

January 2026 - Issue 1

# Research Update

## Celebrating Your Impact and Looking Ahead



### Over 2,500 people took the 2025 National Survey on Health and Disability (NSHD)

Thank you to everyone! You either contributed your voice and experiences by taking the survey, sharing the survey with others, or both, and we are very grateful. Without your efforts, our work would not succeed!

#### What's next?

The 2025 NSHD closed at the end of July 2025, and now we are analyzing the data and writing up the results. We will use this Research Update to keep you informed of NSHD findings. Other disability researchers and colleagues across the country are currently assisting us with these efforts.

Watch your inbox for future Research Updates from us!

Published articles and plain-language summaries are available on the NSHD Publications webpage.



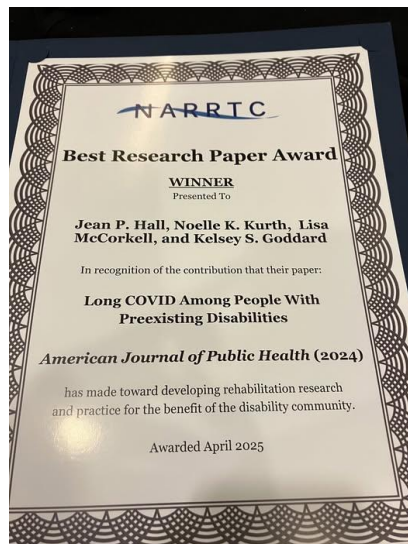
## What is the IHDPS? What do we do?

The Institute for Health and Disability Policy Studies (IHDPS) at the University of Kansas conducts timely and meaningful research and evaluation to inform health and disability policy, with the goal of improving access and quality of care for people, with disabilities and chronic conditions.

IHDPS works with researchers and partners in the community on a variety of projects, from the National Survey on Health and Disability to employment and community living. Many of our projects are sponsored by the [National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research \(NIDILRR\)](#) and the [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#).

For more information about us and our research projects, visit the IHDPS website!

[Visit IHDPS Home Page](#)



# 2025 Paper of the Year

## Best Research Paper Award – NARRTC

"Long COVID Among People With Preexisting Disabilities" by IHDPS researchers Jean P. Hall, Noelle K. Kurth and Kelsey S. Goddard, along with Lisa McCorkell from the Patient-Led Research Collaborative, was [awarded the 2025 Best Research Paper Award](#) by [NARRTC](#).

The paper showed that people with disabilities not only had more difficulty acquiring COVID vaccines and were at higher risk of exposure than the general population, but also that they were more likely to experience Long COVID.

[Read Article in American Journal of Public Health](#)

[Download Plain Language Summary PDF](#)

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## Who are our NSHD Project Partners?

IHDPS works with many people across the country to conduct the National Survey on Health and Disability, including an Advisory Council made up of people with disabilities from across the U.S. who guide the research areas included in the NSHD. We also collaborate with a Data Analysis Team (DAT) made up of approximately 100 researchers from other universities and national organizations, including many [Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers \(RRTCs\)](#) and [University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities \(UCEDDs\)](#).

Additionally, information about our survey is shared by a host of disability research, service, and news organizations, as well as private individuals, to whom we are extremely grateful.

While the NSHD survey is hosted by the IHDPS at the University of Kansas, we run the survey in collaboration with researchers from three other universities:

### **Washington State University (WSU) - College of Medicine.**

Focus: Studying adverse health effects of medical ableism on people with disabilities.

[Visit WSU Homepage](#)

### **Langston University - Rehabilitation Research and Training Center.**

Focus: Studying trends in disability employment for multiply marginalized people with disabilities.

[Visit RRTC Homepage](#)

### **Brandeis University - Community Living Policy Center (CLPC).**

Focus: Documenting people's experiences with personal assistance services.



## Want to use NSHD Data in your own work?

Researchers from more than 40 institutions are currently using NSHD data to explore topics like health insurance, healthcare access, personal assistance services, community participation and many other topics.

We welcome requests from others to gain access to our de-identified, limited dataset as well as new members to our NSHD Data Analysis Team (DAT). The DAT meets monthly to share findings, discuss challenges, and build community.

We also welcome requests from disability advocates who may want to use NSHD data and findings in their roles.

Data access is free and available through a brief data use agreement.

To request access or join the team, contact Noelle Kurth at [pixie@ku.edu](mailto:pixie@ku.edu).

[Join the Data Analysis Team](#)



## NARRTC Registration Open

Registration for the 2026 NARRTC Conference is open.

Disability researchers who receive NIDILRR funding will gather April 14 & 15 to give updates on current research, talk about the disability research environment, and connect with colleagues.

Presentations from previous years have included discussions on negating AI bots that can invalidate research findings, how to make research more accessible, and methods to include underrepresented groups in research.

[Register for the 2026 NARRTC Conference](#)



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