



Colorado Autism and Developmental Disabilities (ADDMM) Project

The Autism and Developmental Monitoring (ADDMM) Network.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is now funding many states, including Colorado, to develop programs to monitor the prevalence of autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) and other developmental disabilities. The goal of the ADDMM Network is to provide comparable, population-based estimates of the prevalence rates of autism and related disorders in different sites over time. For more information, please see: www.cdc.gov/autism.

The Colorado Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Program.

CO-ADDMM is a multiple source investigation to determine and monitor the number of children with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The study will help establish, for the first time, an accurate count of the number of Colorado children with ASD starting with the year 2002. Other years will include 2006 and 2008. The CO-ADDMM is a joint undertaking with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, JFK Partners at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center, and the Colorado Department of Education.

What part of Colorado is included in the CO-ADDMM Study?

In 2002, two counties in Denver Metropolitan area were included: Arapahoe and Boulder. About 11,000 babies are born in this area each year. In 2006 and 2008, we hope to include all seven counties in the Denver Metropolitan area: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas and Jefferson.

What is the age of the children in the study?

The study will focus on 8 year-old children in the Denver Metropolitan area.

How many people 6 – 21 years of age are classified as having autism by the Colorado Department of Education?

During the 2002 – 2003 school year the Colorado Department of Education reported serving 687 students with autism in Colorado.

How common are autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) among children who live in Colorado?

Data available from CO-ADDMM from the 2002 study year found that 5.9 per 1,000 (or 1 in 169) 8 year-old children had an ASD. This resulted in 65 8 year-old children being identified with an ASD within the two county study area.

What kinds of education and training programs will the project offer to people who work with children who have ASDs?

CO-ADDMM clinicians created Autism Awareness Seminars for providers to improve capacity for recognizing early sign of ASDs and for establishing standard referral practices. In the coming months, these seminar presentations will be made available to providers throughout the state.

What are some of the other programs in Colorado that work with children with ASDs and their families?

Colorado Department of Education – Exceptional Student Services Unit (www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/index.asp), Autism Society of Colorado (www.autismcolorado.org) Autism Society of Boulder County (www.autismboulder.org), Autism Society of Larimer County (www.autismlarimer.org), Autism Society of America – Pike's Peak Chapter (www.asappr.org), Family Voices (www.familyvoicesco.org), The Ares in Colorado (www.thearcofoco.org), and Early Childhood Connections (www.earlychildhoodconnections.org).



Does study staff work with any other monitoring program in the state?

Staff work with the Colorado Responds to Children with Special Needs Program (Colorado's birth defects monitoring and prevention program) to assist in monitoring for muscular dystrophy, fetal alcohol syndrome and other birth defects and developmental disabilities.

Do any laws or statutes in Colorado have to do with identifying children with ASD?

In 2003, the Colorado Board of Health added Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) to the Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Detection, Monitoring, and Investigation of Environmental and Chronic Diseases (6 CCR – 1009 – 7) Children less than or equal to 10 years of age with confirmed or suspected ASD are reportable by healthcare facilities in the seven – county Denver Metropolitan area.

For more information:

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