

## FACTORS THAT IMPROVE THE LIFE EXPECTANCY OF SEVERELY DISABLED INDIVIDUALS

With ongoing optimal medical care, severely disabled individuals:

do not use alcohol, illegal drugs, and do not smoke  
cigarettes;

will not engage in reckless automobile driving which causes  
accidents;

will not be subject to gang violence;

have their general health monitored closely, in particular  
blood pressure, and glucose and cholesterol levels;

have their diets monitored to maintain ideal body weight, thus  
avoiding all of the complications of obesity which is  
decreasing the life expectancy of the general population.

These factors do have a significant negative impact on the life expectancy of the general population. Thus, disabilities also provide protective factors.

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