

# DHERN December 2024 Newsletter

## DHERN Announcements

1. [Register now](#) for the Paper Award winners' presentations! Join us on Zoom, Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 2:00-3:00pm ET, when each awardee will share a summary of their paper.
2. [Recordings from the 2024 DHERN Conference](#), "Moving Disability Measurement Forward," are now live!
3. Share your recent publications, upcoming events, job opportunities with the DHERN community! To contribute to the next newsletter, please send the following details to us at [dhern@jh.edu](mailto:dhern@jh.edu) by the 28th.
  - Name:
  - Email address for contact:
  - Details (for event or opportunity, include a brief description no more than 3 lines with dates and necessary links; for publication, include the full citation and an abstract):
  - Link for more information/publication:

## Opportunities

- **JOBS**
  - a. [American Association on Health and Disability Short Term Project Coordinator](#)
    - The American Association on Health and Disability (AAHD) is recruiting a contractor to serve as a Project Coordinator for a current evaluation project at AAHD. Based on current funding and needs, a project coordinator is needed with an anticipated start date of January 6, 2025 through July 31, 2025. Presently, there are no plans for this position to extend beyond July 2025. The Project Coordinator will report directly to the Principal Investigator (PI) and Director of the project (Anjali J. Forber-Pratt). To apply, submit a letter of interest and a resume or CV to Anjali J. Forber-Pratt, Ph.D. at [aforberpratt@aahd.us](mailto:aforberpratt@aahd.us) by December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
  - b. [The Lurie Institute for Disability Policy seeks postdoctoral fellow in disability and health research](#)
    - We invite applications from qualified candidates for a two-year postdoctoral fellowship. Advanced training is available under the mentorship of the nationally recognized faculty of the Heller School for Social Policy and Management. Qualified candidates are invited to join a community that thrives on rigorous research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and supports the mission of knowledge advancing social justice. We highly encourage candidates who identify as disabled to apply

for the fellowship program. The fellowship is individualized to meet the professional interests and goals of individual fellows.

- We are seeking candidates who are committed to a career in disability and health research, with prior research and training in the field, have an outstanding academic record, and who have received or will receive a doctoral degree by the appointed start date. Applicants with earned doctorates in public health and epidemiology, economics, public policy, social work, and sociology are particularly encouraged.

c. **Assistant Professor of Education (Rehabilitation and Human Services) Tenure Track Opportunity at Penn State**

- The Department of Educational Psychology, Counseling, and Special Education (EPCSE), located in the College of Education invites applications for a tenure-track faculty member, whose research examines social and racial determinants of health and disability. The Rehabilitation and Human Services (RHS) program educates and trains practitioners with applied knowledge and skills to improve quality of life, affect positive change, and facilitate life goals for persons with disabilities and associated social determinants of health. We seek candidates that can excel in teaching applied undergraduate courses in human services and have an associated research agenda. See attached flyer for more.

d. **[The Ohio State University Nisonger Center Postdoc Opportunity](#)**

- The Ohio State University Nisonger Center offers a postdoctoral research training opportunity in community-engaged disability research with the autistic and/or intellectual and developmental disability community. Funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), this program provides two-years of funding to partner with the disability community to answer research questions that matter to the disability community. In addition to community-engaged research opportunities, fellows are mentored by Susan M Havercamp, PhD, Katie Walton, PhD, and other interprofessional faculty. We are committed to increasing the diversity of researchers in the disability field and strongly encourage candidates with disabilities and diverse racial and ethnic identities to apply.

• **CALL FOR PAPERS**

a. **[Frontiers in Reproductive Health](#) Special Issue**

- We are currently welcoming submissions of original research to the "Bridging the Gap: Improving Reproductive Healthcare for Patients with Disabilities" special issue research topic in *Frontiers in Reproductive Health*, Guest Edited by Lindsay M. Cannon and Monica Woll Rosen. Manuscript submissions are due April 8, 2025. We invite those with interest in submitting a manuscript to submit a summary by December

19, 2024 (not required). [Details on the research topic and submission guidelines can be found here](#). Reach out to Lindsay Cannon (lmcannon@wisc.edu) with questions.

b. [BMC Health Services Research](#)

- Currently welcoming submissions of original research to the “Improving care for people with disabilities” Collection, Guest Edited by Dr Linda Long-Bellil. [Submissions due](#) until the end of 15 March 2025, but if you are unable to submit a manuscript before this date, please let us know as we may be able to be flexible. [Submission guidelines here](#). Authors should express their interest in the Collection in their cover letter.

### [Disability Data Equity Research Working Group](#) Featured Article

- Scott D Landes, Bonnielin K Swenor, Jean P Hall, [Performance of the Washington Group questions in measuring blindness and deafness](#), Health Affairs Scholar, Volume 2, Issue 11, November 2024, qxae131
  - a. The Washington Group Short Set (WGSS) questions are intended to measure the severity of disability and disability status in US federal surveys. We used data from the 2010–2018 National Health Interview Survey to examine the performance of the WGSS visual disability and hearing disability questions in capturing blindness and deafness. We found that the WGSS questions failed to capture 35.7% of blind adults and 43.7% of deaf respondents as having a severe disability, or, per their recommended cut point, as being disabled. Coupled with evidence demonstrating the poor performance of the WGSS questions in estimating the size of the overall disability population, we contend that results from this study necessitate a halt in the use of the WGSS questions to measure disability in US federal surveys.

### [Health Affairs](#) Featured Article

- Soumerai, S. B., Koppel, R., Naci, H., Madden, J. M., Fry, A., Halbisen, A., ... & Lu, C. Y. (2024). [Intended And Unintended Outcomes After FDA Pediatric Antidepressant Warnings: A Systematic Review](#). Health Affairs, 43(10), 1360-1369.
  - a. Rigorous evidence suggests that the FDA’s most serious ongoing youth antidepressant warnings have not had the intended outcome of increased monitoring for suicidal thoughts and behaviors. Instead, the warnings were associated with unintended reductions in physician visits for depression, depression diagnoses, antidepressant treatment and use, and psychotherapy visits, as well as increases in psychotropic drug poisonings and increased suicide deaths. High-quality studies support reevaluation and possible replacement of the FDA black-box warning with routine warnings in product labeling.

## Disability and Health Journal Featured Article

- Ipsen, C., Sage, R., & Standley, K. (2024). “Too few, too far away, for what is paid”: Consumer voices about the personal assistance worker crisis. *Disability and Health Journal*, 101721.
  - a. This paper explores how personal assistance service worker (PAS) shortages manifest themselves in the daily lives of people with disabilities using or needing PAS services in the United States. We used thematic coding of qualitative data from the 2022 National Survey on Health and Disability. Three themes emerged regarding consumer perspectives and experiences with worker shortages (1) low pay, few benefits, and undervalued work, (2) demanding working conditions and logistics, and (3) low quality workers. In combination, these themes informed a fourth theme (4) impacts for PAS consumers characterized by substandard care and additional stress and workload for those who direct their own care. Without tangible steps to resolve these problems at the policy level, such as improved worker pay and protections, hope for resolution to these issues remains elusive.

## DHERN Member Submissions

- Singh, S et al. [One step forward, two steps back: urgent priorities to embed disability and queer health in medical education systems](#). *The Lancet Regional Health - Southeast Asia*, 2024; Vol 32, 100515
- Kakara M, Bair EF, Venkataramani AS. [Repeal of Subminimum Wages and Social Determinants of Health Among People With Disabilities](#). *JAMA Health Forum*. 2024;5(11):e244034.
  - a. Section 14(c) of the 1938 Fair Labor Standards Act has been a controversial policy that allows people with disabilities to be paid below the prevailing minimum wage. This study aimed to estimate whether state-level repeal of Section 14(c) was associated with employment-related outcomes for people with cognitive disability. This quasi-experimental, synthetic difference-in-differences study used individual-level data from the 2010-2019 American Community Surveys. Outcomes before and after subminimum wage law repeal in 2 states (New Hampshire and Maryland) that repealed Section 14(c) were compared with a synthetic group of control states that did not implement repeal. Pooling both states, Section 14(c) repeal was associated with a statistically significant 4.7–percentage point ( $\beta = 0.05$ ; 95% CI, 0.01-0.08;  $P = .01$ ) increase in labor force participation and a nonsignificant 4.3–percentage point ( $\beta = 0.04$ ; 95% CI, 0-0.09;  $P = .07$ ) increase in employment. These findings suggest the importance of state-level factors in shaping program effects, especially as national-level Section 14(c) repeal is being debated.

From,

The DHERN Team

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