

Disability Health Action Summit Schedule



The Arc
Pennsylvania

An In-Person
Event on:

March 19, 2025

at the Sheraton
Harrisburg Hershey
Hotel

Advancing
Health Equity
for People with
Intellectual and
Developmental
Disabilities

The Arc of
Pennsylvania Hosts
the 2nd Annual

**Disability
Health
Action
Summit**

Topics Include:
Assistive Technology
Behavioral Health Equity
Healthcare Accessibility
and more!

Register Here:
<https://thearcpa.org/healthsummit>



2025





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What are the Oral Health Challenges?

Barriers to assistance and support for Persons with Disabilities

Inadequate funding and research

Shortage of adequate human resources/workforce

Inappropriate policies and institutional frameworks

Inadequate and unresponsive services

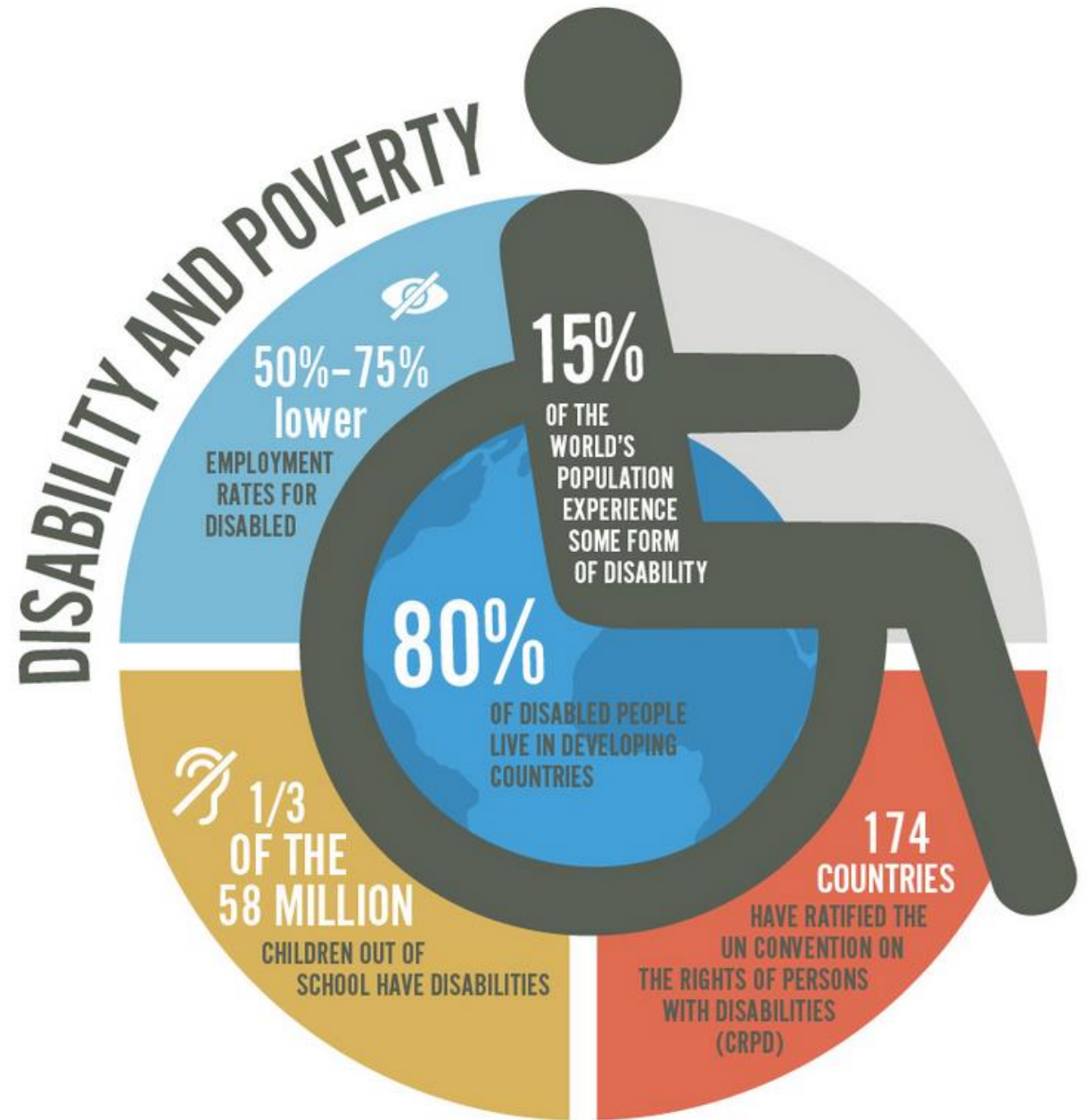
Poor service coordination

Deinstitutionalization without adequate support services

Lack of proper medical attention and medical record-keeping

Approximately 1.3 billion people or 16% of the population has a significant disability

Global report on health equity for persons with disabilities: executive summary. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2022.
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What is disability?

Defining the problem:

- A physical, mental, cognitive, or developmental condition that impairs, interferes with, or limits a person's ability to engage in certain tasks or actions or participate in typical daily activities and interactions.

These conditions may be:

- developmental or acquired
- intellectual or physical

It is estimated that.....

Disability and COMMUNITIES



Disability is especially common in these groups:

2 in 5

adults age 65 years and older have a disability



1 in 4

women have a disability



2 in 5





Non-Hispanic American Indians/ Alaska Natives have a disability



Disability and HEALTH



Adults living with disabilities are more likely to

	With Disabilities	Without Disabilities
 HAVE OBESITY	38.2%	26.2%
 SMOKE	28.2%	13.4%
 HAVE HEART DISEASE	11.5%	3.8%
 HAVE DIABETES	16.3%	7.2%

People with disabilities have the same general health care needs as others

But they are:

2x

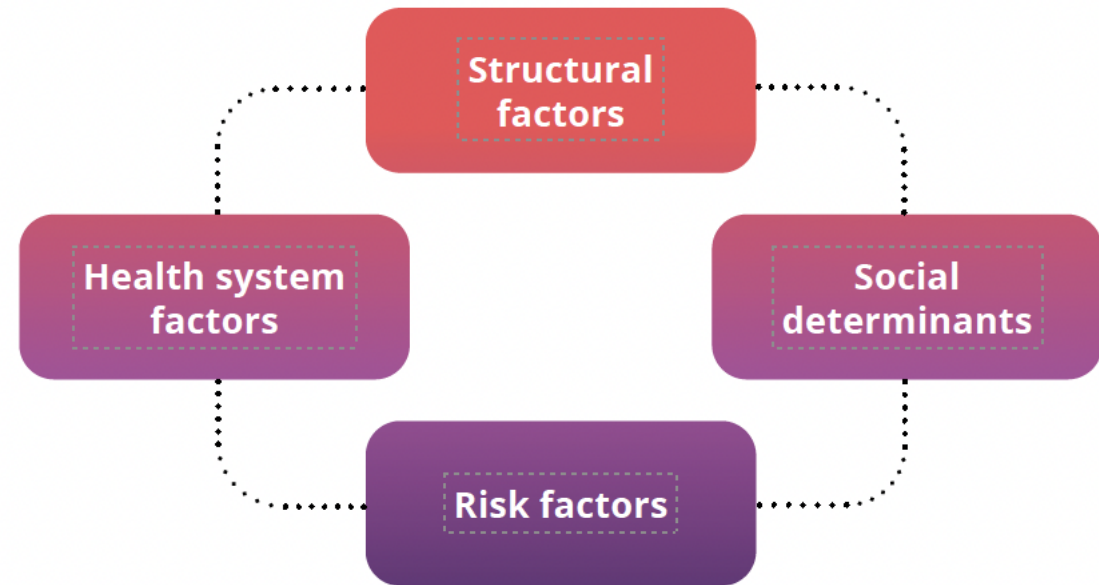
more likely to find health care providers' skills and facilities **inadequate**

3x

more likely to be **denied** health care

4x

more likely to be treated **badly** in the health care system



Global report on health equity for persons with disabilities: executive summary. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2022. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO

History of Disability Rights

Willowbrook State School

Willowbrook Consent Decree-1975



History of Disability Rights

Willowbrook State School

Built in the 1930's

Housed as many as 6000

Developmentally Disabled

Often residents were caged and
received no therapy

Residents were enrolled in clinical studies without permission

Residents were often abused, left dirty, unfed and without therapy



People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD)



People with I/DD experience poor dental hygiene, obvious signs of tooth decay and significantly more mouth pain than adults without disabilities.



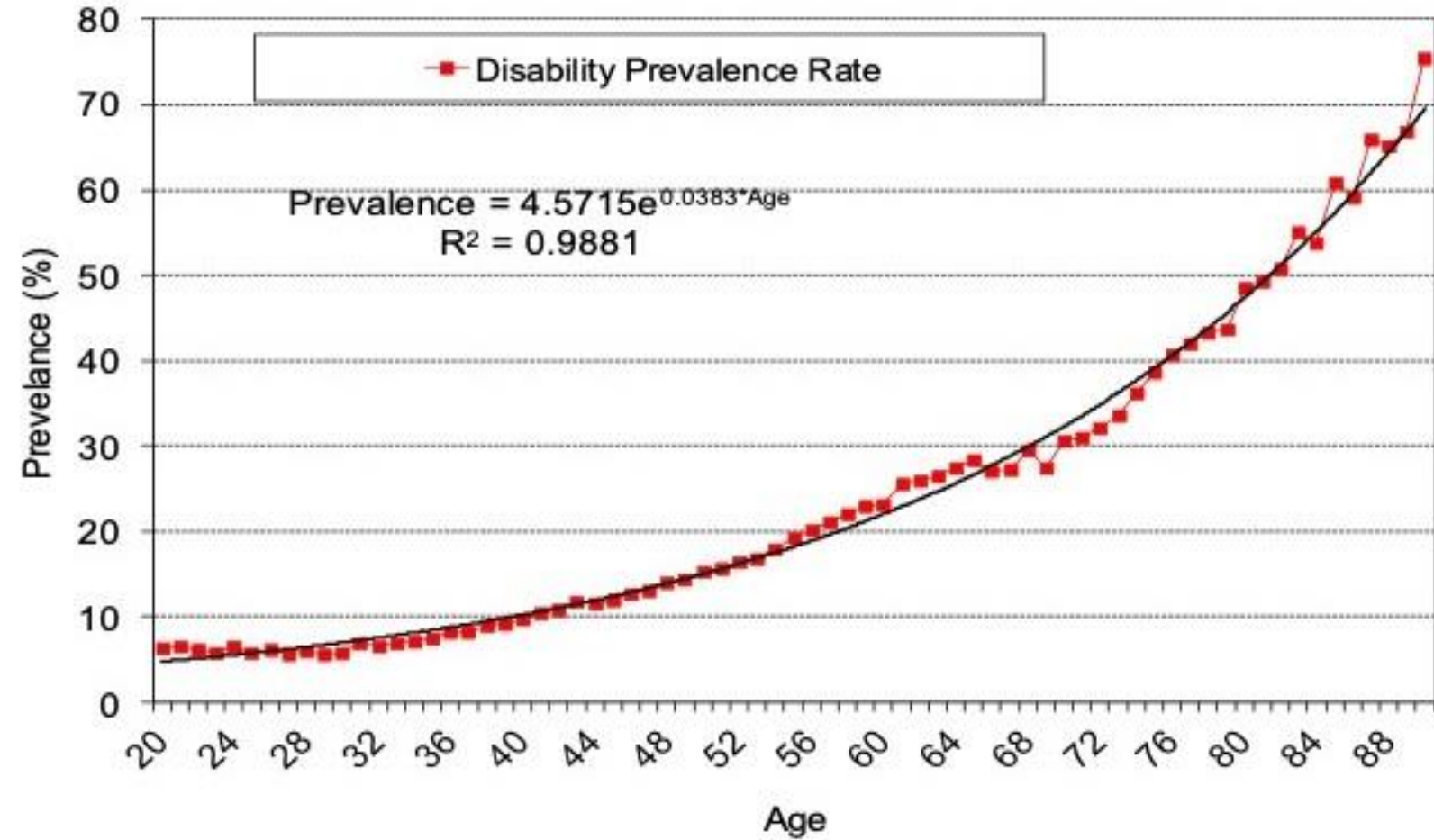
Individuals with I/DD were more likely than those in the No Disability group not to have had their teeth cleaned in the past five years or never to have had their teeth cleaned.

<https://www.ncd.gov/publications/2009/Sept302009#exesum> Accessed Nov 9 2021

The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Improve the Health and Wellness of Persons with Disabilities.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK44665/#vision.goal1>

Growing number of individuals with physical, intellectual and developmental disabilities of all ages



Where do people with intellectual or developmental disabilities live?

Over 75% of people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities live with families.

More than 25% of family care providers are over the age of 60 years and another 38% are between 41-59 years

What does a 10-year-old boy with Autism become when he turns 21?



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Ineligible for fluoride treatments in many states



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Ineligible for dental coverage in many
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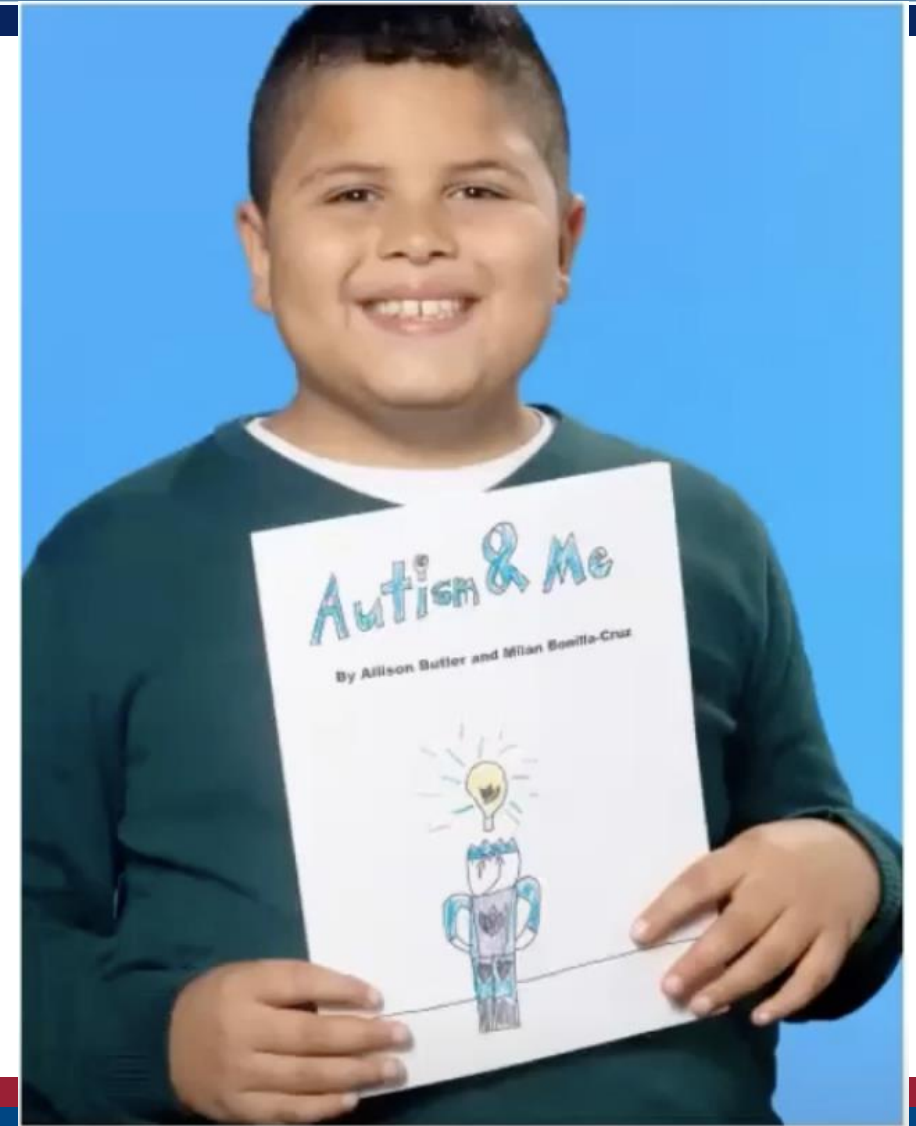


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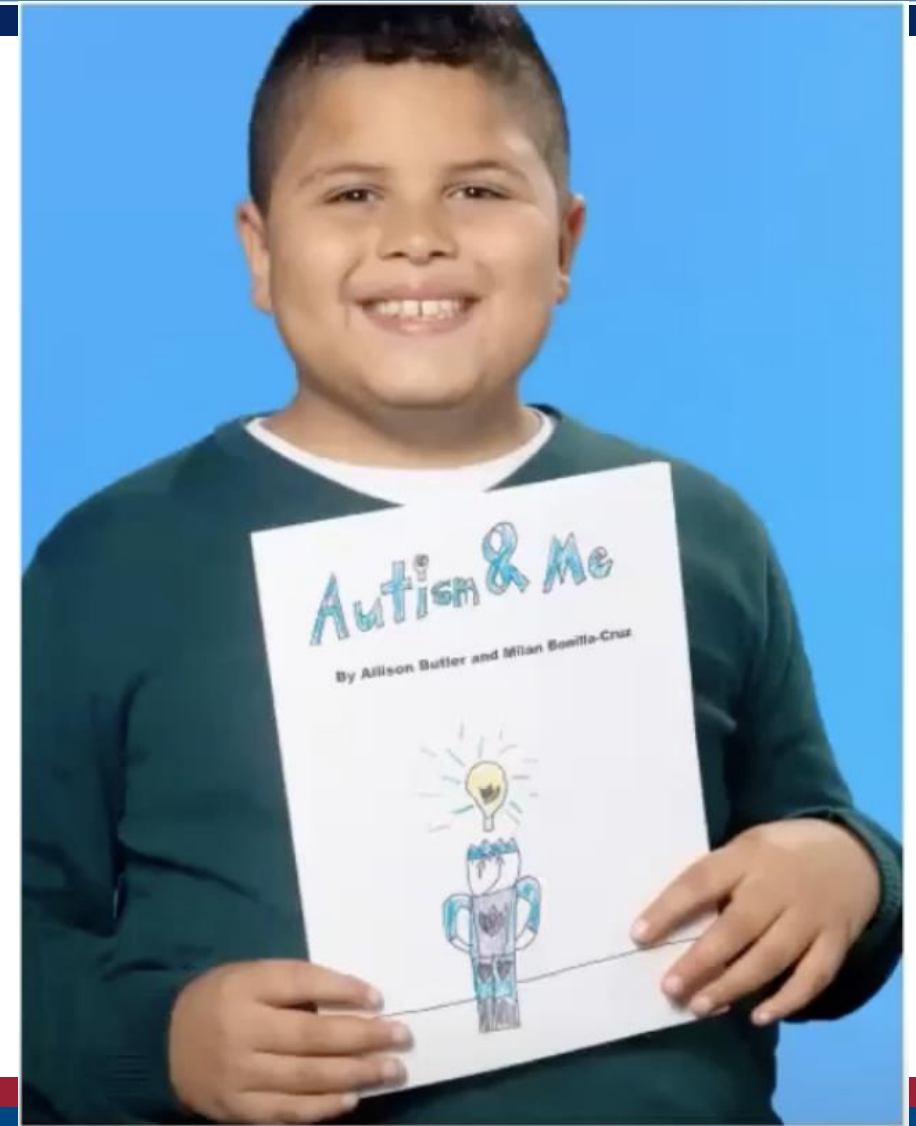
Unable to find a treating dentist



What does a 10-year-old boy with
Autism become when he turns 21?

What is missing?

Research data on health outcomes
Advocacy for better oral health
Education programs for
dentists/hygienists and caregivers



What are the Oral Health Challenges that Prevent Oral Healthcare?

Medical conditions may result in delays in care...

Patients frequently can not tolerate any procedure....

May result in poor treatment choices...

Operating room/sedation is frequently the the only treatment offered...

Expensive, Taxing on Healthcare Resources, Ineffective!

Serial operating room/sedation care...is not prevention/care

What are the Oral Health Challenges?

Limitations in Activities of Daily Living

Medications

Lack of Insurance/Financial Difficulties

Availability of Facility

Severity of Disability

Caregiver Dependence

Difficulty finding a dentist

Persons with Disabilities are facing Unprecedented Challenges!

Inadequate policies and standards to protect, provide support, and evidence-informed health services.

Lack of consultation and involvement of the community

Lack of funding for necessary care and caregivers

Lack of data and evidence- Research resources are being reduced

Trust in Science is at its lowest level in history

Disinformation, misinformation and conspiracy theories



**Equal Employment
Opportunity
Commission**



National Institutes of Health
Turning Discovery Into Health



Penn
Dental Medicine
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

A method of addressing disability?

Is it a disability...

or a need for
accommodation?

Care Center for Persons with Disabilities

- Focus on preventing, reversing and arresting disease through evidence-based interventions in-office and at-home.
- Focus on education for every graduating dentist that develops skills in prevention, primary care and maintaining oral health without being dependent on sedation and general anesthesia for the person with a disability.
- Provide oral healthcare for patients with disabilities AND their caregivers that sustains health through the lifetime.
- Generate the scientific literature, educational material and educational programs for dental educators, dentists, students, patients and caregivers.
- Provide ongoing continuing education for dentists, hygienists, patients, caregivers and the health professions.



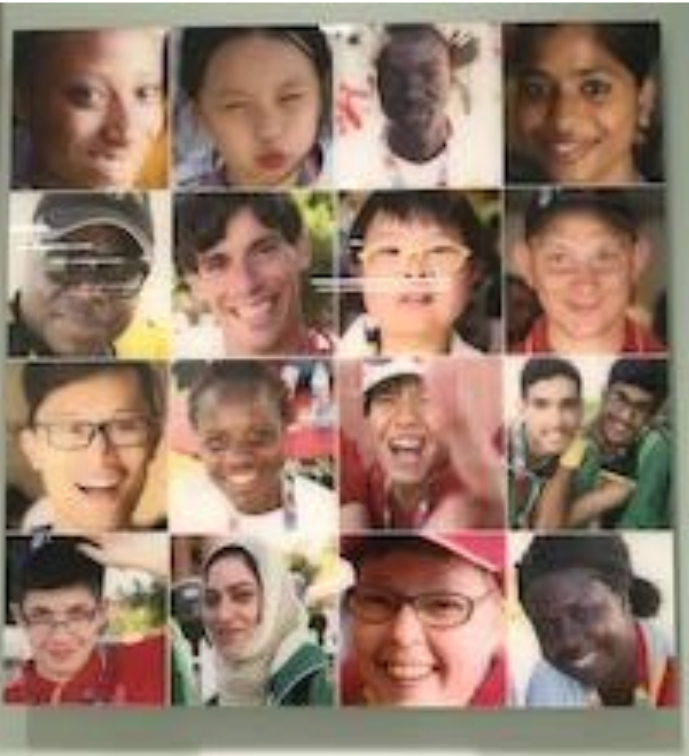
Care Center for
Persons with Disabilities

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES PRESENTATION SERIES

<https://www.dental.upenn.edu/continuing-education/online-classroom-2/center-for-persons-with-disabilities-presentation-series-2/>

Care Center for Persons with Disabilities

Thank you!
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Photos by POSITIVE EXPOSURE



HOURS: M-F 8am-5pm
Phone: (215) 898-8965