



## Alabama 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 Alabama, 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](http://www.cdc.gov/autism)

**The Alabama Autism Surveillance Program (AASP)** 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) and/or cerebral palsy (CP). This surveillance system will help establish, for the first time, an accurate count of the number of Alabama children and families affected by these disorders. The investigators are members of the Department of Health Care Organization and Policy in the School of Public Health at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, working as agents of the Alabama Department of Public Health. The AASP is a joint undertaking with the CDC, the Autism Society of Alabama, other state partners, the Alabama State Department of Education, and many other agencies and organizations that serve children with developmental disabilities and their families.

**What part of Alabama is included in the AASP?** The study presently encompasses the northern 32 counties in Alabama but could expand to cover the entire state in the future. About 36,000 babies are born in this area each year.

**How many people 3-21 years of age are classified as having autism by the Alabama Department of Education?** In the 2007-2008 school year, 3,274 students were classified as having autism and received special education services. That number was 0.44% of the 742,789 children enrolled in Alabama public schools for the 2007-2008 school year.

**How common are ASDs among children who live in Alabama?** Data available from AASP from the 2002 study year found that 3.3 per 1,000 children had an ASD. This resulted in 116 8-year-old children being identified with an ASD within the Alabama study area. Data available from the 2002 study year found that 3.7 per 1,000 children had CP. This resulted in 131 8-year-old children being identified with CP within the Alabama 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?** Study staff will provide workshops to teachers and primary health care providers to increase recognition of the early signs of ASDs and to enhance their ability to identify and diagnose ASDs, including childhood autism, Asperger's syndrome, atypical autism, and pervasive developmental disorder.

**What are some of the resources available in Alabama for children with developmental disabilities and their families?** The Autism Society of Alabama (ASA) is a nonprofit, community-based organization dedicated to advocacy, community education, and support for families.

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