

REQUEST:

I cannot find recent data (newer than 2007) on the rates/percentages, and most prevalent types of intellectual and developmental disabilities in Harris County or the Greater Houston Area. Do you have access to this?

RESPONSE:

The majority of county-level data related to intellectual and developmental disabilities are typically provided by advocacy organizations. These data are often hard to quantify, due to reporting restrictions and confidentiality concerns. Down syndrome, because it is a reportable birth defect, can be detailed. The Houston area incidence and prevalence of other major intellectual and developmental disabilities is likely similar to national and state results. Please see the references listed at the end of the response. A 2014 report concerning developmental disabilities in the Houston area is also attached to this response.

Autism:

According to the most recent estimates from CDC's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network from 2012, about 1 in 68 children aged 8 years, has been identified with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Down syndrome:

Down syndrome occurs in about 1 in every 800 to 1,000 live births. Although parents of any age may have child with Down syndrome, the incidence is higher for women over 35. In Harris County the incidence of Down syndrome in 2011 was 13.34 per 10,000 live births. [From the Texas Health Data birth defects registry (<http://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/Registries/BirthDefects>).]

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS):

According to the CDC, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) occurs in 0.2 to 1.5 infants for every 1,000 live births in certain areas of the United States (Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, and New York). Studies using in-person assessment of school-aged children in several U.S. communities report higher estimates of FAS: 6 to 9 out of 1,000 children. The CDC's Pregnant Risk Assessment and Monitoring (PRAMS) found that 44.3% of women in Texas reported drinking three months before they were pregnant. National studies indicate that one in eight women continue to drink during pregnancy. The prevalence of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) may be as high as one to five percent in the United States. This is higher than the prevalence of autism spectrum disorders. Given that the drinking rates in Texas are similar to national rates, it is reasonable to assume that the national rates of FASD are reflected in Texas.

Intellectual Disability:

According to test standards and studies, about 2.7% of the Texas population falls at or below an IQ score of 70. For evaluation of their needs for services, persons with an intellectual disability can be divided into three groups, mild, moderate and severe/profound:

- Mild range of Intellectual Disability: about 2.34% of the total population
- Moderate range of Intellectual Disability: about 0.28% of the population.
- Severe and profound ranges of Intellectual Disability: about 0.11% of the population

SOURCES:

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Needs Council of Harris County (2005). Mental Retardation and Other Developmental Disabilities including Autism in Harris County. Available at: <http://iddnc.org/wp-content/uploads/IDDNC-MRDDA-Report.pdf>

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Needs Council. FAQs Available at: <http://iddnc.org/resources/faqs/>

Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2003-2007, page 85. Available at: http://s3.amazonaws.com/zanran_storage/www.dshs.state.tx.us/ContentPages/5423010.pdf

Pregnant Risk Assessment and Monitoring (2011). Available at: <https://chronicdata.cdc.gov/Maternal-Child-Health/CDC-PRAMStat-Data-for-2011/ese6-rqpg>