



**CA Policy Center**

for Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities

—RESEARCH, POLICY AND ACTION—

# Homelessness and Housing Needs

for Adults Served by the Department  
of Developmental Services and the  
Regional Center System in

# California

**FEBRUARY 2024**





## **The California Policy Center for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

(CPCIDD) is a non-profit, non-partisan think tank established to inform, support, and improve upon statewide policies that impact the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Our focus is to identify priorities and challenges within the IDD community and provide policy recommendations based on research, data, and policy analysis to help inform the community, as well as the policymaking process.

**F**or decades California has faced an affordable housing crisis as home values and rents have become among the highest in the nation. The affordable housing crisis disproportionately impacts people with IDD as the vast majority live on fixed incomes that are at or near poverty level thresholds. As such, affordable, accessible housing is among the top priority issues identified by the IDD community. In this report we seek to provide insight into the current state of housing for adults with IDD who are served by the Regional Center system in California. First, our goal is to identify the number of individuals served by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and the Regional Center system who may be homeless. Our second goal is to estimate the overall housing needs of adults, 22 years of age and older, who are served by the DDS and the Regional Center system. It is important to note that the scope of the report is limited to adults with IDD who are considered homeless, transient, or reside in their own home and receive either independent living services (ILS) or supported living services (SLS), or a community care facility (CCF).

The data used to estimate housing need for the IDD population served by the Regional Center system is largely based on data from 2020-21 National Core Indicators-Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Adult, In-Person Survey (NCI-IDD), 2021-22 DDS Purchase of Service (POS) data, and the June 2023 DDS Consumer Characteristics data. NCI-IDD is a national effort to measure and improve state developmental disability systems. The core indicators are standard measures used across states to assess the outcomes of services provided to individuals and families.<sup>1</sup> The DDS and Regional Centers are required to collect and compile POS data that includes authorization of services,

utilization of authorized services, and expenditures.<sup>2</sup> Consumer Characteristic data is aggregated and deidentified data, from the DDS Master Client File, specific to selected characteristics such as age, gender, residence, ethnicity, and diagnosis.<sup>3</sup>

NCI data is weighted to reflect the relative population size as well as the state sample size. A key principle of NCI is the importance of gathering the information directly from the service recipient so information for the In-Person Survey is collected via direct conversation with the person receiving the services. The California In-Person Survey met or exceeded the minimum sample size (N=400) of individuals 18 years or older who receive at least one publicly funded service besides case management for each of the 21 Regional Centers. A sample size of 400 guarantees statistical accuracy with a 95% confidence level (+/- 5%) which is the statistical significance required to be included in an NCI report.

## **HOUSING OPTIONS FOR ADULTS SERVED BY THE REGIONAL CENTERS**

The Lanterman Act is a set of laws that guarantees services and supports to individuals with IDD and their families so that the individual can live in the community just the same as individuals who do not have disabilities. Although the range of supported living services includes, among many other services, assistance finding, modifying, and maintaining a home, the Lanterman Act does not include paying for housing. In fact, unless an exception applies, there is an explicit prohibition on the Regional Center paying for the rent, lease, or mortgage of a consumer.<sup>5</sup> The vast majority of adults served by

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<sup>1</sup> National Core Indicators, <https://www.nationalcoreindicators.org>

<sup>2</sup> Welfare and Institutions Code 4519.5

<sup>3</sup> Consumer Characteristic Report, June 2023 <https://www.dds.ca.gov/transparency/facts-stats/>

<sup>4</sup> National Core Indicators, 2020-21 In-Person Survey Report [https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/In\\_Person\\_Survey\\_CA\\_Statewide\\_Report\\_2020\\_21.pdf](https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/In_Person_Survey_CA_Statewide_Report_2020_21.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Welfare and Institutions Code 4689 (c)(h) &(i)

the regional center system qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) which is how they pay for their housing costs. Adults served by the regional center system have several different living options including living with their family (family home), family home agency placement (FHA) supported living, independent living, residential care (group home or licensed home) such as enhanced behavioral support homes (EBSH), intermediate care facilities (ICFs), adult residential facility for persons with specialized health care needs (ARFPSHN) and in some circumstances skilled nursing facilities (SNFs). While there are other living arrangements such as community crisis homes (CCH) and Stabilization Training Assistance Reintegration homes (STAR), they are not intended to be permanent placements but rather a time limited stay with intensive supports to help the individual gain (or regain) the ability to live in a less restrictive setting.<sup>6</sup>

A Person-Centered Planning approach, through the Individual Program Plan (IPP) process, is used in making decisions regarding where individuals with IDD will live and the kinds of services and supports that may be needed. A planning team—which includes the individual, family members, friends, regional center service coordinator, and others—comes together to discuss where the individual would like to live and what supports are required to meet the needs of the individual in the living option of their choice. Ideally, the individual and various members of their planning team are able to secure the preferred living option and the necessary supports to maintain the needs of the individual in that setting. However, as will be discussed in the report, the severe lack of affordable and accessible housing seriously limits living options for people with IDD in California.

## HOMELESSNESS AMONG REGIONAL CENTER CLIENTS

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The issue of homelessness within the IDD population is complex as there are some individuals who may have an IDD and have yet to be identified and served by a Regional Center. For the purposes of this report, and the ability to set statistical parameters, we will focus on those individuals who are identified and served by a Regional Center, recognizing that this may substantially undercount this cohort. Based on the 2021-2022 Purchase of Services (POS) data for each of the 21 regional centers there were 675 (unduplicated count) individuals identified as “homeless or transient”, 582 of whom are 22 years of age or older, and 742 individuals were categorized as “other”.<sup>7</sup>

However, there are significant data limitations with regard to determining an exact number of homeless individuals, or families who have children with disabilities, served by the regional center system, because there are no specific definitions associated with the Purchase of Service (POS) data.<sup>8</sup>

For example, the California Civil Code definition of homelessness,<sup>9</sup> and the Housing and Urban Development (HUD)<sup>10</sup> definition of homeless differ significantly such that it could change the number with statistical significance. The main difference is that HUD has four categories of homelessness which include literally homeless (category 1), imminent risk of homelessness (category 2), homeless under other federal statutes (category 3), or fleeing/attempting to flee domestic violence (category 4). **(SEE TABLE 1 FOR DEFINITIONS)**

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<sup>6</sup> Department of Developmental Services, Living Arrangements <https://www.dds.ca.gov/general/eligibility/living-arrangements/>

<sup>7</sup> Department of Developmental Services, Purchase of Service Data <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/purchase-of-service-data/>

<sup>8</sup> Welfare and Institutions Code § 4519.5 [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=4519.5.&lawCode=WIC](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=4519.5.&lawCode=WIC)

<sup>9</sup> CA Civil Code, § 1954.12(b) [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=1954.12&lawCode=CIV](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=1954.12&lawCode=CIV)

<sup>10</sup> Housing and Urban Development, 42 USC §11302 <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/42/11302>

**TABLE 1 | HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, HUD EXCHANGE, DEFINITIONS OF HOMELESSNESS**

<p><b>CATEGORY 1</b> Literally Homeless Individual or Family</p>	<p>An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning that they have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation, or live in a publicly or privately operated shelter (temporary living arrangement), or individual is exiting an institution where they have resided for 90 days or less, and lived in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately prior to entering the institution</p>
<p><b>CATEGORY 2</b> Imminent Risk of Homelessness</p>	<p>An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence within 14 days of the date of application for housing assistance, no subsequent residence has been identified, and the individual or family lacks the resources of support networks need to obtain other permanent housing</p>
<p><b>CATEGORY 3</b> Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes</p>	<p>Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age or families with category 3 children or youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» are defined as homeless under other listed federal statutes</li> <li>» have not had a lease or ownership interest in permanent housing during the 60 days prior to filing a homeless assistance application</li> <li>» experienced persistent housing instability measured as two or more moves within the preceding 60 days, and housing instability is expected to continue for an extended period of time due to special needs or barriers</li> </ul>
<p><b>CATEGORY 4</b> Fleeing or Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence</p>	<p>An individual of family who is fleeing, or attempting to flee domestic violence, has no other residence, and lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing</p>



**The HUD definition of imminent risk of homelessness** is an individual who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence within 14 days of the date they apply for housing assistance, no subsequent residence has been identified, and the individual lacks resources or support to obtain other permanent housing.<sup>11</sup>

Further complicating the ability to ascertain an accurate number is the combining of the homeless and the transient populations in the collection of POS residence data. The term transient can mean very different things depending on the definition used.

The California penal code defines transient as a person who has no residence, and in the context of one who must register or inform law enforcement of changes in the places where they sleep or frequent. Whereas the legal definition of transient is defined as a person who exercises occupancy or is entitled to exercise occupancy for 30 days or less. In addition, the POS data had an “other” category that does not have an accompanying definition, and in some cases is equal to or greater than the homeless/transient individual count. The lack of clear definitions for homeless, transient, or other results in the inability to identify a number with a degree of reliable certainty.

As mentioned above, the aggregated number statewide for individuals with IDD, served by DDS and Regional Centers, identified as homeless or transient is 675 people. The aggregated number for individuals identified as other is 742. It should be noted that “Other” could include residential settings that are not categorized on the Client Development Evaluation Report (CDER), however given that there is not a number that can be identified with a reliable level of confidence the range of individuals with IDD served by DDS and regional centers that could be homeless could be any number between 675 (homeless/transient POS data) + 742 (Other category in POS data) = 1,417 individuals.

## **AT RISK OR HIGH RISK OF HOMELESSNESS AMONG REGIONAL CENTER CLIENTS**

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The POS data does not include a category specific for at risk, or high risk, of homelessness

which is a necessary data point in addressing homelessness and need within the IDD community. It is an important data point because if the data was collected using the HUD definition it would include individuals who were about to become homeless. The HUD definition of imminent risk of homelessness is an individual who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence within 14 days of the date they apply for housing assistance, no subsequent residence has been identified, and the individual lacks resources or support to obtain other permanent housing.<sup>11</sup>

## **SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)/ SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY PAYMENT (SSP) AND HOUSING IN CALIFORNIA**

SSI is a federal program that provides monthly payments to people who are 65 and over, or people of any age who have a qualifying disability or are blind. The 2023 maximum federal grant for SSI, independent living status (which includes ILS and SLS) is \$915.00 per month for an individual and \$1,372.00 per month for couples. California includes a SSP of \$219.73 per month for an individual and \$556.62 per month for couples. The total amount an individual with independent living status may receive is \$1,133.73 per month, and the total amount a couple may receive is \$1,928.62 per month.<sup>12</sup> For the purposes of this section, independent living status is specific to the Social Security Administration (SSA) definition and is not limited to individuals being served by the regional centers under Independent Living Services (ILS).

The Census Bureau measures poverty with two different measures which include the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM). The FPL is a measure of income, based on cash, which is used to determine eligibility for certain means-tested programs and public benefits. The SPM expands on the official FPL to account for food, clothing, shelter, and utilities, however, it does not replace the FPL and it is not used to determine eligibility for any programs. Another poverty measure that is important to consider, particularly as it relates to housing and the cost of living, is the California Poverty Measure (CPM).<sup>13</sup> The three poverty measures all work in a similar fashion in that they each measure a family's (or individual's) economic resources to a poverty threshold that represents the minimum level of resources needed to achieve an extremely modest standard of living.<sup>14</sup> It is important to note that each of the three poverty measures produce different poverty estimates because they each use a different poverty thresholds. **(SEE TABLE 2)**

Unlike the FPL threshold, the CPM is state specific index of poverty modeled after the SPM, that accounts for other expenses including the vast differences in housing cost throughout the state.<sup>15</sup> Since housing costs in California represent a far greater share of family or individual income than they did in the 1960s the FPL (official poverty measure) is not the most accurate measure to determine the actual poverty threshold in California.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Social Security Administration, SSI <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11125.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> Office of Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>

<sup>14</sup> California Budget Center, Guide to Understanding Poverty Measures Used to Assess Economic Well-Being in California. [https://calbudgetcenter.org/app/uploads/2019/08/CA\\_Budget\\_Center\\_Poverty\\_Explainer\\_2019.pdf](https://calbudgetcenter.org/app/uploads/2019/08/CA_Budget_Center_Poverty_Explainer_2019.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> Stanford Center on Poverty & Inequality, <https://inequality.stanford.edu/california-poverty-measure-data>

<sup>16</sup> CA Budget and Policy Center, Guide to Understanding Poverty Measures Used to Assess Economic Well-Being in California, [https://calbudgetcenter.org/app/uploads/2019/08/CA\\_Budget\\_Center\\_Poverty\\_Explainer\\_2019.pdf](https://calbudgetcenter.org/app/uploads/2019/08/CA_Budget_Center_Poverty_Explainer_2019.pdf)

**TABLE 2 | SUMMARY OF POVERTY MEASURES**

	<b>Official Poverty Measure</b>	<b>Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM)</b>	<b>California Poverty Measure</b>
<b>THRESHOLD</b>	Developed in the 1960s, based on costs of food, adjusted for family size and inflation, same threshold across the U.S., updated annually	National data from previous 5 years for typical modest family expenditures (food, clothing, housing, utilities, and necessities), adjusted for family size, local housing costs (compared to national median), renters/homeowners, updated annually	Base threshold & family size identical to SPM, adjust for local housing costs same as SPM for renters and homeowners w/ mortgage, different thresholds are produced for each county, and updated annually
<b>FAMILY MEMBERS</b>	Only counts individuals living in same household who are related by blood, marriage, or adoption	Includes unmarried partners, relatives, foster children, and other co-resident children being care for by the family	Same as SPM
<b>RESOURCES</b>	Only counts cash income (wages, SSI, Cal WORKS, Social Security, etc.)	Counts cash income, tax credits (earned income, child tax credit, etc.) and non-cash benefits for basic needs (Cal Fresh, WIC, school meals, housing voucher, public housing, utility assistance, etc.)	Same as SPM
<b>EXPENSES</b>	Does not account for expenses, cash income is directly compared to poverty threshold	Deducts certain non-discretionary expenses before comparison to poverty threshold (i.e. payroll taxes, taxes, work expenses, out of pocket childcare cost, out of pocket health care cost, and child support)	Same as SPM with minor modifications for work related expenses (smaller for remote workers and those who bike or walk to work)



**The vast majority** of adults with IDD, served by the Regional Center system, rely on SSI/SSP as their sole source of income which **seriously limits their choices** of where and with whom they live.

The current 2023 maximum SSI/SSP grant levels remain below the federal poverty level (FPL) for individuals (\$14,580 annual income) and just slightly above the FPL for couples (\$19,720.00 annual income).<sup>17</sup> The average poverty threshold under the CPM is \$39,900.00 per year whereas the FPL for a family of four is \$30,000.00 per year. While the CPM formula is based on a family of four it is important to note that a higher income threshold would apply to individuals as well. The vast majority of adults with IDD, served by the Regional Center system, rely on SSI/SSP as their sole source of income which seriously limits their choices of where and with whom they live. According to the NCI data 52% of adults with IDD have no choice or input where they live and 62% had no choice as to who they live with.

## **RENT BURDENED & SEVERELY RENT BURDENED AMONG REGIONAL CENTER CONSUMERS**

HUD defines rent burdened as paying more than 30% of the household income in rent and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care. Severe rent burdened is defined as paying more than 50%

of one's income on rent.<sup>18</sup> California has the 4th highest rent in the country making it even more difficult for individuals on SSI/SSP to find affordable and accessible housing. For example, studio apartment rent exceeds one half of the SSI/SSP grant in all 58 counties and is higher than the entire grant in 25 counties.<sup>19</sup> The average one bedroom apartment, based on fair market rent prices (FMR), in 2022 was \$1,969.00 per month with the range being \$703.00 per month (rural Siskiyou County) to over \$3,000.00 per month (San Francisco and Marin Counties).<sup>20</sup> Assuming an individual, who is reliant on SSI/SSP, was able to secure a one bedroom apartment at the lower range of \$700.00 per month they would still be severely rent burdened as they would be paying more than 50% of their income toward rent ( $\$1,133.73/\$703 = 62\%$ ). However, it should be noted that according to NCI data, 97% of adults with IDD live in a more metropolitan area so it is very unlikely that they would secure an apartment at the lower end of the rental range.

A conservative estimate of individuals served by the Regional Center system who are likely to experience being rent burdened or seriously rent burdened is approximately 24,000. We arrive at this number using a combination of data from the DDS data,

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<sup>17</sup> Office of Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services  
<https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>

<sup>18</sup> California Budget and Policy Center [https://calbudgetcenter.org/app/uploads/2019/04/Report\\_California-Housing-Affordability-Crisis-Hits-Renters-and-Households-With-the-Lowest-Incomes-the-Hardest\\_04.2019.pdf](https://calbudgetcenter.org/app/uploads/2019/04/Report_California-Housing-Affordability-Crisis-Hits-Renters-and-Households-With-the-Lowest-Incomes-the-Hardest_04.2019.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> Inadequate SSI/SSP Grants Leave Californians Unable to Afford Basic Needs,  
<https://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/inadequate-ssi-ssp-grants-leave-californians-unable-to-afford-basic-needs/>

<sup>20</sup> Fair Market Rent Data <https://www.rentdata.org/states/california/2021>

Regional Center POS data, and data from the Center on Disability. The assumption is based on adults age 22 and over who currently live in ILS, and SLS (27,745) (-) the percent of people who have housing vouchers estimated to be 13.5%<sup>21</sup> (3,745) = 24,000. The housing voucher estimates are likely higher than actual number as we arrived at that by taking the total percent of housing vouchers issued to individuals with all disabilities in California (27%) and divided that percentage by 50% (as an estimate) to reflect the percentage of individuals with IDD who are served by the Regional Center system. There may be a slight number of individuals who work full-time however assuming that they work at or just above the minimum wage they are still likely to be rent burdened.<sup>22</sup>

In addition to the need for affordable housing many individuals with disabilities need accessible housing. A Housing and Community Development (HCD) 2020 housing stock analysis found that nearly 75% of the state's housing stock was built before 1990 and the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which means that the majority of California's housing stock is likely inaccessible for people with disabilities who use wheelchairs, specialized adaptive equipment, or other mobility devices.<sup>23</sup> The NCI survey found that 25% (nearly 40,000) of adults served by the Regional Center system use a wheelchair or mobility device which would require their residence to be ADA compliant. Among the key findings in the Housing and Community Development (HCD) report is that there

<sup>21</sup> Center on Disability [https://www.centerondisability.org/ada\\_parcs/utills/counties.php?state=CA&table=78&colour=2&palette=3](https://www.centerondisability.org/ada_parcs/utills/counties.php?state=CA&table=78&colour=2&palette=3)

<sup>22</sup> California Budget and Policy Center  
<https://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/rents-home-prices-high-many-parts-california/>

ACCORDING TO NCI DATA,

**97%** OF ADULTS  
WITH IDD

LIVE IN A MORE METROPOLITAN AREA SO IT IS **VERY UNLIKELY** THAT THEY WOULD SECURE AN APARTMENT AT THE LOWER END OF THE RENTAL RANGE.

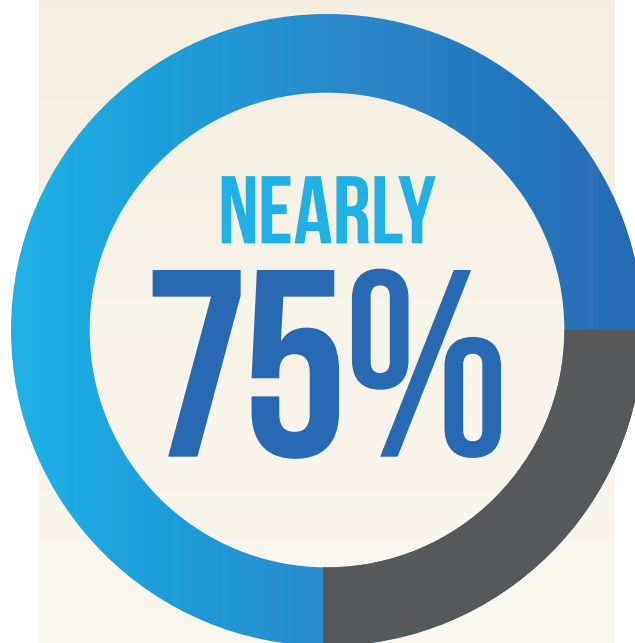


is a serious lack of adequate accessible housing options, specifically for persons with mobility and sensory disabilities, thus severely limiting housing choice options for low-income individuals with disabilities.

## ESTIMATING HOUSING NEED FOR REGIONAL CENTER CLIENTS

According to the 2021-22 POS data there are 144,446 individuals aged 22 and over who reside in the family home (93,906), community care facilities (22,795), or ILS /SLS (27,745). It is important to note that individuals in higher levels of care, such as intermediate care facilities (ICF), state operated facilities, corrections, adult residential facilities for people with special health care needs (ARFPSHN), etc., were not included in the estimated need for housing for this report, though that does not mean that if and/or when they transition out of that higher level of care that they will not need housing. The NCI data found that although 93% of the individuals surveyed reported that they liked the home they live in, 28% reported wanting to live somewhere else, which amounts to 40,444 individuals not living in their preferred living option.

Another factor to consider in estimating housing need for individuals served by the Regional Center system is how many are living with aging caregivers. Living with an aging caregiver is not determinative of an imminent or immediate housing need, however it does increase the risk of housing instability as their caregivers continue to age and perhaps struggle with their own health conditions or pass away. While some families are able to put their home in a trust, or establish a legacy home, many families simply do not have the resources or ability to provide or maintain housing for their loved one for the duration of their loved one's life.



**OF THE STATE'S HOUSING STOCK WAS BUILT BEFORE 1990 AND THE ENACTMENT OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA).<sup>20</sup>**

**The NCI survey found that 25% (nearly 40,000) of adults served by the Regional Center system use a wheelchair or mobility device which would require their residence to be ADA compliant.**

<sup>23</sup> Department of Housing and Community Development, 2020 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/policy-research/plans-reports/docs/final2020ai.pdf>

<sup>24</sup> Centers for Disease Control, National Vital Stats, [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr51/nvsr51\\_01.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr51/nvsr51_01.pdf)

Using the June 2023 Consumer Characteristic data (SEE TABLE 3) and the NCI data we arrive at a range of 27,632–47,058 depending on maternal age at time of birth, and the number of consumers divided by 50% (NCI data for the number of adults living in the family home). For example, if the individual is 32 years old and the mother gave birth at the average age of birth for 1992, which was 28 years old, the mother would be 60 years old in 2024. The average age of birth in 1982 (the individual would be 42 years old) was 26 so the mother would be 68. The average age of birth in 1972 was 24 so the mother would be 76.<sup>24</sup> Though the data has not been controlled for birth order or advanced maternal age and increase rates of disability, assumptions of aging caregivers can still be made based on the average maternal age at birth and the national vital statistics which include assumptions of the father generally being at least 3 years older than the mother.

The determining factor in whether an individual is living with an aging caregiver would be the age set for the caregiver. If we use the age of 60 as the

**TABLE 3 | CONSUMER CHARACTERISTIC DATA**

AGE OF CONSUMER	NUMBER OF CONSUMERS
32–41 YEARS	38,853
42–51 YEARS	21,508
52–61 YEARS	17,749
62 YEARS AND OLDER	16,007

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lowest value in the range we would necessarily have a greater number in relation to need [94,117 total population (.50 NCI factor) = 47,058]. If we use 68 years old as the lowest value, the need would drop to 27,632 [55,264 total population (.50 NCI factor) = 27,632]. Assuming any parental age greater than 68 would be considered an aging caregiver, all other consumer ages greater than 42 fall within the range of need based on a total population of 55,264, thereby leaving the range of need to be between 27,632 and 47,058. ○

## CONCLUSION

**Less than 1%** (582) of the individuals 22 years of age or older, served by the Regional Center system, are categorized as actually homeless or transient. However, data limitations and the lack of clear definitions of homelessness, transient, and other could result in a higher percentage depending on what definition is applied and whether the “at risk” population is included. The larger housing issue facing the IDD community is the lack of affordable and accessible housing. The vast majority of adults with IDD who live in ILS or SLS are rent burdened or severely rent burdened which places them at greater risk of housing instability or homelessness. At least 50% of adults with IDD live with a family member or in the family home, and of those living in the family home up to 50% are highly likely to be living with an aging caregiver.

If we combine the adult homeless population (582), the NCI data on percentage of individuals who want to live elsewhere (28% or 40,444), and the number of adults living with aging caregivers 60 and over (47,058) we can estimate that there are 88,091 adults served by the Regional Center system who are in need or highly likely to need affordable and accessible housing in the near future. The notable limitation related to combining these three data points is that there is likely at least a small percentage of duplication between the NCI data point and the aging caregiver data point.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

**BASED ON THE DATA SETS** that we used there are several data limitations associated with estimating housing need for adults served within the Regional Center system. Below are recommendations that the DDS could adopt to ensure a more accurate count of the number of Regional Center clients who may be homeless, as well as a closer estimate of the actual housing need for adults with IDD served by the Regional Center System.

- 1 DDS should adopt the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of homelessness to ensure a more accurate count of the individuals served by regional centers who may be homeless.
- 2 DDS should clarify the definition of “Transient” and collect data specific to that definition separate from homelessness.
- 3 DDS should clearly define the “other” category for data collection related to residence.
- 4 DDS should include a question on the Client Development Evaluation Report (CDER) related to current housing and whether the current housing is the individual’s preferred living option.
- 5 DDS should include a question on the CDER as to whether the individual has and uses a housing choice voucher (HUD, Section 8), receives any type of housing subsidy, and whether or not the subsidy is temporary.
- 6 DDS should work with stakeholders to define or set an age for “aging” caregiver and include a question on the CDER as to whether the individual is living with an aging caregiver.
- 7 Housing Needs for Regional Center clients should be included in the Master Plan for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

# GLOSSARY

- **Accessible Housing** — construction or modification of housing to enable independent living for persons with disabilities.
- **Affordable Housing** — housing in which the occupant is not paying more than 30% of their gross income.
- **Client Development Evaluation Report (CDER)** — contains diagnostic and evaluation information for persons actively served by the Department of Developmental Services system. Generally, only persons aged 3 and above have a CDER.
- **Community Care Facility (CCF)** — facilities licensed by the Community Care Licensing Division of the California Department of Social Services to provide 24 hour, non-medical, residential care to children and adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities who are in need of personal services, supervision, and/or assistance for self-protection or sustaining activities of daily living.
- **Independent Living Services (ILS)** — training and assistance for adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities to achieve greater independence while living with others or to acquire and maintain living independently.
- **Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD)** — a disability that originates before an individual attains 18 years of age, continues, or can be expected to continue, indefinitely, and constitutes a substantial disability for that individual.
- **Lanterman Act** - This is the California law that says people with developmental disabilities and their families have a right to get the services and supports they need to live like people without disabilities.
- **Legacy Home** — a home that is donated to a non-profit housing organization for the purpose of creating permanent supportive housing for people with IDD.
- **National Core Indicators** — a survey that gives individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families the opportunity to voluntarily and confidentially participate in surveys to share their experiences on access to and use of regional center and community services.
- **Regional Center System** — non-profit organizations that contract with the state Department of Developmental Services to provide or coordinate services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities. There are 21 Regional Centers in California.
- **Supported Living Services (SLS)** — Assists adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities establish and maintain a safe, stable, and independent life in homes they own or rent. SLS helps individuals make meaningful choices toward their personal goals in relationships and the community.



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