



HARC Herald

November 2025 Newsletter



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Happy Thanksgiving!

As we celebrate this season of gratitude, HARC would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our members, partners, and collaborators. Your hard work to improve home visiting helps families and communities thrive! We wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with good food, good health, and joyful moments with family and friends.

Celebrating November



Honoring Native American Heritage

As we celebrate Native American Heritage Month, we honor Indigenous contributions and emphasize the importance of cultural context within Indigenous families. Home visiting programs support this goal by promoting cultural enrichment and intergenerational bonding, which in turn fosters child development and provides Native American children with a strong foundation for the future. Below are a few examples of recent research articles about home visiting within Native American communities.

Engaging Indigenous Communities in Research to Inform Practice: The Multisite Implementation Evaluation of Tribal Home Visiting

Towards Precision Home Visiting: Results at Six Months Postpartum from a Randomized Pilot Implementation Trial to Assess the Feasibility

Community engagement (CE) is recognized as a method to enhance the ethics, rigor, and impact of research, particularly for integrating Indigenous and Western research systems. The Multi-site Implementation Evaluation of Tribal Home Visiting (MUSE) utilized a community-engaged approach to study federally funded home-visiting programs across Indigenous communities in the United States. This [paper](#) outlines MUSE's community-engaged approach, highlighting key outcomes, barriers encountered, responses to these challenges, and the impacts. By contributing to the growing evidence of the benefits of community-engaged methods, MUSE demonstrates that CE is both feasible and valuable in multisite studies conducted in partnership with Indigenous communities.

of a Precision Approach to Family Spirit

In this [study](#), the authors assessed implementation of a precision approach to Family Spirit, a home visiting model developed for and with Indigenous communities. Pregnant or postpartum women were assigned to receive either Precision Family Spirit (PFS) or Standard Family Spirit (Standard FS). Both groups showed high program acceptability, satisfaction, and strong relationships with home visitors. However, participant feedback indicated that some Standard FS content may not apply to all participants. Retention and adherence rates were higher for the PFS group compared to Standard FS. These findings suggest that a precision approach to Family Spirit may be feasible and useful.

For those interested in learning more about Indigenous research methods and collaborative research strategies that align with Indigenous approaches to inquiry, check out this [resource](#) from the [Center for Indigenous Research Collaborations and Learning for Home Visiting](#) (CIRCLE-HV).

Home Visiting to Support Veterans and Active-Duty Military Families

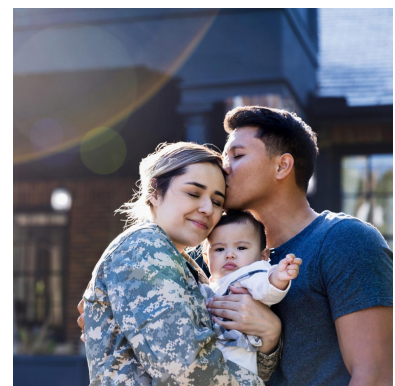
In honor of Veterans Day, we recognize the valuable contributions of our veterans and active-duty military families.

The Role of Home Visiting in Supporting Military Families: Q&A with Dr. Abigail Ross

This month, we asked HARC member and former HARC Early Career Scholar Dr. Abigail Ross about how home visiting can support military families. Below we share brief excerpts from our Q&A; for the full conversation, visit the HARC Resource [page](#).

Question: What motivated you to study parenting support programs - such as home visiting - for military families?

Dr. Ross: *My motivation grew directly out of my early clinical and research experiences with military families during periods of deployment and reintegration. During my doctoral program, I served as the Project Director for a Department of Defense funded study to develop and test a home-based preventive intervention for OEF/OIF/OND service members with very young children. In this role, I witnessed firsthand the profound stressors families faced during*



deployment cycles—especially the ways parental separation, disrupted routines, and changes in parenting roles affected young children's and family well-being. [...] I saw that families often wanted support but encountered barriers accessing traditional services. Home visiting offered a uniquely feasible, relationship-based approach that meets parents where they are, builds trust, and supports parenting during intensive periods of transition.

Question: What are special considerations for engaging military families in home visiting?

Dr. Ross (response is abbreviated): There are several key considerations for successfully engaging and retaining military families in home visiting: 1) Trust and relationship-building are essential, 2) programs must address the deployment cycle, and 3) support for at-home parents – in addition to service members - is critical.

Question: What have you learned from your research with military families that might be helpful for home visiting practitioners or researchers?

Dr. Ross (response is abbreviated): 1) social support is a powerful protective factor, 2) practitioners must be aware of civilian privilege and its impact on engagement, 3) military families are highly resilient and very responsive when programs are tailored to their realities.

Below is a recent research article about a virtual home visiting program for military families.

A Trauma-Informed, Family-Centered, Virtual Home Visiting Program for Young Children: One-Year Outcomes

This **study** evaluated Families OverComing Under Stress-Early Childhood (FOCUS-EC), a trauma-informed, family-centered intervention delivered through virtual telehealth to promote family resilience and well-being among military-connected families with 3-6 year old children. Participating families received either FOCUS-EC or an online education program. Findings showed that families receiving FOCUS-EC had significantly greater improvements in child behavior, parenting practices, and parent-child interactions, along with greater reductions in posttraumatic stress symptoms compared to those in the online education group. These findings suggest potential benefits of FOCUS-EC for military-connected families.

Interested in learning more about how home visiting can support military families? HARC has gathered a short list of articles and research briefs related to this topic. Articles were identified via a Google Search, thus the list may not include all published articles or research briefs. To view the citations and links to open access articles [here](#).

All Things HARC!

New HARC Resources

Intervention Technique Taxonomy: Behavior-Focused Techniques

HARC has created a **taxonomy** of 81 behavior-focused intervention techniques home visitors use to encourage clients to adopt specific behaviors that



lead to better outcomes. This taxonomy can be used to define interventions more clearly, align programs with family needs, and evaluate intervention delivery.

Low-Cost RCTs: Applications for Home Visiting Programs

Interested in exploring efficient, low-cost study designs to test program impacts? Check out our [brief](#) on low-cost RCTs! Low cost RCTs leverage existing data or evaluate existing programs. The brief describes low-cost RCTs, examples from home visiting, and potential data sources.

New HARC Opportunity

Home Visiting Journal Club

Are you interested in reading and discussing cutting edge, applied home visiting research articles with home visiting colleagues and experts? HARC is considering starting a journal club that would meet 4-6 times per year. All are welcome, and members are invited to suggest articles for discussion. If interested, please complete the interest form to answer four quick questions.

[Interest Form](#)

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

Discrimination Associated with Maternal Mental Health and Children's Behavior in Rural African American Families.

This month, HARC member Brenda Jones Harden and colleagues published findings from their [study](#) examining the relationship among mothers' perceptions of how they are treated differently, maternal mental health, and child behavior in African American families from rural, low-income backgrounds. Results indicate that mothers' experiences of how they are treated are linked to increased depression and parenting stress, which contribute to behavior problems in their children.

Don't Miss Out - More from HARC

HARC Webinar Series

If you're interested in staying updated on the latest research and research methods in home visiting, HARC's webinar series is perfect for you! Our sessions cover important topics like adaptive trial designs, open science, and collaborating with state and community partners. We

invite you to visit our [webinar page](#) to learn about upcoming sessions and access recorded webinars.

Opportunities to Join HARC Special Interest Groups

Interested in joining a Special Interest Group? Click on the links 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](#)

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!



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](#).

Call for Conference Abstracts



ZERO TO THREE LEARN Conference (October 27-29, 2026, in Portland, OR)

ZERO TO THREE is now accepting [proposals](#) for the 2026 LEARN conference. Proposals should feature content that is 1) relevant to professionals working with children under 5 years old and their families, 2) is grounded in the [domains](#) from the ZERO

TO THREE Competencies for Prenatal to Age 5, and 3) focuses on addressing and advancing the health of all families. [Deadline is December 12, 2025.](#)

2026 National Home Visiting Summit (September 29-30, 2026, in Baltimore, MD)

The National Home Visiting Summit is now accepting [proposals](#) 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. [Submission deadline is January 4, 2026.](#)

Call for Papers

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

Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) 2026 Annual Conference: “Leading for Transformative Change: Aligning Social Work Science with Policy and Practice” (January 14-18, 2026, in Washington, D.C.)

Registration is open for the **SSWR Annual Conference** showcasing symposia, workshops, roundtables, flash talks, and paper and poster presentations across various research interests and methodologies. Specialized workshops will increase methods expertise and grant-writing skills, alongside sessions on research priorities and capacity building for contemporary social work research.

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.



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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