Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Autism and Developmental Disabilities Surveillance Program (PADDSP)

RESULTS

Number of children identified with ASDs: 245
Total prevalence of ASDs: 13.3 per 1,000 (1 in 75)
   Boys: 22.2 per 1,000 (1 in 45)
   Girls: 4.3 per 1,000 (1 in 233)

Race/ Ethnicity
White: 14.3 per 1,000
Black: 12.7 per 1,000
Hispanic: 9.1 per 1,000
Asian or Pacific Islander: 8.4 per 1,000

Documented ASD Diagnosis
Children with ASD diagnosis in their records: 85%
Median earliest age ASD was documented in their records: 4 years, 11 months
   Autistic Disorder: 3 years, 7 months
   ASD/PDD: 4 years, 11 months
   Asperger Disorder: 5 years, 10 months

SITE INFORMATION

Part of Pennsylvania Included in ADDM, 2008
Philadelphia County

Population of 8-Year-Old Children in Study Area, 2008
   8-Year-Old Children: 18,440
   White: 28.1%
   Black: 49.1%
   Hispanic: 16.6%
   Asian or Pacific Islander: 5.8%
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The Pennsylvania Autism and Developmental Disabilities Surveillance Program (PADDSP) is a multisource public health program established to monitor the number of 8-year-old children in the population with ASDs. This surveillance system provided an accurate count of the number of 8-year-old children in Philadelphia County with ASDs. The investigators were members of the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. PADDSP studied biennial sequential years to identify if there were trends in the diagnosis and treatment of ASDs. PADDSP completed data collection for the 2002, 2006, and 2008 surveillance years.

What kinds of education and training programs did the program offer to people who work with children who have ASDs or other developmental disabilities?

PADDSP Director provides education and outreach programs to inform health care providers, educators, and the community about the need to monitor the prevalence of autism and the educational and health care needs of children with autism and their families.

What are some of the resources available in Pennsylvania for children with developmental disabilities, their families and the professionals who serve them? Other autism programs include the

- Autism Centers of Excellence (ACE) at Drexel University School of Public Health
- The Center for Autism (www.thecenterforautism.org),
- The Center for Autism Research (www.research.chop.edu/programs/car),
- The Regional Autism Center (www.chop.edu/service/autism-center/home.html).

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