



Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network

In 1984, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) began conducting surveillance with the Georgia Department of Human Resources (DHR), initiating the Metropolitan Atlanta Developmental Disabilities Study (MADDS) to determine the prevalence of select developmental disabilities among children. In 1991, CDC established the Metropolitan Atlanta Developmental Disabilities Surveillance Program (MADDSP), an ongoing system for monitoring the occurrence of selected developmental disabilities (mental retardation, cerebral palsy, hearing loss, and vision impairment). Autism was added to MADDSP beginning in 1996 and data collection has been ongoing for the 2000 - 2008 study years.

To better understand the prevalence of autism and autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) in the United States, and gain insights into potential causes to be researched further, the Children's Health Act of 2000 provided a mandate for CDC to expand surveillance of autism and developmental disabilities in additional geographic areas of the United States by establishing the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD). CDC collaborated with 5 sites to determine the prevalence of ASD in 6 areas of the US in study year 2000, in 14 areas in study year 2002, in 8 areas in study year 2004, and in 11 areas in study year 2006. CDC currently supports surveillance programs in 14 sites. This collaborative body is known as the *Autism Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network*.

The **ADDM Network** seeks to develop or improve programs that track the number of children with ASDs in their states. The goal of the **ADDM Network** is to provide comparable, population-based estimates of the prevalence rates of autism and related disorders in different sites over time. The current sites in the **ADDM Network** include:

Alabama:	Alabama Autism Surveillance Program
Arizona:	Arizona Developmental Disabilities Surveillance Program
Arkansas:	Arkansas Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Program
Colorado:	Colorado Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Program
Florida:	University of Miami Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Project
Georgia:	CDC's Metropolitan Atlanta Developmental Disabilities Surveillance Project
Maryland:	Maryland Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Project
Missouri:	Missouri Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Project
New Jersey:	New Jersey Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Project
North Carolina:	North Carolina Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Project
Pennsylvania:	Pennsylvania Autism and Developmental Disabilities Surveillance Program
South Carolina:	South Carolina Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Program
Utah:	Utah Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Program
Wisconsin:	Wisconsin Surveillance of Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities System

The **ADDM Network** is the only collaborative project using similar methods to determine the prevalence of ASD based on the MADDSP model. The combined data from the various **ADDM** sites may help inform researchers about the possible causes of ASDs or factors contributing to the apparent increase in ASD diagnoses. In addition, the **ADDM Network** seeks to conduct education and outreach activities which may increase public awareness that will lead to improvements in how individuals with ASDs are identified, and receive appropriate interventions.

The collaborative efforts of the **ADDM Network** will enable CDC to:

1. Provide a baseline of comparable, ASD prevalence rates in different regions of the US.
2. Provide a population-based description of characteristics of ASDs.
3. Determine whether ASDs affect certain people or geographic areas more than others.
4. Detect changes in the prevalence of ASDs with continued monitoring.
5. Understand the national impact of autism and related conditions.

For more information on the **ADDM Network** and other activities related to autism surveillance, research and outreach, please visit www.cdc.gov/autism.