



ASERT Collaborative

**NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT**

# Employment in PA

## Welcome to the Pennsylvania Autism Needs Assessment Report!

This report contains data from the 2011 Pennsylvania Autism Needs Assessment and the 2018 Pennsylvania Autism Needs Assessment, which were conducted by the Autism, Services, Education, Resources, and Training Collaborative (ASERT) Eastern Region.

### What is the ASERT Collaborative?

ASERT (Autism Services, Education, Resources and Training) is a partnership of medical centers, centers of autism research and services, universities, and other providers involved in the treatment and care of individuals of all ages on the autism spectrum and their families. ASERT was developed to bring together resources locally, regionally, and statewide. To learn more about ASERT visit: [www.paautism.org](http://www.paautism.org).

### What is the PA Autism Needs Assessment?

The first PA Autism Needs Assessment was completed in 2011. The 2011 survey was the largest and most comprehensive survey of individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their caregivers in the nation, with over 3,500 participants. Because the population of autistic individuals continues to grow and change in our state, a new PA Autism Needs Assessment survey was completed in 2018. More than 8,000 autistic individuals and their caregivers completed the 2018 PA Autism Needs Assessment.

### Why is the PA Autism Needs Assessment conducted?

The PA Autism Needs Assessment lets us learn about the needs and experiences of people on the autism spectrum and their families/caregivers. The information collected from the survey is intended for service providers, community organizations and leaders, and advocacy groups to better understand and address the needs of individuals on the spectrum in Pennsylvania.

### Who completed the PA Autism Needs Assessment?

Adults (age 18 years and older) on the autism spectrum and family/caregivers of individuals of all ages completed the PA Autism Needs Assessment.

### How was the PA Autism Needs Assessment conducted?

The 2011 PA Autism Needs Assessment is a statewide assessment conducted either as a paper survey completed by mail or online. The survey was distributed across Pennsylvania. The 2018 PA Autism Needs Assessment included two versions of the survey, one for individuals on the spectrum and another for family/caregivers and was translated into 14 languages.

### Who should I contact if I have questions about the PA Autism Needs Assessment?

If you have questions about the PA Autism Needs Assessment, please contact the ASERT Resource Center: **877-231-4244** or [info@paautism.org](mailto:info@paautism.org).

# Getting to Work

**?** Employment in PA:  
What has changed?



**2011**  
COMPARED TO  
**2018**

**RESOURCES**

Employment Resource Collection:  
[www.pautism.org/employment](http://www.pautism.org/employment)  
#ASDNext: [www.asdnext.org](http://www.asdnext.org)

**2011**



**66%**

of individuals  
are unemployed.

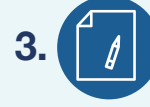
**2011 TOP 3 CHALLENGES TO FINDING A JOB:**



Finding employment opportunities



Obtaining interviews



Resume writing

**2018 TOP 3 CHALLENGES TO FINDING A JOB:**



Finding employment opportunities



Obtaining interviews



Interviewing

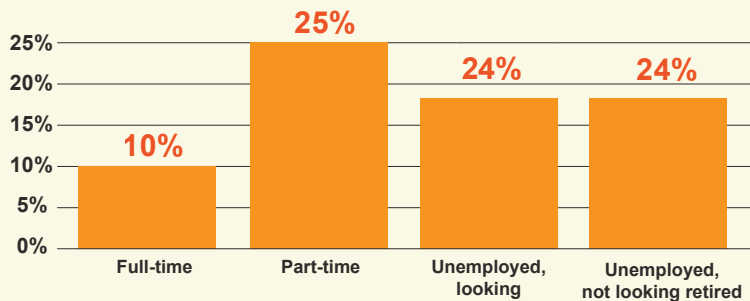
**2018**



**49%**

of individuals  
are unemployed.

**2018 EMPLOYMENT STATUS**



**TOP 3 FULL-TIME JOB TYPES REPORTED**



**#1**  
Office or administrative support



**#2**  
Food Preparation or Serving



**#3**  
Sales Positions (including Retail)

**TOP 3 PART-TIME JOB TYPES REPORTED**



**#1**  
Food Preparation or Serving



**#2**  
Sales Positions (including Retail)



**#3**  
Office or administrative support



For more information about the **PA Autism Needs Assessment**  
or to explore the data yourself, please visit:

**[www.paautism.org/needsassessment](http://www.paautism.org/needsassessment)**



*Pennsylvania's leading source of  
autism-related resources and information.*

**f t 877-231-4244**