

Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network (ADDM)

Tracking Autism and Developmental Disabilities in Wisconsin: What Clinicians Need to Know

The Wisconsin Surveillance of Autism and other Developmental Disabilities System (WISADDS) is 1 of 12 sites participating in a program that **monitors the number and characteristics of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other developmental disabilities.**

The tracking system relies on multiple sources of data to measure prevalence and collect information on characteristics and risk factors for ASD, including:

- Age of identification of ASD
- Relationship between parental age and ASD risk
- Socioeconomic disparities in the prevalence of ASD



Clinicians:

Use this valuable information to raise awareness of ASD, plan for services, and promote early identification. You can also access education and training through WISADDS to help recognize and diagnose early signs of ASD and other developmental disabilities.



WISADDS is working to promote early identification of ASD.

Autism Spectrum Disorders: How prevalent are they in Wisconsin?

WISADDS completed the latest tracking of ASD in Wisconsin in 2008. The monitored area included 10 counties and 34,451 children 8 years old. Here's what the project found.

Out of 34,451 children 8 years old:



Prevalence

Among the 8-year-old children in the monitored area:

- The project identified 267 children with ASD.
- The total prevalence was 7.8 per 1,000.

This means that **1 in 129 of the 8-year-old children** in the area has ASD.

Sex

The project found ASD to be more prevalent in 8-year-old boys than in girls.

- For boys, the prevalence was 11.7 per 1,000.
- For girls, the prevalence was 3.7 per 1,000.

This means that among 8 year olds, **1 in every 85 boys** in the project area has ASD, compared to **1 in every 270 girls**.

Race / Ethnicity

The project found ASD to be most common among 8-year-old white children, as compared to black and Hispanic children.

- For white children, the prevalence was 8.6 per 1,000.
- For black children, the prevalence was 5.0 per 1,000.
- For Hispanic children, the prevalence was 3.8 per 1,000.

This means that among 8-year-old children in the area monitored, **1 in every 116 white children** has ASD, compared to **1 in every 200 black children** and **1 in every 263 Hispanic children**.



Learn More About WISADDS:

WISADDS is a collaboration between the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and researchers from the Waisman Center and Department of Population Health Sciences at University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Find articles we've authored at <http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/wisadds/publications.php/>.

For more information,
please contact:

Maureen Durkin, PhD, DrPH
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Waisman Center
1500 Highland Ave, Room S101E
Madison, Wisconsin 53705
(608) 263-2128
mdurkin@wisc.edu

Diagnosis

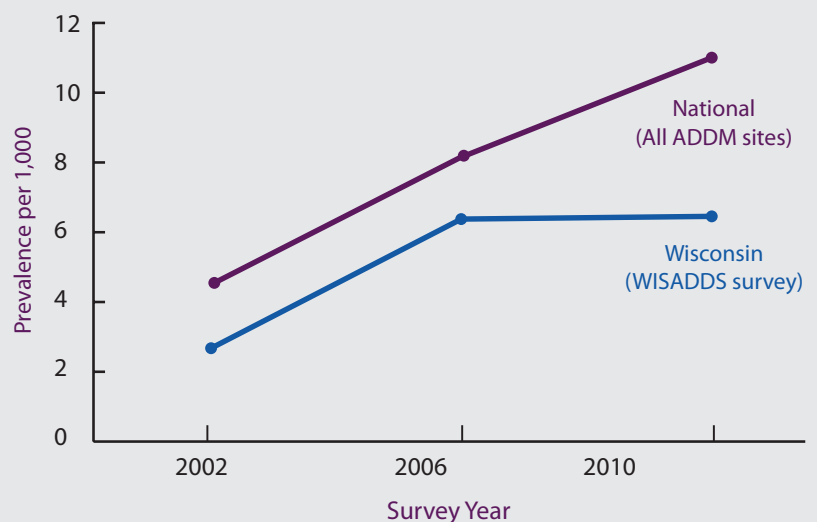
Of the 267 children identified with ASD, 83% had a diagnosis in their records.

The median earliest age of diagnosis was 4 years, 5 months.

The median earliest age of diagnosis for specific disorders was:

- Autistic disorder: 3 years, 10 months
- ASD/pervasive development disorder (PDD): 4 years, 4 months
- Asperger disorder: 6 years, 2 months

Overall ASD Prevalence in Children

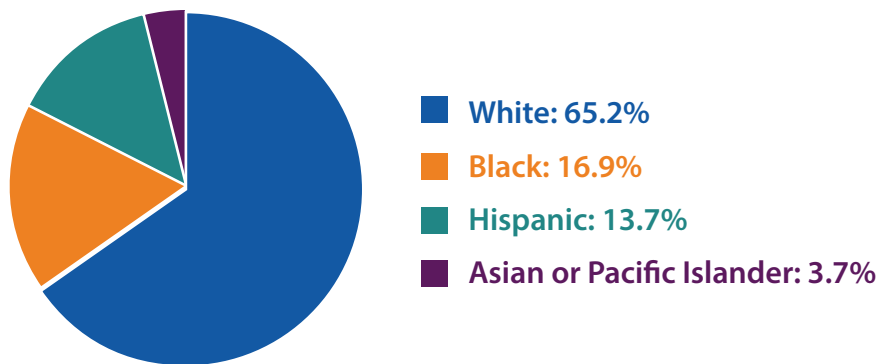


This graph compares national ASD rates to ASD rates in Wisconsin.

Site Information

These 10 Wisconsin counties were included in the 2008 project: Dane, Green, Jefferson, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Walworth, and Waukesha.

The racial or ethnic identification of the 8-year-old children in the area monitored (a total of 34,451 children) was:



Where Can I Get Training and Education on ASD?

WISADDS sponsors workshops and trainings in southeastern Wisconsin to help healthcare providers identify developmental disabilities early on.

We also want to spread the word about standardized diagnostic practices related to ASDs.

These include:

- Childhood autism
- Asperger syndrome
- Atypical autism
- PDD not otherwise specified

Find a listing of trainings on our website at <http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/wisadds/>.

Find Resources in Wisconsin:

Learn the Signs. Act Early. is a CDC campaign to raise awareness about developmental milestones and the importance of screening and early intervention. Visit www.ActEarly.wisc.edu for more information.

Wisconsin Regional Centers for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) provides training related to early identification, autism, developmental screening, and community-based resources. To find out what's available in your area, visit www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/health/children/overview/index.htm.

Finding Your Way: A Navigation Guide for Wisconsin Families Who Have Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs and Disabilities has brief descriptions of programs, services, and systems of support available to families Wisconsin. You can download the booklet at http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/cedd/pdfs/products/community/FYW_e.pdf.

Wisconsin First Step is a 24-hour hotline and searchable online database for families and healthcare providers who support children and youth with special needs. Call 1-800-642-7837 or visit www.mch-hotlines.org.

The Autism Society of Wisconsin has many resources for individuals, families, and professionals affected by autism. To find out more or locate your local chapter, visit www.asw4autism.org or call 1-888-4-AUTISM.