Arizona Developmental Disabilities Surveillance Program

The Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is now funding researchers in many states, including Arizona, to develop programs to monitor the prevalence of autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities. The goal of the ADDM 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: http://www.cdc.gov/autism

The *Arizona Developmental Disabilities Surveillance Program (ADDSP)* is a multiple-source investigation to determine and monitor the number of children with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and Mental Retardation. This study will help establish, for the first time, an accurate count of the number of Arizona children with autism starting with the year 2000. Other years will include 2002, 2004, 2006, and 2008. The investigators are members of the Department of Pediatrics and College of Public Health at the University of Arizona. The ADDSP is a joint undertaking with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Arizona State Department of Education, and many other agencies and organizations that serve children with ASD and their families.

What part of Arizona is included in the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Study? The study will begin in Maricopa County but could expand to include Pima County in the future. About 60,500 babies are born in Maricopa County each year.

What is the age of the children in the study? The study will focus on 8 year old children.

How many people 3-21 years of age are classified as having autism by the Arizona Department of Education? In the 2005-06 school year, 3,574 Arizona students were classified as having autism and received special education services. That number was 0.33% of the 1,094,226 children enrolled in Arizona public schools on October 1, 2005.

How common are autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) among children who live in Arizona? Data available from ADDSP from the 2002 study year found that 6.2 per 1,000 children had an ASD. This resulted in 280 eight year old children being identified with an ASD within the Arizona study area.

What kinds of education and training programs will the project offer to people who work with children who have ASDs? Study staff will provide workshops to medical and nonmedical personnel to increase recognition of the early signs of ASDs and to enhance their capacity to diagnose and report ASDs, including childhood autism, Asperger's syndrome, atypical autism, and pervasive developmental disorder. Staff will also give talks about ASD to pediatric faculty and staff at major hospitals in the Phoenix community.

What are some of the other programs in Arizona that work with children with ASDs and their families? The Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center (SARRC) is a nonprofit, community-based organization dedicated to autism research, education, and community outreach. The center also provides information to families and professionals on current research about autism and related disorders.

Do any laws or statutes in Arizona have to do with identifying children with ASD? Not at present

Do study staff work with any other monitoring programs in the state? Staff also work with the Arizona Birth Defects Monitoring Program (ABDMP) to assist in case finding and record abstracting in southern Arizona, and with the Arizona Muscular Dystrophy Surveillance and Research Program (AMDSRP) to investigate the natural history and treatment outcomes of children and adults with muscular dystrophy.

For further information, please contact:

Sydney Pettygrove, PhD
Department of Pediatrics
Arizona Health Sciences Center
1501 N. Campbell Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85724-5073

Phone: (520) 626-3704
Fax: (520) 626-8056
Email: sydneyp@u.arizona.edu