

MINISTRY TO PEOPLE with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities



Developmental Disability:

A severe, chronic disability of an individual 5 years of age or older, which is manifested before the age of 22, that is likely to continue indefinitely and results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity:

1. Self-care
2. Receptive and expressive language
3. Learning
4. Mobility
5. Self-direction
6. Capacity of independent living
7. Economic self-sufficiency

Developmental disabilities can include autism, cerebral palsy, epilepsy and intellectual disabilities.

Developmental Disability:

A disability characterized by significant delays or differences both in intellectual functioning and in adaptive behavior, including conceptual (e.g., reading, writing), social and practical skills. This disability originates before age 18. Some people who have an intellectual disability may have other conditions as well, such as cerebral palsy, seizure disorders, impaired vision, hearing loss or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, commonly known as ADHD.

1. Delays or differences are considered within the typical environments of the person's peers and culture.
2. Assessments consider cultural and linguistic diversity as well as differences in communication, sensory, motor and behavioral factors.
3. Within an individual, delays, differences and challenges often coexist with strengths.
4. The purpose of describing delays or differences is to develop a profile of needed supports.
5. With appropriate personalized supports over a sustained period, people with developmental disabilities can live a full and meaningful life.





There are approximately
7 million people
in the United States with
developmental disabilities

How Prevalent Are Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in the United States?

Most dependable sources, such as The Arc of the U.S. or the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), tend to agree on a 1:4 ratio of the total general population. However, numbers both above and below that range are reported by a host of organizations, each with its own particular area of interest and expertise.

Resources

- › “Confronting a Culture of Disrespect” in *The Lutheran Witness*, May 2010, by the Rev. Charles Werth, vice-president of Religious Life and Church Relations, Bethesda Lutheran Communities
witness.lcms.org

- › **Faith resources** — awareness; prayer; curricula for Bible studies, first communion and confirmation; pastoral care (First Conversations); grief support and interactions with people with disabilities
bethesdalutherancommunities.org/service/faith-supports/faith-resources

