

# National Core Indicators (NCI) Background Study

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Integration

*In collaboration with*

**HSRI**

**NASDDDS**

# Introduction

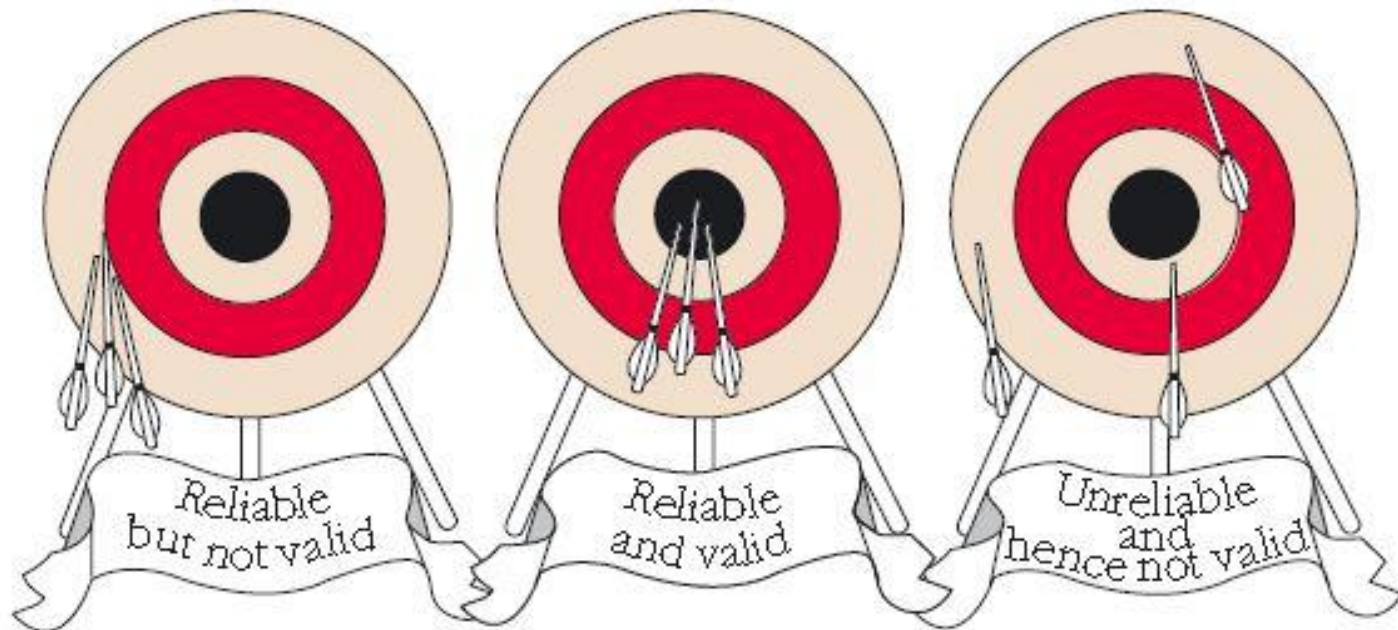


- The study purpose is to:
  - Establish the reliability and validity of 31 background questions (and related sub-questions) from the NCI Adult Consumer Survey (NCI-ACS)
- Working with three participating states: **Oklahoma, Georgia** and Washington state
- Evaluate the different approaches and rigor to background data collection across states

## UMN's Task

- To establish the consistency (reliability) and accuracy and meaningfulness (... validity) of the background data by:
  - Comparing data collected from multiple existing sources by contractors for data collection in each state and UMN
  - Conducting interviews with guardians or staff members (and people with disabilities)
  - Approximately 15 participants per state

# Characteristics of Good Measurement



**Figure 5.1** *Reliability and validity.* (Source: Open University, 1979, Classification and Measurement, DE304, Block 5, The Open University, Milton Keynes, p. 68)

# Why does it Matter?



- If data are **not** reliable and valid:
  - Conclusions we make based on it are not correct
  - Can mislead data consumers
  - We are wasting people's time and money
  - Don't provide useful information to improve services

# Focus: Oklahoma

- Data collection:
  - Data management by a university
  - Data sources:
    - State administrative data
    - Interview with individual or proxy
    - Individualized plan
    - Phone call to house staff or family
    - Interviews conducted by an ICI project staff

# Focus: Georgia

- Data collection:
  - Data management by a non-profit organization
  - Data sources:
    - State administrative data
    - Case manager or provider files
    - Interviews with individual or proxy

# NCI Background Section Areas

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Personal: e.g. Does this person have a legal/court-appointed guardian?

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**Employment:** e.g. Paid individual job in a community-based setting:  
a) Was this person engaged in this activity during the two-week period?

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**Volunteering:** e.g. Unpaid activity in a community-based setting  
a) Was this person engaged in this activity during the two-week period?

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*General Health:* e.g. When was the last time this person had an eye examination/vision screening?

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Mental Health: e.g. Does this person currently take medications for behavioral challenges?

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**Specific Health:** e.g. If female, when was her last mammogram?

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Residential: e.g. Does the person own his or her home?

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Supports: e.g. What amount of paid support does this person receive at home?

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# Results: Reliability



- Compared to other sources, **state administrative data** tended to be most reliable in both states (88% in OK and 96% in GA)
- Data from *phone calls to family/individuals or proxy* as well as *individualized plans* tended to be the least reliable (OK)

## Results: Reliability cont.

- Questions related to **employment** (OK = 90%, GA = 100%), **volunteering** (OK = 100%, GA = 98%) and **specific health** (OK = 93%, GA = 94%) had the highest reliability in both states
- Questions related to *general health* tended to be the least reliable across multiple sources (65% for OK and 84% for GA)

# Results: Validity



- Extent to which different data sources agreed with a consensus (agreed) final answer
- Overall, NCI background data across multiple sources for both states demonstrated good validity
- *Interview with family/individual or proxy as a data collection method and general health as a content area produced the lowest validity coefficients – consistent with reliability findings*

# Summary

- For NCI background section, it is a good idea to rely on existing *state administrative data*
- Be cautious when interpreting data on *general health* of the person with IDD
- Discrepancies between data sources are for various reasons:
  - unclear wording of the questions
  - inconsistent administration of the questions
  - lack of knowledge of the individual
  - individual's lack of ability to understand questions
  - IPs that have not been updated
- These are only preliminary results that will be refined based on additional data!

# Implication and Next Steps

- Determine how each state/ contractor gathers data – what sources are used and how is consensus reached to establish validity for reporting?
- What are the factors that lead to unreliable data?
- Are there questions that we cannot or do not need to ask in the background section?
- If we cannot get reliable answers, we cannot have a valid data.
- Data from WA needs to be added to the results