

SPECIAL REPORTS

Special report: How cannabis could shape future autism therapies

BY SPECTRUM

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Anecdotal reports from some doctors, parents and autistic adults have long suggested that cannabis and cannabis-derived products can ease certain common autism traits, including anxiety and **aggression**. Though many of these claims remain untested, research over the past five years shows that cannabis can **alleviate seizures** in people with autism-linked syndromes and may also **benefit other autistic people**.

As drug regulators loosen restrictions on cannabis use, a new era of research has opened up. This special report surveys the growing body of evidence on cannabis' therapeutic potential for autism, as well as *Spectrum's* coverage of the evolving regulatory environment.