

John R. Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director

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**Thank You for
Taking Our Reader
Survey!**

We'll report on results soon. Look for changes in your Pipeline in the coming months!

1. Ohio DD Services Named Most Improved in UCP Study

Exciting News! ... Ohio Places in Top 10, Annual UCP Case for Inclusion

Read the report online at: <http://cfi2014.ucp.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Case-for-Inclusion-2014.pdf>

Ohio jumped 39 places and now is ranked ninth, and ‘most improved,’ in the annual United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) report, *The Case for Inclusion*. The report is a yearly ranking of how well state Medicaid programs serve Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Ohio’s most dramatic increase came in the *community inclusion* ranking. According to the report ...

Ohio has dramatically increased the share of individuals (from 63 percent to 82 percent) and resources (from 50 percent to 83 percent) dedicated to the community ... reduced by more than half the number of individuals served in large institutions (from 18 percent to 7 percent) ... and, began participating in and reporting on NCI quality measures.

The National Core Indicators (NCI) initiative is a set of performance measures that emphasize the outcomes that people with disabilities within the system desire to attain, and the performance of a state to deliver those outcomes. *The Case for Inclusion* ranks all 50 states and the District of Columbia on their outcomes for people with developmental disabilities, rather than on spending for Medicaid-funded programs. Many other states’ rankings have become stagnant or declined because they have not developed their community inclusion policies and programs.

DODD Director John Martin noted, “Ohio’s improvement is due largely to increased waiver growth and inclusion of more self-directed services, as well as continued downsizing at state-operated Developmental Centers. This progress could not be made without the continued leadership and support of the County Boards of Developmental Disabilities, private providers, advocacy organizations, family members, and self-advocates.”

The UCP report reinforces the ongoing work supporting the Department’s statewide direction and mission: “*Continuous improvement of the quality of life for Ohio’s citizens with developmental disabilities and their families.*”

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2. Autism Spectrum Disorders - New Information, Resources



April is Autism Awareness Month

Take the time to learn a little more about Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

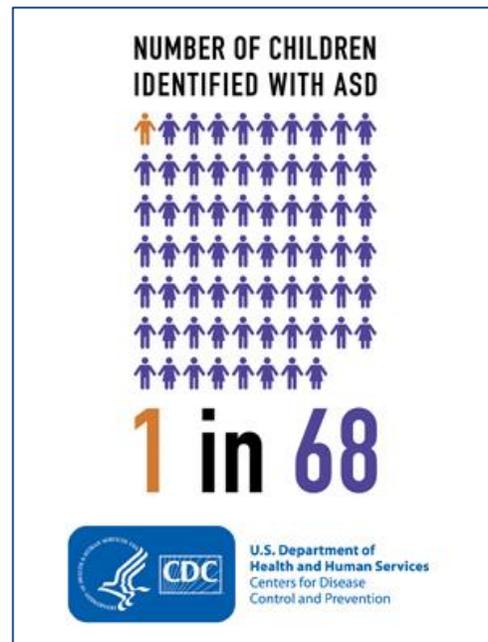
One in 68 children. This is the latest prevalence statistic released in March by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), estimating the number of children who have been identified with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in communities around the nation.

Autism is a complex neurological developmental disability that can cause social, communication, behavior, and sensory challenges. It affects individuals differently and in varying degrees, and therefore is referred to as a ‘spectrum’ disorder.

Where does this new statistic come from?

Researchers reviewed records from community sources that educate, diagnose, treat, and/or provide services to children with developmental disabilities, including general pediatric health clinics, specific programs for children with developmental disabilities, and special education services in public schools. They targeted children age eight who reside in states that are part of the [Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network \(ADDM\)](#), a national information gathering system.

This new statistic raises attention, as it is *roughly 30 percent higher than previous estimates reported in 2012* (one in 88 children). ASD now is identified as the fastest-growing developmental disability in the nation.



ASD now is more common in children than Down syndrome, cancer, diabetes, and AIDS, combined.

Findings

The study found that almost half the children identified with ASD have average or above average intellectual ability (an IQ above 85) as compared to one-third of identified children a decade ago. Data also re-affirmed that ASD is *almost five times more common among boys*. In addition, the report revealed that most children with ASD are diagnosed after age four, even though ASD often can be diagnosed as early as age two.

Why are these statistics important? Coleen Boyle, Ph.D., Director of the [CDC National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities](#) explains the significance this way, “*Community leaders, health professionals, educators, and childcare providers should use the data to ensure that children with ASD are identified as early as possible, and connected to the services they need.*” Making sure this happens takes *commitment from states* to challenge themselves to make system improvements to identify and diagnose children early-on, and to have needed services and supports available.

Ohio is standing up to the challenge. Led by DODD, the [Interagency Workgroup on Autism](#) (IWGA) is shining a light on the subject. While many of the support needs of individuals with ASD mirror those of individuals with other developmental disabilities, the importance of addressing some of the complex characteristics unique to autism is now emphasized. IWGA efforts are guided by a report of Autism Recommendations for the state titled, “*Quality Lives: Supporting Ohioans with Autism for Meaningful and Successful Lives.*” (See www.ocali.org)

Fifteen specific recommendations incorporate the needs, opinions, and feelings of Ohioans who are impacted by autism, including family members, service providers, self-advocates, and friends. They reflect the growing body of knowledge about ASD, and evolving research on best practices. *These recommendations chart a course for Ohio to respond to the increase in autism prevalence.*



Early signs of ASD include:

- Lack of (or delay in) spoken language
- Repetitive use of language and/or motor mannerisms, such as hand-flapping
- Little or no eye contact
- Lack of interest in peer relationships
- Lack of spontaneous or make-believe play
- Persistent fixation on parts of objects

More Resources

A guide to help parents understand ASD and find services and supports, the [Parent Guide to Autism Spectrum Disorders](#) was created *by parents for parents*, and was published by the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI). Visit www.ocali.org to learn more. During

Autism Awareness Month, share these resources with someone you know, and be a part of building Autism Awareness in Ohio.

Read a thoughtful blog “Does Majority Rule?” on the subject of Autism, courtesy of Shari Cooper at Goodwill Easter Seals/Miami Valley, at:

gesmv.org/index.cfm/blog/sharis-blog-make-things-happen/autism-awareness-month-does-the-majority-rule/

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[Strategic Planning Leadership Group](#)

3. Creating Opportunities for Community Living

Spotlighting Experiences from Colorado and Arizona

An Open Forum will be hosted by the [DODD Strategic Planning Leadership Group](#) (SPLG) on May 6, from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Bromfield Building/Auditorium, 8995 E. Main St., in Reynoldsburg. Part of an ongoing series of informational gatherings on subjects of statewide and national interest, this Forum will feature experiences in *Creating Opportunities for Community Living* from presenters representing the states of Colorado and Arizona.

Colorado

A presentation by Barbara Ramsey, Director of the Division for Developmental Disabilities, and Lori Thompson, Assistant Director for Program Services in the Division for Developmental Disabilities will focus on the evolution of the residential service system in Colorado. Their presentation will highlight:

- *Host Homes* – How this unique model is meeting the residential needs of a majority of adults;
- *Support to People with Complex Health Issues* – How Colorado closed Medical ICFs; and,
- *Conflict of Interest* – How a stakeholder group developed recommendations for resolving conflict-of-interest issues inherent in the system.

Arizona

Barbara Brent, National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) and former State Director of Arizona, will provide an overview of Arizona DD Services, which could be described generally as a managed care system which operates with virtually no ICFs or state-operated institutions. In addition, Aaron Blocher-Rubin, Chief Executive Officer of Arizona Autism United (AZA United), will provide an overview of how AZA United provides services in this managed care system. He will cover two main areas:

- The unique structure they use to provide services – a service cooperative; and,
- How they support families who have children with autism.

The presentations will be video-taped and made available online at www.dodd.ohio.gov as soon as possible following the forum.

Cost is free, and registration is first come/first served -- space is limited. Lunch is on your own. Register at <http://www.planetReg.com/E41112924135460>

If you have questions, please contact Melody Moon at (614) 466-0129 or melody.moon@dodd.ohio.gov

Strategic Planning Leadership Group, April 29 Meeting Update



What could services be like in 2024?

The SPLG met yesterday to continue planning for the future of Ohio's developmental disabilities services, using a small-group brainstorming framework. The small groups addressed four key areas at this meeting – Early Intervention, Schools, Day Services, and Residential Supports. Many good ideas were generated in terms of benchmarks to consider. SPLG updates are posted at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/newsroom/Pages/default.aspx>

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4. New State & National Resources Focus on Health, Access Publications and Standards Focus on People with Disabilities

New DODD Publication, “Well-Informed”

The Division of Legal and Oversight Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Unit has created a new publication, “Well-Informed.” The electronic issues are posted online at the [Department website](#)'s Health & Safety section, and are a compendium of information geared toward service providers, individuals and family members, and direct care professionals. MUI Unit Assistant Deputy Director Scott Phillips notes that the newsletter is published quarterly to update readers on pertinent health and welfare issues, as well as to focus more specifically on subjects that may be more briefly covered in the Department's [Health & Welfare Alerts](#).

Phillips adds that another relatively new resource, the MUI Mobile App, was launched last year (See [Pipeline, April 24, 2013](#)) and has been a welcomed resource for professionals in Ohio's developmental disabilities field. For example:

- In 2013, a total of 395 hotline reports were recorded using the system. Of those, 77 or 19 percent resulted in MUIs being filed.
- So far in 2014, there have been 146 reports received via the App.
- Since initiating the online system, 12 percent of all reports have been received in this way. Most are reported through the Abuse/Neglect Hotline at (866) 313-6733.
- The online system allows another option for those who would simply like to share any specific concerns.

New HPIO Publication

The Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO) has released a publication examining disability and health in Ohio. "*Health and Disabilities Basics: Overview of Health Coverage, Programs and Services*" provides an overview of health coverage, programs, and services for people with disabilities, and contains information on disability demographics, scope, and eligibility. This is the first of three publications in a series, and is posted on HPIO's [Health Policy Resources Page](#).

DODD state agency partner, the [Ohio Department of Health](#), contributed to this publication by providing content and information on disability demographics and health disparities in Ohio through the agency's *Disability and Health Program* team members. According to Anureet Benipal, Health Services Policy Specialist, "The new publication is an outstanding resource for the state, and helps to make a complex topic more manageable." The second and third publication in the series will be released later this year. For additional information, contact Anureet Benipal at Anureet.Benipal@odh.ohio.gov.

New Online Guides to ADA and ABA Standards

The U.S. Access Board has launched new online guides regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Standards, and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Accessibility Standards. The [Guide to the ADA Standards](#) explains and clarifies requirements of the ADA and ABA standards, answers common questions, and offers best practice recommendations. It also includes a series of animated illustrations on various subjects covered by the standards.

The initial installment of the guide covers the first three chapters of the Standards, including application and use (Chapter 1); new construction, alterations, and additions (Chapter 2); and, basic 'building block' technical provisions (Chapter 3). Guides covering other sections of the standards will be released at a later date.

The [Guide to the ABA Standards](#) addresses similar standards that apply under the ABA to facilities that are designed, constructed, altered, or leased with federal funds. Users can [sign-up](#) to receive email updates on the release of new technical guides in the series. More information at www.access-board.gov/.

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5. Reminder: May 6 Ballot Issues, County Boards of DD

The Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.oh.us/ contains information about the May 6 ballot issues, including specific information pertaining to Voters with Disabilities.

Next week, on May 6, voters will decide several local races and local issues, including school issues, local tax levies, bond issues, and charter amendments. A complete list of local issues appearing on the ballot is available online [here](#), and at MyOhioVote.com. There will be eight levy issues on Ohio ballots affecting the state's developmental disabilities community. They are:

- Hamilton County: 4.13 mills, renewal
- Hancock County: 2.5 mills, renewal
- Hardin County: 4.0 mills, renewal
- Licking County: 1.6 mills, replacement
- Marion County: 1.75 mills, additional
- Mercer County: 1.94 mills, renewal
- Morrow County: 3.0 mills, replacement
- Putnam County: 1.6 mills, additional



To be well-informed about issues that matter to you, and to learn more about your rights, as well as *when* and *where* you can vote, visit the Secretary of State website www.sos.state.oh.us/. The [Ohio Disability Vote Coalition](#) website is another informative, nonpartisan resource.

Pipeline Pix



Keep Calm! 'The DSP Ladies,' a.k.a. Karen Gabbard (left) and Vicky Wagers, display their DSP pride and composure.

This photo was snapped yesterday at the very first *Direct Support Professionals Summit*, sponsored by the [Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals](#) (OADSP). Different from the annual DSP Recognition event each September, the new Summit focused on training and information, rather than recognition, and was held at the Xenos complex in Columbus. Sessions included tracks on leadership, person-centered thinking, UI/MUIs, and rights of individuals served. Nearly 300 were registered to attend. DODD congratulates OADSP planners on a successful and meaningful event. *Contact: pcbethany@prodigy.net*

PostScripts



Pipeline Quarterly Preview!

The Spring 2014 issue of *Pipeline Quarterly* is nearly complete! You'll meet Chris Hart (shown here with his Mom and SELF waiver Support Broker, Janet) and several other interesting people who have taken the SELF waiver road to success in their communities. Look for *Pipeline Quarterly* in your Inbox soon!

dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/Pages/Pipeline-Quarterly.aspx

Last Day to Nominate Someone for APSI's Ron Kozlowski Award!

Nominations accepted through today, April 30!

In 2010, the APSI Board of Directors created the Ron Kozlowski Advocacy Award in recognition of Mr. Kozlowski's lifetime advocacy efforts on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities. The award will be given at APSI's All Staff Luncheon in June.

Access the APSI nomination form at www.apsiohio.org/ron-kozlowski-advocacy-award



Ohio DD Council Needs Your Input – Online Survey

The Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) is developing a Five-Year State Plan for 2017-2021. Take a minute to complete the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RNMQQ2N>, to help create a plan that reflects what you think DD Council should focus on to fund projects that will meet the needs of Ohioans with developmental disabilities.



Governor's Council on People with Disabilities, Meeting May 7, 8

The Governor's Council on People with Disabilities will meet May 7, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m., and May 8, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) office, 400 E. Campus View Blvd., in Columbus. Parking is free and available in front of the building. If you need special accommodations, contact Donna Foster at donna.foster@ood.ohio.gov, or (614) 438-1394.



Franklin County Adult Services Provider Fair, May 14

The second Franklin County Board of DD Adult Services Provider Fair will be May 14, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., and from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the Aladdin Shrine Center near Easton, at 3850 Stelzer Rd., Columbus. This large informational and networking event will focus on Adult Day Waiver Services for the Individual Options (IO), Level One, SELF, and TDD waivers. Certified providers for all of the following services will be on-hand: Adult Day Support, Vocational Habilitation, Supported Employment, Integrated Employment, Adult Day Health Center, and Non-Medical Transportation. Contact Lilian Beck or Anne Watson at (614) 464-2743 if you have any questions.



OACB Spring Conference, May 22-23

The Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) has announced their 2014 Spring Conference, to be held at the Hilton Columbus at Polaris, May 22-23. Event registration is now open. More information at www.oacbdd.org.



The Arc of Ohio 'Day at Cedar Point,' May 22

The Arc of Ohio Executive Director Gary Tonks says, "Please note the change in days of the week this year – May 22 is a Thursday. Cedar Point selects the day and date." Registration is now OPEN! Request your tickets by clicking here: www.eventbrite.com/e/the-arc-of-ohio-day-at-cedar-point-2014-tickets-10789849731. Nearly 10,000 Ohioans participate each year.



ASD and Technology Supports Workshop, June 9

Mark your calendar for the OCALI Summer Workshop Series! *ASD and Technology Supports: A Comprehensive Look at Mobile and Other Assistive Technologies to Support Learners on the Autism Spectrum*, June 9, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at [Bridgewater Banquet and Conference Center](#), 10561 Sawmill Parkway, in Powell, OH. Cost is \$50/person (includes lunch). Space is limited to 200 participants. Six contact hours are available. The workshop will offer information about technologies that support learning for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and highlight usage of assistive technologies in school environments, including low-cost resources.



SAVE THE DATE! Annual Youth Leadership Forum, August 3-7

The [Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities](#), in partnership with The Arc of Ohio, invites future community leaders to attend the annual Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) for Students with Disabilities at the State Capitol in Columbus, August 3 – 7. The application, which includes details about requirements and deadlines, [may be viewed and printed here](#).

URL is <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B5uAy0zzkGgoc3FHbGRWTTIPc2s/edit?pli=1>



DODD Hotline for Reporting Abuse, Neglect, or other Possible Major Unusual Incidents (MUIs)

To report abuse/neglect and other MUIs call toll-free: **1-866-313-6733**. Please note that MUIs are to be reported to the local County Board of DD, however, it is understood that there may be times an individual, staff member, or family member may feel it is a conflict -- or that, potentially, a County Board may be involved in the allegation. In those instances it is important to remember the hotline number is there to be used for reporting concerns.

Pipeline Feedback ... from You to the State

Pipeline is an electronic publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), distributed at least twice monthly to update and inform readers of timely, relevant information affecting stakeholders in the developmental disabilities community. Share questions or comments about *Pipeline* at feedback@list.dodd.ohio.gov or sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov. To subscribe to *Pipeline*, email: join-pipeline@list.dodd.ohio.gov and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To discontinue your subscription to *Pipeline*, write UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. You also may read issues of *Pipeline* at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/publications/pipeline.htm>

Ohio

**Department of
Developmental Disabilities**

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