



**WAISMAN
CENTER**
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



Boys were 3.2x
More likely to be identified
with autism than girls



Autism in Wisconsin

1 in 26

Or **3.8%** of 8-year-old children were identified with autism by WISADDS in 2022.

Wisconsin Autism & Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network (ADDM)

What is the ADDM Network?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network has tracked autism prevalence since 2000. The ADDM Network provides essential information on the frequency of autism and trends over time. The ADDM Network uses rigorous scientific methods ensure accurate, reliable results to guide policy decisions and inform the public.

How does the ADDM Network handle your Protected Health Information (PHI)?

- ADDM has a small team of specialists who follow strict confidentiality procedures when reviewing health and educational records to enumerate the number of children meeting diagnostic criteria for autism.
- The UW-Madison Institutional Review Board requires the WI ADDM project to follow strict rules to ensure that PHI reviewed is handled safely and responsibly by the people working on the project.
- **ADDM does not share PHI with the CDC.**

Why does ADDM take >2 years to get results?

- Record review for a given year cannot begin until after the year is finished.
- Once we begin reviewing records for a given year, taking time to follow carefully designed procedures ensures that our findings are accurate, high quality, and private.
- We review records from multiple sources and formats, including paper files, and take steps to ensure that we don't count cases more than once. This takes time.
- Our work is done manually and without using AI. This helps to keep PHI private.
- CDC's clearance process takes additional time but ensures high-quality, data-driven conclusions that inform policy.

Why Belonging to the ADDM Network Matters to Wisconsin

Knowing about the prevalence of autism in our state helps Wisconsin determine the need for expanding access to services, improving post high school planning, training more educators and other professionals with specialized training in autism, and other improvements to support autistic children and their families.

Please continue to ensure reliable autism data to improve policy and services.

By remaining a part of the CDC, the ADDM Network will uphold its scientific rigor and relevance delivering accurate and trustworthy information for healthcare providers, policymakers, and the public.