

# 2007 Indiana Disability Poll

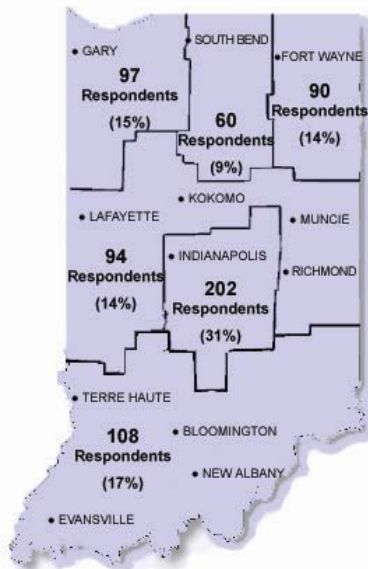
An annual assessment of issues important to people with disabilities in Indiana



## FOCUS ON HEALTH CARE

The findings of the 2007 Disability Poll highlight health practices, concerns, and preferences of 651 people with disabilities. The information was provided by people with disabilities, their families, or their advocates between November of 2006 and March of 2007. People responded via an Internet survey or on paper survey forms.

People who responded came from throughout Indiana, reflecting both large city centers and less populated areas of the State. The following are the distributions via telephone area code:



People who responded live in large cities, small towns, and in rural areas or on farms.

Location	% of Respondents
Large cities	43%
Town or small cities	39%
Small towns	8%
Rural areas/ farms	10%

Household incomes of people who responded are distributed across a wide range. The following ranges were used to define low, middle, and higher income levels.

Income range	% of Respondents
\$25,000 or less	37%
\$25,000 - \$50,000	27%
More than \$50,000	36%

### Top THREE Areas Needing Improvement in Indiana's Current Health Care System

- ✓ Provide more coverage and services, such as for durable medical equipment and devices, mental health services, vision and dental treatment, and prescription drugs
- ✓ Improve administration, increase coordination, and decrease red tape and paperwork
- ✓ Lower costs, co-pays, and insurance premiums

### Other Needed Improvements:

- ◆ Expand eligibility to cover everyone (especially children and families with lower incomes)
- ◆ Educate health care providers to be more knowledgeable about specific disabilities and to display better attitudes towards people with disabilities
- ◆ Increase numbers of providers who accept patients with Medicaid and Medicare
- ◆ Provide more local doctors and specialists who are trained in disabilities
- ◆ Help consumers become better informed about health care systems issues and options

## Current Health Care Practices and Preferences of People with Disabilities in Indiana

### Current Health Status:

- ◆ 7 out of 10 respondents get regular checkups every year.
  - ✓ *The most frequently received health care services are physical checkups, dental visits, blood tests and lab work, and eye exams.*
- ◆ 85% of the respondents report they receive health care services from their personal doctors, specialists, or health care providers rather than community clinics, urgent care centers, emergency rooms.
  - ✓ *However, respondents with household incomes of less than \$25,000 use community clinics and emergency rooms more frequently.*
- ◆ Respondents use health care providers close to home – 6 out of 10 report they travel half an hour or less to receive needed health services.
- ◆ 75% of the respondents consider their health to be good to excellent, and only 25% feel their current health status to be fair or poor.
  - ✓ *However, income makes a difference. For respondents with household incomes of less than \$25,000, only 60% report good to excellent health.*
- ◆ In households of incomes greater than \$50,000, 75% rate the quality of their health care as good to excellent.
  - ✓ *However, in households of incomes less than \$25,000, only 50% rate quality as good to excellent.*

### Top FIVE Features People with Disabilities Desire in a Universal Health Care System

As Indiana moves towards health care reform, people with disabilities suggest the following as priorities:

- ◆ Choice of own health providers
- ◆ Coverage to see needed specialists and therapists
- ◆ Low co-pays
- ◆ Dental coverage
- ◆ Preventative care

In addition to coverage for the items listed above, respondents also call for expanded coverage for mental health services and prescriptions.

### Coverage and Obstacles to Meeting Health Care Needs:

- ◆ For respondents whose household incomes are greater than \$50,000, health insurance coverage comes primarily from work. Medicaid and Medicare are the primary insurance for those with family incomes less than \$25,000.
  - ✓ *13% of people with low incomes report having no coverage at all.*
- ◆ 57% of respondents with household incomes greater than \$50,000 report they receive all the health care they need. When they don't, the most frequently cited reasons are because insurance doesn't cover what was needed or that co-pays are too high.
  - ✓ *However, in households with incomes less than \$25,000, only 38% receive needed health care. The most frequently cited reasons are inability to find physicians who understand their disability or who are willing to treat them, or provider refusal to accept Medicaid or Medicare.*
- ◆ If health care has to be postponed, the most frequent eliminations are dental work, filling prescriptions, and getting needed care or tests. Families also report postponing therapies.
- ◆ When respondents need mental health services or appointments with specialists, half (51%) report difficulties receiving them.

For further information, copies of the full survey results or for alternative formats, please contact the Indiana Institute, c/o Dr. Vicki Pappas at [cpps@indiana.edu](mailto:cpps@indiana.edu) or call 812-855-6508.

