Can You Hear Us Now?

The Ohio State University Nisonger Center
Prevalence Study Summary

Why Does This Study Matter?

- Adults with intellectual disability (ID) have worse health and experience barriers to quality health care compared to adults without disabilities. Health disparities are most extreme among adults with ID who also identify as Black/African American and/or Hispanic/Latino.*

- Adults with ID, and especially adults with ID of color, are under-represented in health research. This means we know less about their health and cannot advocate for their health needs. We want to help change that.

- What we know about the health of adults with ID, we learned from their family members or caregivers. In our project, adults with ID themselves share their thoughts and feelings.

- We partner with adults who have ID and with communities of color to center their perspective in our health research. We work to ensure that the research represents and benefits these communities.

What Are the Goals?

- To understand the health, mental health, and well-being of adults with ID, including adults with ID of color.

- To share what we learn with our community partners to help advocate for better services and supports.

* ***We respect and honor diversity and try to be respectful in our interactions and in the language we use. We appreciate that individuals use different terms to identify their race and ethnicity. We use "people of color" and, more specifically, "Black/African American" and "Hispanic/Latino" to refer to the communities we want to reach in this study.***

Who Can Participate?

- Adults with ID, including people of color, and a study partner – often a family member, friend, or paid caregiver – who knows them well.

What Will Happen in This Study?

- Through word of mouth, fliers, or other means, potential study participants learn about the study. Then they contact project staff to learn more and decide whether to participate.

- Project staff conduct a short telephone screen to see if potential participants are eligible for the study. Eligible participants then complete online surveys and a Zoom interview about their health, including mental health, and well-being.

- The interview will last up to 3 hours. The adult with ID and their study partner will each receive a $100 gift card in appreciation for their time.

How will this research benefit communities?

1) Engagement in the research process. We strive to build bridges between researchers, policymakers, and communities through open conversation, listening, and information sharing.

2) Access to research data. We will share research findings and collaborate with communities to use these data to advocate for what they need.

3) Connections to researchers and policymakers. We offer pathways to advocacy so communities under-represented in science can have a voice.

Who is leading this study?

Marc J. Tassé, Ph.D., a professor of psychology at The Ohio State University and director of the Nisonger Center, a university center for excellence in developmental disabilities is the study lead. To learn more about the study, please contact him directly at **(614) 685-3193** or **marc.tasse@osumc.edu**

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