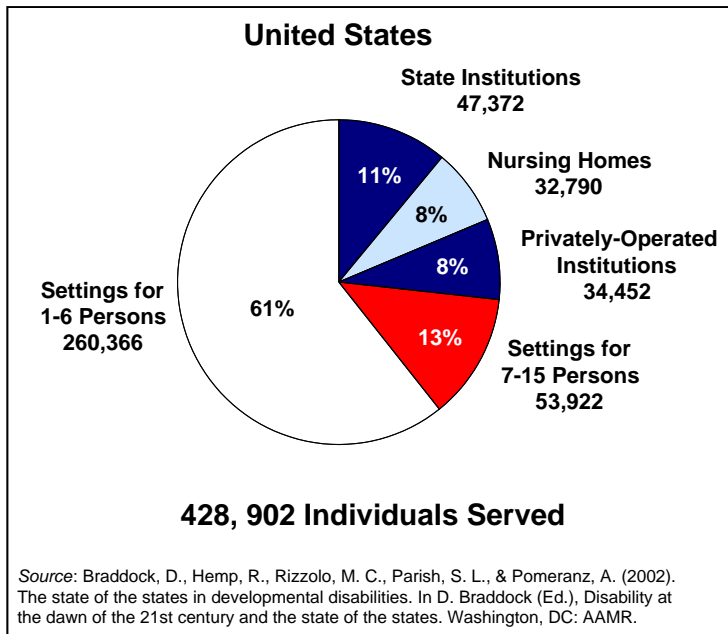


Predictors of Use of Nursing Homes and State Institutions for Persons with DD

Since the 1970's most states have aggressively reduced their reliance on institutional settings for persons with developmental disabilities (DD) in favor of smaller, community-based options. However, in 2000, 47,372 persons with developmental disabilities were receiving residential support in state institutions and 34,452 persons with developmental disabilities were served in private institutions. That same year, 32,790 persons with developmental disabilities resided in nursing facilities.



States vary greatly in the extent to which they use nursing homes and state institutions for persons with DD.

- ❑ In 2000, eight percent of individuals receiving out-of-home residential services were in nursing homes. Percentages ranged from less than one percent of Kansas' DD residential system, to 24% of Georgia's.
- ❑ Eleven percent of individuals in out-of-home placements in 2000 were in state institutions. Percentages ranged from zero percent (in AK, DC, HI, ME, NH, RI, VT, and WV) to 32% of New Jersey's system.

Why Do Some States Use Nursing Homes and State Institutions for Persons with DD More than Other States?

The study found that use of nursing homes and state institutions for persons with developmental disabilities in 2000 was related to a state's political culture. Political culture is defined as the "attitudes, values, beliefs, and orientations that individuals in a society hold regarding their political system." (Riley, 2004). States can be traditionalistic, individualistic, or moralistic. *Traditionalistic states* have a desire to maintain the status quo; they typically resist change. *Individualistic states* are often driven by pragmatic concerns, such as getting and staying elected. *Moralistic states* support programs if they promote the good of the community. Sharkansky's (1969) index was used. More traditionalistic states had higher scores on the index, while more moralistic states scored lower. Each state's score on the index is shown on the following table.

Moralistic States Use Nursing Homes and State Institutions Less than Other States for Persons with DD

Traditionalistic		Individualistic		Moralistic	
Arkansas	9	Arizona	5.66	Connecticut	3
Mississippi	9	Ohio	5.16	Montana	3
Georgia	8.8	Nevada	5	Rhode Island	3
South Carolina	8.75	Illinois	4.72	South Dakota	3
Alabama	8.57	Pennsylvania	4.28	Idaho	2.5
North Carolina	8.5	New Jersey	4	Maine	2.33
Tennessee	8.5	Wyoming	4	New Hampshire	2.33
Oklahoma	8.25	Kansas	3.66	Vermont	2.33
Louisiana	8	Nebraska	3.66	Iowa	2
Virginia	7.86	New York	3.62	Michigan	2
Florida	7.8	Massachusetts	3.6	North Dakota	2
Missouri	7.66	California	3.55	Oregon	2
Kentucky	7.4			Utah	2
West Virginia	7.33			Wisconsin	2
Texas	7.11			Colorado	1.8
Delaware	7			Washington	1.66
Maryland	7			Minnesota	1
New Mexico	7				
Indiana	6.53				

Sharkansky, 1969

The study found that:

- Moralistic states used institutions and nursing homes less than individualistic and traditionalistic states.
- States who spent more on the HCBS Waiver used state institutions less.
- State wealth was also associated with use of state institutions—wealthy states could afford to fund dual systems of care.

Characteristics of Persons with DD in Nursing Homes

The study also examined data on advanced age, Alzheimer's, severe immobility, incontinence, and tube feeding for persons with and without developmental disabilities in nursing homes. This data was obtained from the Minimum Data Set for persons in nursing homes from July to December 2000.

Persons with DD in nursing homes:

- Were younger than the general nursing home population (64 years vs. 80 years)
- Were less likely to be diagnosed with Alzheimer's (6% vs. 13%)
- Had higher rates of incontinence (48% vs. 42%)
- Used feeding tubes more (12% vs. 7%)

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Funding was provided through the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Aging with Developmental Disabilities, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (Grant # H133B031134) and the State of the States in Developmental Disabilities Project, University of Colorado <http://www.cu.edu/ColemanInstitute/stateofthestates/>. Special thanks to Sherri Larson, PhD, at the University of Minnesota for analysis of the MDS data.