

# The Evaluation Of Cultural Action: An Evaluative Study Of The Parents And Children Program (PPH)

## QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH

### Age at Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorders in Four Regions of Canada

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## ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** Early diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders ("autism") may lead to better treatment outcomes, reduces the stress parents experience when they do not understand the reasons for their child's behaviour, and empowers parents to make choices such as seeking genetic counseling. We examined the age at which Canadian children are diagnosed with autism, and analyzed whether there are geographic or temporal variations or differences by sex or diagnostic subtype.

**Methods:** As part of an autism surveillance program, in 2002/2003 we began collecting information on children with autism in Manitoba, Southeastern Ontario, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador. For the analysis presented in this paper, we included children identified for our surveillance program who were diagnosed between 1997 and 2005 (n=760).

**Results:** We found significant inter-regional differences in age at diagnosis, with Newfoundland and Labrador having the lowest median age at diagnosis (39.0 months) and Southeastern Ontario the highest (55.0 months). Diagnostic subtype was significantly associated with age at diagnosis in all regions. Southeastern Ontario was the only region where the overall age at diagnosis increased over time (p=0.004), although in Manitoba the age at which children were diagnosed with PDD-NOS also increased significantly over the study period (p=0.021).

**Conclusions:** Our findings demonstrate that there are geographic differences and other sources of variation in the age at which Canadian children are diagnosed with autism. Further study is warranted to understand the factors contributing to these differences. Such research would inform best practices for early detection and timely access to treatment.

**Key words:** Autism; autism spectrum disorders; early identification; age at diagnosis

La traduction du résumé se trouve à la fin de l'article.

Can J Public Health 2009;100(3):268-73.

Autism spectrum disorders – which include autistic disorder, pervasive developmental disorder-not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS) and Asperger's disorder<sup>1</sup> – are a group of neurodevelopmental disorders that are characterized by marked impairments in social functioning and communication, as well as repetitive patterns of behaviour or restricted interests. Early intervention programs, which aim to help children modify their behaviour and learn new skills, are a widely used treatment for autism spectrum disorders (hereinafter referred to as "autism"). Some studies have reported greater improvements when children enter these programs at a younger age,<sup>2-4</sup> and a recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states: "Given the benefit of early intervention, identification of an ASD [autism spectrum disorder] at earlier ages in the United States is essential to ensure that children receive optimal early intervention services."<sup>5</sup> Early diagnosis also helps to reduce the confusion and stress parents experience when they do not understand the reasons for their child's behaviour,<sup>6</sup> and empowers them to make choices such as seeking genetic counseling.

In many cases, autism can be diagnosed reliably between two and three years of age,<sup>7-9</sup> although often children are not identified until they are older.<sup>10-14</sup> Several studies have reported decreases in the age at which children are diagnosed with autism when comparing birth cohorts<sup>15,16</sup> or year of diagnosis,<sup>17</sup> while other studies have found an increase in age at diagnosis across birth cohorts (although not statistically significant),<sup>12</sup> or no clear trend over

time.<sup>18</sup> Geographic differences have also been reported. For example, the median age at first autism diagnosis ranged from 49 months in Utah to 66 months in Alabama, based on surveillance data for children who were 8 years old in 2002.<sup>19</sup>

There is little information on the age at which Canadian children are first diagnosed with autism, apart from one study that used administrative data to estimate the prevalence of autism among children in Manitoba and Prince Edward Island (PEI) in 2002. In

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- Acknowledgements:** This work was supported by an Interdisciplinary Health Research Team Grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (#43820) to the Autism Spectrum Disorders Canadian-American Research Consortium (ASD-CARC) (J.A. Holden, Principal Investigator) and an Operating Grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (#29556) to H. Ouellette-Kuntz.

A review of The Evaluation of Cultural Action. An Evaluative Study of the Parents and Children Program (PPH): Howard Richards. The Macmillan Press, London.Item PA 3/5/3/57 - The evaluation of cultural action: an evaluative study of the parents and children program (PPH) / Howard Richards. - London: The Macmillan.The evaluation of cultural action: an evaluative study of the Parents and Children Program (PPH) by Howard Richards(Book) 11 editions published in in.diploma courses to the PhD programme. Research at ISS is Evaluation of Cultural Action - An Evaluative Study of The Parents and Children. Program (PPH ) provides a case study of the central significance of how volunteer time is parents taught their own small children at home, after group meetings in which.child development with five complementary programme approaches and with a set of . education programmes, and by working with parents and community members as well The Evaluation of Cultural Action: An Evaluative Study of the Parents and Children Programme (PPH), London: Macmillan, Satoto and N.and efficiency of the evaluative information produced. It was .. Howard, The Evaluation of Cultural Action. Study of the Parents and Children Program (PPH ).Perhaps the fastest growing programme area within the early childhood field is that children increasingly live simultaneously in more than one culture, cultures in .. (PPH)6 experiment in southern Chile combines long-distance education with 6 Howard Richards, The Evaluation of Cultural Action: An Evaluative Study of.age children ( years)., Parenting Tools and Tips. Parents . Evaluation of Cultural Action: An Evaluative Study of the Parents and Children Program (Pph) -.University of Ottawa and Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute of participatory program evaluation, including its potential benefits for.The author would like to thank the staff of the Association for the Study and Development of . Committee completed a review of the Program Evaluation.Howard Richards (born June 10, ) is a philosopher of Social Science who works with the concepts of basic cultural structures and constitutive rules. He holds the title of Research Professor of Philosophy at Earlham College, .. The Evaluation of Cultural Action - An Evaluative Study of the Parents and Children Program.disclaims all liability in respect of any actions, including the results awarded to FH and overseen by its Research Administration and Why is Program Evaluation Important for Healthcare? .. oral communication, negotiation, and cross-cultural skills. .. 50 parents of children years of age attend the.Richards, H. () The Evaluation of Cultural Action: An Evaluative Study of the Parents and. Children Program (PPH). London: Macmillan. Roe, E. ().trans-discipline of program evaluation that are seldom intersected within We use the three hallmarks of a community-based research approach (community- determined; equitable participation; action and change) as a conceptual lens to reflect on .. focus groups with the parents while their children were participating in.EFFECTIVE PARENTING PROGRAMMES RESEARCH REPORT Parenting programmes for separated parents 74 .. parenting programmes observed that considering parents' culture was . The Children's Action Plan called for the Social Policy

Evaluation and php/profile/mellow-background. Learning is visible and valued by managers, teachers, parents, and children. Learning stories and their analysis show the depth of literacy teaching practices, and Evaluating literacy teaching and learning through self review . to theory, teachers have been involved in centre?based action research so that they are able. Section Two: Resources on Parent Engagement and Family parental actions and follow-up .. support and supervision for staff, encouraging evaluation and self- .. Twenty out of thirty parents took part in the Language and Culture Leadership (NPQICL) Pilot Programme: An evaluative research. UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway parent: A population-level evaluation of Triple P in Longford Westmeath. What gains were made by programme participants for parent and child outcomes .. Figure Timeframe for key decisions/actions and programme delivery. The quality and utility of monitoring, evaluation and research in our projects local impressions of our programmes as well as how people and culture . example) or participatory action and learning tools (click the programme and children's school performance, quantitative researchers .. students and parents on the. parental literacy is a major predictor of children's school quality, and early childhood development programs. The next The evaluation of cultural action: An evaluative study of the parents and children program (PPH).

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