



South Carolina Autism & Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Program

The Autism and Developmental Disorders Monitoring Network (ADDM Network). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is funding researchers in several states, including South Carolina, 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 South Carolina Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Program (SC-ADDM) 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 intellectual disability (ID). This surveillance system will help establish, for the first time, an accurate count of the number of South Carolina children and families affected by these disorders. Information from both clinical and nonclinical sources is used to establish the prevalence of autism spectrum disorders in the study region. The investigators are members of the Department of Developmental Pediatrics and the Department of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics and Epidemiology at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC).

What part of South Carolina is included in the South Carolina Autism Study? The study includes all of the Coastal and Pee Dee regions. About half the state's population resides in these 23 counties with 25,000 babies born in this part of the state each year.

How many people 3-21 years of age are classified as having autism by the South Carolina Department of Education? During the 2008 school year, the State Department of Education reported serving 3054 students with autism.

How common are autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) among children who live in South Carolina? SC ADDM has completed 2 birth cohorts of 8-year-old children and found 6.2 per thousand or 1 in 161 children had an autism spectrum disorder. We will soon report the number of 8-year-olds with an ASD for our third and fourth birth cohorts and be able to report any trend in autism prevalence in SC. We will continue to monitor the prevalence of autism in South Carolina through 2010. Understanding the magnitude of ASD prevalence will help direct decisions by policymakers and help develop better and a wider range of evidence based-interventions.

What kinds of education and training programs will the project offer to people who work with children who have ASDs? SC ADDM team will continue to present programs to increase awareness, screening, diagnosis and early intervention. Between 2003-2008 SC ADDM gave over 100 presentations to local, regional, state and national organizations reaching well over 1000 autism service providers and stakeholders including:

- Early Childhood educators including the staff of the Baby Net Program, an early intervention program working with young children from birth through 2 years of age
- School psychologists, special education teachers, and special education directors
- Pediatricians, family medicine doctors, and residents in pediatric and family medicine
- Child psychiatrists and psychologists
- Parents and the general public

What are some of the other programs in South Carolina that work with children with ASD and their families? Other ASD programs in South Carolina include the Autism Division of the South Carolina Department of Developmental Disabilities and Special Needs, the South Carolina Autism Society, and the Carolina Autism Resource and Evaluation Centers.

Does study staff work with any other monitoring programs in the state? South Carolina ADDM has completed studies of 4 year old children with ASD, 15 year old children with ASD, 8 year old children with intellectual disability, and has started a study of children with ASD, intellectual disability, and Fragile X.

What are some of the resources available in South Carolina for children with developmental disabilities and their families? Other ASD programs in South Carolina include the Autism Division of the South Carolina Department of Developmental Disabilities and Special Needs, the South Carolina Autism Society, and the Carolina Autism Resource and Evaluation Center.

For further information, please contact:

Walter Jenner, MS
Education and Outreach Coordinator
MUSC Developmental Pediatrics 135 Rutledge Ave, MSC567
Charleston, SC 29425
PHONE: (314) 286-0151
E-MAIL: jennerw@musc.edu

