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How Autism Spectrum Disorder and Food Security are Correlated with Childhood Affection and Mental Health in the United States: Results from the 2019 National Survey of Children's Health

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Hypotheses

H1. Children diagnosed with ASD are more likely to be diagnosed with both anxiety and depression than children who do not have autism.

H2. Children diagnosed with ASD are less likely to display affection than children who do not have autism.

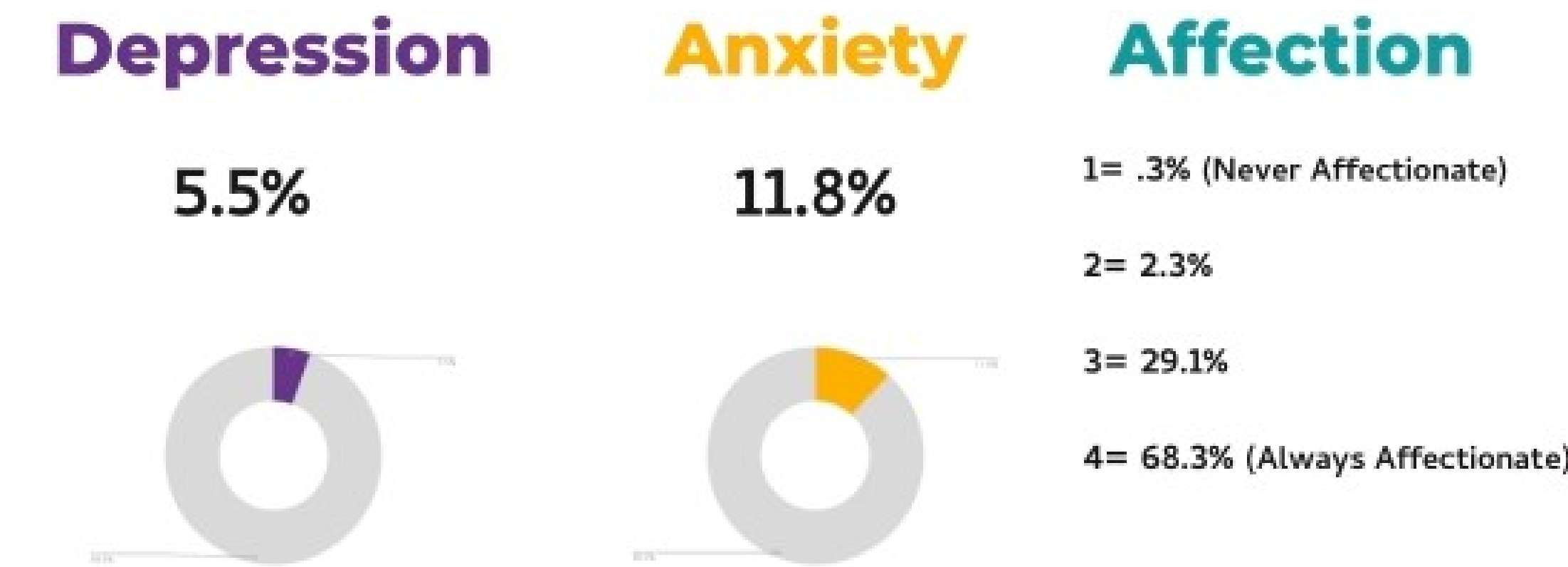
Methods

Data: 2019 National Survey of Children's Health

- Children aged 0-17.
- Fielded by the US Census Bureau.
- N=29,309
- Bivariate Analyses= T-tests
- Multivariate Analyses= Binary Logistic and OLS Regressions

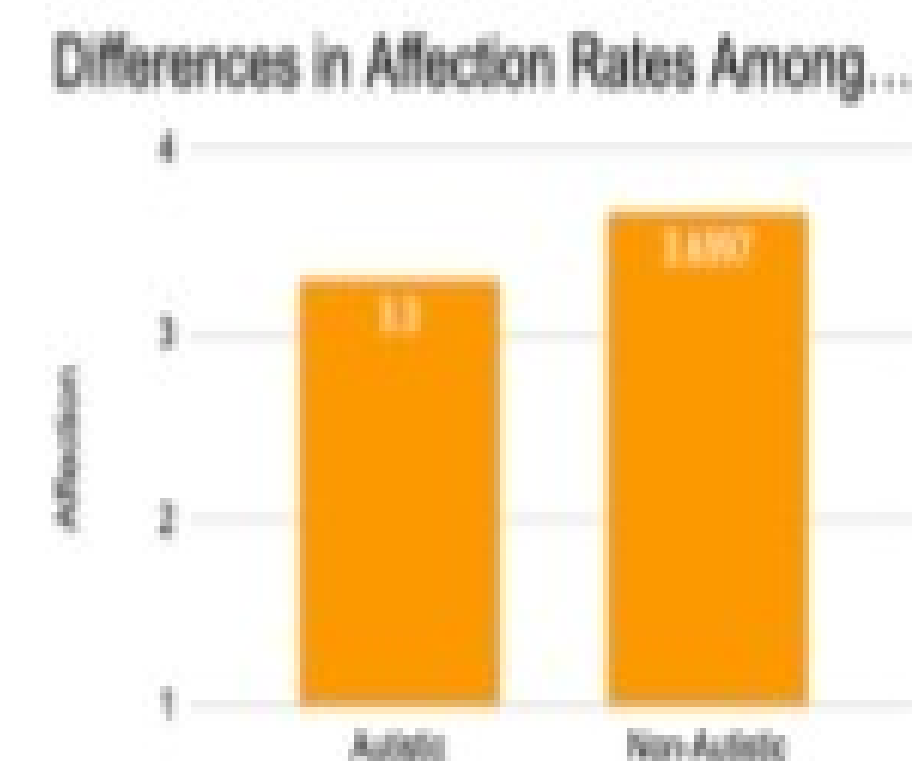
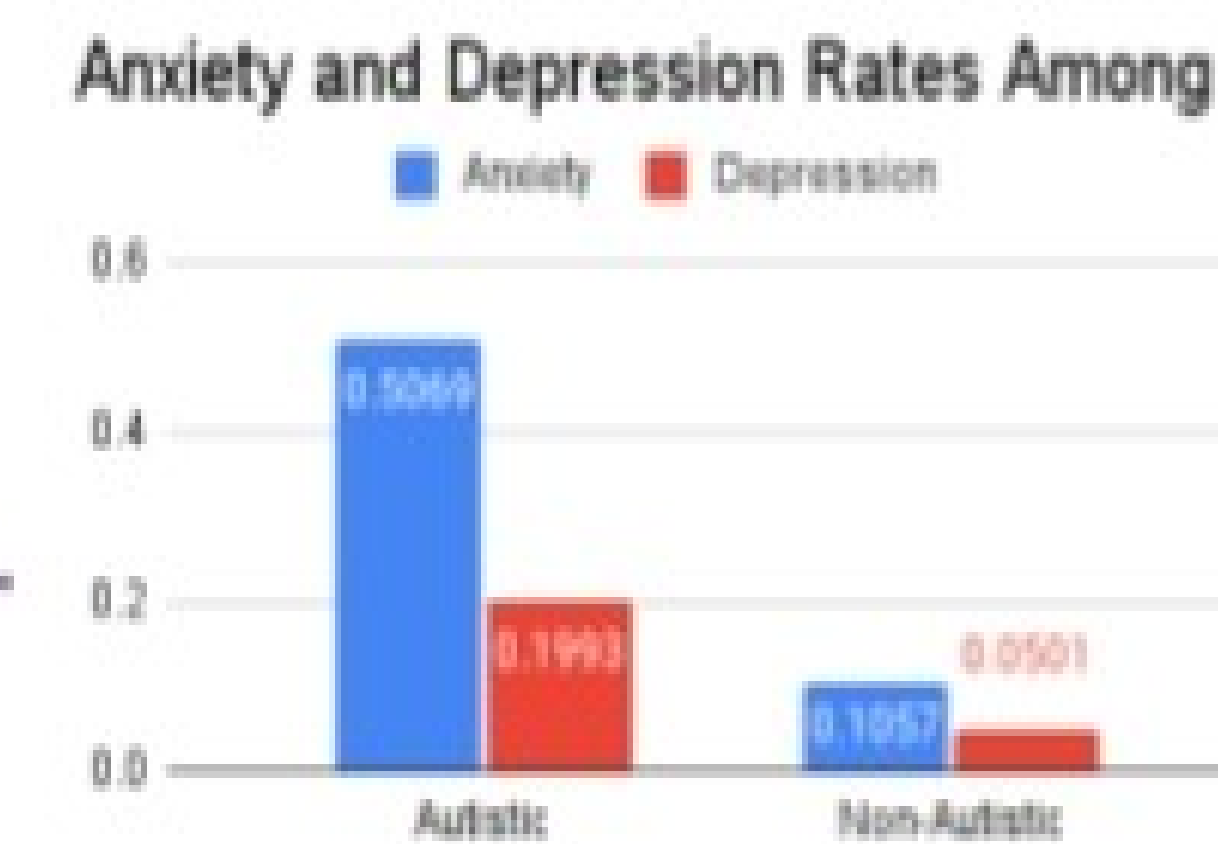
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Dependent Variables



Findings

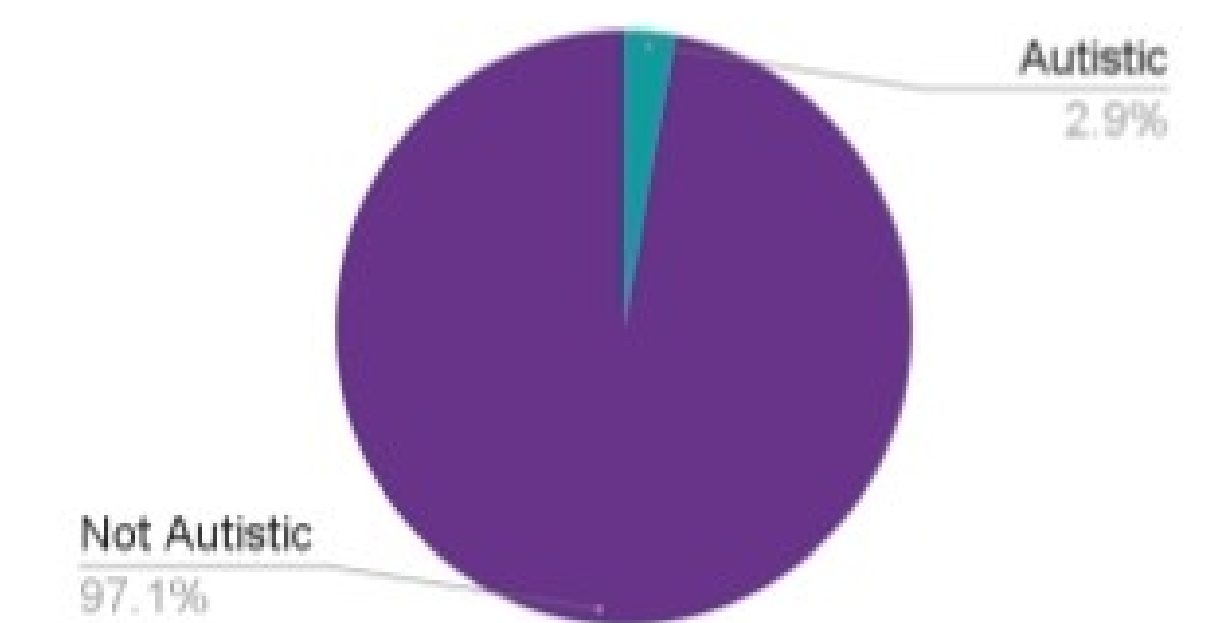
Children diagnosed with autism are significantly more likely to be diagnosed with anxiety and depression.



Children with autism are likely to be less affectionate toward others.

Variable of Interest

IV= Children with autism



In this sample 2.9% or 868 out of 29,309 children were diagnosed with autism.

Discussion

Professionals who work with children in the ASD community should be mindful of the underlying factors that affect their behavior.



Currently looking to see how these results compare to 2020 data during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Controls:

- Sex
- Race
- Age of the child's mother at birth
- Highest level of education the parent completed
- Presence of mental illness in the child's household
- Parent's employment status
- Food Security

