

### **Objectives of the SCIMS program**

Through SCIMS research, NIDILRR seeks to:

1. Improve the quality and utility of disability and rehabilitation research
2. Foster an exchange of expertise, information, and training to facilitate the advancement of knowledge and understanding of the unique needs of traditionally underserved populations
3. Determine the best strategies and programs to improve rehabilitation outcomes for underserved populations
4. Identify research gaps
5. Identify mechanisms of integrating research and practice
6. Disseminate findings.

### **Objectives of the SCIMS Database**

One of the NSCISC's major priorities is continual refinement and improvement of the Database. Within the scope of the SCIMS program, the purposes of the Database are as follows:

1. To study the longitudinal course of traumatic spinal cord injury (SCI) and factors that affect that course.
2. To identify and evaluate trends over time in etiology, demographic, and injury severity characteristics of persons who incur a SCI.
3. To identify and evaluate trends over time in health services delivery and treatment outcomes for persons with SCI.
4. To establish expected rehabilitation treatment outcomes for persons with SCI.
5. To facilitate other research such as the identification of potential persons for enrollment in appropriate SCI clinical trials and research projects or as a springboard to population-based studies.

The Database is not intended to study the effectiveness of model systems care as compared to other systems of health care delivery. It is also not by itself intended to gather and maintain population-based data on spinal cord injuries.