



## Missouri Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Project

### **The Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network (ADDM Network).**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is now funding researchers in many states, including Missouri, to develop programs to monitor the prevalence of autism spectrum disorders. 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. For more information please see: [www.cdc.gov/autism](http://www.cdc.gov/autism)

**The Missouri Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Project (MO ADDM)** is a multiple-source surveillance project designed to determine and monitor the number of 8 year-old children with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD), cerebral palsy (CP), and co-existing epilepsy among children with ASD and/or CP. The goal of this project is to generate accurate population-based prevalence estimates of ASD and CP (CP added for the 2006 study year) among 8 year-old children in 2002, 2004, and 2006 living in the metropolitan St. Louis area. The investigators are members of the School of Medicine at Washington University. MO ADDM is a joint undertaking with the CDC and other state partners, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and many other agencies and organizations that serve children with ASD and their families.

### **What parts of Missouri are included in MO ADDM?**

The project includes 5 counties in the St. Louis metropolitan area: St. Louis, St. Louis City, St. Charles, Franklin, and Jefferson. There are approximately 26,000 live births/year in our study area

**How many people 3-21 years of age are classified as having autism by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)?** For the 2001-2002 school year, MO DESE reported serving 2,051 students with autism. In 2001-2002, 841 students were identified by the schools as having autism in our 5-county study area.

### **How common are autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) among children who live in Missouri?**

Data available from MO-ADDM from the 2002 study year found that 7.3 per 1,000 children had an ASD. This resulted in 205 eight year old children being identified with an ASD within the Missouri study area.

### **What kinds of education and training programs will the project offer to people who work with children who have ASDs?**

MO ADDM investigators will offer lectures at the two main children's hospitals in the area on diagnostic criteria for ASDs as well as early signs and symptoms. Investigators will also work with other stakeholders in MO to develop educational programs for therapists and special education teachers.

### **What are some of the other programs in Missouri that work with children with ASDs and their families?**

The Missouri Department of Mental Health-Division of Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities (MR/DD) [www.dmh.missouri.gov/mrdd/progs/index.htm](http://www.dmh.missouri.gov/mrdd/progs/index.htm) coordinates ASD related services in MO.

**Do any laws or statutes in Missouri have to do with identifying children with ASD?** Not at this time.

### **Do study staff work with any other monitoring programs in the state?**

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services runs surveillance programs for other acute and chronic disorders.

### **For further information, please contact:**

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