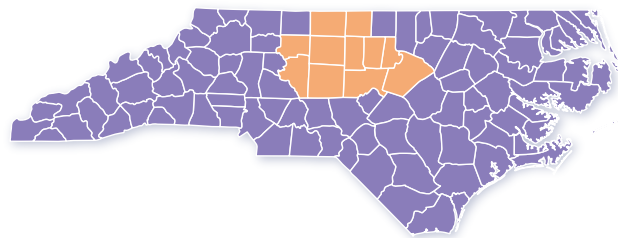


# North Carolina

## Tracking Autism Spectrum Disorder and Other Developmental Disabilities in North Carolina: What You Need To Know



### A Snapshot of Autism Spectrum Disorder in North Carolina

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 eleven counties in 2010 (see sidebar). Overall, North Carolina Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Project (NC-ADDMM) identified 655 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 58** children (or 17.3 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 35 boys was identified with ASD.
- ❑ 1 in 179 girls was identified with ASD.

White and black children were more likely to be identified with ASD than Hispanic children<sup>1</sup>.

- ❑ 1 in 53 white children was identified with ASD.
- ❑ 1 in 64 black children was identified with ASD.
- ❑ 1 in 103 Hispanic children was identified with ASD.
- ❑ 1 in 53 Asian or Pacific Islander children was identified with ASD.

### When were children first evaluated for developmental concerns?

59% 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 provider<sup>2</sup>?

On average, children were diagnosed at age 3 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 3 years and 1 month.
- ❑ Pervasive developmental disorder-not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS) at age 4 years and 3 months.
- ❑ Asperger disorder at age 6 years and 4 months.

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

75% of children either had an eligibility for autism special education services at school or had an ASD diagnosis. The remaining 25% 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: Alamance, Caswell, Chatham, Davidson, Durham, Forsyth, Guilford, Orange, Randolph, Rockingham, and Wake counties

Children in tracking area: 37,783 8-year old children, of whom about 54% were white, 25% were black, 16% 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. The North Carolina Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Project (NC-ADDM) was established in 2002 as an ADDM Network site in collaboration with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and investigators from the University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill. NC-ADDM partners with state and local agencies and organizations to track the number of 8-year-old children with ASD, intellectual disability, or both living in central North Carolina. This program also contributes information on the characteristics of children with ASD and on factors that put children at risk for this condition. NC-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**

NC-ADDM provides data on the number and characteristics of 8-year-old children with ASD and intellectual disability to the health and educational agencies in the state that diagnose and serve children with these disabilities. We work with the North Carolina Autism Alliance and other interdisciplinary partners to use our data to continually identify ways our data can help improve our understanding of the needs and opportunities of families in North Carolina.

#### **For more information about NC-ADDM, please contact:**

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**Access Resources and  
Help Connect Families  
to Services and Supports  
in North Carolina**

**North Carolina  
Infant-Toddler Program.**

Web: [www.ncei.org](http://www.ncei.org)

**TEACCH Autism Program.**

Web: <http://teacch.com/>

**Autism Society  
of North Carolina**

Web: [www.autismsociety-nc.org](http://www.autismsociety-nc.org)

**Autism Speaks**

Web: [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org)

**Study to Explore Early  
Development (SEED)**

Web: [www.ncseed.org](http://www.ncseed.org)

**Learn the Signs. Act Early.**

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North Carolina's

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

<sup>2</sup>. 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.