



International Conference: Evidence in Global Disability and Health

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ABSTRACT

Title:	Increasing access to sexual and reproductive health services for women with disability in the Philippines: Evidence from the W-DARE project
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Abstract text (limited to 300 words, should include background, methods, results and conclusions):

Background: Women with disability have less access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information and services than women without disability. Women with disability are also more likely to experience physical and sexual violence than women without disability. This paper presents baseline findings from W-DARE (Women with Disability taking Action on REproductive and sexual health), a three-year program of participatory action research that aims to improve the SRH of women with disability in the Philippines, and outlines interventions developed in response to these data.

Methods: In 2013-2014, quantitative and qualitative data were collected in two districts to establish a baseline picture of disability prevalence, participation in community by people with disability, and access to SRH in diverse settings. Over 3000 adults completed the Rapid Assessment of Disability survey, with 253 women also completing a questionnaire specifically examining access to SRH services and information. Forty-two women with disability were interviewed about their experiences in relation to SRH. Data were also generated through interviews with SRH service providers and focus group discussions with families and partners of women with disability, and with women without disability.

Results: People with disability had significantly lower wellbeing and reduced access to health than people without disability. Women with disability reported unmet SRH needs and a range of barriers to services and information; service providers described factors undermining provision of services to women with disability. Baseline data were used to inform development of a range of tailored interventions to increase disability inclusion in SRH and violence response services.

Conclusions: Disability inclusive action research can support development of locally appropriate and contextually-grounded interventions to increase access to SRH for women with disability. Our findings highlight the importance of interventions that increase supply of high quality services, increase awareness and demand for services, and that support locally enabling environments.

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:

disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk