



Social Dimensions of Health Institute - Seminar



**Monday 25th March, 2013
at 1.00pm**

led by

Eric Lauer

Research Specialist
Institute on Disability
University of New Hampshire

**Disability Surveillance using
National Household Surveys
in the United States: Where
have we been and where
are we going?**

This seminar (which is FREE to attend)
will be held in

**Room 2F13
Dalhousie Building
University of Dundee**

ALL WELCOME

For catering purposes, if you would like to
attend then please contact

Rosanne Bell, r.c.bell@dundee.ac.uk or
Fred Comerford, fac1@st-andrews.ac.uk



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Social Dimensions of Health Institute



Mr Lauer is a Project Research Specialist at the Institute on Disability at the University of New Hampshire, United States (US). His research interests are in health disparities in disabilities and mental health, including the impact of disabilities, physical illness and mental illness on quality of life, access to care, and health outcomes. Mr Lauer specializes in surveillance of self-reported limitations and health status in people with disabilities through United States household survey data. He also contributes estimates on disability employment and unemployment to the US Health People 2020 benchmarks.

Mr Lauer is an investigator on a grant from the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention entitled, "Component A - Reducing Health Disparities among People with Intellectual Disabilities." This project aims to inform efforts to improve current health surveillance of people with intellectual disabilities in order to ultimately increase the effectiveness of health-related practices, services, and programs that influence the lives of people with intellectual disabilities.

Mr Lauer also contributes statistical and methodological expertise and a public health perspective to three Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers at the Institute on Disability, the Center on Individual-Level Characteristics Related to Employment Among Individuals with Disabilities, the Center on Employment Policy and Measurement, and the Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics.

Mr Lauer has an MPH and is a doctoral candidate in epidemiology with a focus on disability, statistics, and research methodology. He also holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and spent his early career working directly with children and adults with mental health conditions at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center, University of Massachusetts Medical School, US and McLean Hospital, Harvard University, US to study genetic phenotypes of these conditions. Additionally, he completed a Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Clinical Research Training Program Fellowship at Harvard Medical School on international mental health and developmental disabilities topics.

While the surveillance of people with disabilities in the US has greatly improved from decades past to a point where substantive information is collected, much remains to be done to understand and improve the value of this information to align with current policy challenges. As numerous countries are faced with similar challenges, these efforts and related lessons likely have application for disability and health research internationally. In public health research today there is a desire to disentangle the relationship between the concepts of disability and health, which are currently so often married and obfuscated. Mr Lauer will discuss the dissonance between disability and health constructs and the practical realities of national surveillance and survey methodology, self-report, and the institutional and programmatic definitions of health and disability. This intersection will be discussed in the context of the history and changing conceptualization of the disability in the US, the growing collection of data with regard to people with disabilities, data collection systems on the state and federal level and the increased need for valid and reliability analytic techniques. The presentation will primarily focus on efforts to understand the strengths, weaknesses and limitations of the data currently collected, with an emphasis on how to increase the accuracy and precision of data collection. Survey methods will be explored with a comparison and contrasting of multiple national survey items and the underlying constructs they are representing.

SDHI 10TH ANNIVERSARY

*SDHI is celebrating 10 years of producing and facilitating innovative
cross-institutional and multidisciplinary research in St Andrews and Dundee*