Demographic and socioeconomic profile of severely ill and disabled children in South Africa

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Introduction

- More than 93 million of 1 billion of people with disabilities are children with disabilities from ages 0 to 14 years (WHO, 2011).
- 13 million of 93 million are estimated to be children with severe disabilities and 80% of this subset population is geographically located in developing countries (WHO, 2011).
- Inadequate prioritization the health wellbeing of children with disabilities and severe illness, evident in lack of access, acceptability and availability of social welfare services and resources for this subset population.

Objectives

- To describes the role of demographic and socioeconomic indicators as social determinants of health of the epemics.
- To describes the accessibility to social welfare services such as health, education, and social services, in the comparison between children with severe illness or disability compared to children with no form of disability or severe illness.

Research Design and Methods

Strategy of enquiry

- Quantitative methods, post-positivism paradigm, stratified sampling with total sample size of 13047.
- Strata 1: Children with disability & severe illness with sample size of 560(n) and 2 unresponsive.
- Strata 2: Children with no form of disability or severe illness with sample size of 12485.

Data Source

- 3 questionnaires were combined including, children’s questionnaire, weighted Inderived questionnaire& Household Innderived questionnaire.
- [pweight=w4_pweight] was used to give weight to the database.

Data Analysis Plan

- Pearson Chi-Squared ($x^2$) Statistic Test was used to test for significance, $P<0.05$.
- Independent variables: socioeconomic Indicators, demographic Indicators, health and education Indicators.
- Dependent variables: Severely illnesses & disabilities, no form of disability or severe illness.

Results

Prevalence Rate of Epidemics

There was a high prevalence rate of disability and severe illnesses in children under 17 years of age which accounted for 5.2% [4.413, 6.138].

Nature of Epidemics

Other respiratory diseases inclusive of pneumonia, bronchitis, asthma accounted for 34.2% [26.55, 42.49]. Diabetes 0.4 [0.0479, 2.45]; heart disease 3.6% [1.348, 9.152]; cancer 0.3% [0.0342, 1.762]; epilepsy 6.5% [2.865, 13.92]; disabilities such as problems with sight, hearing or speech 18.1% [12.48, 25.55], physical handicapped accounted to 8.2% [4.875, 13.55] and mental problems 4.2% [2.02, 8.321]. Tuberculosis 3.9% [2.025, 7.356] and HIV/AIDS accounted for 8.8% [4.538, 16.33].