

DHERN March 2026 Newsletter

DHERN Announcements

- Save the date for our March DHERN meeting featuring Dr. Laura Mauldin! Join us for a discussion of *In Sickness and In Health: Love Stories from the Front Lines of America's Caregiving Crisis*. Dr. Mauldin is a writer and scholar based in New York City and an Associate Professor in the Department of Social and Critical Inquiry at the University of Connecticut. CART and ASL interpretation will be available. [Register now](#) to attend on March 24th, 2-3 pm ET.
- 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 27th of March.

Disability and Health Journal Featured Article

- Dev, A., Horner-Johnson, W., Schaefer, A., Stukel, T.A., ... Leyenaar, J.K. (2026). [Race, ethnicity, and nativity differences in pregnancy and birth outcomes among Medicaid-enrolled women with disabilities](#). [In Press, Corrected Proof].
 - a. This study examines racial, ethnic, and nativity differences in pregnancy and birth outcomes among Medicaid-enrolled women with disabilities. It finds that women of color and some immigrant women with disabilities experience higher rates of adverse outcomes compared to White women with disabilities. The findings underscore how disability intersects with structural racism and inequities in publicly insured populations, highlighting the need for intersectional, equity-focused maternal health policies and care models.

DHERN Member Submissions

- Rfat, M., Engelman, A., & Seaborn, C. (2026). [US forced deportation, language exclusion, and disability justice](#). The Lancet
 - a. This commentary examines how US deportation policies and language access barriers disproportionately harm disabled migrants. It highlights how forced deportation disrupts access to medical care, assistive technologies, and community supports, while limited

interpretation services and English-dominant systems undermine due process and access to essential services. Framed through a disability justice lens, the article calls for disability-inclusive immigration policies, stronger language access protections, and cross-sector efforts to address structural ableism in immigration enforcement.

- Wang, R.M., Bergeron, E., Rao, S.R. et al. (2026). [Self-perceived Ability to Understand Speech does not Influence CRC Screening Adherence Among Sign Language Users](#). Journal of Cancer Education.
 - a. This study examined whether functional hearing ability is associated with colorectal cancer (CRC) screening adherence among 600 Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing ASL users surveyed between 2023 and 2025. Using multivariable logistic regression adjusted for sociodemographic factors, the analysis found that functional hearing was not significantly associated with screening adherence (OR 0.86; $p = 0.44$). Instead, educational attainment showed a stronger relationship with adherence. The findings suggest that addressing educational disparities—such as through ASL-fluent community health workers and patient navigators—may be more effective for improving CRC screening rates than focusing on functional hearing ability alone.

From,
The DHERN Team

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