

Ask Me!sm FY 2011

Executive Summary

The Ask Me! Survey measures the quality of life in eight domains that are important to all groups of people around the world. These include Interpersonal Relations, Social Inclusion, Self Determination, Rights, Material Well-being, Personal Development, Emotional Well-being and Physical Well-being. It began to collect information in FY2002 from random samples of people supported by all community agencies in Maryland in four-year cycles. It revised the survey in FY2010 to include new questions on topics in the eight domains that had become important to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). This report presents information provided by and for 1,217 adults supported in the community by 47 service providers. They provide a representative sample of the 14,145 people supported with funds from the Maryland Developmental Disability Administration (DDA). While it focuses on the quality of life in FY2011 of Maryland adults with IDD, it discusses how their quality of life has changed over the ten years of the survey. Appendix A to this report presents information on the quality of life reported by people supported by the community support providers in Maryland that have been included in the survey in FY2010 and/or FY2011.



Quality of life for self respondents increased between 2002 and 2011 in six domains, controlling for the revision in the survey:

- Social Inclusion;
- Self Determination;
- Rights;
- Personal Development;
- Emotional Well-being;
- Physical Well-being.



Material Well-being decreased for self respondents after peaking in 2006, and Interpersonal Relations decreased after peaking in 2009

Material Well-being



- 52% do not save money regularly;
- 33% do not receive regular paychecks;
- 53% of those with paychecks would like a different job
- 49% of those with paychecks work ten or fewer hours in a week.

Increasing hours worked and perceptions of staff and services have the most potential for increasing perceptions of Material Well-being

Interpersonal Relations



- 29% have few or no friends who are not paid staff;
- 24% never see friends on weekends;
- 41% cannot or are not sure they can be alone with a girlfriend/boyfriend.

Planning so that greater residential independence and increasing age do not continue to decrease Interpersonal Relations, and increasing perceptions of staff and services have the most potential for increasing perceptions of Interpersonal Relation.



Staff and Services

Self respondents' perceptions of staff and services strongly related to their perceptions of quality of life in all domains:

- 10% of self respondents did not get the services they needed, and 9% got only some needed services;
- 10% did not trust their staff, and 10% said they only did sometimes;
- 61% said they had no say in hiring new staff;
- Resource coordination generally increased favorable attitudes toward staff and services;
- Self responses and proxy responses differ in a number of ways, with self responses the more reliable. While geography had no effect on self responses, proxies in the southern Maryland thought the people they represented had greater Interpersonal Relations than did proxies in other regions.