
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

NAME Kristin L. Berg	POSITION TITLE Associate Professor, Department of Disability and Human Development, Social Work Discipline Coordinator, Illinois LEND
eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login) TINERG13	

LANGUAGE FLUENCY: English

EDUCATION/TRAINING

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	MM/YY	FIELD OF STUDY
University of Wisconsin-Madison; Madison, WI	B.A	08/94-05/01	Psychology
University of Chicago; Chicago, IL	A.M./(M.S.W)	09/05-06/08	Social Work
University of Chicago; Chicago, IL	Ph.D.	09/08-08/13	Social Work

A. Personal Statement

Dr. Berg is an associate professor in the Department of Disability & Human Development and the Social Work Discipline Director in the Illinois LEND Program at University of Illinois-Chicago. (UIC). Dr. Berg received both her A.M. (M.S.W. equivalent) and Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration. Using rigorous methods that are conceptually grounded in the social model of disability, Dr. Berg's scholarship develops evidence to improve the health and independent living outcomes of youth with ASD and other development disabilities. As PI on a HRSA grant, [Family Adversity and Health Disparities for Children with Autism (R40MC28856-01-00s) Dr. Berg examined cutting-edge data on the intersection of early childhood adversity and service access disparities among youth with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Her project provided robust evidence that youth with ASD are at high risk of adverse childhood experiences (ACE) that are linked with delayed access to early childhood supports and services. Her most recent work continues to examine the intersection of disability, family adversity and mental health outcomes, looking for novel targets to reduce health disparities. In her former and current positions (Chair of the Self Advocate Subcommittee; Self Advocate Discipline Director at CHOP-LEND; Social Work Discipline Director at UIC, Autism CARES member, University of South Dakota LEND faculty, MCHC/RISE-UP faculty), Dr. Berg has worked to improve the diversity and cultural responsivity of training curricula and health care for people with disabilities and other marginalized communities. For example, she was instrumental in the creation of the self-advocacy discipline at the CHOP-LEND and helped develop and coordinate a grant-funded project to enhance the technical and training capacity of early intervention providers in Pennsylvania to meet the cultural and linguistic needs of Asian-American families of children with ASD and other disabilities (CO-I; 10%). She has also engaged in the recruitment, support and mentoring of Native American LEND fellows from Sinte Gleska University (Tribal College); as well as the adaptation of LEND opportunities to reflect the needs and experiences of Native Americans in South Dakota. As a self-identified individual with a disability, Dr. Berg is committed to collaborating with the disability community to translate research into meaningful change. Given Dr. Berg's extensive experience on a variety of interdisciplinary research teams, record of extramural funding and important disability-related scholarship, as well as her membership in the larger disability advocacy community, she would be the ideal candidate for the NIH loan repayment program award.

B. Positions and Honors

2019-present	Associate Professor of Disability & Human Development, University of Illinois-Chicago
2019-present	Discipline Director, Maternal Child Health Bureau LEND at the University of Illinois-Chicago
2018	Member, 2018 Autism CARES Activities Planning Committee
2018	Faculty, Maternal Child Health Careers/Research Initiatives for Student Enhancement Undergraduate Program (MCHC/RISE-UP)
2017-2019	Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Assistant Professor of Social Work, University of South Dakota

2015-2017	Discipline Director, Maternal Child Health Bureau LEND, the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
2015-2017	Chair, Self-Advocate Subcommittee of the National LEND Working Group, People with Disabilities in MCHB-funded training programs, Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)
2013-2017	Assistant Professor, Department of Rehabilitation Sciences at Temple University
2013-2014	Visiting Scholar, Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics, University of Chicago Medicine

C. Contribution to Science

1) **Dr. Berg's initial publications address disparities in victimization experienced by youth with disabilities in the child welfare system and its impact on mental health and well-being.** Drawing upon a nationally representative dataset, Dr. Berg documented increased rates of physical victimization and violence exposure among youth with disabilities in contact with the child welfare system. Among youth who reported past-year victimization, disability status significantly increased symptoms of clinical depression. Moreover, recently victimized youth were also significantly less likely to participate in developmentally salient activities. These publications broke new ground by illustrating the complex social and psychological needs of youth with disabilities in the child welfare system and advocating for enhanced victimization and mental health screening, in addition to targeted social supports, for this population.

- Berg, K.L., Medrano, J.A., C.S., Acharya, K., Lynch, A. & Msall, M.E. (2018). Health impacts of participation for vulnerable youth with disabilities. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 72 (5), 7205195040p1–7205195040p9
- Berg, K.L., Shiu, C.S., Msall, M.E., & Acharya, K. (2015). Victimization and restricted participation among youth with disabilities in the child welfare system. *Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology*, 57(6), 496-588
- Berg, K.L., Shiu, C.S., Acharya, K & Msall, M.E. (2015). Victimization and depression among youth with disabilities in the U.S. child welfare system. *Child: Care, Health & Development*, 41(6), 989-999.

2) **Dr. Berg's scholarship advanced research on the social determinants of health disparities impacting youth with disabilities.** Prior to Dr. Berg's research, few studies included people with disabilities in their examination of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), despite general recognition that ACEs are a significant contributor to adult health disparities. Funded in part under a HRSA awarded R40, as well as CHOP, Dr. Berg and colleagues investigated the prevalence and correlates of adverse family experiences (family ACEs) among youth with ASD and other disabilities using both clinical, hospital-based data as well as population-based survey data. The resulting analyses and publications were some of the first in the field to document heightened risk of family ACEs among youth with ASD and other disabilities. Additionally, both published findings and findings currently under review (*Journal of Maternal Child Health*) illuminate the complex relationship between ACEs and obesity among youth with ASD and neurodevelopmental delays, as well as the range of other health challenges associated with ACEs exposure (sleeping difficulties and functional impairment). Taken together, Dr. Berg's body of work suggests that higher exposure to adversities may play an unrecognized role in observed health disparities impacting youth and adults with disabilities.

- Mehari, K.R., Iyengar, S., Berg, K.L., Gonzales, J., Schneider, M. & Bennett-Palladino, A.M. (2020). Adverse childhood experiences and obesity among young children with developmental delays. *Maternal and Child Health Journal*. *Maternal and Child Health Journal*, 24(8), 1057-1064
- Berg K.L., Shiu, C.S., Acharya, K., Msall, M.E. (2019). Children with developmental disabilities experience higher levels of adversity. *Research in Developmental Disabilities*, 89, 105-113.
- Mehari, K.R., Iyengar, S., Schneider, M., Berg, K.L. & Bennett-Palladino, A. (in press). Adverse childhood experiences among children with neurodevelopmental delays: Relations to diagnoses, behavioral health, and clinical severity. *Journal of Clinical Psychology in Medical Settings*.
- Salzer, M.S., Berg, K.L., Kaplan, K., & Brusilovskiy, E. (in press). Custody challenges experienced by parents with serious mental illnesses outside of child protective services proceedings. *Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal*.
- Berg, K.L., Shiu, C.S., Acharya, K., Stolbach, B. & Msall, M.E. (2016). Disparities in family adversity among children with autism spectrum disorder: A population-based study. *Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology*, 11(58), 1124-1131.

- Berg, K. L., Shiu, C. S. & Nguyen, H. (2015). Prevalence of victimization, and associated risk factors, impacting youth with disabilities in Vietnam: a population based study. *International Journal on Disability and Human Development*, 14(2), 179-186.

3) Dr. Berg's scholarship has made a substantial contribution to the field of disability research by providing the most extensive analysis, to date, on the social determinants of health care inequity impacting children with ASD. Prior to Dr. Berg's research, health care access research primarily focused on demographic, insurance and provider-related barriers. Few studies considered noneconomic service barriers for youth with disabilities and no study explicitly examined how ACEs may impact age of diagnosis, timing of therapy or access to services among children with ASD. Funded under a HRSA awarded R40, Dr. Berg and colleagues investigated family ACEs and health care access among youth with ASD using population-based survey data. ACEs emerged as one of the strongest and most consistent correlates of delayed diagnosis and unmet healthcare needs impacting children with ASD. The relatively high prevalence of ACEs, and associated unmet health care needs documented by Dr. Berg and colleagues suggests that psychosocial stressors may be an unrecognized barrier to healthcare for a significant proportion of children with ASD. Dr. Berg's scholarship provides compelling evidence on barriers to optimal health among children with disabilities and increases awareness about the importance of addressing family adversities, as a key social determinant of health care inequity, impacting people with disabilities, generally.

- Berg, K.L., Shiu, C.S., Feinstein, R., Msall, M.E. & Acharya, K. (2018). Adverse childhood experiences are associated with unmet health care needs among children with autism spectrum disorder. *Journal of Pediatrics*. 202:258-264.e1.
- Berg K.L., Shiu, C.S., Acharya, K., Msall, M.E. (2018). Delayed diagnosis and treatment among children with autism who experience adversity. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disabilities*, 48(1), 45-54.
- Mehari, K.R. Moore, M.R., Waasdorp, T.E., Varney, O., Berg, K.L. & Leff, S.S. (2018). Cyberbullying coping and prevention: Insight and recommendations from youth, parents, and pediatricians. *Child: Care, Health and Development*, 44(4), 612-622.
- Gehlert, S., Mininger, C., Sohmer, D., & Berg, K. (2008). Not so gently down the stream: choosing targets to ameliorate health disparities. *Health and Social Work*, 33 (3), 163-167.

D. Research Support (Ongoing)

Leadership and Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) (T73 MC11047-09-00)(07/01/19-06/30/21). PI: K. Acharya. Funded by the U.S. Health Resources Services Administration, Maternal Child Health Bureau. The LEND program is an interdisciplinary fellowship training program to prepare healthcare professionals, family members and self-advocates to become leaders in the field of maternal and child health and improve systems of care for children with disabilities and chronic health conditions. Role: Social Work Discipline Coordinator 15%

Research Support (Completed)

A Community of Practice: Supporting Diverse Families in Greater Philadelphia (8/15/16- 8/01/18). PI: R. Ideishi. Funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Special Education (\$141,084.00). In 2015, Pennsylvania was accepted into the Community of Practice for Supporting Families of Individuals with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities, which is operated under a grant awarded to the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD). This project established a grassroots, Philadelphia-based coalition, led by diverse families, to empower families and promote inclusion within our communities, using culturally safe and linguistically appropriate standards. Role: Co-I (10%)

Leadership and Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) (7/6/2015-2017). PI: N. Blum. Funded by the U.S. Health Resources Services Administration, Maternal Child Health Bureau. The LEND program is an interdisciplinary fellowship training program to prepare healthcare professionals, family members and self-advocates to become leaders in the field of maternal and child health and improve systems of care for children with disabilities and chronic health conditions. Role: Research/Self-Advocate Discipline Director (18%)

Adverse Childhood Experiences Among Children with Neurodevelopmental Delays (11/1/15-2018). PI: K. Mehari. Funded by the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (\$10,000). The aim of this pilot project is to screen for the presence

of adverse childhood experiences among children with neurodevelopmental delays and examine concurrent relations among ACEs, internalizing and externalizing symptoms, and symptoms of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD); as well as the prospective relation between ACEs and neurodevelopmental diagnosis. Role: Co-I

Family Adversity and Health Disparities for Children with Autism (R40MC28856-01-00s)(9/1/2015-8/31/2016) PI: K. Berg. Funded by the Maternal Child Health Bureau. Utilizing complex survey data, the aims of this project were to employ the National Survey of Child Health to examine prevalence of adverse childhood experiences (ACES) and its relationship to health care access among minority families of children with ASD in the US. Role: PI (15%)

Exposure to Victimization and Violence among Adolescents with Disabilities in the Child Welfare System (1/2014-2016). PI: K. Berg. Funded by the Temple University College of Public Health Dean's Incentive Grant (\$5,000). The aim of this project was to examine correlates and consequences of victimization among youth with disabilities using nationally representative, complex survey data. Role: PI

