

DHERN April 2026 Newsletter

DHERN Announcements

- 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 30th of April.

Job Opportunities

- 2026 Health Disparities Research Institute
 - a. The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities is accepting applications for the 2026 Health Disparities Research Institute (HDRI), which will be held August 3–7, 2026. HDRI supports the professional development of early-stage investigators pursuing careers in minority health and health disparities research and aims to stimulate new and interdisciplinary research ideas. The program includes lectures, seminars, small group discussions, and opportunities to engage with scientific staff across NIH Institutes and Centers. The application period is open from March 3, 2026 to April 10, 2026 (5:00 p.m. ET). [All applications must be submitted through the HDRI application portal](#) no later than 5:00 p.m. ET on Friday, April 10, 2026. For more information on eligibility, selection criteria, and how to apply, [please visit the HDRI webpage](#).
- Disability Health Research Center: Remote Research Intern
 - a. The [Johns Hopkins Disability Health Research Center \(DHRC\)](#) is seeking a remote Research Intern position to support disability health research projects. The role is intended for candidates with experience conducting systematic reviews and data abstraction, and ideal applicants will demonstrate collaborative team experience, interest in disability health research, training in epidemiology or public health, familiarity with population-level study design, and prior experience with systematic or umbrella reviews. Responsibilities include systematically extracting and recording data from peer-reviewed scientific literature within

a standardized data management system, discussing progress during team meetings, and performing literature reviews, data analysis and interpretation, and support for draft manuscripts and articles. Students with lived experience of disability and/or a strong interest in disability equity are especially encouraged to apply. The preferred start date is April 22, 2026. To apply, candidates should email a CV or resume and a brief cover letter of no more than one page outlining their interest and experience to lshahba1@jh.edu.

Study Recruitment

- The Rubenstein Lab at Boston University School of Public Health is conducting the *Policies for Reproductive Outcomes in Medicaid—Improving Services for Enrollees with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (PROMISE-IDD)* study. This study is listening to pregnancy stories to learn how to support pregnancy health and make healthcare work better for parents with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Individuals with IDD are invited to share their pregnancy experiences in an online interview. The study is recruiting adults with thinking, learning, or developmental disabilities (e.g., Autism, Down syndrome, Fragile X syndrome, Cerebral palsy, or a language or learning disorder) who were pregnant in the last 10 years and used Medicaid during their pregnancy. Participation includes a 30–45-minute screening interview and a 1.5-hour Zoom interview. Participants will receive a \$100 Visa gift card. If interested, please contact promidd@bu.edu or [complete the interest form](#). For more information about the study, [visit the Rubenstein Lab website](#).

[Disability and Health Journal](#) Featured Article

- Rosenberg, S., Garcia Estrada, J.A., Tewolde, S., Higgins, A., Tao, J., ... Rubenstein, E. (2026). [Medicaid home and community-based services are vital for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities: A descriptive study of service use among all adult enrollees, 2022](#). *Disability and Health Journal*.
 - a. This study describes how Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) were used by adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in 2022. It found that HCBS were widely used, with more than two-thirds of Medicaid-enrolled adults with IDD receiving at least one HCBS service, most commonly case management, home-based services, and non-medical transportation. The findings emphasize that HCBS are essential for supporting independence, community living, and care needs that extend beyond traditional healthcare services, while also underscoring the policy risks that Medicaid cuts could pose for adults with IDD.

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

- Tseng, Hsin-yu Samuel. "[Federal Surveys Undercount People with Disabilities as Defined by the Amendments to the Americans with Disabilities Act.](#)" *Social Security Bulletin* 86, no. 1 (2026): 1-16.
 - a. This study examines how well federal survey disability measures align with the definition of disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act. Using national survey

data, Tseng finds that commonly used federal disability questions significantly undercount people who would qualify as having a disability under the ADA framework. In particular, individuals with less visible, episodic, or managed conditions are often excluded due to restrictive question wording focused on functional limitations. The findings highlight a critical gap between legal definitions of disability and survey-based measurement, underscoring the need to revise federal disability questions to better reflect the full scope of disability and support more accurate equity-focused policy and research efforts.

DHERN Member Submissions

- J. A. G. Estrada, N. Cesare, K. Barger, et al., “ [Fertility Rates Among Women With Intellectual and Developmental Disability Enrolled in Medicaid and/or Medicare, 2011–2022](#),” *Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology* (2026): 1–10
 - a. In the past, women with intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) have been treated unfairly and prevented from getting pregnant. This study found that rates of childbirth among women with IDD aged 18 to 45 and enrolled in Medicaid and Medicare were consistent over the last decade. Results warrant the need to further examine factors related to access, quality and continuity of care.

From,
The DHERN Team

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