



# NCI: The National Core Indicators Survey

Since 2010, the Lanterman Act (California Welfare & Institutions Code, Section 4571) has required that the Department of Developmental Services(DDS) use a nation-wide quality assessment survey to assess the performance of services and supports provided to individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD).

# What Are the National Core Indicators?

- National Core Indicators (NCI) is a collaboration between the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) and the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) that began in 1997 in order to gather a standard set of performance and outcome measures that can track participating states' performance over time, compare to one another, and establish national benchmarks.
- From 15 states in 1997 to 39 states for FY 21-22, NCI is an integral part of DDS's quality management system as well as a crucial source of data for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD), and the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR).
- Now used in England and Australia as well.

# How and Why

- Originally for individuals transitioning from Developmental Centers to the community; these people are now followed by the Mover Longitudinal Study (a modified NCI survey designed by the University of California, Davis).
- The State Council on Developmental Disabilities will ask to interview individuals and families served by the regional centers until they have 400 from each regional center.
- Each Fiscal Year there is at least one of four surveys: Adult In-Person, Adult Family, Child Family, and Family Guardian.
- They ask a series of questions about the person's life, their services, and the community they live in.
- Answers allow for California to compare itself to other states and for regional centers to compare themselves to the state average and other regional centers.

# Results

- Results are tabulated by regional center and are made available by DDS at [dds.ca.gov/rc/nci](https://dds.ca.gov/rc/nci)
- You can use Interactive Dashboards to look at the raw data, including Domain for areas of interest and Comprehensive for detailed answers to all survey questions by respondents.
- Reports can be found in a State/Regional Center format or in a User-Friendly format.
- All reports are compiled and written by the HSRI on behalf of DDS.

The Latest Data for SARC:  
FY 18/19 Child Family Survey

# What's Next?

- For FY 21-22, they are conducting a Child Family Survey.
  - SCDD has pulled contact information from the regional centers.
- Awaiting results from FY 19-20 Adult Family/Family Guardian Survey and 20-21 Adult In-Person Survey.

# Further Information

- DDS Dashboards are at [dds.ca.gov/rc/nci/](https://dds.ca.gov/rc/nci/)
  - Questions? Email [ncihelp@dds.ca.gov](mailto:ncihelp@dds.ca.gov)
  - Specific questions about SARC? Email NCI Coordinator Jim Elliott at [jelliott@sarc.org](mailto:jelliott@sarc.org)
- NCI: National Core Indicators can be found at [nationalcoreindicators.org](https://nationalcoreindicators.org)
- National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services can be found at [nasddds.org](https://nasddds.org)
- Human Services Research Institute can be found at [hsri.org](https://hsri.org)