

National Autism Data Center Fact Sheet Series

Life Course Outcomes Research Program

National Core Indicators: Adult Consumer Survey 2014-2015



National Core Indicators (NCI)

The National Core Indicators (NCI) is a collaborative initiative that champions a nationwide, standardized set of indicators that describe and explore the characteristics, services received, and outcomes of individuals who have developmental disabilities. The indicators, measured through surveys, are used mainly for quality improvement of programs and services, and to inform and improve policy at the state and national levels. During the 2014-2015 data cycle, 41 states were

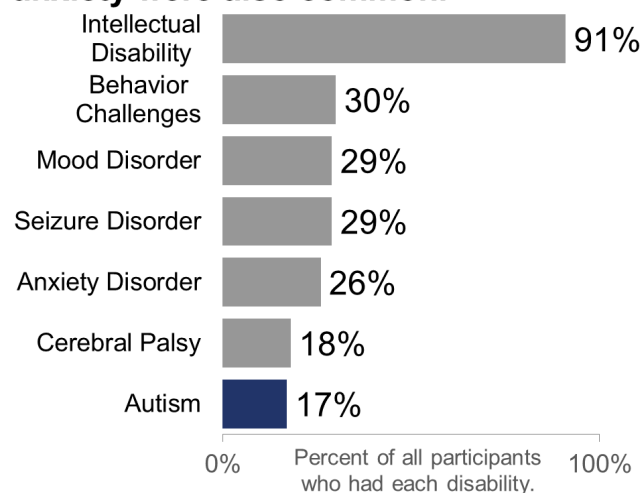
part of NCI. The **five categories of NCI indicators include:** individual outcomes; health, welfare, and rights; system performance; staff stability; and family. Individual outcomes often focus on subjective measures of satisfaction and self-determination, in addition to measuring more typical outcomes like employment and community inclusion.

Adult Consumer Survey (ACS)

The Adult Consumer Survey (ACS) is an NCI survey of adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities who receive services in addition to case management from their state. This survey includes indicators from most of the five NCI indicator categories. The purpose of the ACS is to collect information directly from individuals or their families on service experiences, participation, and outcomes. The survey consists of three main parts:

1) record collection to provide demographic information; 2) in-person interviews to answer questions about subjective experiences with services, employment, and the community; 3) in-person interviews to gather information about objective outcomes. In the 2014-2015 data cycle, over 25,000 surveys were conducted in 33 states that participated in the NCI initiative.¹

Nearly all participants had an intellectual disability. Mood and seizure disorders, behavior challenges, and anxiety were also common.



ACS Survey Format

Background Information: Demographic, residential, employment, and other information collected through state records or case workers.

Section I: An in-person interview with the individual who was accessing services. This part of the survey included subjective questions about feelings, relationships, and satisfaction, and could only be completed by the individual receiving services.

Section II: An in-person interview with the individual who was accessing services or someone answering on behalf of the individual. This section included objective or outcome based questions.

Topics explored in the ACS

Choice and decision making

Participation in choice making about housing, jobs, money and other personal affairs.

Satisfaction

How happy people are with the supports they are getting, particularly in work and day programs.

Self-determination

A measure of how much people have control over their own services, particularly financial ones.

Community inclusion

Engagement in integrated activities, such as shopping and exercising.

Relationships

Data about participants' relationships with others. This also looks into feelings of loneliness and ability to help others.

Safety

How safe and secure people feel in various locations such as workplace and home.

Wellness

How well individuals sustain healthy habits such as smoking and weight.

Access

How available services are to individuals requiring them. For example, the rate at which people report getting services.

Health

Various health status information from the background information. Examples include percentage of people who had a primary care provider, flu vaccination, etc.

Medications

Whether individuals are on medication, and if so, what kinds.

Work

Information about individuals successfully achieving an integrated position in their community. It also includes data about earning, benefits, etc.

Respect and rights

A measure of how well individuals receive equal respect and security as unimpaired individuals in the same community. For example, the amount of people who are satisfied with their privacy.

Service Coordination

How well developed individuals' support systems are in regard to services. For example, the proportion of people that have been successfully helped.

References:

1. National Core Indicators. (2015, March). NCI Adult Consumer Survey Final Report 2014-15. National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services and Human Services Research Institute. Retrieved on 23 August 2016 from the National Core Indicators Website: http://www.dds.ca.gov/QA/docs/NCI_QualityImprovementInitiativesReport.pdf



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How to cite this information: Rast JE, Roux, AM, Shattuck PT. Survey of Adult Consumer Survey. *National Autism Data Center Fact Sheet Series; About the Data*. Philadelphia, PA: Life Course Outcomes Research Program, A.J. Drexel Autism Institute, Drexel University, 2016.

The Life Course Outcomes Research Program is building a base of knowledge about the things other than clinical interventions that promote positive outcomes for people on the autism spectrum and their families and communities.

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