



Department of
Developmental Disabilities

Office of MUI/Registry Unit

Ted Strickland, Governor
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Health & Safety Alert # 54-10-10

Welfare Trends (NCI Survey)

Draft Information Alert on Health and Welfare trends noted in the NCI Survey

October 2010

The National Core Indicators (NCI) is a national standardized survey developed to measure key components of quality in a state or region's service delivery system for individuals with a developmental disability. Through a comparison of the Ohio results from the 2008-2009 survey and comparisons with national averages at that time and preliminary results of the 2009-2010 survey the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities has identified concerning trends in the area of health and welfare.

Although 97% of individuals reported being in good health, according to this NCI data, Ohio shows a significant lag in the following important health and welfare indicators:

- **Physical Exams.** A person with a developmental disability in Ohio was 15% less likely to have had a complete physical within a year when compared to the national average in the '08-'09 report. We have actually lost ground from '08-'09 to '09-'10, dropping from 73.1% to 70.5% of respondents having had an exam within a year.
- **Dental Visits.** A person with a developmental disability in Ohio was 21% less likely to have had a routine dental visit within a year when compared to the national average. Although we have made some gains in this area, moving from 57.5% having had a routine dental visit within a year in '08-'09 to 61% in the '09-'10 survey, there is still room for improvement. The national average in '08-'09 was 72.6%.
- **Flu Vaccine.** A person with a developmental disability in Ohio was 31% less likely to have had a Flu vaccination within a year when compared to the national average. In the '08-'09 report, 38.6% of respondents had a Flu vaccine. Through the Swine Flu epidemic, covered in the '09-'10 survey affirmative responses grew to 41.4%. As we move into another Flu season, we do not want to lose this momentum

Again with Flu season around the corner, it is important that we assist the people we serve in getting these basics of healthcare met. Please consider the following recommendations to help improve these trends. This information should be reviewed and updated through the annual Individual Service Plan process.

- Remind and assist individuals to review their records for the last physical exam and to schedule one if it's been longer than a year.
- Remind and assist individuals to review records for the last dental exam and to schedule one if it's been longer than a year.
- Remind and assist individuals to talk to their physicians regarding the appropriate use of the Flu vaccine.
- Visit the Every Healthy Person page on the DODD website at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/health/wellness.htm>
- Obtain additional information on the Flu and other Health issue through various sources including the Ohio Department of Health website.

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