

Legislative Council Q5

Annex

The number of cases confirmed by the six Child Assessment Centres (CACs) of the Department of Health as autism spectrum disorders (i.e. autism, Asperger's Syndrome, high functioning autism, autistic tendency) or attention deficit/hyperactivity problem/disorder in the past three years is listed below:

Year	2010	2011	2012
Autism spectrum disorders			
Number of cases in which the children were aged under 6	1 459	1 385	1 322
Number of cases in which the children were aged 6 or above	330	222	245
Total number of cases of autism spectrum disorders	1 789	1 607	1 567
Attention deficit/hyperactivity problem/ disorder			
Number of cases in which the children were aged under 6	707	917	875
Number of cases in which the children were aged 6 or above	1 375	1 317	1 307
Total number of cases of attention deficit/hyperactivity problem/ disorder	2 082	2 234	2 182

Some children may have more than one kind of developmental problems or disabilities. The number of cases confirmed by the CACs as suffering from both autism and developmental delays/intellectual disabilities in the past three years is as follows:

Year	2010	2011	2012
Number of cases confirmed as suffering from both autism and developmental delay/intellectual disabilities ¹	1 078	1 018	895

It is worth noting that with changes in the definition and classification of developmental disabilities of children over the past decade, the CACs have to modify the categories and definition of cases. Hence, it is not appropriate to compare the number of cases for individual categories across the years.

¹ Developmental delay generally refers to a condition in which a pre-school child exhibits obvious delay in his/her general development as compared with those of the same age. Diagnosis of intellectual disabilities may be confirmed after the child is assessed by a standardised intelligence quotient test when he/she reaches school age.