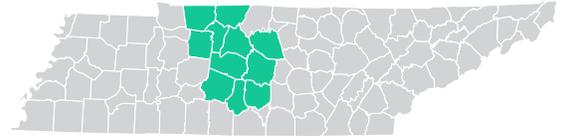


# A Snapshot of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Tennessee

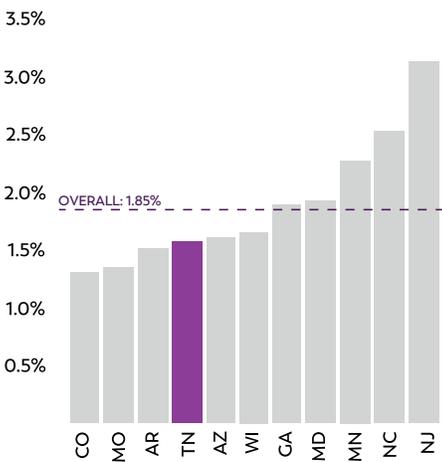
Findings from the Tennessee Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network (TN-ADDM) help increase understanding about the number of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), the characteristics of those children, and the age at which they are first evaluated and diagnosed.



■ SITE TRACKING AREA

## 1 in 64

Or 1.6% of 8-year-old children in an area of Tennessee were identified with ASD by TN-ADDM in 2016



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

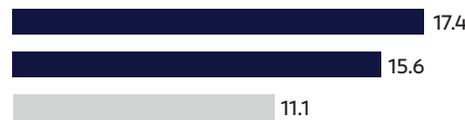
## Boys were 4.6x

More likely to be identified with ASD than girls



## White children were 1.4x more likely and black children were 1.6 times more likely

To be identified with ASD than Hispanic children



Values indicate prevalence per 1,000 children. No significant differences in ASD prevalence were found between white and black children.

## By 51 months

Half of children identified with ASD were diagnosed

## 36% of children

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



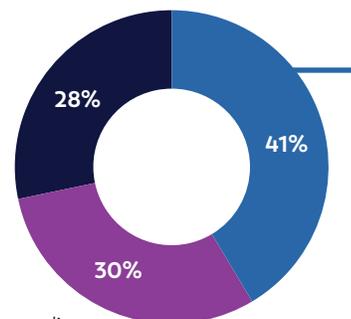
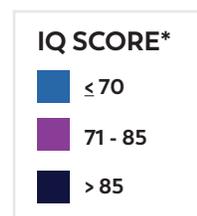
## 76% of children

Identified with ASD had a documented ASD diagnosis



## IQ data available for 77%

Of children identified with ASD by TN-ADDM



41% had Intellectual Disability

IQ = Intelligence Quotient  
Intellectual disability = IQ ≤ 70  
\*Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding

## What are the key take-away messages in TN?

- There are many children with ASD who need services and support. The number of children identified with ASD in Tennessee increased from 1 in 68 (1.5%) in 2014 to 1 in 64 (1.6%) in 2016.
- Children with ASD in Tennessee have a wide range of abilities and challenges (such as 41% with IQ 70 or below).
- Most children with ASD in Tennessee (64%) are not evaluated prior to 3 years of age.
- The median age of diagnosis for children in Tennessee was 51 months of age.
- Hispanic children were less likely to be identified with ASD than black or white children. This may reflect differences related to lack of access to services, socioeconomic status, and cultural factors.

## How can this information be useful?

TN-ADDM's findings can be used to:

- Inform policies that promote earlier identification of ASD;
- Plan for the service needs of individuals with ASD and provide trainings related to ASD for healthcare providers and families; and
- Increase awareness of ASD among traditionally underserved families.

Stakeholders in Tennessee might consider different ways to:

- Lower the age of first evaluation by community providers.
- Increase awareness of ASD among Hispanic families and identify and address barriers in order to decrease the age at which all children are evaluated and diagnosed.

## How and where was this information collected?

This information is based on the analysis of data collected from the health and special education records of children who were 8 years old and living in one of 11 counties in Middle Tennessee in 2016.

### Tracking area

Bedford, Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Marshall, Maury, Montgomery, Rutherford, Robertson, Williamson, and Wilson counties

### 8-year-old children in tracking area: 25,839

- 63% white
- 20% black
- 14% Hispanic
- 3% Asian or Pacific Islander

## Resources

### VANDERBILT KENNEDY CENTER (VKC)

[vkc.vumc.org](http://vkc.vumc.org)

### TREATMENT AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (TRIAD)

[triad.vumc.org](http://triad.vumc.org)

### TENNESSEE DISABILITY PATHFINDER

1-800-640-4636

[www.disabilitypathfinder.org](http://www.disabilitypathfinder.org)

### TENNESSEE EARLY INTERVENTION SYSTEM

1-800-852-7157

[www.tn.gov/education/early-learning/tennessee-early-intervention-system-teis.html](http://www.tn.gov/education/early-learning/tennessee-early-intervention-system-teis.html)

### AUTISM TENNESSEE

615-385-2077

<https://autismtennessee.wildapricot.org/>

### CDC'S LEARN THE SIGNS. ACT EARLY.

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html>

### CONNECT WITH TN-ADDM

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