



School of
Public Health



Research Summary:

A study about fertility and birth among women with intellectual and developmental disability

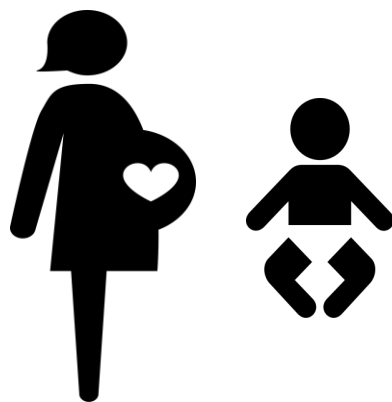


Learn more about our research paper [here](#)

Note: We used the term "woman" or "women" in the article to refer to all birthing people or all people who can get pregnant and give birth.

BACKGROUND

In the past, women with intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) have been treated unfairly and prevented from getting pregnant.



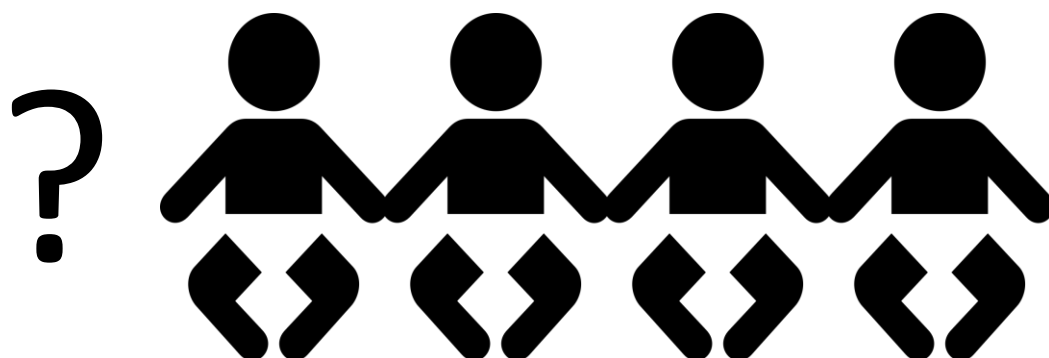
We want to know if women with IDD may still be treated unfairly and if it affects their desire to get pregnant. Women with IDD get pregnant and have families just like everyone else.

First, we need to know more about their pregnancies.

What is fertility?

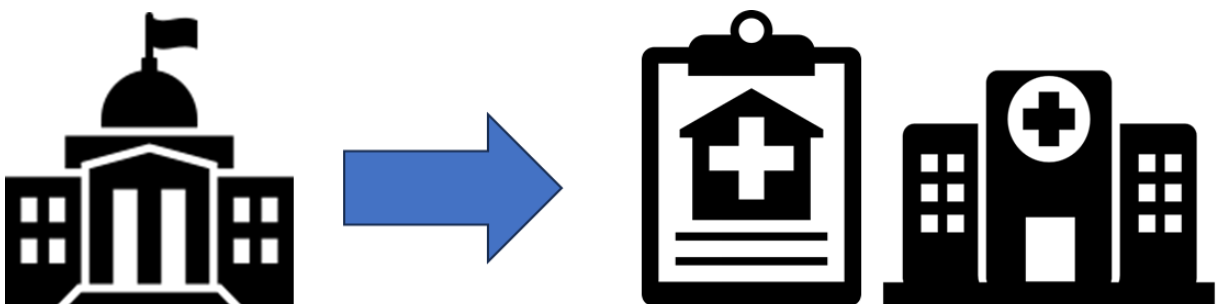
Fertility means the ability for someone to have a baby. It describes how easy or hard it is for them to get pregnant.

To understand fertility for women with IDD, fertility for a large group of people. We are looking at **fertility among women aged 18 to 45 years**, when they are most likely to have children.



Why do we want to know this?

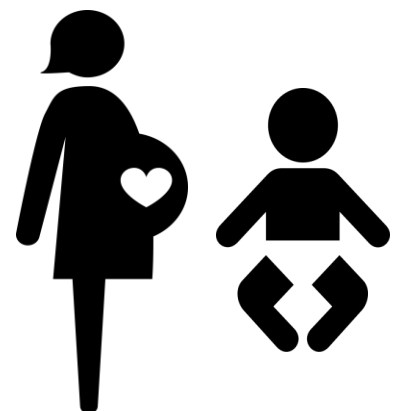
- We want to know the types of services needed by women with IDD and their baby.
- We want to know whether women with IDD may still experience discrimination that may affect their willingness to get pregnant.
- We want to know what support women with IDD might get from the Government and other organizations.



What did we want to learn?

Women with IDD get pregnant and have families just like everyone else. We wanted to know:

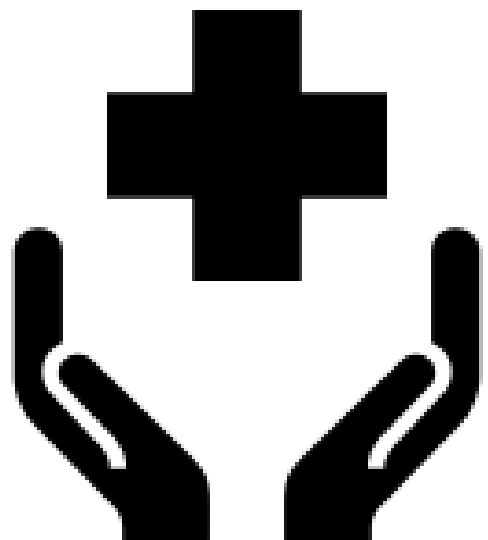
1. How many babies are born to women with IDD every year?
2. At what age do women with IDD usually have babies?
3. How many babies would a woman with IDD have from the age of 18 to 45?



Who was in the study?

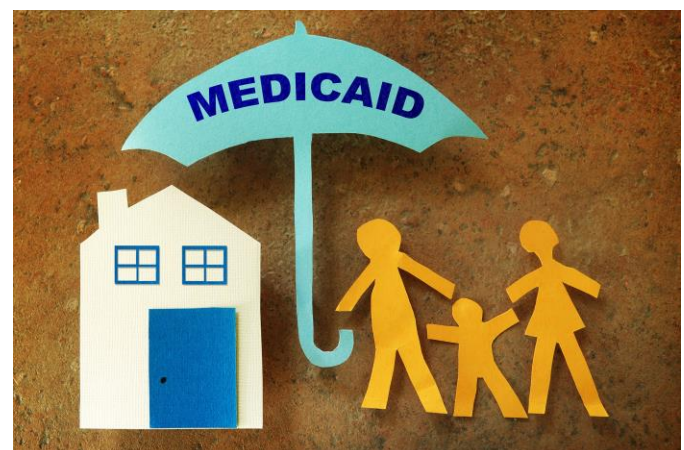
- Women with IDD who are in their reproductive age.
- These women should be in Medicaid and Medicare.
 - They can also be in Medicaid only or Medicare only.

**They should be
enrolled
anytime from
2011 to 2022.**



What information did we get?

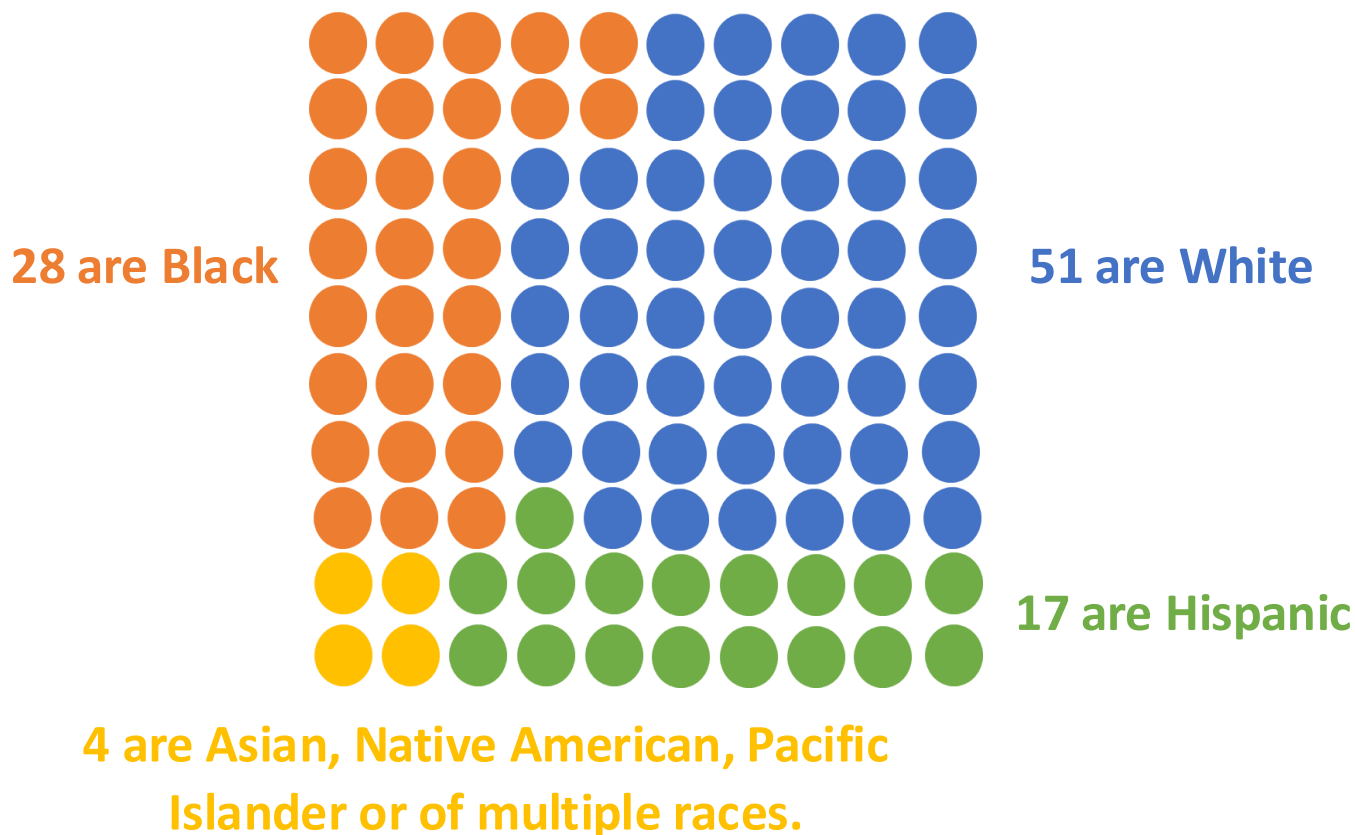
- Age
- Region
- Race and ethnicity
- If they were enrolled in Medicaid, Medicare or both
- Whether individuals were diagnosed with:
 - intellectual disability only
 - autism only
 - Both intellectual disability and autism



Who's in our study?

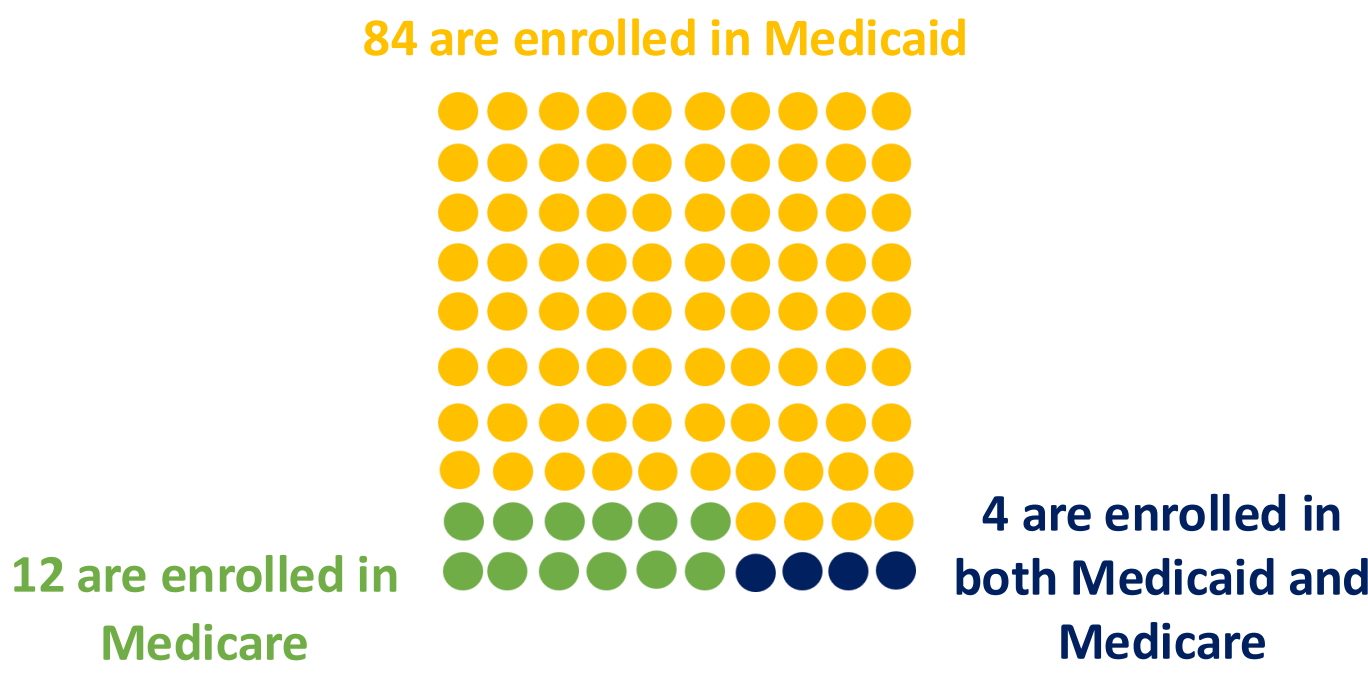
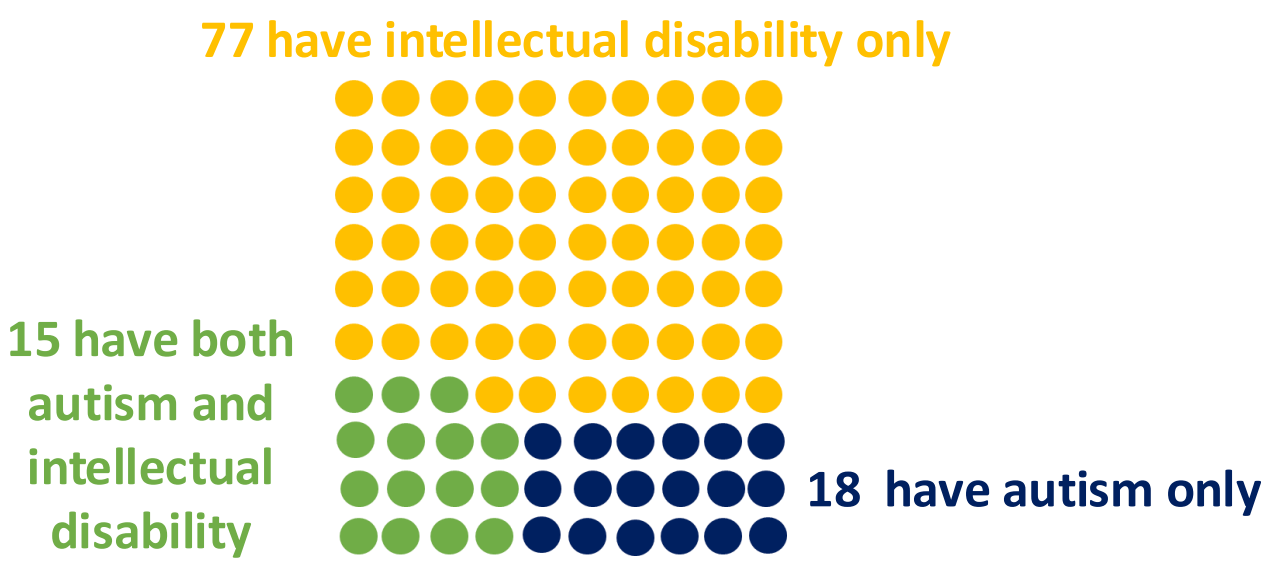
Our study looked at **33,457 women with IDD in the US. They had 50,562 babies from 2011 to 2022.**

For every 100 women with IDD



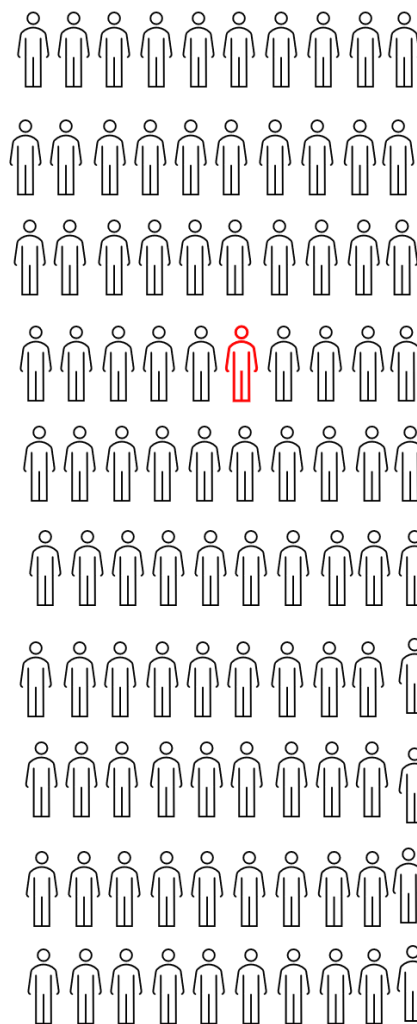
How many women were in different groups?

For every 100 women with IDD



How many babies are born to women with IDD?

In 2011, there was **1 baby born for every 100 women with IDD**



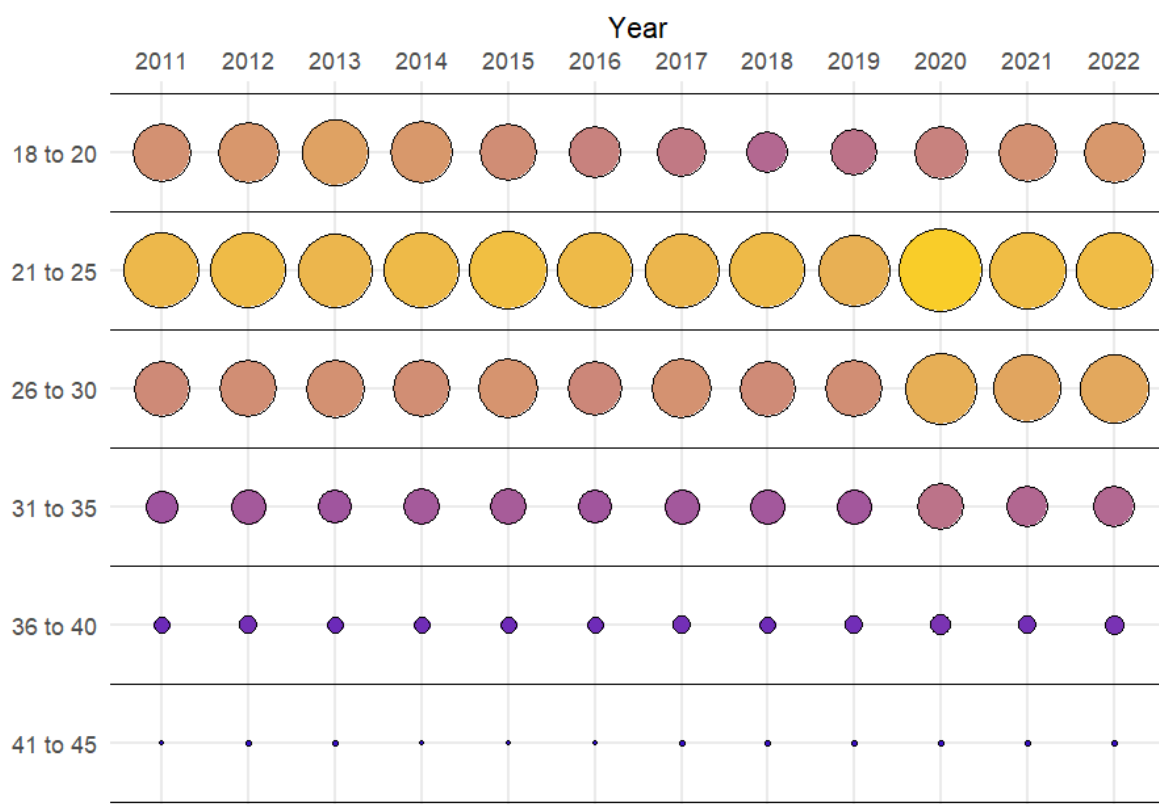
In 2022, there was **still 1 baby born for every 100 women with IDD**

In comparison, there are 5 to 6 babies born for every 100 women in the whole US population.

At what age do women with IDD usually have babies?

- **Women with IDD between 21 to 25 years old were the most likely to have children.**
- **For women in the whole US population, the most common age to have a baby was 31 to 35 years old.**

How many babies are born to every 1,000 women with IDD between 18 to 45 years old every year?



More babies are born among women in this group

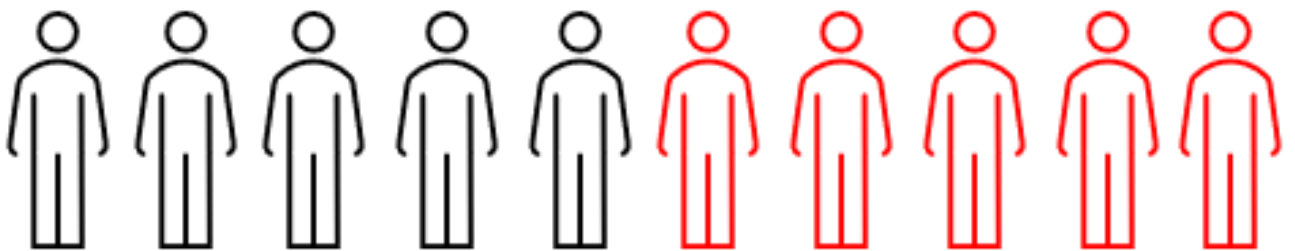
How many babies would a woman with IDD typically have?

- Most women with IDD don't usually have children.
- In comparison, women in the whole US population would usually have 1 to 2 children.



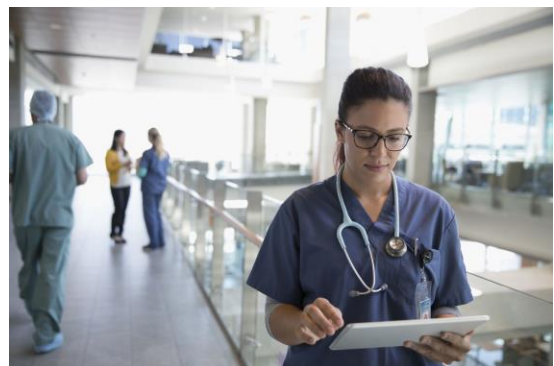
What else did we find out?

- Those who has both autism and intellectual disability had the lowest fertility rates while **those diagnosed with autism only had the highest fertility rates**
- For every 10 women with IDD, 5 had 2 or more pregnancies from 2011 to 2022.



What do the result tell us?

Factors like **being treated unfairly**
or having a hard time
communicating with doctors can
affect what women with IDD
experience before, during, and after
pregnancy.



Article Title: Fertility rates among women with intellectual and developmental disability enrolled in Medicaid and/or Medicare, 2011-2022

PROMISE-IDD: Policies for Reproductive Outcomes in Medicaid—Improving Services for Enrollees with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

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Easy read was created by Josue Antonio G. Estrada in collaboration with Ashley Scott, our Co-Researchers, and the RAs in the Rubenstein Lab



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PROMISE-IDD Research Study Logo by artist Kathleen Coogan kathleendesigns.org

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