Findings from the Maryland Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (MD-ADDM) Program help us to understand more about the number of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), the characteristics of those children, and the age at which they are first evaluated and diagnosed.

**Disparities in Identification**

Boys were **4.5 times** more likely to be identified with ASD than girls. No significant differences were found in the percentage of white, black, and Hispanic children identified with ASD.

**Intellectual Disability in Maryland**

Maryland had intelligence quotient (IQ) data available for **78.4% of children identified with ASD**. Of those children, 34.6% had intellectual disability.

**Autism Over Time in Baltimore County, Maryland**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>ASD Prevalence per 1,000 Children</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>13.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>16.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>18.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>20.0</td>
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Intellectual disability is defined as an IQ score of 70 or lower.

**Of children identified with ASD...**

...about **92%** had developmental concerns by 3 years of age.

...but only about **56%** received a comprehensive developmental evaluation by 3 years of age.
Maryland

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the key take-away messages?
- Many children are living with ASD who need services and support, now and as they grow into adolescence and adulthood.
- The percentage of children with ASD is high in this area of Maryland.
- Differences between the percentage of boys and girls identified with ASD continue. It may be that boys are at greater risk for ASD and/or it may be that girls are under-identified due to others factors, such as how providers diagnose and document ASD symptoms among boys versus girls.
- Despite the developmental concerns noted in many (92 percent) of the children’s records by 3 years of age, only slightly more than half (56 percent) of children identified with ASD received a comprehensive developmental evaluation by this same age. The lag between first concern and first developmental evaluation may affect when children are being diagnosed and connected to the services they need.
- ASD can be diagnosed as early as 2 years of age; however, about half of children were diagnosed with ASD by a community provider by 4 years, 4 months of age.
- Efforts may be directed toward evaluating and diagnosing all children with ASD as early as possible so that they can be connected to the services they need.

How can this information be useful?
MD-ADDM’s latest findings can be used to
- Promote early identification of ASD,
- Plan for ASD services and training,
- Guide future ASD research, and
- Inform policies promoting improved outcomes in health care and education for individuals with ASD.

Stakeholders in Maryland might consider different ways to lower the age of first evaluation by community providers.

How and where was this information collected?
MD-ADDM uses a record review method. Specifically, this information is based on the analysis of data collected from the health and special education records of children who were 8 years old and living in Baltimore County in 2014.
- Children in tracking area: 9,955 8-year-olds
  - 50 percent white
  - 34 percent black
  - 8 percent Hispanic
  - 7 percent Asian or Pacific Islander
  - Less than 1 percent American Indian or Alaska Native

What else does MD-ADDM do besides tracking ASD among 8-year-olds?
MD-ADDM collaborates with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and investigators from Johns Hopkins University and partners with the Maryland State Department of Education and the Kennedy Krieger Institute to track the number and characteristics of 8-year-olds with ASD and/or intellectual disability in Baltimore County, Maryland. MD-ADDM offers presentations on the number and characteristics of children with ASD in Maryland and across the ADDM Network for stakeholders, state and local agencies, partnering institutes, and parent groups. MD-ADDM also participates in and organizes annual autism awareness month events in the community.