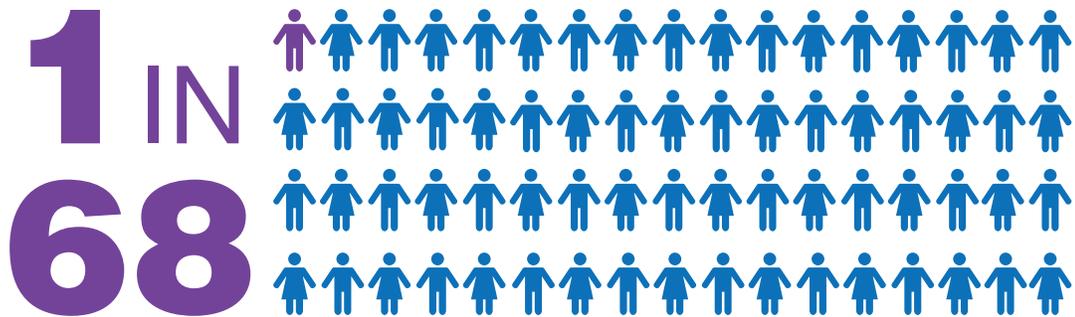


Key Findings from the ADDM Network: A Snapshot of Autism Spectrum Disorder

Data from the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network help us understand more about the number of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), the characteristics of those children, and the age at which they are first evaluated and diagnosed. Read on to learn more about ASD across the ADDM Network.

How many children were identified with ASD?

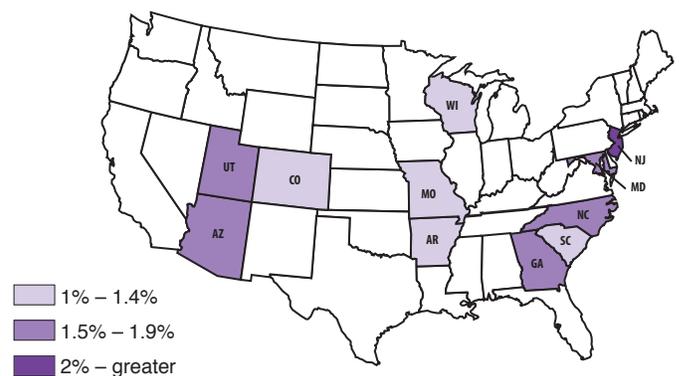
About 1 in 68 or 1.5% of 8-year-olds were identified with ASD by the ADDM Network.



How did the percentage of children identified with ASD range across geographic areas?

The percentage of children identified with ASD ranged widely across geographic areas.

For example, in the areas where the ADDM Network reviewed both health and special education records, the percentage of children who were identified with ASD ranged from a low of 1 in 81 or 1.2% in areas of South Carolina to a high of 1 in 41 or 2.5% in areas of New Jersey.



Which children were more likely to be identified with ASD?

Boys were 4.5 times more likely to be identified with ASD than girls.



White children were more likely to be identified with ASD than black or Hispanic children. Black children were more likely to be identified with ASD than Hispanic children.

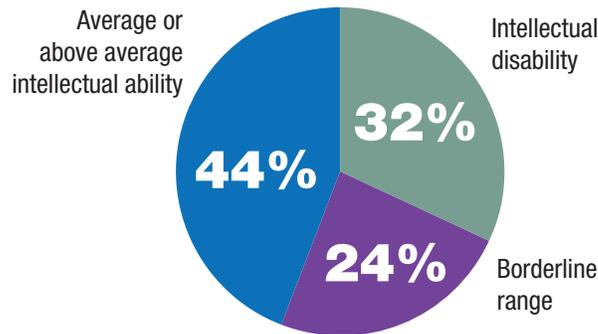
1.2x MORE LIKELY among white vs black children

1.5x MORE LIKELY among white vs Hispanic children

1.3x MORE LIKELY among black vs Hispanic children

What was the intellectual ability of the children identified with ASD?

Among children identified with ASD who had IQ scores available, about a third also had intellectual disability.



* Based on information from the 9 ADDM Network sites that had intelligence quotient (IQ) scores available for at least 70% of children identified with ASD. Intellectual disability defined as IQ score ≤ 70 .

When were children evaluated and diagnosed?



- About 43% of children identified with ASD were evaluated for developmental concerns by age 3 years. This percentage is lower than the goal set by Healthy People 2020 that 47% of children with ASD have a first evaluation by age 3 years.
- Black and Hispanic children were less likely to be evaluated for developmental concerns by age 3 years than white children.



- Even though ASD can be diagnosed as early as age 2 years, most children were not diagnosed with ASD by a community provider until after age 4 years.

ASD Subtype	Median* Age of Diagnosis
Autistic disorder	3 years, 10 months
Pervasive developmental disorder-not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS)	4 years, 1 month
Asperger disorder	6 years, 2 months

* Median is the number in the "middle" within a sorted list of number from highest to lowest.



- About 82% of children identified with ASD either had an
 - Eligibility for autism-specific services within the special education program at school, or
 - ASD diagnosis from a community provider.
- The remaining 18% of children were identified as having ASD by the ADDM Network based on ASD symptoms documented in their health and/or special education records, but had not yet been recognized by a community provider as having ASD.

What role do schools play in the identification of children with ASD?

- A greater percentage of children were identified with ASD when combining all ADDM Network sites that reviewed both health and special education records than when combining all ADDM Network sites that reviewed only health records.
- ADDM Network data continue to highlight the pivotal role schools play in evaluating and serving children with ASD.

Health-Only Sites



= 1 in 93 (or 1.1%)

Health and Special Education Sites



= 1 in 58 (or 1.7%)