



Colorado Autism & Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Program

The Autism and Developmental Disorders Monitoring Network (ADDM Network). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is funding researchers in 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 8-year-old children in the population with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). This surveillance system 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 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.

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 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 169) 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 education and training programs will the project offer to people who work with children who have ASDs and other developmental disabilities? CO-ADDM clinicians created Autism Awareness Seminars for providers to improve capacity for recognizing early sign of ASDs and for establishing standard referral practices. In the coming months, these seminar presentations will be made available to providers throughout the state.

What are some of the resources available in Colorado for children with developmental disabilities and their families? Colorado Department of Education – Exceptional Student Services Unit (www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/index.asp), Autism Society of Colorado (www.autismcolorado.org) Autism Society of Boulder County (www.autismboulder.org), Autism Society of Larimer County (www.autismlarimer.org), Autism Society of America – Pike’s Peak Chapter (www.asappr.org), Family Voices (www.familyvoicesco.org), The Ares in Colorado (www.thearcofoco.org), and Early Childhood Connections (www.earlychildhoodconnections.org).

For further information, please contact:

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