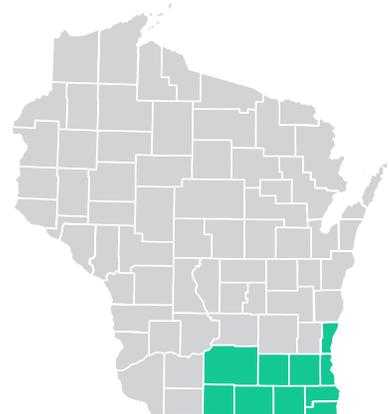


A Snapshot of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Wisconsin

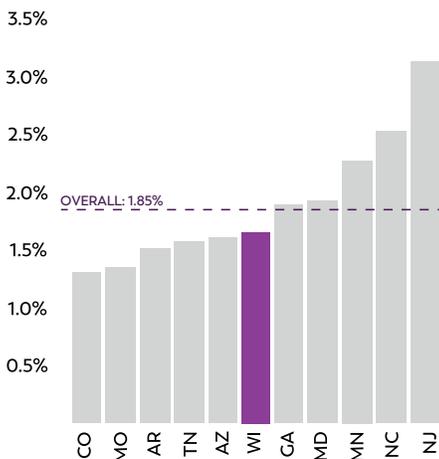
Findings from the Wisconsin Surveillance of Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities System (WISADDS) help increase understanding about the number of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), the characteristics of those children, and the age at which they are first evaluated and diagnosed.



■ SITE TRACKING AREA

1 in 60

Or 1.7% of 8-year-old children in an area of Wisconsin were identified with ASD by WISADDS in 2016



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

Boys were 4.2x

More likely to be identified with ASD than girls.



White children were 1.2x more likely

To be identified with ASD than black children



And 1.1x more likely Than Hispanic children



Values indicate prevalence per 1,000 children

By 49 months

Half of children identified with ASD were diagnosed

50% of children

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



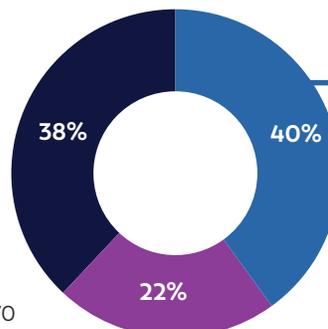
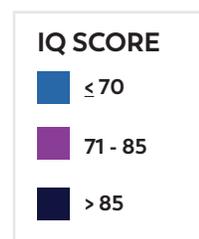
81% of children

Identified with ASD had a documented ASD diagnosis



IQ data available for 65%

Of children identified with ASD by WISADDS



40% had Intellectual Disability

IQ = Intelligence Quotient
Intellectual disability = IQ ≤ 70

What are the key take-away messages?

- The percentage of children with ASD in southeastern Wisconsin increased from about 1.4% in 2014 to about 1.7% in 2016.
- Outreach to Hispanic and black communities is needed to ensure timely access to autism-related services.
- Half of children identified with ASD received a comprehensive developmental evaluation by age 3 years, suggesting that many children aren't receiving services as early as possible.

How can this information be useful?

WISADDS' 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 future ASD research; and
- Inform policies promoting access to health care and education for individuals with ASD and improved outcomes across the lifespan.

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; and
- Increase awareness of ASD among Hispanic and black families and identify and address barriers to evaluation and diagnosis in order to decrease the age at which Hispanic children are evaluated and diagnosed.

How and where was this information collected?

WISADDS uses a record review method. Specifically, 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 2016.

Tracking area

Dane, Green, Jefferson, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Walworth, and Waukesha counties

8-year-old children in tracking area: 35,034

- 58% white
- 19% black
- 18% Hispanic
- 5% Asian or Pacific Islander

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

WISADDS collaborates with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and investigators from the University of Wisconsin-Madison to describe 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.

"We have the opportunity to work with a lot of different people in the communities we serve. Being able to use WISADDS data to inform parents, educators, medical personnel, social workers, and more helps us deliver trusted, accurate information that everyone can understand. Recently we have been meeting with teams around early identification and screening. The information about when something was noticed and when something was diagnosed helps our teams figure out where the gaps are in the system of care."

TIM MARKLE, Director of the Southern Regional Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs, Wisconsin

Resources

AUTISM SOCIETY OF GREATER WISCONSIN

Information and support for families/providers

1-888-4-AUTISM

www.autismgreaterwi.org/

BIRTH TO THREE PROGRAM, WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Services for children under the age of 3 years with developmental delays or disabilities

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

FINDING YOUR WAY

Guide for Wisconsin families who have children and youth with special needs and disabilities

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

LEARN THE SIGNS. ACT EARLY.

Resources for families and professionals on child development and what to do if there is a concern

Kris Barnekow

Wisconsin's Act Early Ambassador
414-229-7151

[krisb@uwm.edu/](mailto:krisb@uwm.edu)

WELL BADGER RESOURCE CENTER

Information and referral hotline for families/providers working with children and youth with special needs:

Maternal and Child Health and First Step Resource line at 800-642-7837

<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/mch/well-badger.htm>

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