

2010 State Autism Profiles NEW YORK

DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000, 6,752 or 1.53% of children ages 3-21 who received special education services in New York have autism. In 2008-2009, 19,132 or 4.31% of children with disabilities ages 3-21 who received special education services have autism.

Table 1-1: IDEA Part B - Children with Autism in New York for 1999-2000 and 2008-2009
(Child Count by Age Group)

	1999-2000	2008-2009
Age 3-5	747	1,952
Age 6-11	4,027	9,719
Age 12-17	1,597	6,310
Age 18-21	381	1,151
Age 6-21	6,005	17,180
Age 3-21	6,752	19,132

Source: Reported by the State of New York 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 New York for 1999-2000 and 2008-2009
(Child Count by Age Group)

	1999-2000	2008-2009
Age 3-5	51,665	61,799
Age 6-11	175,186	168,213
Age 12-17	191,385	192,674
Age 18-21	23,097	21,653
Age 6-21	389,668	382,540
Age 3-21	441,333	444,339

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

STATE TASK FORCE

The State of New York does not have an active task force on autism at this time.

STATE INSURANCE COVERAGE

New York includes a provision that health insurance policies may not deny or exclude benefits and coverage based on the diagnosis of autism or to treat autism spectrum disorders. Health insurance policies that would cover hospital, surgical, or medical care should provide coverage as they would for autism spectrum disorders. (*New York [ISC] §3216*)

Legislation requiring coverage of the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorder was introduced as S.7000 State Senate on March 4, 2010. It was amended three times to the name S.7000B/A.10372. The bill was passed unanimously by the Senate and on June 21, 2010, its companion bill was passed unanimously by the State Assembly. The legislation has not yet been sent to the Governor for his signature. The legislation requires that accident and health insurance policies provide coverage for screening, diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder. Only evidence-based and clinically proven treatments will be covered, and no age or dollar caps are included in the bill. Current practices indicate that the evidence-based treatment will most likely include behavioral health treatments, including Applied Behavior Analysis, speech therapy, occupational therapy and physical therapy.

<http://open.nysenate.gov/legislation/api/1.0/html/bill/S7000B>

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MEDICAID

New York Home Community Based Services Waiver: Bridges to Health for Children with Developmental Disabilities

Implemented on January 1, 2008, this waiver helps children up to age 20 with developmental disabilities such as autism, to continue to live at home and within their communities. Services provided in this waiver include: health care integration, hourly skill building, prevocational, supported employment, special needs community advocacy and support, planned respite, crisis respite, family and caregiver supports, crisis avoidance management and training, immediate crisis response, intensive in-home supports, accessibility modifications, and adaptive and assistive equipment. The waiver expires on December 31, 2010.

http://www.health.state.ny.us/health_care/medicaid/program/longterm/omrdd.htm

EDUCATION

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) provides resources to parents and teachers of students with autism. Additionally, the NYSED, Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities selected five programs that effectively support students with autism to serve as models for other schools interested in developing a program to support students with autism. The selected programs offer information, training, technical assistance to schools as they develop an effective program for students with autism.

<http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/autism>

Legislation

S8497 to create a teacher training initiative fund was signed into law by Gov. David Paterson on August 5, 2008. The fund requires training for school district personnel on the needs of students with autism and interacting with students with autism. Additionally, the New York Department of Health, Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, State Education Department will work collaboratively to review the incidence of autism in the state and assess state programs.

OTHER STATE RESOURCES

Screening

A9512 was signed into law by Gov. David Paterson on July 21, 2008, creating guidelines and best practices for early screening of children for autism spectrum disorders. The protocols establish routine screening at regular intervals for autism spectrum disorders, guidelines to help educate parents about autism spectrum disorders through a dialogue with the provider, and put into place a referral mechanism for children who may need further evaluation.

Autism Prevalence Study and Registry

S8475 was introduced to authorize the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to conduct an autism prevalence study and provide for a limited autism registry. S5760 was introduced to authorize the commissioner of the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to report its finding to the legislature. Both measures were vetoed by the Gov. David Paterson on July 21, 2008.

<http://www.omh.state.ny.us/omhweb/resources/publications/>

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STATE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

The New York State Legislature meets in Regular Session on the second Wednesday in January. The 2010 Legislative Session convened on January 6, 2010 and is expected to adjourn on December 31, 2010.
<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/ils/legislature/legis.html>

Sponsors of Autism Legislation:

Sen. John J. Flanagan (R-East Northport) District 2
Sen. Charles J Fuschillo, Jr. (R-Long Island) District 8
Sen. Thomas P. Morahan (R-New City) District 38
Sen. Neil D. Breslin (D-Albany) District 46
Sen. Joseph E. Robach (R-Rochester) District 56

Rep. Rob Walker (R-Hicksville) District 15
Rep. Michelle Schimel (D-Great Neck) District 16
Rep. Harvey Weisenberg (D-Long Island) District 20
Rep. Audrey I. Pheffer (D-Queens) District 23
Rep. Peter M. Rivera (D-Bronx) District 76
Rep. David Koon (D-Perinton) District 135