

Estimated number of I/DD individuals in CO

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The state of Colorado Human Services Board approved amendments to Colorado in 2013 regarding how a determination of a developmental disability is made for eligibility for Developmental Disability (DD) services. (2CCR 503-1, 16.120 and 16.124). The amended rules are consistent with state law (C.R.S. 27-10.5-102 (11) (a) that defines a developmental disability and eligibility for services as **substantial impairment of general intellectual functioning OR substantial adaptive behavior limitations.**

The amended rules mean that some people, who may have previously been determined ineligible because of an IQ score above 70, may be eligible for services **if they also have adaptive behavior scores less than 70.**

Prevalence of mental retardation and developmental disabilities is **1.58%** of the general population (Larson et al., 2001) based on the National Health Interview Survey-Disability Supplement (NHIS-D).

According to the US Census Bureau, CO's population as of 2014 is estimated to be 5.356 million, thus the estimated number of persons in CO with mental retardation and developmental disability is approximately **84,600**. Note that this number captures only those persons with substantial impairment of general intellectual functioning and **DOES NOT** capture those persons who have an IQ score above 70 but an adaptive behavior score less than 70.

To capture these persons, one must estimate the number of persons with adaptive behavior deficits who do not have intellectual deficits. Findings from the Colorado Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (COADDM) Project estimate the prevalence of ASD in CO to be 1.1%, or approximately 58,916 persons using the above methodology. Of those persons, 24% were also noted to have IQ scores <70, so that leaves **45,000** persons with ASD and IQ >70.

Adding these groups together (i.e. those with IQ<70 and ASD persons with IQ>70), we arrive at an estimated **129,600 persons fitting the new definition for I/DD, a prevalence of 2.4%.**

Of note, the Coleman Institute estimated the number of persons with I/DD in CO to be 85,815 based on Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) data analysis. The estimate given here exceeds the Coleman Institute's number by 43,785. This difference indicates either that the methodology used here to capture populations with adaptive behavior deficits but no IQ deficits is flawed, or that this population is not being adequately captured using SIPP data analysis.

Works referenced

“Changes to Colorado Rules Regarding Definition of Developmental Disabilities and—Effective August 1, 2013.” Rymer, Fuselier, Meredith, Robinson. Internal Memorandum. November 2013

Larson, S.A., Lakin, K.C., Anderson, L., Kwak, N., Lee, J., & Anderson, D. (2001). Prevalence of mental retardation and developmental disabilities: Estimates from the 1994/1995 National Health Interview Survey Disability Supplements. *American Journal on Mental Retardation*, 106(3), 231-252.

US Census Bureau 2014

“A Snapshot of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Colorado.” *Community Report on Autism, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*. 2016.

https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/documents/community_report_autism_colorado_web.pdf

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