

# 2008 State Autism Profiles OHIO

## DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2000, 2,543 or 1.07% of children ages 3-21 who received special education services in Ohio have autism. In 2006-2007, 9,469 or 3.52% of children with disabilities ages 3-21 who received special education services have autism.

**Table 1-1: IDEA Part B - Children with Autism in Ohio for 1999-2000 and 2006-2007**  
(Child Count by Age Group)

	1999-2000	2006-2007
Age 3-5	326	410
Age 6-11	1,537	4,955
Age 12-17	605	3,613
Age 18-21	75	491
Age 6-21	2,217	9,059
Age 3-21	2,543	9,469

*Source: Reported by the State of Ohio in accordance with Section 618 of IDEA to U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs*

**Table 1-2: IDEA Part B - Children with Disabilities in Ohio for 1999-2000 and 2006-2007**  
(Child Count by Age Group)

	1999-2000	2006-2007
Age 3-5	18,664	23,455
Age 6-11	102,456	102,624
Age 12-17	103,580	126,530
Age 18-21	12,943	16,524
Age 6-21	218,979	245,678
Age 3-21	237,643	269,133

*Source: Reported by the State of Ohio in accordance with Section 618 of IDEA to U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs*

## STATE TASK FORCE

### *Ohio Autism Task Force*

In 2003, Former Governor Bob Taft signed into law H.B. 95 which included the establishment of the Ohio Autism Taskforce (OAT). OAT was requested to explore the incidences of autism in the state in order to improve deliveries of service and support systems to individuals with autism. Twenty-two members served on the taskforce, including 18 public members appointed by the governor, representatives from the state legislature and agencies, and other stakeholders interested in autism. The taskforce met for a year and prepared recommendations to the Governor, Speaker of the House and President of the Senate. Rep. Jon Peterson (R-Delaware) served as the chair and Denise Caruso of the Autism Society of Ohio served as the vice-chair.

## STATE INSURANCE COVERAGE

Representatives Jon Peterson (R-Delaware) and Ted Celeste (D-Grandview Heights) proposed legislation (H.B. 170) in April 2007 which would prevent insurance companies from excluding autism coverage. Autism insurance coverage would apply to fully insured plans, not self-insured plans. The bill is being considered by the Insurance Committee.

[http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/BillText127/127\\_HB\\_170\\_I\\_Y.pdf](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/BillText127/127_HB_170_I_Y.pdf)

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## OHIO

### EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

#### *Autism Scholarship Program*

The Ohio Department of Education's Autism Scholarship Program provides up to \$20,000 per school year (\$7,000 per quarter maximum) to the parents of a qualified child with autism to send their child to a special education program outside of their child's school district for services outlined in the child's individualized education program (IEP). The 2007-2008 scholarship program begins July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008.

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=972&ContentID=6678&Content=46398>

#### *Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence*

H.B. 119 §3323.30 includes the establishment of The Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) within the Ohio Department of Education's Office for Exceptional Children. OCALI serves as a resource for parents, educators and professionals interested in autism spectrum disorder, traumatic brain injury and multiple disabilities. Additionally, OCALI provides programs and services for individuals with autism or those interested in learning more about autism.

<http://www.ocali.org/>

#### *Educational Service Center Contact*

<http://www.oesca.org/esc.asp>

#### *Special Education Regional Support Services Contact*

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=840&ContentID=2195&Content=41466>

### OTHER STATE RESOURCES

#### *Ohio Autism Diagnosis Education Pilot Project*

H.B. 119 established the creation of the Autism Diagnosis Education Pilot Project in the Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Early Intervention Services. The pilot project is administered by the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics in five counties: Warren County, Belmont County, Wood County, Franklin County and Cuyahoga County. The pilot project is intended to educate families, health care professionals, educators and others interested about the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders, to promote appropriate standards and encourage regional coordination of services. For more information, visit the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics web site.

<http://ohioaap.org/>

### STATE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

The Ohio General Assembly meets annually. The 127<sup>th</sup> session of the general assembly met on January 2. Currently, the assembly is considering a bill that would require health insurance coverage for autism.

<http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/>

#### *Supporters of Autism Legislation:*

Sen. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) District 29  
Sen. Joy Padgett (R-Coshocton) District 20  
Sen. Kevin Coughlin (R-Cuyahoga Falls) District 27  
Sen. Jason Wilson (D-St. Clairsville) District 30  
Sen. Steve Stivers (R-Columbus) District 16

Rep. Jon M. Peterson (R-Delaware) District 2  
Rep. Ted Celeste (D-Grandview Heights) District 24  
Rep. Kevin Bacon (R-Columbus) District 21  
Rep. Chris Redfern (D-Cawtaba Island) District 80