

REPRODUCTIVE AND SEXUAL HEALTH: TAKING AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

Everyone has a right to make decisions that govern their bodies, free of stigma, discrimination, and coercion. These decisions include those related to sexuality, reproduction, and the use of sexual and reproductive health services. Historically, reproductive health and sexual health have been separate entities but the importance of integration is now globally recognised. Optimal reproductive and sexual health are inextricably linked and encompass contraception and abortion care, the prevention, detection and treatment of STIs including HIV and the prevention of reproductive tract infections, the prevention, detection and treatment of reproductive cancers as well as provision of pre-conception care and prevention and management of infertility. Despite clear linkages, opportunities for care are missed due to fragmentation across silo-ed disciplines and a failure to recognise the benefits of task-sharing amongst healthcare professionals. The necessity of ensuring services that are inclusive of sexual and gender diversity and equipped to respond to gender-based violence and reproductive coercion is now recognised as essential. This presentation will draw on successful models of integrated reproductive and sexual healthcare to present scale-able solutions for holistic cost-effective care to meet women's reproductive health needs.