

# DHERN March 2024 Newsletter

## DHERN Announcements

1. Mark your calendar for our **March meeting featuring Kara Ayers, PhD!** We will meet March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2pm to 3pm Eastern time. [Register here!](#)
2. 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

- **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**
  - a. [Executive Director](#): Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF), founded in 1979, is one of the nation's preeminent civil rights law and policy centers. Key responsibilities relate to strategy and planning, management, board partnership and stewardship, and communications, fundraising, and programming. DREDF and Vetted Solutions are committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation to candidates interested in applying for the position. To request an accommodation please contact Ari Benjamin at +1.703.220.7242 or [ari@vettedolutions.com](mailto:ari@vettedolutions.com). For confidential consideration, please send a cover letter and resume to [DREDFEDSearch@vettedolutions.com](mailto:DREDFEDSearch@vettedolutions.com) or call +1.202.544.4749.
- **CALL FOR PAPERS**
  - a. [Topical Collection on Disability and Women's Mental Health\\*](#). Co-Guest Editors Dr. Hilary Brown and Dr. Lesley Tarasoff are leading a call for papers for Archives of Women's Mental Health on disability and women's mental health. We are looking for original research, systematic reviews, and short communications investigating mental health outcomes and mental health care experiences among women with disabilities. We will consider quantitative study designs on populations with physical, vision, hearing, cognitive, and intellectual or developmental disabilities. We encourage the submission of studies that examine sex/gender differences in mental health in populations with disabilities; studies that examine mental health across the reproductive life course (e.g., related to pregnancy and parenting, the menstrual cycle, and the menopausal

transition); studies that examine the intersecting impacts of ableism and other forms of oppression (e.g., racism) on disabled women's mental health; and studies from all global contexts. Submission deadline: September 30, 2024.

- \*Note that this is a revised call for the topical collection on Disability and Mental Health Across the Reproductive Life Course, which now has an expanded focus and extended submission deadline.

### **Disability and Health Journal Featured Article**

- Goddard, K. S., Hall, J. P., Greiman, L., Koon, L. M., & Gray, R. C. (2024). [Examining the effects of home modifications on perceptions of exertion and safety among people with mobility disabilities.](#) *Disability and Health Journal*, 101590.
  - a. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the effects of a home modification intervention (HUP) on perceptions of exertion and safety among people with mobility disabilities. Analysis of pre-post measures and participant interviews revealed that the HUP intervention resulted in decreased exertion. Decreased exertion had positive outcomes, including increased time for other activities, improved socialization, enhanced independence, and the potential for engaging in activities outside the home. Additionally, the HUP intervention led to increased safety, which positively affected mental well-being and independence. Policy recommendations include prioritizing accessibility standards for housing, implementing individualized assessments for funding home modifications, providing financial assistance options, and allocating research funding for innovative solutions and technologies.

### **Health Affairs Featured Article**

- Ellison, J., Pudasainy, S., Bellerose, M., Quinn, D., Borrero, S., Olson, I., ... & Jarlenski, M. P. (2024). [Contraceptive Use Among Traditional Medicare And Medicare Advantage Enrollees: Study examines contraceptive use among Medicare and Medicare advantage enrollees.](#) *Health Affairs*, 43(1), 98-107.
  - a. Medicare is the primary source of health insurance coverage for reproductive-age people with Social Security Disability Insurance. However, little is known about contraceptive use in traditional Medicare and Medicare Advantage. The authors found that in addition to pregnancy prevention, clinically indicated contraceptives are used for other reasons, including menstrual regulation or to treat acne, menorrhagia, and endometriosis. Overall, Medicare enrollees with noncontraceptive clinical indications had twice the probability of contraceptive use as those without them. They conclude that Medicare coverage of all contraceptive methods without cost sharing would help address financial barriers to contraceptives and support the reproductive autonomy of disabled enrollees.

## DHERN Member Articles

- Lundberg, D. J., & Chen, J. A. (2024) [Structural Ableism in Public Health and Healthcare: A Definition and Conceptual Framework](#). *The Lancet Regional Health – Americas*, 30.
  - a. [Alternative formats available here](#).
  - b. “In this viewpoint, we offer a definition and conceptual framework for examining structural ableism in public health and healthcare and suggest potential pathways by which structural ableism may influence health. We also propose a series of principles to guide researchers in studying structural ableism and health. Describing the effects of structural ableism on health greatly exceeds the scope of a single publication. For this reason, our broader goal is to inspire dialogue about why structural ableism has often been ignored in the public health and health services literature and the ways that these fields have been complicit in perpetuating and legitimizing ableism. This exploration is particularly timely given the National Institutes of Health (NIH)'s designation in September 2023 that people with disabilities are a population with health disparities and related calls for research on ableism.”
- Sonderlund, A. L., Baygi, F., Sondergaard, J., & Thilsing, T. (2024). [Advancing health equity for populations with intellectual disabilities: A systematic review of facilitators and barriers to implementation of health checks and screening](#). SSM-Health Systems, 100009.
  - a. People with intellectual disabilities (IDs) experience pervasive health disparities, including higher incidence of chronic disease and premature mortality. These disparities are linked to unequal availability and access to preventive health care for this population. We review the evidence as it relates to barriers and facilitators of effective implementation of health checks and screenings for people with IDs. We noted implementation barriers and facilitators at three levels: Individual, organizational, and structural. Across these levels, we identified 17 distinct implementation factors that may be addressed or harnessed to facilitate health check implementation and access for people with IDs. We discuss our results and potential solutions for better, more effective implementation of health checks and screenings for people with IDs.
- Safar, Y., Formuli, F., Volpe, T., St John, L., & Lunskey, Y. (2024). [“Everything has changed since COVID”: Ongoing challenges faced by Canadian adults with intellectual disabilities during waves 2 and 3 of the COVID-19 pandemic](#). *Journal of Intellectual Disabilities*, (epub ahead of print).
  - a. [Easy Read](#)
  - b. Early in the pandemic, the research team delivered a six-week virtual group-based program to help Canadian adults with intellectual disabilities cope and better manage their mental health. The study's objective was to explore ongoing concerns among individuals with intellectual disabilities following their

participation in this education and support program. Twenty-four participants were interviewed in January 2021 and May 2021 across two cycles of the course. Three themes emerged through thematic analysis: 1) employment and financial challenges; 2) navigating changes and ongoing restrictions; and 3) vaccine anticipation and experience. These findings suggest that despite benefiting from the program, participants continued to experience pandemic-related challenges in 2021, emphasizing the need to continually engage people with intellectual disabilities.

From,

The DHERN Team

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