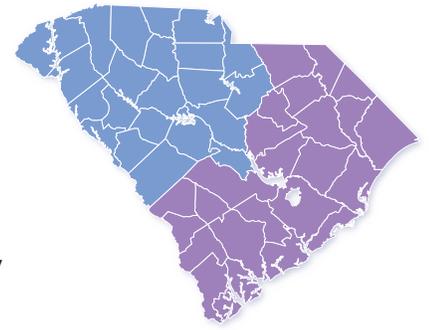
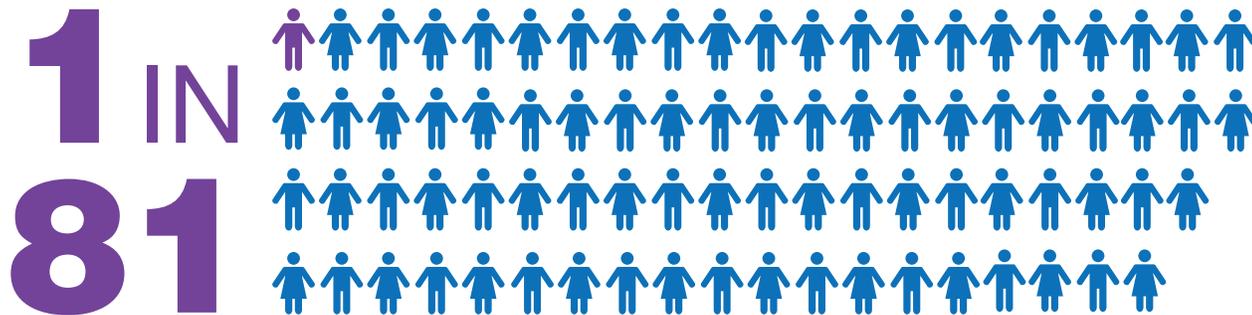


A Snapshot of Autism Spectrum Disorder in South Carolina



Findings from the South Carolina Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (SC-ADDM) Program 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 South Carolina and how this important information can be useful to you.

About 1 in 81 or 1.2% of 8-year-old children were identified with ASD by SC-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.



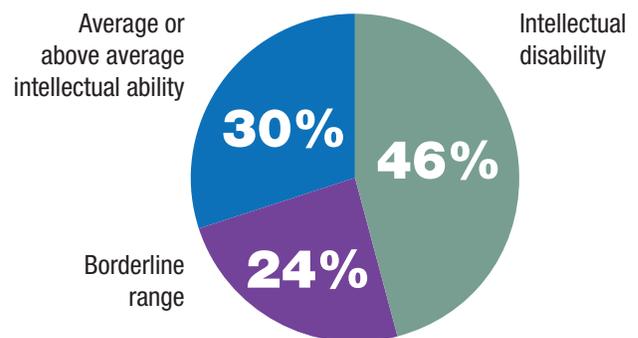
Boys were more likely to be identified with ASD than girls. White children were more likely to be identified with ASD than Hispanic children.

4.3x MORE LIKELY among boys vs girls

1.9x MORE LIKELY among white vs Hispanic children

* No significant differences between white and black children or black and Hispanic children

Among children identified with ASD who had IQ scores available, almost half also had intellectual disability.



* Intelligence quotient (IQ) scores available for at least 70% of children identified with ASD by SC-ADDM. Intellectual disability defined as IQ score ≤ 70 .



About 92% of children identified with ASD had concerns about their development noted in their health and/or education records by age 3 years.



About 39% 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.

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.
- Hispanic children are 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 other groups in South Carolina.
- 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?

SC-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 South Carolina 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 Hispanic 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 23 counties (Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Orangeburg, Sumter, Williamsburg) in 2012. Overall, the tracking area included 24,356 eight-year-olds (51% white, 38% black, 8% Hispanic, 2% Asian or Pacific Islander, less than 1% American Indian or Alaska Native).

What else did SC-ADDM do besides tracking ASD among 8-year-olds?

SC-ADDM collaborated with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and investigators from the Medical University of South Carolina to track the number and characteristics of 4-year-olds and 8-year-olds with ASD and/or intellectual disability. SC-ADDM presented programs and hosted conferences for healthcare providers, educators, and the community to increase awareness, screening, diagnosis, and early intervention efforts.

“Adequate planning for intervention and related services can only be accomplished if there are sufficient data to indicate the extent of the disability. SC-ADDM has provided, and will continue to provide, valuable information to policymakers, state agency personnel, disability advocates, and family members in South Carolina.”

-Beverly McCarty

Executive Director Family Resource Center for Disabilities and Special Needs

Get Resources and Connect Families to Services and Support in South Carolina

BabyNet

877-621-0865

scfirststeps.com/babynet/

Family Resource Center for Disabilities and Special Needs

843-266-1348

frc@frcdsn.org

South Carolina Autism Society

www.scautism.org

South Carolina Department of Education

801-538-7587

ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/special-education-services/

South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

803-898-9600

www.ddsn.sc.gov

Connect with SC-ADDM

Walter Jenner, MS, CAS

Charleston, SC 29425

843-532-4992

jennerw@musc.edu