



AAIDD Field Notes

September 2011

Promoting Research to Practice

SEX AND GENDER

Gendered Service Delivery: A Masculine and Feminine Perspective on Staff Gender

A study in the October issue of *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities* by researchers affiliated with the University of Sidney explored the impact of staff gender on the sexual health care accessible to men and boys with intellectual disability. Authors suggest that although staff traverse the same geographies of care, they do it in uniquely gendered ways (full text available at no cost with member subscription to IDD).

<http://www.aaidjournals.org/doi/abs/10.1352/1934-9556-49.5.341>

Women and Men With Intellectual Disabilities Who Sell or Trade Sex: Voices From the Professionals

A study in the August issue of the *Journal of Social Work in Disability & Rehabilitation* by researchers affiliated with the University of Gothenburg (Sweden) explored the knowledge and perceptions of professionals who work with women and men with intellectual disabilities (ID) who sell or exchange sexual services. Two distinct discourses emerged from the interviews based on the assumed “rationality” of the sex transaction and its rewards: Those with ID who traded sexual favors were regarded by professionals as either (a) conscious and autonomous agents or (b) unaware and exploited victims (free abstract, full text access at a fee).

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/1536710X.2011.596424>

The Sexual and Physical Abuse Histories of Offenders with Intellectual Disability

A study published online June 17 in the *Journal of Intellectual Disability Research* by researchers affiliated with the University of Abertay (Scotland) and the National Health Service (UK) reports on a review of abuse histories of sexual offenders with intellectual disability. Authors report that male sexual offenders with ID reported a higher rate of sexual abuse in childhood than male with ID who committed non-sexual offenses (32.6% vs. 17.8%). Female offenders with ID reported the highest rates of sexual abuse in childhood (59.3%) (free abstract, full text access at a fee).

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2788.2011.01428.x/abstract>

AUTISM

Changes in Maladaptive Behaviors From Mid-Childhood to Young Adulthood in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

A study in the October issue of the *American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities* by researchers affiliated with the University of Michigan reports on a prospective examination of changes in behavior and predictors of those changes in youth 9-18 years with ASD in comparison to a matched group without ASD. Authors note that with increased age, behaviors related to hyperactivity showed the greatest improvement. Authors also report that social withdrawal worsened with age for a substantial proportion of youths with ASD but not for the non-spectrum comparison group (full text of available at no cost with member subscription to AJIDD).

<http://www.aaidjournals.org/doi/abs/10.1352/1944-7558-116.5.381>

"The Extreme Male Brain?" Incrementum and the Rhetorical Gendering of Autism

An analysis in the Fall issue of *Disabilities Studies Quarterly* by a researcher affiliated with the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill suggests that theories of autism has come to reinforce popular beliefs about sex and gender, and the potential impact of such approaches on investigation and interventions for women and girls (full text available at no cost).

<http://www.dsqsds.org/article/view/1672/1599>

Navajo and Autism: The Beauty of Harmony

A study in the August issue of the *Disability & Society* by a researcher affiliated with the University of California-Los Angeles explores the diagnosis of autism within a Navajo cultural context. The author suggests that the Navajo social constructs of wellness, harmony, and beauty provides a positive, empowering view of autism (free abstract, full text access at a fee).

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09687599.2011.589192>

Aging in Autism Spectrum Disorders: A Mini-Review

A literature review published online August 25 in *Gerontology* by researchers affiliated with King's College and the University of London considers the available literature on aging and autism. Authors identify trends in the literature but conclude that longitudinal methods are necessary to properly identify age-related changes in behavior, cognition, and neurobiology (full text available at no cost).

<http://content.karger.com/ProdukteDB/produkte.asp?Aktion=ShowPDF&ArtikelNr=329720&Ausgabe=0&ProduktNr=224091&filename=329720.pdf>

PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH

Adults with Intellectual Disabilities and their Carers as Researchers and Participants in a RCT

A study published online August 23 in the *Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities* by researchers affiliated with a consortium of universities in the United Kingdom describes the methodology used in a participatory action research project that used a randomized control trial of interviews on health interventions. Authors report that the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities both as researchers and as participants was achieved through an appropriate design, strong research partnerships, adequate and flexible resources, promotion of teamwork and a strong task focus (free abstract, full text access at a fee).

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1468-3148.2011.00643.x/abstract>

Recruitment and Consent of Women With Intellectual Disabilities in a Randomised Control Trial of a Health Promotion Intervention

A study in the May issue of the *Journal of Intellectual Disability Research* by researchers affiliated with the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Brandeis University describes a successful procedure for the recruitment and consent of women with intellectual disabilities into a community-based, multi-site randomised controlled trial (free abstract, full text access at a fee).

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2788.2011.01399.x/abstract>

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Feature Issue on Supporting the Social Well-Being of Children and Youth with Disabilities

The Spring/Summer issue of *Impact* from the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Minnesota features a collection of articles related to supporting the social well-being of children and youth with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities in the settings where they live their lives: schools, youth programs, neighborhoods, communities, homes (full text available at no cost).

<http://ici.umn.edu/products/impact/241/default.html>

POLICY

Moving Beyond Parity — Mental Health and Addiction Care Under the ACA

An essay in the August 18 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine* by researchers affiliated with Johns Hopkins University and Harvard Medical School shares a positive perspective on the potential impact of the Affordable Care Act on the financing and delivery of mental health and addition services (full text available at no cost).

<http://healthpolicyandreform.nejm.org/?p=15170&query=home>

Revisiting the Americans with Disabilities Act after Two Decades

A study in the August issue of the *Journal of Social Work in Disability & Rehabilitation* by researchers affiliated with the University of Queensland (Australia) and George Mason University traces the evolution of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), describes abuses of the ADA, its economic impact, and the policy problems in defining a disability (full text available at no cost).

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/1536710X.2010.493468>

Raising Expectations: A State Scorecard on Long-Term Services and Supports for Older Adults, People with Physical Disabilities, and Family Caregivers

This September 2011 report issued by AARP, the Commonwealth Fund, and the Scan Foundation, describes how some states significantly out-perform others in the delivery of long-term services and supports to older adults and people with disabilities. The report is available as a single document and information on each state may be viewed individually (full text available at no cost).

<http://www.aarp.org/relationships/caregiving/info-09-2011/ltss-scorecard.html>

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