

Relationship between disability and physical and communication-related barriers to health care services

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Presenter Disclosure

Sarah E. Bauer

The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

I have no relationships to disclose.



Background

- Nearly 1 in 5 people have a disability in the U.S.¹
- Persons with disabilities (PWD) are more likely to be in fair or poor health and have higher rates of risk factors for worsening overall health.²
- Health care system is not structured to care for PWD.³
- PWD experience lower rates of screening² and more difficulty accessing services.⁴



Physical Barriers to Care

- Physical barriers to care for PWD:
 - Lack of transportation⁵⁻⁷
 - Physical inaccessibility of facility⁵⁻¹⁰
 - Physical inaccessibility examining rooms^{5-9, 10}
 - Physical inaccessibility equipment⁵⁻¹³



Provider Barriers to Care

- Poor provider attitudes and lack of knowledge about disabilities.^{12,14-16}
- PWD have reported:
 - the need to teach providers about their disability
 - feeling that all of their needs were not met during the visit^{15,17}
- Brief clinical encounters or even refusal of care^{9,14, 18}



Objective

- Access barriers have been studied qualitatively and in specific populations.
- Emphasis was on diverse population of PWD living in Florida
- *Objective:* Identify physical and communication-related barriers PWD encounter when accessing health care services.



Persons with Disabilities Survey

- Developed by UF in partnership with the Florida Department of Health.
- One-time random-digit dial telephone survey of adults aged 18 years and older.
- Respondents were classified as having a disability if they responded ‘yes’ to either of two questions:
 - Are you limited in any way in any activities because of physical, mental, or emotional problems?
 - Do you now have any health problem that requires you to use special equipment, such as a cane, a wheelchair, or a special telephone?



Methods

- Respondents were asked to indicate whether they experienced any of eight health care access barriers in the previous 12 months.
- Descriptive statistics were used to describe participant demographics, count and frequency of accessibility barriers.
- Multivariable logistic regression was used to assess the relationship between disability and access to care barriers.

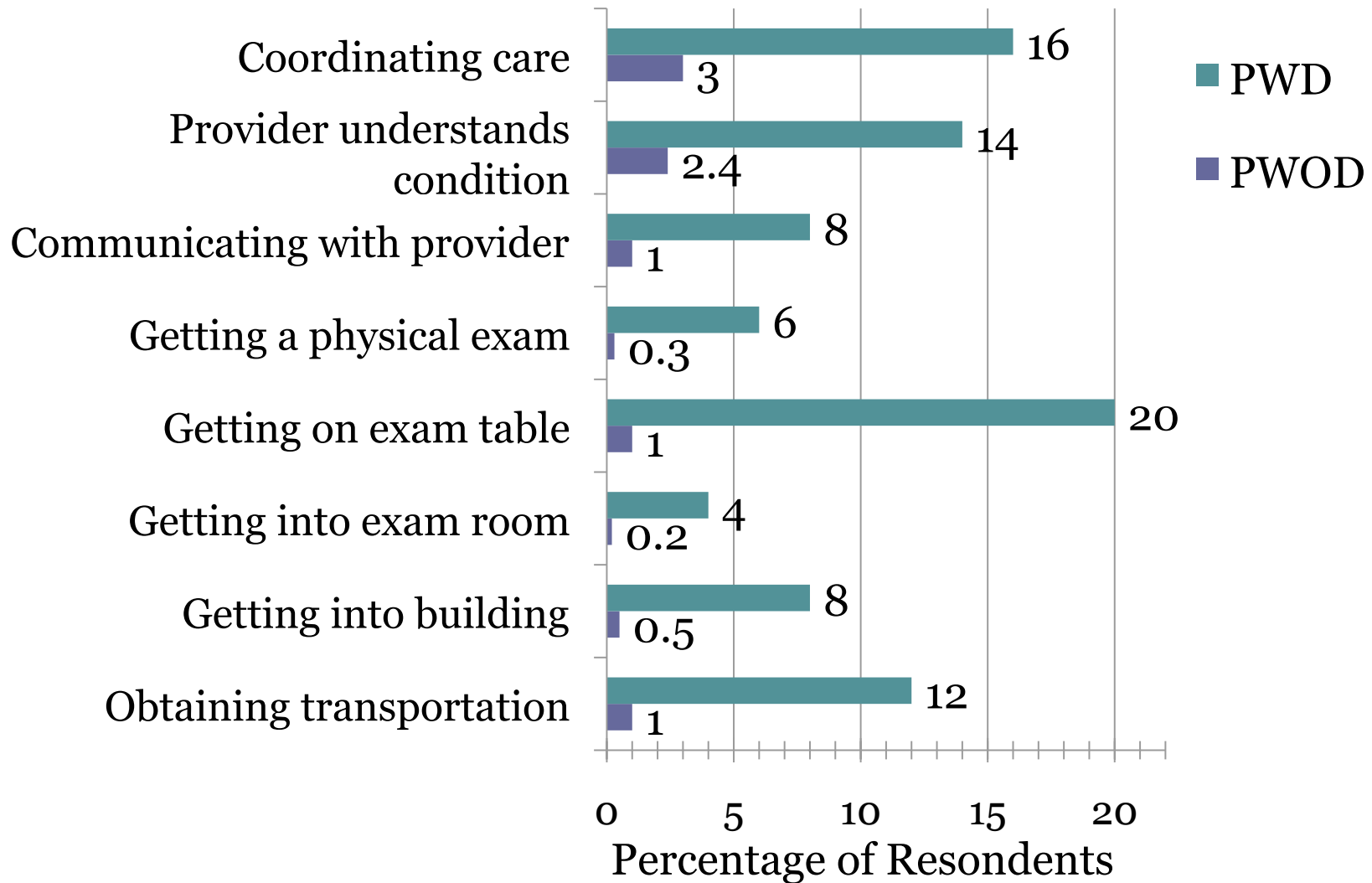
Table 1. Characteristics of survey respondents (N=1,429)

Respondent Characteristics	PWOD (n=958)	PWD (n=471)
	%	%
Mean age	61	68
Male	48	47
<i>Race and Ethnicity</i>		
White	87	86
Black, Asian, Native Hawaiian, American Indian, Other	13	14
Hispanic origin	7	6
<i>Education level</i>		
Some high school or less	3	7
High school graduate	21	26
Some college	30	30
College graduate	47	37

Table 1. Characteristics of survey respondents (continued)

Respondent Characteristics	PWOD (n=958)	PWD (n=471)
<i>Household Income</i>		
Less than \$20,000	13	29
\$20,000 to \$49,999	33	38
\$50,000 to \$99,999	32	26
Over \$100,000	22	8
<i>Marital Status</i>		
Married	56	48
Divorced	13	17
Widowed/separated/never married/ member of unmarried couple	31	36

Percentage of Survey Respondents Encountering Barriers to Care



Count and Percentage of Survey Respondents Encountering Barriers to Care

Physical barriers	PWOD	PWD
0	938 (98%)	334 (71%)
1	14 (1.5%)	80 (17%)
2	3 (0.3%)	34 (7%)
3	1 (0.1%)	12 (3%)
4	1 (0.1%)	5 (1%)
5	1 (0.1%)	6 (1%)
Communication barriers	PWOD	PWD
0	910 (95%)	351 (75%)
1	34 (3.5%)	74 (16%)
2	11 (1%)	32 (7%)
3	3 (0.3%)	14 (3%)

Barrier Subgroups

Physical Environment

- Obtaining transportation
- Getting into health care facility

Clinical Experience

- Getting into exam room
- Getting on exam table
- Getting a physical exam

Communication and Knowledge

- Communicating with provider
- Provider understands condition

Coordinating Care

- Coordinating care

Physical Environment Barriers

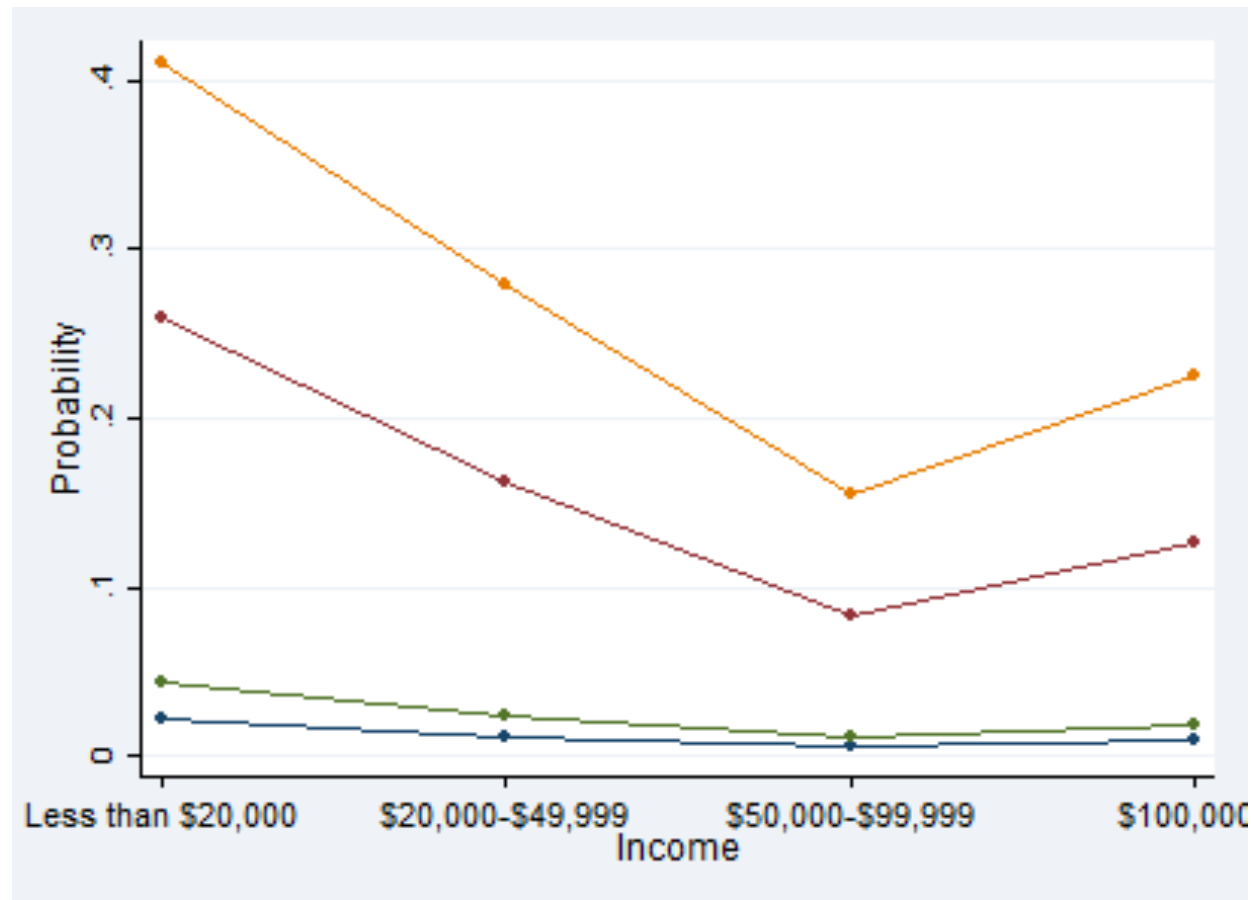
	Predicted Probability	
	PWOD	PWD
Experienced difficulty getting transportation and/or getting inside health care facility	0.01 [0.00, 0.01]	0.07 [0.02, 0.13]

Bold indicates statistical significance.

- Probability that PWOD would experience a physical environment barrier = 1%
- Probability that PWD would experience a physical environment barrier = 7%

Physical Environment Barriers

Predictive probabilities for Race and Disability by Income



Clinical Experience Barriers

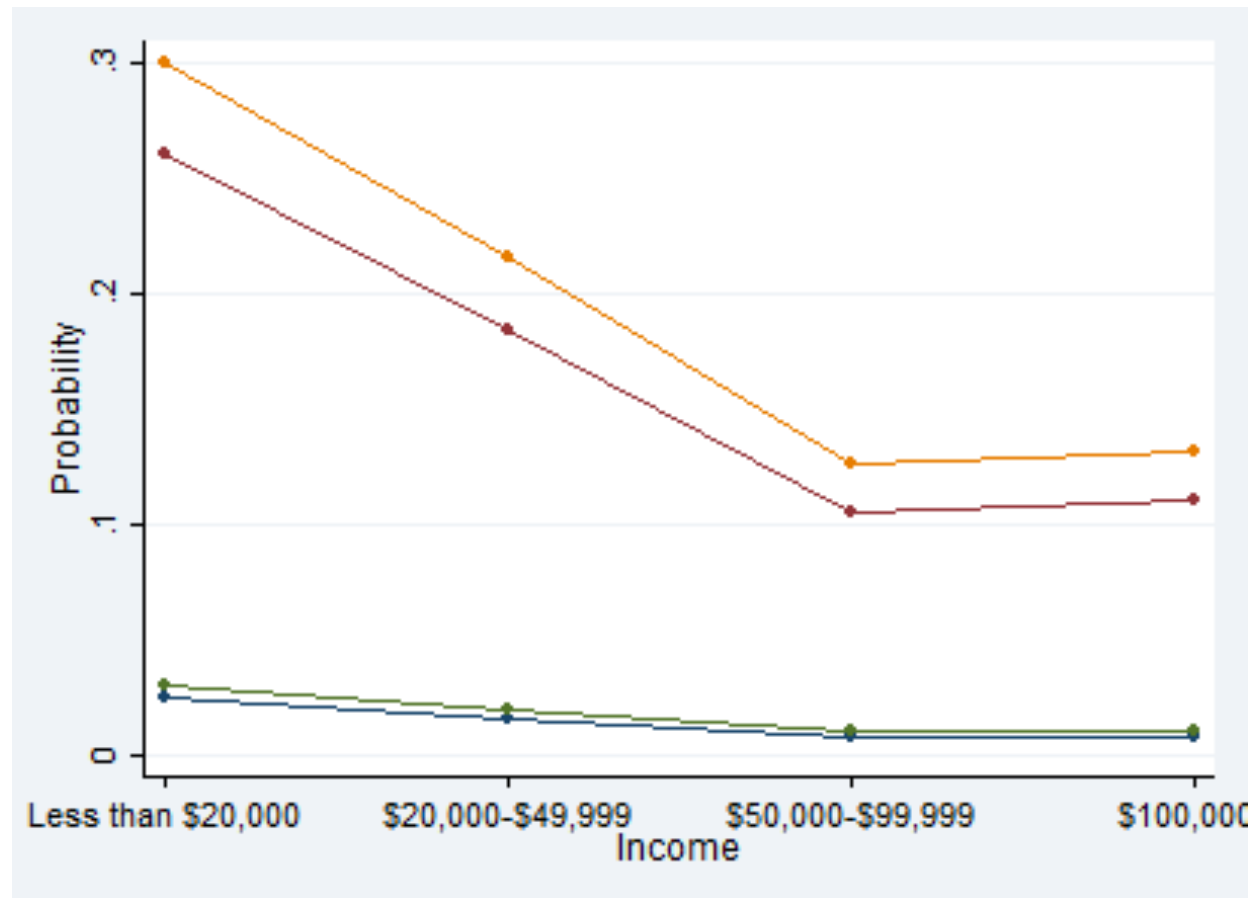
	Predicted Probability	
	PWOD	PWD
Experienced difficulty getting into the exam room, on the exam table, and/or a physical exam	0.01 [0.00, 0.02]	0.14 [0.05, 0.22]

Bold indicates statistical significance.

- Probability that PWOD would encounter a clinical experience barrier = 1%
- Probability that PWD would encounter a clinical experience barrier = 14%

Clinical Experience Barriers

Predictive Probabilities for Race and Disability by Income



■ PWD/Black or Other ■ PWD/White ■ PWOD/Black or Other ■ PWOD/White

Communication and Knowledge Barriers

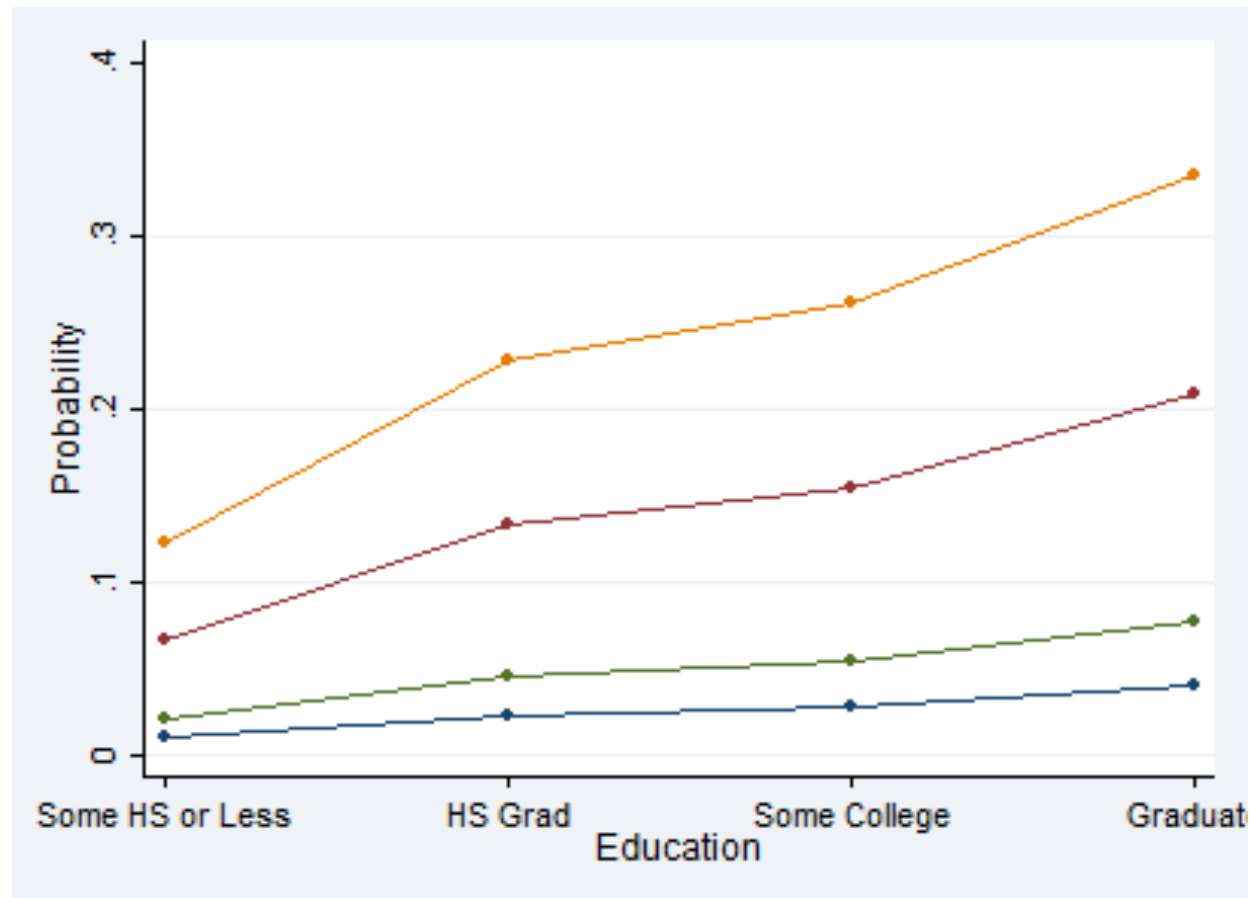
	Predicted Probability	
	PWOD	PWD
Experienced difficulty communicating with doctor and/or finding a doctor that understands their condition	0.02 [0.00, 0.03]	0.09 [0.03, 0.16]

Bold indicates statistical significance.

- Probability that PWOD would experience a communication and knowledge barrier = 2%
- Probability that PWD would experience a communication and knowledge barrier = 9%

Communication and Knowledge Barriers

Predictive probabilities for Race and Disability by Education



■ PWD/Black or Other ■ PWD/White ■ PWOD/Black or Other ■ PWOD/White

Coordinating Care Barrier

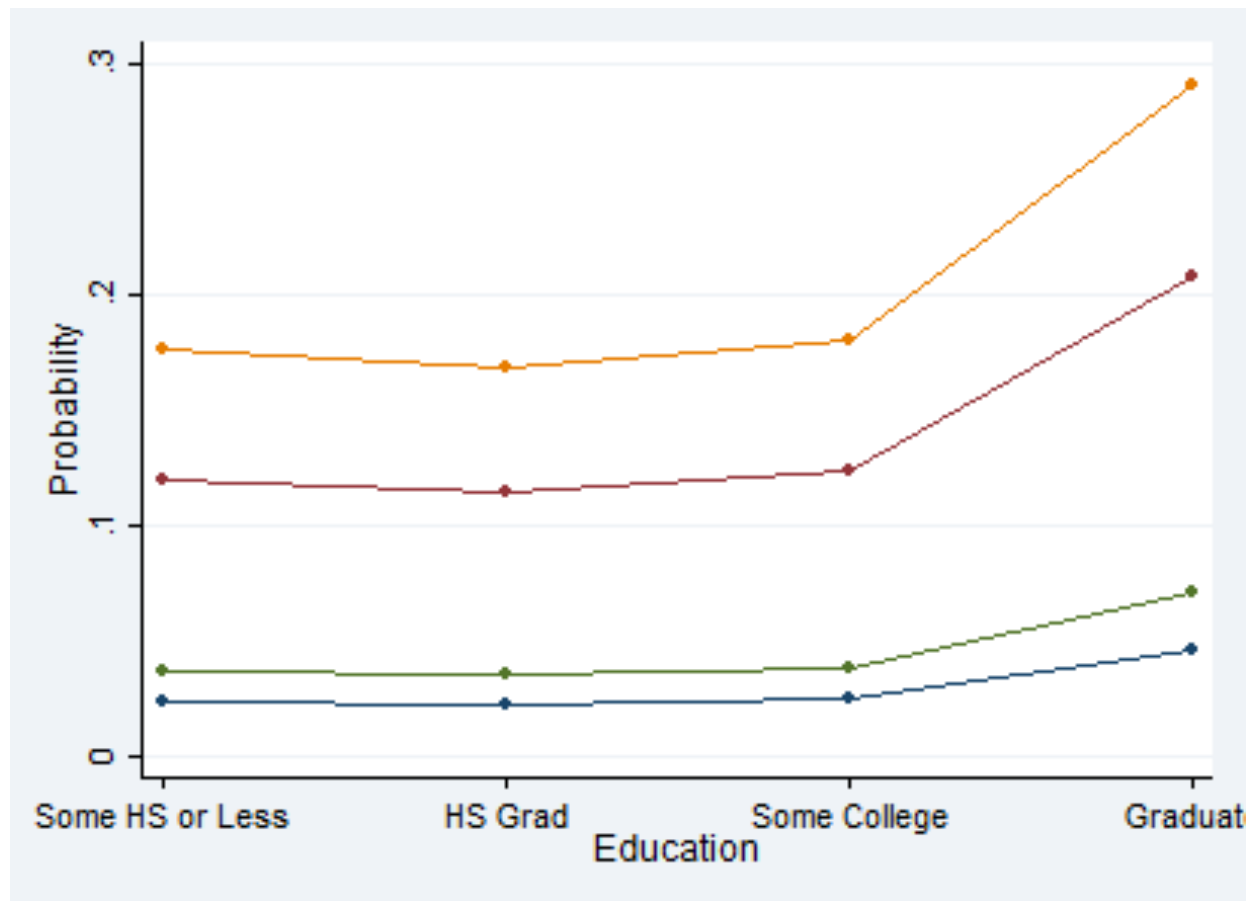
	Predicted Probability	
	PWOD	PWD
Experienced difficulty coordinating care	0.02 [0.00, 0.03]	0.09 [0.03, 0.15]

Bold indicates statistical significance.

- Probability that PWOD would experience a barrier coordinating care = 2%
- Probability that PWD would experience a barrier coordinating care = 9%

Coordinating Care Barrier

Predictive Probability for Race and Disability by Education



Legend: PWD/Black or Other (orange), PWD/White (red), PWOD/Black or Other (green), PWOD/White (blue)

Summary Findings

Racial minorities with disabilities have the highest probability of experiencing all barriers to care.

↓ **Income** was associated with ↑ probability of experiencing a physical environment and clinical experience barrier

↑ **Education** was associated with ↑ probability of experiencing a communication and knowledge barrier and barrier coordinating care



Limitations

- Generalizability of findings:
 - Older adults
 - Florida only
 - No contact with individuals without telephone



Future Work

- **Research**
 - Field a larger survey to capture larger sample
 - Explore interventions to address barriers
 - Communication and care coordination should not be overlooked
- **Programmatic Efforts**
 - Develop approaches to reduce access disparities for PWD



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