

Thursday, October 19th, 1.30pm ET

Presentation in Zoom, accessible via the C-STAR website:

<http://cstar.sc.edu/lecture-series/>

The interrelationship between the Social Determinants of Health and Aphasia Outcomes

Charles Ellis, Jr., Ph.D., CCC-SLP
University of Florida

Historically, studies of aphasia have focused on the underlying neurological cause (stroke) and the language impairment that occurs post stroke. Few studies have considered the influence of the social determinants of health or social, cultural, environmental, and economic conditions known to influence aphasia outcomes. This presentation reviews our work that is designed to explore the relationship between aphasia impairment and demographic, socioeconomic, and contextual determinants.

Methods: Data from this study obtained from the AphasiaBank were matched with respondents in the National Health Interview Survey. Key variables included age, sex, race, ethnicity, education, time post stroke, and mental health status. Generalized log-linear regression models evaluated the association between scores on the Western Aphasia Battery Aphasia Quotient (WAB-R AQ) and demographic, economic, and environmental characteristics.

Results: Compared to Whites, Blacks had 6.1% lower WAB-R AQ scores as did those who were married and living in the Southern US even after controlling for age, environment, and aphasia type. Persons with aphasia living in larger families and who visited their medical provider regularly had higher scores. Income and home ownership were significantly correlated with impairment level, while having available transportation was not deterministic. We also found that these differences increase at older ages, but racial disparities showed no significance.

Conclusion: These findings support existing research showing that the circumstance in which individuals live, work, and age have an influence on aphasia outcomes.

The online lecture can be followed online from your computer, tablet or smartphone, in Zoom. The zoom link is accessible via the C-STAR website: <http://cstar.sc.edu/lecture-series/>

There will be a watch party in Close-Hipp on the USC Columbia campus, room #206 ('Great Room')

For more information, or to be added to the C-STAR mailing list, contact Dirk den Ouden:
denouden@sc.edu