

Living arrangements and choice for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities

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Introduction

Having opportunities for **choice** is an important component of self-determination (Abery & Stancliffe, 2003).

People with **intellectual and developmental disabilities** (IDD) experience unique challenges when exerting choice over their lives.

There has been a big shift in where people with IDD live, from institutional to **smaller, more individualized settings**.



This policy brief explores the **changes in living arrangements and opportunities to make choices** over time as well as the relationship between the two.

Methodology

This research utilizes data from:

Residential Information Systems Project reports from 1997-2014 and **National Core Indicators-Adults Consumer Survey** 2007-2015

We looked at two types of choices from the NCI data:

Support choice scale



Everyday choice scale



*Note. Choice means were weighted by age, level of intellectual disability, mobility, behavioral support needs, mental health diagnosis, autism diagnosis, verbal communication ability, visual/hearing impairments, and the proportion of choice items answered without a proxy.

Results

Table 1.

People with IDD who Receive Supports and Services from State IDD Agencies by Setting Type, Every 10 Years from 1977-2015 *

Year	Home of a Family member	1-6 Person Setting	7-15 Person Setting	16+ Person Setting
1977	N/A	20,400	20,024	207,356
1987	N/A	69,933 (+243%)	48,637 (+143%)	137,103 (-34%)
1997	296,946**	194,968 (+179%)	53,914 (+26%)	93,362 (-32%)
2007	552,559** (+86%)	316,291 (+62%)	58,920 (+9%)	62,496 (-33%)
2015	698,556 (+26%)	413,852 (+38%)	56,627 (-4%)	42,490 (-32%)

Adapted from the RISP FY 2015 report (Larson et al., 2017).

N/A: Not applicable. Data on the number of people with IDD receiving long term supports and services while living in the home of a family member was not available for 1977 and 1987.

Figure 1. Change in average support and everyday choice making across years.

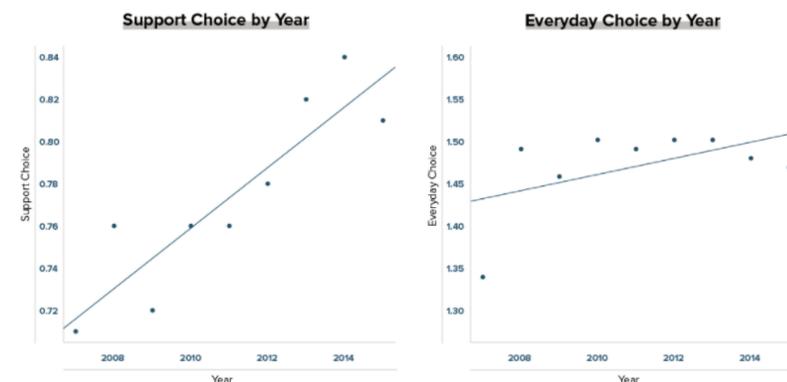
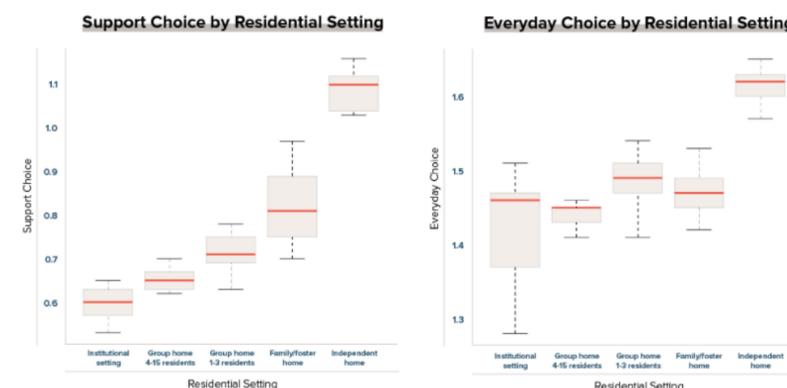


Figure 2. Change in average support and everyday choice making across residential setting.



Current Policy Initiatives

The U.S. Administration on Community Living promoted supported decision making by funding the **National Resource Center for Supported-Decision Making** (Shogren et al., 2017).

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) passed *the Community Rule*, ensuring service users have the **right to choose where and with whom they live, what they do in their leisure time, and the services and supports they receive** (Medicaid Program HCBS, 2014).

Conclusions

This policy brief supports the following conclusions:

- **Support-related choice has steadily increased** while everyday choice has remained consistent.
- The best predictor of **more choice** for both types consistently was **independent settings**.
- Those **living with family** had **more support choice** than those in group homes of any size or institutional settings.
- Those living in **institutional settings** had significantly **less support choice** compared to other groups.
- There was **no significant difference among institutional, group, or family settings for everyday choice**.

References

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