



Missouri Autism & Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Project

The Autism and Developmental Disorders Monitoring Network (ADDM Network). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is funding researchers in many states, including Missouri, 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 Missouri Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Project (MO ADDM) is a multiple-source surveillance project designed to determine and monitor the number of 8-year-old children with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD), cerebral palsy (CP), and co-existing epilepsy among children with ASD and/or CP. The goal of this project is to generate accurate population-based prevalence estimates of ASD and CP (CP added for the 2006 study year) among 8-year-old children in 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2008 living in the metropolitan St. Louis area. The investigators are members of the School of Medicine at Washington University. MO ADDM is a joint undertaking with the CDC and other state partners, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and many other agencies and organizations that serve children with ASD and their families.

What part of Missouri is included in MO ADDM? The project includes 5 counties in St. Louis metropolitan area: St. Louis, Saint Louis City, St. Charles, Franklin, and Jefferson. There are approximately 26,000 live births/year in our study area.

How many people 5K-21 years of age are classified as having autism by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)? For the 2007-2008 school year, MO DESE reported serving 5,144 students with autism, 2,222 of which attended schools in the MO ADDM study area counties.

How common are ASDs among children who live in Missouri? Data available from MO ADDM from the 2002 study year found that 7.3 per 1,000 children had an ASD. This resulted in 205 8-year-old children being identified with an ASD within the MO ADDM 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? MO ADDM investigators will offer lectures at the two main children's hospitals in the area on diagnostic criteria for ASDs as well as early signs and symptoms. Investigators will also work with other stakeholders in Missouri to develop educational programs for therapists and special education teachers.

What are some of the resources available in Missouri that work with children with ASDs and their families? The Missouri Department of Mental Health-Division and Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities (MR/DD) www.dmh.missouri.gov/mrdd/progs/index.htm coordinates ASD related services in Missouri.

For further information, please contact:

Robert Fitzgerald, MPH
Co-Principal Investigator & Project Coordinator
MO ADDM Project
PHONE: (314) 286-0151 FAX: (314) 286-0133
E-MAIL: fitzgeraldr@wustl.edu