

Ask Me!sm FY 2010

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. The FY2010 survey included some new questions to help measure these domains. Many different groups talked about things that are important to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities today, and suggested the new questions. The domains of Interpersonal Relations and Social Inclusion had the most new questions, and survey results suggest that people's quality of life in these areas was not as high as previous surveys had indicated. These areas need more attention.



Interpersonal Relations - Family and friends are important. Although over half report often seeing or talking to their family, family contact has declined from previous years. Two-thirds say they have friends who are not paid staff, but only one-third say they see their friends most weekends. Only half say they could be alone with a girlfriend or boyfriend.



Social Inclusion - One-third of the people said they do not talk or visit with their neighbors, and this lack of contact is higher for people living in staffed residences. About half said they often go to church or synagogue when they want, and two-fifths volunteer in their neighborhood or community. However, people report doing fun things in the community less often than they reported in past surveys.



Material Well-being - Material Well-being as previously measured did not change. Three-fourths of the people have things that are just theirs, and half say they save money every time they get paid. To the new questions, however, only 56% said they regularly got a paycheck, and 63% of these said they wanted a better job. Three-fourths of those who sometimes got a paycheck wanted a better job, and half of those who did not get a paycheck wanted a job.



Services and Staff - Over 80% of the people said they received all the services they needed, an increase over previous years. However, only 58% said they had any choice when they needed new staff. People who did not get all the services they needed reported lower quality of life in all eight domains than people who received all the services they needed.

FY2010 starts a new four-year cycle of the Ask Me! Survey. Peer interviewers interviewed people at 46 agencies, and this report includes a page for each agency that summarizes the quality of life reported by the people they support.