



Colorado Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Project

The Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) 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 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: www.cdc.gov/autism

The Colorado Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Program

(CO-ADDM) is a multiple-source investigation to determine and monitor the number of children with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). This 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-ADDM 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-ADDM Study?

In 2002, two counties in the 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-ADDM from the 2002 study year found that 5.9 per 1,000 (or 1 in 159) 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 activities has the projects done to improve awareness among providers?

CO ADDM clinicians created Autism Awareness Seminars for pediatricians to improve capacity for recognizing early signs of ASDs and for establishing referral practices.

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 (cde.state.co.us/cdesped/index.asp), Autism Society of Colorado (www.autismcolorado.org), Autism Society of Boulder County (autismboulder.org), Autism Society of Larimer County (www.autismlarimer.org), Autism Society of America – Pike’s Peak Chapter (www.asappr.org), Family Voices (familyvoicesco.org), The Arcs in Colorado (thearcofco.org), and Early Childhood Connections (earlychildhoodconnections.org).

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

Staff works 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:

Lisa Miller, MD, MSPH

Principle Investigator, Colorado ADDM
Director, Disease Control and
Environmental Epidemiology Division,
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
lisa.miller@state.co.us

Andria Ratchford, MSPH

Autism Project Coordinator,
Colorado Responds to Children
with Special Needs
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
303-692-2680, andria.ratchford@state.co.us