

ShowNotes  
Episode 7 : Health, Pregnancy & Representation

**Summary of Episode:**

Monika Mitra speaks about parenthood of persons with disabilities and the notion of representation in large population datasets.

**Biography:**

Dr. Monika Mitra is the Nancy Lurie Marks Associate Professor of Disability Policy and Director of the Lurie Institute for Disability Policy at Brandeis University. Her research broadly focuses on disparities in health outcomes and health care access among people with disabilities. She co-leads several federally funded projects including the National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities which is focused on addressing knowledge gaps regarding the needs of parents with diverse disabilities and their families, and the Community Living Policy Center which is aimed at improving policies and practices that advance community living outcomes for people with disabilities. Dr. Mitra is also the co-PI of the recently launched National Center for Disability and Pregnancy Research and is co-Editor-in-Chief of the Disability and Health Journal.

**Titles and Contact Information:**

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## References:

### Articles

Mitra, M., Long-Bellil, L. M., Smeltzer, S. C., Iezzoni, L. I. (2015). A Perinatal health framework for women with physical disabilities. *Disability and Health Journal*, 8, 499-506.

Mitra, M., Parish, S. L., Clements, K. M., Cui, X. (2015). Pregnancy outcomes among women with intellectual and developmental disabilities. *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*, 48, 300-308.

Mitra, M., Long-Bellil, L. M., Iezzoni, L. I., Smeltzer, S. C., Smith, L. D. (2016). Pregnancy among women with physical disabilities: unmet needs and recommendations on navigating pregnancy. *Disability and Health Journal*.

### Resources

Misra, D.P., Guyer, B., & Allston, A. (2003). Integrated perinatal health framework: a multiple determinants model with a life span approach. *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*, 25, 65-75.

Lu, M.C., & Halfon, N. (2003). Racial and ethnic disparities in birth outcomes: a life-course perspective. *Maternal Child Health Journal*, 7, 13-30.

***The National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities*** is a collaborative research and advocacy project that aims to support parents with disabilities. We are housed at the Lurie Institute for Disability Policy at Brandeis University and collaborate with other institutions, including the University of Massachusetts Medical School, the Universities of Michigan and of Cincinnati, Arizona State University, Rochester Institute of Technology, and Gallaudet University. We combine research expertise and first-hand experience to create a comprehensive resource for a variety of stakeholders, including parents, family members, clinicians, policymakers and disabled parents.

<https://heller.brandeis.edu/parents-with-disabilities/>

***The National Center for Disability and Pregnancy Research*** conducts multidisciplinary research about reproduction, pregnancy, and disability, including reproductive health, sex education, prenatal health, childbirth, interactions with obstetricians, and support networks. The Center is part of the Lurie Institute for Disability Policy at Brandeis University's Heller School for Social Policy and Management.

<https://heller.brandeis.edu/disability-and-pregnancy/>

***The Special Interest Research Group on Parents and Parenting with Intellectual Disabilities*** was founded in 1996 at an international conference in Denmark which was organized by the Danish Ministry of Social Affairs and The EU Commission. The SIRG/PID was formally affiliated with the International Association on the Scientific Study of Intellectual and

Developmental Disabilities (IASSIDD) in 2002. The mission of the Special Interest Research Group on Parents and Parenting with Intellectual Disabilities is:

- To create opportunities for international and multidisciplinary networking ;
- To foster research and innovation ;
- To expose social and systemic discrimination against and promote equalisation of opportunity for parents with intellectual disabilities and their children ;
- To facilitate the translation of knowledge from research into policies and practices.

<https://iassidd.org/sirgs/parenting-with-intellectual-disabilities/>