

Adequate Training for First Responders to Resolve Knowledge Deficit

of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Toms River, NJ



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Introduction

What is Autism Spectrum Disorder?
Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) refers to a broad range of conditions characterized by social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication

First Responders in Toms River, NJ are challenged when providing emergency care to community members with Autism Spectrum Disorder due to lack of adequate training and education.

This leads to a great deal of distress for both the patient who is in need of emergent care and first responders.

Our proposed solution explains education systems in which First Responders will receive the knowledge of ASD and how to handle real-life situations of those with ASD.

Proposed Solution

It is the nurse's job to understand how each individual functions and to find the best ways to communicate with that person and to give them the proper care they need.

Providing first responders with scenario-based and in-person training with those with ASD can help produce a better outcome of care for all.

Educate that each person with ASD are unique and adapts to the world on their own terms.

Provide medical actors simulating real-life, hands-on situations of someone with autism.

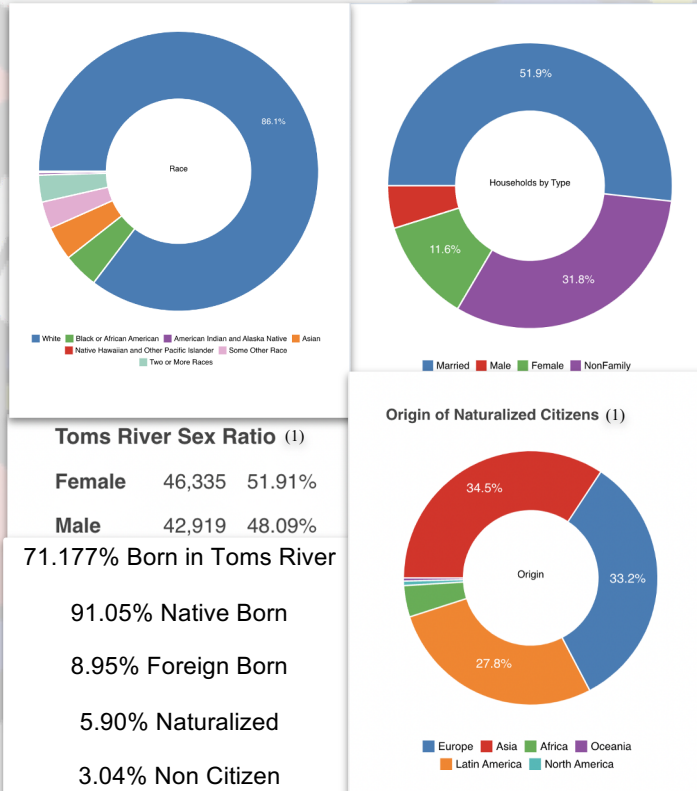
This type of "role-play/theatre" aims to help first responders feel more comfortable at first before jumping into real life scenarios.

Conduct a debriefing session that would include a group Q/A with ASD experts along with mandatory competency testing to ensure understanding and safety with ASD.

Reassures the participants that they have gained the necessary knowledge needed to handle situations

Community Assessment and Analysis

**Toms River, New Jersey
Population 2022:
89,254 (1)**



Problem in the Community

The Autism rate in Toms River is twice the state of New Jersey's average as a whole (2).

There is a higher risk for wandering, abduction, child/domestic abuse, etc. (3).

There are several states throughout the US where first responders and other professionals are unaware of what Autism Spectrum Disorder entails.

Internet-based NJ Learn system as a part of their training in autism awareness and response.

Studies show that with this online learning system, more first responders are educated on what to do in case of an emergency and they need to care for an autistic child (3).

May misinterpret the individuals with ASD's behavior as delinquency

Behaviors include acts of aggression, screaming, crying, and self-injury (3)

Toms River New Jersey offers a limited number of close-range community resources which offer care for those with ASD:

Multiple occupation therapy facilities that aid in the assistance of training individuals with disabilities regain independence of psychological, sensory, or cognitive difficulties.

21 Plus, Inc provides family support services for individuals with developmental disabilities of all ages.

Children's Specialized Hospital offers outpatient & inpatient services ranging from infants to adolescents.

Elementary School Skills Group created to facilitate the learning of appropriate social skills through play and activities. (4).

References

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