



International Conference: Evidence in Global Disability and Health

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ABSTRACT

Title:	HandiVIH. A population-based survey to understand the vulnerability of people with disabilities to HIV and other sexual and reproductive health problems in Cameroon: methodological considerations and preliminary results
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Abstract text (limited to 300 words, should include background, methods, results and conclusions):

Background

In resource-limited countries, people with disabilities (PwD) seem to be particularly vulnerable to HIV infection due to barriers accessing information and services, frequent exposure to sexual violence, and social exclusion. However, they have often been left behind in the HIV response probably because of the lack of reliable epidemiological data measuring this vulnerability. The HandiVIH study is a cross-sectional survey with a control group conducted in Yaoundé (Cameroon) to document the vulnerability of PwD to HIV. This communication aims to present some methodological considerations as well as preliminary results from this study.

Methods

A random sampling was used to screen PwD from the general population using the Washington Group questionnaire. An HIV test was proposed to each study participant. Additionally, a questionnaire including a life-event interview was used to collect data on respondents' life-course history of disability, social isolation, employment, sexual partnership, HIV risk factors, sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and access to care.

Results

Six aspects of the study design were important to address the challenges of such study: 1) adoption of a disability-inclusive approach; 2) use of an exploratory phase to adapt processes and tools; 3) use of a random population-based sampling and of 4) standardized ICF-oriented questions to select PwD in the study; 5) adaptation of the various tools to participants' needs and 6) adoption of a life-course approach to better understand the link between HIV and disability. Around 91,000 persons have been screened. The prevalence of any limitation and disability as defined for the study (≥ 2 mild limitations and/or ≥ 1 severe limitation) were respectively 6.9% and 2.3% among those aged 15 – 49. Disability was associated with increased economic poverty of the household ($p < 0.001$).

Conclusion

Forthcoming preliminary results about PwD vulnerability to HIV and SRH adverse outcomes will be available in early 2016.

Deadline for abstract submission: November 30, 2015

Please submit your abstract to: disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk

Restricted to one first author abstract per participant.

If you have any questions, please write to:

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