

Missouri

Tracking Autism Spectrum Disorder and Other Developmental Disabilities in Missouri:

What You Need To Know

A Snapshot of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Missouri

The following estimates are based on information collected from the health records of children who were 8 years old and living in one of five counties in 2010 (see sidebar). Overall, the Missouri Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Project (MO-ADDM) identified 359 children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), including children with and without a diagnosis documented in their records.

How many children were identified with ASD?

1 in 70 children (or 14.2 per 1,000 8-year-olds) was identified with ASD. This estimate is very similar to the average estimate of children identified with ASD (1 in 68) in all areas of the United States where CDC tracks ASD.

Which children were more likely to be identified with ASD?

Boys were almost 5 times more likely to be identified with ASD than girls.

- ❑ 1 in 43 boys was identified with ASD.
- ❑ 1 in 200 girls was identified with ASD.

White children were more likely to be identified with ASD than black children¹.

- ❑ 1 in 73 white children was identified with ASD.
- ❑ 1 in 119 black children was identified with ASD.
- ❑ 1 in 81 Hispanic children was identified with ASD.
- ❑ 1 in 118 Asian or Pacific Islander children was identified with ASD.

When were children first evaluated for developmental concerns?

54% of children identified with ASD were evaluated for developmental concerns by the time they were 3 years old.

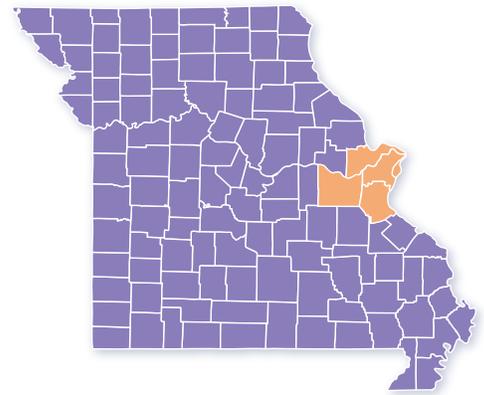
When were children first diagnosed with ASD by a community provider²?

On average, children were diagnosed at age 3 years and 10 months, even though children can be diagnosed as early as age 2 years. When looking at age of first diagnosis by subtype, on average, children were diagnosed with:

- ❑ Autistic disorder at age 4 years and 11 months.
- ❑ Pervasive developmental disorder-not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS) at age 3 years and 3 months.
- ❑ Asperger disorder at age 6 years and 3 months.

How many children had an eligibility for autism special education services at school or had an ASD diagnosis?

88% of children either had an eligibility for autism special education services at school or had an ASD diagnosis. The remaining 12% of children identified with ASD had documented symptoms of ASD, but had not yet been classified as having ASD by a community provider.



Site Information

Tracking area: Franklin, Jefferson, St. Charles, St. Louis, and St. Louis City counties

Children in tracking area: 25,367 8-year-old children, of whom about 67% were white, 25% were black, 4% were Hispanic, and 3% were Asian or Pacific Islander



More is understood about ASD than ever before,
but there is an urgent need to continue the search for
answers and provide help for people living with ASD.

Public Health Action

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funds programs to track the number and characteristics of children with ASD and other developmental disabilities, as part of the CDC's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network. The Missouri Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Project (MO-ADDM) was established in 2003 as an ADDM Network site in collaboration with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and investigators from the School of Medicine at Washington University in St. Louis. MO-ADDM partners with state and local agencies and organizations that serve children with developmental disabilities and their families to track the number of 4-year-old and 8-year old children with ASD, cerebral palsy, or both in select areas of Missouri. This program also contributes information on the characteristics of children with ASD and on factors that put children at risk for this condition. MO-ADDM data can be used to promote early identification, plan for training and service needs, guide research, and inform policy so that children and families in our community get the help they need.

Training and Education on Autism Spectrum Disorder

The leadership of MO-ADDM is engaged in a broad range of autism-related public health, research, and clinical activities that encompass regular efforts to appraise clinicians, educators, families, and other stakeholders, as well as the general public, on new scientific developments including epidemiology, best practices for early intervention, clinical care, and education of children affected by ASD. MO-ADDM investigators are also involved in the training of physicians in the fields of pediatrics, child neurology, and child psychiatry.

For more information about MO-ADDM, please contact:

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Access Resources and Help Connect Families to Services and Supports in Missouri

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Web: <http://dese.mo.gov/>

First Steps

Phone: 1-866-583-2392

Missouri Families for Effective Autism Treatment

Web: [www.mo-feat.org/index.
htm](http://www.mo-feat.org/index.htm)

Missouri Department of Mental Health's Division of Developmental Disabilities

Web: <http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/>

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

Web: www.cdc.gov/ActEarly

¹. Due to small numbers of children, we are unable to detect statistical differences between certain racial and ethnic groups.

². This information is based on children who had a diagnosis from a community provider documented in their records. Because the diagnoses were made in 2010 or earlier, they reflect DSM-IV-TR subtypes. This excludes children whose only ASD classification was an ICD-9 billing code or an eligibility for autism special education services.