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THE NETWORK  
TOWARDS UNITY FOR HEALTH



Facultad de Medicina



# TUFH2020 MEXICO

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"PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: A PATH  
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SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY BASED  
RESPONSES TO COVID-19

SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2020

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## TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	<b>Implications of power imbalance in accessing antenatal care services among adolescent women in rural Tanzania: a qualitative study</b>
Type	Oral Presentation <i>Working with Underserved Populations towards Community Empowerment</i>
Presenting Author	JULIETH KABIRIGI
Co-Authors	
Country	Tanzania
Abstract N°	TUFH376
Content	<p>Background: Adolescent women (age 10-19 years) remain at increased risk of morbidity and mortality due to pregnancy and childbirth complications, compared with older women. Low and Middle-Income countries, including Tanzania has a largest proportion of adolescent women perinatal deaths globally. Most adolescent women in Tanzania has limited access to antenatal care services despite Governments' efforts to advertise its importance. Methods: We conducted a qualitative thematic analysis study of the lived experiences of pregnant adolescents with accessing antenatal care services in Misungwi district in Mwanza, Tanzania. We recruited 22 adolescent pregnant women or/ and parenting a child aged less than 5 years, using purposive sampling method. Data about Antenatal Care (ANC) Services experiences was collected by in-depth interviews(KII ) from women, Key informant interviews (KII) from local healthcare workers and Focus Group Discussions (FGD) from young fathers and elder women for rich information. Interviews were transcribed. Emergent thematic analysis was conducted. Results: We identified four main themes: 1) Lack of maternal personal autonomy (Diminished power for decision making, Lack of financial and personal independence), 2) Stigma and judgment, 3) Vulnerability to violence and abuse, 4) Need for early ANC attendance. Conclusion: The ability of pregnant adolescent women to access ANC services is compromised by complex power imbalance that can be attributed to financial dependency, lack of choice and lack of personal autonomy in decision making, experiences of social stigma, judgment and abuse. Key words: Power imbalance, Adolescents, ANC, Rural Tanzania.</p>