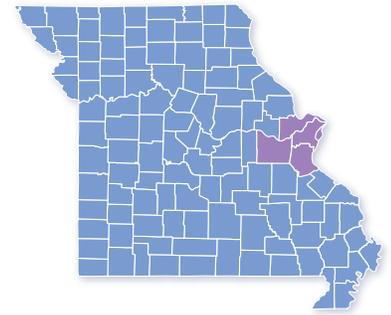
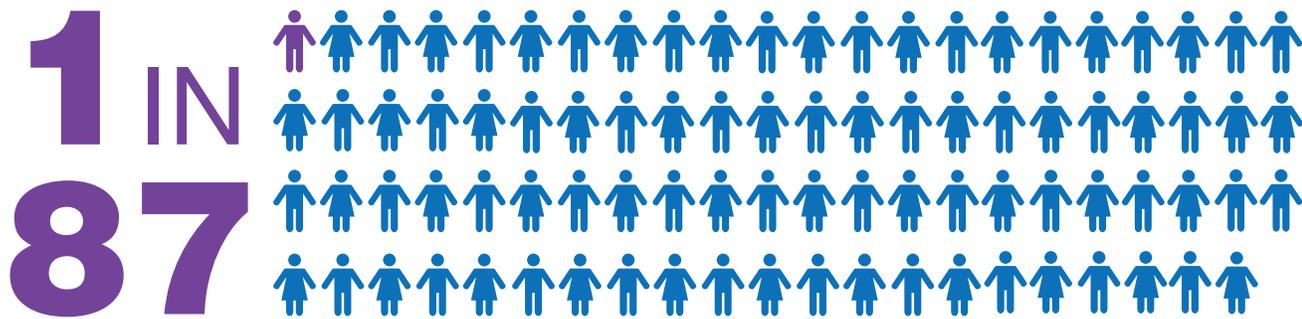


A Snapshot of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Missouri



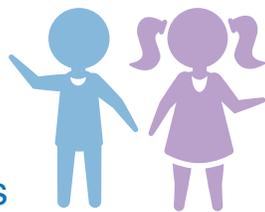
Findings from the Missouri Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (MO-ADDM) Project help us understand more about the number of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), the characteristics of those children, and the age at which they are first evaluated and diagnosed. Read on to learn more about ASD in Missouri and how this important information can be useful to you.

About 1 in 87 or 1.2% of 8-year-old children were identified with ASD by MO-ADDM in 2012. This percentage is lower than the average percentage identified with ASD (1.5%) in all communities in the United States where CDC tracked ASD in 2012.



Boys were more likely to be identified with ASD than girls. No significant differences were found in the percentage of white, black, and Hispanic children identified with ASD.

5x
MORE LIKELY
among boys vs girls



About 83% of children identified with ASD had concerns about their development noted in their health records by age 3 years.



About 41% of children identified with ASD received a comprehensive developmental evaluation by age 3 years.



Even though ASD can be diagnosed as early as age 2 years, about half of children were not diagnosed with ASD by a community provider until after age 4 years and 10 months. The table includes median ages of first diagnosis by subtype.

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

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

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the key take-away messages?

- Many children are living with ASD who need services and support, now and as they grow into adolescence and adulthood.
- Differences between the percentage of boys and girls identified with ASD continue. It may be that boys are at greater risk for ASD and/or it may be that girls are under-identified due to other factors, such as how providers diagnose and document ASD symptoms among boys versus girls.
- Despite the developmental concerns noted in many of the children's records by age 3 years, 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.

How can this information be useful?

MO-ADDM's 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 Missouri might consider different ways to lower the age of first evaluation by community providers.

How and where was this information collected?

This information is based on the analysis of data collected from the health records of children who were 8 years old and living in one of 5 counties (Franklin, Jefferson, St. Charles, St. Louis, St. Louis City) in Missouri in 2012. Overall, the tracking area included 25,870 8-year-olds (67% white, 25% black, 4% Hispanic, 4% Asian or Pacific Islander, less than 1% American Indian or Alaska Native).

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

MO-ADDM collaborates with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and investigators from Washington University in St. Louis to track the number and characteristics of 8-year-olds with ASD and/or cerebral palsy. MO-ADDM also tracks the number and characteristics of 4-year-olds with ASD. In addition, MO-ADDM conducts various ASD-related public health, research, and clinical activities to inform various stakeholders (such as clinicians, educators, and families) on the latest science around ASD, best practices for early intervention, and clinical care for children with ASD.

“In St. Louis County, MO-ADDM is linking the opportunity to contribute to epidemiologic surveillance with the provision of services for young, ASD-affected children. This effort creates the dual opportunity to monitor the prevalence of early-diagnosed cases and track children's progress as a function of the interventions they receive.”

-Donald McCary

Director of Special Education, St. Louis County Special School District

Get Resources and Connect Families to Services and Support in Missouri

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Office of Special Education

573-751-5739

dese.mo.gov/special-education

Department of Mental Health's Division of Developmental Disabilities

dmh.mo.gov/dd/

First Steps

1-866-583-2392

www.mofirststeps.com/

Missouri Families for Effective Autism Treatment

877-275-8988

www.mo-feat.org/

Navigating Autism Services

dmh.mo.gov/dd/autism/docs/navigationguide.pdf

Connect with MO-ADDM

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