

## NEWS

# By the Numbers: Autism in translation, rising prevalence figures, intelligence quotients

BY PETER HESS, NIKO MCCARTY, JONATHAN MOENS

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Welcome to this month's edition of By the Numbers. At *Spectrum*, we do our best to summarize the latest autism research findings. Sometimes, the best summary comes in the form of a chart or map. In this newsletter, we boil down new research that is conveyed most succinctly with data visualizations.

Let us know what you think of the newsletter, or tell us about your own work, at [news@spectrumnews.org](mailto:news@spectrumnews.org).

## Autism screening results vary widely between languages

Researchers often translate the Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers, Revised (M-CHAT-R) in a 'forward-back' fashion, converting an English form of the tool word for word into another language without accounting for cultural context.

Such literal translations, it turns out, can lead to **vastly inflated screen-positive rates**, according to a new study, published new in the *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics*. The researchers assessed medical charts from 2,974 toddlers, aged 16 to 30 months, whose caregivers had completed an English or Spanish Western-Hemisphere version of the M-CHAT-R.

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