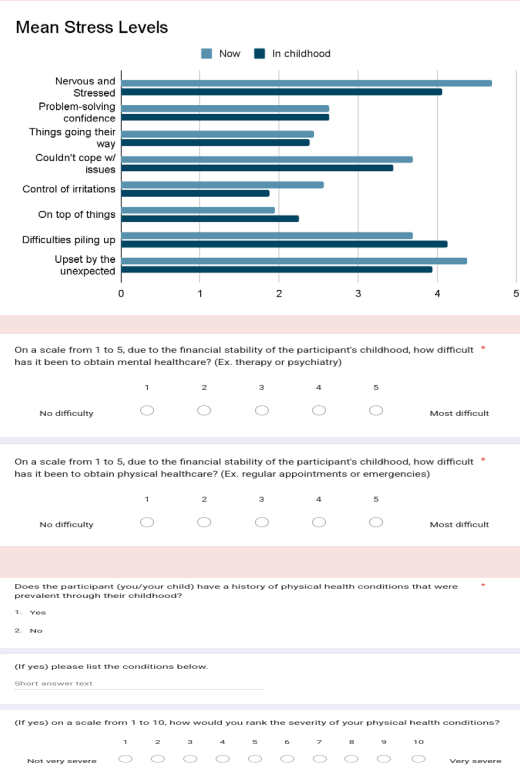
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## Abstract

Prior research has found connections between poverty and those who have ASD--specifically how poverty affects children with autism. That research led to the creation of this research paper which studies the effects of low income childhoods on the mental and physical health--stress levels, healthcare access, and any long-term conditions--of autistic adults in the United States. It was found that childhood poverty significantly affects the severity of long-term health conditions in autistic adults. However, there was little change in stress levels and healthcare access for the studied and control groups.

## Discussion

This study explored the connection between autism in adulthood as well as childhood poverty. In order for these autistic adults to get better accommodations in their daily lives, we must first learn the issues they struggle the most with. Using my results as a basis, there can be progress toward how we help autistic people prior to adulthood and throughout adulthood.



16 raised in low income; 15 raised middle/high class

## Aim

To discover if the stress levels, healthcare access, and long-term health conditions differ in autistic adults who were raised impoverished as opposed to well-off.

## Limitations

Small sample size, minority groups are also affected by the criteria significantly into adulthood.

## Conclusion

There is no relationship between childhood income and the healthcare access and stress levels. There is a significant relationship between childhood income and the severity of their long-term health conditions.

## Implications

This study will provide a basis for the future study of autistic adults. We know that their health conditions are worse and therefore we can provide resources to further help them live better.

## Methods

A survey using both qualitative and quantitative measures to collect data on the three criteria using self-reports. Interviews using similar questions.