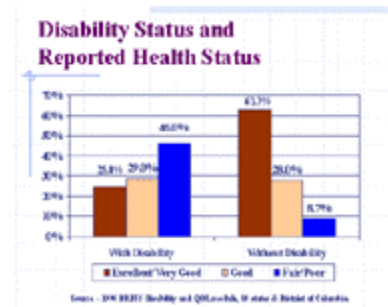


Disability and Health at the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities



According to a 1997 U.S. Bureau of the Census report, nearly 54 million Americans have an activity limitation/disability associated with a long-term physical, sensory, or cognitive condition. The National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities supports (a) research on risk factors for poor health and well-being; (b) research on measures of health, functioning, and disability; (c) data collection on the prevalence of people with disabilities and their health status; (d) health promotion interventions and the dissemination of health information; and (e) the implementation of public health disability and health policies. The purpose of these efforts are to promote the health, well-being, independence, productivity, and full societal participation of people with disabilities; and reduce the incidence and severity of secondary conditions.



Ongoing Program Activities

Research on Risk Factors and Measures of Health, Functioning, and Disability

Through various grant mechanisms, the program currently funds university- and hospital-based research to:

- Examine levels of social participation, health status and secondary conditions among people with disabilities.
- Evaluate the use of clinical preventive services and public programs by people with disabilities.
- Develop and evaluate cost-effective community-based public health interventions
- Develop and implement disability awareness curricula and training for public health professionals.

Data Collection, Health Promotion Interventions and Information Dissemination

The program currently funds state disability and health programs to:

- Build and strengthen the state's infrastructure and collaborations to widely address environmental and lifestyle issues affecting the health and well-being of people with disabilities.
- Assess the magnitude of disability in state populations. Funding supports the inclusion of disability screener questions and follow-up questions in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) to assess the magnitude of disability in states. The BRFSS data are available upon request.
- Develop state-based health promotion programs that include or target people with disabilities health professionals, or facilities that promote community health.

The program currently supports three National Information Centers (the National Limb Loss Information Center, National Center on Physical Activity and Disability, and National Health Promotion and Information Center for People with Paralysis) to:

- Develop educational materials and resources for people with disabilities and health care providers.
- Initiate training programs for support groups.
- Disseminate information.
- Conduct public outreach activities.

Public Health Policies and Practices Targeting People with Disabilities

The program encourages, participates and provides leadership for the development and implementation of public health policies and practices aimed at improving the health and well-being of people with disabilities including:

- The new Healthy People 2010 chapter entitled "Disability and Secondary Conditions," and related objectives in other chapters that address the health of people with disabilities.
- The World Health Organization International Classification of Functioning and Disability (ICF), a companion document to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10).

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