

The West Virginia Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Program



The Autism and Developmental Disorders Monitoring Network (ADDM Network). The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is now funding researchers in [Arizona](#), [Arkansas](#), [Florida](#), [New Jersey](#), [South Carolina](#), [Utah](#), and [West Virginia](#) to develop programs to monitor the prevalence of autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). 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: www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/dd/ddautism.htm

The West Virginia Autism Study (WVAS) is an investigation to determine and monitor the number of children born in 1992 with an autism spectrum disorder who resided in West Virginia in 2000. The investigators are members of the West Virginia Autism Training Center in the College of Education and Human Services at Marshall University

What part of West Virginia is included in the West Virginia Study? The entire state of West Virginia is included in the study. About 30,500 babies are born in the state each year.

How many people 3-21 years of age are classified as having autism by the West Virginia Department of Education? During the 2000-2001 school year, there were 326 students identified with autism who were receiving special education services in West Virginia.

What is the age of the children in the study? The study includes children who were 8 years old in 2000 (born in 1992).

How common are autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) among children who live in West Virginia? A pilot study conducted in 1999-2000 in a six-county area found that nearly 21 of every 10,000 children aged 3 to 21 years had an ASD.

What kinds of education and training programs will the project offer to people who work with children who have ASDs? The West Virginia Autism Training Center at Marshall University offers direct individualized training across the state for families, educators, and others significant in the lives of an individual with autism. General in-service training related to educating people with ASDs is also available statewide. College coursework in autism is offered to educators and others. The West Virginia Autism Training Center also houses an extensive autism lending library of books, video tapes, and audio cassettes that are available for loan at no cost to families registered for services. For more information, please visit the Autism Training Center's website at www.marshall.edu/coe/atc.

Does the WVAS have any special studies on autism? WVAS project staff are conducting a study related to prenatal and perinatal factors and autism. In addition, the WV Autism Training Center is evaluating the effects of a comprehensive service delivery model of positive behavior support to determine immediate and long-term educational, behavioral, and quality of life outcomes for the participating individuals with autism. This study is also evaluating the effects of the intervention program on familial stress.

What are some of the other programs in West Virginia that work with children with ASDs and their families?

Other centers in West Virginia with ASD programs include the [Autism Services Center](#), located in Huntington, and the [WV Klingberg Center for Child Development](#), located in Morgantown. The West Virginia Autism Society of America is very active in providing support and information and sponsors an annual autism conference each year. There are many local autism society chapters throughout the state.

Do any laws or statutes in West Virginia have to do with ASDs?

Yes, there are several laws in West Virginia that have to do with ASDs. 1) The WV Autism Training Center was established through a legislative mandate in 1983 (H.B. 4042). 2) The WV legislature established a school personnel class titled "Autism Mentor" (WV Code 18A-4-8) in 1992. These individuals are classroom aides who work with students with autism and meet the established standards and requirements. 3) There is an autism teacher endorsement in the state. 4) Recently, ASDs became a "reportable condition" in West Virginia (Legislative rule 64, series 7, category 11A (3.5.b.2)). This means that doctors (neurologists, pediatricians, and psychiatrists) and clinical psychologists must report to the state any child they have diagnosed with an ASD. The autism registry is housed at and operated by the WV Autism Training Center. This is the first legislatively mandated statewide autism registry in the United States. Initially, the establishment of the WV ASD registry will further enable West Virginia to track prevalence rates. Eventually, however, once relevant health professionals are sufficiently familiar with screening, diagnosing, and reporting procedures, the tracking of incidence rates (the rate at which new events occur in a population) will be possible. Tracking incidence rates over time will shed light on the pressing question of whether or not the occurrence of ASDs is increasing.

Do study staff work with any other monitoring programs in the state? Coordination with the WV Birth Defects Registry is planned.



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1.888.232.5929
www.cdc.gov/ncbddd

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