

DHERN February 2025 Newsletter

DHERN Announcements

1. Join us for our March DHERN meeting, “Designing Digital Health and Broader Structures with the Disability Community,” featuring Rupa Valdez, PhD! Dr. Valdez is a Professor of Systems and Information Engineering and of Public Health Sciences at University of Virginia. CART and ASL interpretation will be available. [Register now](#) to attend on March 25th, 2-3pm ET.
2. Tune in to the [recorded presentations](#) of our Paper Award winners, Dr. Mihir Kakara and Alex Levine!
3. Share your recent publications, upcoming events, job opportunities with the DHERN community! To contribute to the next newsletter, please send details to us at dhern@jh.edu by the 28th.

Opportunities

- JOBS

- a. [Evaluation Coordinator, Special Olympics State Program](#)
 - The Evaluation Coordinator in New Mexico will be embedded with the Special Olympics State Program as their primary work location to interact with State Program staff and local coaches, athletes, families and program administrators. The Evaluation Coordinators will serve as the project liaison on behalf of the Special Olympics Health Research and Evaluation team and participate in the Community of Practice to develop best practices among the participating Programs. Email questions to ruchic@Specialolympics.org.
- 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 state. Applicants with earned

doctorates in public health and epidemiology, economics, public policy, social work, and sociology are particularly encouraged.

- **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

- Sabariego, C., Lee, L., Bickenbach, J., & Chatterji, S. (2024). [Estimating disability prevalence in population surveys: an exploratory study using national surveys carried out in Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania and USA](#). Disability and Rehabilitation, 1–8.

- a. The call for high quality disability data has gained momentum around the world. The objective of this paper is to analyse the consistency of estimates obtained with the Washington Group short set of questions, which are being recommended for use in national population surveys. Prevalence rates and their 95% confidence intervals were estimated using data from five surveys carried out in three low-income countries and one high-income country. Two surveys undertaken in the same year generated different disability prevalences: 16.1% and 25.6% using a broad cut-off; 4.0% and 6.7% using a narrower cut-off. In two longitudinal surveys, over 50% of persons identified as having disability in a wave were not identified as such in the next wave, independent of cut-off used. Data disaggregation by education and remunerative employment shows little differences between persons with and without disability, which is inconsistent with current evidence. The paper shows some significant inconsistencies that can have consequences for policy, international comparisons, for the monitoring the CRPD and SDGs, and most importantly, for persons with disability. It is important that advocates, policy makers, statistical offices and country

authorities follow reliability and validity standards when recommending tools for disability data collection.

Disability and Health Journal Featured Article

- Babbs, G., Mulcahy, A., Ellison, J., Varma, H., Pletta, D. R., Yee, K., ... & Hughto, J. M. (2024). [Chronic conditions among transgender Medicare beneficiaries: Variation by race, ethnicity, and Medicaid dual-enrollment](#). Disability and Health Journal, 101764. elusive.
 - a. We used cross-sectional Medicare enrollment and claims data between 2008 and 2017 for fee-for-service beneficiaries eligible based on disability. Dual-eligible TGD beneficiaries (N = 8041) had a higher predicted probability of nine out of ten health condition categories relative to Medicare-only TGD beneficiaries (N = 6237). TGD adults with disabilities have high rates of chronic conditions with additional disparities by race, ethnicity, and dual eligibility status.

Health Affairs Featured Article

- Decker, S. L., Meille, G., Wu, X., & Zuvekas, S. H. (2024). [Children's Mental Health: Living With Parents Who Had Adverse Childhood Experiences: Article examines the mental health of children living in families where parents had adverse childhood experiences](#). Health Affairs, 43(12), 1698-1702.
 - a. In 2021, 42.8 percent of US children ages 5–17 lived with an adult who had at least four adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). There are differences in exposure by race and ethnicity, income, and public versus private insurance status. Childhood exposure to adult ACEs was negatively correlated with child mental health, particularly among children in low-income and publicly insured families.

DHERN Member Submissions

- Rfat, M., Nabayinda, J., Kizito, S., & Mirza, M. (2024). [Refugees and asylees with disabilities: a call for economic integration](#). The Lancet, 404(10466), 1923-1924.
- Rfat, M., Zeng, Y., & Trani, J. F. (2023). [Exploring the Intersectionality of Disability and Refugee Statuses: Reflecting on My Refugee Journey](#). The British Journal of Social Work, 53(3), 1570-1579.

From,

The DHERN Team

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