

Wisconsin Surveillance of Autism and other Developmental Disabilities System

Autism Spectrum Disorder Prevalence Estimates

Wisconsin is currently one of 13 states funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as part of the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network, to count the number of 8-year-old children with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other selected developmental disabilities. In 2003, the Wisconsin Surveillance of Autism and other Developmental Disabilities System (WISADDS) was established as an ADDM Network site in collaboration between the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and investigators from the Waisman Center and Department of Population Health Sciences at University of Wisconsin-Madison. WISADDS is currently conducting surveillance for ASD and cerebral palsy.

What part of Wisconsin is included in the study?

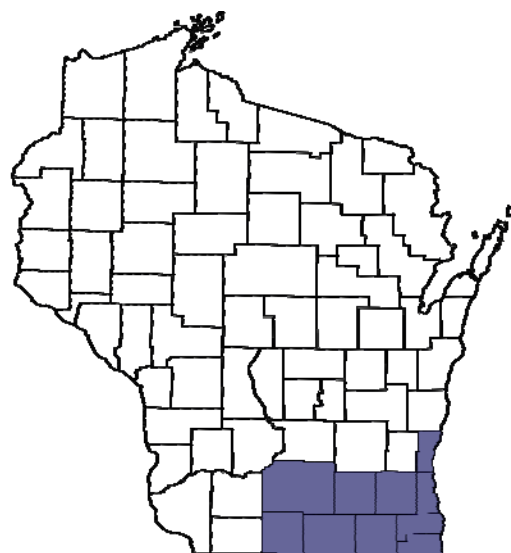
10 counties of southeastern Wisconsin: Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Jefferson, Rock, Dane, Green and Walworth

2006 Study Year

Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss5810a1.htm>

Population of 8-Year-Old Children in Study Area, 2006

- 34,058 (49% of all 8-year-olds in WI)
- 65.7% White, Non-Hispanic
- 18.1% Black, Non-Hispanic
- 12.2% Hispanic
- 0.5% American Indian/Alaska Native
- 3.5% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 15.0% of children in special education



Purple- Counties in WISADDS

Results

Number of 8-year-old children identified with an ASD: 257
 Total prevalence of ASD: 7.6 per 1,000 or 1 per 132 children

Sex

Boys: 12.7 per 1,000
 Girls: 2.3 per 1,000

Race/Ethnicity

White, non-Hispanic: 8.5 per 1,000
 Black, non-Hispanic: 3.6 per 1,000
 Hispanic: 1.7 per 1,000
 Asian/Pacific Islander: 5.8 per 1,000

Initial Diagnosis

Median Age of ASD diagnosis 4 years, 5 months

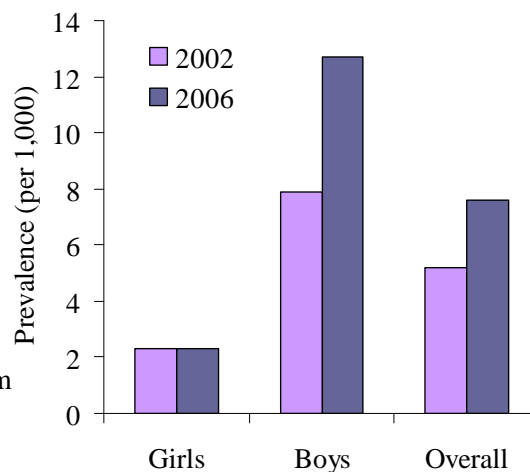
2002 Study Year

Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss5601a2.htm>

Results

Number of 8-year-old children identified with an ASD: 181
 Total prevalence of ASD: 5.2 per 1,000 or 1 per 191 children

Prevalence of ASD by Sex



The estimated prevalence of ASD identified among children aged 8 years increased 46% from 2002 to 2006 in Wisconsin, with the increase occurring among males. The reason for this increase, whether due to better detection and awareness or increase in the risk of autism, is unclear. There was little change in the age of initial ASD diagnosis between 2002 and 2006. Because of the benefits of early intervention, identification of an ASD at earlier ages is essential to ensure that children receive optimal early intervention services.

Questions? Please contact WISADDS Project Director, Dr. Maureen Durkin at (608) 263-2128, or WISADDS Project Coordinator, Carrie Arneson, at (608) 263-8222 or clarneso@wisc.edu.