



Topic Brief: Beaumont Sergeant at Arms

Date: 6/30/2020

Nomination Number: 0912

Purpose: This document summarizes the information addressing a nomination submitted on June 12, 2020 through the Effective Health Care Website. This information was used to inform the Evidence-based Practice Center (EPC) Program decisions about whether to produce an evidence report on the topic, and if so, what type of evidence report would be most suitable.

Issue: The nominator is concerned that the public's negative perception of physical disabilities hinders disabled individuals from fully participating in public life. He would like a report that would encourage his community to value physical diversity and be more welcoming towards people with disabilities.

Program Decision: Although this issue is important, development and implementation of policies are outside the purview of the EPC Program, which is focused on developing evidence reviews to inform healthcare decision-making about interventions and activities available to decisionmakers in the United States. No further activity will be undertaken on this topic.

Background

- As of 2018, one in four adults (61 million Americans) have a disability that “impacts major life activities.” This issue is even more pervasive in older populations, impacting nearly two in five adults over the age of 65¹.
- People who are discriminated against often experience higher levels of chronic stress, therefore increasing their risk of developing complications including depression, diabetes, and high blood pressure².
- A 2015 survey of over 3,000 adults in the United States found that those with disabilities were almost twice as likely to say that their life has become harder due to discrimination, and that discrimination has impinged upon their ability to live a full and comfortable life³.
- Some primary research indicates that prejudice-reducing policy interventions can to be an effective way to changing public attitudes and reducing systemic barriers that negatively impact people with disabilities on a day-to-day basis^{4,5}. Likewise, educational programs for medical professionals may also be useful to address prejudice towards disabled people in clinical settings⁶.

Assessment Methods

We assessed the nomination for priority for a systematic review or other AHRQ EHC report with a hierarchical process using established selection criteria. Assessment of each criteria determined the need to evaluate the next one.

1. Determine the *appropriateness* of the nominated topic for inclusion in the EHC program.

2. Establish the overall *importance* of a potential topic as representing a health or healthcare issue in the United States.
3. Determine the *desirability of new evidence review* by examining whether a new systematic review or other AHRQ product would be duplicative.
4. Assess the *potential impact* a new systematic review or other AHRQ product.
5. Assess whether the *current state of the evidence* allows for a systematic review or other AHRQ product (feasibility).
6. Determine the *potential value* of a new systematic review or other AHRQ product.

Summary of Selection Criteria Assessment

Policies and public education can be utilized to address large-scale issues regarding public perception of disabilities. As policy creation is outside the scope of the EPC program, this nomination does not meet the established appropriateness criteria.

Related Resources

We identified additional information in the course of our assessment that might be useful. A number of organizations in the United States provide resources and assistance to individuals who would like to increase public education and inclusion of people with disabilities in all areas of life.

1. Americans with Disabilities Act National Network (<https://adata.org/>)
2. American Association of People with Disabilities (<https://www.aapd.com/>)
3. National Organization on Disability (<https://www.nod.org/>)
4. National Center on Disability Journalism (<https://ncdj.org/>)

References

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