Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network: Alabama Autism Surveillance Project

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Faculty

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What is ADDM?

- **The Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network is a group of programs funded by CDC to estimate the number of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other developmental disabilities**

What is ADDM?

- **The ADDM Network sites, located in different areas of the United States, all collect data using the same methods**

- **The methods are modeled after CDC's Metropolitan Atlanta Developmental Disabilities Surveillance Program (MADDSP)**

Goals of ADDM Network

- **Describe the population of children with ASD**

- **Compare how common ASD is in different areas of the country**

- **Identify changes in ASD occurrence over time**

- **Understand the impact of ASD and related conditions in select US communities**

Goals of the Alabama Autism Surveillance Project (AASP)

- **Obtain as complete a count as possible of the number of children with ASD in the project area**

- **Provide comparable population-based ASD prevalence rates**

- **Determine whether ASD is more common in some groups of children than others**

Goals of the Alabama Autism Surveillance Project (AASP)

- Study whether the number of children with Autism is changing over time

- Improve the consistency of identification of individuals with ASDs

Why Surveillance?

- *"Prevalence estimates can be used to plan policy, educational, and intervention services needs for persons with ASDs*

- *In addition to continued evaluation of ASD prevalence changes, major collaborative efforts are needed to improve research into what factors put certain people at risk and how to intervene to help reduce the debilitating symptoms of ASDs..."*

History of AASP

- Funded for 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2012 study years

- Monitored the 32 Northern counties of AL for the 2002, 2006 and 2008 study years; monitoring 9 counties of Northern AL for the 2010 and 2012 study years

- For 2010 and 2012 study years data collection in both clinical and school settings

Methods

- Focus on eight-year old children, but records from birth to age 8 are reviewed

- Case ascertainment
  - Review of multiple medical and school records

- Screening and abstraction of potential cases
  - Project abstractors use an ADDM / CDC designed list of Autism "triggers"

Methods

- ASD case status
  - Determined by CDC trained clinician reviewers using a systematic application of a DSM - IV based coding scheme

- Each child is determined to be a "Confirmed Case", a "Suspected Case" or a case that "Does Not Qualify"

Current ADDM Network Sites
Surveillance Years 2010 and 2012

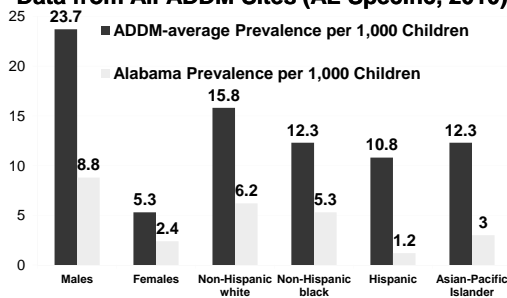## Nine County Surveillance Area (SY 2010 and 2012)

ADDM Network 2000-2010
Identified Prevalence of ASDs
Data from All ADDM Sites and Alabama Specific

Surveillance Year	Birth Year	Number of ADDM Sites Reporting	ADDM-average Prevalence per 1,000 children (Range)	Alabama Prevalence per 1,000 children (95% CI)
2000	1992	6	6.7 (4.5-9.9)	Not collected
2002	1994	14	6.6 (3.3-10.6)	3.3 (2.7-3.9)
2004*	1996	8	8.0 (4.6-9.8)	4.6 (3.5-6.0)
2006	1998	11	9.0 (4.2-12.1)	6.0 (5.3-6.9)
2008	2000	14	11.3 (4.8-21.2)	4.8 (4.1-5.5)
2010	2002	11	14.7 (5.7-21.9)	5.7 (4.8-6.8)

Identified Prevalence of ASDs by Gender and Race/Ethnicity
Data from All ADDM Sites (AL Specific, 2010)

Median Age in Months of Earliest Known ASD Diagnosis, By Subtype

Subtype	ADDM Median Age (Months)	Alabama Median Age (Months)
Autistic Disorder	48	51
ASD/PDD	50	53
Asperger Disorder	74	73

- **More than 75% of children in our 2010 Alabama data had a previous classification of ASD on their record**
- **About 80% of all children in the ADDM data (including Alabama data) had a previous classification of ASD, either clinically or as special education classification**

Alabama in 2010

- **Unlike previous study years, we were able to include a few educational sites in the 2010 study year**
- **However, this only included 10% of our overall population**

Unique to Alabama?

- **Education vs. health care data sources?**
- **Rural vs urban?**
- **Other systems issues?**

Next Steps With Alabama Data

- Continue to partner with school systems and other stakeholders

- Examine systems level characteristics that might help in future development of autism and other developmental disabilities initiatives

Contact Information

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Contact Information

- Our Team:
  - Beverly Mulvihill, PhD
  - Julie Preskitt, PhD
  - Beth Johns, OTR/L, MPH
  - Eric Lott, MSHI
  - Michael Vaughn
  - Robin Bates
  - Ayana Underwood

Contact Information

- Supported by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Cooperative Agreement 09-UDD000678A

Panelist

Anna McConnell, LCSW, MPH

State Autism Coordinator

Alabama Department of Mental Health

- Leads the partnership – the Alabama Interagency Autism Coordinating Council (AIACC)

- Strategic Guidance for implementation for System of Care for Individuals with AIACC, its work groups and members

Panelist

Jane Charles, MD

Professor of Pediatrics

Division of Developmental/Behavioral Pediatrics

- Jeffery Edwin Gilliam Memorial Chair for The Study of Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Medical University of South Carolina
- Active Clinician, Researcher and Educator ASD and Intellectual Disabilities
- Co PI for South Carolina's ADDM Network
- State Policy and Legislation