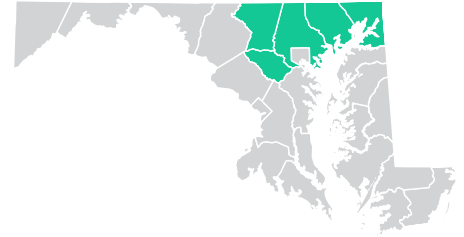


# A Snapshot of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Maryland

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.

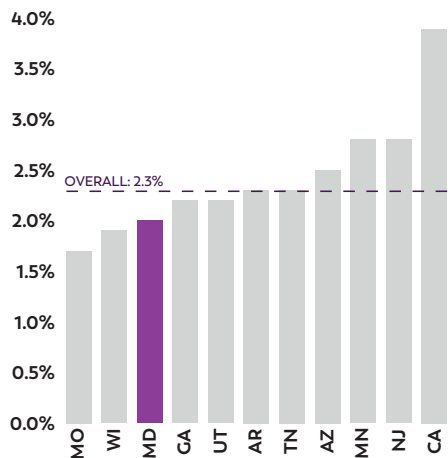


**SITE TRACKING AREA**

**Among 8-year-olds**   **Among 4-year-olds**

## About 1 in 49

Or **2.0%** of **8-year-old** children were identified with ASD by MD-ADDM in 2018



This percentage is lower than the overall percentage identified with ASD (2.3%) in all communities where CDC tracked ASD among 8-year-olds in 2018.

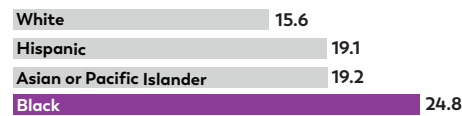
## 8-year-old boys



Were **4.4x** as likely to be identified with ASD as girls

## Among 8-year-olds

**Black children were 1.4x as likely** to be identified with ASD as White children. No additional significant differences in ASD prevalence were found between Black, White, Hispanic, and Asian or Pacific Islander children



Values indicate prevalence per 1,000 children.

## By 45 months of age

Half of **8-year-old** children identified with ASD were diagnosed

Children who were born in **2014** (0.97%) were **1.5x as likely** to receive an ASD diagnosis or ASD special education classification by 48 months of age compared to children born in **2010** (0.66%).

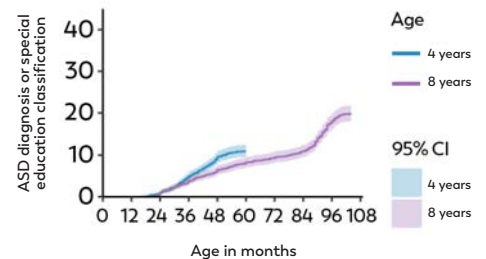
## By 3 years of age

About 66% of **8-year-old** children identified with ASD received a comprehensive developmental evaluation



## By 3 years of age

About 83% of **4-year-old** children identified with ASD received a comprehensive developmental evaluation



Cumulative incidence of ASD identified per 1000 children.

## What are the key take-away messages?

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) can be diagnosed as young as 18 months of age.
- In MD-ADDM, most children identified with ASD by 8 years of age were evaluated by age 3.
- 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.
- Many children with ASD need services and support, now and as they grow into adolescence and adulthood.

## How can this information be useful?

MD-ADDM'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 research.
- Inform policies promoting improved outcomes in health care and education for individuals with ASD.

## 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 4 years old and 8 years old and living in 5 counties in Maryland in 2018.

### Tracking areas

Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, Harford, and Howard counties

### 8-year-old children in tracking area: 20,666 4-year-old children in tracking area: 19,818

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • 55% White                            | • 56% White                            |
| • 26% Black                            | • 25% Black                            |
| • 9% Hispanic                          | • 10% Hispanic                         |
| • 10% Asian or Pacific Islander        | • 9% Asian or Pacific Islander         |
| • <1% American Indian or Alaska Native | • <1% American Indian or Alaska Native |

\* Estimates may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

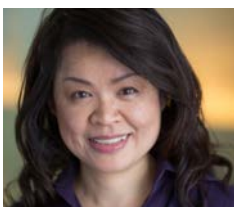
## What else does MD-ADDM do besides provide estimates of ASD?

MD-ADDM collaborates with the Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland State Department of Education, the Kennedy Krieger Institute, and local school districts, to track the number and characteristics of 4-year-old and 8-year-old children with ASD. 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.

“The MD-ADDM site provides critical data to Maryland agencies serving the autism population. The data assists these agencies to allocate local resources, direct policy initiatives and may lead to increased capacity of services to help more families. Pathfinders for Autism utilizes the MD-ADDM data in our outreach and awareness efforts to better educate the general population and allows us to better distribute information and resources to Maryland’s autism families.”

### REBECCA RIENZI

Executive Director, Pathfinders for Autism



*The Maryland ADDM site lost its longtime principal investigator, Dr. Li-Ching Lee, in May 2021, when she passed away from breast cancer at age 54. Her work included autism prevalence and related research in the United States, as well as Taiwan, Bangladesh, and China. The Maryland ADDM site dedicates this year’s report to Dr. Lee, honoring her devotion to children around the world, her colleagues, and the many students she mentored in her too-brief lifetime.*

## Resources

### PATHFINDERS FOR AUTISM

443-330-5341

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

### CENTER FOR AUTISM AND RELATED DISORDERS AT KENNEDY KRIEGER INSTITUTE

443-923-7630

[www.card.kennedykrieger.org](http://www.card.kennedykrieger.org)

### THE PARENTS’ PLACE OF MARYLAND

410-768-9100

<https://www.ppmmd.org/>

### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION’S DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

410-767-0238

[www.marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Pages/Special-Education/index.aspx](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Pages/Special-Education/index.aspx)

### ITINERIS

443-275-1100

<https://www.itinerisbaltimore.org/>

### AUTISM SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE-CHESAPEAKE

410-655-7933

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

### COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR AUTISTIC ADULTS AND CHILDREN (CSAAC)

240-912-2220

<http://csaac.org/>

### CDC’S LEARN THE SIGNS. ACT EARLY.

Rachel Demma

Maryland’s Act Early Ambassador

[www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/ambassadors-list.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/ambassadors-list.html)

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