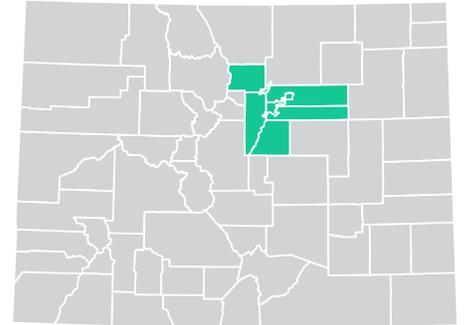


# A Snapshot of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Colorado

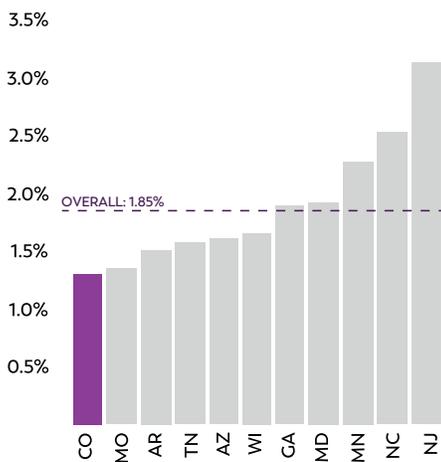
Findings from the Colorado Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (CO-ADDM) Project help increase understanding about the number of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), the characteristics of those children, and the age at which they are first evaluated and diagnosed.



**SITE TRACKING AREA**

## 1 in 76

Or **1.3%** of 8-year-old children in an area of Colorado were identified with ASD by the CO-ADDM Project in 2016



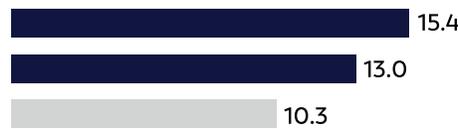
This percentage is lower than the average percentage identified with ASD (1.85%) in all communities in the United States where CDC tracked ASD in 2016.

## Boys were 4.5x

More likely to be identified with ASD than girls



**White children and black children were 1.3 times and 1.5 times more likely, respectively, to be identified with ASD than Hispanic children**



Values indicate prevalence per 1,000 children. No significant differences in ASD prevalence were found between white and black children.

## By 48.5 months

Half of children identified with ASD were diagnosed

## 48% of children

Identified with ASD received a Comprehensive Developmental Evaluation by age 3 years



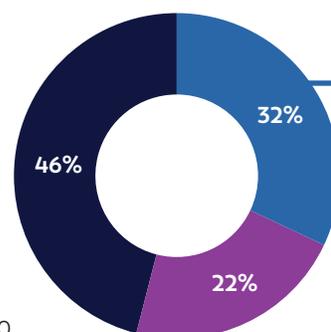
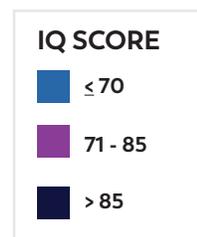
## 67% of children

Identified with ASD had a documented ASD diagnosis



## IQ data available for 76%

Of children identified with ASD by the CO-ADDM Project



**32%** had Intellectual Disability

IQ = Intelligence Quotient  
Intellectual disability = IQ ≤ 70

## What are the key take-away messages?

- Many children are living with ASD, and they need services and support, now and as they grow into adolescence and adulthood.
- Hispanic children are less likely to be identified with ASD than white or black children. Research does not show that being Hispanic makes a child less likely to develop ASD. This difference in identification may reflect cultural and/or socioeconomic differences, such as delayed or lack of access to services, as compared to other groups in Colorado.
- Evaluating and diagnosing all children with ASD as early as possible can help them be connected to the services they need.

## How can this information be useful?

The CO-ADDM Project's latest findings can be used to:

- Promote early identification of ASD;
- Plan for the service needs of individuals with ASD and provide trainings related to ASD for healthcare providers and families;
- Guide future ASD research; and
- Inform policies promoting improved outcomes in health care and education for individuals with ASD.

Stakeholders in Colorado might consider different ways to:

- Lower the age of first evaluation by community providers; and
- Increase awareness of ASD among Hispanic families and identify and address barriers to evaluation and diagnosis in order to decrease the age at which Hispanic children are evaluated and diagnosed.

## How and where was this information collected?

The CO-ADDM Project uses a record review method. Specifically, this information is based on the analysis of data collected from the health and some special education records of children who were 8 years old and living in one of seven counties in Colorado in 2016.

### Tracking area

Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson counties

### 8-year-old children in tracking area: 40,874

- 54% white
- 7% black
- 34% Hispanic
- 5% Asian or Pacific Islander

## What else does CO-ADDM do besides tracking ASD among 8-year-olds?

The CO-ADDM Project collaborates with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and JFK Partners at the University of Colorado-Denver to track the number and characteristics of 4-year-olds with ASD.

## Resources

### **AUTISM SOCIETY OF COLORADO**

*Information and support for families/providers*

720-214-0794

[www.autismcolorado.org](http://www.autismcolorado.org)

### **COLORADO SITES OF AUTISM TREATMENT NETWORK**

*Services for children with ASD*

[www.jfkpartners.org](http://www.jfkpartners.org)

[www.childrenscolorado.org](http://www.childrenscolorado.org)

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION**

*Special education services for school-aged children with disabilities*

[www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped)

**Brooke Carson**, Autism Specialist  
303-866-6691

[carson\\_b@cde.state.co.us](mailto:carson_b@cde.state.co.us)

### **EARLY INTERVENTION COLORADO**

*Services for children under the age of 3 years with developmental delays or disabilities*

1-888-777-4041

[www.eicolorado.org/](http://www.eicolorado.org/)

### **FAMILY VOICES COLORADO**

*Support for parents of children with special needs*

800-881-8272

[www.familyvoicesco.org](http://www.familyvoicesco.org)

### **LEARN THE SIGNS. ACT EARLY.**

*Resources for families and professionals on child development and what to do if there is a concern*

**Eileen Auer Bennet**

Colorado's Act Early Ambassador

[eileen@coloradoabcd.org](mailto:eileen@coloradoabcd.org)

### **THE ARC OF COLORADO**

*Support and advocacy for individuals with disabilities and their families*

303-864-9334

[www.thearcofco.org](http://www.thearcofco.org)

### **CONNECT WITH CO-ADDM**

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