


Using the ECHO model to increase capacity for autism assessments within BC

We aim to use the ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) model to build capacity for autism assessment and management in community practices with the goal of increasing equity in access to quality care.

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Why does this matter?

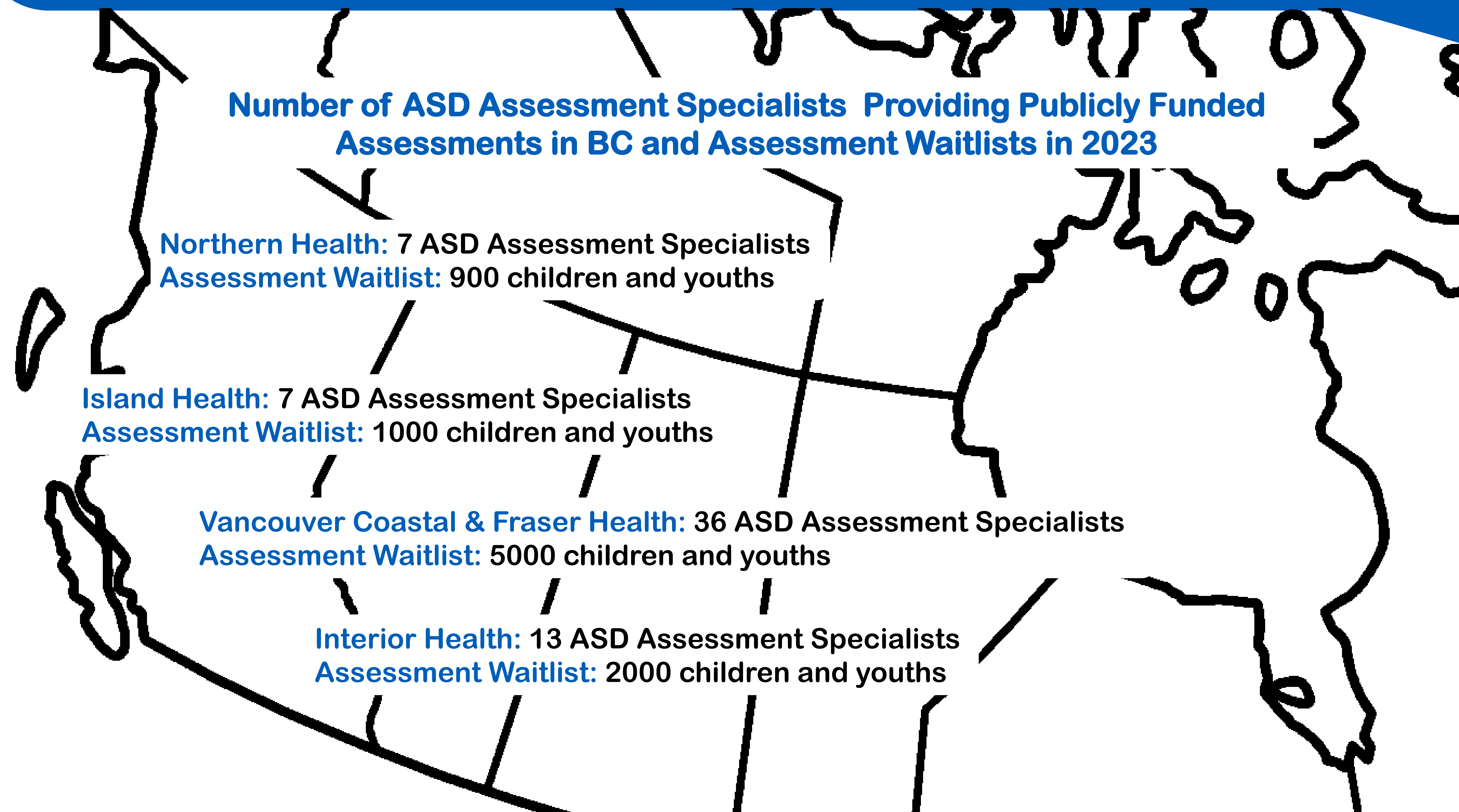
- Waitlists for ASD (autism spectrum disorder) assessments and interventions are long. While children wait, they may be missing out on important supports and interventions.
- Building capacity to assess children in their local communities will improve care equity.

What will we do?

- ECHO is an evidence-based program focused on building virtual communities of practice through case-based learning.
- We aim to build community capacity through bidirectional learning between community clinicians (starting with pediatricians and pediatric nurse practitioners) and our hub team of subject matter experts, including clinicians, caregivers of children with ASD, and autistic self-advocates.

What do we hope to achieve?

- Engage with families, self-advocates, and clinicians to support community needs around autism assessment, diagnosis, and management.
- Improve access to quality care, decrease wait times to diagnosis, and standardize best practices among community pediatricians and nurse practitioners.
- Foster multidisciplinary partnerships that increase access to care and reduce health care costs.



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