

SPECIAL REPORTS

Autism in the brain, region by region

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If the brain were a house with many rooms, you wouldn't find autism in just one of them. Autism has many causes and many forms. But no matter which form it takes, it seems to touch the entire brain. It permeates and perturbs the beams, foundation, wiring and piping of the house, rather than just, say, the kitchen.

Still, autism does have local effects: Different regions of the brain contribute uniquely to autism's impact on cognition, emotion and behavior.

In this special report, we detail the regional consequences of autism, one brain area at a time. Studies of the **hippocampus**, for example, may help explain the uneven effects of autism on memory. Investigations of the **superior temporal sulcus** may provide a window into the impact of autism on social perception.

The report is ongoing. Over time, our reporters will step into the various rooms of the brain to probe autism's effect on those regions.