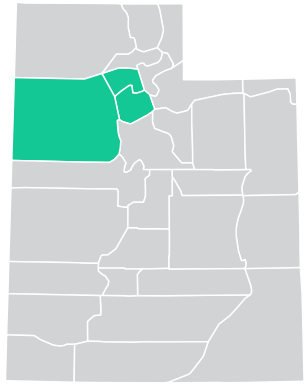
A Snapshot of Autism Spectrum Disorder in

Utah

Findings from the Utah Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (UT-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.

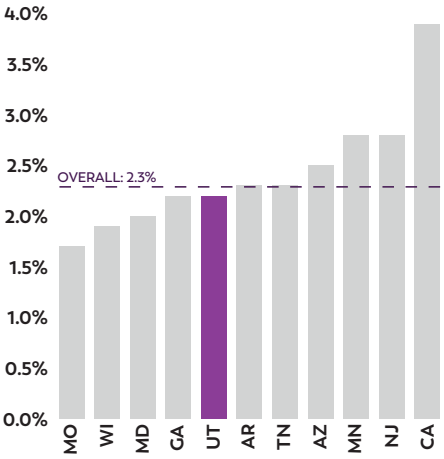


SITE TRACKING AREA

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

About 1 in 46

Or 2.2% of **8-year-old** children were identified with ASD in a three-county area in Utah by UT-ADDM in 2018



This percentage is similar to the average percentage identified with ASD (2.3%) in all communities in the United States where CDC tracked ASD among 8-year-olds in 2018.

8-year-old boys

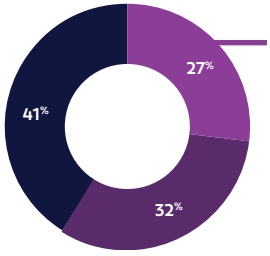
Were 3.6x as likely to be identified with ASD as girls

By 54 months of age

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

IQ data were available for 38%

of 8-year-old children identified with ASD



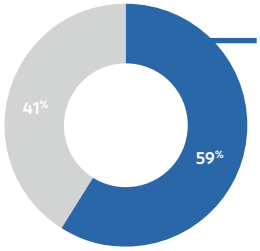
27% had Intellectual Disability

IQ = Intelligence Quotient
Intellectual disability = IQ ≤ 70

IQ SCORE ≤ 70 | 71 - 85 | > 85

IQ data were available for 39%

of 4-year-old children identified with ASD



59% had Intellectual Disability

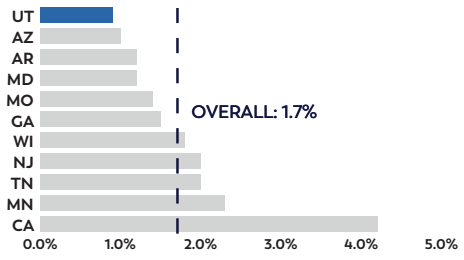
IQ = Intelligence Quotient
Intellectual disability = IQ ≤ 70

IQ SCORE ≤ 70

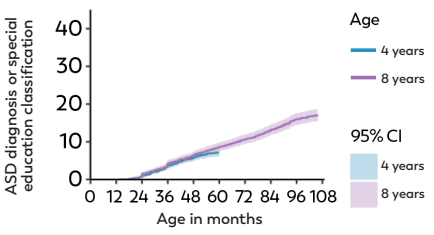
About 1 in 109

or 0.9% of **4-year-old** children were identified with ASD in a three-county area in Utah by UT-ADDM in 2018

This percentage is lower than the average percentage identified with ASD (1.7%) in all communities in the United States where CDC tracked ASD in 2018.



Children who were born in 2014 were **just as likely** to be identified with ASD by 48 months of age as children born in 2010



Cumulative incidence of ASD identified per 1000 children.

What are the key take-away messages?

- UT-ADDM last participated in the ADDM Network in 2012. Utah's estimated prevalence of ASD identified among 8-year-old children increased from 1.7% in 2012 to 2.2% in 2018.
- As in 2012, ASD prevalence in 2018 was higher among non-Hispanic White than Hispanic children at age 8, but not at age 4. This difference could suggest difficulties for this population in accessing diagnostic or educational services for children who are identified after age 4, such as those less likely to have co-occurring intellectual disability.
- The percentage of children with ASD receiving an ASD diagnosis by 48 months did not differ between 4- and 8-year-olds. This provides evidence to support our pediatric community's efforts to re-evaluate ASD screening protocols and expand ASD diagnostic strategies in Utah to improve early identification of ASD.

What changes occurred between 2012 and 2018 that may have influenced changes in Utah's ASD prevalence rates?

In 2012, 2014, and 2017 the Utah legislature passed legislation that significantly reduced financial barriers to receiving autism treatment. Improving the affordability of ASD treatment may have increased access to autism services for more children to receive an ASD diagnosis.

How can this information be useful?

UT-ADDM's latest findings can be used to:

- Promote new initiatives aimed at fostering earlier identification of ASD.
- Plan for ASD services and training.
- Guide future ASD research.
- Inform policies promoting improved outcomes in health care and education for individuals with ASD.

How and where was this information collected?

UT-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 1 of 3 counties in Utah in 2018.

Tracking area
Salt Lake, Davis, and Tooele counties

8-year-old children in tracking area: 25,459

- 71% White
- 3% Black
- 21% Hispanic
- 4% Asian or Pacific Islander
- 1% American Indian or Alaska Native

4-year-old children in tracking area: 25,064

- 71% White
- 3% Black
- 21% Hispanic
- 5% Asian or Pacific Islander
- 1% American Indian or Alaska Native

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

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

UT-ADDM's prevalence data are provided to our valued partners and used by them to support legislative initiatives that improve services for persons with ASD, such as the autism services legislation and the adult autism treatment program. UT-ADDM is leading projects to improve our knowledge of disparities in ASD recognition by race/ethnicity across the ADDM Network.

"We rely on Utah Registry of Autism and Developmental Disabilities (URADD) data when we advocate on behalf of families of children with autism. Our policymakers trust URADD's accuracy and reliability as they plan autism services across our state."

CHERYL SMITH
Founder and Past President, Autism Council of Utah

Resources

UTAH REGISTRY OF AUTISM AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (URADD)

Utah ADDM site and research center
www.medicine.utah.edu/psychiatry/research/labs/uradd/

UTAH PARENT CENTER

Support for parents of children with special needs
1-800-468-1160
www.utahparentcenter.org

AUTISM COUNCIL OF UTAH

Information and advocacy for families
autismcouncilofutah@gmail.com
www.autismcouncilofutah.org

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S BUREAU OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

Provides information about a range of services and resources
(801) 273-2800
www.health.utah.gov/cshcn/

HELP ME GROW UTAH

Information referral helpline and free screening services
(801) 691-5322
www.helpmegrowutah.org

BABY WATCH EARLY INTERVENTION

Services for children under the age of 3 years with developmental delays or disabilities
(801) 273-2800
www.utahbabywatch.org

CDC'S LEARN THE SIGNS. ACT EARLY.

Janel Preston
Utah Act Early Ambassador
www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/ambassadors-list.html

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