This fact sheet pulls data from Minnesota’s Department of Human Services, Department of Education, and the University of Minnesota’s Autism Developmental Disabilities Monitoring network to provide current knowledge around the number, characteristics of, and services received by children who have autism in Minnesota.

**Autism Spectrum Disorders affect 1 in 44 8-year-old children in Minnesota.**

23,879 youth youth aged 21 or younger in Minnesota have been diagnosed as having autism spectrum disorder and were enrolled with DHS in 2020.

The majority of youth diagnosed with ASD are white; there are no statistically significant differences in ASD prevalence by racial and ethnic groups.

**ASD totals by race**

- White: 66%
- Other: 34%
- Asian: 6%
- Black: 11%
- Hispanic: 9%
- Multi-racial: 6%
- Native American/Alaska Native: 2%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: <1%

By comparison, 1 in 54 8-year-old children have been identified to have ASD nationwide.

25% of children with ASD have an intellectual disability. Hispanic and Black (non-Somali) children were more likely to be classified as having an intellectual disability (45% and 36%, respectively).

Boys are nearly 4x more likely to be identified as having autism than girls.

**Educational identification**

Identification of autism in schools has been on the rise. 21,528 youth aged 0-21 have been identified by schools to be on the autism spectrum as of December 2019; this is about 2% of the total student population.

**ASD diagnoses as % of children enrolled in special education, 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>0-2</th>
<th>3-5</th>
<th>6-21</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**ASD diagnoses over the years, 2006-2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9,930</td>
<td>14,646</td>
<td>17,647</td>
<td>21,528</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**By comparison, 1 in 54 8-year-old children have been identified to have ASD nationwide.**
According to Minnesota Autism Developmental Disabilities Monitoring network, the median age of diagnosis was 4 years and 8 months; ASD can be diagnosed as early as age 2.\(^1\) While 76% of children with ASD had developmental concerns noted by age 3, only 39% received a comprehensive developmental evaluation by this time.\(^1\)

Of the 23,833 enrolled youth who received services:
16,924 received Children’s Therapeutic Services and Supports (CTSS) services

5,802 received Personal Care Assistant (PCA) services

1,085 received EIDBI services

84 received Mental Health (MH) services

Sources

Note. University of Minnesota data from Hennepin and Ramsey Counties only. DHS data include public and private insurance cases.

\(^a\) Data for those enrolled in 2020. Data do not reflect youth receiving services through private insurance or Managed Care Organizations.

**Want to learn more?**

First Steps: Pathway to Playing, Learning, and Growing: https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/Iserver/Public/DHS-6751L-ENG

Next Steps: Pathway to Services and Supports for a child recently identified with autism spectrum disorder (ASD): https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/Iserver/Public/DHS-6751J-ENG

Overview of Medical Identification and Educational Determination: https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/Iserver/Public/DHS-6751M-ENG

Pathway to Services and Supports for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD): https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/Iserver/Public/DHS-6751-ENG

Next Stage: Pathway to Transition and Long-Term Services and Supports for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD): https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/Iserver/Public/DHS-6751K-ENG


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Children with Autism in Minnesota

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