

Handout for "Obstacles on the Yellow Brick Road"...presentation at NOFSW Conference, 6-14-2019

By Alan Stillmanh, LCSW

## **DD Statistics in USA**

As the U.S. marks the 22nd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, new Census data indicates that the number of people with disabilities is on the rise. In a report released Wednesday, the federal agency found that 56.7 million people had a disability in 2010, an increase of 2.2 million since 2005. Jul 26,

Despite the growth in disability prevalence, however, the percentage of people with impairments remained relatively unchanged about 1.2 million adults had an intellectual disability, according to the report. Meanwhile, some 944,000 adults had other developmental disabilities including autism and cerebral palsy.

Among children, the Census found that 1.7 million kids had an intellectual or developmental condition.

The new Census data marks the first time since 2005 that the agency has offered estimates and analysis on the population of Americans with disabilities, officials said.

Several agencies including the Social Security Administration, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Administration on Aging rely on Census data in their planning.

### **Following are some examples of what we know about specific developmental disabilities:**

At least 25% of hearing loss among babies is due to maternal infections during pregnancy, such as cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection; complications after birth; and head trauma.

Some of the most common known causes of intellectual disability include fetal alcohol syndrome; genetic and chromosomal conditions, such as Down syndrome and fragile X syndrome; and certain infections during pregnancy.

Children who have a sibling with autism are at a higher risk of also having autism spectrum disorder.

Low birthweight, premature birth, multiple birth, and infections during pregnancy are associated with an increased risk for many developmental disabilities.

Untreated newborn jaundice (high levels of bilirubin in the blood during the first few days after birth) can cause a type of brain damage known as kernicterus. Children with kernicterus are more likely to have cerebral palsy, hearing and vision problems, and problems with their teeth. Early detection and treatment of newborn jaundice can prevent kernicterus.

The Study to Explore Early Development (SEED) is a multiyear study funded by CDC. It is currently the largest study in the United States to help identify factors that may put children at risk for autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities 1 in 5 Americans.