

Georgia Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities Research and Epidemiology



The Children's Health Act of 2000 directed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to establish regional centers for autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) and other developmental disabilities (DDs). CDC is now funding **Centers for Autism and Developmental Disabilities Research and Epidemiology (CADDREs)** in California, Colorado, Maryland, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. In Georgia, CDC's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities at CDC leads the sixth CADDRE program. The three goals of these centers are to conduct center-initiated special studies, to design and conduct a multisite study of causes and risk factors for ASDs, and to disseminate findings to increase public health awareness. For information about CADDRE, please visit the CDC website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/caddre>.



In Georgia, CADDRE studies ASDs in a five-county metropolitan Atlanta area (Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, and Gwinnett Counties).

Study to Explore Early Development (SEED)

In this study, the center will work with other CADDRE programs to find causes of ASDs or factors that make it more likely that a child will have an ASD. Families who take part in SEED will answer survey questions and provide biological samples, children will be given developmental tests and physical examinations, and staff will look at medical records. Approximately 2700 children 2 through 5 years of age and their parents are expected to participate in this multisite study. Children with an ASD will be compared with a random sample of children from the general population, and a sample of children with other neurodevelopmental problems.

Sharing Information

The Georgia CADDRE program is committed to providing information about child development to families and local partners. Georgia CADDRE will share what is learned from these studies through mailings to ASD support groups, families, collaborating school systems, clinic partners, professional organizations, and the media. Information also will be shared through conferences, scientific publications, and NCBDDD's website.

Related CDC Activities- Monitoring Activities

The Metropolitan Atlanta Developmental Disabilities Surveillance Program (MADDSP) has monitored the rates of selected DDs in metropolitan Atlanta since 1991. MADDSP uses multiple sources to obtain a more complete estimate of the number of children 3 through 10 years of age with an ASD or other selected disabilities. MADDSP will continue to monitor the rate of these disabilities to see if some are more common in certain groups of children and whether the rates are changing.

Special Studies

MADDSP is conducting a study to validate its monitoring activities. Results will help researchers learn the best way to monitor ASDs in metropolitan Atlanta in order to provide the most accurate prevalence rates.

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

The "Learn the Signs. Act Early." campaign has created a series of resources to help educate parents on the full range of child development. For more information on the campaign, please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/actearly>

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