MISSOURI DIVISION OF **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

IMPROVING lives THROUGH supports and services THAT FOSTER self-determination.

4/29/20

April is Autism Awareness Month

Autism Prevalence

In March 2020, the CDC released the latest ASD prevalence reports from the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network. This is the first time the ADDM Network has simultaneously reported data on 4-year-old and 8-year-old children.

Missouri (specifically the St. Louis region) has been a monitoring this site for over 15 years. The Missouri Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Project (MO-ADDM) was established as an ADDM Network site in collaboration with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and investigators from the School of Medicine at Washington University in St. Louis.

Highlights from the recently released reports:

- An estimated 1.85% or 1 in 54 eight-year-old children were identified with ASD in 2016. The prevalence of ASD was higher in 2016 among 8-year-olds compared to CDC's last report of 1.7% or 1 in 59 eight-year-old children who were identified with ASD in 2014. This is based on information collected from the 11 communities across the United States that participate in the CDC's ADDM Network.

- For the first time, ADDM Network data found no overall difference in the number of African-American children identified with ASD by 8 years of age compared to Caucasian children. However, the number of Hispanic children identified with ASD is still lower compared to Caucasian or African-American children.
- The percentage of 4-year-old children with ASD who received a developmental evaluation by 36 months of age increased from 74% in 2014 to 84% in 2016. In addition, more children born in 2012 received an ASD diagnosis by 4 years of age compared to children born in 2008.

The reports, MO-ADDM page from the Community Report and more can be found at: https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/addm.html