



North Carolina Center for 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 researchers in many sites, include North Carolina, 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: www.cdc.gov/autism.

The North Carolina Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Project 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 North Carolina children with autism starting with the year 2002. Other years will include 2004, 2006 and 2008.

What parts of North Carolina are included in NC ADDM? The project includes the following counties: Alamance, Chatham, Davidson, Durham, Forsyth, Guilford, Johnston, Orange, Randolph, and Wake.

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 North Carolina Department of Education?

In the 2000-2001 school year, 136 eight-year-old children were classified as having autism under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). IDEA is the federal law that supports special education and related services for children and youth with disabilities. However, there are additional children with ASDs who are classified in other disability categories under IDEA. There are also other children with ASDs and mental retardation who are in regular education classes, who attend private school, or who are home schooled.

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

Data available from NC ADDM from the 2002 study year found that 6.5 per 1,000 children had an ASD. This resulted in 135 eight year old children being identified with an ASD within the North Carolina study area.

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

NC-ADDM plans to train nurses, physicians, educators, and other providers of health and educational services to screen children for signs of developmental disabilities and ASDs. Information will be shared through the mailings to parents and support groups, the media, scientific publications, and presentations at professional conferences. The NC-ADDM website has links to information for parents, educators and clinicians.

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

Children's Development Service Agency, Division of Treatment and Education of Autistic and related Communication-handicapped Children (TEACCH), Autism Society of North Carolina, Autism Society of NC summer camp program, Families for Early Autism Treatment (FEAT) of North Carolina

Do any laws or statutes in North Carolina have to do with children with ASDs and their families?

Yes (related to special education services)

Does study staff work with any other monitoring programs in the state? No

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