

Ask Me! Summary of Findings



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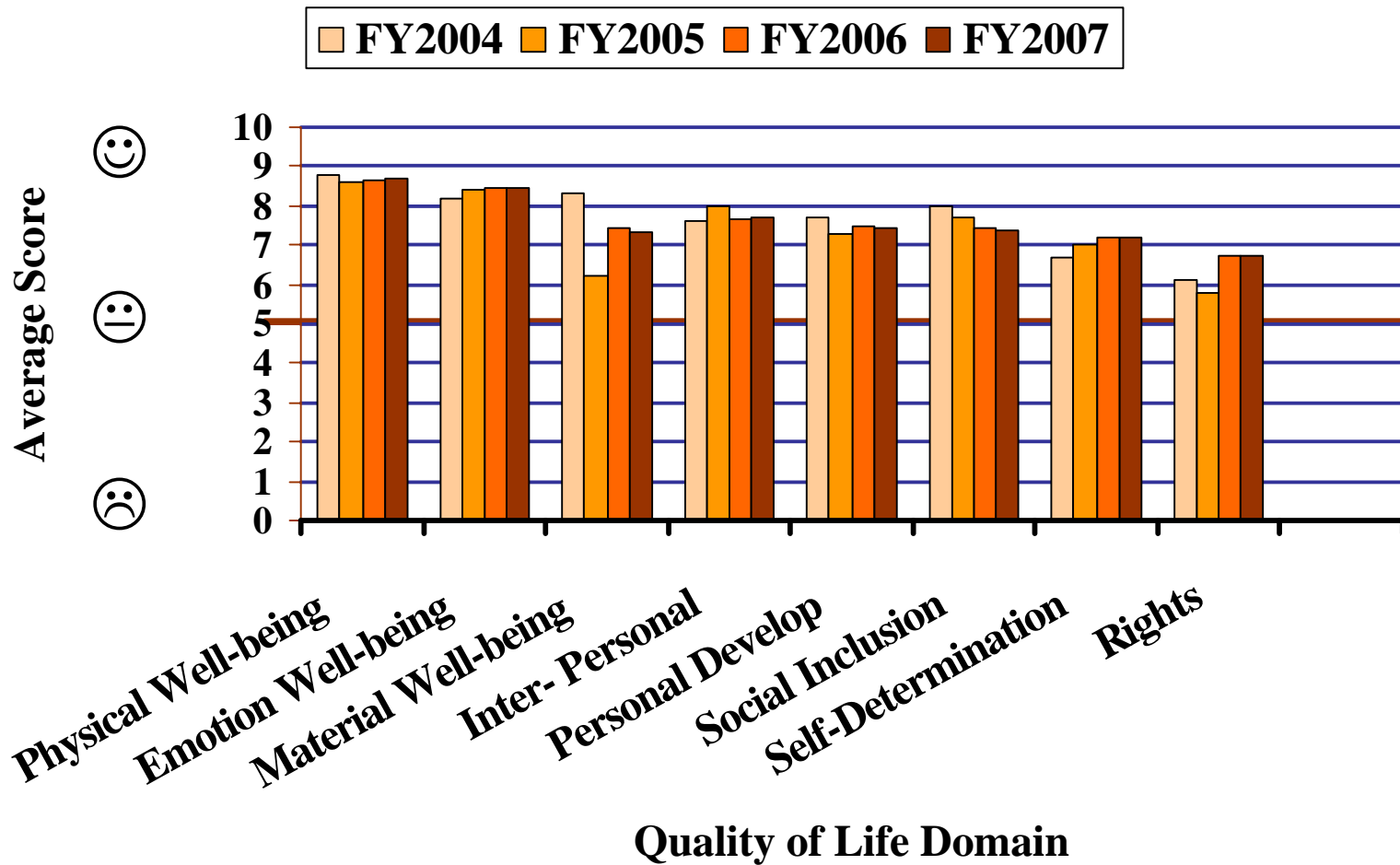
The Arc of Maryland



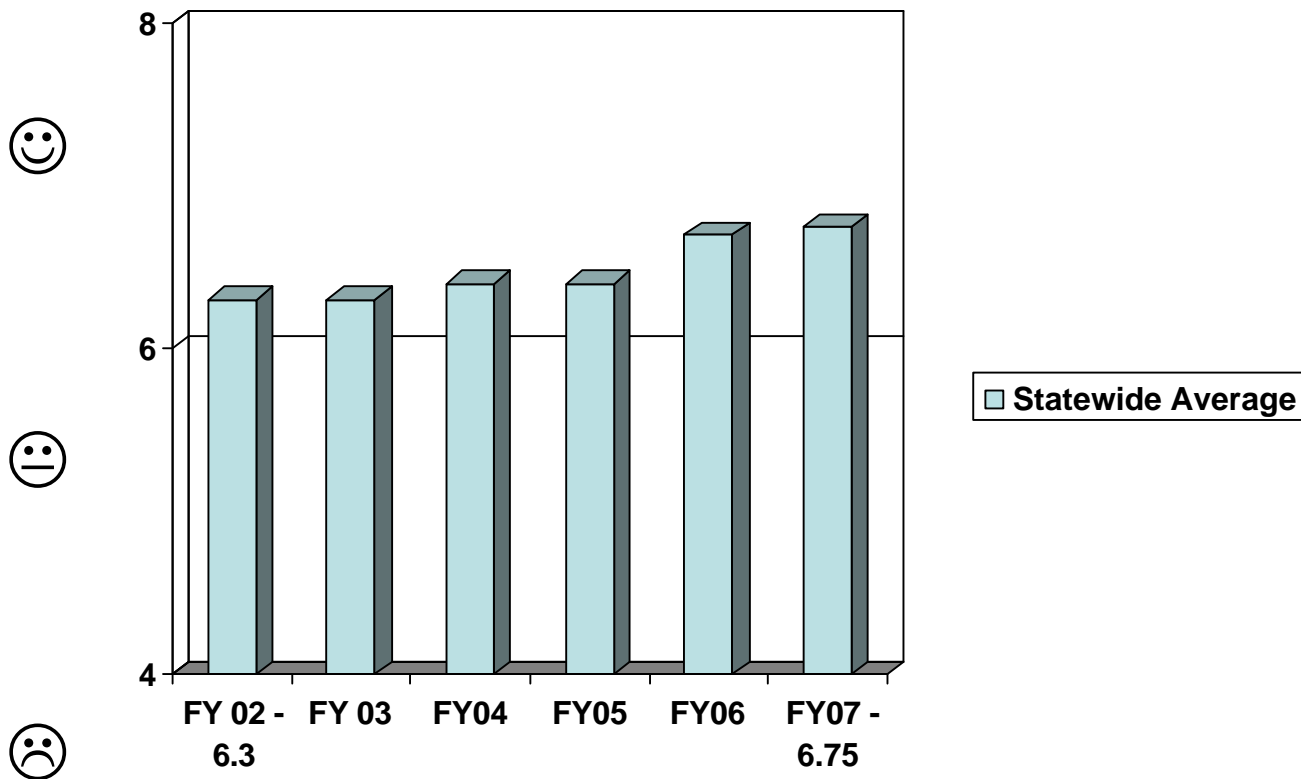
Ask Me! is...

- A statewide survey funded by the Developmental Disabilities Administration and managed by The Arc of Maryland (View entire annual report at www.ddamaryland.org)
- A survey of, and by, people with developmental disabilities about their quality of life – a “peer to peer” interview

Quality of Life Year by Year Comparison



Rights – The lowest overall scores, but has increased significantly between FY02 and FY07



What does it really mean that the Rights domain is low?

- 39% of people interviewed, say that a staff person does not always ask permission before entering their room
- 41% of people interviewed, say they cannot always lock the bathroom door
- 34% of people interviewed cannot always talk on the phone in private
- 28% of people interviewed cannot always spend time alone if they want
- 39% of people interviewed say it is not always easy to say something when there is a problem with a staff

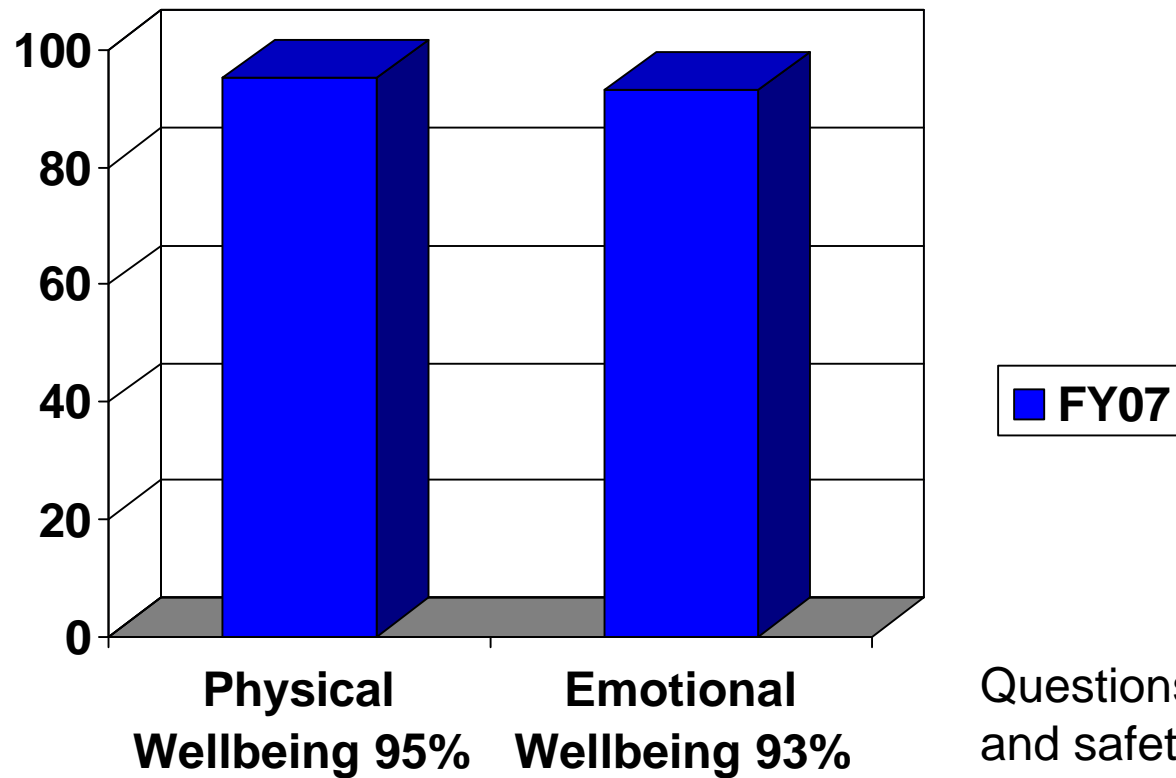
Consideration 1: Continue to focus on rights and self determination where opportunities for improvement are greatest.

Challenge: What can Community Provider Organizations do to focus on issues, like the following:

- Spending time alone
- Choosing job and who to live with
- Having privacy
- Expressing problems to staff



Physical and Emotional Wellbeing have highly positive responses

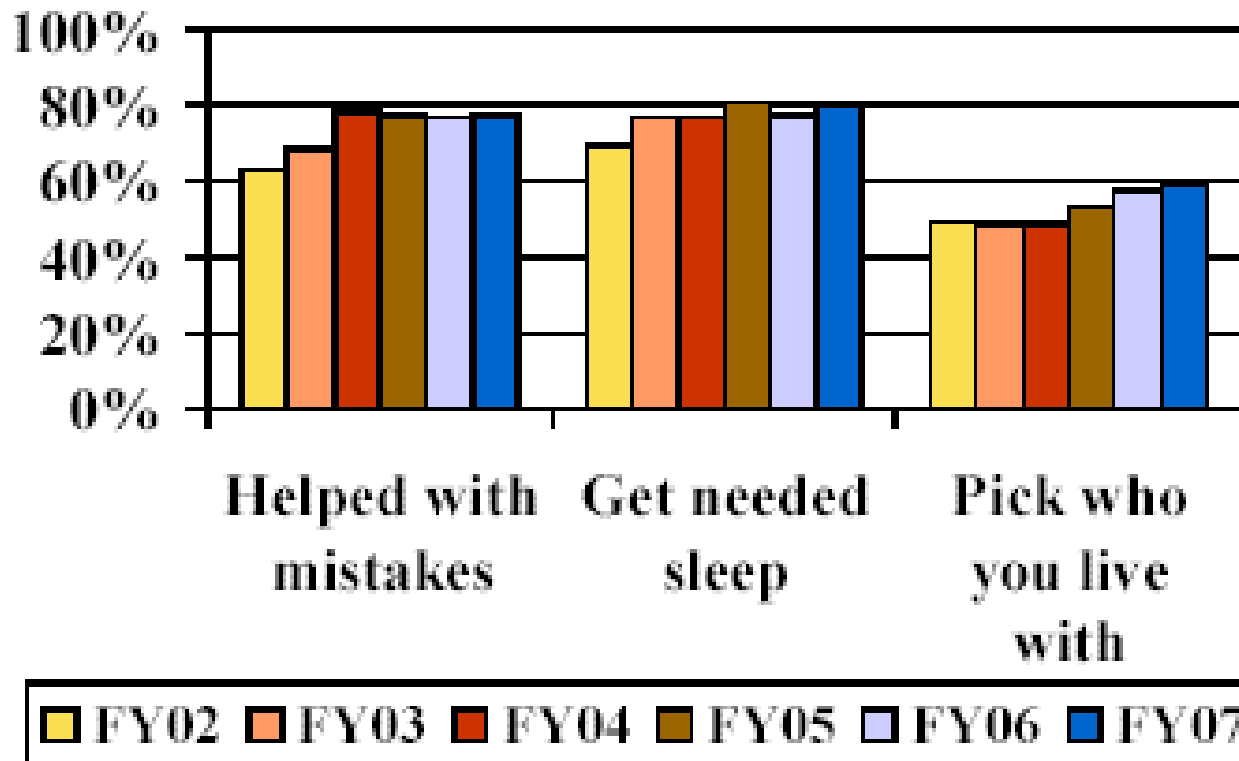


Questions regarding health and safety are under the Physical and Emotional Wellbeing sections of the survey, which both have positive responses over 90%.

Consideration 2: Remain Vigilant that quality of life does not decline in the other six domains.

Challenge: Community Provider Organizations may want to look at their individual Ask Me! scores and look for any themes to be addressed in the other six domains. **Can be good to add these goals to your Quality Assurance Plan!





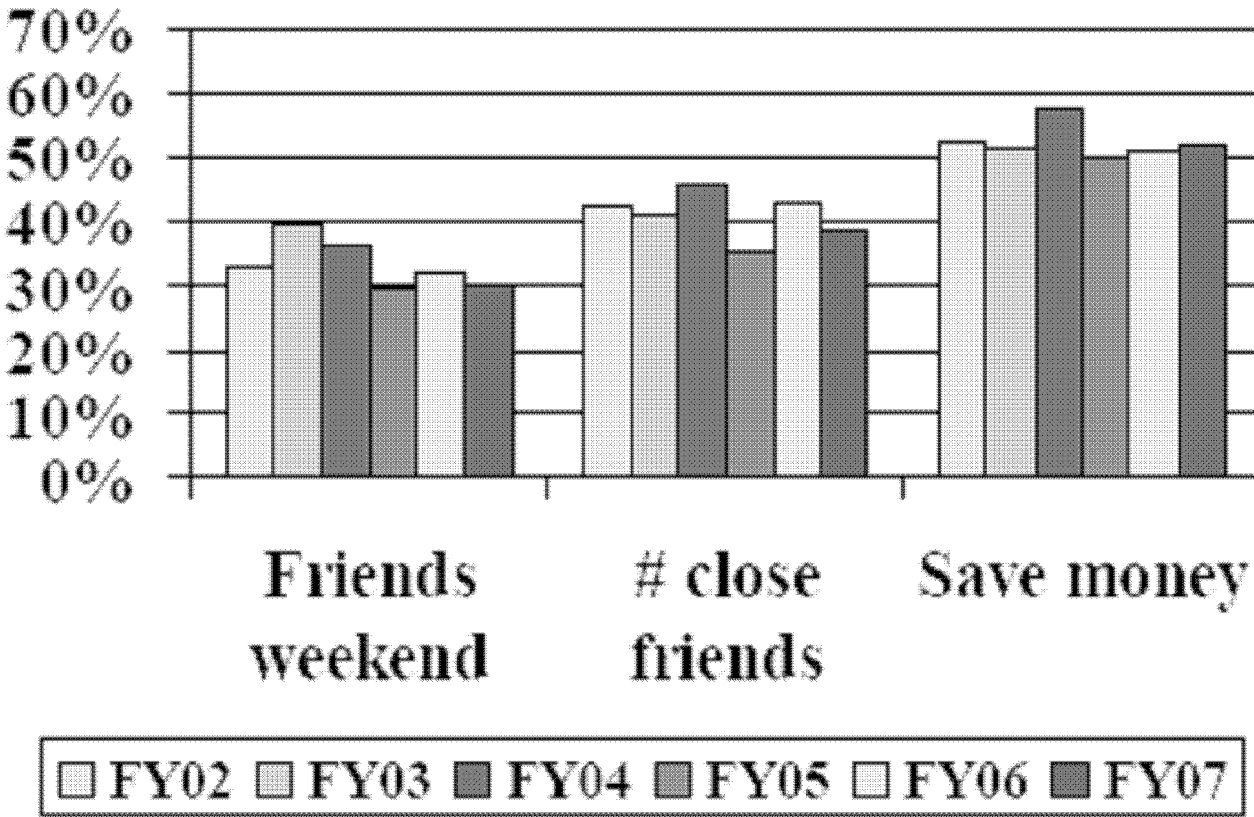
The three questions that increased most in favorable responses between FY2002 and FY2007 suggest specific ways that Community Provider Organizations are enhancing quality of life.

Consideration 3: Believe that system wide and agency-specific efforts can enhance people's quality of life, while recognizing that they do not determine them.

Challenge: Goal setting by both Community Provider Organizations and the DDA as a whole can improve quality of life.



Questions with negative change



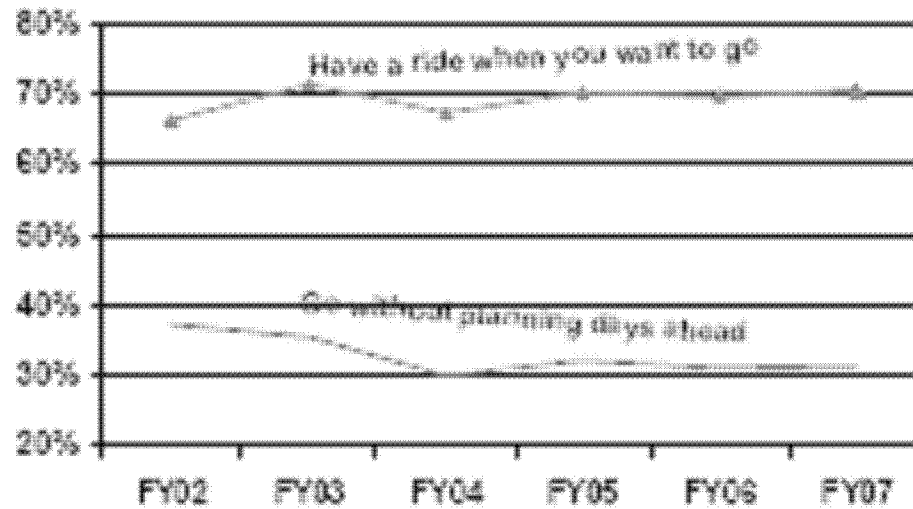
Lack of friendships and visiting friends remains a problem.

Consideration 4: Help people develop friends and be with their friends on weekends.

Challenge: In tight budget times with high transportation costs, how can Community Provider Organizations creatively support people to make and maintain relationships?

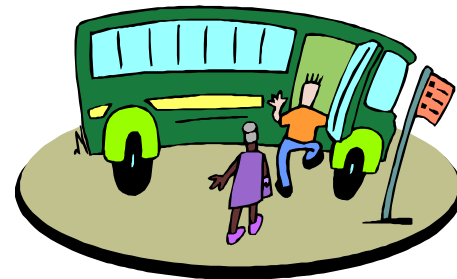
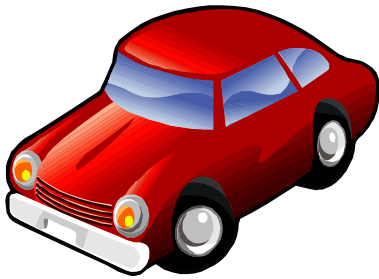


Transportation availability changed in opposite directions



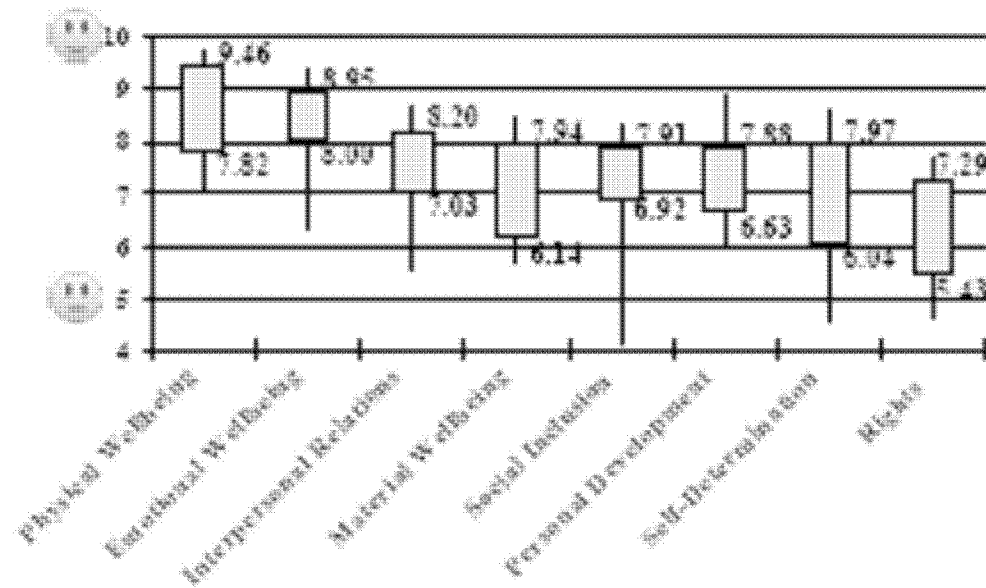
People's perception of having a ride increased slightly while being able to go without planning decreased.

Consideration 5: Continue to help people have rides they can depend on when they want to go somewhere and incorporate public transportation wherever possible.



Challenge: Is your Community Provider Organization encouraging the use of public transportation in situations where it is possible? Are individuals you support involved with transportation planning in the county?

Quality of life differs among agencies, very positive at some but negative at others



Consideration 6: Agencies should review what the people they support say about their quality of life—levels, trends or lack of trends. People with disabilities and their families should ask potential support agencies what they are doing to enhance quality of life.

Challenge: How does your Community Provider Organization use the information found by Ask Me! interviews