Florida Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Project (FL – ADDM)

**RESULTS**

**Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Prevalence, 2008**

- Number of children identified with ASDs: 211
- Total prevalence of ASDs: 7.2 per 1,000 (or 1 in 139)
  - Boys: 11.3 per 1,000 (or 1 in 88)
  - Girls: 2.9 per 1,000 (or 1 in 345)

**Race/ Ethnicity**

- White: 4.6 per 1,000
- Black: 3.0 per 1,000
- Hispanic: 8.2 per 1,000
- Asian or Pacific Islander: Fewer than 5 children identified

**Documented ASD Diagnosis**

- Children with ASD diagnosis in their records: 70%
- Median earliest age ASD was documented in their records: 3 years, 6 months
  - Autistic disorder: 3 years
  - ASD/ PDD: 3 years, 7 months
  - Asperger Disorder: 4 years, 11 months

**SITE INFORMATION**

- Part of Florida Included in ADDM, 2008
  - 1 county (Miami-Dade) in south Florida

- Population of 8-Year-Old Children in Study Area, 2008
  - 8-Year-Old Children: 29,366
    - White: 23.9%
    - Black: 21.5%
    - Hispanic: 52.9%
    - Asian or Pacific Islander: 1.5%
Florida Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Project (FL – ADDM)

The Florida Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (FL-ADDM) Project is a multisource investigation to monitor the number of 8-year-old children in the population with ASDs. This surveillance system helped establish an accurate count of the number of children and families living with ASDs residing in Florida. The investigators are members of the University Of Miami Department Of Psychology, in association with the University of Miami Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (UM-CARD). The FL-ADDM is a joint undertaking with CDC and other Florida state partners, agencies, and organizations that serve children with developmental disabilities and their families. FL-ADDM has completed the 2006 and 2008 surveillance years.

What kinds of education and training programs does FL-ADDM offer to people who work with children who have ASDs or other developmental disabilities?

UM-CARD provides parent training to improve family members’ understanding of the nature of ASDs. Community awareness is enhanced through an ongoing system of professional training on the nature of identification of and intervention with children with ASDs.

What are some of the resources available in Florida for children with developmental disabilities, their families, and the professionals who serve them?

- Autism Society of Florida is a statewide organization that supports individuals with autism, their families, and caregivers (http://www.autismfl.com/). In addition to the state chapter, there are several local chapters: Autism Society of Treasure Coast, Autism Society of Emerald Coast (http://www.ecautismsociety.com/), Autism Society of Miami-Dade (http://www.autismsocietymiami.org/), and Autism Society of Broward County (http://asabroward.org/).

- Florida Department of Education’s Exception Education and Student Services administers programs for students with disabilities (http://www.fldoe.org/ese/).

- University of Miami Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (UM-CARD) was developed specifically to facilitate improved service delivery for children with autism (www.umcard.org). Currently, five other Florida state CARDs are located at universities in Jacksonville, Orlando, Gainesville, Tampa, and Tallahassee. Its excellence in clinical service provision has allowed UM-CARD to forge close working relations with the community involved in all aspects of care and services for children with autism, including the Miami-Dade public schools. Related programs include the Miami Children’s Hospital Dan Marino Center in Broward County (www.mch.com).

For more information, please contact:

Marygrace Yale Kaiser, PhD
University of Miami
PO Box 248185
Coral Gables, FL 33124

Phone: (305) 284-8495
E-mail: mgkaiser@eureka.edu