

CDC's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network

- Since the ADDM Network's start in 2000, CDC has funded programs at 16 sites covering 18 states—Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.
- CDC's current ADDM Network sites have been awarded a total of \$5 million to identify children with an ASD at 8 years of age. The award also includes additional funding to Arizona, Missouri, New Jersey, South Carolina, Utah and Wisconsin to monitor ASDs and other developmental disabilities among children who are 4 years of age.

Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders

- **In the United States, about 1 in 110 children has an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). That's an estimated prevalence of about 1%.**
- **ASDs occur in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups, but are four times more likely to occur in boys than in girls.**
- **Recent studies have estimated that the lifetime cost to care for an individual with an ASD is \$3.2 million.**



Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network

To get a better picture of the scope of autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) in the United States, the Children's Health Act of 2000 authorized the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to create the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network.

The ADDM Network is a group of programs funded by CDC to determine the number of people with ASDs in the United States. Currently, there are twelve ADDM Network sites and each site collects data using the same surveillance methods, which are modeled after CDC's Metropolitan Atlanta Developmental Disabilities Surveillance Program (MADDSP).

By studying the number of people diagnosed with an ASD over time, we can find out if the number is rising, dropping, or staying the same. We can also compare the number of children with ASDs in different areas of the country and different groups of people. This information can help us look for causes of ASDs and helps communities plan for services.

ADDM's goals are to:

- Provide data about how common ASDs are in a specific place and time period,
- Describe the population of children with ASDs,
- Compare how common ASDs are in different groups of children and different areas of the country,
- Identify changes in ASD occurrence over time, and
- Understand the impact of autism and related conditions in US communities.

