

# Evidence-Based Policy Brief

A summary of evidence on policy and practice issues of importance in developmental disabilities services

## Requested research summaries

The Evidence Based Policy Brief series is a joint initiative of the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services and the Association of University Centers on Disability. Among its activities are to provide brief, but comprehensive reviews of research on topics of importance in developing and implementing well-informed public policy affecting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The series is designed primarily to meet the information needs of state and federal policymakers, advocates, and practitioners. Research summaries on the following topics have been requested. Researchers interested in addressing one or more of these topics should address ...

### Evidence-based policy topics

- Deinstitutionalization implementation —
  - » The financial implications of facility closure and community transition
  - » State Policies, program models, support strategies and system infrastructure components that are associated with successful reductions in states' reliance on large residential facilities.
- The comparative benefits in developmental outcomes associated with moving to community settings from large facilities and institutions.
- The benefits (personal, programmatic, financial) of integrated employment for people with ID/DD and/or autism spectrum disorders (ASD).
- Trends, characteristics and outcomes of adults with DD or Autism living in the family home.
- What types of support services are most important to family members in their capacity to provide support to their family member with disabilities?
- What are the barriers to receiving health care for people with ID/DD and/or autism living with families? (NCI reports they do not access health care services as often as people in group homes).
- Costs and outcomes of in-home supports for adults DD and autism living with families.
- Trends, costs and outcomes of host family and companion models of community support for adults to ID/DD.
- Shared living appears to be increasing as an alternative to group home living for people with DD across the country. Is this actually a trend?
- The meaning of services to individuals with IS, DD and ASD receiving support – employment, community living, friends, transportation, etc.
- Trends, characteristics, outcomes and challenges experienced by individuals and families who are actually directing/determining the services they receive.
- Service outcomes: what individual, program and policy factors are associated with increases in the number of people with ID/DD in integrated employment.
- What evidence exists demonstrating that general or specific models of staff training lead to —
  - » Improved outcomes for support or service recipients.
  - » Lower staff turnover, higher morale, lower costs.
- Do state DD agency's quality assurance programs and activities lead to improved service quality, participant satisfaction and system performance outcomes?

The *Evidenced-Based Policy Brief* series is a product of commitment of the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disability Services and the Association of University Centers on Disability to assure that the design and management programs, services, and supports for persons with developmental disabilities is guided by the best available research evidence. *Evidenced-Based Policy Brief* selects topics of importance to the quality, accessibility, and affordability of services for individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and provides a critical analysis of the best research evidence on those topics.

Issues of *Evidence-Based Policy Brief* can be found at <http://evidence-basedpolicy.org>

**NASDDDS**  
National Association of State  
Directors of Developmental  
Disability Services

 **AUCD**  
ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY CENTERS ON DISABILITIES  
RESEARCH. EDUCATION. SERVICE

## 2 Evidence-Based Policy Brief

- Does participation in the NCI program lead to improvements in service quality and program responsiveness?
- What are the elements of effective support coordination services? What are the skills the SC must have. How does the system support SC?
- To what extent and by what means are states including persons with autism in state developmental disabilities services programs and/or alternative autism service programs?
- Is the use of restraints, aversives, and restrictive procedures necessary to manage persistent challenging behaviors?
- What services or supports result in outcomes that demonstrably improve the person's quality of life and his or her ability to be employed, to participate in community activities and to develop personal relationships with others?
- What services and supports decrease loneliness among individuals receiving support and increase their personal and social connections?