

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services

February 20, 2007

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) Fast Facts

- **ASDs are neurodevelopmental disorders defined by *qualitative* impairments / triad of symptoms**
 - Lack of social and emotional reciprocity
 - Significant impairment in verbal and non-verbal communication
 - Impoverished play skills, restricted interests, and/or stereotyped behaviors
- **Screening and Diagnosis**
 - Level One: Routine developmental surveillance by all providers (age 0-3 yrs)
 - Level Two: Diagnosis and Evaluation of Autism by Early Intervention Services or School Districts (age 3+)
- **Prevalence Rate, per CDC: 1 in 150**
 - 500,000 autistic individuals in US (age 0-21 yrs), per CDC
 - Growing rate of 10-17% annually, per Autism Society of America
 - Boys : Girls = 4 : 1
 - Typically diagnosed at age 3 years and lasts a lifetime
 - Occurs in all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups
- **Autism in Nevada – 2005**
 - 219 New Born (based on 36,485 live births)
 - 867 Ages 0-3 yrs (based on 144,517 age specific population)
 - 4,658 Ages 0-21 yrs (based on 776,333 age specific population)
- **Autism Costs**
 - Approximately \$3.2M lifetime / autistic individual, per Harvard School of Public Health
 - 90% incurred as adults
 - Costs reduced up to 2/3 with early diagnosis and intervention
 - Total share for Nevada: approximately \$14.9B for 0-21 cohort plus social life losses
- **States With / Developing Autism Registries**
 - Delaware
 - Florida
 - Missouri
 - Utah
 - West Virginia

- **On-line National Autism Registry in development (announced February 20, 2007)**
 - Collaboration between University of Missouri-Columbia and the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore
 - Targeted at parents of children with autism
 - Missouri's state registry will be linked to this national one

- **Tracking in Nevada –**
 - Formalized data collection would ensure efficient allocation of resources for early detection and intervention, effective provision of necessary services to autistic individuals, and cost reductions
 - Nevada has a Birth Defects Registry (limited information)
 - Other agencies with potential: MHDS, DHCFFP/Medicaid, DCFS, and DETR
 - Data Warehouse TIR – if funded, could assist with data collection, analysis and monitoring