Violence against Deaf women in Germany: Collecting and analysing sensitive data

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2004: Survey of 10,000 women in Germany about their living conditions

2009–2011: Research on the living conditions of women with disabilities in Germany, including 83 Deaf women

- Deaf Women show high/often highest risk of being affected by violence

- 2013/14: Qualitative face-to-face interviews with 12 Deaf women who have experienced violence in their lifetime
Risk factors

1. Where do deaf women’s curricula vitae show typical risk factors to experience violence?

Health implications/ Physical, psychical and social sequences of violence

2. By which health implications are Deaf women especially affected?

Ressources

Which resources that lead out of the violent situation are at the disposal of Deaf women?
2. Research Design

Qualitative approach

12 Deaf women from all over Germany were interviewed from October 2013 to February 2014

Ages: 27–64

All of them went to a deaf school (5 residential schools)

First/preferred Language: DGS (German Sign Language)

All: Members of the Deaf community (more or less, some of them „well known“ as active persons or leaders)
3. Ethical considerations

- Minimizing participant distress
- Maximizing benefits to participants and communities
- Protecting privacy and confidentiality
- Ensuring interviewees safety

Researching Violence against (WHO 1999; Ellsberg et al. 2001)

Doing research in the Deaf community (Pollard 2002; Harris et al. 2009; SLLS 2012; Singleton et al. 2012)

Ensuring data protection and anonymity: high risk of personal and confidential information leakage in a close-knit community
Problem 1: Visual identity of Deaf interviewees

Problem 2: All-Deaf research design

Problem 3: Process of analysis

Problem 4: „Benefits“
1. Adapting the research design: “for, with, by Deaf people” (Harris et al. 2009: 116)

2. Adapting the research agenda: female, Deaf

3. Being a professional: trained Deaf interpreter

4. Ensuring data protection and anonymity: one interpreter for all settings
Sexual violence by Deaf peers

Domestic violence in Deaf-Deaf marriages


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