

## Back To The Future With ADA: The Next 25 Years

**Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp, MD**  
Medical Epidemiologist,  
Chief of the Developmental Disabilities Branch

14<sup>th</sup> Annual Developmental Disabilities: Update for Health Professionals  
San Francisco, CA  
March 5-6, 2015

National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities



I have nothing to disclose

## Overview of Presentation

- ❑ History of Disability Rights Movement and Timeline—  
The “ADA Story”
- ❑ The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and
- ❑ The ADA Amendments Act of 2008
- ❑ CDC’s National Center on Birth Defects and  
Developmental Disabilities
- ❑ Preparing for Future Needs of Persons with Disabilities

## History of Disability Rights

Began in early 1800’s



### History of Disability Rights (Cont'd)

1817—First school for disabled children

#### Timeline

**1817**

First school for disabled children founded in Hartford, CT



### History of Disability Rights (Cont'd)

1848—First residential center for adults with disabilities



**1848**

First residential center for adults with disabilities founded in Boston

### History of Disability Rights (Cont'd)

1945—National Employ the Handicapped Week

**1945**

President Truman begins National Employ the Handicapped Week



### History of Disability Rights (Cont'd)

1950—Mary Switzer appointed Director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation



**1950**

Mary Switzer appointed director of U.S. Rehabilitation Panel

### History of Disability Rights (Cont'd)

1958—First issue of the Rehabilitation Gazette

**1958**

Rehabilitation Gazette publishes first issue



### History of Disability Rights (Cont'd)

1961—President Kennedy appoints first panel on “mental retardation”

**1961**

President Kennedy appoints panel on mental retardation



### History of Disability Rights (Cont'd)

1963—Kennedy administration increased community services

**1963**

President Kennedy calls for increased American community services



### History of Disability Rights (Cont'd)

1965—Establishment of Medicare and Medicaid

**1965**

Medicare and Medicaid are established



### History of Disability Rights (Cont'd)

1972—First center for independent living

**1972**

Ed Roberts founds the first center for independent living



### History of Disability Rights (Cont'd)

1973—Designated handicapped parking introduced in DC

**1973**

Handicap parking stickers introduced in Washington, D.C.



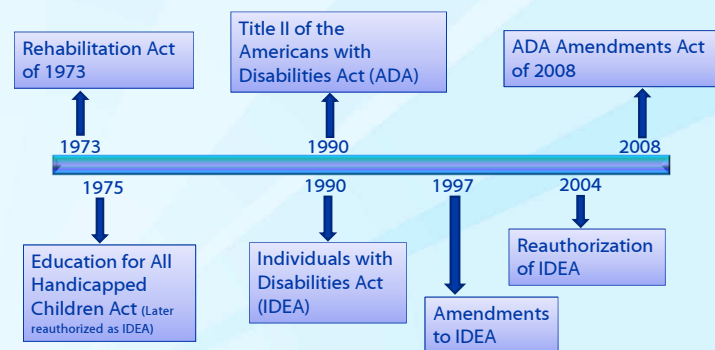
### The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990

**1990**

President Bush Sr. signs the Americans with Disabilities Act



### Federal Legislation Timeline



## The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

### □ Overview

- Broad protection in areas of:
  - Employment
  - Public services
  - Public accommodations
  - Services by private enterprise
  - Housing
  - Transportation
  - Telecommunications



## The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (Cont'd)

### □ Overview (Cont'd)

- Requires covered employers (≥15 employees) to provide reasonable accommodations
- Accessibility requirements for public places
- "Disability" includes both mental and physical conditions
- Includes disabilities that are not severe or permanent



## The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (Cont'd)

### □ The ADA in a health care context

- Health services provided in an accessible manner
- Decisions must be non-discriminatory
- Title I prohibits discrimination—includes employer-sponsored health insurance
- Title II prohibits denial of benefits or exclusionary conduct
- Title III prohibits discrimination by private enterprises considered public accommodation
  - Discriminatory conduct includes:
    - Administrative methods
      - Eligibility criteria that screens out disabilities
    - Failure to provide treatment in the "most integrated setting"



## The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (Cont'd)



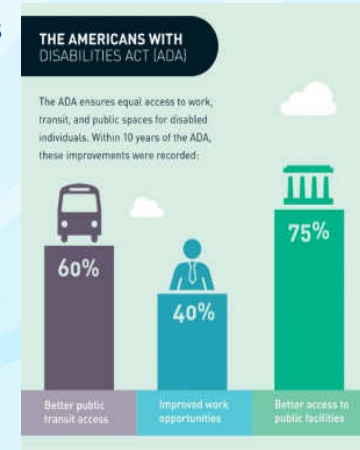
### The ADA Amendments Act of 2008

- ❑ Ensure broad and inclusive interpretation of ADA
- ❑ Expanded the meaning and application of “disability”
- ❑ Includes list of “major life activities” to provide additional direction



### Reported improvements since ADA

- ❑ 63% Improved quality of life
- ❑ 60% Better public transit access
- ❑ 40% Improved work opportunities
- ❑ 75% Better access to public facilities



Source: 2000 National Organization on Disability, Harris Survey of Americans

### Reported improvements since ADA

- ❑ Mobility aid improvements:
  - Chair/Stair lift
  - Wheelchair ramps
  - Bath lift
  - Wheelchair lift

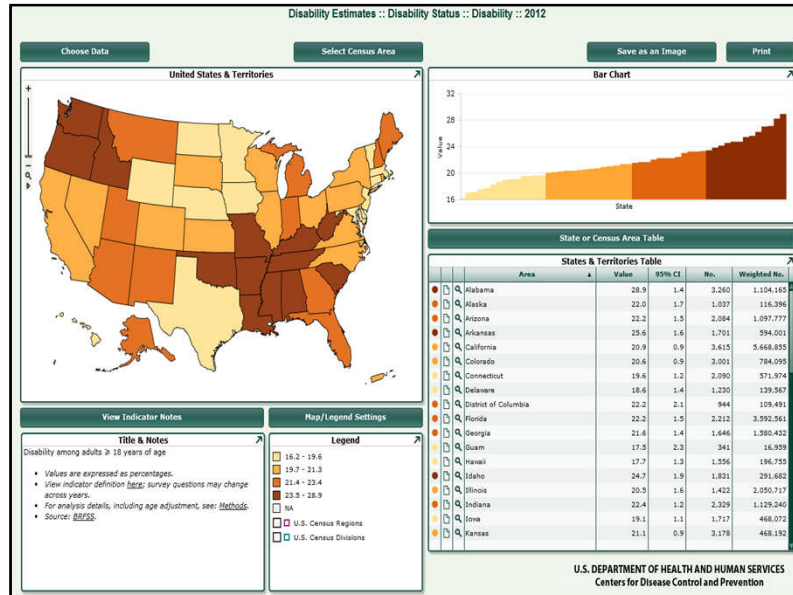


Source: 2000 National Organization on Disability, Harris Survey of Americans

### The ADA and CDC’s National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD)

- ❑ Disability surveillance and research activities
- ❑ Education and outreach
- ❑ Increase awareness of health gaps
- ❑ Identify ways to improve access to health programs, services
- ❑ Identify specialized needs of children with disabilities
- ❑ Increase awareness about early identification in children





## The Next 25 Years

### Looking forward

- Lifespan perspective
- Increase in population with disabilities
- Increased need for public resources
- Need for more trained providers
- Advances in medical, technology=more independent living
- Assisted living facilities for people with disabilities
- Care for aging population with disabilities
- AIDD calls for inclusion in community design
- More public-private partnerships



## Resources

- Americans with Disabilities Act Information: <http://www.ada.gov>
- A Guide to Disability Rights Laws, US Dept. of Justice: <http://www.ada.gov/cguide.htm>
- Questions and Answers about Health Care Workers and the ADA: [http://www.eeoc.gov/facts/health\\_care\\_workers.html](http://www.eeoc.gov/facts/health_care_workers.html)
- ADA Checklist: Health Care Facilities and Service Providers—Ensuring Access to Services and Facilities <http://www.afb.org/info/programs-and-services/public-policy-center/ada-checklist-health-care-facilities-and-service-providers/125>
- AIDD: History of the DD Act: [http://www.acl.gov/Programs/AIDD/DD\\_History/index.aspx](http://www.acl.gov/Programs/AIDD/DD_History/index.aspx)
- The Future of Disability in America, by the Committee on Disability in America: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK11429/>
- CDC's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/index.html>



Marshalyn Yeargin-Allsopp, MD  
Telephone: (404) 498-3842  
E-mail: [mxy1@cdc.gov](mailto:mxy1@cdc.gov) Web: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/connect/index.html>

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities

