

# Embracing Complexity in Research



on Neurodevelopmental Conditions  
and Mental Health



**Emerging  
Minds**



**WARWICK**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

**Neurodevelopmental conditions (NDCs) influence how people think and interact with others.**

**These include ADHD, autism, Tourette Syndrome, dyslexia, dyspraxia and many more.**

**Many people with NDCs have more than one.**

**But most research only looks at one NDC at a time.**

**It can be difficult for researchers to study more than one NDC.**

**They may have problems getting funding or finding the right people to take part.**

**We reviewed research priorities for different NDCs to find common themes.**

**We interviewed researchers to find out more about why it can be difficult to research multiple NDCs, and what could be possible if this was made easier.**

**The main research priority across all NDCs was support for people with NDCs.**

**But most research that gets funded and published is about other things, such as what causes NDCs.**

Research funders do not always understand that people with NDCs are likely to have more than one.

This makes it difficult to get funding for studies about NDCs in general rather than about a specific diagnosis.

We want to support researchers, funders and publishers to consider neurodevelopmental needs as a whole.

**Individual projects cannot solve this alone.**

**Funding wider systems to support research across NDCs could save money in the long term.**

**More importantly, it could improve outcomes for people with NDCs.**



**Bringing together researchers from different fields will help them to share information and work together on next steps.**

**It can be difficult to research more than one NDC because the tools used to measure data are different.**

**Finding a set of common measures would make it easier to compare different groups.**

Many people with NDCs and their families want to take part in research, but don't know how. A registry could match studies with people who want to take part.

NHS bodies could ask people if they want to join this registry when they are diagnosed.

**Research funders should fund research based on the priorities of people with NDCs and their families.**

**There is a need for better awareness and understanding that most people with NDCs have more than one, so that we can find ways to research multiple NDCs more easily.**

**Future research should be accessible  
to people with a range of  
neurodevelopmental needs.**

**The full report was written by Suzi Sapiets, a PhD researcher at University of Warwick.**

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