

Arkansas

Tracking Autism Spectrum Disorder and Other Developmental Disabilities in Arkansas:

What You Need To Know

A Snapshot of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Arkansas

The following estimates are based on information collected from the health and special education records of children who were 8 years old and living in Arkansas in 2010 (see sidebar). Overall, the Arkansas Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Program (AR-ADDMM) identified 605 children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), including children with and without a diagnosis documented in their records.

How many children were identified with ASD?

1 in 65 children (or 15.5 per 1,000 8-year-olds) was identified with ASD.

This estimate is about the same as the average number of children identified with ASD (1 in 68) in all areas of the United States where CDC tracks ASD.

Which children were more likely to be identified with ASD?

Boys were about 4 times more likely to be identified with ASD than girls.

- 1 in 40 boys was identified with ASD.
- 1 in 172 girls was identified with ASD.

White children were more likely to be identified with ASD than black and Hispanic children¹.

- 1 in 57 white children was identified with ASD.
- 1 in 91 black children was identified with ASD.
- 1 in 110 Hispanic children was identified with ASD.
- 1 in 87 Asian or Pacific Islander children was identified with ASD.

When were children first evaluated for developmental concerns?

35% of children identified with ASD were evaluated for developmental concerns by the time they were 3 years old.

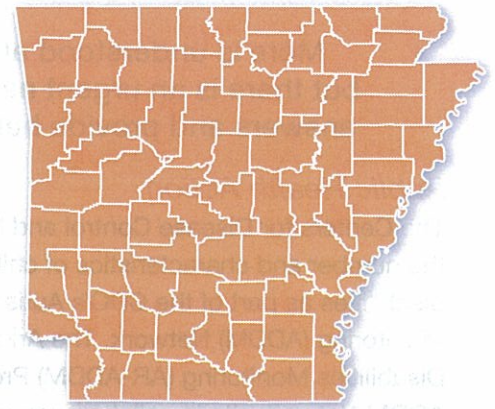
When were children first diagnosed with ASD by a community provider²?

On average, children were diagnosed at age 5 years and 1 month, even though children can be diagnosed as early as age 2 years. When looking at age of first diagnosis by subtype, on average, children were diagnosed with:

- Autistic disorder at age 4 years and 7 months.
- Pervasive developmental disorder-not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS) at age 5 years and 3 months.
- Asperger disorder at age 6 years and 3 months.

How many children had an eligibility for autism special education services at school or had an ASD diagnosis?

77% of children either had an eligibility for autism special education services at school or had an ASD diagnosis. The remaining 23% of children identified with ASD had documented symptoms of ASD, but had not yet been classified as having ASD by a community provider.



Site Information

Tracking area: All 75 counties in Arkansas

Children in tracking area: 38,956 8-year-old children, of whom about 68% were white, 19% were black, 11% were Hispanic, and 2% were Asian or Pacific Islander



More is understood about ASD than ever before, but there is an urgent need to continue the search for answers and provide help for people living with ASD.

Public Health Action

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funds programs to track the number and characteristics of children with ASD and other developmental disabilities as part of the CDC's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network. The Arkansas Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (AR-ADDM) Program was established in 2002 as an ADDM Network site in collaboration with the Arkansas Department of Health and investigators from the University of Arkansas for Medical Services (UAMS). AR-ADDM partners with state programs, agencies, and organizations that serve children with developmental disabilities and their families to track the number of 8-year-old children with ASD, intellectual disability, or both living in Arkansas. This program also contributes information on the characteristics of children with ASD and on factors that put children at risk for this condition. AR-ADDM data can be used to promote early identification, plan for training and service needs, guide research, and inform policy so that children and families in our community get the help they need.

Training and Education on Autism Spectrum Disorder

AR-ADDM offers individualized presentations on the number and characteristics of children with ASD. In partnership with UAMS Department of Pediatrics and Arkansas Children's Hospital, AR-ADDM staff provide training to physicians and staff in medical grand rounds, co-sponsor educational events for families and educators (such as, TeamUP), and collaborate on developmental disabilities awareness events (such as Walk Now for Autism Speaks). AR-ADDM's investigators provide leadership in federal, state, and local programs offering training on diagnosis and management of ASD, including Autism Treatment Network, Community-Based Autism Liaison and Treatment (CoBALT), and Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities.

For more information about AR-ADDM, please contact:

Allison Hudson
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Department of Pediatrics,
Developmental Pediatrics
1 Children's Way, Slot 512-41
Little Rock, AR 72202
Phone: 501-364-3612
E-mail: aehudson@uams.edu

Access Resources and Help Connect Families to Services and Supports in Arkansas

First Connections (Part C Early Intervention)-AR Infant and Toddler Program

Phone: 1-800-643-8258

Web: www.arkansas.gov/dhs/ddds/FirstConn

Arkansas Department of Education, Special Education Unit

Phone: 501-682-4221

Web: <https://arksped.k12.ar.us>

Request services through:

Phone: 1-800-482-8437

Web: <https://arksped.k12.ar.us/sections/circuit.html>

Autism Speaks/Autism Treatment Network Site Hannah Field

Phone: 501-364-4665

Web: HCFeild@uams.edu

Arkansas Autism Resource and Outreach Center

Phone: 1-800-342-2923

Web: <http://aaroc.org/>

The Dennis Developmental Center

Phone: 501-364-1830

Web: www.uams.edu/ddc

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

Peggy Schaefer Whitby, Arkansas' Act Early Ambassador

University of Arkansas

Phone: 479-575-3302

E-mail: pschaeffe@uark.edu

¹ Due to small numbers of children, we are unable to detect statistical differences between certain racial and ethnic groups.

² This information is based on children who had a diagnosis from a community provider documented in their records. Because the diagnoses were made in 2010 or earlier, they reflect DSM-IV-TR subtypes. This excludes children whose only ASD classification was an ICD-9 billing code or an eligibility for autism special education services.