



HEALTH DISPARITIES PRESENT IN LATINX CHILDREN WITH AUTISM IN MASSACHUSETTS

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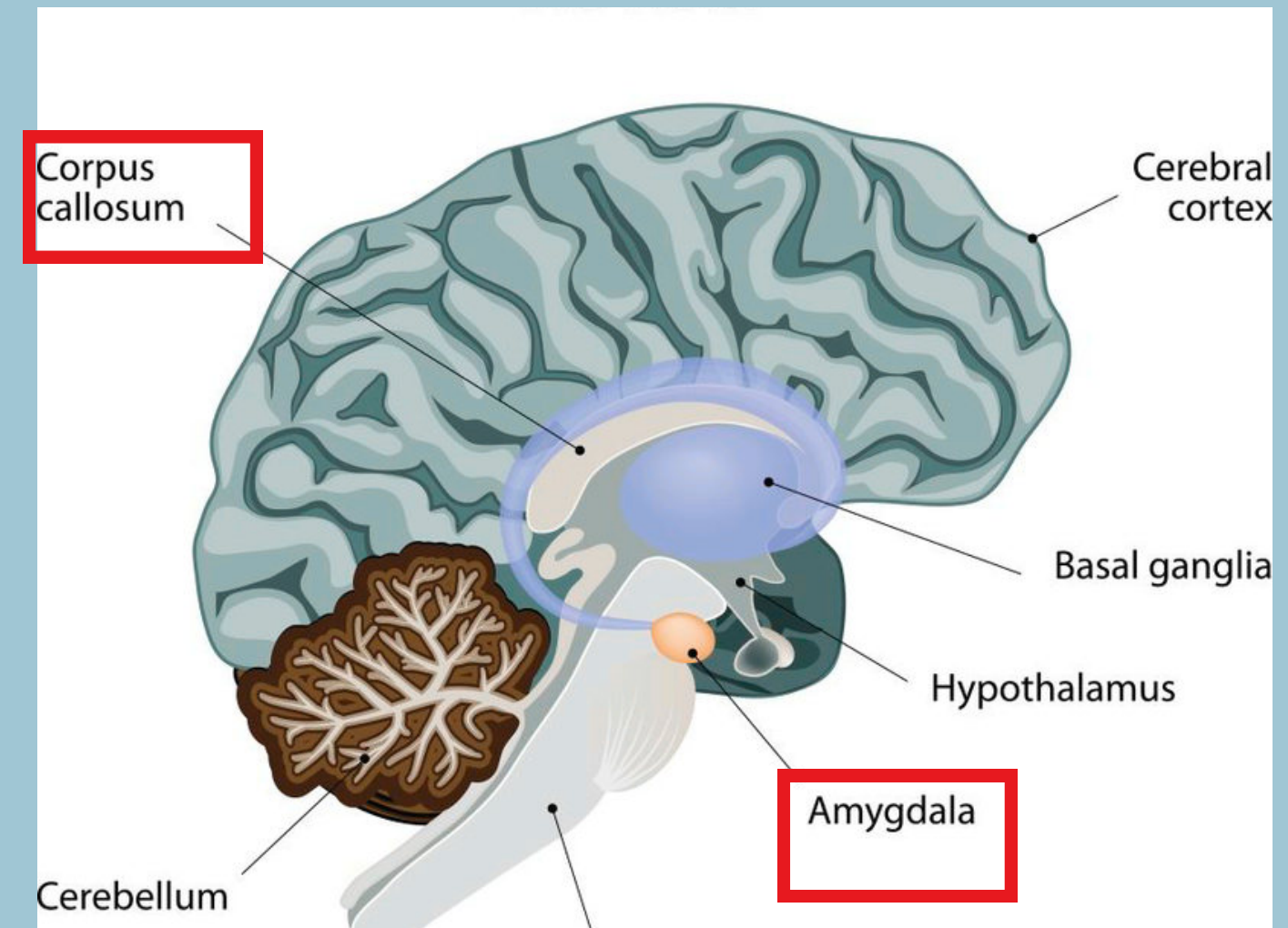
Objectives

- Impact of Autism
- Disparities
- Personal Story
- Future of Pediatric Care



What is Autism

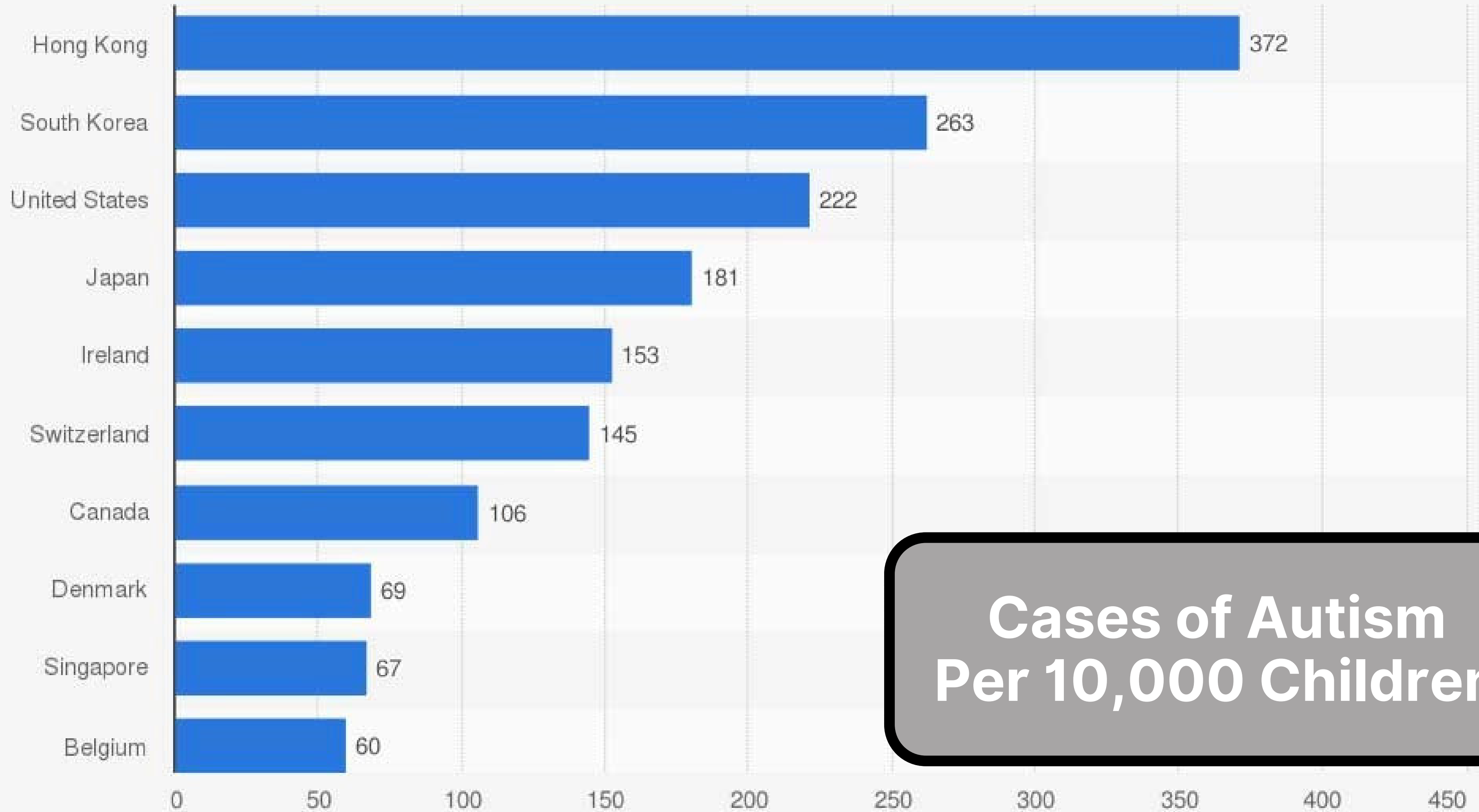
- Neurodevelopmental Conditions
- Unique Brain-Based Activation
- Nature vs Nurture: Contributing Factors
- Heightened Sensitivity



Impact on Children

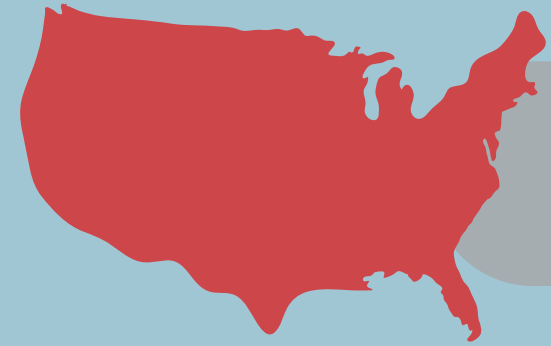
- Lifelong experience with unique coexisting traits
- Early Signs
- 46% of adolescents with ASD encountered bullying



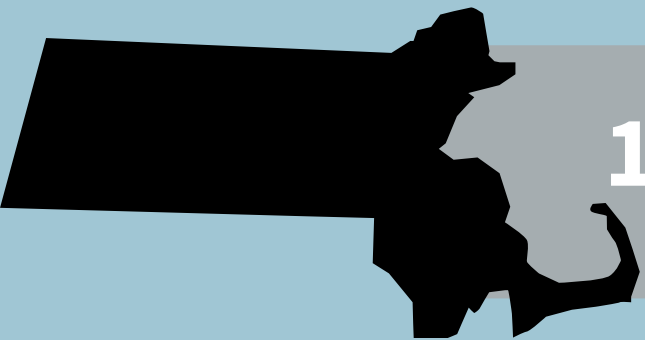
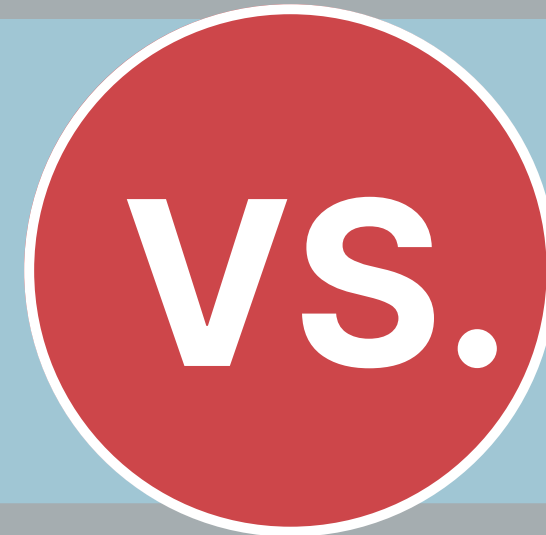


**Cases of Autism
Per 10,000 Children**

Autism In Massachusetts



1 in 54 eight year olds are diagnosed nationwide (2016-2018)



1 in 44 eight year olds are diagnosed in Massachusetts (2016-2018)



Public

53.6% rise in students with autism in public schools (2007-2017)

Diagnosis

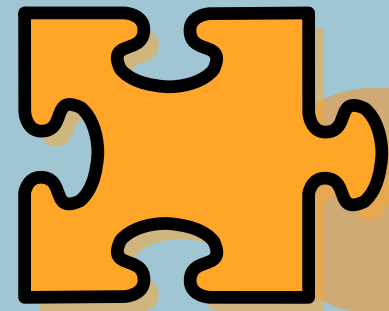
**In MA.
20% of kids
≤ 17
are Latinx**

**Diagnosis
Latinx- 5.4 yrs
Non-Latinx- 3.8 yrs**

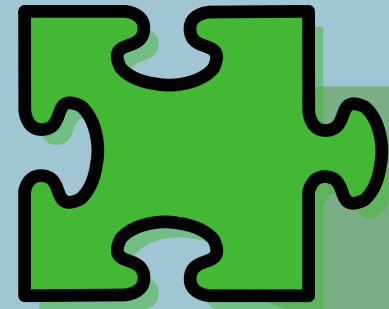




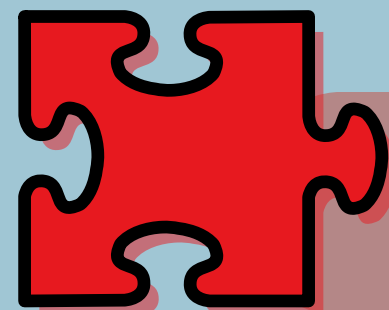
Barriers



Race



Socioeconomic Status



Gender

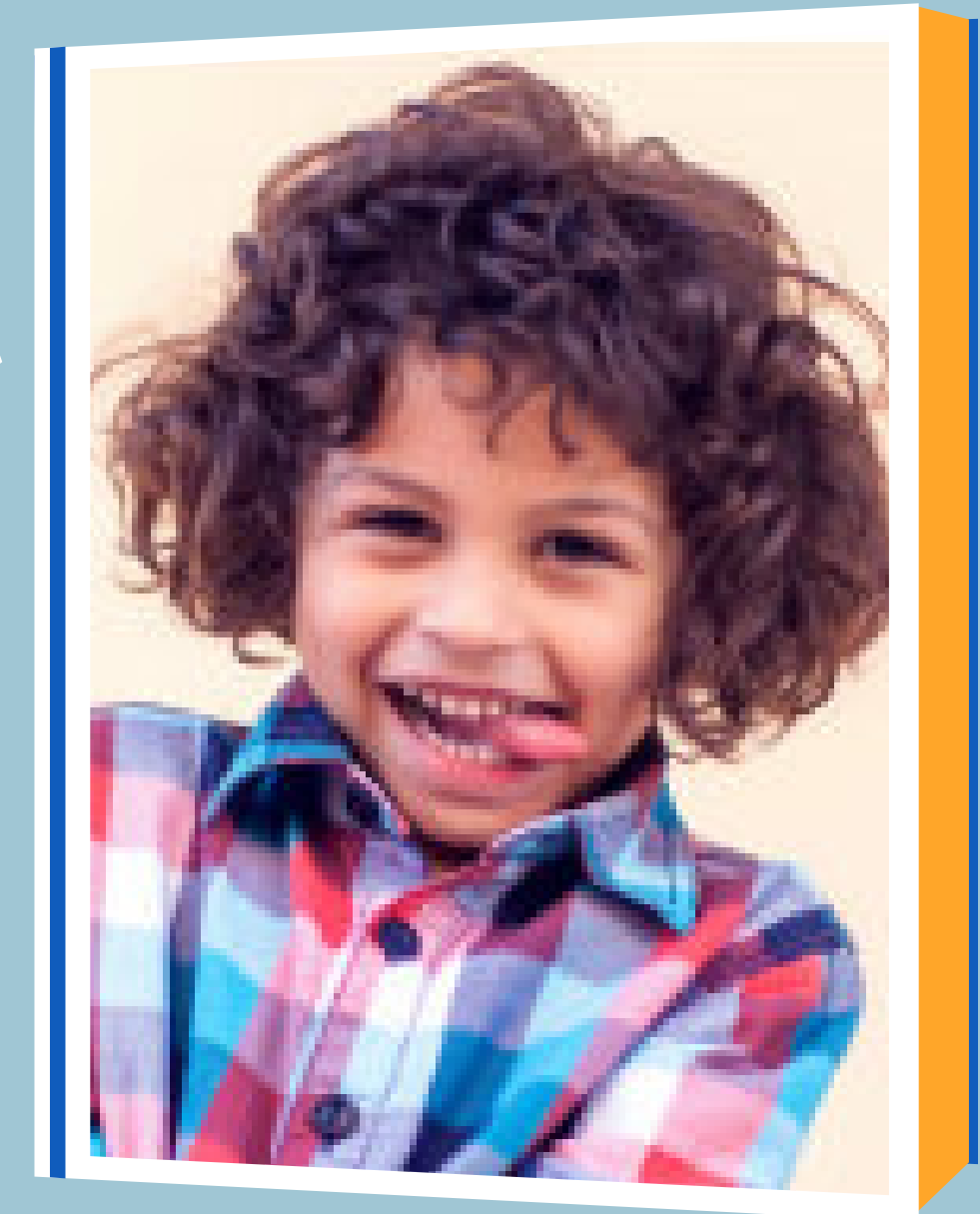


Race

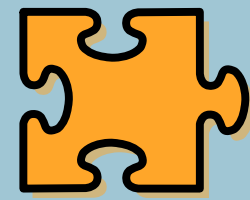
 Implicit Biases

 Inequality of Treatment

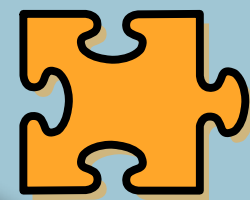
 Communication



Implicit Biases



Misdiagnosis



Late Diagnosis



**"Every delayed diagnosis is a stolen opportunity for a child's brighter future."
-Maria Mendez**

Inequality of Treatment

 **Access to Resources**

 **Service Disparities**



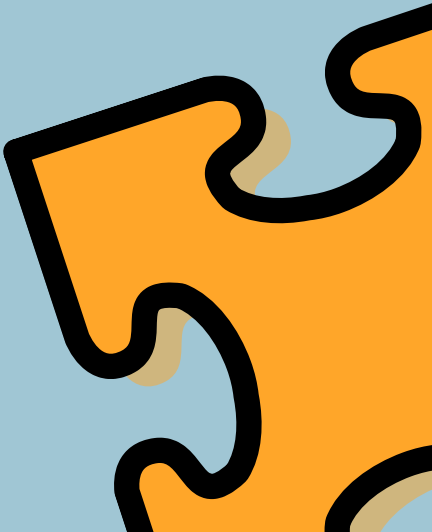
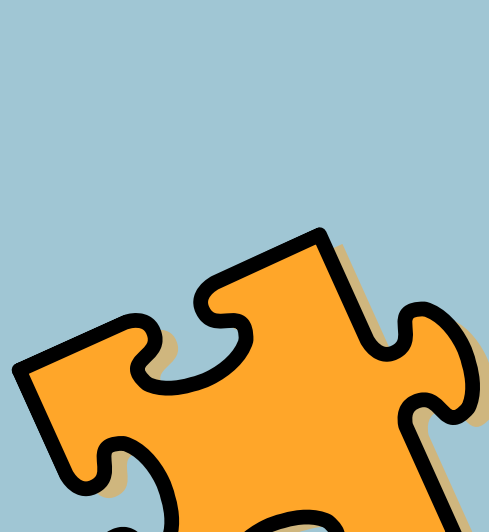
Communication

Spanish

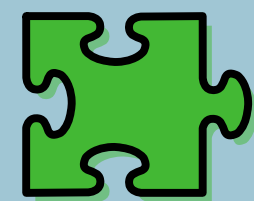
Portuguese

 Lack of interpreters

 Cultural Difference

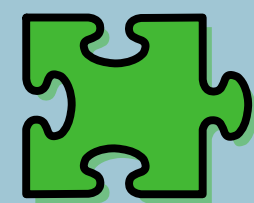


Socioeconomic Status



Environmental Stressors

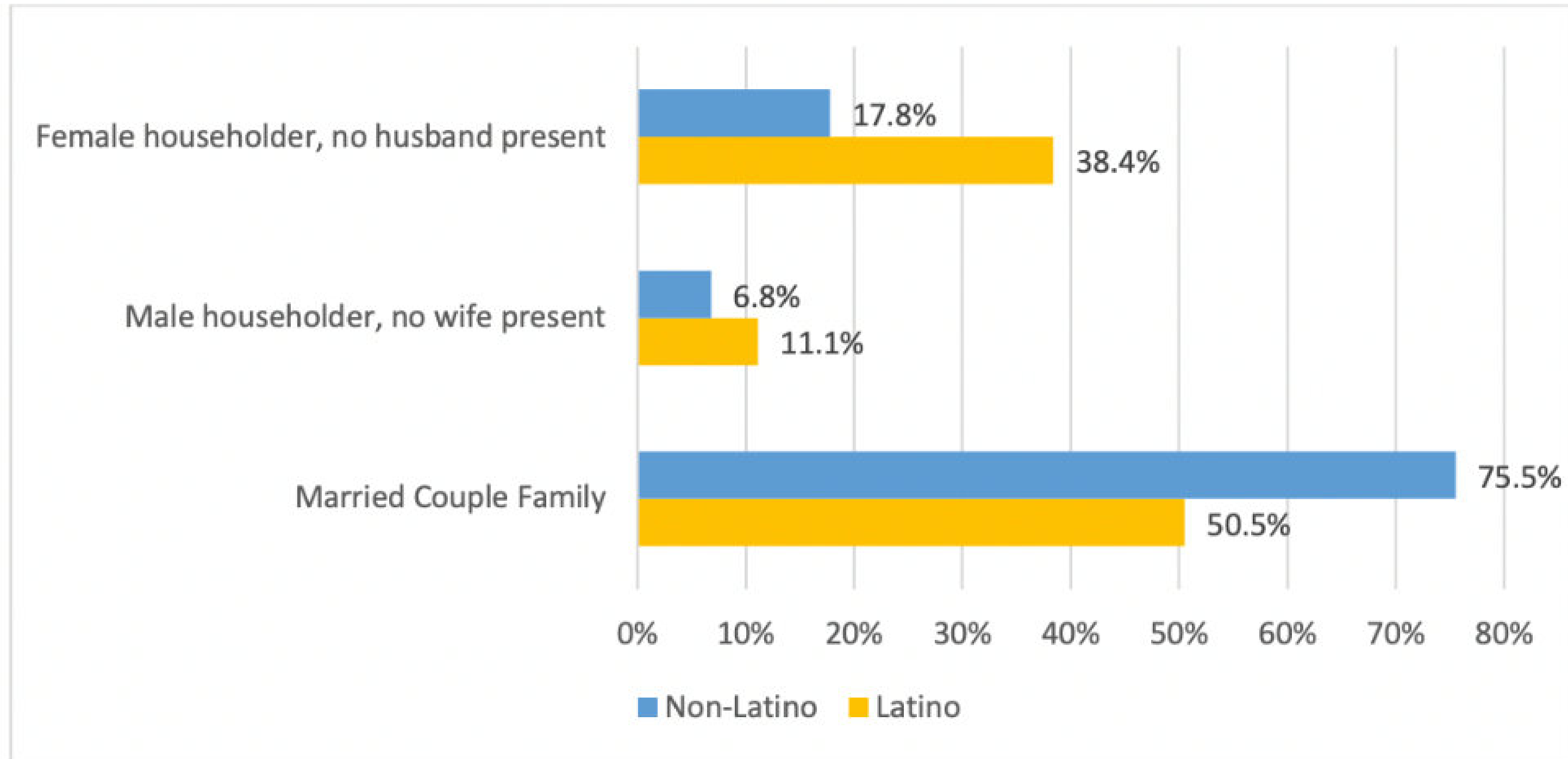
- Intensify signs



Limited Access



Figure 6. The Family Household Type of Massachusetts Children



Source: 2018 American Community Survey

Insurance

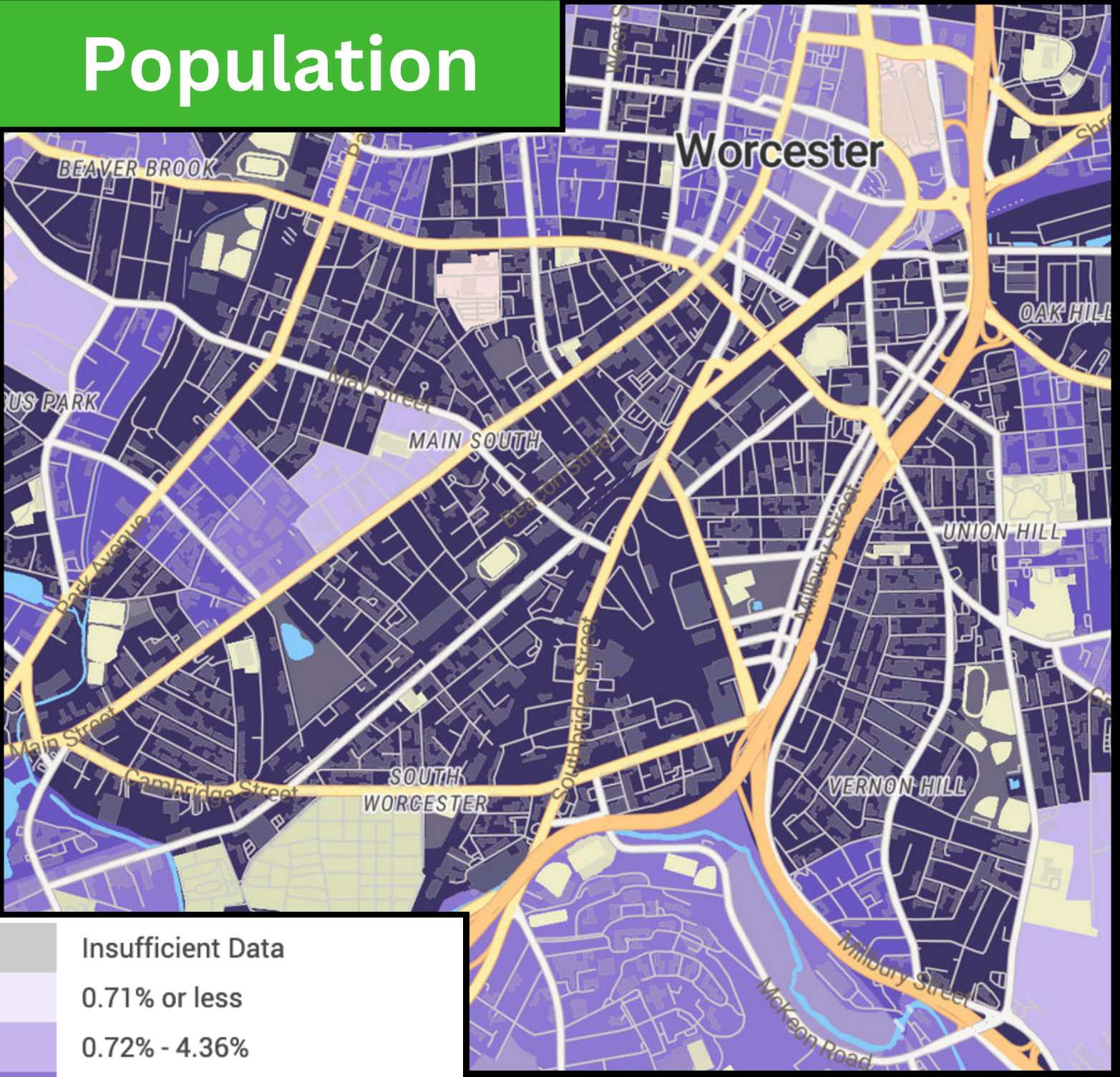
 Relation to pediatric care

 Qualifications for Children's Health Insurance Program

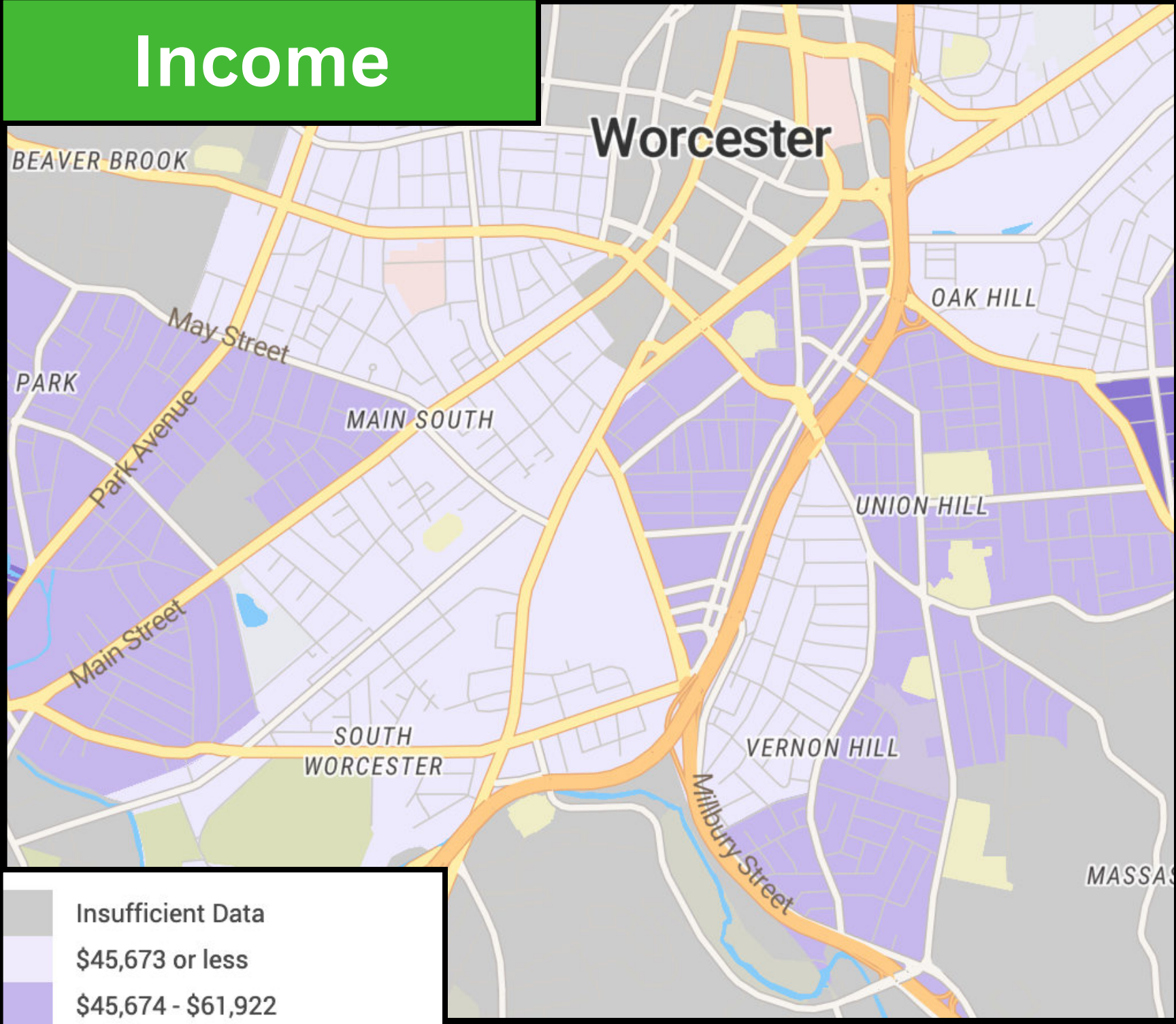


Median Household Income

Population



Income



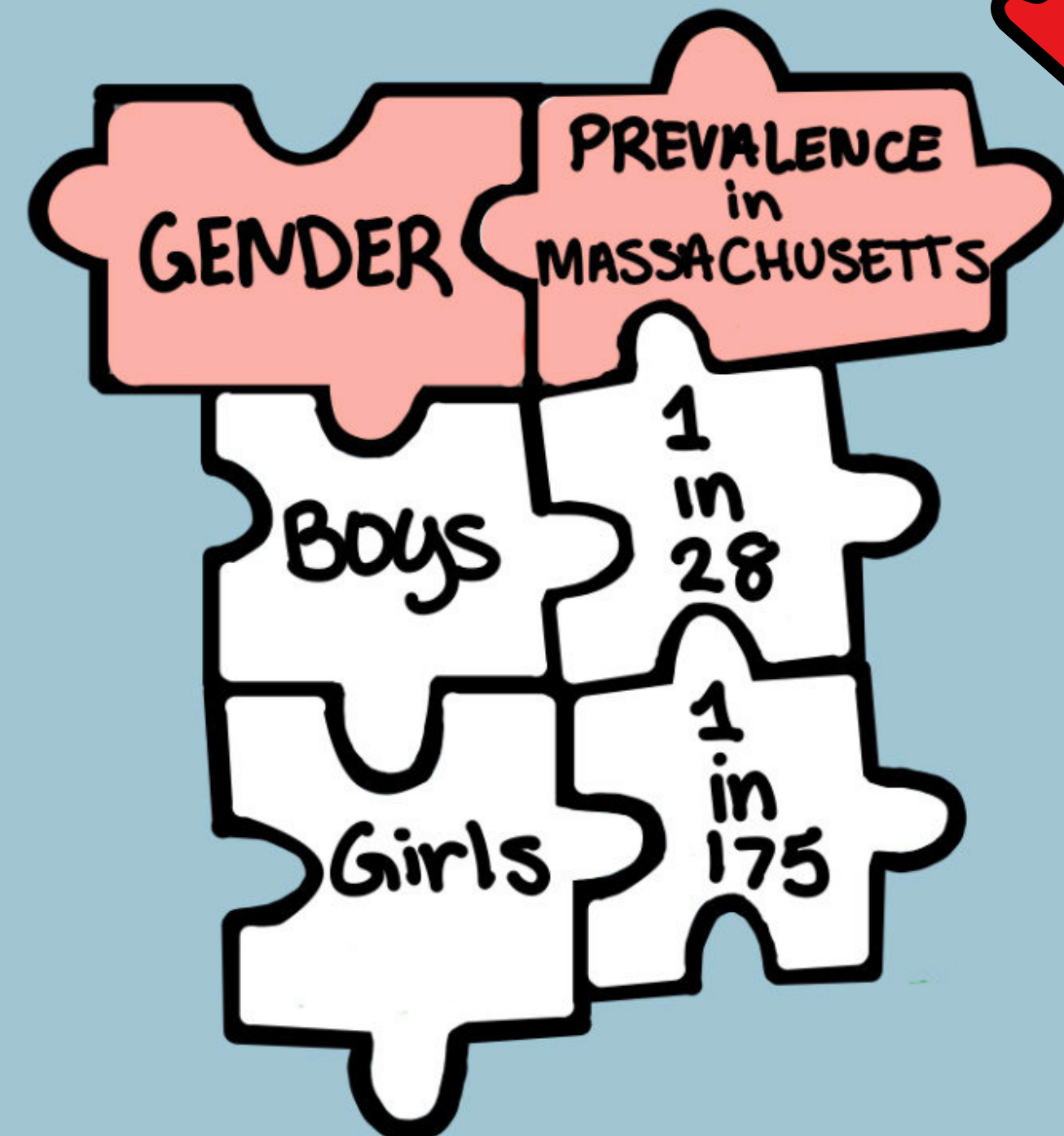
(Policy Map)

Gender

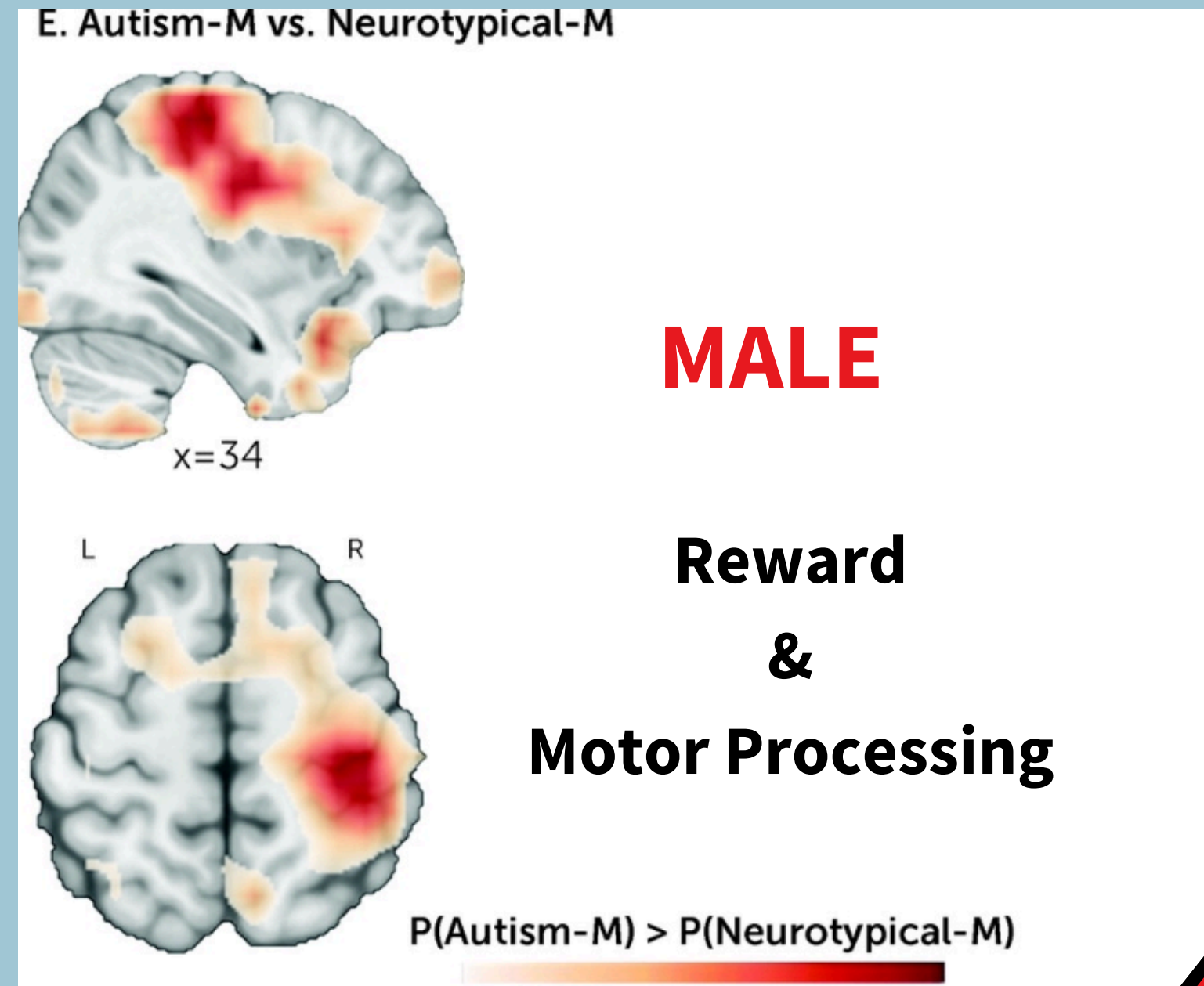
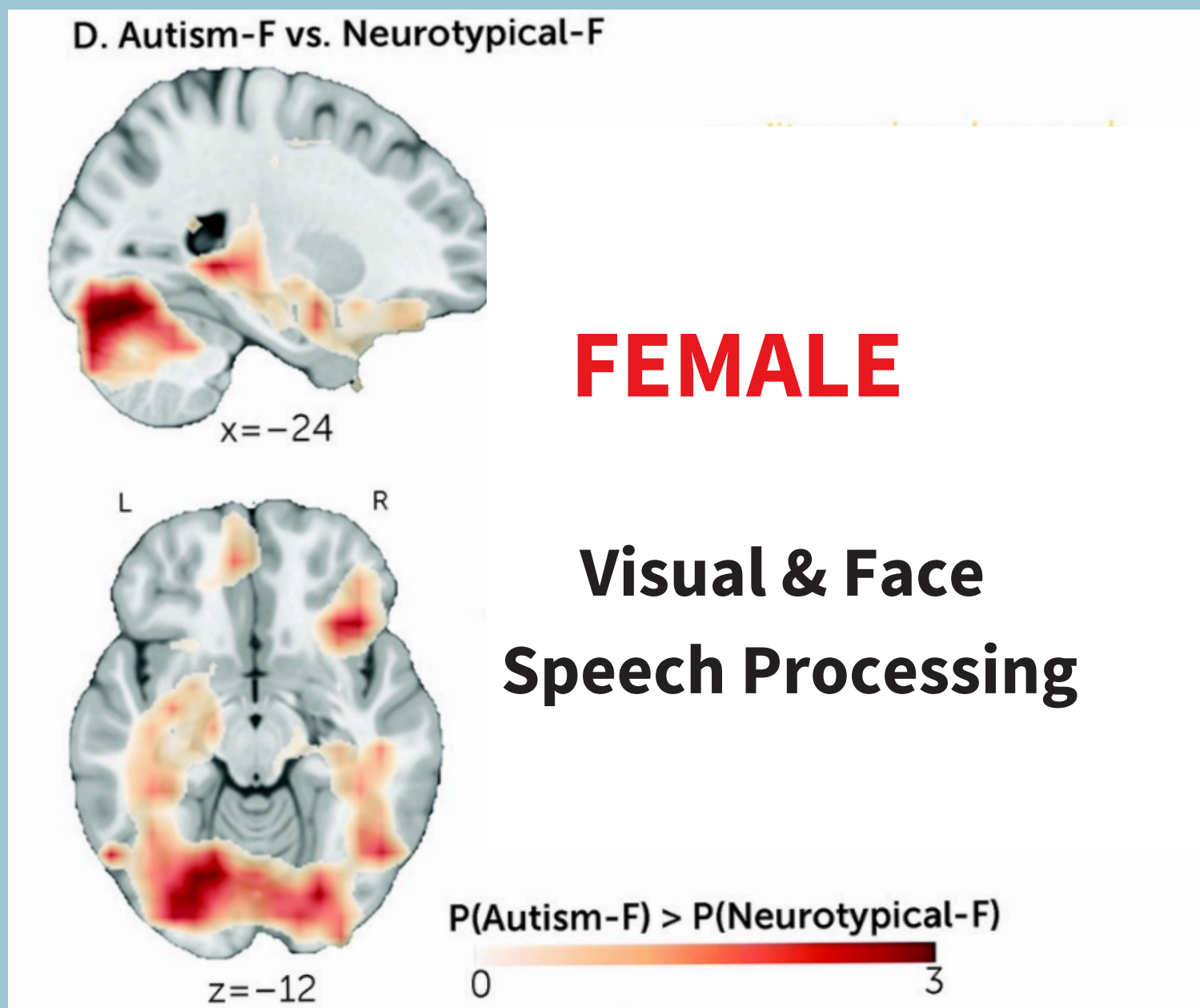
 Brain Development

 Autism Description on Males vs Females

 Underdiagnosis in Girls



Brain Development



IQ Comparison

Article	Number of girls/women (F) and	Mean age in years (SD) (if not	Mean intellectual quotient (IQ) or	Methods (and possible sub-scales)	Included study areas
Tsai & Beisler 1983	F 23	F 6.4 (2.97)	F 42.13 (26.78)	Developmental Profile (social development, motor abilities)	Social
	M 52	M 6.0 (2.47)	M 57.27 (26.09)		Linguistic Motor
Postorino <i>et al.</i> 2015	F 30	F and M	F 58.20 (13.78)	Vineland Adaptive Behavioural Scales – Survey	Social
	M 30	3.55 (0.9)	M 70.04 (24.53)		Linguistic Motor

Source: ADI, Autism Diagnostic Interview; ADI-R, Autism Diagnostic Interview

Naiara Lerma

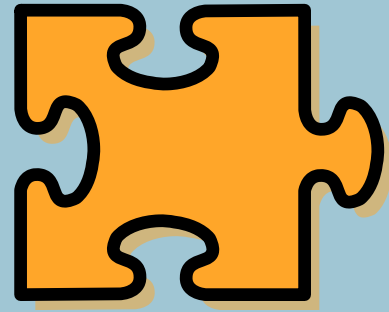
 10 year old girl

 **Misdiagnosed** with mild intellectual disability (mild ID) for 6 years of her life

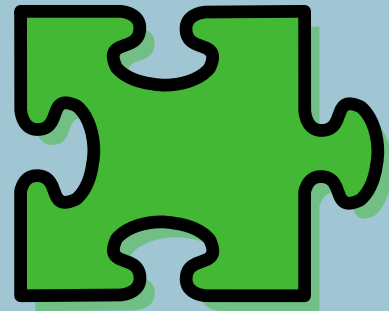


“Unfortunately, there is a lot of **miseducation** in the community.” - Ms. Lerma

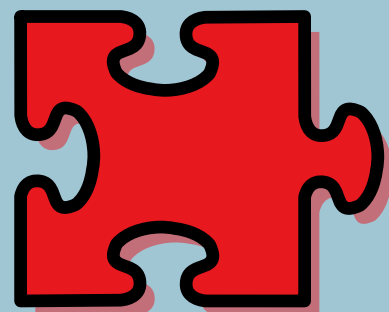
Recap



Miscommunication and biases leads to misdiagnosis and delayed diagnosis




Low economic status causes environmental stressors and limited access to healthcare



Sexism and stereotypes leads to misconception and signs being overlooked



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of Massachusetts
800-905-TIES (8437)
www.massfamilyties.org

 MASSACHUSETTS
ADVOCATES
for CHILDREN

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Children's

Moving Forward



**Thank you
Questions?**

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