

Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR) Timeline

1978		<p>The Rehabilitation, Comprehensive Services, and Developmental Disabilities Amendments of 1978 (PL 95-602), which amended the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, established the Interagency Committee on Handicapped Research (ICHR) within the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW).</p>
1980s		<p>An ICDR working group provided input to standards development for accessibility to the built environment as required by the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968.</p>
		<p>The ICDR created the Interagency Rehabilitation Research Information System (IRRIS), a simple database of active federal research projects, compiled manually.</p>
		<p>The ICDR facilitated interagency agreements between then NIHR and the VA that funded 16 technology development projects.</p>
1980		<p>The Department of Education was spun off from HEW, and with it the National Institute of Handicapped Research (NIHR) and the ICHR.</p>
1986		<p>The Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1986 (PL 99-506) changed the name of the National Institute of Handicapped Research to the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR).</p>
1988		<p>The Handicapped Programs Technical Amendments Act of 1988 (PL 100-630) changed the name of the Interagency Committee on Handicapped Research to the Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR).</p>
1989		<p>Interagency Subcommittee on Disability Statistics (ISDS) employed Dr. Inez Storck to compile statistics requested by federal agencies, which led to a commercial publication, <i>Disability in the United States: A Portrait from National Data</i>.</p>

Event Category Key

 Legislative/Judicial Changes	 Emerging Technologies	 Data Collection and Research
 Accessibility	 Health Disparities	 Stakeholder Input
 TBI Knowledge	 Emergency Management	 Employment

Early 1990s		The ISDS supported the development of the 1994–1995 National Health Interview Survey on Disability (NHIS-D) .
		The ISDS participated in the formal interagency effort to update the 2000 Census and two disability questions were added .
1990	  	The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990 brought attention to the need for policy-relevant data to advance full participation, IL, and economic self-sufficiency.
	 	The Television Decoder Circuitry Act of 1990 required that all TV receivers with picture screens 13 inches or larger manufactured or imported for use in the United States have built-in decoder circuitry to display closed captions.
1995		An ICDR study on the statutory definitions of disability in 50 federal acts and programs found that many different definitions were in use.
		The Public Forum on Disability Research collected consumer input on the research agenda.
1996	 	The Telecommunications Act of 1996 acknowledged the accessibility rights of people with disabilities and amplified the federal government role in addressing solutions through new technology, systems change, and Universal Design (UD).
1998		Congress amended the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 , requiring Federal agencies to make their electronic and information technology accessible to people with disabilities.

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	  	<p>The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 (PL 105-220) reauthorized the ICDR to identify, assess, and seek to coordinate all Federal programs, activities, and projects, and plans for such programs, activities, and projects with respect to the conduct of research related to rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities. WIA also added the requirement to receive input from individuals with disabilities and their representatives.</p>
	 	<p>The Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (PL 105–394) made changes to the authorization given earlier in the year, adding assistive technology and universal design research as a focus for ICDR activities and coordination.</p>
1999		<p>Supreme Court <i>Olmstead</i> decision found that unjustified segregation is a form of discrimination under the ADA.</p>
		<p>The technology working group completed a literature review and then held a conference on wayfinding for persons with visual disabilities.</p>
2000S		<p>The medical rehabilitation working group shifted focus to traumatic brain injury when it became a priority concern due to the increase in combat injuries and sports concussions.</p>
		<p>The ICDR held agenda-setting conferences and completed literature reviews on telecommunications, broad band access, cloud computing and the Global Public Inclusive Infrastructure, and Section 508 implementation.</p>
2000		<p>President Clinton issued a memorandum, directing the ICDR to publish a report identifying priority areas for the advancement of assistive technologies and universal design capabilities.</p>
		<p>The ICDR developed a Web Gateway to consolidate access to existing agency sites.</p>
2001		<p>The International Classification of Functioning (ICF) synthesized the medical and social models of disability.</p>

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The **New Freedom Initiative (NFI)** directed the ICDR to improve coordination of the federal assistive technology research and development. \$3 million was allotted under the NFI for the ICDR to “prioritize the immediate assistive and universally designed technology needs in the disability community, as well as foster collaborative projects between the federal laboratories and the private sector.”

2002



The ICDR began an effort to develop the **Research Manager**, a 508 compliant “portal” that searched four agencies’ (NIH, NSF, NIDRR, AHRQ) public project databases and combined the results in one set.

2003



The New Freedom Initiative working group completed a **review of research on evacuation technologies and UD applications.**



The ICDR sponsored the **Wheeled Mobility and Accessible Transportation Summit** that produced prioritized research needs for safe and accessible paratransit, intelligent transportation systems, and UD.



The ICDR **collected comments from the public on its website** about technology, education, employment, community life, and health care.



President Bush issued an executive memorandum creating an Interagency Working Group on Assistive Technology Mobility Devices, and the ICDR was **tasked to prepare an extensive report that Identified federal, state, local, and tribal programs for AT mobility devices.**



The AT working group sponsored a conference on **Interference to Hearing Technologies by Digital Wireless Telephones** at Gallaudet University to address the lack of usability of digital cellular phones by both hearing aid users and cochlear implant wearers.

2003 -
2005



The ICDR conducted **36 focus groups across the country with people with disabilities on their AT needs.**

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2004



The ICDR produced a catalog of studies using the **International Classification of Functioning (ICF) model**.



President Bush issued Executive Order 13347 establishing the **Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness & Individuals with Disabilities (ICC)**. ICDR reviewed the literature and sponsored a two-day conference on **Emergency Evacuation of People with Physical Disabilities from Buildings** involving federal agencies, first responders, building safety experts, evacuation device manufacturers, people with disabilities, and mobility device and human factors researchers.



The ICDR worked with the Department of Commerce to design a **survey of the AT industry and conducted two focus groups** with representatives of the AT industry.

2005



The Senate Report 108-345 (Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill, 2005), in appropriating funds for NIDRR, **required the ICDR to report on existing federal research activities related to physical rehabilitation research**.



Six disability questions were accepted into the American Community Survey (ACS).

2006



The ICDR organized the meeting ***Employer Perspectives on Workers with Disabilities: A National Summit to Develop a Research Agenda***, designed to bring the business and research worlds together. NIDILRR and the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) responded through funding research in line with the recommendations from this meeting, specifically related to partnerships, knowledge translation, and employer-side research.

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The ICDR addressed early cognitive technologies by cataloguing current federal research projects, completing a literature review, and holding a **two-day national forum to share information and innovative ideas about the state of the science in assistive and accessible technologies.**



The ICDR held **two focus groups with U.S. military veterans and a public stakeholder meeting** that informed the ICDR agenda on veterans' issues, including TBI and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

2007



The ICDR hosted ***The Research Roundtable***, a working meeting of federal agencies designed to shape a more specific employment research agenda.



The ICDR participated in **Healthy People 2010 planning activities** and the newly formed **Federal Collaboration on Health Disparities Research (FCHDR) Workgroup** managed by NCMHD. The ICDR conducted a survey of active health disparities research projects.



The ***Emergency Management Research and People with Disabilities: A Resource Guide*** was published reflecting a joint effort by NIDILRR, ED, the ICC Research Subcommittee, and the ICDR NFI working group.

2008



The ICDR held a conference, ***Strengthening the Intersection of Demand-Side and Supply-Side Disability Employment Research: Toward a Coordinated Federal Research Agenda***, in order to inform their five-year disability employment research agenda.

2009



The **Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH) of 2009** was passed, the ICDR played a key role in bringing accessibility issues to the table during the implementation process.

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2010		The ICDR hosted listening sessions and an expert panel on health disparities and disability and held health disparities discussions as part of its Health, Disability and Technology State of the Science Conference.
		HHS established data collection standards for disability designating the ACS disability questions as the minimum requirement for surveys.
2011		The ICDR established a formal working group on health and health disparities.
2012		The ICDR co-sponsored the HHS 2012 Summit on the Science of Eliminating Health Disparities and secured five disability-related sessions on the agenda that were well-attended.
		The Federal Interagency Traumatic Brain Injury Research Informatics System (FITBIR) was established to develop a biomedical informatics system and data repository for TBI research using common data elements. Numerous agencies are collaborators, including ICDR member agencies.
2014		The passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) (PL 113-128) resulted in the move of NIDRR (and subsequently ICDR) to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), under the Administration for Community Living (ACL). ACL's emphasis on independent living was infused in both NIDRR (now the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR)), and the ICDR.
2015		The ICDR collaborated with the DOT Accessible Transportation Technologies Research Initiative (ATTRI) . The ICDR provided input into the planning and user profiles proposed by DOT and cosponsored a Roundtable on Accessible Transportation Technologies Research, which addressed the need for interagency collaboration to advance accessible transportation research.

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The ***Disability and Employment Symposium: Research Informing Practice and Policy*** included approximately 150 researchers, practitioners, policymakers, advocates, students, consultants, and others interested in disability and employment issues. The symposium focused on employer perspectives and recommendations were provided on promoting the use of research among employers and practitioners.



The ICDR cosponsored a large conference on health information technology (HIT), leading to **collaboration with the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) at HHS, the lead agency for HIT.**

2017



NINDS, NCMRR and NIDILRR contributed funds for the NIH Library to **create disability portfolio analyses using the Federal RePORTER system** to meet the ICDR inventory objective.

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