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

