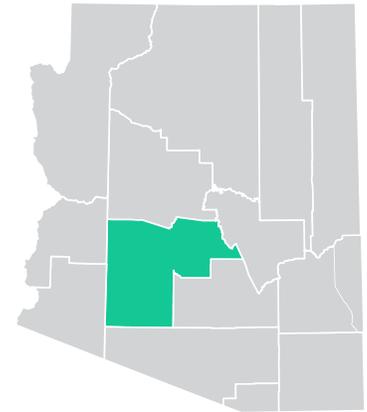


A Snapshot of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Arizona

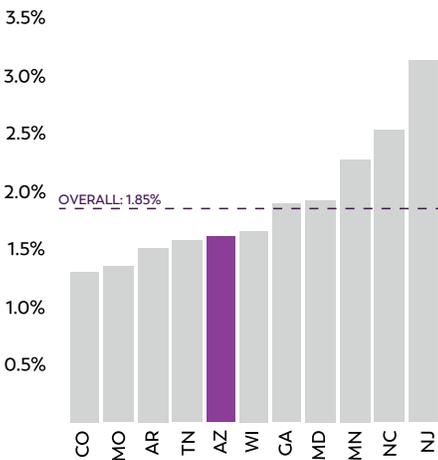
Findings from the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Surveillance Program (ADDSP) help increase understanding about the number of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), the characteristics of those children, and the age at which they are first evaluated and diagnosed.



■ SITE TRACKING AREA

1 in 63

Or 1.6% of 8-year-old children in an area of Arizona were identified with ASD by ADDSP in 2016



This percentage is lower than the average percentage identified with ASD (1.85%) in 2016 in all communities in the United States where CDC tracked ASD in 2016.

By 57 months

Half of children identified with ASD were diagnosed

White children were 1.5x more likely

To be identified with ASD than Hispanic or black children



Values indicate prevalence per 1,000 children

Boys were 4.2x

More likely to be identified with ASD than girls



38% of children

Identified with ASD received a Comprehensive Developmental Evaluation by age 3 years



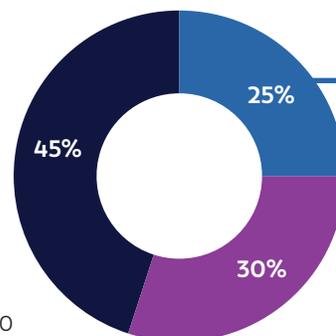
68% of children

Identified with ASD had a documented ASD diagnosis



IQ data available for 91%

Of children identified with ASD by ADDSP



25% had Intellectual Disability

IQ = Intelligence Quotient
Intellectual disability = IQ ≤ 70

What are the key take-away messages?

- More children with average or above-average intelligence are being identified with ASD since ADDSP began tracking in 2000.
- White children were more likely to be identified with ASD than black or Hispanic children. This may reflect cultural or socioeconomic and/or differences in access to diagnostic and therapeutic services.
- Although Hispanic children are less likely to be identified with ASD compared to non-Hispanic children in Arizona, this difference has been decreasing over the years.
- Differences between the percentage of boys and girls identified with ASD continue; a better understanding of sex differences may also lead to the development of more effective screening tools for ASD in boys and girls.

How can this information be useful?

ADDSP's latest findings can be used to:

- Promote early identification of ASD;
- Plan for the service needs of individuals with ASD and provide trainings related to ASD for healthcare providers and families;
- Guide ASD research;
- Inform policies that promote improved outcomes in health care and education for individuals with ASD;
- Identify cultural, educational, and economic barriers to decreasing the age of evaluation and diagnosis;
- Improve screening tools to increase accuracy of the screening test result for ASD;
- Improve collaborations across the ASD community among providers, researchers, and families; and
- Increase awareness of associated behavioral, cognitive, and/or physical features in children with autism.

Where was this information collected?

Information was collected from health and education records of children who were 8 years old and living in part of Maricopa County in metropolitan Phoenix in 2016.

8-year-old children in tracking area: 17,656

- 45% white
- 7% black
- 41% Hispanic
- 4% Asian or Pacific Islander
- 3% other

What else does ADDSP do?

ADDSP collaborates with the Arizona Department of Health Services and investigators from the University of Arizona to track the percentage and characteristics of 4-year-olds and 8-year-olds with ASD and/or intellectual disability. ADDSP also provides extensive ASD- and developmental disabilities-related outreach and training of students, parents, educators, and clinicians. Further, ADDSP data help guide ASD research in the public health community.

“CDC’s ADDM Network provides a crucial understanding of the characteristics about the growing number of individuals identified with ASD in multiple areas of the United States. The information obtained by the Network has provided the data necessary to create collaborations with different providers who address the needs of the autism community across their lifespan.”

JENNIFER ANDREWS, PhD, University of Arizona

Resources

ARIZONA AUTISM COALITION

www.azautism.org

ARIZONA EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

602-542-4446

<https://des.az.gov/services/disabilities/developmental-infant>

AZ FIND

800-352-4558

www.azed.gov/special-education/az-find/

AZA UNITED

602-773-5773

www.azaunited.org/

CDC'S LEARN THE SIGNS. ACT EARLY.

Megan Wills

Arizona's Act Early Ambassador

Mwills@blake.easterseals.com

RAISING SPECIAL KIDS

602-242-4366

www.raisingpecialkids.org/

SOUTHWEST AUTISM RESEARCH AND RESOURCE CENTER (SARRC)

602-340-8717

www.autismcenter.org

AUTISM SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA

520-770-1541

info@as-az.org

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