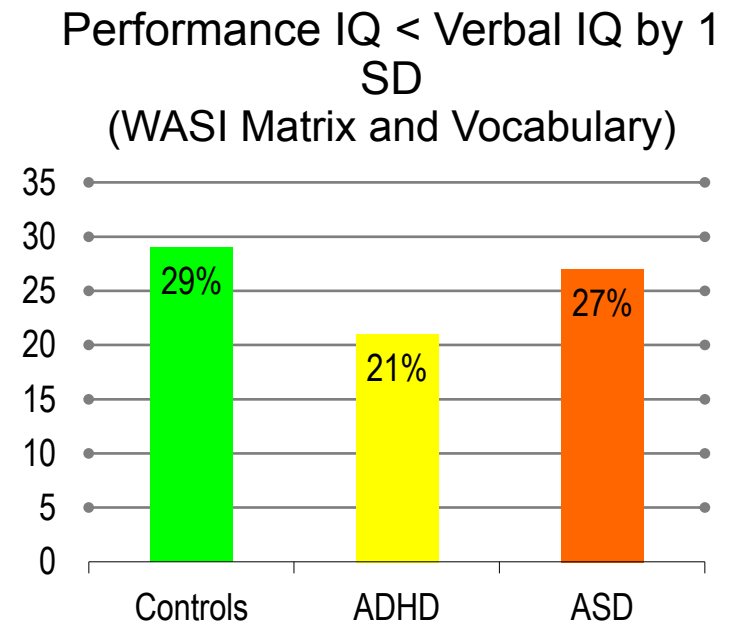


# Myths Associated with AUTISM

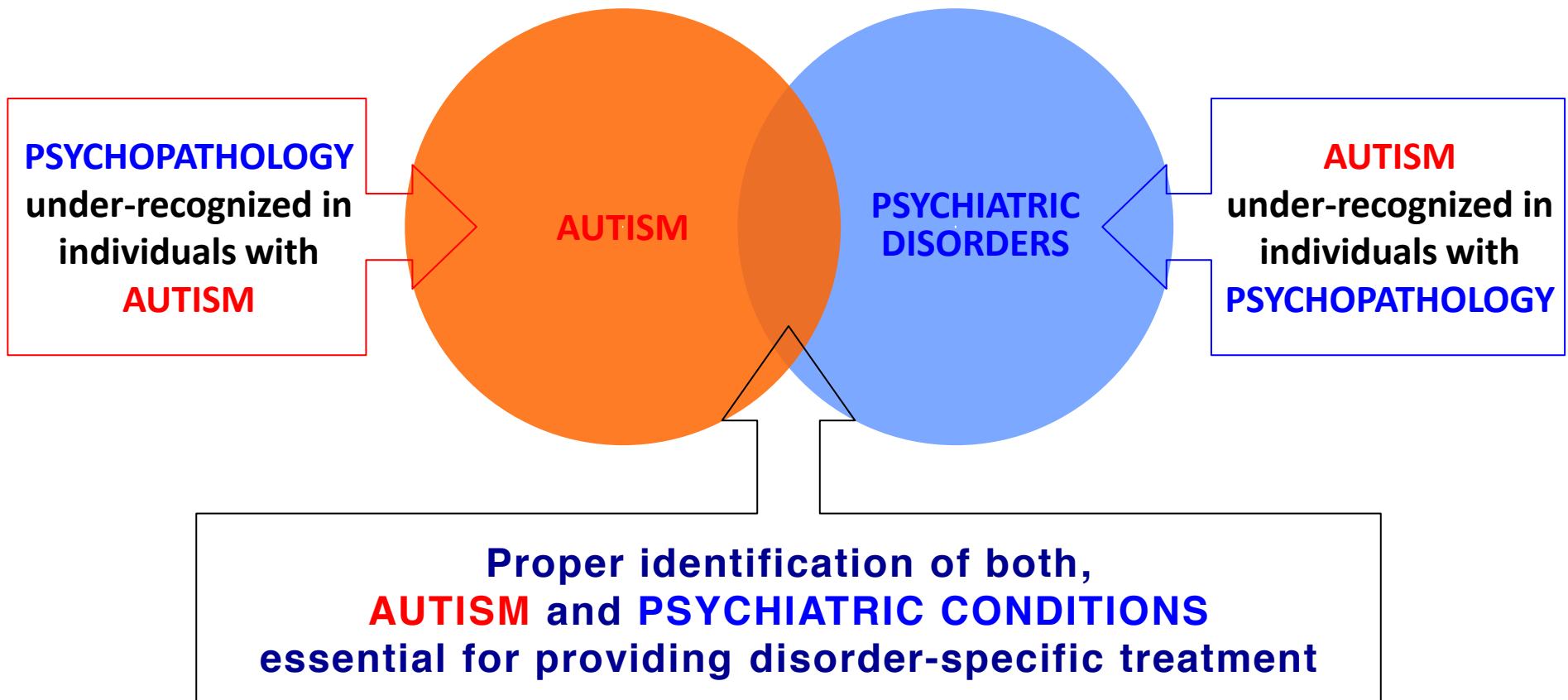
- Presence of eye contact rules out AUTISM
- Lack social interest
- Lack awareness of social challenges
- Diagnosed early in life
- Diagnosis of ASD requires:
  - Diagnostic tools: ADIR/ADOS
  - Neuropsychological assessment
  - Genetic work-up
- Psychiatric disorders are uncommon with AUTISM



*Take away: Receiving a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder is not limited to these qualifications*

# Under-recognition of Co-occurring AUTISM & Psychopathology

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# Implications of Unrecognized Reciprocal Comorbidity of ASD & Psychopathology

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## Unidentified/untreated

### Psychopathology

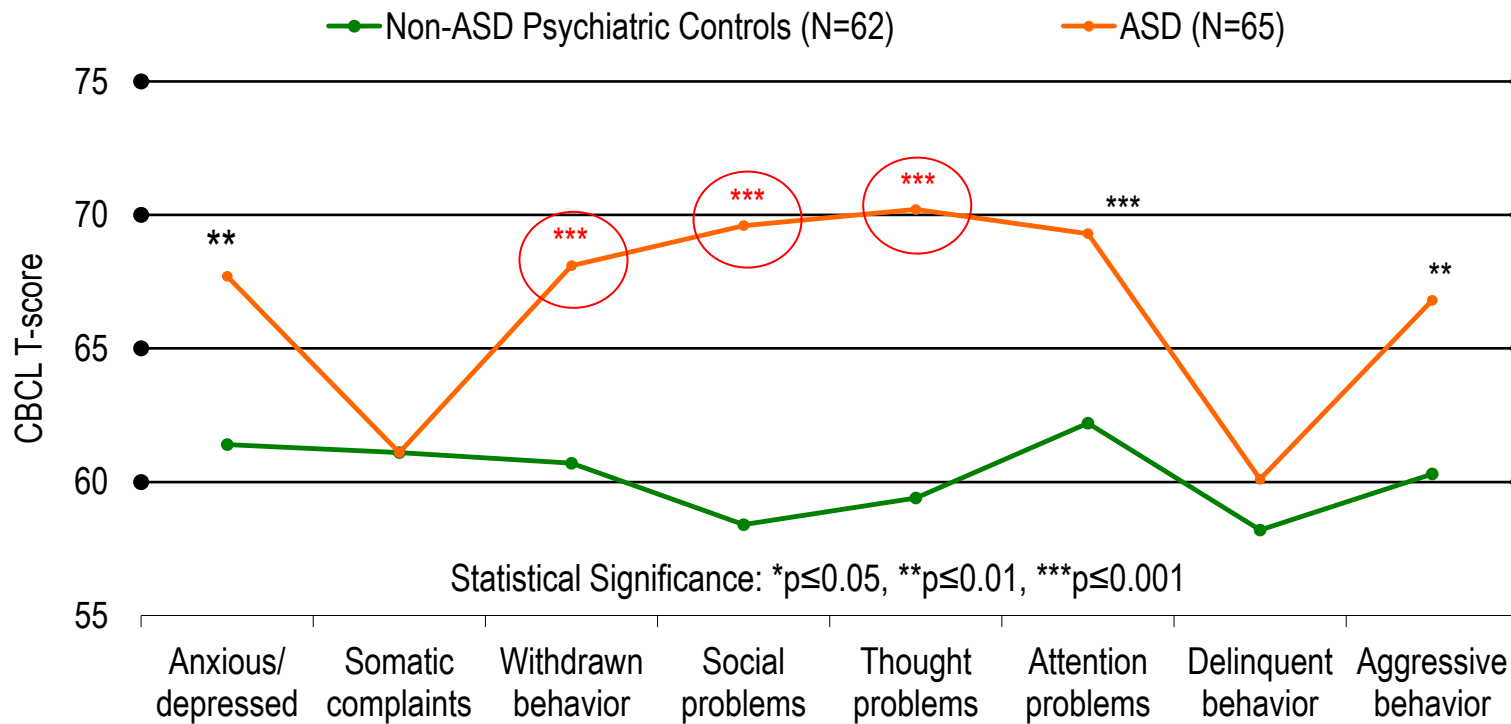
- Further worsens already compromised psycho-social functioning
- Interferes with ASD specific behavioral interventions
- Fails to receive disorder specific treatment
- Increases risk for developing other psychiatric conditions (disruptive behaviors, mood dysregulation, and substance abuse)

### ASD

- Increases risk of receiving inappropriately aggressive treatment for psychopathology
- Failure to recognize atypical precipitants negatively affecting psychopathology
- Failure to receive treatment specific for ASD
- Miss opportunity to implement early interventions for ASD

# CBCL – ASD Profile

## Level of Dysfunction on Child Behavior Checklist in Psychiatrically Referred Youth



### ASD Youth

Age range: 6-18 years

### IQ

Mean IQ: 99 ±14

IQ>70: 100%

### ASD Subtypes

Autistic Disorder = 52%

Asperger's Disorder = 25%

PDD-NOS = 23%

**CBCL-ASD Subscale Areas (Withdraw, Social, & Thought Problems) scores greater than 65 are indicative of ASD**

# CBCL – ASD Profile

## CBCL-ASD Profile Items

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### Withdrawn Behavior

- Refuses to talk
- Would rather be alone than with others
- Withdrawn, doesn't get involved with others
- Too shy or timid
- Secretive, keeps things to self
- There is little that he/she enjoys
- Underactive, slow moving, or lacks energy
- Unhappy, sad, or depressed

### Social Problems

- Doesn't get along with other kids
- Prefers being with younger kids
- Not liked by other kids
- Gets teased a lot
- Feels others are out to get him/her
- Complains of loneliness
- Poorly coordinated or clumsy
- Gets hurt a lot, accident-prone
- Easily jealous
- Clings to adults or too dependent
- Speech problem

### Thought Problems

- Strange ideas
  - Strange behavior
  - Hears sounds or voices that aren't there
  - Sees things that aren't there
  - Nervous movements or twitching
  - Picks nose, skin, or other parts of body
  - Plays with own sex parts too much
  - Plays with own sex parts in public
  - Can't get his/her mind off certain thoughts; obsessions
  - Repeats certain acts over and over; compulsions
  - Stores up too many things he/she doesn't need
  - Deliberately harms self or attempts suicide
  - Sleeps less than most kids
  - Talks or walks in sleep
  - Trouble sleeping
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