Using Research Findings for Advocacy

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Acknowledgement

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Context

- Medicaid provides safety net for people with disabilities who cannot afford health insurance.
- Health care expenditures and use for this population poorly understood.
- Legislators and policy makers typically focus only on LTC expenditures (HCBS, nursing homes) while ignoring associated health care expenses.
- As a result, they lose chance to address opportunities for policy change on prevention and health promotion.
Context

- To advocate effectively, we must bring concerns to those who can effect change
- Our research provides info that consumers and those who support them can use to advocate for themselves and for broader policy change in health care

Research Results

*Prevalence Rates for Chronic Disease Among People with Cognitive Limitations or Physical Disabilities Compared to Those with No Disability*
Research Results

Preventive Screening Among Individuals with Cognitive Limitations or Physical Disabilities Compared to Those with No Disability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preventive Screening</th>
<th>No Disability group</th>
<th>Cognitive Limitations group</th>
<th>Physical Disability group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Never had Pap test</td>
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<tr>
<td>Never had mammogram</td>
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<tr>
<td>No dentist visit for ≥ 5 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>No Flu Shot within past year</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

BMI Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BMI Distribution</th>
<th>No Disability</th>
<th>Cognitive Limitations</th>
<th>Physical Disability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Underweight (BMI 18.5-18.4)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overweight (BMI 25.0-29.9)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obese (BMI ≥30)</td>
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</table>
Research Results

Mean Body Mass Index Among Obese Individuals with Cognitive Limitations or Physical Disabilities Compared to Obese Individuals with No Disability

Average Yearly Medical Expenditures per Person
Implications for Advocacy

To view this video, go to http://www.youtube.com/RTCIL

Audrey Schremmer-Philip

Discussion

- Does this research validate your personal experiences with people with disabilities?
- How would you prioritize related advocacy efforts?
- How can we further integrate the IL philosophy into health care services?
- What research needs do you as IL staff or consumers currently have?