

ETS Hero Bags

FACTS:

Autistic individuals have a higher rate of encounters with first responders than the general population. During emergency situations, individuals with autism, developmental & intellectual disabilities, may become over stimulated or express defensive behaviors and need assistance to regulate emotions and communicate.

THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT ENCOUNTERS IS APPROXIMATELY 30 PERCENT HIGHER FOR CHILDREN WITH ASD, 70 PERCENT HIGHER FOR TEENS WITH ASD FROM AGES 15 TO 18, AND TWICE AS HIGH FOR ADULTS WITH ASD. (3)

NEARLY 50% OF INDIVIDUALS WITH ASD HAVE ATTEMPTED TO OR HAVE SUCCESSFULLY ELOPED (1)

50% OF INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM ARE NONVERBAL THROUGHOUT THEIR LIFE SPAN; ANOTHER 20% MAY PRESENT AS NONVERBAL WHEN HIGHLY STRESSED. (2)

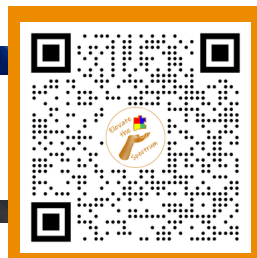
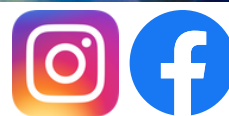
BETWEEN 69% AND 93% OF ASD CHILDREN CAN EXPERIENCE SENSORY OVERLOAD



- 1: Disability and Safety: Information on Wandering (Elopement). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- 2: ASDF Autism 101 for Paramedics/EMS (Emergency Medical Service).
- 3: Gathering Data to Improve Emergency Department Visits: OAR. Organization for Autism Research

- ETS aims to make sure every first responder and school resource officer in New Mexico has the tools and training needed to support the autistic and ID/DD community.
- ETS HERO Bags include fidget tools, communication boards, headphones, and whiteboards to help individuals with sensory or communication needs during emergencies.
- ETS has partnered with UNM's Autism+ team to create a training video for first responders on how to use these tools.

Please visit us at ElevateTheSpectrum.org
Or contact us at HEROBags@ElevateTheSpectrum.org



ETS has donated over 2,000 bags to first responders and school teams across New Mexico, including those in Santa Fe, Rio Rancho, Pojoaque, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, Sandoval County, and NM State Police.



Common Co-Occurring Conditions of Autism:

Fragile X syndrome, ADHD, Down syndrome, depression, Duchenne muscular dystrophy, neurofibromatosis type I, intellectual disabilities, epilepsy, macrocephaly, hydrocephalus, cerebral palsy, migraine/headaches, congenital abnormalities of the nervous system, and gastrointestinal disorders

Autism Quick Facts:

Autism is a neuro-developmental disability that can affect an individual's social skills, communication abilities, and behavior throughout the lifespan.

1 in 31 children are diagnosed with ASD according to the CDC.

***Common Characteristics:**

- Delay in or absence of speech
- Elopement
- Difficulty with changes/transitions in routine
- Repetitive movements (stimming)
- Difficulty with socializing and reading social queues
- Hyper or hypo sensitivity to sounds, textures, lighting, etc.

***This is not a complete list of characteristics.**

Individuals may display some or all of these characteristics to varying degrees.

To donate, please visit: www.givebutter.com/LY6KBZ

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