



## International Conference: Evidence in Global Disability and Health

<b>Applicant Details</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	Eva Burke
<b>Position:</b>	Independent consultant
<b>Institution:</b>	LSHTM alumni (2008 graduate). Research study funded by Rutgers WPF through the ASK programme.
<b>Level of study (if applicable) (e.g. MA, PhD):</b>	Msc in Reproductive and Sexual Health Research (LSHTM)
<b>E-mail:</b>	eva.burke.consulting@gmail.com
<b>Phone number:</b>	07816 364 701
<b>Preferred presentation format:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Oral <input type="checkbox"/> Poster <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oral or poster

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## ABSTRACT

**Title:** **An exploration of barriers and enabling factors for young people with disabilities to access sexual and reproductive health services in Senegal**

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

Contraceptive prevalence and use of sexual and reproductive (SRH) services is low amongst young people in Senegal. Although the evidence-base on young people's SRH is growing, research on the use of SRH services amongst young people with disabilities (YPWD) is negligible. Our study explored YPWD's SRH priorities, key vulnerabilities and access to services including service-use preferences and real-life barriers. Using a peer-to-peer data collection and analysis strategy, seventeen focus group discussions and fifty interviews were conducted with YPWD between 18-24 years with a physical, visual or hearing impairment. YPWD reported very low knowledge and use of SRH services. YPWD were often reliant on others to accompany them to service-providers, impeding their access to confidential services. Contraceptive use was relatively low and limited to condoms. Multiple cases of rape were revealed, particularly amongst women with hearing impairments. Key barriers to SRH services for YPWD were financial barriers, provider attitudes, and accessibility (related to their disability). YPWD face a double-burden in accessing SRH services; barriers associated to their age and barriers related to their disability. Policies, as well as interventions, related to the provision of SRH information and services, need to reflect the acute vulnerabilities faced by YPWD. A recent national initiative to introduce cards for free access to healthcare for people with disabilities must be made available to all YPWD, but must also ensure the availability of youth and disability-friendly services at a range of service delivery points. Further research is needed into the scale of different disabilities in Senegal, provider attitudes and capacity to respond to YPWD's needs, the determinants for contraceptive use or non-use amongst YPWD, and the burden of sexual violence amongst YPWD.

**Deadline for abstract submission: November 30, 2015**

Please submit your abstract to: [disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk)

**Restricted to one first author abstract per participant.**

If you have any questions, please write to:

[disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk)