

# Investigating barriers to health care for people with developmental disabilities

## ISSUE

People with developmental disabilities are a highly vulnerable, difficult-to-reach population. They frequently face more health problems and have more difficulties accessing health care than other adults. They have also been challenging to identify for research purposes.



## STUDY

**ICES is a partner agency in the Health Care Access Research and Developmental Disabilities (H-CARDD)** program, which was created to research and address disparities in health status and health care access faced by individuals with developmental disabilities in Ontario.

The H-CARDD study population is the largest of its kind internationally.



## STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

- H-CARDD research collaborators
- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
- Ministry of Community and Social Services
- Autism Ontario
- Community Living Ontario
- Evidence Exchange Network for Mental Health and Addictions

## ICES RESEARCH PRODUCTS

ICES partnered with the H-CARDD group to produce the *Atlas on the Primary Care of Adults with Developmental Disabilities in Ontario* (2013), a foundation for much of the H-CARDD work.



## IMPACT



The relationship between ICES and H-CARDD has led to the **integration of research findings into emerging frameworks and policy directions**, as well as informing future performance measurement.



Several resources have been developed, including **toolkits, clinical supports and videos, to improve primary and emergency care**. These resources have been evaluated and are being shared across the province.



Several **peer-reviewed papers have been published** about the health needs of people with developmental disabilities on topics such as diabetes, preventive care, emergency care, frailty and pregnancy.



In February 2016, a meeting to discuss recent findings was held with **100 attendees from five ministries, the LHINs and Health Quality Ontario**.