



Florida Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Project

The Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network (ADDM) Network. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is now funding 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 an investigation coordinated with the Florida Department of Health to determine and monitor the number of children with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in south Florida. This study will help establish, for the first time, an accurate count of the number of children in south Florida with autism. 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). UM-ADDM is a collaborative undertaking of the CDC and the University of Miami.

What part of Florida is included in the Florida Study? The project will initially focus on Miami-Dade County, Florida. Approximately 32,000 babies are born each year in this part of Florida.

What is the age of the children in the study? The first study includes children 8 years of age born in 1998. The second phase will include data from the years 2006 and 2008.

How many people 3-21 years of age are classified as having autism by the Florida Department of Education? During the 2000-2001 school year, there were 4,971 students with autism receiving special education services for autism in Florida, with 1,120 students receiving services in Miami-Dade County.

How common are autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) among children who live in south Florida? Prior to the initiation of the UM-ADDM project, the administrative prevalence of autism in Miami-Dade County, Florida was 2.7 per 1,000 students during the 1999-2000 school year.

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

What are some of the other programs in Florida that work with children with ASD 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 ASD, including the Miami-Dade public schools. Related programs include The Miami Children's Hospital Dan Marino Center in Broward County.

Do any laws or statutes in Florida have to do with ASD? In a sequence of acts implemented during the period 1987 to 1993, the Florida state legislature authorized and funded the state Centers for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD).

Do study staff work with any other monitoring programs in the state? The project is coordinated with the Florida Department of Health. Under contracts with the Florida Department of Education, UM-ADDM researchers operate a statewide registry for Child Find, the Children's Registry Information System (www.chris.miami.edu). Other studies of risk factors for the administrative prevalence of autism and other developmental disabilities are conducted for the Florida Department of Education by linking archived school records to birth certificate records from the Department of Health.

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