

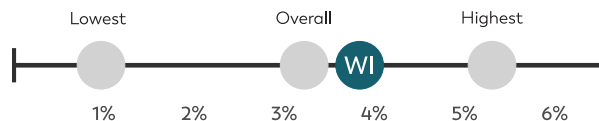
A Snapshot of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Wisconsin

Findings from the Wisconsin Surveillance of Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities System (WISADDS) help us understand more about the number of children with autism. These findings include the characteristics of children with autism, and the earliest age, on average, at which they are evaluated and given a diagnosis.



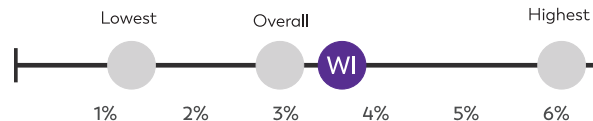
■ SITE TRACKING AREA

About **1 in 26** or **3.8%** of **8-year-old** children were identified with autism by WISADDS in 2022.



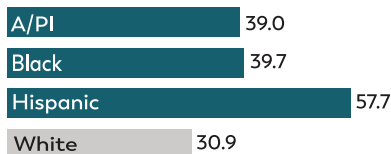
The percentage, in teal, is higher than the overall percentage identified with autism, in gray, (3.2%) in all communities where CDC tracked autism among 8-year-olds in 2022.

About **1 in 28** or **3.6%** of **4-year-old** children were identified with autism by WISADDS in 2022.



The percentage, in purple, is higher than the overall percentage identified with autism, in gray, (2.9%) in all communities where CDC tracked autism among 4-year-olds in 2022.

Among **8-year-olds**, Asian or Pacific Islander (A/PI), Black, and Hispanic children were **more likely** than White children to be identified with autism.



There were no other significant differences in identification between races or ethnicities. Values indicate prevalence per 1000.

Of 8-year-old children with autism, **52.8%** had a comprehensive developmental evaluation by 3 years of age.

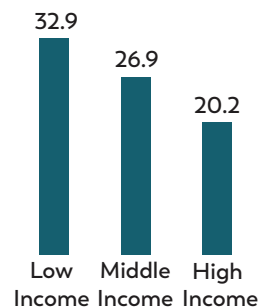


Among **8-year-olds**, boys were **3.2 times as likely** as girls to be identified with autism.



Half of **8-year-old** children with autism were diagnosed by a community provider by **43 months** of age.

Autism prevalence was higher among **8-year-old** children living in lower-income neighborhoods compared with children living in higher-income neighborhoods.



Values indicate prevalence per 1000.



What we know

- The percentage of 8-year-old children identified with autism increased in southeastern Wisconsin, from 2.8% in 2020 to 3.8% in 2022.
- Among both 4-year-old and 8-year-old children, boys were more likely to be identified with autism than girls.
- Only 53% of 8-year-old children identified with autism received a comprehensive developmental evaluation by age 3 years.
- Autism prevalence among 8-year-olds was higher among children living in lower-income neighborhoods compared with those in higher-income neighborhoods.

Why are these findings important?

These data can be used to:

- Promote early identification of autism.
- Plan for autism services and training, particularly in lower-income neighborhoods where prevalence was higher.
- These data can guide future efforts to better understand the rising prevalence of autism and the need to increase services and access for all children.

Why is partnership with WISADDS important?

- WISADDS relies on a record review method, using data from health and special education records. Partnerships are essential to ensure that there are accurate prevalence estimates of autism in southeastern Wisconsin.
- Partnerships help align efforts across healthcare providers, policymakers, educators, and researchers to address the growing needs of individuals with autism.

PATTI WILLIAMS
 Director, Special Education Team
 Wisconsin Department of
 Public Instruction

“As the incidence of autism continues to increase, the WISADDS snapshot gives a glimpse of the prevalence of autism spectrum disorder in one part of Wisconsin and the growing need for specialized educational services and supports for Wisconsin students with autism as well as the increasing need for training and supports for their teachers.”

Where was the information collected?

WISADDS 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 or 8 years old and living in eight counties in southeastern Wisconsin in 2022.

8-year-old children in tracking area:* 28,098

- 55% White
- 17% Hispanic
- 17% Black
- 6% Asian or Pacific Islander
- 5% Multiracial
- <1% American Indian or Alaska Native

4-year-old children in tracking area:* 27,042

- 54% White
- 18% Black
- 17% Hispanic
- 6% Asian or Pacific Islander
- 5% Multiracial
- <1% American Indian or Alaska Native

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