

## Facts & Figures: Autism & Early Access to Care

### Workforce Shortage & Specialty Care

- The top-ranked workforce shortages that affect children's hospitals ability to deliver care are the specialties needed to care for children with an autism spectrum diagnosis (ASD):
  - Developmental Pediatrics
  - Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
  - Pediatric Neurology
- Average wait time to see specialist:
  - Developmental Pediatrics = 18.7 weeks
  - Child & Adolescent Psychiatry = 9.9 weeks

### Racial & Ethnic Disparities

- Compared to Caucasian children, children from racial or ethnic minority groups are significantly less likely to receive timely services after an autism diagnosis.
- When they do receive timely services, they are significantly less likely to receive the recommended amount or type of service.

### Improving Access

- Access to timely services after diagnosis improves when:
- The primary care provider (PCP) consists of a multidisciplinary team
  - The PCP connects with the local Early Intervention (EI) program to learn more about the program and better educate families
  - The PCP makes a direct referral to EI rather than asking parents to do it
  - The provider tracks the EI referral

## Data Sources

---

1. Children's Hospital Association (2017). Pediatric Workforce Shortages Persist. [https://www.childrenshospitals.org/-/media/Files/CHA/Main/Issues\\_and\\_Advocacy/Key\\_Issues/Graduate\\_Medical\\_Education/Fact\\_Sheets/CHGME\\_Workforce\\_Shortage\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](https://www.childrenshospitals.org/-/media/Files/CHA/Main/Issues_and_Advocacy/Key_Issues/Graduate_Medical_Education/Fact_Sheets/CHGME_Workforce_Shortage_Fact_Sheet.pdf)
2. Angell, A. M., Empey, A., & Zuckerman, K. (2018). A Review of Diagnosis and Service Disparities Among Children With Autism From Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups in the United States. In *International review of research in developmental disabilities* (pp. 145-180). Academic Press Inc.
3. Conroy, K., Rea, C., Kovacikova, G. I., Sprecher, E., Reisinger, E., Durant, H. & Toomey, S. L. (2018). Ensuring timely connection to early intervention for young children with developmental delays. *Pediatrics*, 142(1), e20174017.