

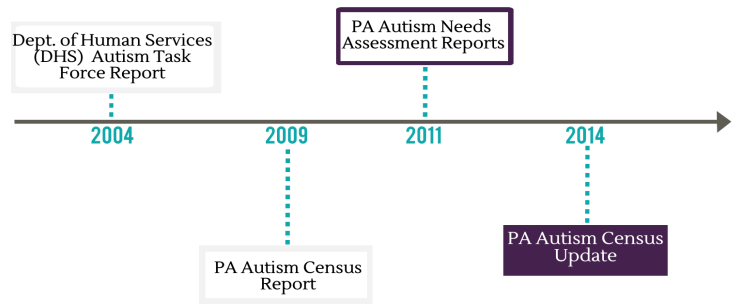
# 2014 Pennsylvania Autism Census Update Overview

## Overview

In 2004, the PA Autism Task Force noted that the number of individuals with autism spectrum disorder or "autism" receiving services was unknown in Pennsylvania. In response, the PA Department of Human Services (DHS) (formerly the Department of Public Welfare), Bureau of Autism Services (BAS) conducted the 2009 Pennsylvania Autism Census to estimate the number of individuals with autism in the Commonwealth receiving services. The findings of the original study informed service and program planning efforts in PA. In order to continue this work, BAS commissioned a Census Update. This document outlines the key findings of the 2014 Pennsylvania Autism Census Update, which provides the most recent data on Pennsylvania's population with autism.

### Why does this matter?

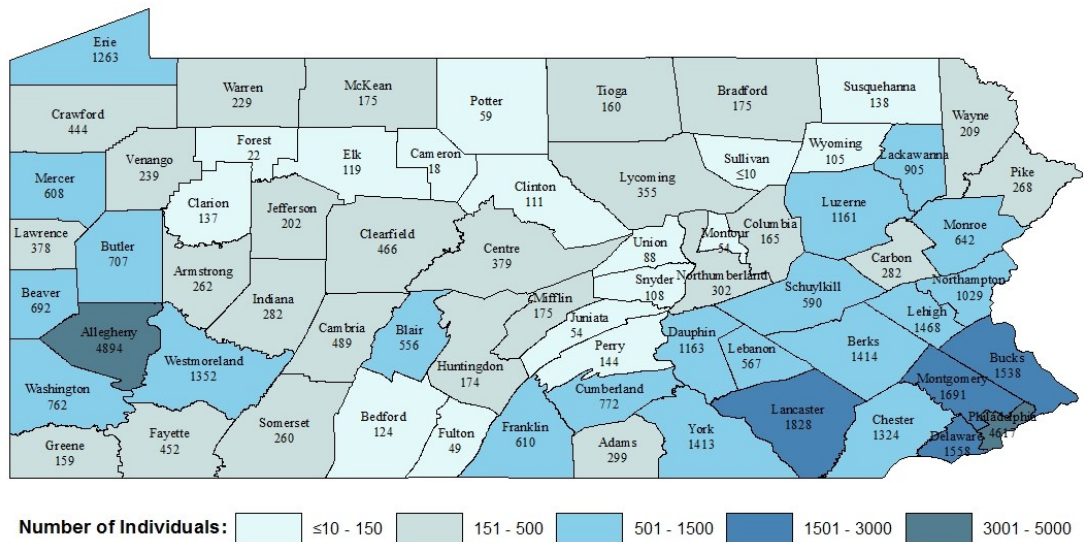
Identifying individuals with autism who are receiving services is important for program planning for the state. Learning how many individuals with autism are receiving services, as well as characterizing their demographics and location, helps with the design of effective services.



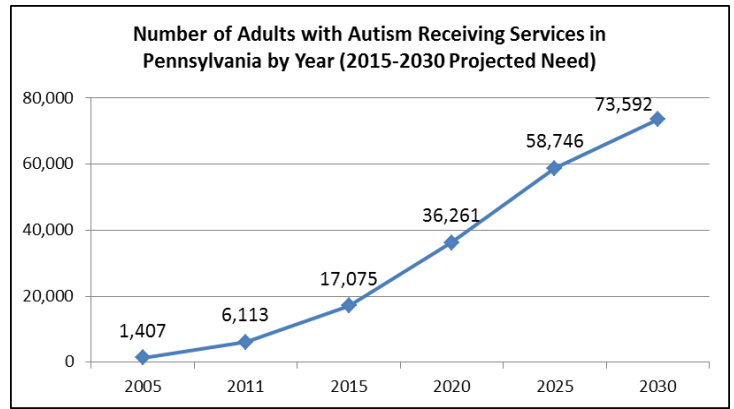
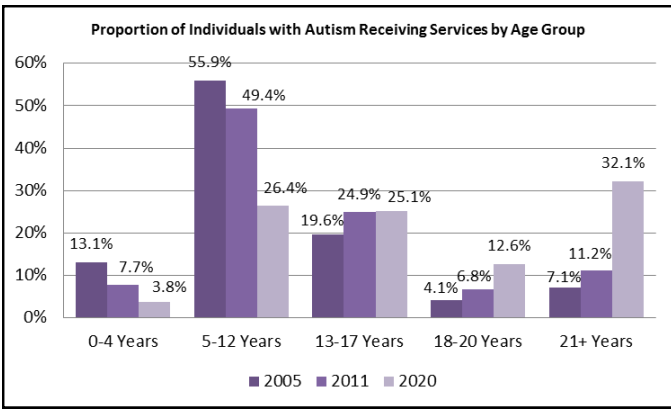
### Key Findings:

The 2009 Pennsylvania Autism Census Project identified nearly 20,000 Pennsylvanians with autism receiving services. In the **2014 Pennsylvania Autism Census Update**, that number has risen to over **55,000 children and adults** in PA with autism receiving services. Data has shown that between the two time points, there was a **181% overall** increase in the number of individuals with autism receiving services, and a **334% increase in adults 21+**, making adults the fastest growing group.

### Number of Individuals with Autism Receiving Services in PA by County



This map shows the number of individuals with autism receiving services by county in the Commonwealth. It highlights where most individuals with autism receiving services are living. High population areas coincide with high areas of individuals with autism receiving services. For example, Allegheny County has the highest number of individuals, followed by Philadelphia County.



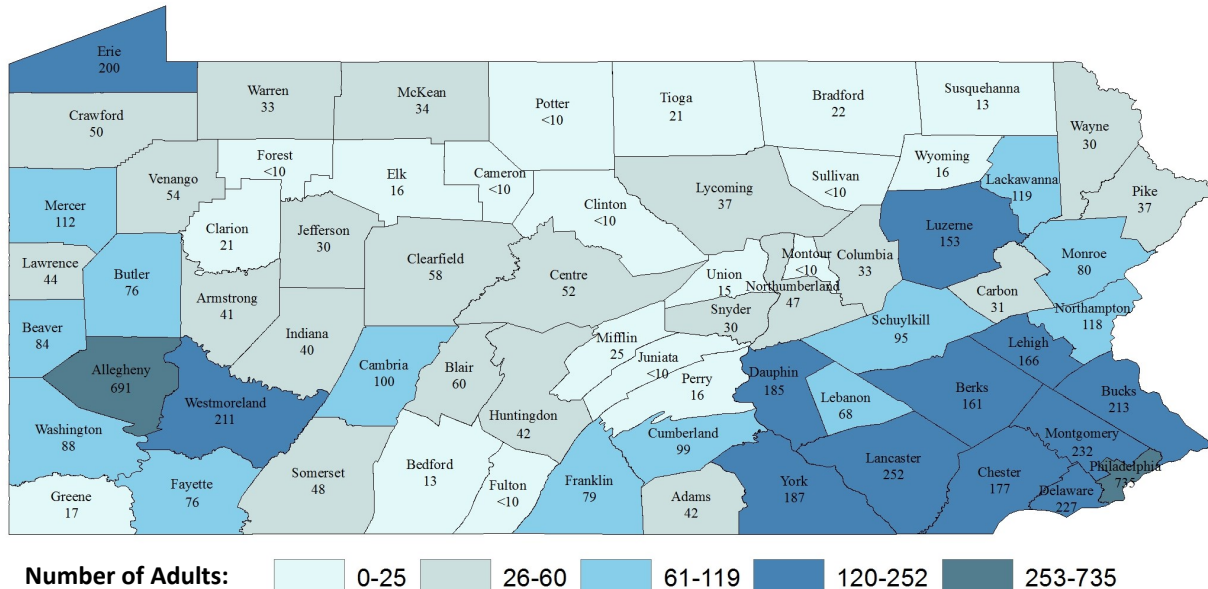
**Sources for 2014 Pennsylvania Autism Census Update**

- Department of Human Services (DHS)
  - Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OMAP)
  - Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF)
  - Office of Developmental Programs (ODP): Autism & Intellectual Disability Services
  - Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS)
- Department of Education (PDE)
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)
- Department of Corrections and PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency

**Limitations:**

- Those who were not receiving services through one or more of these program offices, and/or those who misdiagnosed or were never formally diagnosed, could not be counted.
- Therefore, these numbers are a **significant underestimate** of the number of children and adults with autism in Pennsylvania.

**Number of Adults with Autism Receiving Services in PA by County**



This map shows the number of adults with autism receiving services by county in the Commonwealth. High population areas coincide with high areas of adults with autism receiving services. Knowing where there is a significant number of adults with autism receiving services can help determine the best design for services, and inform policy and planning.

The Autism Services, Education, Resources and Training Collaborative (ASERT) is a statewide initiative funded by the Bureau of Autism Services, PA Department of Human Services.