

Independent Living Centers in Wisconsin

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About Me

- Worked at Independence First since September 2000.
- Areas of focus included housing, transportation, and accessibility
- Did fee-for-service presentations, assessments, etc.
- Worked often with City of Milwaukee and Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.
- Served on various committees, advisory boards, stakeholder groups, etc. for multiple communities.
- Former Member at Large for National Council on Independent Living Board of Directors.



Who are People with Disabilities?

- Mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, employees, employers, and customers.
- According to CDC, **1** out of **4** people have disabilities – of those with disabilities:
 - Most common is **mobility** (13.7%)
 - Next most common is **cognitive** (10.8%)
 - 10.5% of Americans have a **sensory** disability.
- Non-institutionalized people with hearing loss are estimated to be:
 - 3.6% in USA
 - 3.7% in Wisconsin

People with Disabilities Today

- People born after the passage of ADA (July 26, 1990) are now up to 33 years old.
- The people in the “ADA Generation” are very vocal and insistent about accessibility, equality, and integration.
- Many are social media savvy.



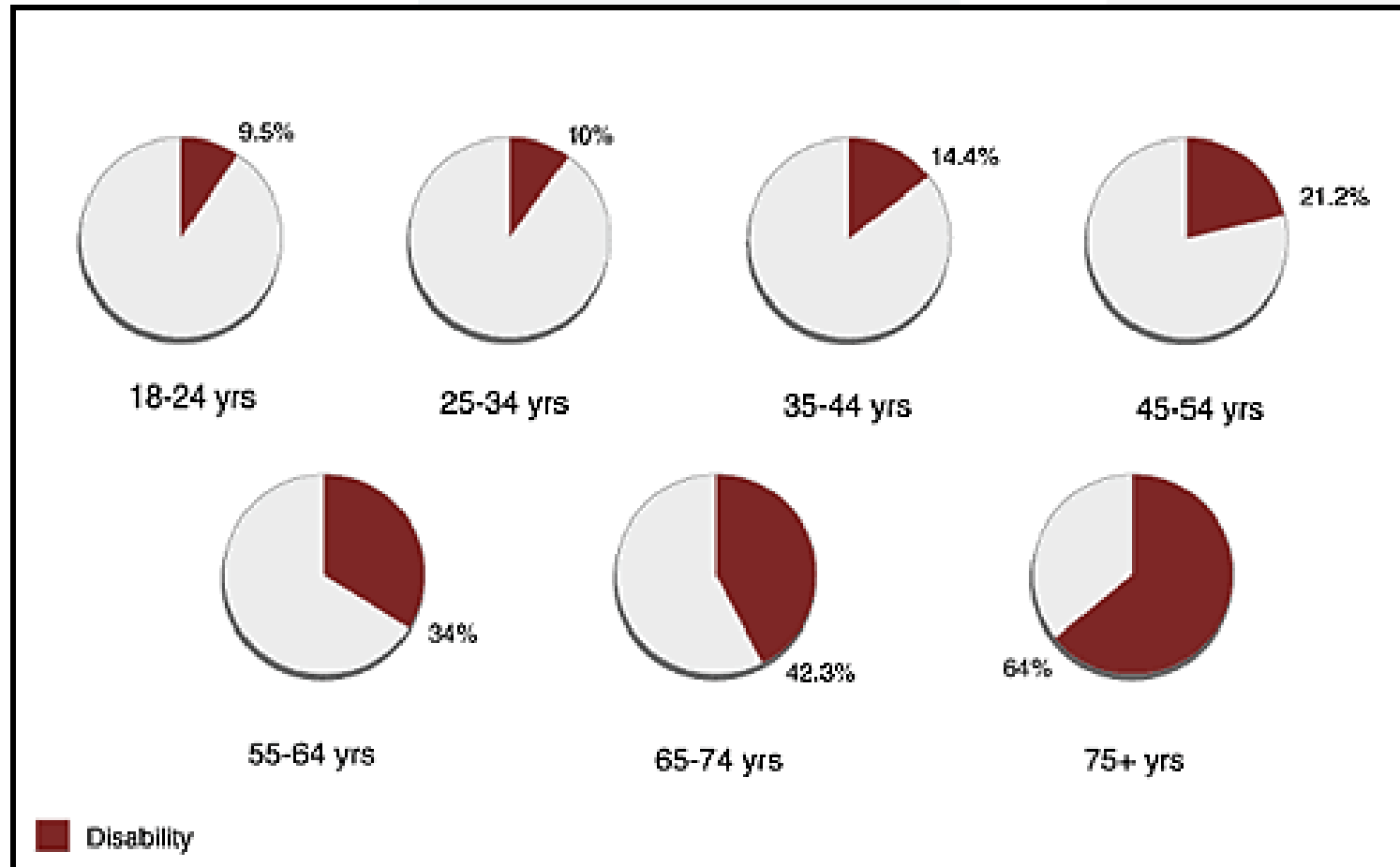
★ ★ We are the ADA Generation ★ ★



*Perspectives on Coming of Age
under the Americans with Disabilities Act*

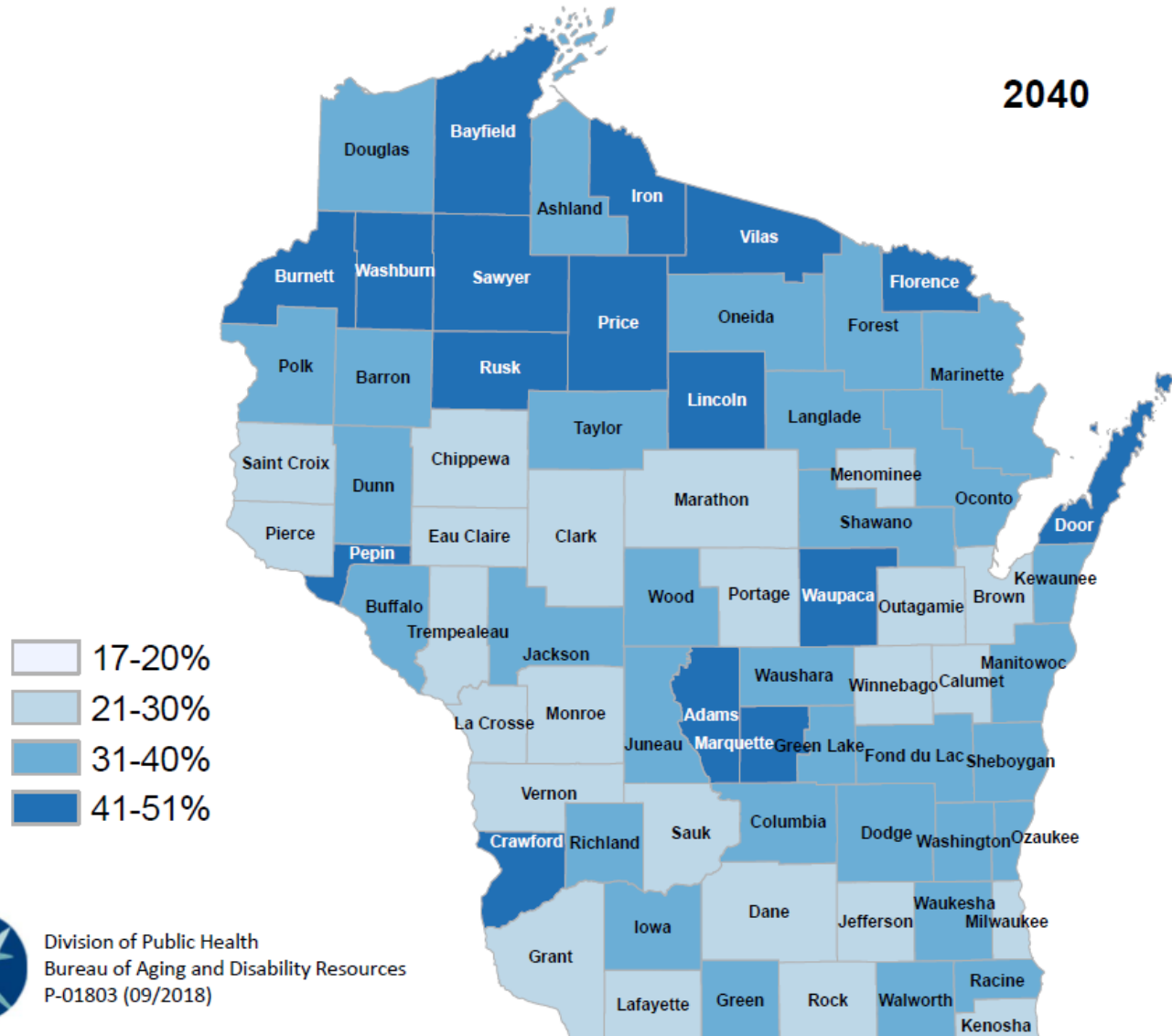
- 73 million Baby Boomers, aged 59-77, are very active and represent approximately 20% of American population.
- Perhaps the first senior generation to be adept with modern communication technology.

Disability and Aging



Source: <http://trace.wisc.edu/docs/function-aging/>

Percent of the Projected Population Ages 60 and Older, 2015-2040



Division of Public Health
Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources
P-01803 (09/2018)

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services, 2010-2040 Population Projections, Vintage 2013



Aging Trends



How will this impact services to the community?

- Multiple disabilities
- Increasing difficulty with communicating
 - Sight/hearing
 - Physical
 - Cognitive
- Paths of travel for people with mobility disabilities

Communities cannot afford to ignore needs of people with disabilities

What does it mean?

Think about everything your community does:

- Hiring & Termination of Employees & everything in between
- Promotional activities
- Outreach (Parks, Health, Elections, etc.)
- Office functions/Interactions with Public
- Municipal Programs & Services
- Website design and content
- Others?

ADA is Built on Disability Rights Movement

(slide 1 of 2)

A series of civil rights laws brought progressively more and more rights for people with disabilities:

- Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) - 1968
- **Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Sections 501, 503, 504, 508)**
- Education for All Handicapped Children Act (1975)
now known as Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons – 1980

ADA is Built on Disability Rights Movement

(slide 2 of 2)

- Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act - 1984
- Air Carrier Access Act - 1986
- Fair Housing Act 1968, Amended 1988 to include PWD)
- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) – 1990, Amended 2008**
- National Voter Registration Act - 1993
- Telecommunications Act– 1996
- Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (2010)

Creation of ILCs

- The first Independent Living Center was created in Berkeley, CA in 1972.
- Students with disabilities at University of CA Berkeley fought to make the university accessible for them, and in process, created a model of what would become Independent Living Centers.
- The model spread nationally within years.



What are ILCs/CILs?

- Independent Living Center (ILC) and Center for Independent Living (CIL) are used interchangeably.
- 8 ILCs in Wisconsin, over 400 nation-wide.
- Created by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- Similar models used throughout the world.
- Wisconsin is somewhat unique in that every county is served by a ILC.
- Many ILCs are federally funded, and also receive state funding, other ILCs receive state funding only.
- Federally, the Administration on Community Living (ACL) is the oversight agency.
- All ILCs are non-profit organizations, with the usual pursue of grants and fundraising.

Programs & Services

- 5 Core Services (free to consumers)
 - Advocacy (Individual & Systemic)
 - Independent Living Skills Training
 - Information & Referral
 - Peer Support
 - Transition
- Business Services (fee basis)
 - Presentations on ADA/Disability Etiquette
 - Accessibility Consultations/Surveys
- Assistive Technology Resource Center
- Many more programs & services!



ILCs in Wisconsin

- indiGO
- Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin
- Midstate Independent Living Choices
- Independent Living Resources
- Options for Independent Living
- Access to Independence
- Independence First
- Society's Assets



ILCs as Part of IL Movement

- ILCs do not stand alone.
- Each state has a State Independent Living Council
 - Wisconsin's is Independent Living Council of Wisconsin (ILCW).
- Some states, including Wisconsin, have a statewide association
 - we have Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers (WCILC).
- Each state has a State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) that is developed through a public process.
- Federal & state funding are channeled through a Designated State Entity (DSE)
 - in Wisconsin, it is Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources.
- ILCs and SILCs are supported by Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU) that provides training & technical support.
- There are two national membership associations
 - National Council on Independent Living (NCIL)
 - and Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL).

Why ILCs Are Unique

- Belief in empowerment and living in community independently.
- We work with people with disabilities – any disability, any age.
- Over 50% of Employees and Board of Directors are persons with disabilities – we are truly grassroots.
- Wisconsin ILCs have a long history of working collaboratively.

Advocacy as Core Service

**Advocacy is a core service
for all Independent Living Centers.**

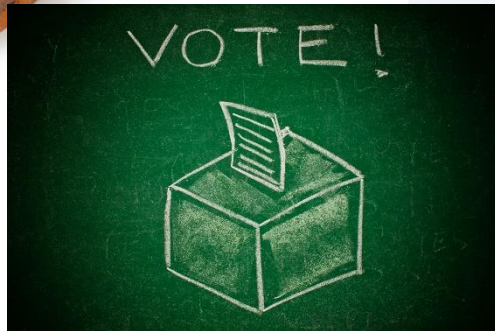
This can mean individual or systemic advocacy.

You may encounter advocates from a ILC.

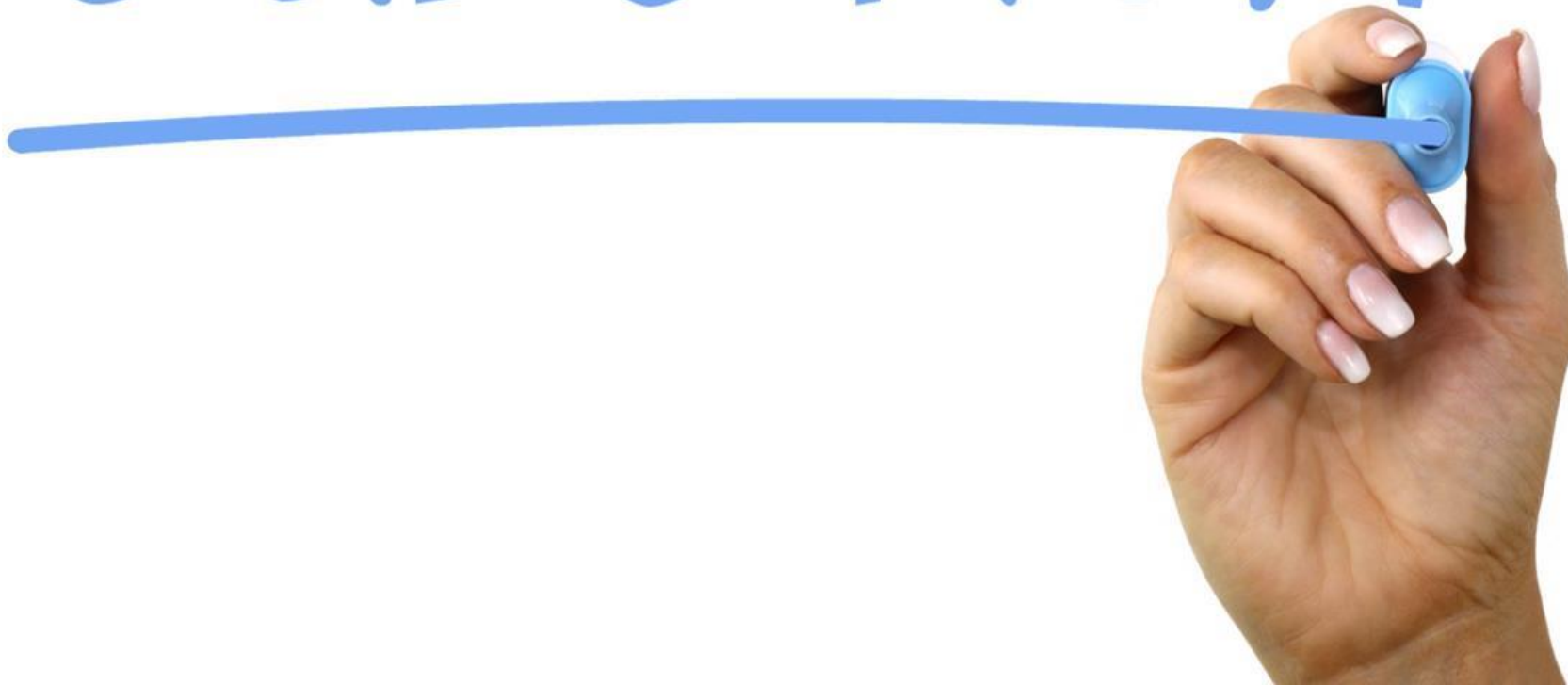
Why Do We Advocate?

If you're not at
the table,
you're on the
menu.

How Can We Work Together?



QUESTION



Resources

- ADA National Network
www.adata.org
- Great Lakes ADA Center
www.adagreatlakes.org
- Online ADA Training Webinars
www.accessibilityonline.org

Contact Information

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