DHERN

Disability Health Equity Research Network

DHERN November 2026 Newsletter

DHERN Announcements

- DHERN has officially joined handsoffourcens.us, a pop-up consortium that is a nonpartisan hub for resources, analysis, and updates on the proposed decennial census rule, bringing together organizations and experts across the census, data, and data policy communities. Explore the Hands Off Our Census website, register for weekly comment analysis briefings, and learn more about the proposed rule. Public comments are due November 2, 2026 and can be submitted on this page.

- **Save the date for the annual Paper Award Competition Presentations** on March 2, 2027, 1:00-3:00pm ET! Each awardee will share a summary of their paper.

    a. We will provide two awards. The nominee must be the first author on the paper (co-authorship is permitted with student or faculty co-author(s)). The primary focus of the paper should relate to disability health equity, broadly defined. The paper must have been published or accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal in 2025 or 2026, and the nominee must have been at one of the following levels of education/training at the time the paper was published or accepted for publication: undergraduate student, graduate student, postdoctoral researcher. Papers submitted for a DHERN paper award in a prior year are permitted to be resubmitted for consideration if published in 2025 or 2026.
    b. Each awardee will receive a $500 honorarium for presenting their paper at the DHERN meeting on March 2, 2027, 1:00-3:00pm ET.
    c. One entry is permitted per nominee. Self-nominations will be accepted. **The deadline for nominations January 15, 2027**
    d. Email published paper to sdlandes@syr.edu. Cover letter is not required. If the paper's connection to disability health equity is not obvious, you are invited to include a brief (up to 200 words) description of how the paper addresses disability health equity.

- Send in your nominations for the DHERN 2027 Public Impact Award!

a. This annual award honors an individual for outstanding contributions that have improved lives through disability health equity research. Public impact in disability health equity research may be demonstrated through community-engaged research and advocacy, education and mentorship of future professionals or stakeholders, research that has influenced policy, and/or the effective translation of research into meaningful public benefit.
b. **Nomination Process** To nominate an individual, please submit a nomination letter and the nominee's CV by January 15, 2027. The nomination letter should clearly describe the nominee's disability health equity research public impact and explain why they merit recognition. Self-nomination is permitted.
c. If multiple individuals wish to support a nomination, they should be included as co-signers on a single letter. Nomination letters should not exceed two pages. Please do not submit materials beyond the nomination letter and CV.
d. **Award Recognition** The awardee will deliver a keynote presentation on "The State of Disability Health Equity Research" at the virtual DHERN Awards Meeting on March 2, 2027, 1-3 PM ET and will receive a $500 honorarium for the presentation.
e. Nominations should be emailed in pdf format to sdlandes@syr.edu.

- The recording of the 2026 annual DHERN conference, "At the Intersection of Structural Ableism and Disability Health Equity", is available on the DHERN website!

- DHERN submitted a comment urging the U.S. Census Bureau to withdraw its proposed rule for the 2030 Census. "Disability counts are only as sound as the census that anchors them. The proposed rule would weaken that anchor while giving the Bureau no plan to measure the damage to disability data." Read DHERN's full comment on the proposed 2030 Census rule.

- The 2026 National Survey on Health and Disability (NSHD) will launch in October! The NSHD is an ongoing survey of adults with disabilities that asks about health, health care, health insurance, housing, transportation, community participation, and other aspects of daily life. Adults age 18 and older who live in the U.S. and have a disability and/or health condition are invited to participate. The survey takes approximately 20–30 minutes and will be available online in English, Spanish, and American Sign Language, as well as by phone. Learn more about the 2026 NSHD and sign up to receive the survey link here.

- Call for Papers: Inclusion in Motion – Rethinking Policy and Pedagogy in Latin American and Caribbean Classrooms

    a. Research in Education Curriculum and Pedagogy: Global Perspectives (RECAP) invites submissions for a special issue examining progress, challenges, and effective

practices in inclusive and special education across Latin America and the Caribbean, 30 years after the Salamanca Statement. Topics include inclusive education policy, accessible curricula, teacher education, culturally responsive practices, and the experiences of students with disabilities. Manuscripts are accepted in English and Spanish. The submission deadline is March 31, 2027. Learn more here.

- 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 November.

Job Opportunities

- Syracuse University's Burton Blatt Institute (BBI) is seeking a Postdoctoral Researcher to support research on disability employment policy. This full-time, on-campus position in Syracuse, NY, offers an opportunity to conduct quantitative research, analyze data, publish findings, and contribute to interdisciplinary projects focused on improving employment outcomes for people with disabilities. Applicants should have a recent Ph.D. in a relevant field, experience with statistical software such as R, Stata, or SAS, and an interest in disability policy. Applications are accepted until the position is filled. Learn more and apply here.

Health Affairs Featured Article

- "In Times of Disaster, FEMA Should Guarantee Rapid Replacement of Assistive Devices For People With Disabilities". Health Affairs Forefront, May 21,2026. DOI: 10.1377/forefront.20260514.782814
    - Federal disaster policy now includes accessibility guidance and some accommodations. What it still lacks is a binding commitment to replace independence-critical devices on a timeline that preserves the survivor's ability to access recovery services. The relevant policy question is not whether a hearing aid or wheelchair counts as personal property but whether the device is necessary for a survivor to access recovery at all. Once that principle is recognized, the next step for federal disaster assistance becomes clear: It should treat assistive devices as disaster recovery infrastructure and replace them accordingly.

Disability and Health Journal Featured Article

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  Enslin, A., McClintock, H., Taylor, K., Embree, J., Welch, A., Emmons, D., Zangara, D., Barth, M. A., & Dunaway, B. (2026). The relationship between adverse childhood experiences and substance use among Deaf American Sign Language users. *Disability and Health Journal*
    - A study of 290 Deaf adults who use American Sign Language (ASL) found that greater exposure to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) was significantly associated with increased risk of alcohol and drug use. Using culturally and linguistically accessible ASL translated assessment tools, the researchers extend existing ACEs research to a historically underrepresented population. Findings highlight the need for early interventions and trauma-informed, culturally and linguistically responsive substance use prevention and treatment services for Deaf individuals.

From,
The DHERN Team

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