



New Jersey is one of forty-six states including the District of Columbia participating in a national project called the National Core Indicators, or NCI. The purpose of this initiative is to develop standard performance measures for state systems that provide services and supports to adults with developmental disabilities.

What is the National Core Indicators?

National Core Indicators (NCI) is a collaborative effort between the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) and the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI). The NCI measures are standard measures used across states to assess the outcomes of services provided to individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families. The NCI measures cover key areas such as employment, respect/rights, service planning, community inclusion, choice, and health and safety. Key areas are measured through a series of voluntary surveys. In 2017, New Jersey will be using the Adult Consumer Survey, the Adult Family Survey, and the Family/Guardian Survey.

What do the NCI surveys measure?

The NCI surveys address how well the public system assists adults with developmental disabilities, and their families, to exercise choice and control in their decision-making, participate in their communities, and maintain family relationships, as well as how satisfied families are with services and supports they receive, and how supports have affected their lives.

Key Areas	Descriptions
Information and Planning	Families/family members with disabilities have the information and support necessary to plan for their services and supports.
Choice & Control	Families/family members with disabilities determine the services and supports they receive and the individuals or agencies who provide them.
Access & Support Delivery	Families/family members with disabilities get the services and supports they need.
Community Connections	Family members with disabilities use integrated community services and participate in everyday community activities.
Satisfaction	Families/family members with disabilities receive adequate and satisfactory supports.
Outcomes	Individual and family supports make a positive difference in the lives of families.

How is the data used?

The data that result from NCI surveys are often used to inform strategic planning, produce legislative reports, and prioritize quality improvement initiatives. Many states also share the data with stakeholder groups such as Quality Councils and use the stakeholder feedback to help set priorities and establish policy direction. **Please note that all information collected is kept confidential.**

How do the surveys work?

The **Adult Consumer Survey (ACS)** is a voluntary, face-to-face conversation completed with individuals who are 21 years of age or older and receiving at least one paid service, in addition to case management or support coordination, from the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). The surveys will be administered by trained Division staff to a random sample of individuals receiving services. Staff will call individuals to schedule a time to meet if they agree to participate. Before the survey, background information is compiled using administrative records, and often with additional information collected from case managers and/or support coordinators. Background information includes data such as demographics, personal characteristics, health data, and data on employment status and wages.

The face-to face portion of the ACS is conducted in person with the individual receiving services and consists of two sections. Section I can only be answered by the individual – no proxy responses are permitted. Section II may be completed by a proxy if the interviewer determines the individual receiving services cannot answer for him or herself. Participation in the survey is voluntary and participants may choose to stop the survey at any time.

Calls to individuals to request participation in the ACS will occur in early winter 2017.

The NCI **Adult Family Survey (AFS)** is a voluntary survey which is to be completed by family members who have an adult (21 years or older) with an intellectual/developmental disability who lives in the family home and receives at least one DDD service in addition to case management or support coordination.

The NCI **Family/Guardian Survey (FGS)** is a voluntary survey which is to be completed by family members/guardians who have an adult (21 years or older) with an intellectual/ developmental disability who lives outside of the family home and receives at least one DDD service in addition to case management or support coordination.

Both the AFS and FGS are composed of three sections: Demographics, Services and Supports Received, and Questions Regarding Services and Supports. There is also an opportunity for families/guardians to write open-ended comments regarding their experience in the DDD service system. It is through this effort that NCI is able to measure “family indicators”. Surveys are completed online; paper surveys are also available, in English, Spanish, and written Chinese.

Invitations to participate in the AFS and FGS will be mailed by early winter 2017.

The invitation will include a unique web-link to complete the survey. Participation is voluntary; you do not need to complete the survey if you don't want to. Questions regarding the NCI surveys or requests to obtain a hard copy of the survey in English, Spanish, or written Chinese can be made by contacting the NCI phone line at 609-631-4626 or DDD.NCI@dhs.state.nj.us.