

Maryland

Tracking Autism Spectrum Disorder and Other Developmental Disabilities in Maryland:

What You Need To Know

A Snapshot of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Maryland

The following estimates are based on information collected from the health and special education records of children who were 8 years old in 2010 and living in one of six counties in 2010 (see sidebar). Overall, Maryland Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (MD-ADDM) identified 458 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 60 children (or 16.6 per 1,000 8-year-olds) was identified with ASD. This estimate is higher 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 5 times more likely to be identified with ASD than girls.

- 1 in 37 boys was identified with ASD.
- 1 in 179 girls was identified with ASD.

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

- 1 in 60 white children was identified with ASD.
- 1 in 65 black children was identified with ASD.
- 1 in 102 Hispanic children was identified with ASD.
- 1 in 84 Asian or Pacific Islander children was identified with ASD.

When were children first evaluated for developmental concerns?

45% of children identified with ASD were evaluated for developmental concerns by the time they were 3 years old.

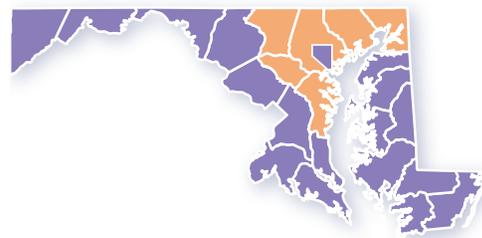
When were children first diagnosed with ASD by a community provider²?

On average, children were diagnosed at age 4 years and 8 months, 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 2 months.
- Pervasive developmental disorder-not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS) at age 4 years and 7 months.
- Asperger disorder at age 6 years and 2 months.

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

88% of children either had an eligibility for autism special education services at school or had an ASD diagnosis. The remaining 12% 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: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, Harford, and Howard counties

Children in tracking area: 27,605 8-year-old children, of whom about 64% were white, 23% were black, 7% were Hispanic, and 6% 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. The Maryland Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (MD-ADDM) Project was established in 2001 as an ADDM Network site in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and investigators from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. MD-ADDM partners with the Maryland State Department of Education, the Kennedy Krieger Institute, Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital, and other organizations that serve children with developmental disabilities and their families to track the number of 8-year-old children with ASD, intellectual disability, or both in select areas of Maryland. This program also contributes information on the characteristics of children with ASD and on factors that put children at risk for this condition. MD-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

MD-ADDM offers presentations on the number and characteristics of children with ASD in Maryland and across the ADDM Network for our data sources, stakeholders, state and local agencies, and parent groups. Also, MD-ADDM participates in and organizes annual autism awareness month events in our community.

For more information about MD-ADDM, please contact:

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

Maryland State Department of Education's Division of Special Education and Early Intervention Services

Web: www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/earlyinterv/index.html

The Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) at the Kennedy Krieger Institute

Web: www.kennedykrieger.org/patient-care/patient-care-centers/center-autism-and-related-disorders

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

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.