



Wisconsin Surveillance of Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities System

The Autism and Developmental Disorders Monitoring Network (ADDM Network). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is funding researchers in many states, including Wisconsin, 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 Wisconsin Surveillance of Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities System (WISADDS) 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 Wisconsin children and families affected by these disorders. This project is a collaboration between the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services and investigators from the Waisman Center and Department of Population Health Sciences of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The WISADDS 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 Wisconsin is included in the WISADDS? The study includes 10 counties of southeastern Wisconsin — Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Jefferson, Rock, Dane, Green and Walworth. Approximately 34,000 babies are born in these counties each year, and about half of the state's population resides in these counties. We have completed data collection for the 2002, 2004, and 2006 study years, and will continue to collect data for the 2008 study year.

How many people 3-21 years of age are classified as having autism by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction? In the 2007-2008 school year, 6,174 or 0.71% of Wisconsin's public and private school students were classified as having autism and received special education services. The number of Wisconsin children receiving special education services for autism more than doubled from 2002 to 2007.

How common are ASDs among children who live in Wisconsin? Data available from WISADDS from the 2002 study year found that 5.2 per 1,000 children had an ASD. This resulted in 181 8-year-old children being identified with an ASD within the Wisconsin study area.

How common is CP among children who live in Wisconsin? Data available from the 2002 study year found that 3.3 per 1,000 children had CP. This resulted in 117 8-year-old children being identified with CP within the Wisconsin 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? The project will sponsor workshops and trainings in early identification of developmental disorders for pediatricians and other pediatric health care providers serving southeastern Wisconsin. The goal is to improve capacity for recognizing early signs of ASDs and CP and for standard diagnostic practices related to ASDs, including childhood autism, Asperger's syndrome, atypical autism, and pervasive developmental disorder.

What are some of the resources available in Wisconsin for children with developmental disabilities and their families? The Waisman Center of the University of Wisconsin-Madison offers programs dedicated to developmental disabilities research, diagnosis, and treatment (<http://www.waisman.wisc.edu> or <http://www.familyvillage.wisc.edu/>). The Autism Society of Wisconsin is another available resource (<http://www.asw4autism.org/>).

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