

2009 State Autism Profiles MARYLAND

DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000, 2,304 or 2.06% of children ages 3-21 who received special education services in Maryland have autism. In 2007-2008, 5,736 or 5.37% of children with disabilities ages 3-21 who received special education services have autism.

Table 1-1: IDEA Part B - Children with Autism in Maryland for 1999-2000 and 2007-2008
(Child Count by Age Group)

	1999-2000	2007-2008
Age 3-5	371	652
Age 6-11	1,245	3,007
Age 12-17	580	2,350
Age 18-21	108	336
Age 6-21	1,933	5,693
Age 3-21	2,304	6,345

Source: Reported by the State of Maryland in accordance with Section 618 of IDEA to U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs

Table 1-2: IDEA Part B - Children with Disabilities in Maryland for 1999-2000 and 2007-2008
(Child Count by Age Group)

	1999-2000	2007-2008
Age 3-5	10,003	11,752
Age 6-11	48,922	41,664
Age 12-17	48,969	46,502
Age 18-21	4,183	4,667
Age 6-21	102,074	92,833
Age 3-21	112,077	104,585

Source: Reported by the State of Maryland in accordance with Section 618 of IDEA to U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs

STATE TASK FORCE

Autism Task Force

Maryland does not have an active task force on autism at this time. Previously, the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Special Education/Early Intervention convened a task force in 1998 and delivered a final report, "Service Delivery Recommendations for Young Children with Autism," on December 10, 2004. The task force was directed to determine existing services and identify the challenges faced with the delivery of those services. The task force was also charged with exploring funding opportunities for autism programs and proposing recommendations to improve Maryland's autism programs. The findings indicated that children with autism were better served with more interaction and therapy than they were currently receiving. The task force also recommended an increase in training for individuals who diagnose and provide services for treating individuals with autism spectrum disorders. Finally, the task force recommended an increase in funding in order to implement the recommendations. <http://www.bcc-asa.org/AutismTaskForceMemoandReport.pdf>

Maryland Commission on Autism

H.B. 503/S.B. 963 was introduced on February 4, 2009 to establish the Maryland Commission on Autism to make recommendations to the Governor, General Assembly and state agencies about services, such as health care and education, for individuals with autism spectrum disorders. Among the tasks the commission will complete, the commission will develop a comprehensive statewide plan on an integrated system for the training, treatment and services for children and adults with autism spectrum disorders by June 1, 2011. The commission will be comprised of seventeen members, including representatives of higher education and special education, service providers (speech language pathologist, diagnostician, mental health provider, and physician), parents of an individual with autism, nonprofit organizations, and other professionals with an interest in autism. The legislation was referred to the Health and Government Operations Committee where a hearing was scheduled for February 17.

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MARYLAND

STATE INSURANCE COVERAGE

H.B. 273/S.B. 394 was introduced requiring health insurance coverage for the diagnosis and evidence-based, medically necessary treatment of autism spectrum disorders for individuals under the age of 21 years. Coverage for applied behavioral analysis is covered at a maximum benefit of \$50,000 per year. Evidence-based, medically necessary treatment includes habilitative or rehabilitative care, pharmacy care, psychiatric care, and psychological care. H.B. 273 was referred to the Health and Government Operations Committee where a public hearing was scheduled for February 26, 2009. S.B. 394 was referred to the Finance Committee where a public hearing on February 26 was cancelled. Maryland requires any health insurer or health maintenance organizations that provide hospital, medical and surgical benefits to individuals or groups shall also provide coverage for habilitative services for children with a congenital or genetic birth defect, which includes autism spectrum disorders and cerebral palsy. Habilitative services covered include occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapy. Health insurers are not required to cover services provided through school or early intervention services. Coverage is provided at a minimum at the same level as other conditions. (*MD Bus Reg Code §15-835*) Since 1994, Maryland has had a comprehensive mental health parity law that ensures insurance coverage for broad based mental health disorders. Mental health benefits are required to be equal to other health benefits, and there is no limit on benefits for psychiatric care annually or over a lifetime. (*MD Bus Reg Code §15-802*)

MEDICAID

1915(c) HCBS Waiver: Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (Autism Waiver)

In 1998, H.B. 99 was adopted authorizing the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to apply for an autism-specific waiver. Approved in 2000, the Autism Waiver provides home and community-based services for children with autism. Children ages 1 to 3 with an individualized family service plan and ages 3 to 21 with an individualized education program who meet an institutional level of care are eligible. Services include respite care, environmental accessibility adaptations, family training, service coordination, supported employment, residential habilitation, intensive individual support services, and therapeutic integration. The waiver remains in effect until September 30, 2009 and requires renewal with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

<http://www.dhmh.maryland.gov/mma/waiverprograms/pdf/AutismWaiverFactSheet92906.pdf>

Other Waivers

In addition to the autism-specific waiver, Maryland offers two waivers – Community Pathways and New Directions Waivers – for children and adults with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders, who qualify for medical assistance. Individuals must have full eligibility status as determined by DHMH Division of Eligibility Waiver Services. Services include case management, community residential services, community supported living arrangements, respite care, behavioral support, supported employment and adult day habilitation. The waivers are approved through July 1, 2013 and require renewal with CMS.

<http://www.ddamaryland.org/waiver.htm>

EDUCATION

Autism Task Force

Refer to section on “State Task Force.”

Early Childhood Autism Workgroup

The Maryland State Department of Education convened a workgroup to study young children with autism spectrum disorders and to continue the work of the Autism Task Force.

http://www.autismconnectmd.org/inter/early_child.html

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EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

The Autism "Portal" Project

The Autism Portal Project was developed by the Maryland State Department of Education as a tool for parents, educators, and other professionals with an interest in autism to learn more about autism services provided in Maryland and by the department.

<http://www.autismconnectmd.org/>

OTHER STATE RESOURCES

Maryland Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Project

The MD-ADDM is part of a national project funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The project is seeking to develop programs to help accurately monitor the number of children with autism in each state. The program is administered at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health with the assistance of the Maryland State Department of Education.

http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/states/Maryland_ADDM.pdf

Towson University Center for Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (CAASD)

CAASD was created in February 2008 to assist individuals with autism spectrum disorders as they transition from school-based services into adulthood, such as employment or advanced educational opportunities. The center provides resources to professionals, individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families.

<http://www.towson.edu/chp/caasd/>

Adult Autism Care Training Program

H.B. 266/S.B. 306 was introduced on January 29, 2009 to authorize the Developmental Disabilities Administration to develop a training program for direct care staff who service adults with autism spectrum disorders. A service provider would be selected to develop and implement the training. In order to be eligible, the service provider must meet certain requirements, including the following: currently receive funding from the Developmental Disabilities Administration, has a training program that meets or exceeds the requirements for the administration's training program, has a client base where at least 75% have autism, provides services to a minimum of 100 residential clients and 100 individuals in supported employment or day habilitation. The legislation was referred to the Health and Government Operations Committee where a hearing was scheduled for February 17. The hearing was cancelled on February 11. No further action has been taken at this time.

STATE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

The Maryland General Assembly meets annually on the second Wednesday in January. The 2009 session convened on January 14 and is expected to adjourn April 13.

<http://mlis.state.md.us/>

Sponsors of Autism Legislation:

Sen. Katherine Klausmeier (D-Baltimore Co.) District 8	Del Nicholas R. Kipke (R-Anne Arundel Co.) District 31
Sen. Nancy J. King (D-Montgomery Co.) District 39	Del. Kirill Reznick (D-Montgomery Co.) District 39