

Healthy Delawareans with Disabilities 2010: Health Surveys



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HDWD Project Overview

- Two-year project funded by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities
- Coordinated and managed by the Delaware Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS), Delaware Division of Health and Social Services
- **Collaboration partners:**
 - Center for Disabilities Studies
 - Center for Applied Demography and Survey Research

HDWD Mission

Improving the Lives of Delawareans
with Disabilities through an Emphasis on
Health Promotion and Wellness



Overarching Goals

- Increase Quality and Years of Healthy Life
- Eliminate Health Disparities between People



Specific Project Goals

- 1. To increase knowledge about the health status and life styles of people with disabilities**
- 2. To assemble and develop a statewide Advisory Panel, consisting of self-advocates, advocacy organizations, parents, and community partners, dedicated to health promotion and wellness for people with disabilities**

Specific Project Goals cont.

- 3. To develop the Advisory Panel into a recognized statewide resource for technical assistance about issues of health and wellness for people with disabilities**
- 4. Conduct a state-wide survey and publish a report on the health and wellness of people with disabilities**
- 5. Produce four health and wellness modules for people with disabilities**

HDWD Research:

Adult Survey

- 134 questions-long survey on life style, eating and exercising habits, risk-taking behaviors, and health-and self-care behaviors
- Based on the Behavioral and Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), a nationwide survey that is used to collect health and life style data
- Participant recruitment through State registries, health fairs, grassroots organizations, and word-of-mouth

HDWD Research:

Adult Survey cont.

- Participants are adults 18 years and older with cognitive and physical disabilities, mental health illnesses, and sensory impairments (vision and hearing)
- Interviews take place at home, public sites, or on the telephone with trained interviewers
- Interview takes approx. 30-45 minutes

HDWD Research:

Adult Survey cont.

- Participants receive \$15.00 check as incentive
- To date approx. 500 individuals contacted
- To date approx. 280 completed interviews in SPSS database

HDWD Research:

Child Survey

- Survey consists of 60 general questions and approx. 60 age-specific questions
- Age-specific questions divided into three age groups:
 - Newborn to 5 years of age
 - 6 to 11 years of age
 - 12 to 17 years of age
- Recruitment through early interventions agencies, health fairs, summer camps, grassroots organizations, word-of-mouth

HDWD Research:

Child Survey cont.

- Participants are parents/legal guardians of children newborn to 17 years of age with cognitive and physical disabilities, mental health illnesses, sensory impairments (hearing and vision) and chronic health conditions

HDWD Research:

Child Survey cont.

- Adolescents 12 to 17 years take part in the interview process
- Adolescents 14 years and older answer additional risk behavior survey
- Currently in the process of recruiting families for the child survey

HDWD Research:

Child Survey cont.

- Interview takes approx. 30-45 minutes
- Interviews take place at home or public site
- Families receive \$15.00 check per interview as incentive

HDWD Research:

Delaware Health Status Report on People with Disabilities

- Data from Adult Survey will be analyzed Winter of 2006/2007 and report is expected to be completed by April 2007
- Data from Child Survey will be analyzed Spring 2007 and added to the Adult Survey report in Summer 2007 as addendum

HDWD Expected Project Outcomes

- Increased knowledge base of health status and needs of Delawareans with Disabilities
 - Survey results to be used by state agencies and community organizations to inform health promotion initiatives, public policy, and community health and prevention activities

HDWD Expected Project Outcomes cont.

- Increased influence of Delawareans with Disabilities in their communities through Advisory Panel
 - Self-advocacy
 - Shared knowledge and expertise about issues related to disabilities and health
- New initiatives for Delawareans with Disabilities through health modules
 - Participation in community programs and activities