

<https://sharylattkisson.com/2022/04/astounding-autism-rate-1-in-14-four-year-olds-in-toms-river-new-jersey/>

NJAS data from 74 school districts that were studied determined that the autism rate among eight-year-old children had continued to steadily increase. Of the 74 districts, the largest suburban school district—Toms River Regional Schools in Ocean County—had an autism rate estimated at 1 in 14 children, or more than twice the state average and triple the 1 in 44 rate for the country.<sup>456</sup>

The director the NJAS, Walter Zahorodny, PhD, an associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, said, “It feels like some kind of science fiction, but in reality, this is true. And it can’t be explained.”<sup>47</sup>

“We’re well aware of it because we live it every day,” said Joy Forrest, director of special education for Toms River. “The district is constantly planning to meet individual students’ needs. We have programs from preschool to age 21, and each year, we are adding additional programming because of increasing numbers of students.”<sup>4</sup>

Dr. Zahorodny reportedly believes that the autism rate at Toms River is likely a “harbinger” of the rate that all school districts in New Jersey will soon face. “It’s very likely we will find even greater numbers of children with autism in what we consider underserved communities,” he said.<sup>4</sup>