

# **ASD in Arkansas**

**Early Identification & Intervention for Children with  
Autism Spectrum Disorders**



**Arkansas Act Early Team  
Contact Person: Karan Burnette  
burnettekaranb@uams.edu**

# Arkansas Demographics

---

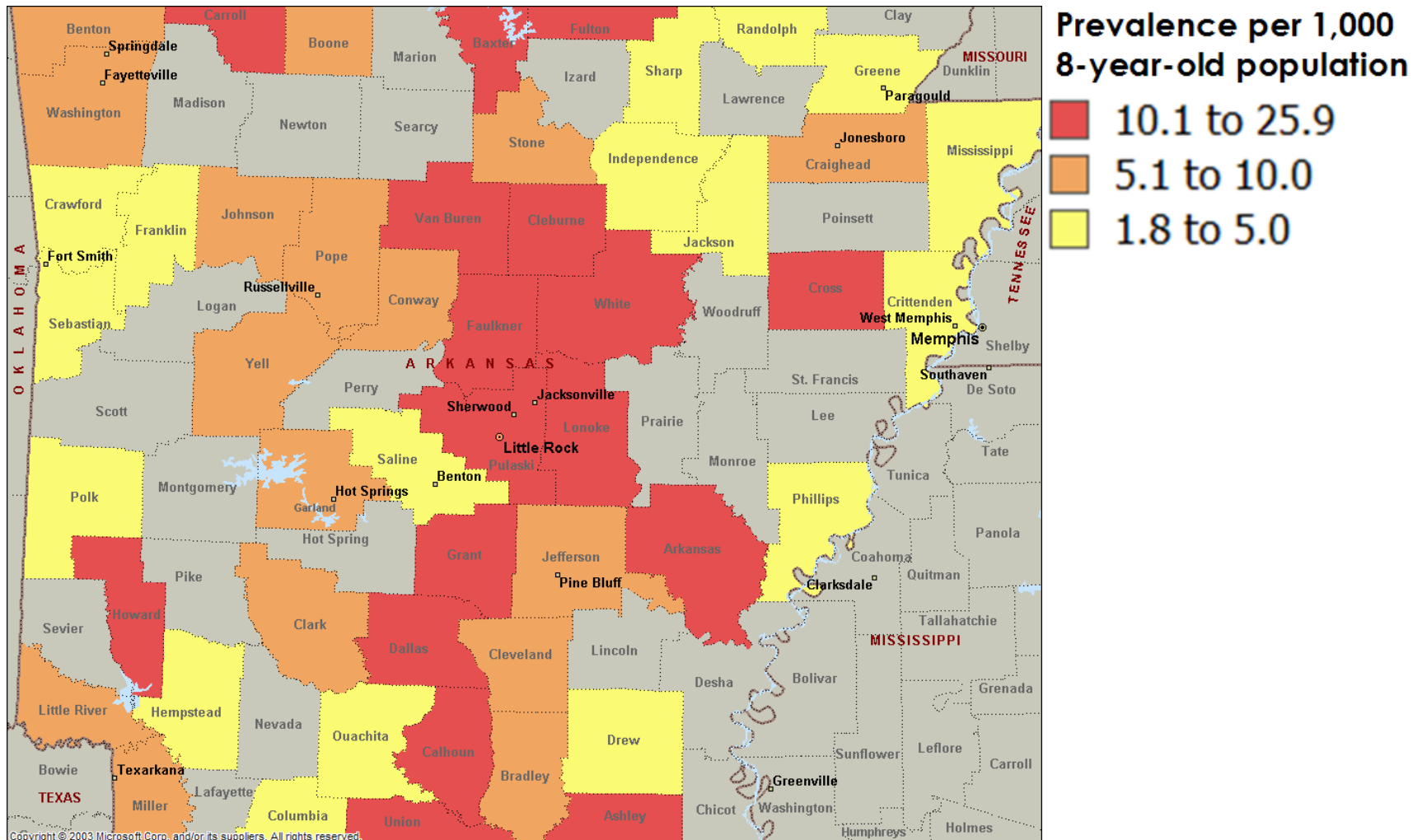
Population	2,834,797
White	81.1%
Black	15.7%
Hispanic	5%
Other	1.9%
Hispanic Growth 2000-2005	48%
Live Births per Year	40,962
Number of Counties	75
Counties without a City >30,000	68

# Arkansas Demographics

---

Per Capita Income – AR	\$19,758
National	\$25,267
Median Household Income-AR	\$26,277
National	\$32,649
Children Below Poverty – AR	24%
National	18%
Children Enrolled Medicaid & SCHIP	49%
Eligible but Not Enrolled	5.9%

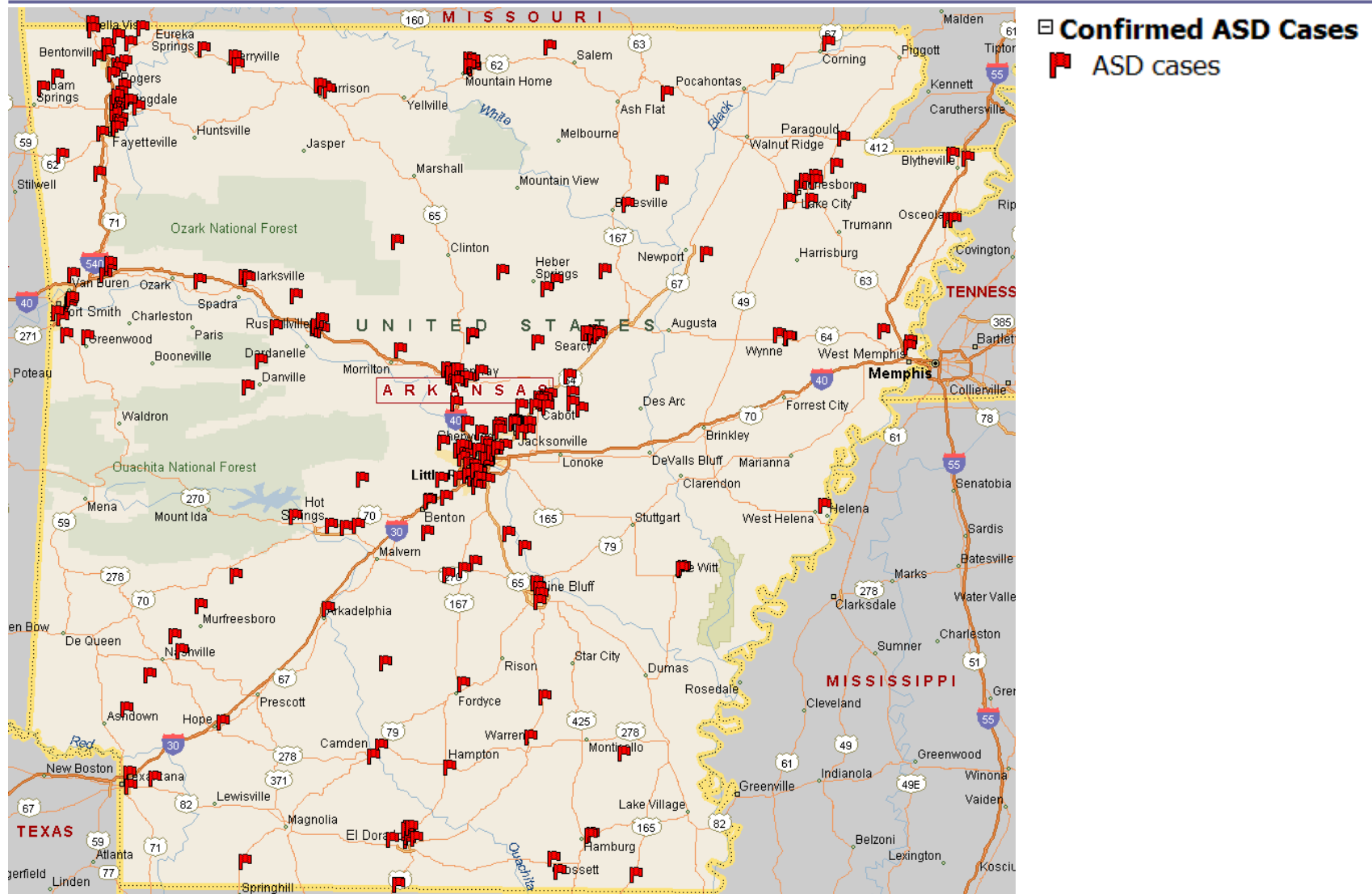
# Estimated prevalence\* of autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) among children aged 8 years, by county of residence – Arkansas Autism Project 2002



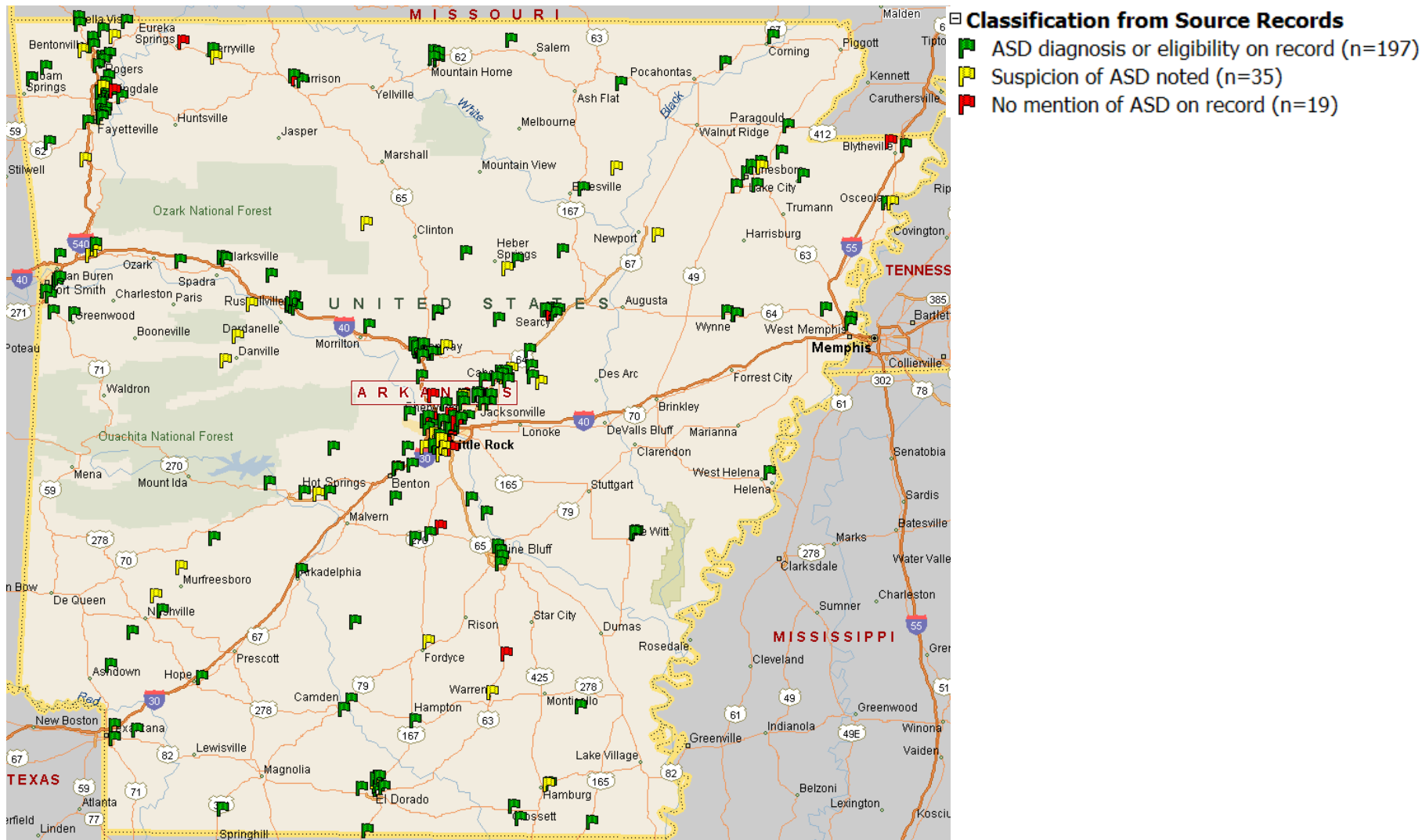
\*Per 1,000 children aged 8 years.

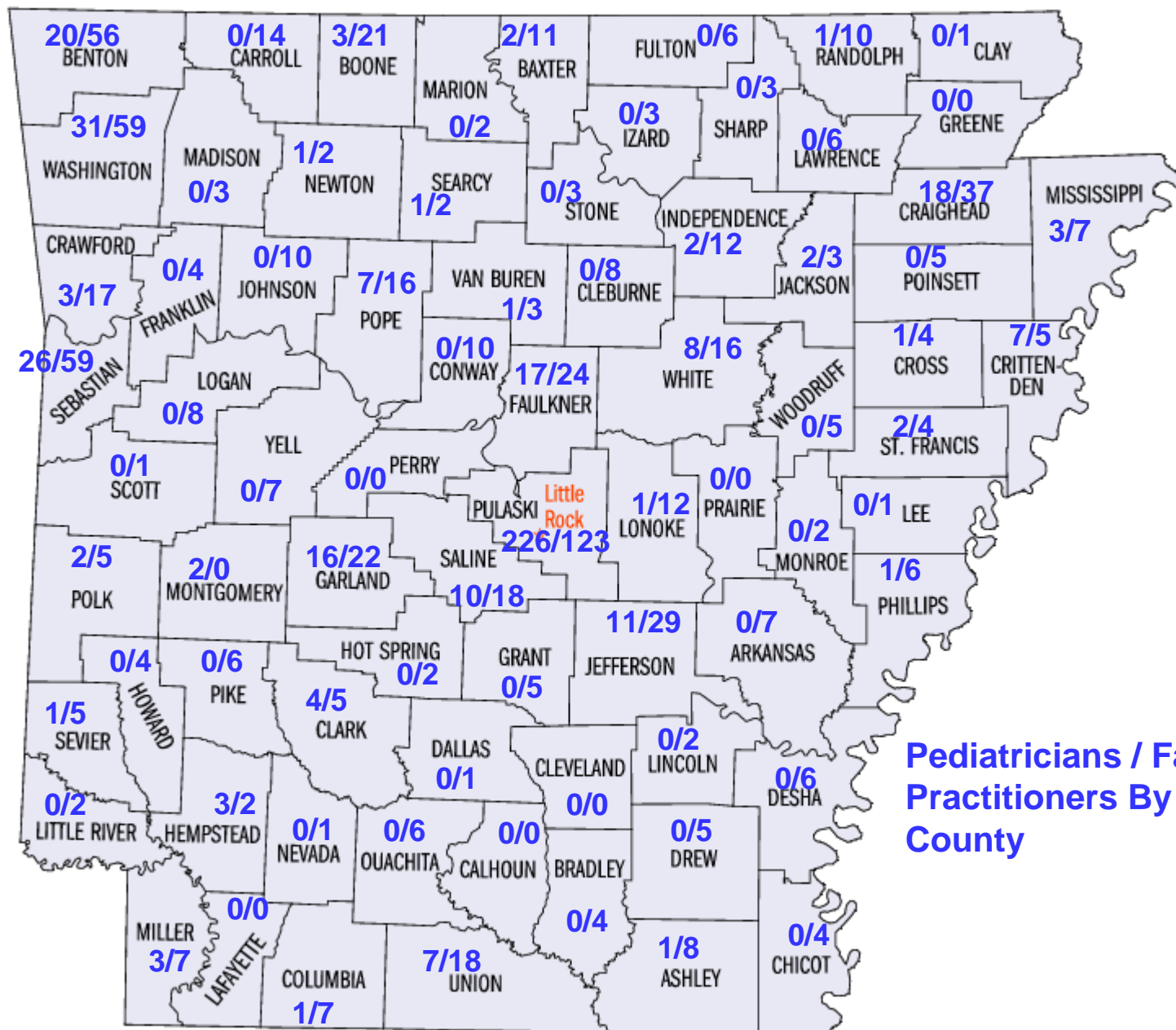
Note: Gray shaded counties indicate no children with ASDs were identified.

# Confirmed ASD cases among children aged 8 years (n=251), Arkansas Autism Project 2002



# Confirmed ASD cases among children aged 8 years (n=251) by classification from source records, Arkansas Autism Project 2002





**Pediatricians / Family  
Practitioners By  
County**

# Legislative Activity

---

## **Arkansas Act 1016 of 2007 (Rep. Johnson)**

- 15 member “Arkansas Legislative Task Force on Autism”
- Recommendations to General Assembly (5/08)

## **Arkansas Act 1198 of 2007 (Rep. Johnson)**

- Medicaid waiver for intensive early intervention for children (3-10 yrs) diagnosed with PDD
- **Not yet funded**



# Resources and Barriers

---

## **Resources**

Networks established

Legislative focus

Effort to standardize protocol for well-child screening

Increased state funding for preschool services

## **Barriers**

Rural

Impoverished

Limited educational background

Availability of health care professionals

Diagnostic capacity

Data systems coordination