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Caring for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

A Population Health Framework

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Presenter

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DISCLOSURE

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Big Picture

The core focus of the system of care for people with developmental disabilities should be the goals of each person for their health and their life.

At the same time, the system of care should seek to improve the health of the population of individuals with developmental disabilities **as a whole**.

State agencies have opportunities to monitor population health, make strategies for health improvement, and mobilize community providers, health insurers, and clinical providers to implement them.

Public Health



Institute of Medicine, 1988

Monitoring Population Health

State agencies should be able to answer questions like:

- How often is hospital admission and readmission?
- What are rates of preventable illness and death?
- What percentage of people are receiving recommended preventive health care, such as vaccines?

These can be analyzed by clinical provider, health insurer, and community provider.

Making Strategies for Health Improvement

- If dehydration seems to be a common cause of admission, then a plan can be put into place for policies and actions to prevent dehydration for people at high risk.
- If one particular health plan is seeing higher rates of readmission, a review may be appropriate to understand why and what preventive steps can be put into place.
- If a particular individual or group of individuals seems to be going in and out of the hospital frequently, a case manager can see if additional services may be needed or identify other issues.

Assurance

- State agencies can use data to understand the role of different systems in supporting greater health for people with developmental disabilities.
- Data is a tool for measurement, oversight, and accountability.
- Data can also tell the story of how states can help people with developmental disabilities stay healthy and achieve their goals.