

Fertility Rates Among Women With Intellectual and Developmental Disability Enrolled in Medicaid and/or Medicare, 2011–2022



Estrada, J.A.G., Cesare, N., Barger, K., Sisson, E.Q., Cole, M.B., Holmes, L.G., Parker, S.E., Higgins, A., Ncube, C.N., Rosenberg, S.B., Scott, A., Rao, S.R., Werler, M., Rubenstein, E.

Why this matters

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.

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

What we did

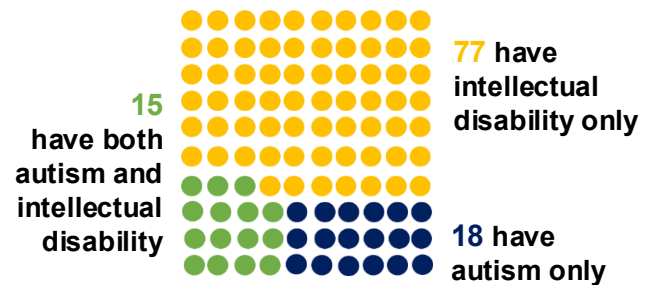
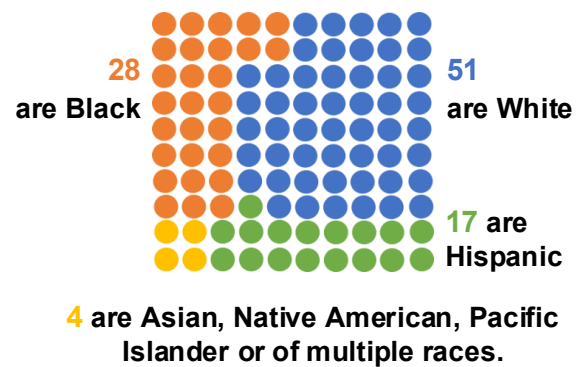
We looked at fertility among women with IDD aged 18 to 45 years, when most women are most likely to have children.

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

Who was in the study?

- Women with IDD who are aged 18 to 45
- They should be in Medicaid, Medicare or both.
- They should be enrolled anytime from 2011 to 2022.

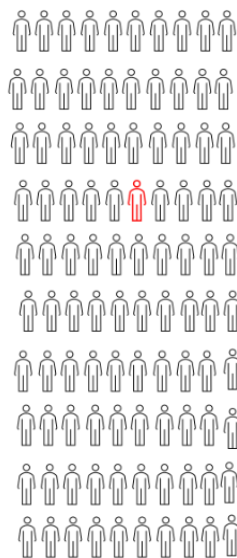
For every 100 women with IDD



What did we find out?

On average, there was **1 baby born for every 100 women with IDD** from 2011 to 2022

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



- 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.

What do the results 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.

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

CONTACT

Corresponding author:
Eric Rubenstein, PhD
erubens@bu.edu

