

2009 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 2007-2008, 17,601 or 3.88% 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 2007-2008
(Child Count by Age Group)

| | 1999-2000 | 2007-2008 |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Age 3-5 | 747 | 1,784 |
| Age 6-11 | 4,027 | 8,956 |
| Age 12-17 | 1,597 | 5,822 |
| Age 18-21 | 381 | 1,039 |
| Age 6-21 | 6,005 | 15,817 |
| Age 3-21 | 6,752 | 17,601 |

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 2007-2008
(Child Count by Age Group)

| | 1999-2000 | 2007-2008 |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Age 3-5 | 51,665 | 63,040 |
| Age 6-11 | 175,186 | 168,162 |
| Age 12-17 | 191,385 | 198,598 |
| Age 18-21 | 23,097 | 23,915 |
| Age 6-21 | 389,668 | 390,675 |
| Age 3-21 | 441,333 | 453,715 |

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. Legislation (A2993/S492) was introduced January 7, 2009 to create a New York State Autism Council comprised of 16 members, including legislative officials, representatives of state agencies, providers, parents, and other professionals with an interest in autism. A2993 was referred to the Assembly Mental Health Committee on January 22, 2009. S492 was referred to the Senate Committee on Finance on January 7, 2009. No further action has been taken 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 (A2759, A6001, S385, and S2366) was introduced in January 2009 to provide full health insurance coverage for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorder for individuals under the age of 21 years. A3332/S1175 was introduced to require health insurance coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders, but coverage is subject to a maximum of \$36,000 per year. The measure includes coverage for early intervention and prevention, applied behavioral analysis, and the creation of an advisory panel to evaluate and compile a list of mandatory covered treatments. The bill was referred to the respective committees on Insurance in January 2009. No further action has been taken at this time.

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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

A4580 was introduced and referred to the Assembly Education Committee in February 2009 to create a teacher training initiative fund. The fund would be used to provide state of the art and current training and best practices for instructors of students with autism.

A similar measure was introduced in April 2008 in the Senate (S7595/S8497) to require 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 would work collaboratively to review the incidence of autism in the state and assess state programs. S8497 was signed into law by Gov. David Paterson on August 5, 2008.

S1199 was also introduced to create an after school program for students with autism. The program would supplement any instruction received during regular school hours. The bill was referred to the Senate Education Committee in January 2009. No further action has been taken at this time.

OTHER STATE RESOURCES

Screening

A9512 was signed into law by Gov. David Paterson on July 21, 2008, which creates guidelines and best practices for early screening of children for autism spectrum disorders. The protocols establishes 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 puts into place a referral mechanism for children who may need further evaluation.

Autism Prevalence Study

A1397/S2934 was introduced to direct the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to conduct a study on the services and needs for individuals with autism spectrum disorders. The study would review evidence-based practices, early intervention, staffing and support for programs, training, and public awareness. A1397 was introduced and referred to the Assembly Mental Health Committee on January 7, 2009. S2934 was introduced and referred to the Senate Committee on Mental Health and Developmental Disability on March 6, 2009. Similar legislation was introduced under A5069 (February 10 referred to the Assembly Mental Health), A 5140 (February 10 Assembly Health), A5638 (February 17 Assembly Education), A6488 (March 6 Assembly Health), and S957 (January 22 Senate Education). No further action has been taken at this time.

Autism Registry

S369 was introduced requiring the Department of Health to maintain a registry of individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders and requires any provider who makes a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder to report this information. The legislation was referred to the Senate Committee on Health on January 7, 2009. No further action has been taken at this time. A6622 was introduced to create a registry of individuals with autism spectrum disorders, Alzheimer's and dementia for purposes of helping locate

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the individuals should they be reported as missing. The legislation was introduced and referred to the Assembly Governmental Operations Committee on March 11, 2009.

STATE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

The New York State Legislature meets in Regular Session on the second Wednesday in January. The 2009 Legislative Session convened January 7 and is expected to adjourn January 6, 2010.

<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/ils/legislature/legis.html>

Sponsors of Autism Legislation:

Sen. John J. Flanagan (R-East Northport) District 2

Sen. Craig M. Johnson (D-Nassau) District 7

Sen. Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr. (R-Merrick) District 8

Sen. Shirley L. Huntley (D-Jamaica) District 10

Sen. Andrew J. Lanza (R-Staten Island) District 24

Sen. Thomas P. Morahan (R-New City) District 38

Sen. Joseph E. Robach (R-Rochester) District 56

Rep. James D. Conte (R-Huntington Station) District 10

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. Matthew Titone (D-North Shore) District 61

Rep. Peter M. Rivera (D-Bronx) District 76

Rep. Richard L. Brodsky (D-Westchester) District 92

Rep. Greg Ball (R-Brewster) District 99