Mental Health and Disability Services
Redesign 2011

Difference Between Intellectual Disability & Developmental Disability

Source: Department of Human Services (DHS)
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Intellectual disability (ID) is defined as having a significantly sub-average intellectual functioning, typically two standard deviations below the mean (i.e., IQ of 70 or below), that:

- Is manifested before the age of 18 years; and
- Is accompanied by significant limitations in adaptive functioning in at least two of the following skills areas: communication, self-care, home living, social/interpersonal skills, use of community resources, self-direction, functional academic skills, work, leisure, health, and/or safety.

Developmental disability (DD) is a severe, chronic disability which:

- Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or a combination of mental and physical impairments;
- Is manifested before the person attains age 22;
- Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, and economic self-sufficiency;
- Reflects the person's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic care, treatment, or other services which are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated; except
- That for infants and young children DD means individuals from birth to age five, inclusive, who have substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired conditions with a high probability of resulting in developmental disabilities if services are not provided.

Examples of developmental disabilities include:

- Autism
- Behavior Disorders
- Brain Injury
- Cerebral Palsy
- Down Syndrome
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
- Intellectual Disability
- Spina Bifida

The University of Minnesota Research and Training Center on Community Living/Institute on Community Integration developed prevalence estimates of DD and/or ID based on an in-depth analysis of the National Health Interview Survey – Disability Supplement of non-institutionalized populations. The following lists these estimates of prevalence of DD and/or ID and applies them to the Iowa population:

Estimated Prevalence of Iowans with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities		
Category	University of Minnesota Prevalence Estimate	Numbers of Iowans*
Iowans with ID	.78%	23,461
Iowans with DD but not ID	1.13%	33,989
Iowans with ID and/or DD	1.49%	44,812

*Based on U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimate for July 1, 2009.