

DHERN September 2025 Newsletter

DHERN Announcements

- **Save the date for the annual DHERN 2025 conference** on September 16th from 10 AM to 2 PM EST. We are thrilled to announce the theme of this year is Global Perspectives on Disability Equity. [Register for our conference now!](#) See the attached flyer for more details. The agenda will feature a keynote address and the following session topics:
 - a. Advancing Global Disability Data Equity
 - b. How Data Informs Global Disability Rights
 - c. Participation and Disability, Global Development, and Systems Change
- The call for membership applications to join the [Network of the WHO Disability Health Equity Initiative](#) is now open. This global network will bring together diverse stakeholders committed to advancing health equity for persons with disabilities. Before applying, we encourage you to review the information available on the [WHO Disability Health Equity Network](#) webpage. This first call for membership applications will close on September 30th, 2025. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the WHO Disability Programme directly at disability@who.int.
- If you would like to contribute to our work advancing disability health equity research, connecting researchers and trainees, and fostering the inclusion of disabled people in these efforts, you can [make a donation](#) to help sustain DHERN's mission.
- 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 of September.

Study Recruitment

- Micheal Pham, a doctoral candidate at the University of Southern California, is conducting an IRB-approved research study on access to Activity-Based Therapy (ABT) for individuals with neurological conditions. The study aims to better understand barriers to accessing ABT and amplify the voices of individuals living with neurological conditions to inform more equitable rehabilitation services in the future. Participation involves completing a brief 10-minute anonymous online survey, with the option to take part in a compensated follow-up interview. Eligible participants are adults (18+) living with neurological conditions in the U.S. For questions, contact mtpham@usc.edu.

JOBS

- [Disability Policy Research Fellowship](#)

- a. Northwestern University is accepting applications for a one- or two- year Post-Doctoral Fellowship on Disability Policy Research (DPR). The fellowship provides experiential training, knowledge, and skills in disability policy research with the goal of developing a cohort of experts capable of advancing policies that improve the lives of people with disabilities. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. For more information, contact ryan.splitt@northwestern.edu.

Disability Data Equity Research Working Group Featured Article

- Amilon, A., & Christensen, M.L. (2025). [Changing Disability Status and Changes in Health, Participation Restrictions and Activity Limitations in Denmark: Does the Choice of Measure Matter?](#) *Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research*, 27(1), 15-29
 - a. Using nationally representative longitudinal survey data from Denmark, this study compared two widely used disability measures—the Washington Group Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS) and the Global Activity Limitation Indicator (GALI). The authors found that disability status is highly dynamic, with many individuals transitioning in and out of disability over time. WG-SS identified a higher prevalence of changing disability status than GALI, reflecting differences in how each measure defines disability. Transitions in disability status were strongly associated with changes in health, participation restrictions, and activity limitations, underscoring that disability is not a fixed state and that the choice of measurement tool substantially influences who is identified as disabled in surveys.

Related Disability Health Equity News

- Khaikin, L. (2025). [When Aid Fails in Uganda](#). Fair Planet
 - a. As conflict in eastern DRC drives thousands into Uganda’s Kyangwali settlement, major funding cuts and World Food Programme ration reductions have left over half the settlement’s residents without assistance. Refugees with disabilities are among those excluded, with aid categorization systems and registration data gaps often failing to capture their needs. The article details the human toll of these cuts, including hunger, school dropouts, social isolation, and rising despair among long-term residents.

DHERN Member Submissions

- Rfat, M (2025.) [Coordinated action needed amid mass deportations of Afghans](#). *The Lancet Global Health*, 13(9), e1515.
 - a. The forced deportation of nearly 2 million Afghans from Iran, Pakistan, and Tajikistan is fueling a severe humanitarian crisis, violating international protections against *non-refoulement*. Afghanistan, already facing food insecurity and a collapsing health system, lacks the capacity to absorb large-scale returns, leaving vulnerable groups—such as people with disabilities—at heightened risk. The article calls for

urgent regional and global action to suspend forced returns, provide immediate aid, and establish safe, durable reintegration strategies.

From,

The DHERN Team

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