



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

**EFFECTIVE MEASUREMENT FROM PHYSICAL/MENTAL IMPAIRMENTS
INTERVENTIONS MAY AMELIORATE DISABILITY**

A briefing was held by the Director of the Division of Human Development and Disability of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Questions and answers followed the presentation

Summary

An issue that was raised during the question answer session was the status of measurement of public health intervention effectiveness. Obvious measures of health outcomes from public health interventions are morbidity and mortality measures. There are many mortality measures that are based on variables of sex, race, geographical locations of populations and other conditions. For instance, black men in the District of Columbus have the shortest life expectancy of any comparable group in the Western Hemisphere with the exception of Haiti (geographical location, sex and race), or the U.S. in 76th in the world when measured by disability adjusted life expectancy. A disorder specific measure would be native Americans in the Southwest U. S. have lower life expectancies as a result of diabetes. A commonly used morbidity measure is quality adjusted life years. (I.e. how many years are left in ones life). Well being is another measure.

Measures of the effectiveness of interventions are needed to track diminished health from and impairment to disability. An example of acquired disability as a result of diminished health associated with specific disorders is diabetes. This disorder, in the early stages, carries the connotation of impairment, not necessarily a disability because it does not necessarily impair social functioning. However, in later stages, as a result of amputation of limbs, blindness, or kidney dysfunction the impairment may result in disability. There is need for measurement of diminishing health that contributes to disability. Usually, there is a progression of diminishing health that can be measured that eventually results in the disability. However, there may be biological medical health related markers that may not be associated with function (disability). Measures are needed to determine the effectiveness of disability prevention interventions for specific population, environmental conditions and specific disorders.

Disability Prevention Issue

A disability prevention issues is to measure the progression of diminished health from impairments to social dysfunction (i.e. disability). When these measures have been identified, it then becomes possible to determine evidence based intervention that can be replicated in applied settings and widely dissemination. The evidence based model is “if one uses these **protocols. /interventions** with these **trained personnel** under these **conditions** one will get these **measured results** with this **population**.”

Activity

There is ongoing study of measures that track physical and mental impairments that diminish health that results in disability

Principle

Measures are needed to assess evidence based interventions to prevent disability.