

# CDC's Study to Explore Early Development

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is CADDRE?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has established regional centers of excellence for autism and other developmental disabilities. These centers make up the Centers for Autism and Developmental Disabilities Research and Epidemiology (CADDRE) Network. Currently, the CADDRE Network is working on the Study to Explore Early Development (SEED).

### Where are the SEED sites?

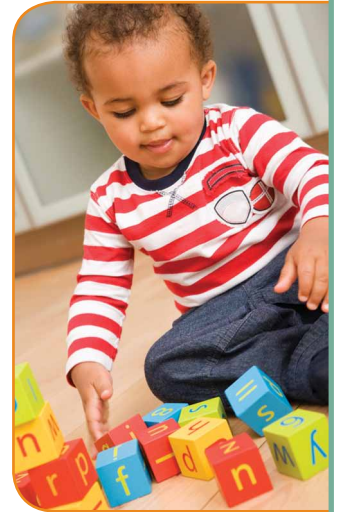
The SEED research study sites are located in: California, Colorado, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. The Data Coordinating Center is in Michigan and is responsible for data information systems and technology.

### Why is CDC looking at children in these six states?

The six SEED research sites were picked through an open competitive review process in 2011.

## Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders and Other Developmental Disabilities

- CDC estimates that **1 in 88 children has been identified with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD).**
- **ASDs occur among all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups.**
- **ASDs are almost five times more common among boys than among girls.**
- **Medical costs for children with ASDs are estimated to be six times higher than for children without ASDs.**
- **In addition to medical costs, intensive behavioral interventions for children with ASDs can cost \$40,000 to \$60,000 per child per year.**

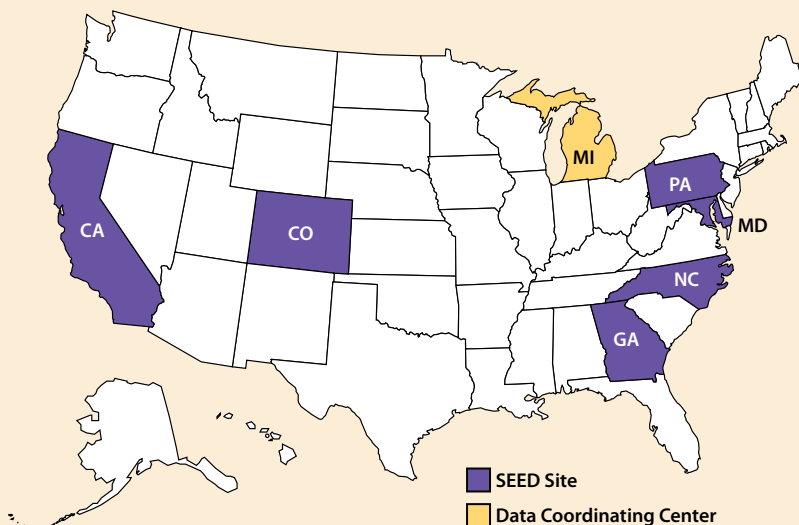


## Identifying Risk Factors for Autism Spectrum Disorders and Other Developmental Disabilities

There is still a lot to learn about ASDs. Research on ASDs has increased a great deal in recent years and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is part of the larger group of public and private organizations working to better understand ASDs through research. CDC is undertaking efforts to find out how many children have ASDs, discover the risk factors for and causes of ASDs, and raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of ASDs.

- The **Study to Explore Early Development (SEED)** is a multi-year, multisite study in six diverse areas that looks at possible causes of and risks for ASDs and other developmental delays.
- SEED is currently the largest multisite study in the United States to help identify factors that might put children at risk for ASDs and other developmental disabilities.
- SEED is looking at many possible risk factors for ASDs, including genetic, environmental, pregnancy, and behavioral factors.

CDC-funded Study to Explore Early Development Sites, 2011–2016



National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities  
Division of Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities



SEED includes a total of more than 2,700 children and their parents across all the study sites. The research goals for SEED include learning about:

- **Physical and behavioral characteristics of children with ASDs, children with other developmental disabilities, and children without a developmental delay or disability**—ASDs are complex disorders. We at CDC want to learn more about why people with ASDs are the way they are—how they behave, grow, think, and interact with the world around them. We also want to know the same things about children with other developmental disabilities and those with typical development.
- **Health conditions among children with and those without ASDs**—SEED provides an opportunity to compare health conditions and health-related issues (such as sleeping and eating patterns) among children with ASDs, among children with other developmental disabilities, and among children without a developmental delay or disability.
- **Factors that might affect a child's risk for ASD**—We hope that SEED will give us a better idea which of the many possible risk factors that we will be evaluating seem to be associated with or related to ASDs. The risk factors might be related to genes, health conditions, experiences of the mother during pregnancy, or the health and development of the child during infancy and the first few years of life.



*"Usually our child isn't given the chance to participate in studies like these due to her disability, but it means a lot when you all go the extra mile to accommodate us. Studies like SEED will do a lot for children now and in the future."*

—Parent of a child participating in SEED

**For more information on CDC's ASD activities, visit [www.cdc.gov/autism](http://www.cdc.gov/autism).**

#### **National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities**

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