

## AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

### What is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), referred to as Autism (which includes Asperger's Disorder and Pervasive Developmental Disorder - Not Otherwise specified [PDD-NOS]), is a complex, lifelong developmental condition that typically appears during early childhood and can impact a person's social skills, communication, relationships, and self-regulation. The Autism experience is different for everyone. It is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is often referred to as a "spectrum condition" that affects people differently and to varying degrees.

While there is currently no known single cause of Autism, early diagnosis helps a person receive resources that can support the choices and opportunities needed to live fully.



Autism is characterized in the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-5), which is used by clinicians to diagnose Autism by: persistent differences in communication, interpersonal relationships, and social interaction across different environments. The behaviors of Autism may be apparent in infancy, but they usually become clearer during early childhood (12-24 months). What this can look like: being nonverbal, nonspeaking, or having atypical speech patterns, having trouble understanding nonverbal communication, difficulty making and keeping friends, difficulty maintaining typical back-and-forth conversational style. Restricted and repetitive behavior patterns, activities and interests by repeating sounds or phrases (echolalia), repetitive movements, preference for sameness and difficulty with transition or routine, rigid or highly restricted and intense interests, extreme sensitivity to, or significantly lower sensitivity to, sensory stimuli.

Evaluations typically begin with your primary care provider and vary based on age. If your primary care professional does not wish to refer you to a diagnostician, or does not acknowledge your concerns, it is important to know that you have the right to contact a diagnostician for a second opinion. A local Autism Society affiliate is Autism Society of Southern Illinois, <https://www.autismsocietysi.org> or phone 618-319-3303. One may also call the team of nations Information & Referral specialists at: 800-3-AUTISM (800-328-8476). Looking for information or support related to autism? The Health Department has Autism and Special Needs Resource Guide folders available for anyone who would like more information about Autism and resources. Feel free to stop by and pick one up!

**Marion County Board of Health**

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Marion County

**February 2026 Statistics**

**Clinics**

**Blood Pressure**  
Persons Served .....0  
  
**Paternity Testing Clinics**.....2  
Number of Persons Tested .....3

**Immunizations**

**Number of Clinics** .....5  
No. of adults .....14  
No. of adults immz. adm .....6  
No. of pediatrics .....53  
No. of pediatrics immz. adm. ....138  
Total of vaccines administered....144

**Children's Immunizations**

Pediarix.....26  
Pediatric Flu .....1  
Hib.....26  
Pneumococcal.....25  
Rotavirus.....14  
Hep A.....11  
Dtap .....5  
MMR.....6  
Tdap.....0  
Hepatitis B.....0  
Varicella .....7  
Kinrix.....5  
Gardasil .....1  
Meningitis .....3  
ProQuad.....6  
IPV (Polio).....2  
Td .....0  
Men. B .....0  
Nirsevimab/RSV .....0  
COVID-19.....0

**Adult Immunizations**

Hepatitis A .....0  
Hepatitis B.....2  
Flu .....2  
Men. B. ....0  
Meningitis .....0  
MMR.....1  
Pneumonia 23.....0  
TD.....0  
Tdap .....1  
Typhoid .....0  
Varicella .....0  
Yellow Fever.....0  
Pevnar 20.....0  
Shingrix.....0  
RSV .....0  
COVID-19.....0

**Maternal Child Health (MCH)**

**Maternal Health Encounters**....404  
**WIC Caseload** .....1,082  
WIC Clients receiving Education...112  
WSSM/WIC Education .....24  
Internet WIC Education .....1  
Individual Education .....12  
Phone Education .....75  
Lead .....38  
Hemoglobins .....96  
ASQ Developmental Screenings .....76  
Depression Screenings .....34  
EPSDT'S .....49  
Flouride Varnish (Oral Health) .....39  
Number of Vision Tested .....0  
Number of Hearing Tested .....12  
Pregnancy Tests.....4

**Better Birth Outcomes-Comprehensive**

APORS Investigations .....5  
  
Healthworks Caseload.....56

**Communicable Disease Investigations**

Animal Bites.....6  
Chickenpox .....0  
Cryptosporidiosis.....0  
Hepatitis B .....1  
Hepatitis C .....10  
Histoplasmosis .....1  
HIV/AIDS Cases Investigated .....0  
HIV Test .....4  
Salmonellosis .....0  
Streptococcal Infections (Group A) ..0  
Whooping Cough (Pertussis).....0

**Sexually Transmitted Disease**

Chlamydia .....8  
Gonorrhea .....2  
Syphilis .....1

**TB (Tuberculosis)**

Tests Administered .....9  
New LTBI .....0  
New Suspect TB Investigations .....0  
New Active Cases .....0

**Lab Draws**

Private Pay  
Salem Office .....48  
Centralia Office .....25  
Total Private Pay Lab Draws .....73

**Environmental Health**

**Food**

Routine Inspections .....30  
Follow-up Inspections .....11  
Complaint Inspections .....1  
Temporary Inspections .....0  
Pre-Operational Inspections .....1  
Emergency Incident Inspections ....1  
Number of Food Permits Issued ...14  
Cottage Food Permits Issued .....1

**Sewage**

Routine Inspections .....6  
Complaint Inspections.....1  
Realty Inspections.....0  
Sewage Systems Installed.....7  
Number of Permits Issued .....4

**Water**

New System Inspections .....0  
Existing Water Well Inspections ....0  
Realty Inspections .....0  
Complaint Inspections .....0  
Water Wells Sealed .....0  
Number of Permits Issued .....0

**Closed Loop Wells**

Closed Loop Well Inspections .....0  
Systems Installed .....0  
Number of Permits Issued .....0

**Tanning**

Routine Inspections .....0  
Follow-up Inspections .....0  
Complaint Inspections .....0

**Body Art**

Routine Inspections .....1  
Follow-up Inspections.....0  
Complaint Inspections .....0

**FIT Test**

Female.....0      Male.....0

