

[Home](#) > [Journal of Family and Economic Issues](#) > [Article](#)

# Financial Issues Associated with Having a Child with Autism

| Original Paper | Published: 09 March 2007

| Volume 28, pages 247–264, (2007) [Cite this article](#)



[Journal of Family and Economic Issues](#)

[Aims and scope](#) →

[Submit manuscript](#) →

[Deanna L. Sharpe](#) <sup>1</sup> & [Dana Lee Baker](#)<sup>2</sup>

 **4737** Accesses  **110** Citations  **19** Altmetric [Explore all metrics](#) →

## Abstract

Data from the Family Experiences with Autism Survey are used to identify factors associated with financial problems in families that have a child with autism. Likelihood of financial problems was positively associated with use of medical interventions, having unreimbursed medical or therapy expenses, and having relatively lower income. Use of speech and language therapy was negatively associated with likelihood of financial problems. Many survey respondents forfeited future financial security and even experienced bankruptcy to provide needed therapy for a child with autism. Specific ways that financial advisors can help families that have a child with autism are outlined.



## Access this article

[Log in via an institution →](#)

[Buy article PDF 39,95 €](#)

Price includes VAT (Poland)

Instant access to the full article PDF.

Rent this article via [DeepDyve](#) 

[Institutional subscriptions](#) →

## Similar content being viewed by others



**A framework for measuring the cost to families of caring for children's health: the design, methodology, and study...**

Article | Open access  
20 March 2023



**Understanding the Family Impact of Autism Spectrum Disorder in a Racially and Ethnically Diverse Sample:...**

Article | 23 January 2019



**Family Quality of Life of South African Families Raising Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder**

Article | 03 April 2017

## Notes

1. It could be argued that having more adults in a household is another resource, either for income-earning potential or caregiving. However, number of adults proved to not be a significant factor in the empirical model. It could also be argued that having more children in a home is related to financial difficulty separate and apart from autism. Preliminary analysis indicated that number of

children in the home was highly correlated with variables of interest to the model. Thus, it was also omitted from the analysis.

## References

---

Aneshensel, C. S., Perline, L. L., & Schuler, R. H. (1993). Stress, role captivity, and the cessation of caregiving. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 34, 54–70.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Amo, P. S., Levine, C., & Memmott, M. M. (1999). The economic value of informal caregiving. *Health Affairs*, 18(2), 182–188.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Autism Society of America [ASA]. (2004a). *IDEA and your child's rights*. Retrieved May 25, 2005 from <http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer?pagename=IDEA>

Autism Society of America [ASA]. (2004b). *Planning for the future*. Retrieved May 25, 2005 from <http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer?pagename=livingplanning>

Autism Society of America [ASA]. (2004c). *Treatment and education*. Retrieved May 25, 2005 from <http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer?pagename=TreatmentEducationOverview>

Autism Today. (n.d). *One in four Americans know someone with autism*. Retrieved May 29 2005 from [http://www.autismtoday.com/articles/One\\_In\\_Four\\_Americans\\_Know\\_Someone\\_With\\_Autism.htm](http://www.autismtoday.com/articles/One_In_Four_Americans_Know_Someone_With_Autism.htm)

Autism Victoria. (2005). *Diagnosis and definitions*. Retrieved May 25, 2005 from <http://www.autismvictoria.org.au/diagnosis/>

Betts, D. (2005). *Art therapy and autism*. Retrieved May 25, 2005 from <http://www.art-therapy.us/autism.htm>

Beutler, I., & Owen, A. (1980). A home production activity model. *Home Economic Research Journal*, 9(1), 16-26.

[Google Scholar](#)

Bryson, S. E., Rogers, S. J., Fombonne, E. (2003). Autism spectrum differences: Early detection, intervention, education, and psychopharmacological management. *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, 48, 506-516.

[Google Scholar](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2005). *How common is autism spectrum disorder (ASDs)?* Retrieved May 23, 2005 from [http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/asd\\_common.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/asd_common.htm)

Deacon, R. E., & Firebaugh, F. M. (1988). *Family resource management: Principles and applications*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

[Google Scholar](#)

Fewell, R. R. (1993). Child care for children with special needs. *Pediatrics*, 91(1), 193-198.

[Google Scholar](#)

Fombonne, E. (2001). Is there an epidemic of autism? *Pediatrics*, 107(2), 411-412.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Fombonne, E. (2003a) Epidemiological surveys of autism and other pervasive developmental disorders: An update. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 33(4), 365–382.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Fombonne, E. (2003b). Modern views of autism. *The Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, 48(8), 503–505.

[Google Scholar](#)

Fulton, P., Samonte, S., Tierney, J., Conno, J., & Powell, L. (2001). Effective sampling of rare populations elements: Black female caregivers and noncaregivers. *Research on Aging*, 23(60), 694–712.

[Google Scholar](#)

Gould, E. (2004). Decomposing the effects of children's health on mother's labor supply: Is it time or money? *Health Economics*, 13(6), 525–541.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Guralnick, M. J. (1998). Effectiveness of early intervention for vulnerable children: A developmental perspective. *American Journal on Mental Retardation*, 102, 319–345.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Järbrink, K., Fombonne, E., & Knapp, M. (2003). Measuring the parental, service and cost impacts of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 33(4), 395–402.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Kahana, E., Biegel, D. E., & Wykle, M. L. (1994). *Family caregiving across the lifespan*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

[Google Scholar](#)

Kanner, L. (1943). Autistic disturbances of affective contact. *The Nervous Child*, 2, 217-250.

[Google Scholar](#)

Larsson, E. V. (2005). *Intensive early intervention using behavior therapy is no longer experimental*. Lovaas Institute for Early Intervention. Retrieved May 25, 2005 from <http://rsaffran.tripod.com/ieibt.html>

Leiter, V., Krauss, M. W., Anderson, B., & Wells, N. (2004). The consequences of caring: Effects of mothering child with special needs. *Journal of Family Issues*, 25(3), 379-403.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Marcus, L.M., Rubin, J. S., & Rubin, M. A., (2000). Cost-benefit analysis and autism services: A response to Jacobson and Mulick. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 30(6), 595-598.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Marks, N. F. (1996). Caregiving across the lifespan: National prevalence and predictors. *Family Relations*, 45, 27-36.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Marks, N. F. (1998). Does it hurt to care? Caregiving, work-family conflict, and midlife well-being. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 60, 951-966.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Mesibov, G. B. (2005). *What is TEACCH?* Available online at:  
<http://www.teacch.com/aboutus.htm> (accessed on April 12, 2006).

Meyers, M. K., Lukemeyer, A., & Smeeding, T. (1998). The cost of caring: Childhood disability and poor families. *Social Service Review*, 72, 209–233.

[Google Scholar](#)

Nissenbaum, M. S., Tollefson, N., & Reese, R. M. (2002) The interpretative conference: Sharing a diagnosis of autism with families. *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities*, 17(1), 30–43.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Payndya, S. (2005). *Caregiving in the United States: Research report*. Retrieved May 25, 2005 from [http://www.aarp.org/research/housing-mobility/caregiving/fs111\\_caregiving.html](http://www.aarp.org/research/housing-mobility/caregiving/fs111_caregiving.html)

Schall, C. (2000). Family perspectives on raising a child with autism. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 9(4), 409–423.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Seltzer, M. M., & Li, L. W. (2000). The dynamics of caregiving transitions during a three-year prospective study. *The Gerontologist*, 40, 165–178.

[Article](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Sheinin, A. G. (2006). The high cost of autism. *The State*. Retrieved June 21, 2006 from [http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe/document?\\_m=e66a4a06e11b93a7a65aaef647d677bb&wchp=dGLbVzb-zSkVA&\\_md5=83a3902e95cbc4b1629cfdd1735e5bb9](http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe/document?_m=e66a4a06e11b93a7a65aaef647d677bb&wchp=dGLbVzb-zSkVA&_md5=83a3902e95cbc4b1629cfdd1735e5bb9)

Silverstein, R. (2005). *A user's guide to the 2004 IDEA Reauthorization*. Washington, DC: Center for the Study and Advancement of Disability Policy. Retrieved June 21, 2006 from <http://www.c-c-d.org/IdeaUserGuide.pdf>

Straus, A., & Corbin, J. (1998). *Basics of qualitative research: Techniques and procedures for developing grounded theory*. London: Sage.

[Google Scholar](#)

Tseng, S. (2005). *Severe medical conditions and the loss of health insurance coverage: Evidence from the Health and Retirement Study*. Retrieved May 5, 2006 from: <http://home.uchicago.edu/~htseng/hrstseng.pdf>

Tarkan, L. (2002). Autism therapy is called effective, but rare. *New York Times*. Retrieved May 25, 2005 from <http://www.spedalliance.com/autism.htm>

University of Michigan Health Systems [UMHS]. (2005). *Autism and pervasive developmental disorders*. Retrieved May 25, 2005 from <http://www.med.umich.edu/1libr/yourchild/autism.htm>

Worthington, R. C. (1994). Models of linear and cyclical grief: Different approaches to different experiences. *Clinical Pediatrics*, 33(5), 297–300.

[Google Scholar](#)

## Author information

---

### Authors and Affiliations

**Personal Financial Planning Department, University of Missouri-Columbia,  
239 Stanley Hall, Columbia, MO, 65211, USA**

Deanna L. Sharpe



**Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice, Washington State  
University, VMMC 202N, Vancouver, WA, 98686-9600, USA**

Dana Lee Baker

## Corresponding author

Correspondence to [Deanna L. Sharpe](#).

## Rights and permissions

---

[Reprints and permissions](#)

## About this article

---

### Cite this article

Sharpe, D.L., Baker, D.L. Financial Issues Associated with Having a Child with Autism. *J Fam Econ Iss* **28**, 247–264 (2007). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10834-007-9059-6>

Published

09 March 2007

Issue Date

June 2007

DOI

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10834-007-9059-6>

## Keywords

[Autism](#)

[Caregiving](#)

[Financial burden](#)

[Special needs planning](#)

## Search

Search by keyword or author



# Navigation

Find a journal

Publish with us

Track your research

