

*Physical Disabilities  
Through the Lifespan*



# International Classification of Functioning Disability and Health (ICF)

July 22, 2003



## State of the Field

David B. Gray - "ICF and Adults with  
Mobility Impairments"

- The ICF represents a new conceptual model of disability which captures contextual factors; environment can limit or facilitate participation.



## Problems/Concerns/Issues

David B. Gray - "ICF and Adults with  
Mobility Impairments"

- Do we measure activity/participation in real-world environments in which people live and work, or in standardized clinical settings?



# Research Priorities

David B. Gray - "ICF and Adults with  
Mobility Impairments"

- ***Constructs of Participation*** which measure importance, choice, satisfaction...and the supports needed
- ***Assess Physiological Capacity*** and interventions
- ***Measurement Systems*** that link capacity measures in rehab settings to measure participation in the lived environment for various impairments



## Research Priorities

David B. Gray - "ICF and Adults with Mobility Impairments"

- ***Studies On Within-Group Variability***, e.g., "successful survivors"
- ***Longitudinal Studies*** that follow persons from rehab to reintegration into community life using ICF-related measures



## State of the Field

Gerry E. Hendershot - "Using Survey Data to Study Aging with a Disability"

- Focus on nationally representative sample surveys and how they can measure changes that occur in the lifelong aging process (e.g., NHIS, BRFSS, MEPS, SIPP, LSOA, WHAS, etc.) using **Longitudinal** studies, **Cohort** studies, **Retrospective Cohort** studies and **Life Table** studies



## Problems/Concerns/Issues

Gerry E. Hendershot - "Using Survey Data to Study Aging with a Disability"

- PWD's less likely to live in households, have phones, be included in surveys. PWD's may not hear, understand Q's, read printed material, formulate answers, or speak. Solutions expensive and ineffective.



## Research Priorities

Gerry E. Hendershot - "Using Survey Data to Study Aging with a Disability"

- **Access** - Need research on survey access in data collection technology, interview training, interviewer incentives
- **Accuracy** - Test validity and reliability measures, do cognitive research
- **Comparability** - Because data from different surveys not comparable due to different measures, devise, code or "backcode" the Q's to ICF domains.
- **Trends** - Next NHIS Disability Survey



## State of the Field

Rune J. Simeonsson - "Adapting a Version of the ICF for Children and Youth"

- The ICF was designed for adults, and the challenge is to ensure that this classification system adequately addresses the dynamic and unique aspects of child development. A distinguished international group headed by Simeonsson and Leonardi has developed a first draft for testing this year. The domains are identical to those in the ICF, and additional codes are used within that structure for age-appropriate codes. It is hoped that a final version will be submitted to WHO in fall 2004 for WHA approval in May 2005.



## Problems/Concerns/Issues

Rune J. Simeonsson - "Adapting a Version of the ICF for Children and Youth"

- Similar to ICF for adults, but fortunately, many old battles will not have to be fought again. Test sites still needed. Translations for 6 official WHO languages will be needed—English, Spanish, French, Russian, Arabic, Chinese.



## Research Priorities

Rune J. Simeonsson - "Adapting a Version of the ICF for Children and Youth"

- Clinical and survey applications
- Development of new ICF-based measures
- Training tools for users
- Crosslink current measures with new ICF-based measures