



HARC Herald

January 2026 Newsletter



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All Things HARC!



Save the Date

**HARC's 10th Annual
Collaborative Science of
Home Visiting Meeting**

**September 28, 2026
Baltimore, MD**

This meeting will take place the afternoon prior to the 2026 National Home Visiting Summit.



Upcoming Webinar



FEBRUARY HARC WEBINARS



Home Visiting in Rural Contexts: Implementing Regional MIECHV Hubs in Rural Kansas

FEB 10, 2026
12PM ET

Katie Bieker
Kansas Dept of Health and Environment



Neil Rowe
University of Kansas



Ethical Use of AI in Academic Publishing: Opportunities and Responsibilities

FEB 24, 2026
12PM ET

Rachel Walden
Johns Hopkins University

Registration now open!

www.hvresearch.org

[Register Here](#)

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

Your Opinion Matters Take a Brief Survey on Priority Issues in Home Visiting

What are the **biggest issues** in home visiting that matter most to you? Take this 10-minute survey to share your perspectives. The survey is open to anyone interested in home visiting, including program staff and participants, model representatives, tribal and state leads, researchers, evaluators, and training and technical assistance providers. Results will be shared in February and will help guide HARC's activities in the coming year—and participants can enter a raffle to win one of four \$50 Amazon gift cards. Deadline is February 6, 2026.

[Take Survey](#)

HARC's Home Visiting Journal Club

Join HARC's Home Visiting Journal Club – Don't Miss Out!

Our kickoff [journal club](#) in January was a great success, featuring engaging discussion on a variety of topics related to the article by Daniel Shaw and colleagues, ***Reducing Poverty-Related Disparities in Child Development and School Readiness: The Smart Beginnings Tiered Prevention Strategy that Combines Pediatric Primary Care with Home Visiting***. Stay tuned for details on upcoming journal clubs. **Everyone is welcome!**

[Register Here](#)

HARC Research Discovery Program

We are excited to announce the launch of the “Home Visiting Research Discovery Program,” a mentoring program for home visiting practitioners! Congratulations to our first cohort of seven exceptional scholars! This program aims to strengthen home visiting practitioners' research skills and involvement. Cohort scholars will learn skills to enhance their capacity to do research, use research to inform practice, and explore research careers.

HARC'S RESEARCH DISCOVERY PROGRAM SCHOLARS



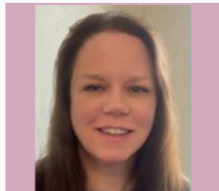
Abigail Aquino
County of San Diego
Health and Human
Services Agency



Charlotte Campbell
Baltimore Co.
Dept of Health



Yanira De La Rosa
ABC, University of
Delaware



Sara Remington
Rhode Island
Dept. of Health



Jenna Stoughtenger
Children's Wisconsin -
Community Services



Chelsey Sullivan
Sixpence, Humboldt
Public Schools



Heidi Welch
NFP, Jefferson County
Public Health



Get Help from a Content or Methods Expert

Are you a home visiting practitioner, administrator, quality improvement leader, or evaluator who needs advice on home-visiting related research topics or methods? HARC member researchers offer expertise on a broad range of topics – some examples include nutrition, child development, mental health, partner violence, and workforce supports and varying research designs, methods, and analytic approaches. Connect with a HARC researcher who has the expertise you need! Complete our interest [form](#) to submit your question. Inquiries are accepted on a rolling basis, and we'll do our best to match you with an expert for personalized support!

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

Early Parenting Support on Child Development Through Age 6: The Smart Beginnings Model

HARC member Daniel Shaw and colleagues published results from a **study** of the sustained impacts of Smart Beginnings (SB), a tiered intervention that integrates PlayReadVIP, a universal, pediatric primary case-based intervention, and Family Check-Up, a brief evidence-based home visiting model. The study found that SB significantly improved academic skills at age six by enhancing parental support during toddlerhood and early learning skills in preschool. The total indirect pathways were positive and significant for all academic outcomes tested at age six (e.g., oral comprehension, letter-word recognition). These findings highlight the scalability of the SB model and its potential to improve academic development.

Enhancing Postpartum Care Access: Associations Between Home Visiting Participation and Postpartum Visit Attendance Using a Quasi-Experimental Study Design

HARC members Rebecca Fauth, Chie Kotake, Christine Silva, Ann Easterbrooks, and colleague recently published findings from their **study** examining whether Early Intervention Parenting Partnerships (EIPP), a home visiting program helping families facing pregnancy-related challenges, was associated with receipt of postpartum visits, overall and stratified by adequacy of prenatal care. Outcomes included postpartum visits received before 21 days, between 21-60 days, and between 61-90 days. Standardized healthcare codes and additional codes for visits related to contraception, feeding, and mental health were used. EIPP participants were more likely to receive postpartum care between 21-60 days and 61-90 days relative to the comparison group. Those with inadequate prenatal care were more likely to receive postpartum visits within the first 60 days than those with adequate care, and the postpartum care rate remained unchanged with standard healthcare codes. EIPP can increase postpartum visits by helping those who struggle to access healthcare.

Home Visiting Interventions and Their Impact on Mental Health, Psychosocial, and Parenting Practice Outcomes of Vulnerable Caregivers: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

In a recent **publication**, HARC member Lynn Kemp and colleagues synthesized literature on the effects of home visiting programs offered to caregivers of young children who were experiencing mental health or substance issue difficulties, family violence, and/or child protection issues. The interventions were effective in enhancing various outcomes related to caregivers' mental health, parenting, and family violence. However, the overall impact of these interventions was modest, with only one outcome—practical parenting skills—showing a statistically significant improvement compared to the control group. Gaps in information and significant variability in the interventions made it difficult to pinpoint consistent treatment components that contributed to effective versus ineffective outcomes.

Social Determinants of Health Influence Maternal Health Behaviors and Engagement in an Obesity Prevention Intervention

HARC member Sarah Farabi and colleagues released a **study** on how social determinants of health (SDOH) affect mothers' obesity risk and their participation in the two-year Healthy Eating and Active Living Taught at Home (HEALTH) intervention, delivered by parent educators (PEs) through the Parents as Teachers home visiting

program. Neighborhood physical activity environment, food access, and community context each influenced behaviors associated with obesity risk (e.g., physical activity, nutrition). Mothers found HEALTH necessary, tailored to their needs, and provided practical steps to address SDOH, like incorporating short walks at home. Spanish-speaking mothers particularly benefited from the shared language with PEs. These findings suggest that obesity prevention interventions, when integrated within home visiting, can address SDOH and related maternal health behaviors.

Research Resources

Center for the Advancement and Dissemination of Intervention Optimization (CADIO)

Are you looking for information on intervention optimization and the multiphase optimization strategy? **CADIO** has several recent resources to assist you in understanding the systematic process of optimizing interventions to achieve maximum effectiveness and impact.

Core Competencies for Prevention Researchers

The Society for Prevention Research released **Core Competencies for Prevention Researchers** based on updated standards of knowledge for what prevention scientists need to know to conduct cutting-edge work that will lead to further societal advances in health and wellbeing. The core competencies support dialogue, training, and the continued advancement of prevention science across disciplines and settings.

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 Proposals

2026 Parents as Teachers International Conference (Oct 5-8, 2026, in Portland, OR)

The Parents as Teachers National Center is now accepting **proposals** for the **2026 Parents as Teachers International Conference**. Proposals should align with one of seven National Center Goals/Outcomes including improving parent, child, and family health and well-being, preventing child abuse and neglect, and improving family economic well-being. **Submission deadline is February 8, 2026.**

Start Early's Universal Newborn Support Systems (UNSS) Community Feasibility Assessment

Start Early is inviting **proposals** to fund local planning activities to assess the feasibility and readiness of communities to implement a **Universal Newborn Support System**. Submission deadline is February 27, 2026.



Upcoming Conferences

2026 Conference on Intervention Optimization: Science and Practice, Present and Future (May 18-20, 2026)

Registration is open for the **2026 Conference on Intervention Optimization** in Bethesda, MD. The inaugural Conference will convene scholars across health, education, behavioral science, and engineering to establish intervention optimization as a multidisciplinary field and spark collaboration. The program will feature plenary sessions on new experimental designs, implementation science, computer science applications, and decision-making, alongside poster sessions and networking opportunities.

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)

Mark your calendar 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.



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

Save the date for the **NRCEC 2026**. This conference will showcase the latest research on early childhood programs that support young children and their families.

2026 American Psychological Association Convention (August 6-8, 2026, in Washington, D.C. and virtual)

Mark your calendar for the **2026 American Psychological Association Convention**. This event unites psychologists who are shaping the future of research and offers a chance to network, collaborate, and advance together in the field.

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

Registration is open 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.

Zero to Three Learn Conference (Oct 27-29, 2026, in Portland, OR)

Registration is now open for the **2026 ZERO TO THREE LEARN Conference**. The goal of this conference is to transform early childhood concepts into action, theories into skills, and shared passion into positive energy that propels the field forward. This conference is a great way to learn from experts in the field, build networks, and connect with friends.

For more information on upcoming conferences, please visit HARC's [Upcoming Conferences 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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