

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

SECRETARIAT FOR SURVEILLANCE  
AND PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
DIVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND RESEARCH

## ***A Summary of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Puerto Rico – Comparison: All of Puerto Rico and Surveillance Area (32 Municipalities) Year 2022***

Autism and Developmental Disabilities  
Network-Puerto Rico  
(ADDN Network -Puerto Rico)

June 2025



DEPARTAMENTO DE

**SALUD**

GOBIERNO DE PUERTO RICO

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ADDM Network-PR uses a record review method. This summary is based on the analysis of data collected from the health and special education records of children who were 8 or 4 years old and living in the 78 municipalities of Puerto Rico in 2022. The **Surveillance Area** data is based on an analysis of information collected from the health and special education records of 8- and 4-year-old children residing in **32 municipalities** in the northern, eastern, southern, and central regions of Puerto Rico in 2022. The analysis was conducted by staff from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's ADDM Network. (CDC-ADDM Network). For more information, refer to: *Shaw KA, Williams S, Patrick ME, et al. Prevalence and Early Identification of Autism Spectrum Disorder Among Children Aged 4 and 8 Years — Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network, 16 Sites, United States, 2022. MMWR Surveill Summ 2025;74(No. SS-2):1–22. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.ss7402a1>*. The **All-Puerto Rico** data are based on an analysis of information collected from the health and special education records of 8- and 4-year-old children residing in **all municipalities** of Puerto Rico in 2022. The analysis was conducted by ADDM-PR Network staff with support from CDC-ADDM Network staff. The **All-Puerto Rico** content is solely the responsibility of the ADDM-PR site and does not necessarily represent the official position of the CDC-ADDM Network or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## A Summary of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Puerto Rico

Findings from the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network-Puerto Rico (ADDM Network-PR) help us to understand more about the number of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), their characteristics, and the age at which they are first evaluated and diagnosed. The ADDM Network -PR collected data on ASD for all municipalities in Puerto Rico. This document presents the data for all of Puerto Rico along with data from the 32 municipalities included in the study's surveillance area.

### All-Puerto Rico

78 municipalities



#### Population:

8-year-old children: 29,138	Male: 50.8%	Female: 49.2%
4-year-old children: 21,232	Male: 51.2%	Female: 48.8%

### Surveillance Area

32 contiguous municipalities\*



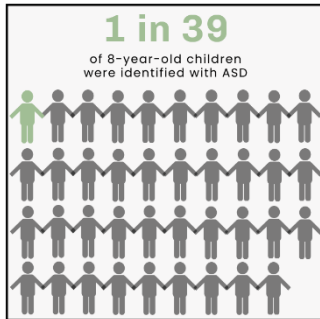
#### Population:

8-year-old children: 17,457	Male: 50.9%	Female: 49.1%
4-year-old children: 12,849	Male: 51.5%	Female: 48.5%

\*Aguas Buenas, Aibonito, Barranquitas, Bayamón, Caguas, Canóvanas, Carolina, Cataño, Cayey, Cidra, Coamo, Comerío, Corozal, Dorado, Guaynabo, Gurabo, Jayuya, Juana Díaz, Juncos, Las Piedras, Loíza, Naranjito, Orocovis, Ponce, San Juan, San Lorenzo, Santa Isabel, Toa Alta, Toa Baja, Trujillo Alto, Vega Alta and Villalba.

## A. ASD PREVALENCE

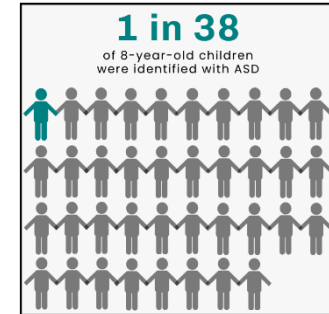
All-Puerto Rico



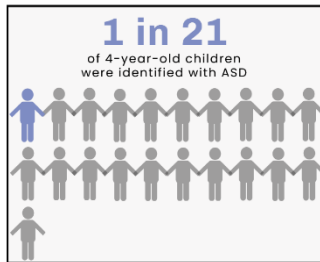
8-year-old children

Approximately **1 in 39** or **2.56%** of 8-year-old children were diagnosed with ASD across Puerto Rico in 2022. This percentage is similar to the percentage of children identified with ASD in the surveillance area: **1 in 38** or **2.63%**.

Surveillance Area



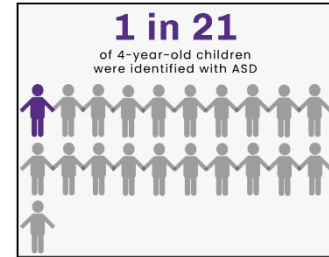
All-Puerto Rico



4-year-old children

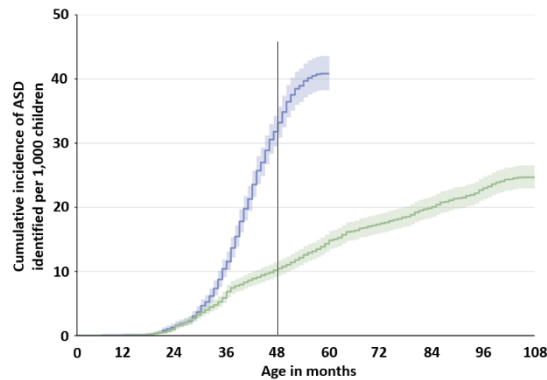
Approximately **1 in 21** or **4.7%** of 4-year-old children were identified with ASD in 2022. This percentage is equal to the percentage of children identified with ASD in the surveillance area: **1 in 21** or **4.7%**.

Surveillance Area



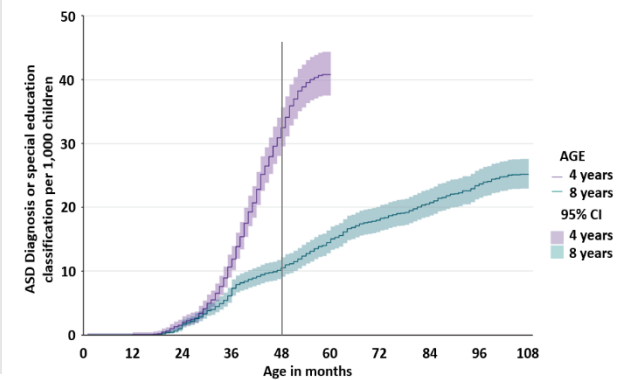
## B. ASD CUMULATIVE INCIDENCE

All-Puerto Rico

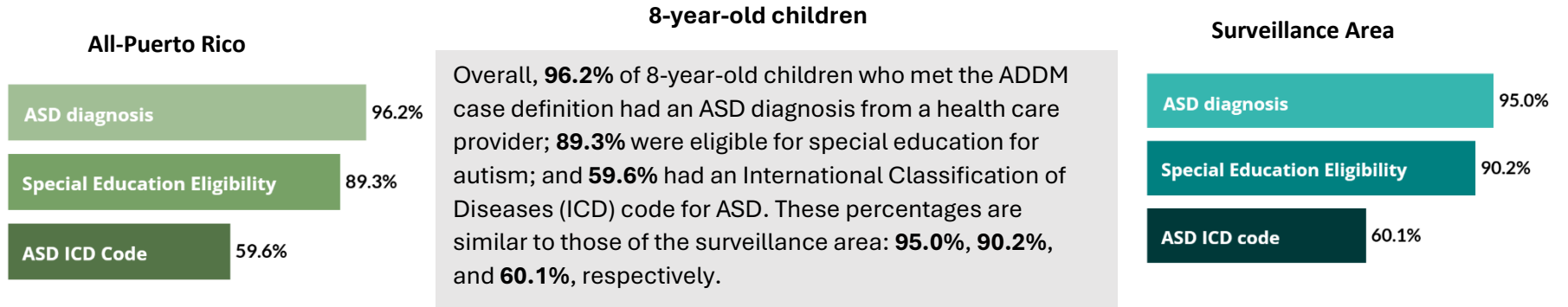


Four-year-old children were **3.2 times** more likely to receive an ASD diagnosis or ASD special education eligibility at 48 months of age compared to eight-year-old children. In the surveillance area, four-year-old children were **3 times** more likely to receive an ASD diagnosis or ASD special education eligibility at 48 months of age compared to eight-year-old children.

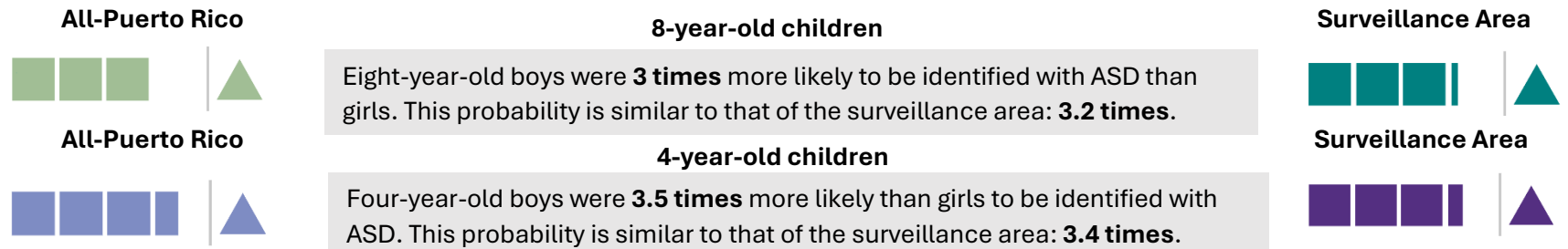
Surveillance Area



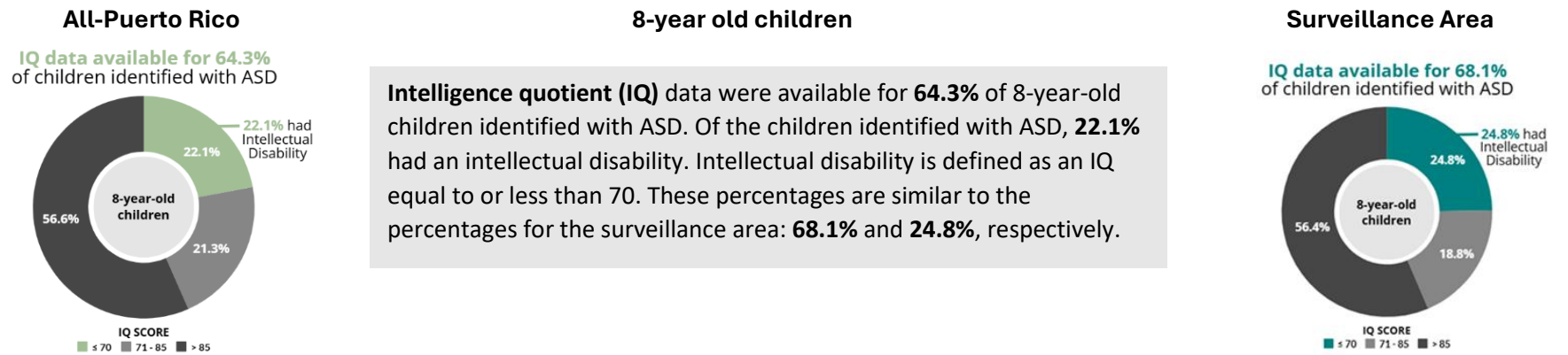
### C. CASE DEFINITION



### D. SEX

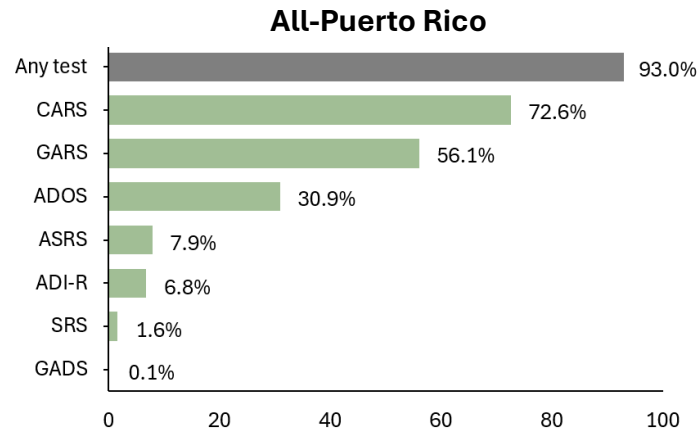


### E. INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY AND ASD

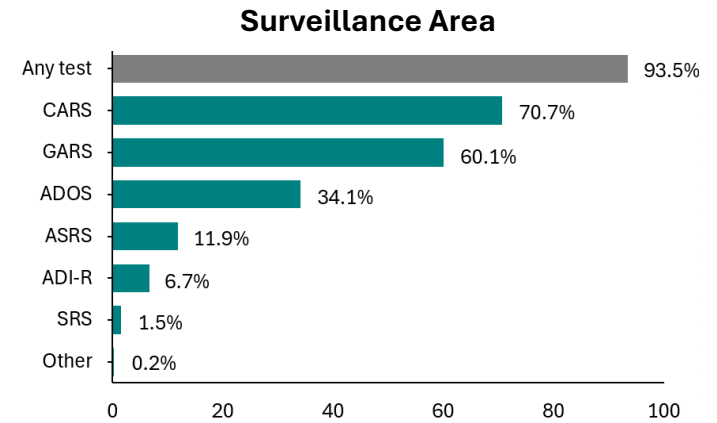


## F. ASD DIAGNOSTIC TESTS

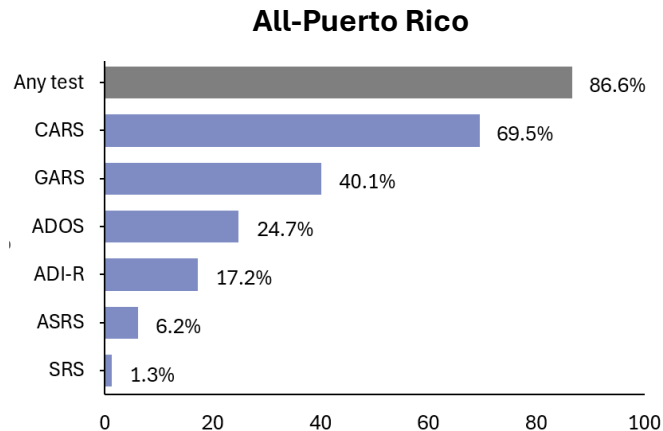
### 8-year-old children



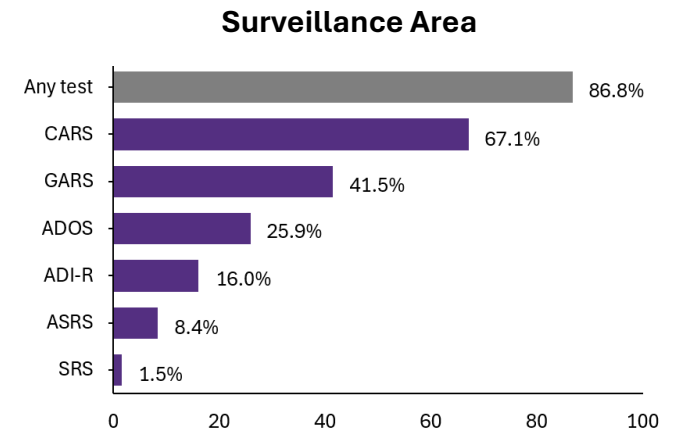
**93.0%** of 8-year-old children with ASD had a documented autism test in their records. This percentage is similar to that of the surveillance area: **93.5%**.



### 4-year-old children



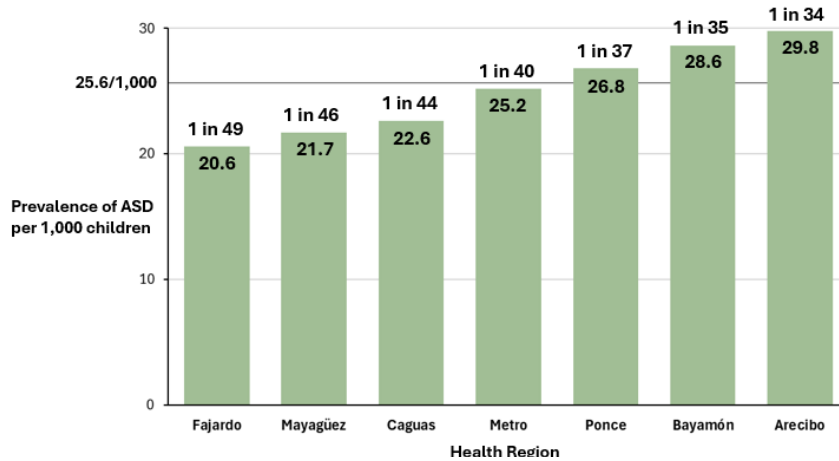
**86.6%** of 4-year-old children with ASD had a documented autism test in their records. This percentage is similar to that of the surveillance area: **86.8%**.



**Abbreviations:** ADI-R = Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised; ADOS = Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule; ASRS = Autism Spectrum Rating Scales; CARS = Childhood Autism Rating Scale; GARS = Gilliam Autism Rating Scale; SRS = Social Responsiveness Scale. Other includes Asperger Syndrome Diagnostic Scale, Gilliam Asperger's Disorder Scale, and TELE-ASD-PEDS.

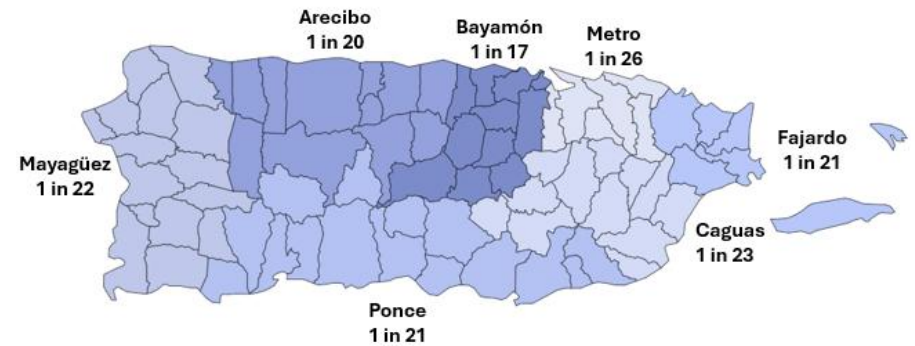
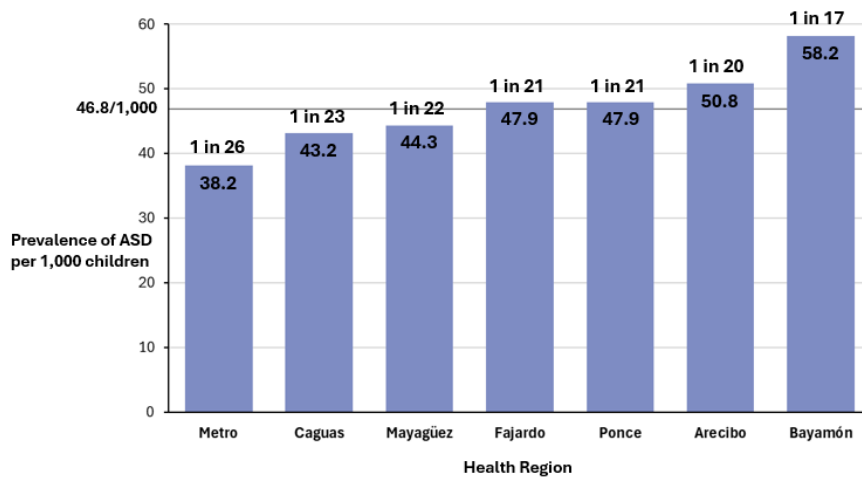
**G. ASD PREVALENCE BY HEALTH REGION (PR Department of Health)**

**8-year-old children**



The horizontal line represents the prevalence of ASD throughout Puerto Rico: 25.6 per 1,000 8-year-old children.

**4-year-old children**

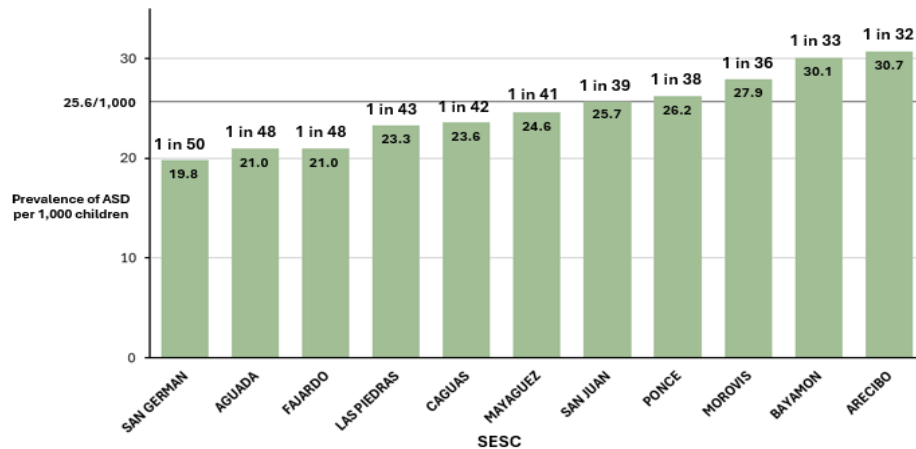


The horizontal line represents the prevalence of ASD throughout Puerto Rico: 46.8 per 1,000 4-year-old children.



## H. ASD PREVALENCE BY MUNICIPALITIES SERVED BY SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE CENTERS (SESC) (PR Department of Education)

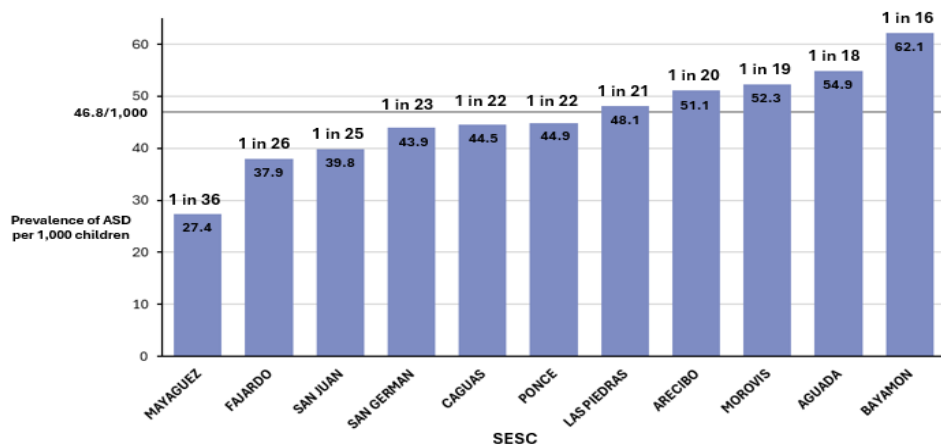
### 8-year-old children



The horizontal line represents the prevalence of ASD throughout Puerto Rico: 25.6 per 1,000 8-year-old children.



### 4-year-old children



The horizontal line represents the prevalence of ASD throughout Puerto Rico: 46.8 per 1,000 4-year-old children.



Web page with publications and community resources:  
[https://www.salud.pr.gov/vigilancia\\_autismo](https://www.salud.pr.gov/vigilancia_autismo)