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Eight in 10 New Jerseyans Know Someone Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Yet Less Than Half Have Regular Interaction with Individuals Who Have Autism

Residents mostly view Autism as a behavioral problem, fewer as a nervous system disorder

New Brunswick, N.J. (May 13, 2019) – Eight in ten New Jerseyans say that they know someone who has been diagnosed with Autism spectrum disorder (ASD), according to the latest Rutgers-Eagleton Poll, which was conducted in collaboration with the New Jersey Autism Center of Excellence at Rutgers University.

Sixty-eight percent know an ASD-diagnosed child outside of their family, 48 percent know an ASD-diagnosed adult outside of their family, 31 percent have a child family member with ASD, and 18 percent have an adult family member.

Yet, despite these connections, few interact regularly with individuals who have Autism: about a quarter interact with an individual with Autism weekly, one in five have monthly interactions, three in ten have less frequent interactions, and a quarter have no interactions at all.

Six in ten New Jerseyans (62 percent) have seen or heard ASD referred to as a behavioral problem. A similar number (55 percent) think that a child with Autism does not have the ability to control his or her behavior.

Just over half have seen or heard ASD referred to as a brain disorder (54 percent) or mental illness (52 percent). Fewer have heard Autism referred to as a nervous system disorder (39 percent). When it comes to treatment, two-thirds of residents (67 percent) think that ASD is best treated with a combination of both medication and behavioral therapy.

“The American Psychiatric Association has already included sensory issues in the [DSM-5](#) as part of the criteria for diagnosing Autism, yet the public still perceives Autism as a behavioral problem or mental illness more than they do a disorder of the nervous system,” said Elizabeth Torres, associate professor of Psychology and director of the [New Jersey Autism Center of Excellence](#) at Rutgers University. “This misperception of what Autism is and is not is especially detrimental to treating it in schools. Without neurologists on hand, teachers and aides may not know how to cope with the somatic and sensory-motor issues that we have measured in research settings.”

More than eight in 10 support the federal government providing financial assistance for individuals with Autism and their families.

Results are from a statewide poll of 1,008 adults contacted by live callers on landlines and cell phones from March 29 through April 9, 2019. The sample has a margin of error of +/-3.5 percentage points. Interviews were done in English and, when requested, Spanish. Find the full press release, including the poll questions and tables at <http://eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu/rutgers-eagleton-nj-autism-center-of-excellence-May-2019> or click [here](#).

Key demographics impact perceptions, familiarity

Race and ethnicity play a large role in perceptions about and familiarity with Autism. Hispanic residents are more likely, by double digits, to have seen or heard ASD described as a mental illness – 59 percent versus 49 percent among non-Hispanic whites and 47 percent among non-Hispanic blacks. They are also more likely to say they know a child (34 percent) or adult (20 percent) family member with Autism, followed closely behind by white residents (30 percent know a child family member, 16 percent an adult family member). About half of non-Hispanic white residents (50 percent) and Hispanic residents (53 percent) know an adult with Autism outside of their family, as do just under four in ten non-Hispanic black residents (38 percent).

Hispanics are almost twice as likely as others to believe that Autism is best treated with behavioral therapy alone, though a majority of residents of all backgrounds say treatment should include a combination of both medicine and therapy. Residents of all backgrounds overwhelmingly believe that individuals with Autism and their families should get some type of financial assistance from the federal government, with black residents (87 percent) and Hispanic residents (86 percent) a few points more likely to feel this way than white residents (82 percent).

When it comes to differences by gender, men are more likely than women to believe a child with Autism has the ability to control their behavior – 27 percent to 19 percent; 60 percent of women, on the other hand, do not believe this, compared to 49 percent of men. Women are also more likely than men to say they regularly interact with individuals who have Autism.

Senior residents are less likely than those in other age brackets to know or regularly interact with someone with Autism. They are also the least likely of any age group to have seen or heard ASD referred to as a brain disorder (48 percent) or mental illness (39 percent) and more likely to believe it is a behavioral problem (52 percent). Millennials, on the other hand, are more likely than older residents to believe that the disorder is best treated by behavioral therapy alone (21 percent), though over half of each age bracket say a combination of therapy and medication is the best option.

Socioeconomic status influences perceptions of and views about Autism. Those in higher income brackets and those who have completed some graduate work are less likely to have seen or heard the disorder described as a mental illness. Those in the lowest income bracket and those with a high school degree or less are slightly less likely to have heard the disorder referred to as a behavioral problem.

Parents are more likely than those who do not have children to know someone who has ASD – whether inside or outside of their family and whether the individual is an adult or child. They are also more likely, by double digits, to say they interact with individuals with Autism on a regular basis.

Personal connection to Autism

Those who personally know someone with Autism are more familiar with seeing or hearing Autism referred to as a nervous system disorder (42 percent versus 30 percent), a brain disorder (58 percent versus 41 percent), a mental illness (56 percent versus 35 percent), and a behavioral problem (67

percent versus 45 percent) than those who do not know someone.

About two-thirds each of those who know an individual with Autism (68 percent) and those who do not (64 percent) feel that the disorder should be treated with therapy and medication. The former are twice as likely than the latter to feel behavioral therapy alone is the best treatment – 17 percent versus eight percent. Those who do not know an individual with ASD are twice as likely to be unsure about the best treatment method (26 percent to 13 percent).

Residents who know an individual who has Autism are more likely than their counterparts to believe a child with ASD does not have the ability to control their behavior – 57 percent to 48 percent; those who do not personally know someone who has Autism are more likely to be unsure (32 percent versus 20 percent among those who do). Those with a personal connection to Autism are also 10 points more likely than those without to believe that the federal government should provide some type of financial assistance (86 percent).

Residents who know an individual who has Autism are much more likely to have regular contact with individuals with Autism than those who do not know someone who has ASD.

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Broadcast interviews: Rutgers University–New Brunswick has broadcast-quality TV and radio studios available for remote live or taped interviews with Rutgers experts. For more information, contact Neal Buccino neal.buccino@echo.rutgers.edu.

ABOUT RUTGERS—NEW BRUNSWICK

Rutgers University–New Brunswick is where Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, began more than 250 years ago. Ranked among the world’s top 60 universities, Rutgers’s flagship university is a leading public research institution and a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities. It is home to internationally acclaimed faculty and has 12 degree-granting schools and a Division I Athletics program. It is the Big Ten Conference’s most diverse university. Through its community of teachers, scholars, artists, scientists, and healers, Rutgers is equipped as never before to transform lives.

ABOUT THE EAGLETON CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEREST POLLING (ECPIP)

Home of the Rutgers-Eagleton Poll, ECPIP was established in 1971 and is the oldest and one of the most respected university-based state survey research centers in the United States. ECPIP’s mission is to provide scientifically sound, non-partisan information about public opinion. To read more about ECPIP and view all of our press releases and published research, please visit our website: eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu. You can also visit our [extensive data archive](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter @EagletonPoll](#).

ABOUT THE EAGLETON INSTITUTE OF POLITICS

The Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling is a unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University–New Brunswick. The Eagleton Institute explores state and national politics through research, education, and public service, linking the study of politics with its day-to-day practice. The Institute focuses attention on how the American political system works, how it changes, and how it might work better. To learn more about Eagleton programs and expertise, visit eagleton.rutgers.edu.

ABOUT THE NEW JERSEY AUTISM CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

The New Jersey Autism Center of Excellence is an innovative center sponsored by the New Jersey Governor's Council for the Medical Research and Treatment of Autism in an effort by the New Jersey Department of Health to lower barriers for research, education and services regarding Autism in the state.

QUESTIONS AND TABLES START ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

Questions and Tables

The questions covered in this release are listed below. Column percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. Respondents are New Jersey adults. All percentages are of weighted results. Interpret groups with samples sizes under 100 with caution.

Q. Please tell me whether or not you have ever seen or heard Autism Spectrum Disorder referred to as any of the following. First: [RANDOMIZE ORDER]

	A disorder of the nervous systems	A brain disorder	A mental illness	A behavioral problem
Yes	39%	54%	52%	62%
No	54%	39%	43%	33%
Don't know (vol)	7%	7%	5%	4%
Unwght N=	1008	1008	1008	1008

A disorder of the nervous systems

	Know someone with Autism		Parent		Gender		Race		Age				Income			
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	<\$50K	<\$100K	<\$150K	\$150K+
Yes	42%	30%	40%	39%	42%	37%	40%	38%	36%	40%	38%	44%	43%	44%	33%	37%
No	53%	57%	56%	53%	51%	57%	55%	54%	59%	55%	53%	47%	51%	50%	64%	56%
Don't know (vol)	5%	13%	5%	7%	8%	6%	6%	8%	5%	4%	8%	9%	6%	6%	3%	6%
Unwght N=	806	202	258	744	486	522	643	333	239	210	333	221	194	279	184	195

	Region					Education				
	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	High school or less	Some college	College graduate	Graduate work	
Yes	33%	42%	44%	42%	32%	36%	42%	40%	39%	
No	56%	50%	53%	55%	60%	54%	54%	55%	55%	
Don't know (vol)	11%	8%	3%	2%	8%	10%	4%	4%	6%	
Unwght N=	147	345	159	177	180	189	282	300	230	

**Autism May 2019
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

A brain disorder

	Know someone with Autism		Parent		Gender		Race		Age				Income			
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+
Yes	58%	41%	56%	53%	56%	53%	54%	54%	59%	52%	56%	48%	58%	54%	56%	52%
No	38%	43%	38%	40%	38%	40%	39%	39%	36%	42%	37%	42%	36%	40%	38%	41%
Don't know (vol)	4%	16%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	5%	6%	7%	10%	6%	5%	5%	6%
Unwght N=	806	202	258	744	486	522	643	333	239	210	333	221	194	279	184	195

	Region					Education				
	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	High school or less	Some college	College graduate	Graduate work	
Yes	55%	51%	59%	58%	54%	51%	60%	50%	56%	
No	39%	41%	37%	39%	34%	38%	35%	44%	39%	
Don't know (vol)	6%	8%	4%	3%	12%	11%	5%	6%	5%	
Unwght N=	147	345	159	177	180	189	282	300	230	

A mental illness

	Know someone with Autism		Parent		Gender		Race		Age				Income			
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+
Yes	56%	35%	58%	50%	54%	51%	49%	54%	61%	57%	49%	39%	57%	59%	46%	47%
No	41%	51%	38%	45%	41%	44%	47%	38%	36%	38%	44%	55%	38%	36%	51%	50%
Don't know (vol)	3%	14%	4%	5%	5%	5%	4%	7%	3%	5%	6%	6%	5%	4%	3%	3%
Unwght N=	806	202	258	744	486	522	643	333	239	210	333	221	194	279	184	195

**Autism May 2019
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

	Region					Education			
	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	High school or less	Some college	College graduate	Graduate work
Yes	52%	52%	64%	49%	44%	50%	59%	54%	42%
No	38%	43%	34%	50%	48%	43%	38%	42%	53%
Don't know (vol)	10%	5%	2%	2%	8%	7%	3%	4%	5%
Unwght N=	147	345	159	177	180	189	282	300	230

A behavioral problem

	Know someone with Autism		Parent		Gender		Race		Age				Income			
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	<\$50K	<\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+
Yes	67%	45%	64%	62%	61%	64%	64%	60%	64%	66%	65%	52%	58%	69%	64%	65%
No	31%	44%	32%	34%	34%	33%	33%	35%	32%	32%	30%	43%	41%	26%	32%	32%
Don't know (vol)	2%	11%	4%	4%	5%	3%	4%	5%	4%	2%	5%	5%	1%	4%	4%	2%
Unwght N=	806	202	258	744	486	522	643	333	239	210	333	221	194	279	184	195

	Region					Education			
	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	High school or less	Some college	College graduate	Graduate work
Yes	64%	60%	68%	63%	61%	57%	65%	68%	61%
No	33%	34%	31%	35%	32%	38%	32%	29%	37%
Don't know (vol)	3%	6%	1%	2%	7%	6%	3%	3%	3%
Unwght N=	147	345	159	177	180	189	282	300	230

Q. Please tell me whether or not you know any of the following types of people who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder:

	An adult family member – including, but not limited to, yourself	A child family member under the age of 18	An adult outside of your family	A child under the age of 18 outside of your family
Yes, I do	18%	31%	48%	68%
No, I do not	81%	69%	51%	32%
Don't know (vol)	1%	1%	1%	1%
Unwght N=	1007	1006	1007	1007

An adult family member – including, but not limited to, yourself

	Gender		Race		Age				Income			
	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	<\$50K	<\$100K	<\$150K	\$150K+
Yes, I do	16%	20%	16%	21%	19%	19%	21%	11%	21%	20%	15%	17%
No, I do not	84%	79%	83%	78%	80%	81%	78%	87%	78%	79%	85%	83%
Don't know (vol)	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	3%	1%	1%	0%	1%
Unwght N=	486	521	643	332	239	210	333	220	194	278	184	195

	Region					Education				
	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	High school or less	Some college	College graduate	Graduate work	
Yes, I do	18%	19%	16%	21%	14%	20%	19%	14%	17%	
No, I do not	80%	80%	83%	79%	84%	79%	80%	86%	82%	
Don't know (vol)	2%	1%	0%	0%	2%	1%	1%	0%	1%	
Unwght N=	146	345	159	177	180	188	282	300	230	

A child family member under the age of 18

	Gender		Race		Age				Income			
	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	<\$50K	<\$100K	<\$150K	\$150K+
Yes, I do	29%	32%	30%	31%	31%	33%	30%	28%	34%	32%	26%	30%
No, I do not	70%	67%	69%	68%	68%	67%	68%	70%	66%	68%	72%	69%
Don't know (vol)	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	2%	1%
Unwght N=	485	521	642	332	239	210	332	220	194	278	184	195

	Region					Education				
	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	High school or less	Some college	College graduate	Graduate work	
Yes, I do	37%	29%	34%	32%	23%	32%	36%	25%	28%	
No, I do not	62%	70%	65%	68%	76%	67%	63%	74%	70%	
Don't know (vol)	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	
Unwght N=	146	345	159	176	180	188	282	300	229	

An adult outside of your family

	Party ID			Gender		Race		Age				Income			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	<\$50K	<\$100K	<\$150K	\$150K+
Yes, I do	50%	47%	49%	50%	48%	50%	46%	55%	48%	51%	37%	44%	49%	52%	53%
No, I do not	48%	53%	51%	50%	52%	50%	52%	44%	52%	49%	61%	56%	50%	48%	47%
Don't know (vol)	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%
Unwght N=	354	428	201	486	521	643	332	239	210	333	220	194	278	184	195

	Region					Education				
	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	High school or less	Some college	College graduate	Graduate work	
Yes, I do	49%	47%	55%	44%	49%	45%	47%	50%	55%	
No, I do not	49%	52%	44%	56%	50%	54%	52%	50%	45%	
Don't know (vol)	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	
Unwght N=	146	345	159	177	180	188	282	300	230	

A child under the age of 18 outside of your family

	Party ID			Gender		Race		Age				Income			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Male	Female	White	Non- wht.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	<\$50K	\$50K- <\$100K	\$100K- <\$150K	\$150K+
Yes, I do	67%	69%	67%	67%	68%	71%	63%	68%	73%	71%	56%	62%	67%	78%	74%
No, I do not	32%	30%	33%	32%	31%	28%	36%	31%	27%	28%	43%	37%	33%	22%	26%
Don't know (vol)	2%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Unwght N=	354	428	201	486	521	643	332	239	210	333	220	194	278	184	195

	Region					Education				
	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	High school or less	Some college	College graduate	Graduate work	
Yes, I do	64%	69%	69%	67%	66%	61%	70%	66%	79%	
No, I do not	35%	30%	30%	33%	33%	39%	28%	34%	20%	
Don't know (vol)	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	2%	0%	1%	
Unwght N=	146	345	159	177	180	188	282	300	230	

Q. Individuals with autism and families of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder face a variety of additional expenses that are required in order to meet these individuals' needs. Do you think [ROTATE: these individuals and families should be expected to cover all of the costs on their own], or do you think the [federal government should provide some type of financial assistance to them]?

Individuals and families should be expected to cover the costs on their own	10%
The federal government should provide some type of financial assistance to them	84%
Don't know (vol)	6%
Unwght N=	1002

**Autism May 2019
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

	Know someone with Autism		Parent		Gender		Race		Age				Income			
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	<\$50K	\$50K-<\$100K	\$100K-<\$150K	\$150K+
	Cover the costs on their own	9%	14%	7%	11%	12%	8%	12%	7%	10%	10%	10%	11%	8%	8%	11%
Gov't provide assistance	86%	76%	89%	82%	81%	86%	82%	88%	83%	86%	85%	82%	87%	86%	85%	79%
Don't know (vol)	5%	10%	3%	7%	7%	5%	7%	5%	8%	4%	6%	6%	4%	6%	4%	6%
Unwght N=	802	200	257	739	484	518	639	332	238	210	330	219	194	277	184	195

	Region					Education			
	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	High school or less	Some college	College graduate	Graduate work
	Cover the costs on their own	9%	9%	15%	10%	9%	9%	7%	14%
Gov't provide assistance	83%	87%	80%	84%	81%	87%	85%	80%	81%
Don't know (vol)	9%	4%	5%	6%	10%	4%	8%	6%	7%
Unwght N=	147	343	159	175	178	189	282	296	228

Q. Do you think Autism Spectrum Disorder is best treated with [ROTATE: medication, behavioral therapy], or a combination of both?

Medication	1%
Behavioral therapy	15%
Combination of both	67%
Neither (vol)	1%
Don't know (vol)	16%
Unwght N=	1005

**Autism May 2019
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

	Know someone with Autism		Parent		Gender		Race		Age				Income			
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	<\$50K	\$50K-<\$100K	\$100K-<\$150K	\$150K+
	Medication	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	2%	1%	0%
Behavioral therapy	17%	8%	14%	15%	13%	16%	13%	18%	21%	13%	13%	12%	20%	12%	19%	13%
Combination of both	68%	64%	68%	67%	63%	70%	68%	65%	66%	66%	69%	68%	67%	73%	62%	69%
Neither (vol)	1%	1%	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	2%	1%
Don't know (vol)	13%	26%	14%	16%	21%	11%	17%	14%	10%	19%	16%	18%	10%	13%	18%	17%
Unwght N=	804	201	258	741	483	522	642	332	239	209	332	220	194	278	184	195

	Region					Education				
	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	High school or less	Some college	College graduate	Graduate work	
	Medication	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	0%
Behavioral therapy	18%	16%	14%	13%	11%	14%	14%	17%	13%	
Combination of both	68%	67%	67%	70%	63%	63%	71%	66%	69%	
Neither (vol)	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	0%	
Don't know (vol)	12%	14%	17%	15%	23%	20%	12%	14%	18%	
Unwght N=	146	345	158	176	180	187	282	299	230	

Q. Do you think a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder has the ability to control his or her behavior, or not?

Yes	23%
No	55%
Don't know (vol)	22%
Unwght N=	1002

**Autism May 2019
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

	Know someone with Autism		Parent		Gender		Race		Age				Income			
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	<\$50K	\$50K-<\$100K	\$100K-<\$150K	\$150K+
	Yes	24%	21%	27%	22%	27%	19%	23%	23%	27%	24%	22%	19%	23%	23%	24%
No	57%	48%	53%	56%	49%	60%	53%	57%	57%	52%	55%	55%	57%	56%	56%	56%
Don't know (vol)	20%	32%	20%	22%	24%	20%	23%	20%	15%	25%	23%	26%	20%	21%	20%	19%
Unwght N=	801	201	255	741	483	519	639	331	239	208	329	221	193	278	183	194

	Region					Education				
	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	High school or less	Some college	College graduate	Graduate work	
Yes	25%	20%	22%	31%	20%	23%	24%	24%	22%	
No	51%	59%	54%	51%	53%	53%	60%	53%	52%	
Don't know (vol)	24%	20%	23%	18%	27%	24%	16%	23%	26%	
Unwght N=	146	343	158	175	180	189	282	297	227	

Q. To the best of your knowledge, how often do you interact with someone who has Autism Spectrum Disorder? Every day, a few times a week, a few times a month, once a month, less often, or never?

Every day	10%
A few times a week	13%
A few times a month	13%
Once a month	8%
Less often	30%
Never	25%
Don't know (vol)	2%
Unwght N=	1006

**Autism May 2019
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll**

	Know someone with Autism		Parent		Gender		Race		Age				Income			
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Male	Female	White	Non-wht.	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	<\$50K	\$50K-<\$100K	\$100K-<\$150K	\$150K+
	Every day	12%	2%	13%	8%	7%	12%	10%	9%	10%	13%	11%	5%	9%	12%	8%
A few times a week	15%	2%	17%	11%	10%	15%	11%	14%	17%	12%	11%	10%	13%	15%	9%	15%
A few times a month	15%	4%	12%	13%	13%	13%	15%	11%	15%	11%	15%	9%	12%	16%	14%	11%
Once a month	9%	4%	8%	8%	8%	8%	7%	9%	8%	9%	9%	6%	10%	6%	11%	7%
Less often	33%	17%	28%	30%	31%	29%	33%	27%	25%	30%	32%	32%	27%	24%	32%	39%
Never	14%	69%	20%	27%	28%	22%	23%	27%	24%	21%	21%	35%	28%	26%	24%	18%
Don't know (vol)	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	3%	0%	2%	1%	4%	2%	2%	1%	0%
Unwght N=	805	201	258	742	484	522	642	332	239	210	332	220	194	279	184	195

	Region					Education				
	Urban	Suburb	Exurban	Phil/South	Shore	High school or less		Some college	College graduate	Graduate work
Every day	12%	8%	12%	12%	7%	8%	9%	9%	16%	
A few times a week	9%	14%	10%	18%	10%	11%	17%	9%	12%	
A few times a month	12%	14%	14%	9%	15%	10%	16%	12%	14%	
Once a month	6%	8%	5%	14%	7%	9%	9%	8%	5%	
Less often	28%	30%	31%	28%	32%	31%	23%	33%	36%	
Never	27%	25%	25%	19%	27%	27%	25%	27%	16%	
Don't know (vol)	6%	2%	2%	0%	1%	4%	1%	2%	1%	
Unwght N=	147	344	159	176	180	189	282	298	230	

Methodology

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted by telephone using live callers March 29 - April 9, 2018 with a scientifically selected random sample of 1,008 New Jersey adults, 18 or older. Respondents within a household are selected by asking randomly for the youngest adult male or female currently available. If the named gender is not available, the youngest adult of the other gender is interviewed. The poll was available in Spanish for respondents who requested it. This telephone poll included 409 landline and 599 cell phone adults, all acquired through random digit dialing. Distribution of household phone use in this sample is:

Cell Only:	33%
Dual Use, Reached on Cell:	27%
Dual Use, Reached on LL:	39%
Landline Only:	2%

The data were weighted to be representative of the non-institutionalized adult population of New Jersey. The weighting balanced sample demographics to target population parameters. The sample is balanced to match parameters for sex, age, education, race/ethnicity, region and phone use. The sex, age, education, race/ethnicity and region parameters were derived from 2017 American Community Survey PUMS data. The phone use parameter was derived from estimates provided by the National Health Interview Survey Early Release Program.¹²³ Weighting was done in two stages. The first stage of weighting corrected for different probabilities of selection associated with the number of adults in each household and each respondent's telephone usage patterns. This adjustment also accounts for the overlapping landline and cell sample frames and the relative sizes of each frame and each sample. This first stage weight was applied to the entire sample, which included all adults.

The second stage of the weighting balanced sample demographics, by form, to match target population benchmarks. This weighting was accomplished using SPSSINC RAKE, an SPSS extension module that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables using the GENLOG procedure. Weights were trimmed to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on the final results. The use of these weights in statistical analysis ensures that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the target population.

All surveys are subject to sampling error, which is the expected probable difference between interviewing everyone in a population versus a scientific sampling drawn from that population.

¹ NCHS, National Health Interview Survey, 2012-2016; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015; and infoUSA.com consumer database, 2012-2016.

² Blumberg SJ, Luke JV. Wireless substitution: Early release of estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, July–December 2015. National Center for Health Statistics. May 2016.

³ Blumberg SJ, Luke JV. Wireless substitution: Early release of estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, January–June 2018. National Center for Health Statistics. December 2018.

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Sampling error should be adjusted to recognize the effect of weighting the data to better match the population. In this poll, the simple sampling error for 1,008 New Jersey adults is +/-3.1 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence interval. The design effect is 1.30, making the adjusted margin of error +/- 3.5 percentage points. Thus, if 50 percent of New Jersey adults in this sample favor a particular position, we would be 95 percent sure that the true figure is between 46.5 and 53.5 percent (50 +/- 3.5) if all New Jersey adults had been interviewed, rather than just a sample.

Sampling error does not take into account other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording, or context effects.

This Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was fielded by Braun Research, Inc. The questionnaire was developed and all data analyses were completed in house by the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPIP). The questionnaire was developed and all data analyses were completed in house by Dr. Ashley Koning at the Eagleton Center for Public Interest Polling (ECPIP) at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. William Young and Kyle Morgan assisted with preparation of the questionnaire and analysis and preparation of this release. These questions were paid for and sponsored by The New Jersey Autism Center of Excellence (NJACE), which is funded, in part, by The New Jersey Governor’s Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism and the New Jersey Department of Health. Full questionnaires are available on request, and can also be accessed through our archives at eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu.

**Weighted Sample Characteristics
1,008 New Jersey Adults**

Male	47%	Democrat	35%	18-29	18%	HS or Less	30%	White	57%
Female	53%	Independent	44%	30-49	31%	Some College	30%	Black	12%
		Republican	22%	50-64	31%	College Grad	23%	Hispanic	18%
				65+	20%	Grad Work	17%	Other	12%