

You may be working with an individual with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability if....



The purpose of this flyer is to inform professionals working in the criminal justice system about individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. **9-10%** of the criminal justice population has an intellectual or developmental disability; we can avoid further involvement by identifying and aiding them through the system, arrest to reentry, and providing them with the services they require to sustain a successful, law abiding lifestyle. Below is a list of common characteristics and on the reverse side is a more in depth definition of an intellectual and developmental disability.

An individual with an intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD) will...

- have a desire to please authority figures (overly compliant and very trusting)
- be unable to differentiate between abstract or concrete thought (sarcasm, jokes, metaphors, time, etc.)
- may try to hide their disability
- have a short attention span
- have limited interests; may obsess over few topics
- have impaired language/communication
 - become confused when asked to comprehend a lot of information
 - have trouble with expressive language; or making themselves understood
- NOT understand certain social cues or concepts
 - Personal Space; Facial Expressions; Verbal and Non-verbal communication
 - Be teased or bullied by others but still believe that the Bully is their friend
- have repetitive behaviors or patterns of behavior
 - may seem inflexible; have set routines
 - rocks in a chair, pinches, hand flaps, or rubs a part on their body; will appear anxious
- act younger than their actual age

If there is an individual with whom you work, or have observed, that meets some of the characteristics listed above, please contact The Arc of New Jersey's Criminal Justice Advocacy Program at cjap@arcnj.org.

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Definition of an Intellectual or Developmental Disability

A **developmental disability** means a severe, chronic disability that:

1. is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
2. Is manifested before the individual attains age 22;
3. Is likely to continue indefinitely;
4. Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: (i) Self-care; (ii) Receptive and expressive language; (iii) Learning; (iv) Mobility; (v) Self-direction; (vi) Capacity for independent living; and (vii) Economic self-sufficiency.

An **Intellectual disability** is a term used when a person has certain limitations in mental functioning and in skills such as communicating, taking care of him or herself, and social skills. These limitations will cause a child to learn and develop more slowly than a typical child.

The major differences are in the age of **onset**, the **severity** of limitations, and the fact that a person with a developmental disability diagnosis may or may not have a low I.Q. While some people with intellectual disability may also meet the definition of developmental disability, it is estimated that at least half do not meet the requirements for the developmental disability definition.

- Studies show that between **1% and 3%** of Americans has an Intellectual or Developmental Disability.
- An Intellectual Disability is the most common Developmental Disability.
- Common causes occur from genetic conditions, problems during pregnancy, complications at birth, health problems, exposure to toxins, and some causes are still unknown.
- **Severity varies**; no two cases will be the same.
- As adults, some people are able to lead independent lives in the community without paid supports. A small percentage will have serious, lifelong limitations in functioning. However, with early intervention, an appropriate education and supports as an adult, all can lead satisfying lives in the community.

Common Diagnoses of Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities:

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| ◇Autism | ◇Asperger's |
| ◇Downs Syndrome | ◇ADD/ADHD |
| ◇Acquired Brain Injury | ◇Dementia |
| ◇Fetal Alcohol Syndrome | ◇Cerebral Palsy |
| ◇Developmental Delay | ◇Epilepsy |
| ◇Neurodegenerative Disease (Parkinson's or Alzheimer's) | |



The R-word is **hate speech** that reinforces negative attitudes about people with Intellectual Disabilities. Using the R-word is **hurtful**, a form of **bullying**, and a **hate crime**. **The R-word campaign is a movement to stop the word "retard" from being used in everyday language and in media.**

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