



Why DDS must track Autism+IDD cases:

- Historically, DDS served individuals with intellectual & developmental disorders (IQ < 70).
- Over the past 20 years, there has been an increase in individuals with Autism+IDD also known as Profound Autism.
- Profound Autism is a behavior-based disorder characterized by self-injurious and aggressive behavior, needing lifelong 24/7 care
- **As a large number of individuals diagnosed with Autism+IDD enter the adult DDS system, day programs, and group homes routinely reject these individuals, saying they do not have the budget to support these individuals. This has become an accepted routine in CT.**
- We formed the CT Chapter of the Profound Autism Alliance to ask that DDS be required to keep track of the number of Autism+IDD individuals currently receiving services.
- Without this information, it is impossible to develop targeted policies or allocate resources where they are most needed.
- DDS might say their reporting system will not accommodate this request. Every person receiving services has a Case Manager who has diagnostic information on their individuals.
- Massachusetts has changed its reporting system so they are able to keep track of Autism/IDD cases, recognizing that these cases are only increasing and require a different level of care. We need to track these individuals so we can develop meaningful support for them
- On the current track, Profound Autism individuals will end up placed out of state or in ER/nursing homes, costing the state far more money than if we address the needs now.

Please require DDS to be accountable and include a specific breakdown for individuals with Autism+IDD. This accountability is essential to ensure that appropriate services and funding can be directed to this population.