

JUNE 2022 | SUMMER ISSUE

KENTUCKY NATIONAL CORE INDICATORS

THROUGH THE YEARS



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Improving the Quality of Services for People with Disabilities Across Kentucky

BY LAURA BUTLER

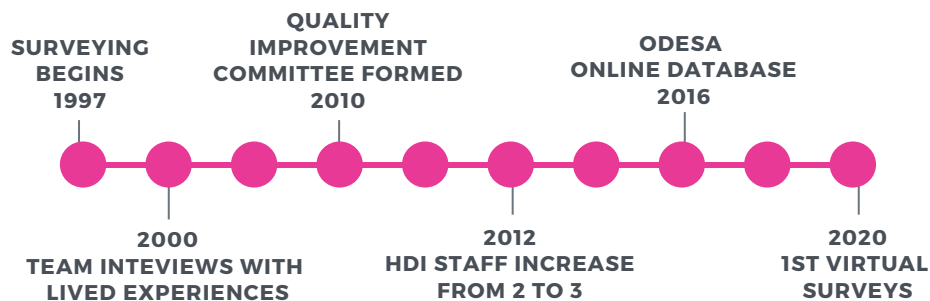
Kentucky was one of the first states to participate in what was then called the Core Indicators Project. A lot has changed since then, including a name shift to National Core Indicators (NCI) but Kentucky's commitment to collecting and using these data has only strengthened. In addition to the in-person survey with people with developmental disabilities,



Milestones from 25 Years of Surveying

KENTUCKY WAS ONE OF THE FIRST STATES TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL CORE INDICATORS (NCI)

Kentucky also participates in mail out family surveys, online staff surveys, and, as of last year, the National Core Indicators Aging and Disability survey. Together, the data from these surveys will continue to help improve the quality of services for people with disabilities across Kentucky for years to come.



In the past decade, the data collected by Kentucky's NCI surveys have been used more and more by state policymakers, service providers, and other leaders who want to understand life outcomes for people receiving state funded services and supports. For example, NCI data demonstrated health and wellness needs for people with disabilities. That led to a series of projects at HDI over the past eight years that not only improved health outcomes, but also provided leadership opportunities for people with disabilities.

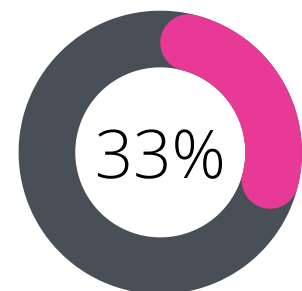
Katie Wolf Whaley, director of the Supported Employment Training Project, said that she uses NCI data, "to frame the need for increased capacity to serve people and the need for providing quality supports to increase the number of people who successfully find employment."

Employees at HDI have also developed several publications and presentations exploring both state and national NCI data points. These include manuscripts about student with intellectual disabilities in higher education, the involvement of people with disabilities in religious services, and the use of datasets such as NCI in public policy decision-making. We also anticipate that NCI data will be used to inform how the COVID-19 pandemic changed the services and supports received by people with developmental disabilities.

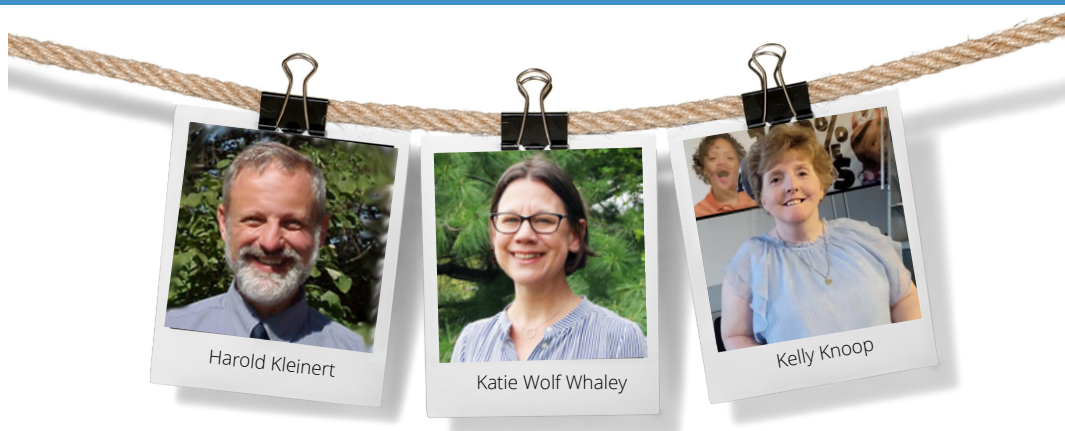
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING WHAT THE NEXT 25 YEARS OF KENTUCKY NATIONAL CORE INDICATORS WILL BRING.

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TOGETHER, THE DATA FROM THESE SURVEYS WILL CONTINUE TO HELP IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ACROSS KENTUCKY FOR YEARS TO COME.



Adults in Kentucky who have a disability



Meet the Quality Improvement Committee (QIC)

In 2010, the Division of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities requested that Kentucky convene a Quality Improvement Committee (QIC). The QIC has met every year since to review NCI and other data in an effort to better understand life outcomes and improve the quality of services for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities in Kentucky. The QIC's broad-based group meets and produces key recommendations to assist the DDID in addressing a variety of issues related to quality. These recommendation reports can be found at <https://www.kentuckycq.org/quality/>.

Dr. Harold Kleinert. As HDI's former Executive Director, I have been on the QIC since its inception. As this is an area of tremendous interest and concern to me, I have been given the opportunity to continue to serve on the committee since my retirement as Director in 2015. I have been pleased that our recommendations have resulted in some important changes in services and supports in our state, and that our work has contributed in at least some ways to improved outcomes for persons with IDD in several core life dimensions.

Kelly Knoop. I have been an advocate for myself and all Kentuckians for many years after my parents taught me the importance of my voice and the work I wanted to do. Serving on the committee to study the quality of life for citizens with IDD and also physical challenges has really meant a lot to me. I am able to share ideas and ways that can and will make a difference. I feel that our work and long discussions have brought about improvements and it shows in our reports. I bring experience from serving on the state and local Self Advocacy boards and also currently serving on the Ky PADD and KySCVR advisory board, and share concerns and ideas to help improve the quality of life for all Kentuckians with different abilities.

Cathy Lerza. I am the Clinical Services Branch Manager for DDID. NCI is one of the projects of the branch. Others are the Supports Intensity Scale and Health Risk Assessments. Risk Management and Waiver Quality Improvement/Performance Measures are also part of the Clinical Services Branch work.

Meg Steinman. I am honored to be a part of the KY Quality Improvement Committee. This committee has wonderful members with many strengths! I am a parent of a daughter who has a developmental disability. I have advocated on behalf of my daughter and others with developmental disabilities for many years. I think it is so important to be sure they can live their lives to the fullest with all the necessary supports. This is one reason this committee is so important. It helps us see the strengths and areas of improvement in the state for this population.

Katie Wolf Whaley. I am on the Committee with a particular interest in Employment. I direct the Kentucky Supported Employment Training Project at HDI, Chair the Kentucky Employment First Council and serve as President of Kentucky APSE. All of these roles allow me to provide training, technical assistance and coordination around quality supports for people with disabilities seeking employment and increasing employment opportunities. I promote Employment First across the state, knowing that while employment may be the first and preferred option for service delivery, it ties into all aspects of life illustrating the importance of the work of NCI and its implications for people's supports and lives.

Jeff White. I joined HDI in 2001, after 20 years in executive management with the Easter Seal Society, as an Area Administrator for the SCL Waiver. In 2004 I became the SCL Quality Assurance Coordinator for Risk Management and in 2008, the SCL Quality Assurance Coordinator for Employment Services, a role I continue to fill. In 2016, I also became the Project Director of the KentuckyWorks PIE grant through UK HDI. I hold Bachelor's Degrees in Business Management and Economics, a Masters of Business Administration, and I am certified as a Community Partner Work Incentive Counselor. I am a member of the Kentucky Employment First Council, a member of Kentucky TASH, and a member of the Kentucky APSE Board of Directors.

OTHER QIC MEMBERS:
HEATHER MCCLURE
TONY LOBIANCO
KATHY SHEPPARD-JONES

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE QIC?

If you are a person with a disability or the family member of a person with disability and are interested in joining the Quality Improvement Committee, please contact Laura Butler at laura.smith2@uky.edu.

Staff Updates

KENTUCKY NCI WELCOMES JOHN C. HILL

John is working on two National Core Indicators projects and the Quality of Life survey project. He has a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education from Ball State University, a master's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati, a master's degree in Community and Leadership Development from UK, and a PhD in Education Sciences from UK. John comes to us from the Kentucky Department of Education and teaches courses at UK in the College of Education and College of Communication and Information.



His diverse work background has allowed him to connect with many community organizations and individuals across Kentucky in which he has provided leadership, support, and engagement. John's passion resides in his aspirations to improve the lives of individuals across the Commonwealth of Kentucky by partnering with like-minded individuals and organizations who share the same vision.

IN MEMORY OF MORGAN CRAWFORD



Morgan Crawford was a long-time and reliable surveyor with the NCI. We are greatly saddened that she was unexpectedly taken from us earlier this year. Morgan's friend Samantha shared that the role of NCI surveyor was an important part of Morgan's life. Morgan was always ready to learn new ways to improve her surveying technique and put a lot of work into practicing new surveying questions. More than anything, she loved sharing a meal with her NCI colleagues and building relationships. Her smile was infectious and she was always quick to laugh. Morgan was an amazing artist and her work has appeared on the covers of several of our NCI data reports. Her work with NCI also led her to become a member of HDI's Consumer Advisory Council which she also chaired.

She will be missed by her family and friends as well as by her colleagues at HDI. She was so much more than a surveyor to us. We were honored to call her a friend.

Resources

KENTUCKY NATIONAL CORE INDICATORS
WWW.KENTUCKYQCQ.ORG

NATIONAL CORE INDICATORS-
WWW.NATIONALCOREINDICATORS.ORG

**NATIONAL CORE INDICATORS-AGING AND
DISABILITY**
WWW.NCI-AD.ORG

**KENTUCKY DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL
AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES (DDID)**
[HTTPS://DBHDID.KY.GOV/DDID/](https://DBHDID.KY.GOV/DDID/)

**HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY**
WWW.HDI.UKY.EDU

HEALTH & WELLNESS
WWW.WELLNESS4KY.ORG

FINANCIAL PLANNING TRUST
[HTTPS://LIFEPLANOFKY.ORG/](https://LIFEPLANOFKY.ORG/)

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

In editing this year's Kentucky National Core Indicators newsletter, I was struck that most of the articles are about the people who do the work of collecting and using NCI data. As we celebrate our 25th year of surveying, that seems very fitting. NCI looks like a bunch of numbers, but as we've discussed time and time again, it's about people and making people's lives better. Behind each number, there is person, there are families. The data are not perfect and they never will be, but we will always strive to do better and be better, so that the services and supports provided to people with disabilities can be the best they can be. Cheers to the next 25 years!

