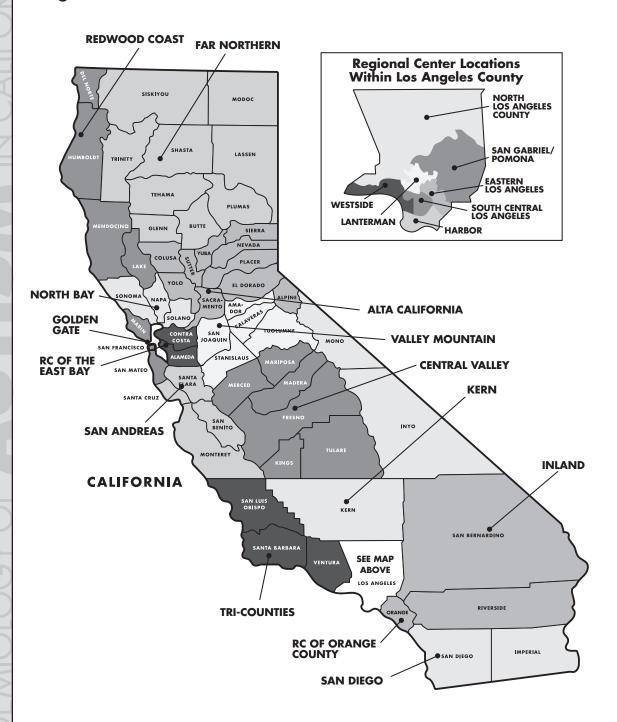
DSM-IV Diagnostic Criteria for 299.0 Autistic Disorder

- (I) A total of six (or more) items from (A), (B), and (C), with at least two from (A), and one each from (B) and (C)
 - (A) Qualitative impairment in social interaction, as manifested by at least two of the following:
 - 1. Marked impairments in the use of multiple nonverbal behaviors such as eye-to-eye gaze, facial expression, body posture, and gestures to regulate social interaction.
 - 2. Failure to develop peer relationships appropriate to developmental level.
 - 3. A lack of spontaneous seeking to share enjoyment, interests, or achievements with other people, (e.g., by a lack of showing, bringing, or pointing out objects of interest to other people).
 - 4. Lack of social or emotional reciprocity (Examples: Not actively participating in simple social play or games, preferring solitary activities, or involving others in activities only as tools or "mechanical" aids).
 - (B) Qualitative impairments in communication as manifested by at least one of the following:
 - 1. Delay in, or total lack of, the development of spoken language (not accompanied by an attempt to compensate through alternative modes of communication such as gesture or mime).
 - 2. In individuals with adequate speech, marked impairment in the ability to initiate or sustain a conversation with others.
 - 3. Stereotyped and repetitive use of language or idiosyncratic language.
 - 4. Lack of varied, spontaneous make-believe play or social imitative play appropriate to developmental level.
 - (C) Restricted repetitive and stereotyped patterns of behavior, interests and activities, as manifested by at least one of the following:
 - 1. Encompassing preoccupation with one or more stereotyped and restricted patterns of interest that is abnormal either in intensity or focus.
 - 2. Apparently inflexible adherence to specific, nonfunctional routines or rituals.
 - 3. Stereotyped and repetitive motor mannerisms (e.g. hand or finger flapping or twisting, or complex whole-body movements).
 - 4. Persistent preoccupation with parts of objects.
- (II) Delays or abnormal functioning in at least one of the following areas, with onset prior to age 3 years:
 - (A) Social interaction
 - (B) Language as used in social communication
 - (C) Symbolic or imaginative play
- (III) The disturbance is not better accounted for by Rett's Disorder or Childhood Disintegrative Disorder.

Source: The American Psychiatric Association: Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition, Washington D.C., American Psychiatric Association. 1994.

Regional Center Locations



	DEVELOPMENTAL DIAGNO	OSTIC INFORMATION
etiologic factors (ceuses) of to manual instructions for each MENTAL RETARDATION Level of Relandation (See Manual (CC) 9-CM Code) 11	filed diagnosis(es) of the client's disar the disabilities. Code the diagnoses we hapeofic item. www.vis.zi	bility(ies). Pertinent diagnoses include levels and tyges, ing ICD-9 CM and Risk Factor codes, as applicable, according ICD-9 CM Code). 12a
317 Mild 318.0 Moderate	318.2 Profound 319 MR unspecified (level)	13. M M Y Y Date of Last Evaluat
	DEVELOPMENTAL CENT	ER CLIENTS ONLY
CEREBRAL PALSY (See Ma		0 Normal 3 Severe 16.
Presence of Cel No CP or other sign Has CP or other sign Level of Motor C	icant motor dystunction incant motor dystunction	Etiology 0CD 9 CM Code) 18a.

Type of Other Disability (CD-9-CM Code) 33a. (Specify) 33b. (Specify) RISK FACTOR for sell efetigy items 12e-b. 18e-b. 26e-b. 30e-b. and 24e-b.) (See Manual pg. V1.10.1) 1 = Yes	OTHER TYPE OF DEVELOPMENTAL Use this section to identify any devel etc.) "Other" developmental disabiliti treatment similar to that required for it	opmental disability(ies) other than t es are conditions which are similar o tentally retarded individuals.	hose listed above (mental retardation, cerein or closely related to mental retardation or who
Specify State Specify State State		Type of Other Disability (ICD-9-CM Code)	
(Specify) RISK FACTOR: One see in electory items 12e-b, 18e-b, 24e-b, 30e-b, and 34e-b) (See Manual pg. vi 10.10) 1 = Yes	220		345
RISK FACTOR: On size in electing items 12e-ts, 18e-ts, 24e-ts, 30e-ts, and 34e-ts.) Clien Manual pg. V1.10.1) 1 = Yes	(Specify)		
Indicate whether each of the following factors was associated with the client's developmental disability(les), as specificated with the reach of the following factors was associated with the client's developmental disability(les), as specificated for Code "2" for No if the factor does not pertain to the disability and Code "3" for an unknown association. 35.	(Specify)		340.
Indicate whether each of the following factors was associated with the client's developmental disabilityDes), as specificed "1" for Yee if there are reasonable data to suggest the disability was associated with or significantly impacted for. Code "2" for No if the factor does not pertain to the disability and Code "2" for an unknown association. 36.	RISK FACTOR On use in eticlogy horns	(2e-b. 18e-b. 24e-b. 30e-b, and 34e-b.) (So	e Manual pg. Vt.10.1)
Code "1" for Yes if there are reasonable data to suggest the disability was associated with or significantly impacted for. Code "2" for No if the factor does not pertain to the disability and Code "3" for an unknown association. 35.	1 = Yes 2 = No 9 = Unknown		
Teenage pregnancy (17 years and younger) 38.	Code "1" for Yes if there are reasons for. Code "2" for No if the factor does	ble data to suggest the disability was not pertain to the disability and Coo	is associated with or significantly impacted by "9" for an unknown association.
37.			
38.	1 1		
Accidents involving an automobile 47. Other causes 40. Accidents involving other types of vehicles 48. 41. Accidents of other types 49. 42. Environmental toxins (pesticides, lead, etc.) MENTAL DISORDERS (See Manual pg. VI. 11. 0) If applicable, enter below the diagnosistes) that describes the client's mental disorder. If the client does not have disorder, enter 000000 in item 50a and leave 51e-53c blank. Use DSM-III codes for the mental disorders as Axes I are enter developmental disability diagnosis(es), including Autism. Type of Mental Disorder (DSM-III Code) Axis I Date of Last Evaluation Condition Impact 50a. 51b. M. M. Y. Y. 51c. 51c. 52c. 52c. 52c. 52c. 52c. 52c. 52c. 52			
40. Accidents involving other types of vehicles 48. 49. 49. 49. 49. 49. 49. 49. 49. 49. 49	38 Accidents of near drown	ng	16 Child abuse or neglect
### Accidents of other types ### 49. ### Environmental toxins (pesticides, lead, etc.) ###################################	39 Accidents involving an au	tomobile	t7. Difter causes
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53a	52a	52b. M M Y Y	52e.
	53a.	53b. M M Y Y	630.

CHRONIC MAJOR MEDICAL CONDITION(5) (See Mensel pg VI 12.1) List below major chronic, recurrent medical problems, other than developmental disability, that have significant in client's service provision (Je., disabetes, heart condition, chronic URL, hepatitis, etc.). If there is no medical condition (Specify) Condition Type(s) Condition Type(s) Condition (CD-9-CM-Code) Condition Type(s) Condition Type(s)			
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S78.	55a		556.
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68. Stimulant 5 Has not received medication(s) during past four years 6 No known documented history of receiving medication(s) 69. Other Psychotropic Drug ABNORMAL INVOLUNTARY MOVEMENTS (See Markel pp. VI.16.1) (COMPLETE FOR DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER CLIENTS ONLY) Types of involuntary Movements 1 = Yes 2 = No		R MODIFYING DI	RUGS (See Manual pg.)	WL 15. ()
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(Do agg include medications given only for seizures, sedatives given for examinations or clinics, etc., or medications given on an infrequent PRN basis.) 66. Antianxiety 1				
sedatives given for examinations or clinics, etc., or medications given on an intregrent PRN basis.) 65.	64.	Antipsychotic		
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MOTOR DOMAIN 1 Rolling and Sitting 1 **Does not this head when lying as stormach 2 **Liths head when lying on stormach 3 **Liths head when lying on stormach 3 **Liths head when lying on stormach 4 **Rolls from side to side 6 **Rolls from toot to back and back to fined 7 **Maintains sitting position with minimal support for at least five (5) ministes 8 **Sits without support for all least five (5) ministes 9 **Assumes and maintains sitting position independently 2 **Manues and maintains sitting position independently 4 **Moves and maintains sitting position independently 5 **Moves and fine independently of each other 5 **Moves and fine independently of each other 6 **Arm Use 1 **No functional use of hard 2 **Moves and from shoulder but does not existed or fixe arm fice, does not have control of allow joint) 9 **Partially extends arm 4 **Fully valued arm 4 **Fully valued arm 5 **Crawling and Standing 1 **Does not rawl, creep or scoot 2 **Crawlin, creeps, or scoots 3 **Manues does not creat, enc.) 9 **Stands with support for at least one (1) minute 5 **Istands with support for at least one (1) minute 6 **Stands with support for at least five (5) minutes 6 **Climiting Stairs (rate use of ramps for persons using wheelchairs) N **No opportunity to use stairs (or ramps) 1 **Does not move up or down stairs (or ramps) 2 **Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) 3 **Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) 4 **Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) 4 **Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) 5 **Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) 5 **Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) 6 **Climiting Stairs (rate use of tramps for persons using wheelchairs) N **No opportunity to use stairs (or ramps) 1 **Does not move up or down stairs (or ramps) with help 3 **Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) with help 3 **Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) with help 3 **Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) with help 3 **Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) with help 3 **Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) with help 3 **Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) with help 3	1 Bolling and Sitting 1 Does not Sit head when lying on atomach 2 Lifts head when lying on atomach 3 Lifts head when lying on stomach 4 Rolls from side to side 6 Rolls from troot to back only 6 Rolls from troot to back and back to front 7 Maintains sitting position with maintal support for at least five (5) minutes 8 Sits without support for at least five (5) minutes 9 Assumes and maintains sitting position independently 1 Hand Use 1 No functional use of hand 2 Uses rasking motion or grasps with hand 3 Uses sharp and fingers of hand is opposition 4 Sites sharp and standing of above of a story of the standing	THE GREAT CH	ALUATION ELEMENT
### Does not 8th head when lying on stormach ### Lifts head and cheet sating and support whan lying on stormach ### Relis from side to side ### Relis from side to side ### Relis from side to be dead and back to front ### Relis from side to be dead and back to front ### Relis from side to be dead and back to front ### Relis from side to be dead and back to front ### Relis from side to be dead and back to front ### Relis from side to be dead and back to front ### Relis from side to be dead and back to front ### Relis from side to be dead to the state of the side of the state o	## Does not sit head when lying on stormach ## Rolls head and cheet widing arm support when lying on stormach ## Rolls from stores to side ## Rolls from front to back and back to front ## Rolls from front front ## Rolls from front front ## Roll from front front ## Roll from front front ## Roll fro	MOTOR DOMAIN	
Hand Use No functional use of hand	Hand Use I No functional use of hard 2 Uses raking motion or grasps with hand 3 Uses hards and ingers of hand in opposition 4 Uses hards and ingers of hand in opposition 4 Uses hards and home shoulder but does not extend or fits arm (i.e., does not have control of allow joint) 3 Partially extends arm 4 Crawling and Standing 1 Does not crawl, creep or scoot 2 Crawls, creeps, or scoots 3 Fulls to a stending position 4 Stands with support for at least one (1) minute 5 Stands with support for at least one (1) minute 5 Stands with support 6 Stands well alone, balances well for at least five (5) minutes 5 Makes with support 1 Does not make but does not or 3 Makes bed completely but not neetly, and blankets appear withled, bedapt crooked, etc.) 6 Climbing Stairs (rate use of ramps for persons using wheelchairs) N No opportunity to use stairs (or ramps) 1 Does not move up or does stairs (or ramps) 2 Morees up and down stairs (or ramps) with hard rail independently 4 Mores up and down stairs (or ramps) with hard rail independently 4 Mores up and down stairs (or ramps) without need for handrail	1= Dees not lift head when lying on stomach 2= Lifts head when lying on stomach 3= Lifts head and chest using arm support when lying on stomach 4= Rolls from side to side 5= Rolls from front to back only 6= Rolls from front to back and back to front 7= Maintains sitting position with minimal support for at least five (5) minutes 8= Sits without support for at least five (5) minutes 9= Assumes and maintains sitting position	N= Does not use wheelchair 1= Sits in wheelchair, does not move where self 2= Assists in moving wheelchair 3= Moves self with some bumping and/or in steering 4= Moves or guides chair independently a
4 Uses fargers independently of each other Arm Use 1 No functional use of arm 2 Moves arm from shoulder but does not extend or flex arm (i.e., does not have control of althow joint) 3 Partially extends arm 4 Crawling and Standing 1 Does not crawl, creep or scoot 2 Crawls, creeps, or accosts 3 Putto a standing position 4 Stands with support for at least one (1) minute 5 Stands unsteadily alone for at least one (1) minute 6 Stands well alone, balances well for at least five (5) minutes 5 Ambutation 1 Does not walk 2 Walks with support 3 Walks with support 5 Walks with support 6 Climbing Stairs (rate use of ramps for persons using wheelchairs) N No opporturity to use stairs (or ramps) 1 Does not move up or down stairs (or ramps) 2 Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) with help 3 Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) with help 3 Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) with help 3 Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) with help 3 Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) with help 4 Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) with help 3 Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) without	4 Uses fingers independently of each other Arm Use 1 No tenctional use of arm 2 Moves arm from shoelder but does not extend or flex arm (i.e., does not have control of althow joint) 3 Partially extends arm 4 Crawling and Standing 1 Does not crawl, creep or scoot 2 Crawls, creeps, or scoots 3 Crawls simple foods without cookin (sandwich, cold cereal, etc.) 4 Stands with support for at least one (1) minute 5 Stands unsteadily alone for at least one (1) minute 5 Stands with support for at least one (1) minute 6 Stands with support for at least one (1) minute 5 Manulation 1 Does not walk 2 Walks will alone at least the (10) feet, balances well 6 Climbing Stairs (rate use of ramps for persons using wheelchairs) N= No opportunity to use stairs (or ramps) 2 Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) with hard call independently 4 Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) with hard call independently 4 Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) with hard call independently 4 Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) with hard call independently 4 Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) with hard call independently 4 Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) without need for handrail	2 Hand Use 1= No functional use of hand 2= Uses raking motion or grasps with hand	INDEPENDENT LIVING DOMAIN
4 Crawling and Standing 1= Does not crawl, creep or scoot 2= Crawls, creeps, or scoots 3= Pulls to a stending position 4= Stands with support for at least one (1) minute 5= Stands unsteadily alone for at least one (1) minute 6= Stands well alone, balances well for at least five (5) minutes 5	4 Crawling and Standing 1= Does not crawl, creep or scoot 2= Crawls, creeps, or scoots 3= Pulls to a stending position 4= Stands with support for at least one (1) minute 5= Stands unsteadily alone for at least one (1) minute 6= Stands well alone, balances well for at least five (5) minutes 6= Stands well alone, balances well for at least five (5) minutes 7= Makes well alone at least ten (10) feet 1= Does not walk 2= Walks well alone at least ten (10) feet 1= Walks well alone at least twenty (20) feet, balances well 6= Climbing Stairs (rate use of ramps for persons using wheelchairs) N= No opportunity to use stairs (or ramps) 1= Does not move up and down stairs (or ramps) 1= Does not move up and down stairs (or ramps) 1= Does not move up and down stairs (or ramps) with help and rail independently 4= Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) with help and rail independently 4= Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) with help and rail independently 4= Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) without need for handrail	3 Uses fugers independently of each other 3 In No functional use of arm 2= Moves arm from shoulder but does not extend or flex arm (i.e., does not have control of albow joint) 3= Partially extends arm	N= Client is in a service setting in which prevented from preparing food 1= Does not prepare food 2= Prepares simple foods without cookin (sandwich, cold cereal, etc.) 3= Cooks simple foods (eggs, soup
### Completes bedraking neatly and independently ### Wasks with support ### Wasks well alone at least twenty (20) feet, balances well ### Client is in a service setting which heap grevented from dishwashing ### Client is in a service setting which heap grevented from dishwashing but does not contain the properties of shawshing but does not contain the properties of shawshing but does not contain the properties of shawshing but with unactive completes bedraking neatly and independently #### Completes bedraking neatly and independently ###################################	### Completes bedraking neatly and independently ### Completes bedraking neatly and independently ### Walks with support ### Walks wall alone at least twenty (20) feet, believed to be believed to be bedraking neatly and independently #### Walks wall alone at least twenty (20) feet, believed to be believed to be bedraking neatly and independently ##### Washing Dishes ### Client is in a service setting which he prevented from dishwashing to be setting which he prevented from dishwashing but does not contain the prevented from dishwashing but with unactive from the prevented from dishwashing to be prevented from dishw	1= Does not crawl, creep or scoot 2= Crawls, creeps, or scoots 3= Pulls to a stending position 4= Stands with support for at least one (1) minute 5= Stands unsteadily alone for at least one (1) minute 6= Stands well alone, balances well for at least	4= Prepares complete meal 9
4= Walks well alone at least twenty (20) feet, balances well 6 Climbing Stairs (rate use of ramps for persons using wheelchairs) N= No opportunity to use stairs (or ramps) 1= Does not move up or down stairs (or ramps) 2= Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) with help 3= Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) with help hand rail independently 4= Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) without	## Walks well alone at least twenty (20) feet, balances well Climbing Stairs 1	1= Does not walk 2= Walks with support	4= Completes bedmaking neatly and
	- a -	4= Walks well alone at least twenty (20) feet, balances well 6 Climbing Stairs (rate use of ramps for persons using wheelchairs) N= No opportunity to use stairs (or ramps) 1= Does not move up or down stairs (or ramps) 2= Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) with harp 3= Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) with hand rail independenty 4= Moves up and down stairs (or ramps) without	N= Client is in a service setting which he prevented from dishwashing 1= Does not wash dishes 2= Attempts dishwashing but does not or 3= Completes dishwashing but with unac results (water left on counter, or floor, chipped, etc.) 4= Completes dishwashing neatly and

shapping

52	Number Awareness 1= Does not count 2= Counts, but inaccurately or by rote 3= Counts to 10 and associates single-digit numbers with quantifies	57 Remembering Instructions and Demonstrations 1= Does not display memory of instructions 2= Displays memory of instructions
	4= Counts to 10 and understands relative velves (5 is larger than 3) 5= Counts, including use of multi-digit numbers, and associates multi-digit numbers with quantities	demonstrations if they are repeated i more times and the client is prompted in 3= Displays memory of instruction demonstrations if they are given once
53	Writing Skills	client is prompted in recall 4 — Displays memory of instruction demonstrations without prompting if to
	(including Braille and typing) 1= Does not copy or trace 2= Copies from model or traces	
	3= Prints (no model) single letters or name only 4= Prints single words only 5= Prints words and sentences legibly 6= Uses longhand for words and sentences	COMMUNICATION DOMAIN
		58 Word Usage
54	Reading Skills (isoluding Stalle) 1= Does not read 2= Recognizes single letters 3= Reads simple words but does not comprehend	2= Uses simple (one-syllable) word associates words with appropriate obje- 3= Uses complex words and associates we appropriate objects, but has a vocabulary
	4= Reads and comprehends simple words 5= Reads and comprehends simple sentences 6= Reads and comprehends complex sentences and stories	4= Has a broad vocabulary, understands of words and uses them in appropriate of
55		59 Expressive Nonverbal Communicatio (not including sign language or communication)
	Attention Span 1= Does not keep attention focused on a single activity 2= Keeps attention focused on a single activity for less than one minute 3= Keeps attention focused on a single activity between one and five minutes 4= Keeps attention focused on a single activity between five and fifteen minutes 5= Keeps attention focused on a single activity between fifteen and thirty minutes 6= Keeps attention focused on a single activity for more than thirty minutes	1= No expressive nonverbal communication 2= Expresses needs or reactions by a returning smiles, etc. 3= Communicates by pointing, shaking leading by the hand, etc. 4= Gestures with hands, uses facial explor communication 60 Receptive Nonverbal Communication (not including sign language) 1= Does not demonstrate understain gestures (tactile or visual) or facial exp
56	Safety Awareness (tollowing safety rules and avoiding hazardous situations)	2= Demonstrates understanding of simple ("yes", "no", pointing to an object) 3= Demonstrates understanding of a gestures 4= Demonstrates understanding of a s
	 1= Frequently endangers self, must be supervised at all times 2= Occasionally endangers self, requires supervision on a daily basis 3= Endangers self only in untamiliar situations or 	61 Receptive Language 1= Dose not understand speech
	settings 4= Typically does not endanger sell	2= Understands simple words 3= Understands simple phrases or ins 4= Understands meaning of simple com- and combination of verbal instructions 5= Understands meaning of story plot and conversation.
		3-

Scientific Advisory Panel

We gratefully acknowledge the members of the Scientific Advisory Panel, and thank them for their valuable contributions to the research design of the Autism Epidemiology Study.

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List of questions asked on the Autism Epidemiology Study Questionnaire

Families of all children participating in the study were asked to complete a questionnaire (either by self-completing a written questionnaire or by phone interview). The content of the questionnaire included:

■ Demographic information

Race/ethnicity

Place of birth

Handedness (right/left/both)

Parental education

Birth order

- Mobility, including place of birth, movement into or within California up to the age of five
- Diagnostic information

Determination of diagnosis of autism

Presence or absence of mental retardation, including a

question about IQ scores

Presence or absence of seizure history

Presence or absence of cerebral palsy

Presence or absence of other potential co-morbid conditions

Family history (grouped under first degree, second degree, or greater than second degree relatives):

Autism or related disorders

Tic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, depressive

disorder, bipolar disorder

Mental retardation

■ Perinatal complications

Infertility treatments

Viral infections while pregnant

Vaccinations while pregnant

Augmentation or induction of labor

Exposure to alcohol, cigarettes, or street drugs during the pregnancy

- Immunization/vaccination history of the child and younger siblings
- History of significant gastrointestinal symptoms
- History of regression of developmental milestones
- What does the family think caused their child's autism or other developmental problem?
- Interest in participating in future follow-up studies.

Sample Size Calculations for each Study Aim Study Aim 1

CDER Data - Identification of Study Subjects

CDER data from all 21 Regional Centers in California were used to identify two groups of children with CDER status 1 autism based on age criteria. The California Department of Developmental Services provided CDER data grouped by Regional Centers for the years 1986 to 1999.

We constructed a sampling frame using all records for children with CDER status 1 autism born in 1983-1985 and 1993-1995. We created an unduplicated list of individual children with autism. The CDER record that first reported the diagnosis of CDER status 1 autism determined the Regional Center and county for that case.

The target study sample was 250 children in each age cohort (year of birth 1983-1985 vs. 1993-1995). With this sample size, we could determine whether or not 20% (or more) of the observed increase in cases of autism was due to changes in diagnostic criteria.

Table A1: Cases of CDER status 1 autism by Regional Center and the Corresponding Sample for Study Aim 1, Autism Epidemiology Study.

CDER status 1 autism by Regional Center	CDER Cases, by year of birth			Sample size, by year of birth	
	1983-85	1993-95	Ratio	1983-85	1993-95
Alta California Regional Center	51	90	1.8	13	7
Central Valley Regional Center	16	61	3.8	4	5
Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center	46	263	5.7	12	21
Far Northern Regional Center	15	3 <i>7</i>	2.5	4	3
Golden Gate Regional Center	41	86	2.1	11	7
Harbor Regional Center	51	298	5.8	13	24
Inland Regional Center	40	199	5.0	11	16
Kern Regional Center	16	3 <i>7</i>	2.3	4	3
Lanterman Regional Center	45	206	4.6	12	17
North Bay Regional Center	26	70	2.7	7	6
North Los Angeles County Regional Center	99	283	2.9	25	23
Redwood Coast Regional Center	12	18	1.5	3	2
Regional Center of Orange County	75	267	3.6	19	21
Regional Center of the East Bay	64	191	3.0	1 <i>7</i>	15
San Andreas Regional Center	26	101	3.9	7	8
San Diego Regional Center	81	256	3.2	21	20
San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center	74	169	2.3	19	14
South Central Los Angeles Regional Center	96	142	1.5	25	12
Tri-Counties Regional Center	28	163	5.8	8	13
Valley Mountain Regional Center	13	63	4.8	4	5
Westside Regional Center	75	208	2.8	19	17
TOTALS	991	3,209		258	259

Two-stage sampling was done to obtain a study sample that was representative of the entire State. Table A1 shows these stratifications by Regional Center. The target number of children sampled from each Regional Center was proportional to the number of children with CDER status 1 autism in each Regional Center for each age cohort. A randomly ordered list was created for each Regional Center. Recruitment packets were mailed based on these randomly order lists. Bad addresses and refusals were replaced by the next child on the randomized list from the same center as the non-participating family. Similarly, non-responders were replaced if they failed to respond to the second mailing.

Sample size considerations:

- Number of cases of CDER status 1 autism in the 1983-85 cohort = 991
- Number of cases of CDER status 1 autism in the 1993-95 cohort = 3209
- Observed increase in number of cases between the cohorts = 2218

Assumptions

We made several assumptions to estimate the sample size needed for this study. We did not have data a priori on changes in the threshold for meeting a diagnosis of CDER status 1 autism. We chose to use DSM-IV criteria as the standard for full syndrome autism across both age cohorts, and to assess how closely the diagnosis of CDER status 1 autism matched this criteria. We assumed that 85% of cases of CDER Status 1 would meet DSM-IV criteria for autism for Cohort 1. With this assumption, the 991 CDER status 1 cases would represent 842 "true cases" and 149 cases of something other than full syndrome autism. If there is no difference between the two cohorts then 85% of Cohort 2 would meet DSM-IV criteria, representing 2728 "true cases" and 481 cases that are not full syndrome autism (out of 3,209 CDER status 1 cases).

Estimation of cohort size necessary to detect a change in the diagnostic criteria used for CDER status 1 autism

A change in the diagnostic threshold for the cases of CDER status 1 autism could account for some of the observed increase between the two cohorts. There are 2,218 more cases of CDER status 1 autism in Cohort 2 than Cohort 1. For a change in diagnostic threshold to account for all of the observed increase in autism cases, only 842 of the 3,209 CDER status 1 autism cases would meet DSM-IV criteria for autism. At this extreme, only 18 study subjects (9 from each cohort) would be necessary to show a change in the diagnostic threshold of this magnitude (assuming power = 80% and p≤ 0.05).

While hypothetically possible, it was highly unlikely that only 1 out of 4 CDER status 1 autism cases would meet DSM-IV criteria. If loosening of the diagnostic criteria were to contribute to an artificial increase in the reported cases of autism, it was more likely that it would only be responsible for a portion of the increase. A total sample of 500 (250 from each cohort) would be large enough to detect the difference in correspondence rates of 85% and 75%. If diagnostic criteria changed by this amount, then it would account for 20% of the observed increase in cases.

Study Aim 2

CDER Data - Identification of Study Subjects

CDER data from all 21 Regional Centers in California were used to identify two groups of children with mental retardation without CDER status 1 autism. The California Department of Developmental Services provided CDER data grouped by Regional Centers for the years 1986 to 1999. To be comparable with other aspects of this study, we limited the study population to two birth cohorts of children, year of birth 1983-85 and 1993-95. Sampling was based on an unduplicated list of children with mental retardation without CDER status 1 autism.

The target study sample was 250 in each age group. This would permit determination of whether or not 50% (or more) of the observed increase in cases of autism is due to a change in the rate of misclassification of autism among children listed as having mental retardation.

Table A2. Cases of Mental Retardation without status 1 autism by regional center and the corresponding sample for Study Aim 2.

Mental Retardation (without status 1 autism) by Regional Center	CDER Cases, by year of birth			Sample size, by year of birth	
	1983-85	1993-95	Ratio	1983-85	1993-95
Alta California Regional Center	736	265	0.36	16	8
Central Valley Regional Center	<i>7</i> 95	512	0.64	17	14
Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center	461	335	0.73	10	9
Far Northern Regional Center	315	229	0.73	7	7
Golden Gate Regional Center	407	235	0.58	9	7
Harbor Regional Center	612	478	0.78	13	13
Inland Regional Center	1,146	961	0.84	24	26
Kern Regional Center	358	232	0.65	8	7
Lanterman Regional Center	526	306	0.58	11	9
North Bay Regional Center	318	286	0.90	7	8
North Los Angeles County Regional Center	653	51 <i>7</i>	0.79	14	14
Redwood Coast Regional Center	201	97	0.48	5	3
Regional Center of Orange County	780	705	0.90	17	19
Regional Center of the East Bay	668	38 <i>7</i>	0.58	14	11
San Andreas Regional Center	542	478	0.88	12	13
San Diego Regional Center	1,078	1,036	0.96	23	28
San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center	572	489	0.85	12	14
South Central Los Angeles Regional Center	616	510	0.83	13	14
Tri-Counties Regional Center	452	340	0.75	10	10
Valley Mountain Regional Center	558	554	0.99	12	15
Westside Regional Center	345	323	0.94	8	9
Total	12,139	9,275	0.76	262	258

Assumptions

The rate of misclassification (cases of MR without CDER status 1 autism that meet DSM-IV criteria) was unknown at the outset of this study. For the purposes of sample size calculation, the rate of misclassification was assumed to decrease from 1983 to

1995. Assuming a 5% misclassification rate among 1993-1995 cohort, then all of the observed increase in autism cases could be explained if the misclassification rate among children with MR in 1983-1985 is 22% (22% * 12139 - 5% * 9275 = 3209-991). The sample size necessary to detect a difference between 5% and 22% is 124 (62 in each group). Such an extreme change in misclassification was unlikely. Misclassification, if it were a factor, would more likely contribute to a portion of the observed increase in autism cases.

A sample size of 500 (250 in each age group) would provide 80% power to detect a difference between 5% and 12% with a p-value of 0.05. Misclassification among children determined to have mental retardation without CDER status 1 autism has the potential to account for a large number of "missing" cases of autism. A 5% misclassification rate among the 12,139 children in the 1983-1985 cohort could account for 607 missing cases of autism compared to the 991 children identified with CDER status 1 autism in this same age cohort. If as many as 12% of children classified as having mental retardation were found to meet DSM-IV criteria for autism, then 1,457 such children would have been missed in the older cohort, representing 147% more than the 991 children identified.

Study Aim 3

The sample size considerations for this study aim were similar to that for Study Aim 1. The target study sample was 250 for each birth cohort.

Sample size considerations

To estimate sample size the following assumptions and considerations were made: The sample size would be sufficient to detect whether or not an increase in in-migration accounts for 20% of the increased number of children with autism. The assumptions for this study aim were based on verbal reports by Dr. Croen in advance of her recently published study³⁵ that showed 85% of CDER status 1 autism cases match to a California birth certificate. Sample size estimates were based on a power of 80% and a p-value of 0.05.

If 20% of the increased number of cases were due to increases in in-migration among children with autism, then 25% of the younger age cohort with CDER status 1 autism would need to have been born out-of-state, as compared to 15% of the older cohort. A comparison of two proportions, 15% and 25%, requires 249 children with CDER status 1 autism in each age group, or approximately 500 study participants.

Study Aim 4

Study Aims 1 and 2 determined the sample size for this study aim. A target sample of 500 children with CDER status 1 autism and 500 children with mental retardation was attempted. If the full sample were enrolled then comparisons between age cohorts would allow for detection of a 12% difference between groups.

Study Aim 5

Study Aim 1 determines the sample size for this study aim. Families of 500 children with CDER status 1 autism will be queried. Comparisons will be made between age cohorts, allowing detection of differences of 12% or more.

Study Aim 6

The sample size requirements for this study aim are as follows: with the assumption of an approximate 5% autism or PDD recurrence risk within families with at least one affected child, using an alpha of 0.05, with 474 families in each study arm (exposed/unexposed) we would have 90% power to find a two-fold increased risk for autism/PDD secondary to vaccination. With 159 families in each study arm, we would have 90% power to find a three-fold increased risk secondary to vaccination. It was unknown how many children with autism selected for the study would have younger siblings who are at least 18 months of age. We aimed to have 159 families in each study arm but realized that we might need to expand the number of families to include additional eligible families. Based on the proportion of study children with younger siblings and the proportion of families choosing to refuse or avoid vaccinations for younger siblings, sample size calculations would be done to determine the number of additional families that would need to be recruited to accomplish this study aim. If feasible, it would be attempted.

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