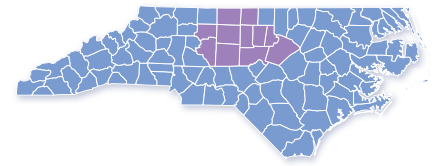


A Snapshot of Autism Spectrum Disorder in North Carolina



Findings from the North Carolina Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (NC-ADDMM) Project help 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 North Carolina and how this important information can be useful to you.

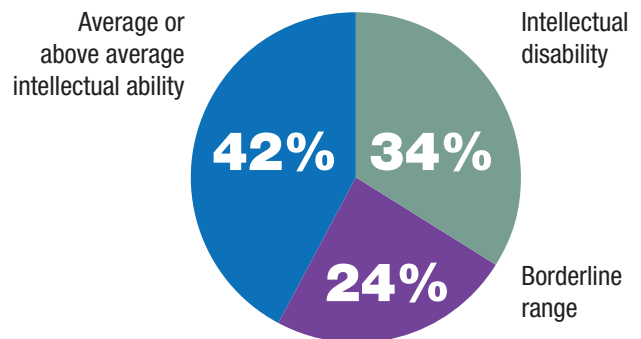
About 1 in 59 or 1.7% of 8-year-old children were identified with ASD by NC-ADDMM in 2012. This percentage is higher than the average percentage identified with ASD (1.5%) in all communities in the United States where CDC tracked ASD in 2012.



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

- 4.6x** MORE LIKELY among boys vs girls
- 1.2x** MORE LIKELY among white vs black children
- 2.1x** MORE LIKELY among white vs Hispanic children
- 1.7x** MORE LIKELY among black vs Hispanic children

Among children identified with ASD who had IQ scores available, about a third also had intellectual disability.



* Intelligence quotient (IQ) scores available for at least 70% of children identified with ASD by NC-ADDMM. Intellectual disability defined as IQ score \leq 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 60% 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 or black children. This may reflect cultural and/or socioeconomic differences, such as delayed or lack of access to services, as compared to other groups in North Carolina.
- Among the areas where CDC tracks ASD across the United States, the area in central North Carolina had the highest percentage of children identified with ASD who had received a comprehensive developmental evaluation by age 3 years. This is good news, but there is still more to be done to ensure that all children are evaluated as soon as concerns about their development are identified.

How can this information be useful?

NC-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 North Carolina might consider different ways to 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 11 counties (Alamance, Caswell, Chatham, Davison, Durham, Forsyth, Guilford, Orange, Randolph, Rockingham, Wake) in central North Carolina in 2012. Overall, the tracking area included 38,913 eight-year-olds (53% white, 25% black, 17% Hispanic, 5% Asian or Pacific Islander, less than 1% American Indian or Alaska Native).

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

NC-ADDM collaborates with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and investigators from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to track the number and characteristics of 4-year-olds and 8-year-olds with ASD and/or intellectual disability. NC-ADDM works with the North Carolina Autism Alliance and other interdisciplinary partners to continually identify ways the data can help improve our understanding of the needs and opportunities of families in North Carolina.

“These prevalence data are essential to helping us to predict the need for adult services in North Carolina and around the country. The first cohort of 8-year-olds is now 22 years of age; we can anticipate that the increase from 1 in 150 to 1 in 59 will be paralleled in the demand for adult services in the next 12 years.”

**-Laura Klinger, PhD
Director of TEACCH**

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

Autism Speaks

888-288-4762

www.autismspeaks.org

Autism Society of North Carolina

800-442-2762

www.autismsociety-nc.org/

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

www.ncactearly.com

North Carolina Infant-Toddler Program

919-707-5520

www.bearly.nc.gov/

TEACCH Autism Program

www.teacch.com/

Connect with NC-ADDM

Julie Daniels, PhD

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

919-966-7096

Julie.Daniels@unc.edu