

# DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FACT SHEET

*Special Needs Resource and Training*  
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A developmental disability is described as an assortment of chronic conditions that are due to mental or physical impairments or both. For example, you may have a child or an adult with an intellectual disability or perhaps a person diagnosed with cerebral palsy *and* an intellectual disability. It is also considered a severe and chronic disability that can occur up to the age of 22, hence the word *developmental*. A developmental disability can occur before birth such as genetic disorders (i.e. cri du chat, fragile x syndrome,) or chromosomes ( i.e. Down syndrome, Edwards syndrome); during birth (lack of oxygen) or after birth up to the age of 22 (i.e. head injuries, child abuse or accidents).

The disability is likely to occur indefinitely meaning the person will require some type of ongoing service throughout their lives. Finally, the person must show limitations in 3 or more of the following areas of major life activities:

- **Self-care**- brushing teeth, hand-washing and combing hair independently
- **Receptive and expressive language**-ability to understand someone talking and to also be understood
- **Learning**- ability to read and write with understanding
- **Mobility**- ability to move around without any assistance
- **Self-direction**- time management, organization
- **Capacity for independent living**- requiring no supervision
- **Economic self-sufficiency** - having a job and purchasing what one needs

Here are some examples of a developmental disability:

- [Angelman Syndrome](#)
- [Cerebral Palsy](#)
- [Down Syndrome](#)
- [Intellectual Disability](#)
- [Prader Willi Syndrome](#)
- [Rett Syndrome](#)

- [Ring Chromosome 22](#)

*Does everyone with a disability also have a developmental disability?*

The answer is no. there are people with disabilities such as epilepsy and cerebral palsy simply have a disability based on the criteria listed above. However, many people with developmental disabilities quite often have a combination of disabilities. For example a child with autism may also have seizures and an intellectual disability or an adult may have cerebral palsy, intellectual disability and epilepsy. In addition there are many people in the spectrum of autism who also have ADHD and so forth.

*So what's the difference between an intellectual disability and a developmental disability?*

A person with an intellectual disability falls under the category of a developmental disability meaning you can have an intellectual disability and a developmental disability.

### **Facts and Statistics**

- Developmental Disability is a severe, long-term disability that affect cognitive ability, physical functioning or both.
- 1 in 6 or about 15% of children aged 3 through 17 have one or more developmental disabilities.
- Between 2014 and 2016 the prevalence of developmental disability among kids ages 3 to 17 increased from 5.76 percent to 6.99 percent.
- Prevalence of autism increased 289.5%
- Prevalence of ADHD increased 33.0 %
- Males have a higher prevalence of ADHD, autism, learning disabilities, stuttering and other developmental disabilities.
- Children from families with incomes below the federal poverty level had a higher prevalence of developmental disabilities.
- 10% of Americans have a family member with an intellectual disability.

- Intellectual disabilities are 25 times more common than blindness.
- Every year 125,000 children are born with an intellectual disability
- Approximately 85% of the intellectual disability is in the mild category.
- About 10% of the intellectual disability is considered moderate
- About 3-4% of the intellectual disability population is severe.
- Only 1-2% is classified as profound.



*Special Needs Resource and Training Blog provides tools, resources and information to people who serve, educate, train and employ individuals with developmental disabilities*