

Autism Treatment Account Fact Sheet

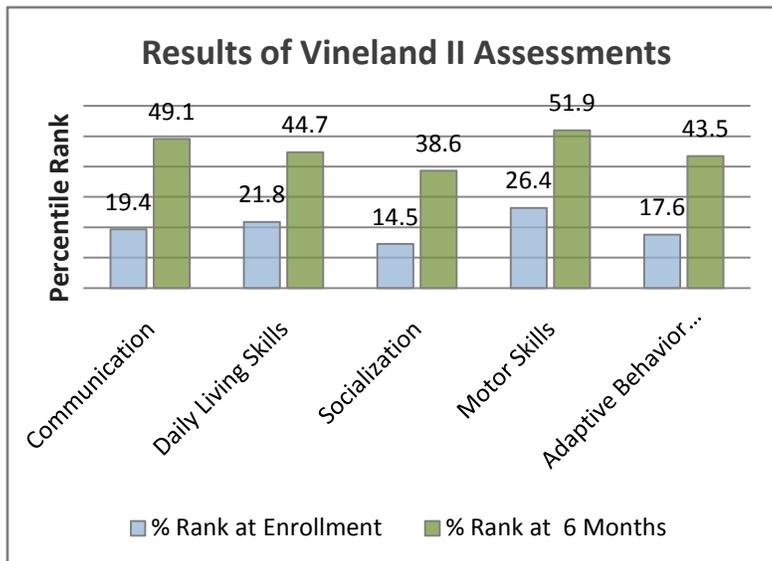
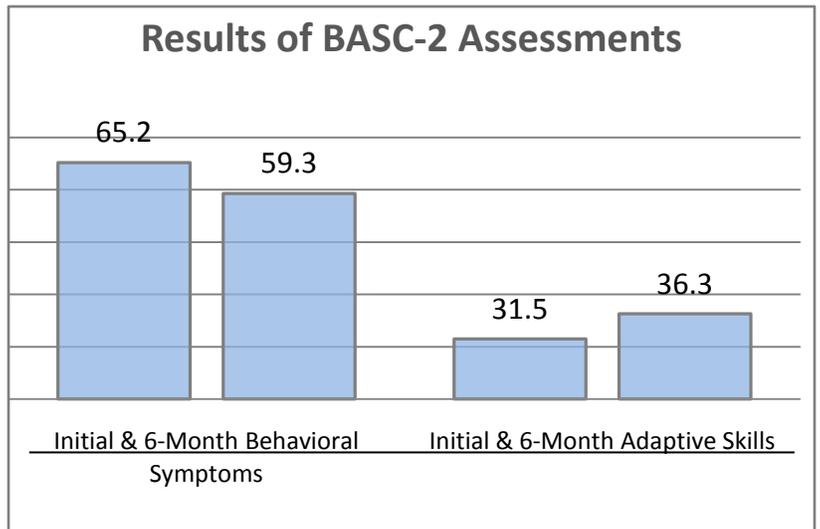


With the passage of HB272 in the 2012 Legislative Session, an autism-services pilot was created. The pilot was divided into three sub-pilots. The Autism Treatment Account (ATA) is one of the sub-pilots. The ATA serves children with autism spectrum disorders, 2 to 7 years of age. Through the ATA, the Utah Department of Health contracts with four Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) providers. A total of 35 children received services during the first year of the pilot. Assessment data were available for 28 children who received at least six months of continuous therapy.

Outcomes and Effectiveness

Participating children were assessed at enrollment prior to services being initiated and again after receiving 6 months of services.

The Behavioral Assessment System for Children, Second Edition (BASC-2) was used to assess the social, emotional, behavioral, and adaptive functioning of participating children. The outcomes for children receiving services demonstrate that ATA funded therapy resulted in positive decreases in behavioral problems (Behavioral Symptoms, where a score above 60 is a concern) and increases in positive behaviors (Adaptive Skills, where a score below 40 is a concern). The change in both measures indicates improvement.



The Vineland II: Parent/Caregiver Survey Interview (Vineland II) was used to assess the communication, daily living skills, socialization, motor skills, and adaptive behavioral functioning of participating children. The outcomes for children receiving services were positive and demonstrate that services provided resulted in positive increases in all domains.

Autism Treatment Account Parent Perspective



After 6 months of service, families participating in the ATA program were asked to respond to a brief online survey regarding their experience in the ATA program and the impact of the ATA for their child. The families feel that the provided services are making a positive difference in their child's development. The following summarizes a portion of the survey results.

Are services provided making a difference with:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Your understanding of how to support and interact with your child?	0%	0%	44%	56%
Your child's development?	0%	0%	12.5%	87.5%

Please rate your opinion of your child's improvement on their:

	No improvement	Somewhat improved	Improved	Greatly improved
Language development	0%	12.5%	25%	62.5%
Behavior targets	0%	0%	18.75%	81.25%

Families were given the opportunity to provide their thoughts, both positive and negative, regarding their child's ATA funded experience. Selected representative comments include the following:

- "We are very proud of the progress our son has made since he's been in the ABA program. We see continuous improvement from him and this program has given us hope for the future. This program has been a dream come true and we are very blessed to be a part of this program. "
- "The ABA program has been life changing for us and especially our son! He is now communicating, answering simple questions and requests, he doesn't run away, he has great behavior and is now teachable! I honestly didn't know if we would ever reach him, but we have, and his chances of being integrated into society as an adult if he keeps doing ABA are way higher, and we are so happy about this! We now have hope!"
- "Our child's program is doing an excellent job. We have seen so much progress in just a little over six months. When our child began the program, he could say less than ten words and would go weeks without saying anything. We could not take him to public places, like restaurants or shopping, and we would often have to intervene to stop him from attacking others. He could not sit in a chair or be still. Now, we cannot even count the words he can say and sign. He is fine in public places and his attacks on others have decreased significantly. He can even sit still for several minutes. Our child's program is working miracles with our son."