

Deaf-Blind Census

The U.S. Department of Education mandates that the ND Dual Sensory Project staff conduct a census of children ages birth through 21 who are deaf-blind. This census is conducted annually, and the information is used for regional, statewide, and national planning to develop appropriate services and funding for infants, children, and youth who are deaf-blind. Data are collected on the ages and co-occurring conditions of the children, along with information about their educational placements, access to statewide assessments, current living settings, and access to and use of assistive technology.

Project staff use the information to make decisions about trainings needed, technical assistance to be provided, and issues on which to advocate for the educators, families and children. For example, if a large portion of the census is children in transition to post-secondary services, project staff could provide training on creating effective transition plans, on strategies for accessing the general education high school curriculum, or methods for employment skill development.

The census information is kept confidential and non-personal identifiers are used in the information that is sent to the National Center on Deaf Blindness. To see the previous reports, go to, <https://www.nationaldb.org/info-center/national-child-count/> .