

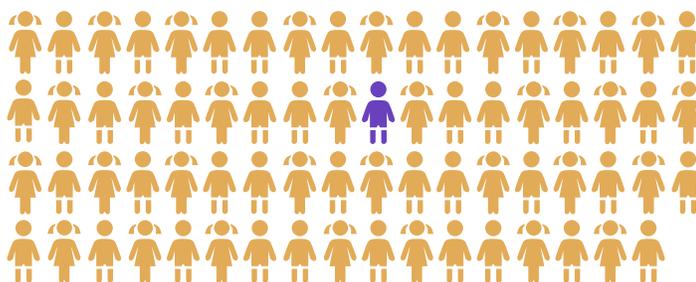
A Snapshot of Autism Spectrum Disorder in

Wisconsin



Findings from the Wisconsin Surveillance of Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities System (WISADDS) help us to 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.

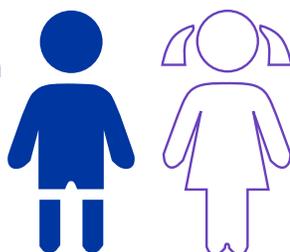
1.4%
is lower than
the average percentage
identified with ASD in 2014
1.7% in all ADDM sites



1 in 71
8-year-old children
were identified with ASD
by WISADDS in 2014

Disparities in Identification

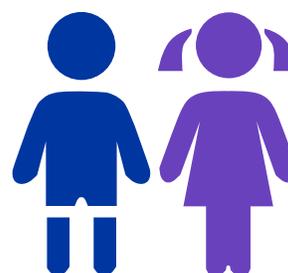
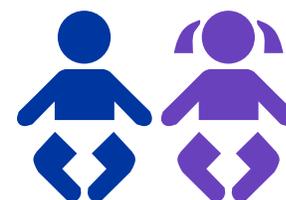
Boys were 3.4 times more likely to be identified with ASD than girls.



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

Age of Diagnosis

ASD can be diagnosed as early as 2 years of age.



However, about half of children were not diagnosed with ASD by a community provider until after 4 years, 3 months of age. About 28% of children with ASD had not received a formal diagnosis of ASD by 8 years of age.

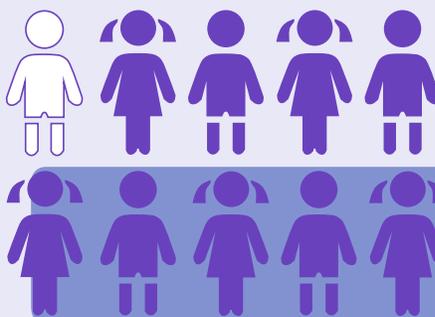


For the first time in 2014, WISADDS, along with all ADDM sites, was able to determine ASD case status under both pre-2013 diagnostic criteria outlined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th Edition (DSM-IV) and the newer DSM-5 diagnostic criteria for ASD.

Among children meeting criteria for ASD under DSM-IV, more than **90% also met criteria for ASD under DSM-5.**

Of children identified with ASD...

...about 90%
had developmental concerns
by 3 years of age.



...but only about 47%
received a comprehensive developmental
evaluation by 3 years of age.

Wisconsin

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the key take-away messages?

- The percentage of children with ASD increased in southeastern Wisconsin from about 1.1 percent in 2012 to about 1.4 percent in 2014.
- Hispanic and black children were less likely to be identified with ASD than white children. This may reflect cultural and/or socioeconomic differences, such as delayed or lack of access to services, as compared to white children in Wisconsin.
- Despite the developmental concerns noted in many of the children's records by 3 years of age, less than half of children identified with ASD received a comprehensive developmental evaluation by this same age. The lag between first concern and first developmental evaluation may affect when children are being diagnosed and connected to the services they need.
- Efforts may be directed toward early developmental screening of all children so those who have ASD can be identified early and connected to the services they need.

How can this information be useful?

WISADDS' latest findings can be used to

- Promote early identification of ASD,
- Plan for ASD services and training,
- Guide future ASD research, and
- Inform policies promoting improved outcomes in health care and education for individuals with ASD.

Stakeholders in Wisconsin might consider different ways to

- Increase awareness of developmental monitoring and empower parents to act if there is a concern about their child's development.
- Lower the age of first evaluation by community providers.
- Increase awareness of ASD among Hispanic and black families, 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?

WISADDS uses a record review method. This information is based on the analysis of data collected from the health and education records of children who were 8 years old and living in one of 10 counties in southeastern Wisconsin in 2014.

- Tracking area: Dane, Green, Jefferson, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Walworth, and Waukesha counties
- Children in tracking area: 35,037 8-year-olds
 - 59 percent white
 - 19 percent black
 - 18 percent Hispanic
 - 4 percent Asian or Pacific Islander
 - Less than 1 percent American Indian or Alaska Native

What else does WISADDS do besides tracking ASD among 8-year-olds?

WISADDS collaborates with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and investigators from the University of Wisconsin-Madison to track the number and characteristics of 8-year-olds with ASD, cerebral palsy, and/or intellectual disability. WISADDS also tracks the number and characteristics of 4-year-olds with ASD. WISADDS facilitates training and provides access to materials related to developmental disabilities for professionals.

Get Resources and Connect Families to Services and Support in **Wisconsin**

Autism Society of Wisconsin

1-888-4-AUTISM
www.asw4autism.org

Birth to Three Program, Wisconsin Department of Health Services

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3/index.htm

Finding Your Way

www.waisman.wisc.edu/cedd/pdfs/products/community/FYW_e.pdf

CDC's Learn the Signs. Act Early.

www.ActEarly.wisc.edu
Gail Chodron, Wisconsin's Act Early Ambassador
608-890-0145
chodron@wisc.edu

Wisconsin First Step

1-800-642-7837
www.mch-hotlines.org/wisconsin-first-step

Connect with WISADDS

Maureen Durkin, PhD, DrPH
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Waisman Center
1500 Highland Ave, Room s101E
608-263-7507
maureen.durkin@wisc.edu

"It has been incredibly helpful to have WISADDS data as we work with partners in state government and the Wisconsin legislature to develop, implement and advocate for policies to support families, children, and adults with disabilities. These data have informed our work to improve access to evaluation and treatment services and ensure comprehensive medical and long-term supports for children with autism and other developmental disabilities."

- Elizabeth Hecht
Co-Director, Family Voices of Wisconsin