



**International Conference:
Evidence in Global Disability and Health**

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ABSTRACT

Title:

Assessing the Inclusion of Women with Disabilities in Family Planning Programs in Kumasi Metro: A case study of Physical and Hearing Impaired Women

Abstract text (limited to 300 words, should include background, methods, results and conclusions):

Disabled persons are over-represented among the poor in all countries and they constitute about 10% of the population. They are normally assumed to be either uninterested in sex or unable to take part in sexual activity. This erroneous perception results in their exclusion from planning and design family planning programs. The main objective of this study was to investigate the inclusion of women with disabilities in family planning services and the challenges they experienced in accessing family planning services. The study design was quantitative using a purposive sampling technique. Thirty women with disabilities (20 physically disabled and 10 deaf persons) were interviewed. Ten health providers from the Family Planning Unit at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital were also interviewed. Data entry and analysis were done using SPSS to obtain frequencies and percentages. The study found that 70% of the participants knew about family planning methods but felt excluded from the services. While 30% had no idea about the services, 43.3% knew and accessed the services. Of those who accessed the services, 87% faced challenges such as communication barriers and fear of side effects of contraceptives. The study recommends that more sign language interpreters and public educations on family planning services should be provided.

