

# Wisconsin

## Tracking Autism Spectrum Disorder and Other Developmental Disabilities in Wisconsin:

### What You Need To Know

#### A Snapshot of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Wisconsin

The following estimates are based on information collected from health records of children who were 8 years old and living in one of ten counties in 2010 (see sidebar). Overall, the Wisconsin Surveillance of Autism and other Developmental Disabilities System (WISADDS) identified 330 children with ASD, including children with and without a diagnosis documented in their records.

#### How many children were identified with ASD?

**1 in 108** children (or 9.3 per 1,000 8-year-olds) was identified with ASD. This estimate is lower than the average estimate of children identified with ASD (1 in 68) in the all areas of the United States where CDC tracks ASD.

#### Which children were more likely to be identified with ASD?

Boys were almost 5 times more likely to be identified with ASD than girls.

- ☐ 1 in 65 boys was identified with ASD.
- ☐ 1 in 323 girls was identified with ASD.

White children were more likely to be identified with ASD than black and Hispanic children<sup>1</sup>.

- ☐ 1 in 95 white children was identified with ASD.
- ☐ 1 in 217 black children was identified with ASD.
- ☐ 1 in 179 Hispanic children was identified with ASD.

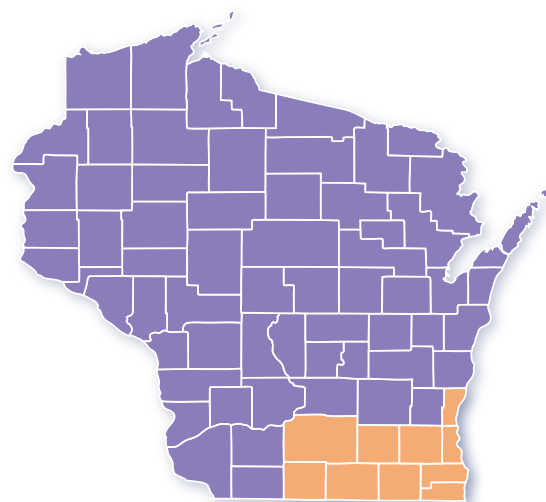
#### When were children first evaluated for developmental concerns?

51% of children identified with ASD were evaluated for developmental concerns by the time they were 3 years old.

#### How many children were diagnosed with ASD and when were they first diagnosed<sup>2</sup>?

88% of children identified with ASD had a diagnosis documented in their records.

- ☐ On average, those children were diagnosed at age 4 years and 2 months, even though children can be diagnosed as early as age 2.
- ☐ When looking at age of first diagnosis by subtype, on average, those children were diagnosed with:
  - Autistic Disorder at age 3 years and 5 months.
  - Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified at age 4 years and 3 months.
  - Asperger Disorder at age 6 years and 1 month.



#### Site Information

Tracking area: Dane, Green, Jefferson, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Walworth, and Waukesha counties

Children in tracking area: 35,623 8-year-old children, of whom about 62% were white, 18% were black, 16% were Hispanic, and 4% 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 autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other developmental disabilities as part of the CDC's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network. The Wisconsin Surveillance of Autism and other Developmental Disabilities System (WISADDS) was established in 2003 as an ADDM Network site in collaboration with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and investigators from the Waisman Center and Department of Population Health Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. WISADDS tracks the number of 8-year-olds with ASD and cerebral palsy in southeastern Wisconsin. This program contributes information on the characteristics of children with ASD and on factors that put children at risk for this condition. WISADDS 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**

WISADDS sponsors workshops and training in early identification of developmental disabilities for pediatric healthcare providers serving Wisconsin. The goals are to improve the ability of providers to recognize early signs of ASD, refer families to get the help they need, and to standardize diagnostic practices related to ASD. More information can be found at <http://wismhi.org>.

### **Access Resources and Help Connect Families to Services and Supports in Wisconsin**

#### **Wisconsin First Step**

Phone: 1-800-642-7837

Web: [www.mch-hotlines.org](http://www.mch-hotlines.org)

#### **Autism Society of Wisconsin**

Phone: 1-888-4-AUTISM

Web: [www.asw4autism.org](http://www.asw4autism.org)

#### **Wisconsin Regional Centers for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs**

Web: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/health/children/RegionalCenters/index.htm>

#### **Finding Your Way: A Navigation Guide for Wisconsin Families Who Have Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs and Disabilities**

Web: [www.waisman.wisc.edu/cedd/pdfs/findingyourway.pdf](http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/cedd/pdfs/findingyourway.pdf)

#### **Learn the Signs. Act Early.**

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Web: [www.cdc.gov/ActEarly](http://www.cdc.gov/ActEarly)

Web: [www.ActEarly.wisc.edu](http://www.ActEarly.wisc.edu)

#### **For more information about WISADDS, please contact:**

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

<sup>2</sup>. 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.