

2 September 2026

Children Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder

1. The number of children under the age of five who have received an NHS diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder within each Health and Social Care Trust in Northern Ireland over the past five years

We can only provide information relating to Belfast Trust areas, other Trusts in Northern Ireland would need to be contacted directly to request their data.

Children given Positive ASD Diagnosis under 5 years	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
TOTAL	68	82	100	UNAVAILABLE *		

* In 2024-2025, a new electronic patient record system was introduced, which was implemented in Belfast Trust from June 2024. It has been difficult to access data from this system since implementation. We have begun manual submission of some data from April 2026, but this data is not broken down by age.

2. The age at diagnosis of those children

Children given Positive ASD Diagnosis	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
<2 years	0	0	0	UNAVAILABLE *		
2-<3 years	3	2	6			
3-<4 years	17	34	40			
4-<5 years	48	46	54			
TOTAL	68	82	100			

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3. The geographical areas covered by those diagnoses

The diagnoses recorded by Belfast Trust are not broken down by specific location.

4. Any available data relating to referral source and waiting times

The same issue exists with accessing data post new system implementation. We have been able to go back to manual records held previously to give a reflection of referral sources historically.

Please note that these are sources of referrals for all referrals to Child and Adolescent Autism Service as we didn't collate this data by age range.

Referral Source (All Refs)	% of Referrals		
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
CAMHS	11%	8%	8%
Core AHP Services	12%	14%	16%
Core Paediatrics	16%	17%	15%
Education	5%	4%	3%
Families	2%	1%	1%
General Practitioner	26%	29%	26%
Community Nursing	23%	24%	27%
Multidisciplinary Teams	4%	2%	2%
Social Services	1%	1%	2%