

December 17, 2013

ICI Project Estimates ASD in Somali and non-Somali Children in Minneapolis

About 1 in 32 Somali children, ages 7-9 in 2010, was identified as having autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in Minneapolis, according to new data just released by the Minneapolis Somali ASD Prevalence Project at the Institute on Community Integration (ICI). Somali and White children were about equally likely to be identified with ASD in Minneapolis (there is no statistically meaningful difference between the two estimates), and Somali and White children were more likely to be identified with ASD than non-Somali Black and Hispanic children.

The Somali and White estimates from Minneapolis were higher than most other communities where the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) tracks ASD. The project estimates that overall 1 in 48 children reviewed were identified as having ASD, with the following prevalence by racial/ethnic group:

Somali: 1 in 32	Black (non-Somali): 1 in 62
White: 1 in 36	Hispanic: 1 in 80

(The project was unable to report on Asian/Pacific Islanders and Native Americans due to their low numbers.) Somali children with ASD were more likely to also have an intellectual disability than children with ASD in all other racial and ethnic groups in Minneapolis, according to the findings.

“We do not know why more Somali and White children were identified as having ASD than Black and Hispanic children in Minneapolis,” said Amy Hewitt, director of ICI’s Research and Training Center on Community Living and primary investigator on the project. “This project was not designed to tell us why these differences exist, but its findings support the need for more research on why and how ASD affects Somali and non-Somali children and families differently.”

This project also found that the age at first ASD diagnosis was around 5 years for Somali, White, Black, and Hispanic children. “Children with ASD can be reliably diagnosed around 2 years of age,” said Amy. “Further research must be done to understand why Minneapolis children with ASD, especially those who also have intellectual disability, are not getting diagnosed earlier.”

To date, this is the largest project to look at the number and characteristics of Somali children with ASD in any U.S. community. However, these findings are limited to Minneapolis, and there are challenges in identifying ASD in small, ethnically diverse groups.

In 2008, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) – responding to the concerns of Somali parents – conducted a study to find out if Somali children were participating in special education programs for autism in Minneapolis Public Schools at a higher rate. The ICI project was a next step to the MDH study. Funded by the CDC, the NIH, and Autism Speaks, the project reviewed more than 5,000 clinical and educational records of children ages 7-9 in Minneapolis, during the 2010 calendar year. Analysts from the CDC and MDH have verified these findings. The Association of University Centers on Disability also managed this project.

“These new findings can be used to make improvements so that all children in Minneapolis are identified and connected to appropriate services and supports as soon as possible,” said Amy. “We are grateful for the support and participation of the Minneapolis Somali community in making this project possible.”

Staff Update

- **Staff Hires:** **Karen Sheahan**, Temporary Employee, RTC. **Brooke Nelson**, Principal Office and Administrative Specialist, NCRRC (moving from RTC). **Staff Departures:** **Ann Mavis**, Coordinator, Transition; **Rebekah Rieke**, Coordinator, NCEO; and **Annie Johnson-Sirek**, Coordinator, Adult Services.
- **Eileen Klemm** presented on Check & Connect at the Education Minnesota Professional Conference in St. Paul, October 17; at the 2013 MASE Fall Leadership Conference in Brainerd, October 25; and at the 25th Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference in Atlanta, November 4.
- Several ICI staff members co-presented at the AUCD 2013 Conference in Washington, DC, November 17-20. They were: **Amy Hewitt** (promoting health for people with intellectual disabilities and diversity); **Renáta Tichá** (promoting quality and inclusivity); **Derek Nord** and **Joe Timmons** (addressing diversity in faith settings); and **Renee Hepperlen**, **Kristin Hamre**, and Derek (changing strategies related to policy, litigation, and state planning).

Dates to Remember...

- December 18: ICI Winter Gathering, 11:30-1:30, 325 Education Sciences Building
- December 23-25: University closed
- January 1: University closed
- January 9: GRA spring appointments begin
- January 14: ICI Council Meeting, 10:30-12, 118 Pattee Hall
- January 16: ICI Pizza Forum, 12-1, 118 Pattee Hall

From the Front Office

News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **Paychecks/Printed Statement Change.** For staff who receive original paychecks and/or printed statements, your items will be mailed out by Central Payroll, beginning with the December 24 pay date. They will be mailed to the *home* address listed in the PeopleSoft system, not the *mailing* address (which may be different). Review your home address by December 18 so the December 24 paycheck reaches the appropriate address. Also, please make sure your address is up to date for the W-2 forms for 2013. Any changes can be made by logging in to the Human Resources Self-Service Web site at hrss.umn.edu: Click on "Personal Information Update," click on the drop-down menu, select "Personal Addresses," and enter your "Home/Permanent Address" in the allotted space, but do *not* abbreviate the city name. When you are satisfied with your changes, click "Submit Home/Permanent Address Changes." Questions? Contact Amy at kuro0008@umn.edu.
- **Using Workgroup Calendar During University Holidays.** For vacation-eligible staff, when you enter vacation time during the holidays, it is best to enter your request around the University Closed Dates. For example, if you are taking the last two weeks of December off, it should be listed December 26-31 and then January 2-3, instead of through them (e.g. December 23-January 3). If you enter the

latter, do not count the U holidays in your total taken. Then make note of them in the comments section. Questions? Contact Amy at kuro0008@umn.edu.

- **Nominees Sought for CEHD Awards.** Nominations are being accepted for various College sponsored awards. For more information visit <http://sky.cehd.umn.edu/governance/honors-and-awards/college-awards/>. Intent to submit is due by January 31, 2014 via e-mail to Jill Lane (CEHD) at jdlane@umn.edu.
- **Personal Holiday Reminder.** The holiday season is approaching and staff may extend their holiday cheer! Just a reminder that Civil Service (CS), Bargaining Unit (BU), Professional and Administrative (P&A) employees, and Graduate Research Assistants (GRAs) may use their Personal Holiday once between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014. GRAs should work with their supervisors on recording and tracking personal holiday use. All others (CS, BU, P&A) should record personal holiday use in Workgroup Calendar. Questions? Contact kuro0008@umn.edu.
- **Time Card Employees and Their Supervisors.** Time cards for the first half of 2014 will be distributed by the end of December. This is also a reminder that hourly employees are not eligible for holiday pay. Questions? Contact Amy at kuro0008@umn.edu.

Miscellaneous

- **CEED Online Early Childhood Courses.** Registration is now open for the spring 2014 online courses from the University's Center for Early Education and Development (CEED). Eight courses are offered, including "Working with Parents: Considerations for Special Populations." FFI visit <http://www.cehd.umn.edu/CEED/onlinecourses/default.html>.
- **Resources on Autism.** Autism NOW: The National Autism Resource & Information Center, a project of The Arc, has created a series of seven fact sheets offering in-depth information about topics important to individuals with autism and their families such as employment, inclusion,

IEPs, future planning and Social Security. Each fact sheet offers information along with links to other resources written to be accessible to individuals with autism. The fact sheets are translated into Spanish and Mandarin. FFI, visit www.autismnow.org.

- **Birthdays.** Jane Krentz (12/24), Mary McEathron (12/24), Xueqin "Shirley" Qian (12/31), Hanife Cakici (1/1), Jon Goldman (1/6), Mohammed Elmeski (1/7), John Westerman (1/7), Pam Stenhjem (1/10), and Debbie Hansen (1/14). Did we miss your birthday? Let us know! Call 4-2380 or e-mail kuro0008@umn.edu.

Bits & Pieces

New Publications and Web Resources

- **New Publications.** The following new ICI publications are available:
 - *LEND Brief: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder* (Fall 2013). Published by ICI's Minnesota Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (MN LEND). The brief is available on the Web at http://lend.umn.edu/docs/LEND_Brief_Fall_2013.pdf.
- **LEND Webinars.** Beginning at 1 p.m. CST on December 18, MN LEND will host two Webinars on translational neuroscience approaches to investigating autism. FFI, visit <http://lend.umn.edu/> and look under "LEND Calendar."
- **Paper on Graduation Requirements.** In partnership with Achieve, ICI's Martha Thurlow and David Johnson co-authored a paper, "Graduation Requirements for Students with Disabilities: Ensuring Meaningful Diplomas for All Students." Available at <http://www.achieve.org/files/Achieve%20-%20NCEO%20-%20Graduation%20Requirements%2013Nov2013.pdf>.
- **New Web Presentation for National Residential Data.** The National Residential Information Systems Project at ICI has begun using a new, more engaging and efficient approach to online presentation of its annually-collected national data on status and trends in where individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities live. Using Tableau software, it is presenting this complex information in a way that's more concise, more useful to the public, and less labor intensive for staff to create, and which allows for comparison across data pages that would have previously been in separate files. To see the new RISP data visualization in action visit risp.umn.edu and click on different states and see how their data is presented. For more information on using this approach for other projects contact Kristin Dean at deanx032@umn.edu.
- **FYI Deadline.** Items for the next FYI should be submitted to Tom (donag003@umn.edu) by January 9.