



## South Carolina Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Program

### **The Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network (ADDM Network)**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is now funding researchers in several states, including South Carolina, to develop programs to monitor the prevalence of autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). The goal of the ADDM Network is to provide comparable, population-based estimates of the prevalence rates of autism and related disorders at different sites over time. For more information please see: <http://www.cdc.gov/autism>

**The South Carolina Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Program (SC ADDM)** is a population-based investigation, modeled after the CDC Metropolitan Atlanta Developmental Disabilities Surveillance Program. Information from both clinical and nonclinical sources is used to establish the rate of autism spectrum disorders in the study region. The investigators are members of the Department of Developmental Pediatrics and the Department of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics and Epidemiology at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC).

**What part of South Carolina is included in the South Carolina Autism Study?** The study includes all of the Coastal and Pee Dee regions, comprising 23 counties, in the eastern half of the state. About 25,000 babies are born in this part of the state each year.

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

**How many people 6–21 years of age are classified as having autism by the South Carolina Department of Education?** During the 2004-2005 school year, the State Department of Education reported serving 1729 students with autism.

**How common are autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) among people who live in South Carolina?** Data available from SC-ADDM from the 2000 study year found that 6.3 per 1,000 children had an ASD. This resulted in 155 eight year old children being identified with an ASD within the South Carolina study area. In the 2002 study year SC-ADDM found that 6.0 per 1,000 children had an ASD. This resulted in 140 children being identified with an ASD within the South Carolina study area.

**What kinds of education and training programs will the project offer to people who work with children who have ASDs?** SC ADDM team will continue to present programs to increase awareness, screening, diagnosis and early intervention. Between 2003-2006 SC ADDM gave over 60 presentations to local, regional, state and national organizations reaching over 1000 service providers and stakeholders including:

- Early Childhood educators including the staff of the Baby Net Program, an early intervention program working with young children from birth through 2 years of age
- School psychologists, special education teachers, and special education directors
- Pediatricians, family medicine doctors, and residents in pediatric and family medicine
- Child psychiatrists and psychologists
- Parents and the general public

**What are some of the other programs in South Carolina that work with children with ASD and their families?** Other ASD programs in South Carolina include the Autism Division of the South Carolina Department of Developmental Disabilities and Special Needs, the South Carolina Autism Society, and the Carolina Autism Resource and Evaluation Center.

**Do any laws or statutes in South Carolina have to do with ASD?** Not at present.

**Does study staff work with any other monitoring programs in the state?** Not at present.

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