

“Health outcomes of non-parent informal kinship caregivers of orphans: An analysis of the prevalence and determinants of disease in South Africa, 2017.”

Abstract

The number of caregivers and orphan children continue to grow in South Africa. There are a number of factors that contribute to this growth. The death of parents due to HIV and Aids and other non-natural deaths have been identified to be among leading cause in the increase of grandparent caregivers. Caregivers have been identified to be related and not related members that give forms of care to orphans and the needy. Caregivers are themselves having their health challenges, and caregiving too shows to be a burden that influences their health outcomes. This study looks at how the background characteristics determinants of health of non-parent informal kinship caregivers of orphans in South Africa, 2017. The study is quantitative and uses the recent South African National Income Dynamic Study 2017 data. The prevalence of chronic diseases is higher than that of acute diseases among grandparent caregivers of double orphans. The prevalence increases with increasing age and higher among Black Africans. With the use of multinomial logistic regression, the results show how the health outcomes of informal kinship caregivers of orphans change with their background characteristics. Grandparent informal kinship caregivers of double orphans need support from different organizations in caring for double orphans. There is a need for more research on the health outcomes of non-parent informal kinship caregivers of orphans using larger samples in South Africa as to inform policy.

Key words: Caregiver, Grandparent, non-parent, orphan, health.