



University of Miami Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Project

The Autism and Developmental Disorders Monitoring Network (ADDM Network). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has funded researchers in many states, including Florida, 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 University of Miami Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Project (UM-ADDM) is a multiple-source investigation to determine and monitor the number of 8-year-old children in the population with an ASD. This surveillance system will help establish, for the first time, an accurate count of the number of Florida children and families affected by ASDs. The investigators are members of the University Of Miami Department Of Psychology, in association with the University of Miami, Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (UM-CARD). The UM-ADDM is a joint undertaking with the CDC and other state partners, agencies and organizations that serve children with developmental disabilities and their families.

What part of Florida is included in the UM-ADDM? The study includes Miami-Dade County. Approximately 32,000 babies are born each year in this county.

How many people 3-21 years of age are classified as having autism by the Florida Department of Education? In the 2007–2008 school year, (12,440, 3.3%) students were classified as having autism and received special education services.

How common are ASDs among children who live in Florida? Prior to the initiation of the UM-ADDM project, the administrative prevalence in Miami-Dade County, Florida was 4.8 per 1,000 students during the 2004-2005 school year.

What kinds of education and training programs will the project offer to people who work with children who have ASDs and other developmental disabilities? UM-CARD provides parent training to improve family members' understanding of the nature of ASDs. Community awareness enhanced through a regular system of professional training on the nature of identification of and intervention with children with ASDs.

What are some of the resources available in Florida for children with developmental disabilities and their families? The University of Miami Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (UM-CARD) was developed specifically to facilitate improved service delivery for children with ASDs (<http://netsrv.psy.miami.edu/CARD>). Currently, five other Florida state CARDS are located at universities in Jacksonville, Orlando, Gainesville, Tampa and Tallahassee. Its excellence in clinical service provision has allowed UM-CARD to forge close working relations with all aspects of the community involved in service for children with ASDs, including the Miami-Dade public school. Related programs include The Miami Children's Hospital Dan Marino Center in Broward County.

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