



SIGNIFICANT GAPS IN RESEARCH FOR FAMILIES OF ADOLESCENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Adolescence is a time of transition and change for everyone. For families of adolescents with disabilities, these changes can be very difficult. More research needs to be done to better understand how families can be supported during this major milestone.



Social Impacts

Are the services that communities have in place for adolescent with disabilities making a difference? Research needs to be done to understand how the design and delivery of services can be most effective for families and the communities they live in.



Siblings

Siblings of adolescents with disabilities often share caregiving responsibilities with parents. More research is needed to understand the impact and dynamics on the sibling relationship during adolescence.



Cultural & Socioeconomic Diversity

In recent studies, 85% of participants were white. Future research must include families who are culturally and socioeconomically diverse.



Family Support Interventions

Every family experiences stress and challenges. Raising an adolescent with disabilities can amplify that stress. It is critical to better understand the effectiveness of current social worker supports and interventions and offered to families with adolescents with disabilities and to identify new evidence-based practices.



Positive Impacts of Caregiving

Most studies focus on negative effects of caregiving on parents of adolescents with a disability. Research needs to be done to better understand the positive aspects of parenting an adolescent with a disability.