



Knowledge and Library Services (KLS)

Impact stories

Title:

A KLS literature search enabled the Sexual and Reproductive Health team to find evidence related to reproductive health stigma at speed, which was fed into the PHE document '*Reproductive Health is a Public Health Issue*'.

User testimonial:

"Not only was the outcome of the search highly useful, the speed and quality with which it was delivered was exceptional. Anh was highly efficient, friendly, and professional. We were impressed with the quality of work that was produced and the evidence will be used to inform the 5 year action plan for reproductive health going forward. We would not have been able to produce the same level of quality without Anh's help and we are extremely grateful. The literature search was an invaluable service which we would love to use again in the future".

Monica Davison, Sexual and Reproductive Health

Challenge:

The Sexual and Reproductive Health team had been asked to produce a baseline data document to understand the current state of play for reproductive health in the UK. As a result of a consensus process, 6 pillars of reproductive health were formed that covered a wide array of topics. The challenge was the sheer quantity of data available and ensuring that it was relevant to the pillars specified throughout the consensus process. Our original focus was on nationally collected data, however, when we attempted to take this approach for the stigma pillar we found that outcomes relating to stigma are not often collected. When we turned our focus to the literature we found that a huge volume of research has been produced that related to stigma.

Solution:

To date, no other organisation has considered data that sets reproductive health out as a public health issue comprehensively. This is a ground breaking piece of work that will hopefully encourage cross-sector collaboration and the development of an action plan going forward. The library service undertook a literature search and summarised findings into key themes to be included in the overall report.

Impact:

The briefing produced by KLS summarised the evidence on women's experiences of stigma or embarrassment in relation to reproductive symptoms or circumstances, and the policy responses, from 1999 to 2017. This was beneficial to PHE as findings will be used to develop a cross-sectoral action plan for the next 5 years for reproductive health. The report will be available to the general public and have an accompanying communication plan to raise awareness of reproductive health issues.

Success factors:

Anh was incredibly helpful and efficient throughout the whole process. The speed and quality with which the work was produced was admirable. We cannot underestimate the value of this service at PHE.

Lessons:

We would like to use the KLS team for more work going forward and plan to involve them from project initiation.

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