

Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDMM) Network

In 1984, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) began conducting surveillance with the Georgia Department of Human Resources (DHR), initiating the Metropolitan Atlanta Developmental Disabilities Study (MADDSS) to determine the prevalence of select developmental disabilities among children. In 1991, CDC established the Metropolitan Atlanta Developmental Disabilities Surveillance Program (MADDSP), an ongoing system for monitoring the occurrence of selected developmental disabilities (mental retardation, cerebral palsy, hearing loss, and vision impairment). Autism was added to MADDSP beginning in 1996 and data collection has been ongoing for the 2000, 2002, and 2004 study years.

To better understand the prevalence of autism and autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) in the United States, and gain insights into potential causes to be researched further, the Children's Health Act of 2000 provided a mandate for CDC to expand surveillance of autism and developmental disabilities in additional geographic areas of the United States by establishing the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD). CDC now supports surveillance programs in 15 sites in 17 states. This collaborative body is known as the *Autism Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDMM) Network*.

The **ADDMM Network** seeks to develop or improve programs that track the number of children with ASDs in their states. 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. The current sites in the ADDMM Network include:

Alabama:	Alabama Autism Surveillance Program (AASP)
Arizona:	Arizona Autism Spectrum Surveillance Program (AASSP)
Arkansas:	Arkansas Autism Project (AAP)
Florida:	University of Miami Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring project (UM-ADDMM)
Illinois:	Missouri/Illinois Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring project (MO/IL ADDMM)
New Jersey:	New Jersey Autism Study (NJAS)
South Carolina:	South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Surveillance Program (SCDDSP)
Utah:	Utah Registry of Autism and Developmental Disabilities (URADD)
West Virginia:	West Virginia Autism Study (WVAS)
Wisconsin:	Wisconsin Surveillance of Autism and Other Developmental Disorders System (WISADDS)

Six additional sites also known as CDC's *Centers for Autism and Developmental Disabilities Research and Epidemiology (CADDRE)* collaborate with the ADDMM Network. These sites are in the following states: California (California Department of Health Services), Colorado (Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment), Georgia (CDC), Maryland/Delaware (Johns Hopkins University), North Carolina (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Public Health), and Pennsylvania (University of Pennsylvania/The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia). In addition to conducting surveillance, the **CADDRE** programs are conducting a large, collaborative study on the potential causes of and risk factors for autism and other developmental disabilities.

The **ADDMM Network** is the only collaborative project using similar methods to determine the prevalence of ASD based on the MADDSP model. The combined data from the various **ADDMM** sites may help inform researchers about the possible causes of ASDs or factors contributing to the apparent increase in ASD diagnoses. In addition, the **ADDMM Network** seeks to conduct education and outreach activities which may increase public awareness that will lead to improvements in how individuals with ASDs are identified, and receive appropriate interventions.

The collaborative efforts of the **ADDMM Network** will enable CDC to:

1. Provide a baseline of comparable, ASD prevalence rates in different regions of the US
2. Provide a population-based description of characteristics of ASDs
3. Determine whether ASDs affect certain people or geographic areas more than others.
4. Detect changes in the prevalence of ASDs with continued monitoring
5. Understand the national impact of autism and related conditions

For more information on the **ADDMM Network** and other activities related to autism surveillance, research and outreach, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/dd/ddautism.htm>

Promoting the health of babies, children and adults, and enhancing the potential for full, productive living.

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