

National Core Indicators:

National Core Indicators (NCI) began in 1997 within the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) field with the primary goal of assessing and enhancing the quality of developmental disability services. It later expanded to aging and physical disabilities in 2015 as National Core Indicators – Aging and Disabilities (NCI-AD), filling a critical gap in understanding how services support individuals. At that time, states had information on money spent and types of services provided but did not have information on how well those services were supporting people.

NCI now encompasses two distinct surveys: NCI-IDD, a national initiative focused on assessing and improving the performance of state developmental disabilities service systems, and NCI-AD, which focuses on measuring and enhancing the performance of state aging and physical disabilities service systems.

North Carolina (NC) has been participating in NCI-IDD since 2014 and joined NCI-AD in 2015, for only one cycle. Since last year, both the Division of Aging and the Division of Health Benefits have expressed keen interest in partnering and reinstating our state's involvement in AD.

Overview of National Core Indicators – Aging and Disabilities:

NCI-AD is a consumer experience survey that collects and maintains valid and reliable person-reported data about the impact that states' publicly funded long-term services and supports (LTSS) have on the quality of life and outcomes of consumers. Now in its eight year of implementation, NCI-AD was created out of a desire from states to know and learn more about their LTSS programs from a systems perspective. The project is a collaborative effort between ADvancing States and Human Services Research Institute (HSRI), referred to as the NCI-AD Project Team.

Data Collection and Administration Process

Data for the NCI-AD project are gathered through annual in-person or remote surveys administered by state agencies, or their subcontractors, to a sample of at least 400 older adults and adults with physical disabilities receiving LTSS from a variety of public program funding sources. This includes skilled nursing facilities, Medicaid waivers, Medicaid state plans, and/or state-funded programs, as well as Older Americans Act programs. Participating states choose which programs to survey, and if they would like to oversample or stratify their survey sample by any particular strata. NCI-AD uniquely stands out from other LTSS surveys in this way and can be administered across aging and physical disabilities populations, programs, and settings. The NCI-AD survey addresses key areas of concern and collects broad information about the consumer's experience of the services they are receiving, including questions about service coordination, community participation, everyday living, rights and respect, health care, wellness, and satisfaction. States engage in various quality assurance activities while the project is implemented, including planning for and coordinating a standardized training for surveyors before interviews are conducted in the field. The NCI-AD Project Team provides technical assistance and guidance to states throughout the life of the project.

Survey Scope and Quality Assurance Measures

After surveys are completed, the NCI-AD project team interprets each state's data and produces reports that can be used to support state efforts to strengthen LTSS policy and compare their system performance with other state and national norms. Participating states commonly use NCI-AD to help prioritize quality improvement initiatives, engage in thoughtful decision making, and conduct futures planning with valid and reliable LTSS data.

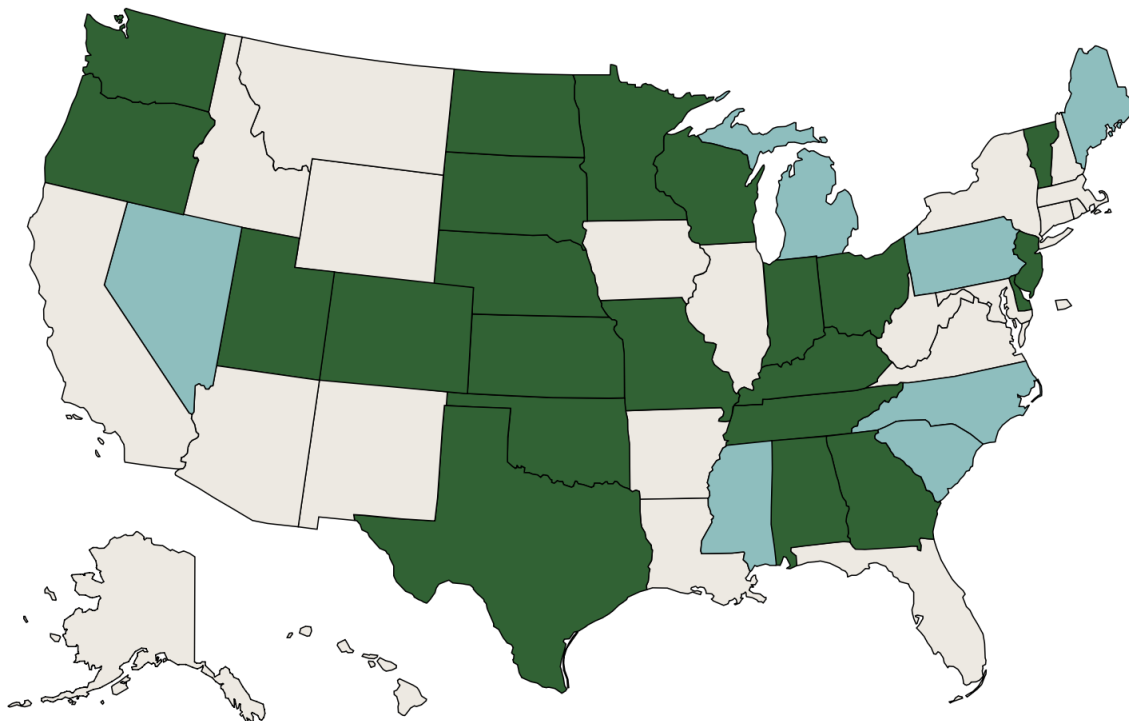
National Representation and NCI-AD Reports

The NCI-AD project has experienced rapid growth, with 24 participating states in the 2023-24 NCI-AD year and more expected to join. State-specific as well as national reports are publicly available and can be found on the NCI-AD website, www.nciad.org.

NCI-AD States

Select a state to view its profile

NCI-AD States ▾



- Current Participant
- Past Participant
- Non-Participant