

Colorado

Tracking Autism Spectrum Disorder and Other Developmental Disabilities in Colorado:

What You Need To Know

A Snapshot of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Colorado

The following estimates are based on information collected from the health and special education records of children who were 8 years old and living in one of seven counties in 2010 (see sidebar). Overall, the Colorado Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Project (CO-ADDMM) identified 384 children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), including children with and without a diagnosis documented in their records.

How many children were identified with ASD?

1 in 101 children (or 9.9 per 1,000 8-year-olds) was identified with ASD.

This estimate is lower than the average number of children identified with ASD (1 in 68) in all areas of the United States where CDC tracks ASD.

Which children were more likely to be identified with ASD?

Boys were almost 4 times more likely to be identified with ASD than girls.

- 1 in 65 boys was identified with ASD.
- 1 in 238 girls was identified with ASD.

White children were more likely to be identified with ASD than Hispanic children¹.

- 1 in 88 white children was identified with ASD.
- 1 in 109 black children was identified with ASD.
- 1 in 164 Hispanic children was identified with ASD.
- 1 in 135 Asian or Pacific Islander children was identified with ASD.

When were children first evaluated for developmental concerns?

41% of children identified with ASD were evaluated for developmental concerns by the time they were 3 years old.

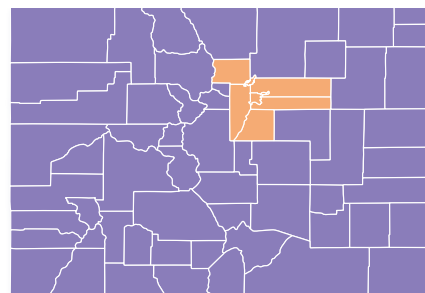
When were children first diagnosed with ASD by a community provider²?

On average, children were diagnosed at age 5 years, even though children can be diagnosed as early as age 2 years. When looking at age of first diagnosis by subtype, on average, children were diagnosed with:

- Autistic disorder at age 4 years and 3 months.
- Pervasive developmental disorder-not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS) at age 5 years.
- Asperger disorder at age 7 years.

How many children had an eligibility for autism special education services at school or had an ASD diagnosis?

65% of children either had an eligibility for autism special education services at school or had an ASD diagnosis. The remaining 35% of children identified with ASD had documented symptoms of ASD, but had not yet been classified as having ASD by a community provider.



Site Information

Tracking area: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson counties

Children in tracking area: 38,806 8-year-old children, of whom about 56% were white, 6% were black, 33% were Hispanic, and 5% were Asian or Pacific Islander



More is understood about ASD than ever before,
but there is an urgent need to continue the search for
answers and provide help for people living with ASD.

Public Health Action

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funds programs to track the number and characteristics of children with ASD and other developmental disabilities as part of the CDC's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network site. The Colorado Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Project (CO-ADDM) was established in 2002 as an ADDM Network site and is a joint undertaking with Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and JFK Partners at the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine. CO-ADDM partners with other state and local agencies and organizations that serve children with developmental disabilities and their families to track the number of 8-year-old children with ASD living in select areas of Colorado. This program also contributes information on the characteristics of children with ASD and on factors that put children at risk for this condition. CO-ADDM data can be used to promote early identification, plan for training and service needs, guide research, and inform policy so that children and families in our community get the help they need.

Training and Education on Autism Spectrum Disorder

CO-ADDM offers tailored presentations on the number and characteristics of children with ASD in Colorado and across the ADDM Network. It also serves to link families and community partners with resources to improve collaboration across programs in Colorado.

For more information about CO-ADDM, please contact:

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Access Resources and Help Connect Families to Services and Supports in Colorado

Early Intervention Colorado

Phone: 888-777-4041

Web: www.eicolorado.org

Colorado Department of Education

Melinda Graham

Phone: 303-866-6707

E-mail: graham_m@cde.state.co.us

Web: www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sd-autism

Autism Society of Colorado

Phone: 720-214-0794

Web: www.autismcolorado.org

Family Voices Colorado

Phone: 800-881-8272

Web: www.familyvoicesco.org

The Arc of Colorado

Phone: 303-864-9334

Web: www.thearcofco.org

Autism Treatment Network

Web: www.jfkpartners.org

Web: www.childrencolorado.org

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

Debra Efird, Colorado's

Act Early Ambassador

E-mail: debbie.efird@ucdenver.edu

Web: www.cdc.gov/ActEarly

¹. Due to small numbers of children, we are unable to detect statistical differences between certain racial and ethnic groups.

². This information is based on children who had a diagnosis from a community provider documented in their records. Because the diagnoses were made in 2010 or earlier, they reflect DSM-IV-TR subtypes. This excludes children whose only ASD classification was an ICD-9 billing code or an eligibility for autism special education services.