



DHDD Newsletter – June 2020



A Note from the DHDD Director:

Dear colleagues –

I am back to DHDD from my deployment to the COVID-19 response. It was a busy and fulfilling several months. I enjoyed the opportunity to contribute to the response, in particular helping to ensure that people with disabilities are included in COVID-19 prevention and mitigation efforts. It's good to be back now in DHDD this month reintegrating into all the great work underway at DHDD. I look forward to connecting with you and hearing about your work. Thank you for your continued support. I appreciate all that you do.

Take care and stay well,
Georgina Peacock
Director, Division of Human Development and Disability

In the Spotlight

New Project Addresses the Needs of People with Disability in COVID-19

CDC has funded the [Association of State and Territorial Health Officials \(ASTHO\)](#), the [National Association of County and City Health Officials \(NACCHO\)](#) and the [Association of University Centers on Disabilities \(AUCD\)](#) through a project titled, *Addressing Needs of People with Disability in COVID-19 Preparedness, Planning, Mitigation, and Recovery Efforts in the United States*.

The purpose of this project is to ensure that the needs of people with disabilities are addressed in COVID-19 planning, mitigation, and recovery efforts through

- Inclusion of people with disabilities in state, territorial, and city/county health departments' local preparedness and response efforts;
- Improved understanding of the unique health care service needs of people with disabilities before, during, and after a pandemic; and
- Partner engagement to share and disseminate emergency preparedness and response resources related to COVID-19 and related events for people with disabilities.



Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month

DHDD's Child Development Studies team released a new feature for Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month, [Tourette Syndrome: Behavioral Treatment for Tics That Works](#).

The feature highlights what CDC is doing to raise awareness and increase access to effective behavioral treatment for Tourette syndrome.

[Read more](#)



New Resources

A Video for Adults with I/DD and Type 2 Diabetes

South Carolina recently launched a new diabetes educational video – with input from ten Disability and Health Program funded states – to educate adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) who have type 2 diabetes about the importance of taking charge of their health. DHDD’s Disability and Health Promotion Branch (DHPB), funds the South Carolina Disability and Health Program through the cooperative agreement titled, *Improving the Health of People with Mobility Limitations and Intellectual Disabilities through State-based Public Health Programs*.



[Watch the video](#)

New SEED Resource

DHDD’s [Study to Explore Early Development \(SEED\)](#), the largest study in the United States to help identify factors that may put children at risk for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other developmental disabilities, recently released its Summer 2020 Newsletter with study updates and resources for families and professionals.

[Read the newsletter](#) 

SEED Study to Explore Early Development
Summer 2020 | Issue 14

Sprouting SEEDs: Young Children's Special Interests and Repetitive Behaviors

Many parents can tell you about the favorite stuffed animal their preschooler must take everywhere or how their 3-year-old daughter insists that she wear a specific set of pajamas to bed every night. Young children commonly develop interests in certain objects or activities or like to play out specific routines. For most children, these interests or behaviors go away or change within a few months without interrupting everyday activities.

However, for some children, these interests or behaviors are much more intense and last longer than just a few months. It may be a sign of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) if children develop unusually intense interests that take up a lot of their time, behaviors that seem uncharacteristically repetitive, or behaviors that are so inflexible that the child cannot be calmed if a routine is changed.

For a child to be diagnosed with ASD, at least two of the following behaviors must be present:

- Excessive interest and specific interests;
- Unusually strict routines or rituals;
- Unusual body movements, repetitive speech or behaviors, or both; and
- Abnormal response to the sound, taste, touch, smell, or look of objects.

Children with other types of disabilities might have these interests or behaviors as well, but do not have the social and communication challenges seen among those with ASD.

Some examples of intense interests, strict routines, unusual body movements, or repetitive behaviors include:

- Insisting to watch a certain show at the same time every day or else the child has a meltdown;
- Needing to close all the doors before leaving the house;
- Becoming overly upset if a parent drives a different way to or from school; and
- Flapping hands, echang words, or repeatedly lining up objects in the same way.

New Autism Guidance Targets Transitions and Early Detection

Dr. Susan Levy (co-investigator of the SEED study) and her co-authors realized that the focus over the past 2 decades has centered more on what causes autism and less on the family-focused reality that children with autism grow up to be adults with autism. This focus on transition is addressed in one of the five major changes in the AAF's new guidance for autism spectrum disorder published in the journal *Pediatrics* in December 2019. This was a major undertaking that reflects a massive amount of research and discussion on autism since 2010. Another primary focus of the guidance is on early detection. To read more about the updated guidelines, visit <https://www.aafp.org/afp/2019/12/15/autism12-15.html>.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities

Tune in to the Next Act Early Network Webinar “Marking a Milestone for CDC’s Milestone Tracker App” on July 22 from 3-4pm EDT

During this webinar, DHDD’s “Learn the Signs. Act Early.” (LTSAE) program will provide an in-depth update on the current status of its unique developmental monitoring tool, *CDC’s Milestone Tracker app*. Presenters will share background information on the app, highlight app metrics to date, and provide recommendations on ways to integrate the app into systems and programs that serve young children. The program developed the *Milestone Tracker* app to help parents and providers practice developmental monitoring. Tune in to learn more about the impact of CDC’s *Milestone Tracker* app to date, and how your program can take part!



Publications

A Framework for Coordination Between Obstetric and Pediatric Providers in Public Health Emergencies

Health threats during pregnancy present unique coordination and communication challenges for obstetric and pediatric providers that can affect critical care and follow-up for both the mother and infant, particularly during a public health emergency.

In the recent publication, [A framework for coordination between obstetric and pediatric providers in public health emergencies: Lessons learned from the Zika outbreak in the Americas, 2015-2017](#) [↗](#), CDC and partners present a novel Children’s Interdisciplinary Care Coordination (ChICC) Framework to address the care coordination needs of pregnant women and their infants with possible exposure to emerging infectious and noninfectious health threats.

[Learn the details of the ChICC Framework](#) [↗](#).



Etiology of Prelingual Hearing Loss

Researchers from CDC's NCBDDD and the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) published a new article in the *Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Journal*, [Etiology of Prelingual Hearing Loss in the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Era: A Scoping Review](#) .

According to this article, which included findings from 20 studies that met the inclusion criteria, among 1787 children who were identified as deaf or hard of hearing before 2 years of age and received testing to determine the cause of hearing loss, 933 (52.2%) were tested for genetic mutations and 1021 (57.1%) for [congenital CMV infection](#). The proportion of congenital hearing loss cases attributable to genetic etiology ranged between 7.7% and 83.3% and to congenital CMV infection between 0.0% and 32.0%.

The proportion of congenital hearing loss cases attributable to genetic etiologies and congenital CMV infection appears to vary widely.

Read the [article](#) .



Indicators of Social Competence and Social Participation Among US Children with Tourette Syndrome

In this study published in [Journal of Child Neurology](#) , authors from DHDD's Child Development Studies team, found that children with Tourette syndrome are more likely to struggle with social competence than children without Tourette syndrome, particularly when they have moderate to severe Tourette syndrome and when they are diagnosed with other mental, emotional, or behavioral disorders.

Read the full scientific [article](#) .



DHDD'S mission is to lead inclusive programs to optimize the health and development of children and adults with, or at risk for, disabilities.



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Content source: [National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)