

**Virginia Department of Education
Status of Programs for Students with
Autism Spectrum Disorders
Report to
Senate Finance Committee
Education Subcommittee
Health and Human Resources Subcommittee**

December 14, 2009

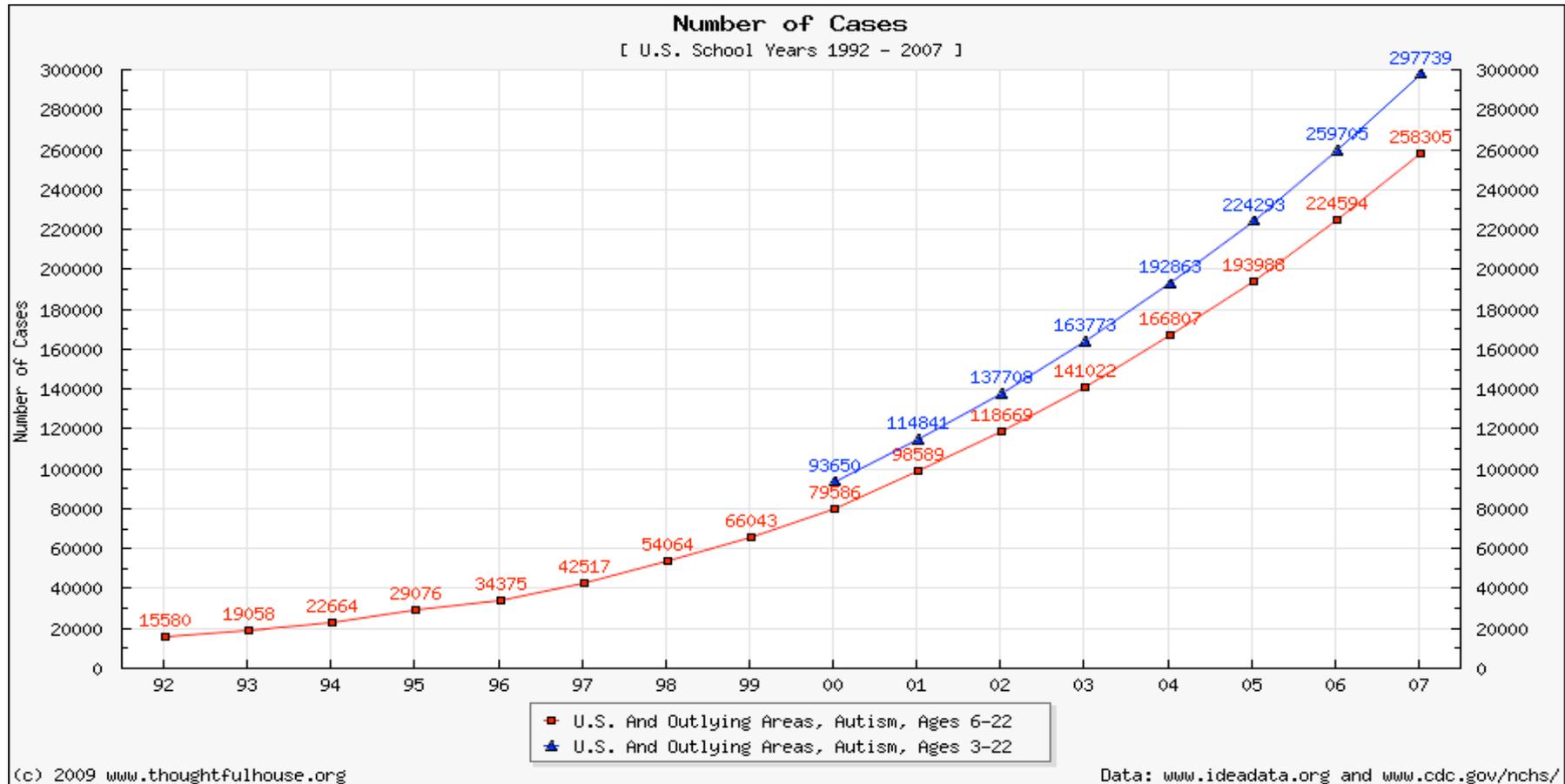
U.S. Autism Population Estimate
 10/21/2009 10:32 PM PST
 (ages 3-22)
293,724

U.S. Annual Economic Cost
\$8,811,726,551

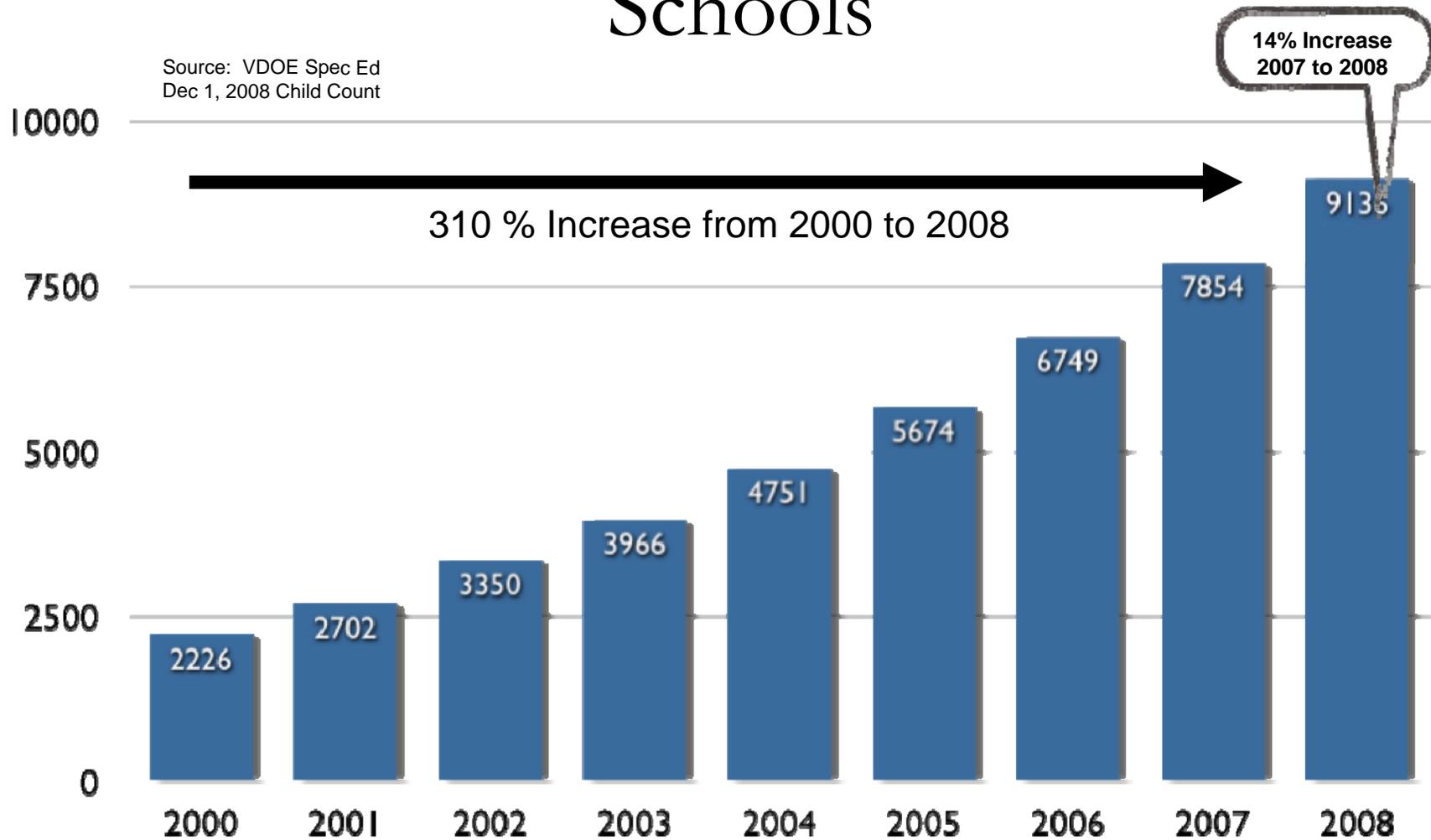
Next Diagnosis
18:03 mins

www.FightingAutism.org

National Statistics



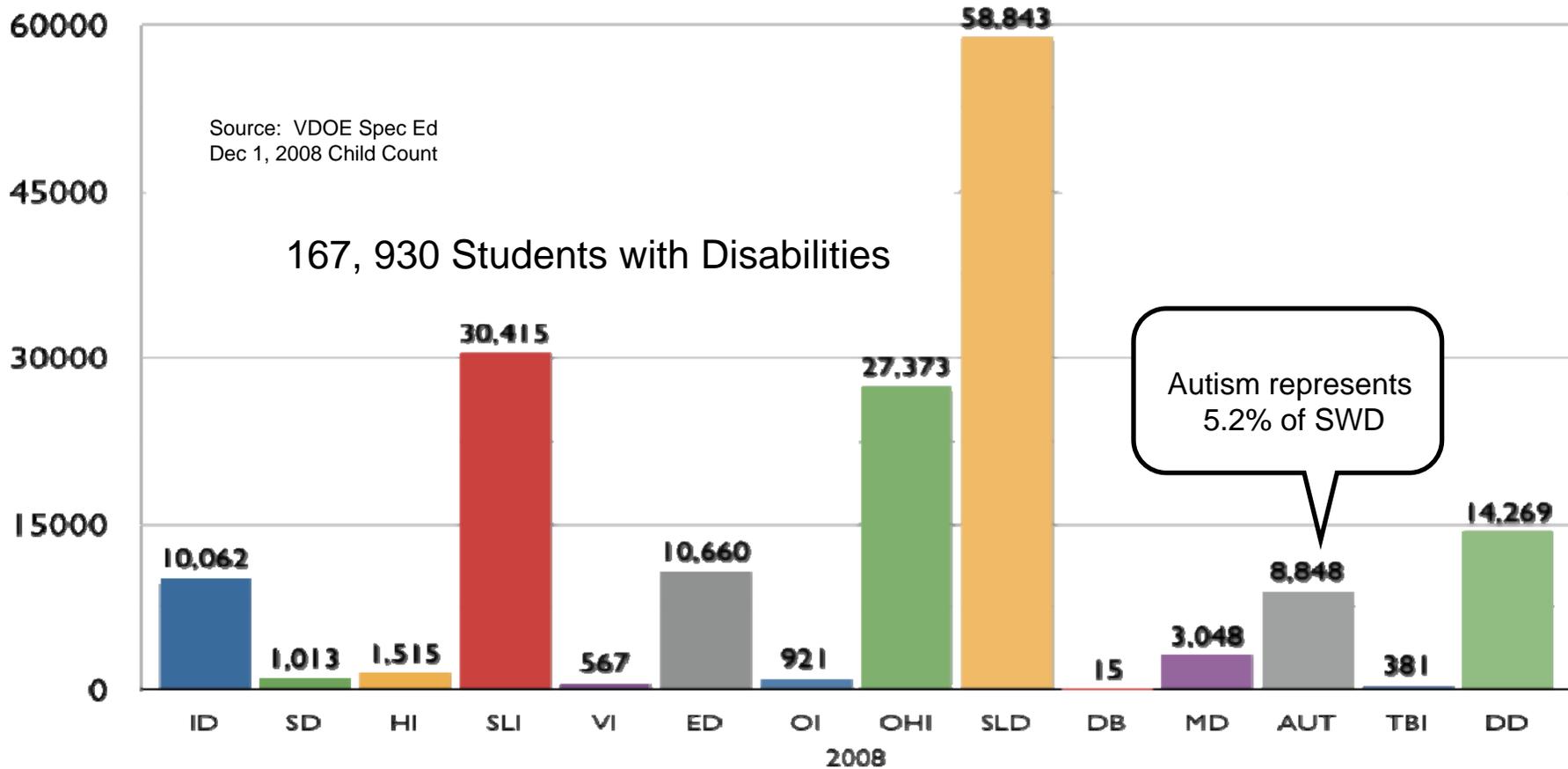
Autism Spectrum Disorders in Virginia Schools



Virginia Department of Education

December 1, Child Count - Students with disabilities receiving services under ASD label

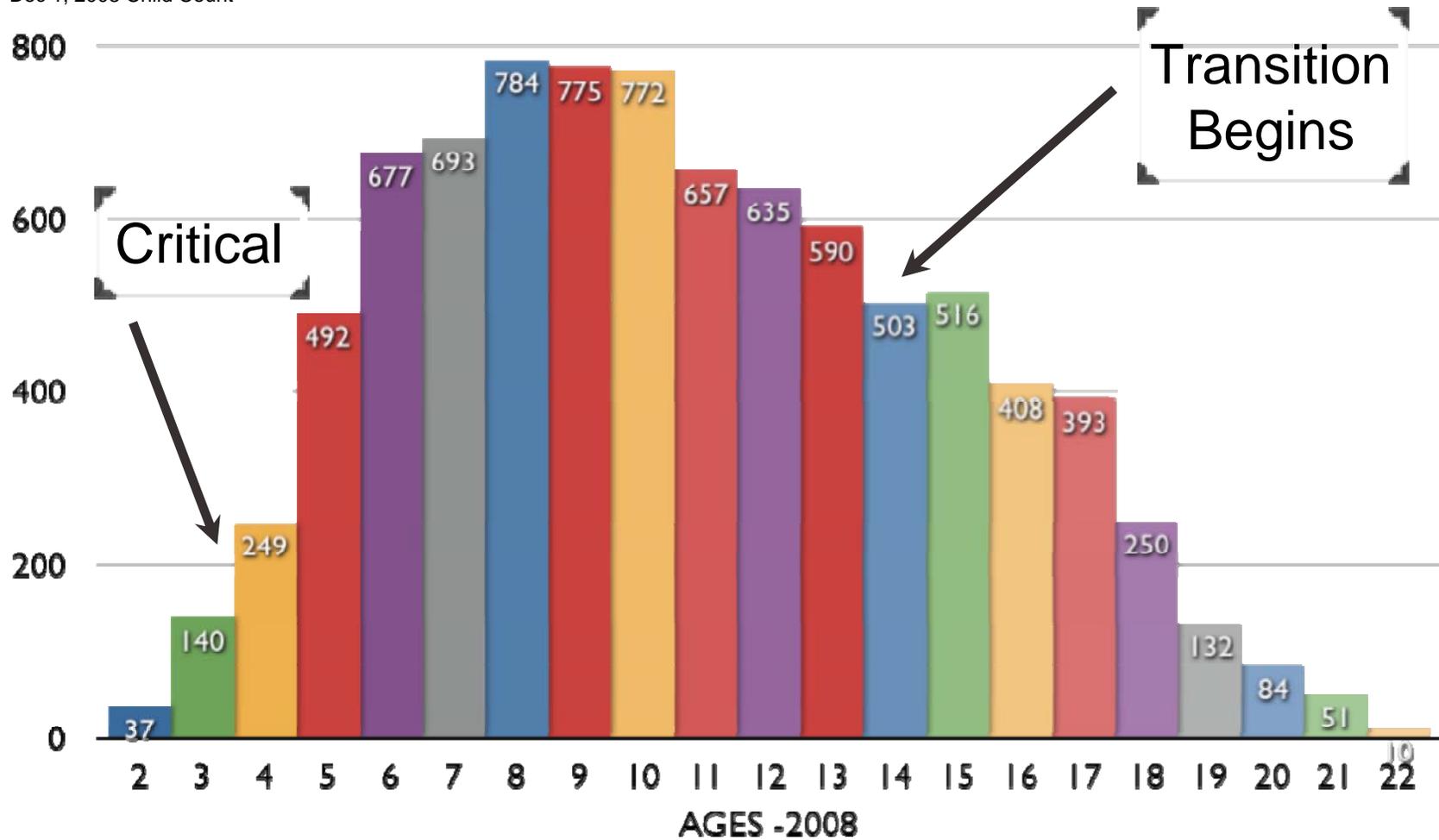
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES



ID= Intellectual Disabilities SD= Severe Disabilities HI= Hearing Impaired SLI= Speech/Language Impairment
 VI= Vision Impairment ED= Emotional Disturbance OI=Orthopedic Impairment OHI= Other Health Impairment
 SLD= Specific Learning Disability DB= Deaf Blind MD= Multiple Disabilities AUT= Autism Spectrum Disorders
 TBI= Traumatic Brain Injury DD= Developmental Delay

Autism Spectrum Disorders by age of child-2008

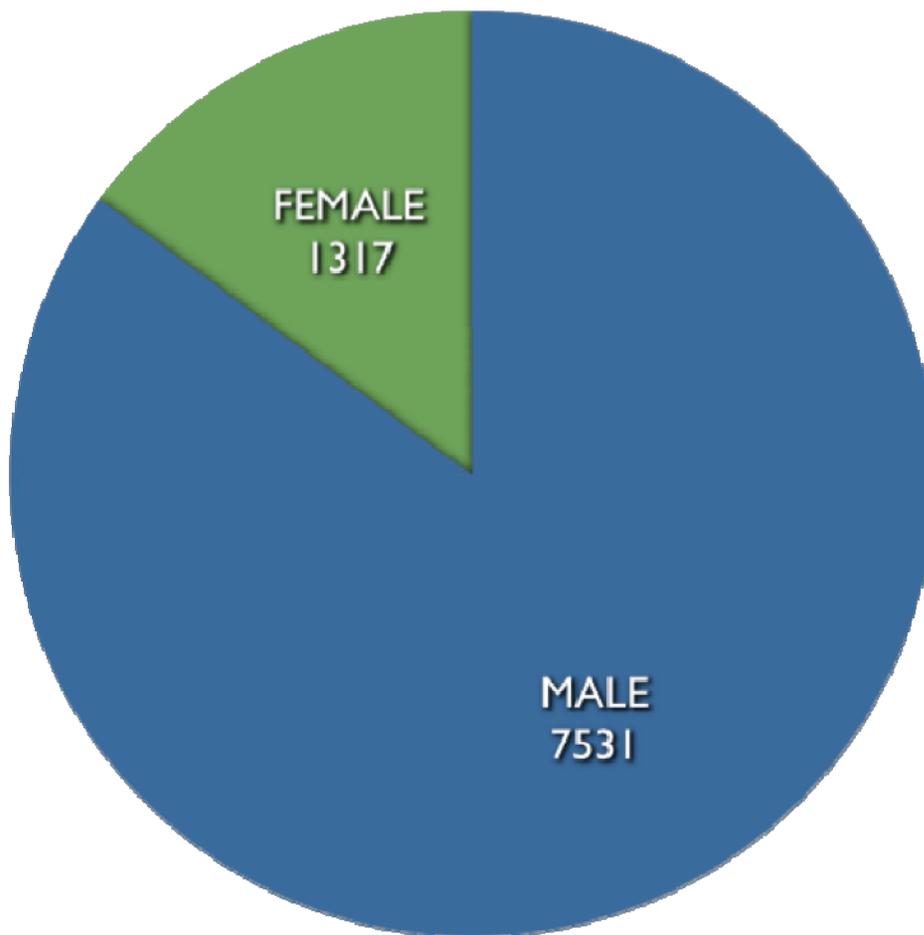
Source: VDOE Spec Ed
Dec 1, 2008 Child Count



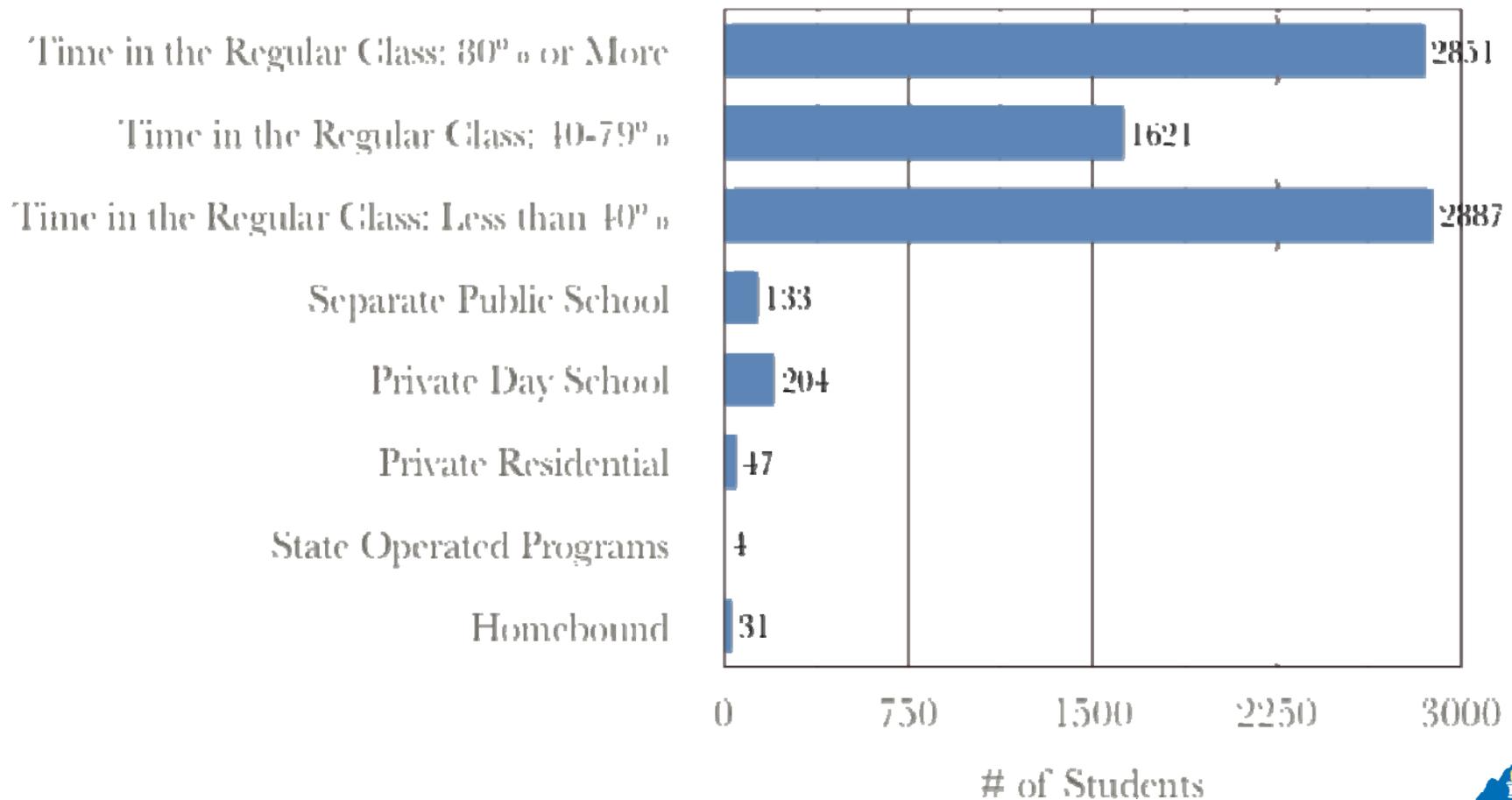
Autism Spectrum Disorder and Gender

Source: VDOE Spec Ed
Dec 1, 2008 Child Count

● MALE ● FEMALE



Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder Ages 6-21 Placement Data



Placement Definitions

- Time in the Regular Class
 - Amount of school day students spend in the regular classroom
- Separate Public School
 - Separate buildings where only students with disabilities are served
- Private Day School
 - Private special education schools (placed by school divisions or other human service agency)
- Private Residential
 - School division or other human service agency placement
- State Operated Programs
 - Educational programs funded and operated by the state
- Homebound
 - Receiving special education services in their home

New Prevalence Rates

- Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that the new prevalence rate for Autism Spectrum Disorders in children is 1% in the United States

Total students in Virginia public schools on September 30, 2008	1,236,546
2008 Child Count students with Autism Spectrum Disorders receiving special education services	9,136

Impact of New Prevalence Rates

Projected number of students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (using CDC 1%) in Virginia	12,365
Possible students not identified under an Autism Spectrum Disorders label <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students receiving services under different disability label (Developmental Delay, etc.)• Students not yet identified as having a disability but are being served in a general education setting	3,229

Current Program Models

There is a full continuum of placement options available to students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (including private placements funded by the Comprehensive Services Act).

Various program models are utilized:

- Regional cooperative service delivery
 - Some divisions have established formal regional boards and are eligible to claim regional tuition reimbursement
 - \$69.5 million distributed annually
 - 12 Regional Boards representing 68 school divisions
 - Some divisions share programs and students across division lines without benefit of regional tuition reimbursement
- Comprehensive programs within a single division
- Public/private partnerships
 - Commonwealth Autism Service, Faison, Virginia Institute of Autism, etc.
- Partnerships with universities and T/TAC
 - Averett, Lynchburg College, Rappahannock Community College, etc.

Regional Tuition Reimbursement

- Original concept: additional funding for “low incidence” disabilities
- Two or more school divisions must establish a “regional board of control”
- Regional tuition provided in lieu of Standards of Quality funding
- Services may be provided via any service delivery model in the public school (e.g., regular class, special education class, separate public school)
- 1597 students with Autism Spectrum Disorders received regional tuition reimbursement in 2008
- 40% of students receiving regional tuition reimbursement were students with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Current Regional Boards Eligible for Regional Tuition

- Middle Peninsula Regional Special Education Program
- Northwestern Regional Special Education Program
- Shenandoah Regional Special Education Program
- Cooperative Centers for Exceptional Children
- Henry County/Martinsville City Regional Special Education Program
- Northern Neck Regional Program
- Southeastern Cooperative Education Program
- New Horizons Regional Special Education Program
- LAUREL Regional Special Education Program
- Roanoke Valley Regional Board for Low Incidence Populations
- Northern Virginia Special Education Regional Program
- Piedmont Regional Special Education Program

JLARC Report and VDOE

- All 21 recommendations directly or indirectly involve VDOE
- 5 out of the 21 JLARC recommendations are directed at VDOE
 - Recommendation 6 - Early intervention
 - Recommendation 8 - Guidelines for schools
 - Recommendation 9 - Model Individualized Education Program and generalization of skills
 - Recommendation 10 - Transition guidelines
 - Recommendation 11 - Improve service delivery and build local capacity

JLARC Report and VDOE

6 Major Goals for VDOE

1. Greater Oversight
2. Guidance on Research-Based Practices
3. Enhanced Professional Development
4. Develop Goals and Objectives to Track Progress
5. Improve Transition Services
6. Expand Access to Services Through Medicaid or Other Options

Accomplished to Date

- Hired full time Autism/Intellectual Disabilities specialist
 - started 9/20/09
- Issued grant to VCU Department of Special Education and Disability Policy \$248,000
 - Diagnosis and screening initiative
 - Model Individualized Education Program (IEP) development
 - Guidelines and resource documents
 - Transition guides and parent resources
 - Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) certification program
 - Model classroom
- Received National Professional Development Center Grant on ASD – Frank Porter Graham Center

Accomplished to Date

- Introduction of eligibility criteria for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders
 - Use of Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM IV) criteria
 - Published Eligibility guidelines and Autism Spectrum Disorders Eligibility Worksheet
- Virginia Autism Council
 - Training on specific populations
 - newly diagnosed training
 - transition from school age
 - Strategies training for populations of
 - Infants and Toddlers (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C)
 - Adults
 - School Age population
 - Individuals with Asperger's and High Functioning Autism (HFA)

Accomplished to Date

- VDOE Autism Priority Project
- Membership of all regional Training and Technical Assistance Center's (TTAC) representing all districts in VA
 - Train the Trainer Teams
 - Continuation of 13 teams implementing training to schools within their districts on Autism Spectrum Disorders best practices
 - Autism Specialist Network Meetings
 - Representatives from all districts (administrators, specialists and teachers)
 - Training and consultation for school districts related to evidence based practices
 - Electronic data collection systems

In Progress

- Develop Autism Spectrum Disorders best practice service guidelines
- Provide incentives for special and general education teachers to complete Autism Spectrum Disorder coursework
 - VDOE provided \$53,000 to the Virginia Autism Council to fund tuition reimbursement for teachers who complete approved Autism Spectrum Disorders coursework at statewide universities and colleges
- Expanding dissemination and training efforts on effective practices
 - National Professional Development Center Grant
- Regional tuition reimbursement funds-VDOE is revising the process for distributing regional tuition reimbursement funds to include more divisions receiving these funds for “hard to serve-expensive to serve” students

In Progress

- Develop model Individualized Education Program for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Collaborating with Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (BHDS) on Autism Spectrum Disorders resources related to Part C programs
 - In addition to VDOE targeted initiatives at 2-5 years (early identification, related services, early childhood programming)
- Develop guidance materials, fact sheets and family resources on transition for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Expansion of effective postsecondary programs
 - Project Search, Post High School support models
 - Expansion of Postsecondary Education Rehabilitation Transition (PERT) Program at Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center
 - Partnership with VCU Rehabilitation and Research Training Center, Department of Rehabilitative Services, Local Educational Agencies

Future Initiatives

- Expand Virginia Autism Council competencies to include focus on improved skills in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)
- Expand number of university programs that can offer coursework that prepare staff for Board Certified Behavior Analysts and Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) certification
- Develop a mentorship model that collaborates with teachers to develop skills within Applied Behavior Analysis principles within the context of their classroom

VDOE Recommendations

- Development of regional Autism Spectrum Disorders diagnostic and training centers that are a partnership between university and school division personnel
 - Develop consistent framework to support the identification of children that includes both medical and educational criteria
 - Educational assessment information to demonstrate an educational impact
 - Focus on the use of research based diagnostic tools (examples; Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS), etc.)
 - Focus on early identification of children
 - Recommendations for early intervention/school teams
 - Parent training on home delivered interventions

VDOE Recommendations

- Development of a universal Autism Spectrum Disorders screening initiative
 - Children at 18-36 months are screened by physicians
 - Use of simple screening tool – Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT)
 - Referral to diagnostic centers for in-depth assessment if found to be at risk
 - Development of media awareness campaign on importance of early identification and benefits