



Pennsylvania Autism Census Study

Mandell, D. & Lawer, L. (2009). *Pennsylvania Autism Census Project: Final Report*. Study funded by the PA Department of Public Welfare, www.autisminpa.org

Why was this study conducted?

The PA Autism Task Force noted that the prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) was unknown due to a lack of a comprehensive approach to track these individuals. In response, the PA Bureau of Autism Services, DPW conducted a study to estimate the number of individuals in the Commonwealth living with autism.

The purpose of this study was to obtain an estimate of the number of individuals living with ASD in Pennsylvania as well as to learn about demographic characteristics of that population. The intention was to reveal the scope of need for autism-specific services and programs and to inform policy development and the design of effective services.

Findings:

According to the study, in 2005 there were close to 20,000 Pennsylvanians living with autism. Given trends, we expect that number has risen to **25,000-30,000 children and adults** in PA with autism. It is estimated that there are currently **3,825 adults with autism** in Pennsylvania.

Numbers in PA: Transition to Adulthood

- 2005: There were just over 1,400 adults with autism in Pennsylvania
- 2010: 179% increase to **3,825 adults with autism** in PA
- 2015: 621% increase to **10,140 adults with autism** in PA
- 2020: 1,292% increase to **19,587 adults with autism** in PA

