



Tri-Counties Regional Center

2013 TCRC Autism Services Survey | **Results**

PURPOSE OF THE SURVEY

The administration of the 2013 TCRC Autism Services Survey was intended to gather information from families of and young persons with autism (14 – 22) about their anticipated future needs as they transition to an adult life from high school.

The objectives of the survey were to:

- Provide insight to TCRC about the development of resources to support the anticipated needs, to the extent feasible;
- Understand the priorities and hopes of families of and young persons with autism around building a good adult life;
- Gain further knowledge about the changing needs for services as the population with autism expands.

PEOPLE CONTACTED FOR THE SURVEY

Young adults with autism, between 14 and 22, and their families were notified in a letter mailed to the home (English and Spanish) from the TCRC Executive Director about the survey. In this pre-notification letter, families and young adults were encouraged to participate in a call if received or to enter input on-line.

Kinetic Flow Inc., TCRC's survey administrator, conducts surveys to achieve a representative sample; in other words, the number of surveys administered is high enough to hear from individuals, with the same type of results that would occur if every one in the group were contacted. To accomplish this, 224 surveys were completed. The survey was available in English or in Spanish.

THE RESULTS

Families of transition-aged young adults with autism:

- are concerned about behavior management in the community.
- need help with improvement of social skills to obtain employment or develop interests in the community.
- want work training and job coaching.
- post-secondary education at community colleges.
- plan to provide transportation but would like access to public transportation, along with travel training.
- want to hear from TCRC through e-mail and paper mail to the home about issues such as education, adult or transition services, traditional and non-traditional therapies, support groups.
- have explored adult medical care but do not have many resources for sexual health information and support for their young adults.
- Families believe that their young adults will live at home.

Trends | [Read About The Trends In The Responses For The Nine Categories Of The Survey:](#)

Transition Services, Work Preferences, Educational Preferences, Living Situations, Behavioral Issues, Communication, Healthcare and Sexuality, and Information and Resources.



Transition Services

More than two-thirds (67%) of the families have attended or been invited to attend a transition planning meeting (IEP) with their school.

Individual Supported Employment was mentioned by 21% of the respondents; Adaptive/Social Skills Training was requested by 12%.

Post-secondary educational opportunities (24%) and vocational and work training services (20%) were considered important.



Work Preferences

Over one third (34%) of families see their child transitioning to a work related program. And, almost one third (29%) of families see their child getting a job.

Many parents (86%) were interested in creating a plan for work that emphasizes their son's or daughter's skills and talents. Parents and families (70%) indicated that they do not have contacts in the community to find work that is a fit for their child's special skills. They also did not have a specific work place in mind (63%) for their child to work or to volunteer.

Less than one third, (28%) of parents who do not plan for their child to be involved in work.

When asked about work, work related or volunteer goals for their child, parents mentioned further education, work opportunities, concerns about capability for work as well about needing to develop goals.



Educational Preferences

Of the one third of families (35%) who indicated that a young adult would be continuing with school, 40% of these families envision this education at a Community College. About 45% of parents expect their child to graduate from High School.

Some families (14%) assumed that their child would attend a four-year college. Many people (82%) were not aware of four-year degree programs that are available for adults with autism. And 83% of the respondents wanted to learn more about existing programs.

Supports that people may need in a post-secondary setting were named as being: Personal Assistance (21%), Personal Support (17%), Tutors (13%), Behavioral Support (7%), Adaptive/Social Skills Training (7%), Communication Aide (6%) and Mobility Training (4%).



Living Situations

More than half of all respondents (58%) believe that their child will be living in the family home after high school.

Around one fifth of all respondents (19%) are expecting their child to be living in the community with Supported Living Services or initially with Independent Learning Services.



Transportation Needs

People will use a variety of methods for transportation.

Many respondents (65%) consider transportation to be taken care of by private means.

Almost half of the respondents, 47%, believe that their child will use public transportation and 29% believe that use of regional center transportation will be needed.

Travel training was considered important by over a majority of respondents (59%) and almost one half (42%) believed that public Drivers Training would be of benefit for their child.

Most believed (63%) that Driver's training would be typical rather than adaptive (26%).



Behavioral Issues

Of all respondents, 62% were concerned about some level of risk for their child experiencing behavioral challenges when working and traveling in the community.

Of these respondents, 22% were very concerned about challenging behaviors while working and traveling in the community.

Only 15% stated that their child does not face a risk of behavioral in the community.

Assistance considered important for individuals to be successful in the community include personal assistance (26%), behavioral support, (20%), and adaptive/social skills training (21%) and behavior management program (10%).



Communication

Young adults with the need for augmentative communicative devices comprise 8% of the population according to the respondents. When devices are used, the iPad (53% of the devices) and other assistive resources are used.

Of the respondents, 86% indicated that their children used verbal methods of communication. Other types of communication are sign language 6%, typing on the computer 5%, and writing 4%.



Healthcare and Sexuality

Resources have been located for general adult healthcare by more respondents than for support for sexual health.

About half (52%) of the parents had identified a physician to manage their young adult's healthcare needs.

Only 24% of parents have identified a resource to support needs around sexuality or birth control.



Information and Resources

It was found that families like to receive informational updates by e-mail (50%) or conventional paper mail to the home (40%).

The type of information that families seek is: Adult or Transition Services, Referrals, Traditional and non-Traditional Therapies, Support Groups, Clinically Related Services, and Advocacy.