

TITLE: Understanding the relationship between number of disability-related conditions and stigma in a survey of US adults

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: Yes

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Disabilities Health services

ABSTRACT: Stigma is a common experience for people with disabilities (PWD). Disparities in accessing education, employment and other services can have an impact on the quality of life and health status of PWD. Stigmatization could cause psychological distress and loneliness and can lead to long-term stress-related health conditions. This study's purpose was to (1) determine the relationship between number of disability-related conditions (NDRC) and perceived stigma for adults with disabilities; and (2) examine whether identifying as a PWD, noticeability or gender are moderators of the relationship between NDRC and stigma. We conducted secondary analyses of data from the Disability Health Identity survey, originally collected in 2017 (n=711). We measured stigma using the 8-item Stigma Scale for Chronic Illness (Cronbach's alpha = 0.92). Multivariable linear regression analysis the association between NDRC and stigma was modified by noticeability (p=0.007). The relationship between NDRC and stigma was stronger for people with more noticeable disabilities. This research is important because it increases understanding of factors that may play a role in stigma experiences for people with disabilities.

OBJECTIVE(S): Understanding of factors that may play a role in stigma experiences for people with disabilities.
