



HARC Herald

October 2025 Newsletter



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All Things HARC!

Home Visiting Research Discovery Program

Calling all home visiting practitioners! Are you eager to deepen your understanding of the research process? HARC is excited to introduce the Home Visiting Research Discovery Program!

This small group **mentoring program** is designed for home visiting practitioners, including direct service providers, supervisors, and administrators looking to enhance their research skills. Running from January to December 2026, the program includes monthly virtual meetings, one in-person meeting (travel covered), development of a product useful to their practice, and a certificate of completion.

Applicants should have 2–10 years of home visiting experience and an interest in home visiting research. Deadline is November 3, 2025.

Application

HARC Webinar Series



HARC WEBINARS



Stay up to date on the latest
in home visiting research

Upcoming webinars

- Adaptive trial designs
- Home visiting in rural contexts

Recorded webinars

- Hybrid effectiveness implementation designs
- Propensity score matching
- Implementation methods
- Early career scholars
- Data visualization
- Open science
- Data sharing
- And more!



For additional webinar information including upcoming and recorded webinars, please visit [HARC's webinar page.](#)

Seed Funding

HARC Announcement - Funded Seed Projects

HARC is excited to announce four innovative home visiting research projects funded through a competitive review process. These projects will explore emerging and enduring issues in early childhood home visiting, with two using shared or linked data sources and two leveraging [HARC's practice-based research network](#)

We look forward to sharing updates on these projects in the coming months.

Projects

- ***A Qualitative Study of How Home Visitors Identify, Perceive, and Support Families Impacted by the Criminal Legal System***
 - Led by Rebecca Schlafer, University of Minnesota
- ***Empowering Parents with Disabilities through Home Visiting***
 - Led by Rhonda Jenson, Northern Arizona University
- ***Operationalizing Coverage of an Evidence-Based Intervention in Home Visiting***
 - Led by Alexandra Morshed, Emory University
- ***Home Visiting Workforce Analysis***
 - Led by Carrie Furrer, Portland State University

Ask an Expert

Ask an Expert

Do you need advice on research topic, question, or method? Get connected with a HARC member researcher with the expertise that you need! Submit your question by completing our interest [form](#). Inquiries will be taken on a rolling basis, and we'll do our best to match you with an expert to provide tailored guidance and support!

HARC 2025 MIECHV All-Grantee Meeting Presentations

HARC PRESENTATIONS

2025 MIECHV ALL-GRANTEE MEETING

Monday, Nov. 17, 3:15-3:45pm

The Use of Artificial Intelligence in Home Visiting Service Delivery

Kay O'Neill and Jon Korfmacher

Getting Started on Your Precision Study: A Tour of HARC Resources

Rebecca Fauth and Lori Burrell

Wednesday, Nov. 19, 3:15-3:45pm

Justice-Involved Families in Home Visiting

Jon Korfmacher, Dylan B. Jackson, and Rebecca Fauth

Thursday, Nov. 20, 9-10am

Understanding and Addressing Contextual Barriers in Home Visiting: A Collaborative Exploration

Heather Johnson, Amanda Eastern, and Jill Filene



Hot Off the Press! Recent Work by HARC and its Members!

ABC's Active Ingredients: Parent Coaches' In Vivo Feedback Predicts Maternal Sensitivity Among Low-income Predominantly Latina Mothers

This month, HARC members Lisa Berlin, Lisa Shanty, Brenda Jones Harden, and colleagues published findings from a [study](#) on how parent coaches' real-time feedback influences sensitive parenting among low-income mothers of infants, most of whom were Latina. Guided by principles of implementation science and precision home visiting, the study examined mothers who completed the Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-Up (ABC) program, a 10-visit evidence-based home visiting intervention. Results showed that the quantity, quality, and focus of "in-the-moment" feedback from parent coaches predicted maternal sensitivity during both play and mild stress. These findings provide insights for program implementation and dissemination.

“Anything Would Be Easier than What We’re Doing Right Now”: Early Head Start Home Visitors’ Experiences Working Through an Environmental Crisis

In a recent **study**, HARC member Ashley Shafer and colleagues explored the experiences of Early Head Start home visitors supporting young children from low-income families during the COVID-19 pandemic. Home visitors reported stress, mental health challenges, loss of peer interactions, and blurred personal boundaries as they supported families during a crisis. These experiences contributed to burnout and increased the risk of staff leaving the field. The study highlights the importance of strong peer support networks and transparent, responsive leadership to retain high-quality early childhood education staff, especially during times of disruption.

Breastfeeding Conversations with a Home Visitor and Breastfeeding Continuation in Postnatal Enrollees

HARC members Margaret Gullick, Kristen Kirkland, and colleagues conducted a **study** that examined how conversations about breastfeeding during home visits can influence breastfeeding continuation among new mothers enrolled in postnatal home visiting programs. The findings show that regular discussions about breastfeeding with a home visitor are linked to longer breastfeeding duration. The positive impact was especially noticeable among U.S. born mothers, highlighting how home visiting programs can help reduce breastfeeding disparities. Incorporating breastfeeding support into routine home visits offers an effective, low-cost way to promote maternal and child health.

Collaboration Between Nurse Home Visitors and Child Welfare Predicts Participant Attrition in Home Visiting Programs

In another **study**, HARC member Venice Ng Williams and colleagues examined Nurse Family Partnership collaboration with Child Protective Services, measuring relational coordination (quality of provider communication) and structural integration (formal systems and shared processes). While relational coordination had no significant effect, stronger structural integration was linked to lower participant attrition, especially outside health care settings. The findings highlight the importance of formal collaborative structures and the need for ongoing research to support families facing multiple adversities.

Driving Forces: Unpacking Workforce Satisfaction and Retention Among Home Visitors

HARC members Anne Plagge and Kere Hughes-Belding published a **study** exploring what motivates and sustains early childhood home visitors. Using a phenomenological approach informed by social exchange theory, the researchers examined the experiences of current and former home visitors in a Midwestern state. Findings showed that job satisfaction was shaped by both intrinsic and extrinsic motivators—such as a desire to help others, support families, and meet family needs—along with factors like workload, relationships, and mindset. The study highlights the importance of addressing these influences to promote home visitor well-being, satisfaction, and workforce

retention.

Home Visiting for Families without a Home: Findings from a Qualitative Study

HARC member Amy Dworsky and colleagues published findings from a qualitative **study** exploring how home visiting programs can better support families with young children experiencing homelessness. As part of the *Home Visiting for Homeless Families* project, the study examined barriers to service delivery and ways to make home visiting more responsive to families' needs. Interviews with home visitors, supervisors, and mothers revealed that while some service adaptations were made, staff often struggled to use program flexibilities and needed more training to help families address housing challenges. Mothers appreciated the emotional and practical support provided, emphasizing that stable housing and coordinated care are essential for families to fully benefit from home visiting services.

“My Resources Ran Out and He Didn’t Need Me Anymore”: Economic Abuse Dynamics Experienced by Mothers Enrolled in Home Visiting Programs

HARC member Jennifer Baquedano and colleagues published findings from their **study** examining economic abuse, a form of intimate partner violence (IPV), among mothers enrolled in home visiting programs. The study involved semi-structured interviews with mothers with varied demographic backgrounds from rural and urban areas of a Midwestern state, all of whom reported experiencing economic abuse. Results highlighted economic restriction (including employment sabotage tied to denied childcare), economic exploitation, and a broader economic burden, particularly for mothers who had relocated with their partners. These findings underscore the important role home visiting programs can play in connecting mothers to childcare, social supports, and economic resources to help those experiencing IPV.

Supporting Prenatal Families: Perspectives from Early Head Start Staff

In a recent **study**, HARC member Eleanor Fisk and colleagues explored how Early Head Start (EHS) programs individualize services for prenatal families by gathering perspectives from staff who work directly with these families or understand how their programs serve them. Staff highlighted challenges, such as ensuring families had access to needed services, and successes, including tailoring support to meet families' unique needs. The findings inform practice recommendations, such as expanding community program networks and conducting further research on the cumulative benefits of prenatal EHS enrollment.

Staff Turnover in Early Childhood Home Visiting: Using Survival Analysis to Understand the Role of Drivers and Dimensions of Professional Well-being

This month, HARC members Anne Lilly, Alexandra Cirillo Lilli, Allison West, Cynthia Minkovitz and colleagues published findings from their **study** investigating factors influencing staff turnover in home visiting programs. The research explored professional

well-being related to turnover and found that enhancing well-being through improved program functionality (i.e., opportunities for growth and achievement, role clarity, and cooperation among colleagues) was associated with lower turnover. Furthermore, home visitors with more prior experience were more likely to remain with their programs, while those who expressed a strong desire to leave were less likely to stay. Findings suggest that home visiting leadership might enhance staff retention by promoting growth opportunities, clarifying roles, and fostering cooperation.

Opportunities to Join HARC Special Interest Groups

Interested in joining a Special Interest Group? Click on a link below to learn more and sign up. All are welcome (e.g., home visiting staff, researchers and evaluators, TA specialists, and other interest groups).

- [Early Career Scholars](#)
- [Workforce Development](#)
- [Data Sharing](#)



Monthly Peer-reviewed Literature Updates

Peer-Reviewed Literature Updates

Each month, HARC shares recently published peer-reviewed home visiting research articles. Articles are identified via a Google Scholar alert, thus the list may not include all published articles. View the citations and links to open access articles [here](#).

News from the Field

Continuing Home Visiting Services During COVID-19: A Brief from the Multi-Site Implementation Evaluation of Tribal Home Visiting (OPRE Report 2025-089)

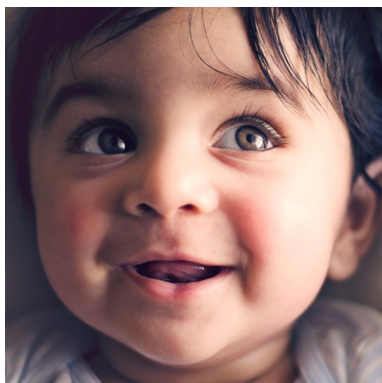
This [brief](#) highlights how Tribal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting programs continued serving families during the COVID-19 pandemic. The analysis examined program implementation and the supports and challenges to home visiting in Tribal communities. Findings showed that shifting to virtual visits helped maintain connections, with some families benefiting from added flexibility, while others faced barriers like limited internet or privacy concerns. Staff demonstrated adaptability and dedication, going above and beyond to keep families engaged and supported during a challenging time.

How the Value of Strengths Focus Transforms the Narrative of Research and Evaluation with Native Communities (OPRE Report 2025-035)

This [brief](#) highlights how ACF programs are using a strengths-focused approach to better support positive outcomes in Indigenous communities. Tribal Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG) 2.0 expanded success measures beyond education and employment to include hope, role modeling, and community connections. Tribal MIECHV launched a quality improvement collaborative to track what helps children and families thrive. The Native Children's Research Exchange and Tribal Early Childhood Research Center emphasized the

role of extended kinship networks. The brief shows how culturally informed evaluation can build on community strengths to improve program impact.

Call for Abstracts



Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) National Research Conference on Early Childhood (NRCEC) 2026 (June 22-24, 2026, in Arlington, VA)

The **NRCEC 2026** is now accepting **submissions** of posters, symposia, and professional development sessions showcasing innovative research on young children (birth to 8), their families, and the programs that support them. Deadline is November 3, 2025.

Prevention Science: Innovative Qualitative Methods

Share your qualitative research! *Prevention Science* invites **letters of intent** for a special issue titled "Advancing Innovative and Underutilized Qualitative Methods in Prevention Science." This issue seeks to highlight qualitative methodologies that can enhance prevention research, including innovative or underutilized research designs, data collection techniques, and data analysis methods. Deadline for submissions is December 15, 2025.

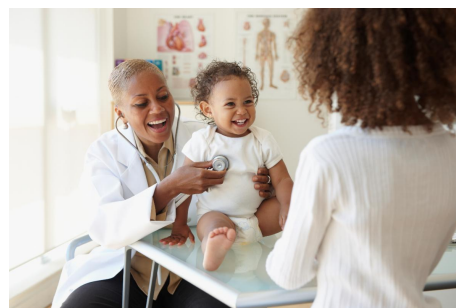
Upcoming Conferences

Research and Evaluation Conference on Self-Sufficiency (RECS) (May 20-22, 2026, in Washington, D.C. and virtual)

Save the date for the **2026 Research and Evaluation Conference on Self-Sufficiency**. Join researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to explore the latest findings on programs and policies that support family economic self-sufficiency. Topics include employment, financial literacy, housing, health, education, and more. Select sessions will also be available virtually.

2026 Society for Prevention Research Annual Conference (May 26-29, 2026, in Washington, D.C. and virtual)

Save the date for the **2026 Society for Prevention Research conference**. Join leading prevention scientists, policymakers, and practitioners to explore cutting-edge research, innovative methodologies, and strategies for implementing evidence-based prevention interventions across public health sectors.



2026 National Home Visiting Summit (September 29-30, 2026,

in Baltimore, MD)

Save the date for the **2026 National Home Visiting Summit**. The Summit is designed to provide a multi-pronged, holistic approach to systems change by incorporating policy, practice and research and connecting home visiting to other components of the early childhood system.

For more information on upcoming conferences, please visit HARC's Upcoming Conferences and Webinars page!

Become a HARC Member!

Join HARC's Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN)

Why Join?



Share Your Voice

HARC brings together home visiting staff, network leaders, model representatives, families and researchers to identify and answer important research questions. This research can help strengthen the benefits of home visiting for all families.



Make an Impact

Home visiting research needs your voice in order to support innovative practice. Join HARC to create research that can improve home visiting practice and policy!



Get Connected

Connect with peers, learn about new research studies, join a special interest group, and stay informed about home visiting with the HARC monthly newsletter!

OUR MISSION

The Home Visiting Applied Research Collaborative is a national research and development platform for innovation to broaden and strengthen home visiting's benefits for all families and communities.

hvresearch.org



Join the Network Today

PS: It's FREE!



Missed a newsletter? No worries - they're now available on the HARC website along with our monthly literature updates!

Home Visiting Applied Research Collaborative

www.hvresearch.org

*Do you have research-related announcements or examples of precision research you'd like to share with the HARC network? If so, we'd love to hear from you! **Guidelines for newsletter submissions can be found on our website.** If you have any questions, please feel free to send to Diana (dchute1@jhu.edu).*

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