

National Core Indicators®- Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Data Highlight

What Do NCI-IDD Data Tell Us About How Many People with IDD Receiving State Services Are Enrolled in College or University?*

According to the results 2020-2021 In-Person Survey (IPS), only slightly more than 3.2% of respondents with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) aged 18-25 were enrolled in a college or university.

Why does it matter? Until very recently, the possibility that people with IDD could aspire to go to college or technical school like their brothers and sisters was unthinkable. Without the advantage of education and training beyond high school, the ability of people with IDD to escape poverty and find employment is diminished. Though the numbers of people who were enrolled in post-secondary education in the NCI-IDD IPS for 2020-2021 was very small, the availability of these opportunities is growing thanks to federal funding through the Transition Programs for Students with Intellectual Disability (TPSID) and local and state initiatives (Boston Globe, August 7, 2022). Since 2010, the TPSID program has supported programs at 119 colleges and universities serving almost 4,500 students with IDD in 34 states. TPSID graduates demonstrate much higher employment rates than adults with IDD in general. In 2019-2020, 59% of students held a paid job one-year after exiting a TPSID program.—2020 had a paid job in the community.



Questions to ask: Do the state guidelines for individual support and transition plans include an exploration of post-secondary education in technical schools, colleges or universities? Are state IDD staff aware of the TPSID program? Is there coordination between state IDD staff and state higher education authorities regarding the implementation of the program? Is the state working with local community colleges to expand opportunities to enroll people with IDD? Have families and self-advocates been made aware of post-secondary opportunities?

Want to know more?

AUCD (n.d.). Transition Programs for Students with Intellectual Disability (TPSID) Model Demonstrations & TPSID National Coordinating Center (NCC), Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE)

https://www.aucd.org/docs/TPSID_Approps_FY22.pdf

Institute on Community Inclusion (n.d.). Think College (national resource center on information re: higher education for people with IDD). <https://thinkcollege.net/>

National Center on Transition and Employment (n.d.). Inclusive Postsecondary Education for Students with Intellectual Disabilities. Pacer Center. <https://www.pacer.org/transition/learning-center/postsecondary/college-options.asp>

Russell, Jenna (August 7, 2022). First-of-its-kind law improves college access for students with autism, intellectual disabilities. <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/08/07/metro/first-of-its-kind-new-law-improves-college-access-students-with-autism-intellectual-disabilities/>

*Data in this Data Brief come from the In-Person Survey (IPS) which surveys adults receiving services from their state developmental disabilities service systems.