

# Parents with Autism of Children with Autism

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## Background

- Despite the high heredity of autism, relatively little is known about parents with autism of children with autism.
- The familiarity with the disorder might increase the parents' ability to respond more effectively to the possible difficulties of raising a child with autism<sup>1</sup>.
- However, the social communicative problems of autism might pose additional complications for the interaction between parent and child<sup>234</sup>.

## Objective

- To explore the characteristics and overall quality of life of parents with autism who have one or more children with autism.

## Participants

- 562 adults, IQ>85, participants of the Netherlands Autism Register, a longitudinal online cohort study of individuals with autism.

## Conclusions

- Parents with autism of children with autism were: older, diagnosed later, had higher IQ but equal AQ scores, and were more often employed.

## Results

	Adults with autism			F/Chi <sup>2</sup>
	Parent, child(ren) with autism (n=176)	Parent, no child(ren) with autism (n=48)	No children (n=338)	
Gender (male; female)	90 (51%); 86 (49%)	26 (54%); 22 (46%)	151 (45%); 187 (55%)	2.87 <sup>ns</sup>
Age (in years; mean (SD); range)	51.8 (9.2); 33.9-76.1	49.1 (12.6); 29.6-80.0	39.7 (12.0); 18.0-70.4	71.41**
Age of diagnosis (in years; mean (SD); range)	45 (8.7); 21-70	42 (12.6); 13-74	31 (14.1); 1-68	79.57**
IQ (86-115; 116-130; >130)	26%; 45%; 29%	33%; 46%; 21%	39%; 43%; 18%	11.74*
AQ-28 (mean (SD); range)	74.5 (10.0); 46-98	73.2 (13.4); 48-97	74.0 (9.8); 42-97	.29 <sup>ns</sup>
Wellbeing <sup>5</sup> (mean (SD); range)	2.8 (1.1); 1-5	2.7 (1.1); 1-5	3.0 (1.1); 1-5	3.40*
Paid Employment (%)	49%	38%	38%	7.02*

- Adults with autism without children reported higher wellbeing, and were diagnosed at an earlier age.
- Parents with autism of multiple children with autism (n=81) reported similar to parents with one child with autism on all outcomes.
- 89% of parents of a child with autism received their diagnosis after their child's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday (mean age of diagnosis in child group was 5 years).

## References

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