

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

- Since its start in 2000, the ADDM Network has included programs in 15 states—Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, 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 ASDs 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.**



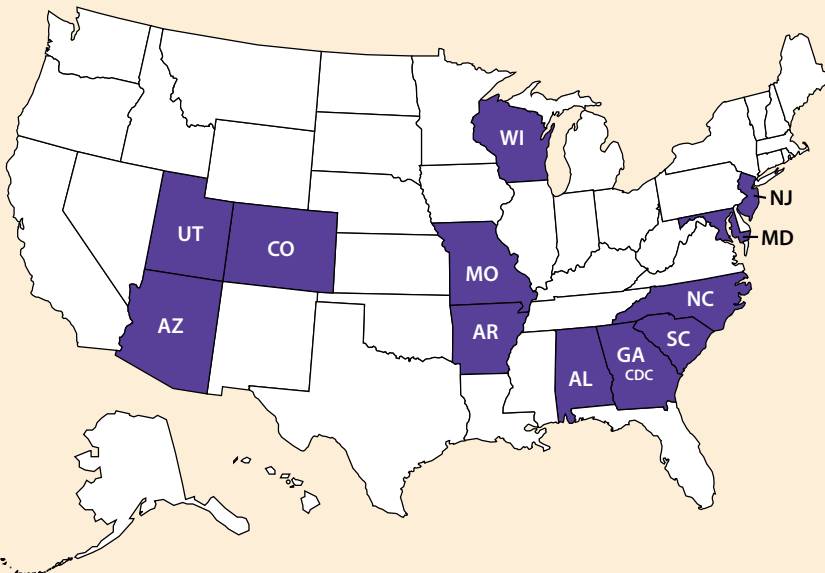
Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network

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 ASDs 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.

CDC-funded Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network Sites, 2010–2014



ADDM Network 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 prevalence over time, and
- Understand the impact of autism and related conditions in US communities.

National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities
Division of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities



Advancing Our Understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorders

CDC's most recent ADDM Network data show that between 1 in 80 and 1 in 240 children, with an average of 1 in 110 has an ASD.

The sites that participated in the earlier 2002 study year observed an increase in identified ASD prevalence ranging from 27 percent to 95 percent, with an average increase of 57 percent from 2002 to 2006.

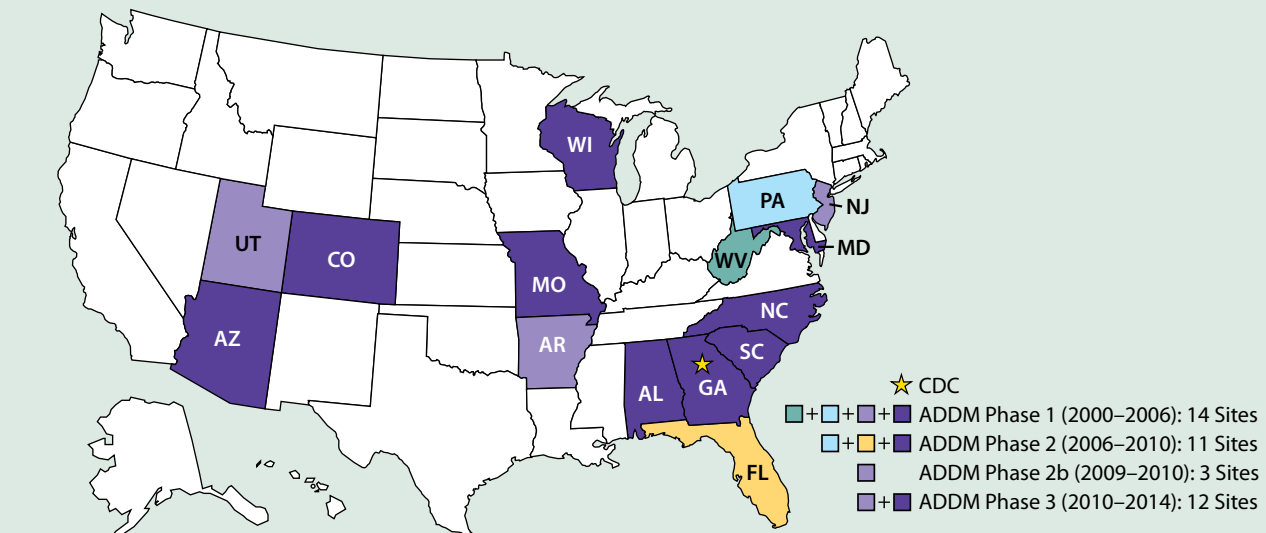
Data are based on health and education records from reporting communities, which includes eight percent of the U.S. population of eight year olds. All children in the studies were eight years old because previous research has shown that most children with ASDs have been identified by this age for services.

In 2006:

- The number of children with ASDs diagnosis was higher among boys than among girls, ranging from more than three to more than six boys for every girl with an ASD.
 - » Boys: 7.3 per 1,000 (Florida) to 19.3 per 1,000 (Missouri)
 - » Girls: 1.0 per 1,000 (Florida) to 4.9 per 1,000 (Arizona)
- The number of children with ASDs among white non-Hispanic children ranged from 3.4 per 1,000 (Florida) to 14.8 per 1,000 (Arizona). For black non-Hispanic children, the range was 1.6 per 1,000 (Florida) to 12.9 per 1,000 (Arizona). Among Hispanic children, the range 0.6 per 1,000 (Alabama) to 8.3 per 1,000 (Arizona).
- The median age of earliest ASD diagnosis ranged from three years, five months (Florida) to five years (Colorado). But for more than half of children with an ASD, developmental concerns had been recorded before three years of age.

The combined data from the various ADDM Network sites can 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 that can increase public awareness that will lead to improvements in how individuals with ASDs are identified and receive appropriate interventions.

CDC-funded Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network Sites, 2000–2014



For more information on CDC's ASD activities, visit www.cdc.gov/autism.

National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities

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