

Investigating Reproductive Coercion and Violence Towards Women with Disabilities

Pacheco, L^{1*}., Mercerat, C^{2.}., Aunos, M^{3.}., Cousineau, M-M^{4.}. Goulden, A^{1.}., Swab, M^{1.}., Brenton, B^{1.}. & Moyo, S^{1.}.

¹ School of Social Work, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St-John's, Canada

² Département Sciences humaines, Lettres et Communication, Université TELUQ, Montréal, Canada

³ International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IASSIDD)

⁴ École de criminologie, Université de Montréal, Montréal, Canada

* Corresponding author:

Laura Pacheco, email address: lpacheco@mun.ca

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Executive summary

Background: the issue

For centuries, women with disabilities (WWD) have been subject to multiple and intersecting forms of violence (Abbas, 2022). Much of the literature has focused on intimate partner violence towards WWD (i.e. Campbell et al., 2022; Meyer et al., 2022). Reproductive violence towards WWD has received less attention, despite the long history of reproductive injustice within Canadian and international contexts. This particular form of violence towards WWD is a violation of human rights and has multiple and pervasive impacts on social, emotional, and physical health (Björnsdóttir et al., 2017; Grace & Anderson, 2018; McConnell & Phelan, 2022; Powell, 2021). The Senate of Canada Committee on Human Rights (2022), recently published a report indicating the prevalence of reproductive coercion on intersecting and marginalized communities, calling to action the government and health and social service sectors. Despite the recognition of the issues and rights of WWD within their reproductive journey, there is scant literature in the field.

Objectives

The objective of this project was to conduct a scoping review investigating and synthesizing the research literature related to reproductive violence against WWD within Canadian and international contexts.

Results

Following a rigorous research strategy, 48 publications were included in this scoping review. Although heterogeneous, this review provides an overview of the meaning and types of reproductive violence towards WWD. The results of this scoping review are centered on legal analysis and most of the publications are related to women with intellectual disabilities. Within the legal disciplines, questions related to the ‘best interests’ of WWD and informed consent were widely examined in the selected international publications.

Key messages

- Stereotypes within society, such as WWD being identified as asexual, dependent, and unfit for motherhood prevail. Within the legal studies, it was evidenced that these ideologies underpinned many decisions that were taken in court applications for sterilization.
- WWD lack access to information and services related to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

- WWD are often coerced into long-term and/or irreversible contraception methods.
- Managing menstrual issues is one of the main arguments in the application of sterilization towards WWD. The other important issues are related to protecting against sexual abuse and preventing unexpected pregnancies.
- There is a gap in research-knowledge related to sterilization that occurs outside institutions.
- There is a need for more empirical studies related to reproductive violence including the exploration of the experiences of WWD.

Methods (search methods, selection criteria, data collection and analysis)

In this project, we conducted a scoping review, following the six steps recommended by Arksey and O'Malley (2005) in their framework for conducting scoping reviews (updated by Levac et al., 2010). The inclusion and exclusion criteria were related to gender (had to be oriented towards women), disabilities (had to be disability focused) and reproductive violence (had to refer specifically to reproductive violence). We excluded all publications related to HIV/AIDS and mental health issues. Another important exclusion criterion was related to the accessibility of the publication.

Background

International research reveals that WWD have experienced multiple and often intersecting forms of violence within different facets of their lives (Abbas, 2022). It has been evidenced that more than 50% of WWD will experience violence in their lifetime (Campbell et al., 2022) and that most of these women will not receive adequate support for their trauma (McConnell & Phelan, 2022). The impact of coercive violence, particularly sterilization, has been under-investigated (Tilley et al., 2012; McConnell & Phelan, 2022). Within Canada, there is a long history of sterilization and reproductive coercion particularly towards women who are Indigenous, racialized and disabled. The Senate of Canada Standing Committee on Human Rights (2022) produced a report indicating that “this horrific practice is not confined to the past but clearly is continuing today’ and made an urgent call to action to the Canadian government” (p. 27). Much of the literature on violence perpetrated against WWD has examined intimate partner violence (i.e. Campbell et al., 2022; Meyer et al., 2022). Reproductive violence towards WWD has received less empirical attention, despite the long history of reproductive injustice within Canadian and international contexts (Carter et al., 2021; McConnell & Phelan, 2022).

Reproductive coercion against WWD is underpinned by eugenic ideologies that construct these women as “less than” and continues to wreak havoc in these women’s lives today (McConnell & Phelan, 2022; Stefansdottir, 2014; Tilley et al., 2012). Involuntary sterilization has been deemed an illegal practice within Canada, however, there is a trail of evidence that suggests that private negotiations between family members and medical professionals continue to occur, reinforcing this reproductive injustice (Serrato Calero et al., 2021; Tilley et al., 2012).

Reproductive violence is a form of violence that constrains women’s reproductive autonomy and rights to encourage or prevent pregnancy (Tarzia & Hegarty, 2021). It has been argued that when reproductive decisions are made by legal enforcement or there is a lack of consent (or uninformed consent) within the decision-making process, that these women are subjected to institutional, administrative, and familial violence (Serrato Calero et al., 2021; Abbas, 2022). For WWD, it can consist of being denied access to services and or information in order to make informed decisions about their reproductive health. This could include but it is not limited to making decisions for these women about whether they will use contraception, what type of contraception they will be provided and not being given

appropriate information related to the impacts of using contraception methods on their health (Dotson et al., 2003; Ledger et al., 2016; Shrestha et al., 2022; Walmsley et al., 2016). These women also face inequities within their sexual relationships as they often have restricted opportunities for sexual intimacy (Carter et al., 2021; Knight, 2017; Rowlands & Amy, 2019; Wiseman & Ferrie, 2020). Research also illustrates that WWD are often subjected to negative attitudes or skepticism from professionals when they indicate their desire to have children (Bergeron et al., 2012; Stefansdóttir, 2014).

The impact of reproductive violence against WWD is substantial and pervasive and includes the denial of human rights and freedoms, negative consequences to psychological health and well-being and leads to gender-based health disparities (Björnsdóttir et al., 2017; Grace & Anderson, 2018; McConnell & Phelan, 2022; Powell, 2021). In Canada, the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls has been deemed a significant priority “Canada supports the goal of ensuring that women and girls in all their diversity can decide what to do with their bodies, their lives and their futures—without question” (Canadian Government, n.d.). Despite this sociopolitical backdrop, there is a gap in research knowledge about the types of reproductive coercion faced by WWD, the places, and spaces in which it occurs and strategies to resist this violence. This knowledge is essential in identifying the issue, exploring future community based participatory research directions, identifying policy implications, and outlining evidence-based practices to eradicate reproductive violence towards WWD.

Objectives

The primary aim of this scoping was to identify the current state of knowledge on reproductive violence towards WWD. More specifically, the knowledge synthesis investigated and synthesized the research literature related to reproductive violence against WWD within Canadian and international contexts by identifying key concepts, and potential research-knowledge gaps.

Methods

The scoping review is a rigorous method of exploring and summarizing literature. Researchers can undertake a scoping review to examine the extent, range, and nature of research activity that has not been thoroughly investigated. The aim is to identify recurring concepts, research gaps and future research directions (Daudt et al., 2013; Pham et al., 2014).

To obtain an in-depth overview of the literature on reproductive violence towards WWD, we conducted a scoping review, following the six steps recommended by Arksey and O'Malley (2005) in their framework for conducting scoping reviews (updated by Levac et al., 2010).

1 – Identifying the research question. The research question provides a roadmap for the subsequent inquiry. It must be sufficiently broad, as scoping reviews aim to provide an overview of research fields where there are gaps in research knowledge. The research question for this scoping review was: “how is reproductive violence towards WWD defined in the literature?”. The sub questions explored: 1) concepts defining reproductive violence; 2) places where such violence is perpetrated; 3) actors playing a role in this violence (perpetrators or accomplices); 4) strategies used by WWD to overcome such violence; 5) legal or official actions adopted to counter this violence.

2 – Identifying relevant studies. For this synthesis, the research team, with the support of a librarian of Memorial University, defined databases searches, inclusion, and exclusion criteria. Publications were searched within scientific peer-reviewed journals. Words related to reproductive violence, to women and to disabilities (different types of disabilities and mental or physical conditions) were used within the research strategy. After two rounds of paper reviews (title/abstracts and full text), the following inclusion criteria were solidified: publications had to be gender-specific (girls and women) and had to be focused on reproductive violence. Moreover, we excluded reviews of papers/books, all publications related to HIV/AIDS and/or mental health issues, and all publications that we could not retrieve.

3 – Study selection. The work team met several times (at the beginning of the process and in the middle to solidify the inclusion/exclusion criteria), working in an iterative process as recommended by Levac et al. (2010). Figure 1 (PRISMA-chart) in Appendix A shows the different stages of the scoping review and the number of publications excluded in each step.

4 – Charting the data. The research team collectively developed the data charting form and determined which variables to extract in order to answer the research question and sub-questions, as suggested by Levac et al. (2010). Quantitative (numerical descriptive summary) and qualitative data formed the results of this review.

5 – Collating, summarizing and reporting the results. In correlation with the scoping review guidelines, the researchers will take the lead in the writing and gathering the results. The

WWD and key stakeholders within the project's work team will also engage in this step of the process.

6 – *Consultation*. This step is particularly important given our chosen research approach, as the aim is to contribute to research, but more specifically to engage with communities, including the disability community. This step will include the consultation of key stakeholders in the knowledge translation plan. Levac et al. (2010) underline the importance of the practical implications and impacts when conducting a scoping review, which is in line with the orientation of this project.

Results

A total of 3,960 articles were identified through database searches. After the title and abstract review, 2,545 articles remained for full text review. Many of the studies were excluded at this stage as they were related to HIV/AIDS ($n=207$). Forty-eight studies met the full inclusion criteria. The details of these publications are presented in the sections below.

Year of Publication

Following our inclusion criteria, all 48 articles ranged between the years of 1979 to 2023. Many studies were written before the 2000s, as demonstrated by those published in 1979 ($n = 1$), 1981 ($n = 1$), 1983 ($n = 1$), 1986 ($n = 1$), 1987 ($n = 1$), 1989 ($n = 1$), 1991 ($n = 1$), 1993 ($n = 1$), 1994 ($n = 1$), 1996 ($n = 1$), and 1997 ($n = 1$). A select few articles were published in the early 2000s, including the years 2001 ($n = 1$), 2003 ($n = 2$), and 2004 ($n = 1$). However, a significant number of articles were published post-2010s, as demonstrated by those published in 2010 ($n = 3$), 2011 ($n = 1$), 2012 ($n = 1$), 2014 ($n = 1$), 2015 ($n = 4$), 2016 ($n = 2$), 2017 ($n = 5$), 2018 ($n = 1$), 2019 ($n = 3$), 2020 ($n = 3$), 2021 ($n = 2$), 2022 ($n = 3$), and two published recently in 2023 ($n = 2$).

Journal Name

Our articles were found in a variety of journals across numerous disciplines with most articles published in journals relating to the field of medicine ($n = 11$), law ($n = 8$), and disability studies ($n = 8$). The journals that were identified the most across our results are: *Disability and Society* ($n = 2$), *Disability and Health Journal* ($n = 2$), *Journal of Intellectual & Developmental Disability* ($n = 2$), and *Reproductive Health Matters* ($n = 2$). However, the rest of the studies were found across 35 journals ($n = 1$ for each one): *African Human Rights Law Journal*, *Albany Law Review*, *AMA Journal of Ethics*, *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology*, *Australian Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Berkeley Women's Law Journal*,

BMC Women's Health, British Journal of Learning Disabilities, Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics, Canadian Medical Association Journal, Denver University Law Review, The Hastings Center Report, Indian Journal of Medical Ethics, Indiana Law Review, International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics, International Journal of Law and Psychiatry, Jindal Global Law Review, Journal of Biosocial Science, Journal of Child Neurology, Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care, Journal of Family and Reproductive Health, Journal of Forensic Nursing, Journal of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology, The Lancet, Medical Law International, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Politics, Groups and Identities, Risk Management and Healthcare Policy, Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research, Sexualities, Sexuality & Culture, Sexuality and Disability, Sexuality Research and Social Policy, Social Change, and Violence Against Women.

Lead Author Field

Our chosen articles reflected a wide array of disciplines, demonstrating an interdisciplinary interest in this research. Lead author disciplines included law ($n = 14$), social sciences (e.g. sociology, anthropology, political science, philosophy) ($n = 7$), medicine (e.g. obstetrics, gynecology, psychiatry, pediatrics) ($n = 6$), health (e.g. public health, global health, reproductive health, women's health) ($n = 6$), disability studies ($n = 4$), nursing ($n = 2$), social welfare ($n = 2$), ethics ($n = 2$), psychology ($n = 1$), language ($n = 1$), violence against women ($n = 1$), and social work ($n = 1$).

Country

A majority of the articles came from the United States ($n = 24$), followed by England ($n = 6$), India ($n = 5$), Australia ($n = 2$), Canada ($n = 2$), the Philippines ($n = 2$), China ($n = 1$), Nigeria ($n = 1$), South Africa ($n = 1$), Spain ($n = 1$), Iceland ($n = 1$), Lithuania ($n = 1$), and Scotland ($n = 1$).

Study Design

The identified articles had research designs that included legal reviews (14), legal case studies (7) and literature reviews ($n=15$). Empirical studies included one quantitative study ($n = 1$) and several qualitative studies ($n=11$). Qualitative research designs most frequently involved interviews, focus groups, and surveys.

Key concepts of reproductive coercion

The way in which reproductive violence towards WWD was defined differed across the 48 studies. Over half of the publications ($n=26$) were focused on the ethical and legal

dilemmas associated with court applications for sterilization. Inadequate or lack of accessibility to reproductive health services was identified in several studies (n=8), while other studies focused on coercive measures within decision-making or lack of bodily autonomy (n=4). Some studies focused on the denial of sexual experiences and or information (n=3). One study included an investigation of the prevalence of reproductive coercion. Several publications highlighted the experiences of WWD (n=4), while a few focused on the perspectives of professionals (n=2).

Research Strengths

The studies emerged from different countries around the world, were published in over 35 different journals and over half of the studies (n=31) were conducted after 2010, showing a growing interest in the field of study.

Given that a significant number of publications came from legal disciplines (e.g. law reviews) it positions the issue of reproductive violence towards WWD within a wider societal context. This type of scholarship encourages a response that must be addressed within legal and health and social service systems. The issues related to informed consent and “best interest” were thoroughly investigated in the legal publications and also constituted a subject of interest for further research in medical and/or social science fields.

Research Gaps

- The types of coercive violence that WWD face was explored within the literature, however, a universal definition of reproductive violence is still needed.
- Many publications were based on legal and ethical studies and analysis, therefore, there is a need to build intersectoral knowledge across communities and sectors to capture a more comprehensive and multi-faceted state of knowledge. Moreover, several publications in the legal areas date back to the 80s. There is a need to update the law reviews and to analyze whether some changes have been made in the way reproductive violence (notably sterilization) is conceptualized by different systems.
- There was a lack of empirical studies within the review ranging from population-based studies to interpretive studies (exploring experiences of WWD, particularly women with physical disabilities). This helps to pave the way for future empirical research.
- The study included publications from around the world, however, there is a dearth of data exploring the Canadian context.

Implications

The results of the scoping review have outlined different aspects of reproductive violence towards WWD and have implications for policy, practice and research that will be outlined below.

Policy

- The findings of the knowledge synthesis illustrate how intersecting levels of oppression – based on the interplay of gender, disability, poverty, for example – help to reinforce reproductive violence and contributes to diverse forms of violence (intimate partner violence, sexual, physical, reproductive). Based on these findings, policies should be more inclusive and consider an intersectional approach in devising, revising, and implementing policies with WWD.
- Given the findings that reproductive violence prevents bodily autonomy and decision-making, investing in empowering women and girls with disabilities (including but not limited to peer support initiatives) in relation to their reproductive rights and actions to counter reproductive injustice would be essential.

Research

- More research is needed to identify how WWD with intersecting social identities experience reproductive violence, strategies of resistance employed in order to propose accurate orientations for policy, practice and future research.
- Future research should include a community-based participatory research approach to ensure research knowledge is created and utilized by and for WWD.
- Increased research is needed across disciplines – social work, psychology, justice studies, disability studies – to establish multi-sectoral landscapes of knowledge.

Practice

- Practice guidelines for professionals should be developed to support reproductive justice for WWD.
- A co-narrated inclusive and practical guide should be produced to further empower WWD. This practical guide could include the experiences of WWD related to reproductive autonomy and injustice, identify their rights in relation to reproductive autonomy, resources and strategies that can be used to ensure reproductive rights are maintained and protected.

Conclusion

The aim of this knowledge synthesis was to explore the state of research knowledge on reproductive violence faced by WWD. Based on our scoping review of 48 publications, we conclude that there is need for increased empirical evidence, particularly within the Canadian context. The researchers plan to conduct an in-depth narrative, cross-country and multi-level study. This will include an investigation of the lived experiences of WWD with intersecting social identities, perspectives of community organizations, service providers and key stakeholders (including health and social service workers, medical professionals, and legal scholars) and textual analysis of relevant policies. This will support the development of a research-informed strategy for evidence-based community and health and social service practice, based on the lived experiences and identified needs of WWD, delivered by critically reflexive and joined-up service providers in order to tackle reproductive injustice faced by WWD.

Knowledge mobilization activities

In line with emancipatory and participatory approaches underpinning the project, we have (and will) continue to engage with WWD and key stakeholders within community and government organizations throughout this project. The results of the scoping review will be shared with these key stakeholders and together, we will explore the following questions in order to expand on the next phase of our research 1) What are the key messages from the scoping review?; 2) What are the primary research and knowledge gaps identified by the review that require further investigation?; 3) How will the results from the scoping review inform our future research project? We will be paying specific attention to the experiences of WWD experiencing reproductive violence, to research methods (community participation approaches) and to building cross-sectoral partnerships.

Plain language summary briefs

Based on the knowledge synthesis report, two-page evidence brief and feedback from our community organization partners, a summary of the research results – key findings, recommendations, practice guidelines and future research directions – will be developed in plain language in English and French. We will also engage with our community partners to ensure that the accessible versions of the findings reflect diverse access needs. This research summary will be shared with our community partners, various community and government organizations within Quebec and Newfoundland and Labrador and international collaborators during our knowledge mobilization activities. The long-term objective is to build a

multidisciplinary research team to set up a research program – future SSHRC grant or equivalent.

Scholarly Paper and Presentations

To encourage knowledge mobilization, the study findings will be communicated to other researchers, academics, and professionals through a series of conference presentations and peer review journal publications. To communicate the findings to researchers, advocates, and key stakeholders we have presented preliminary findings at the Nordic Network on Disability Research Conference (NNDR, Iceland, May 2023) and we will share research results at the International Society of Critical Health Psychology Conference held in Chile (ISCHP, July 2023). Based on the results of the scoping review, two scientific papers will be written and submitted to peer-reviewed journals in the field: *International Perspectives in Psychology* (special issue on Reproductive Justice) and *Feminism and Psychology* (special issue on Disability as a feminist issue).

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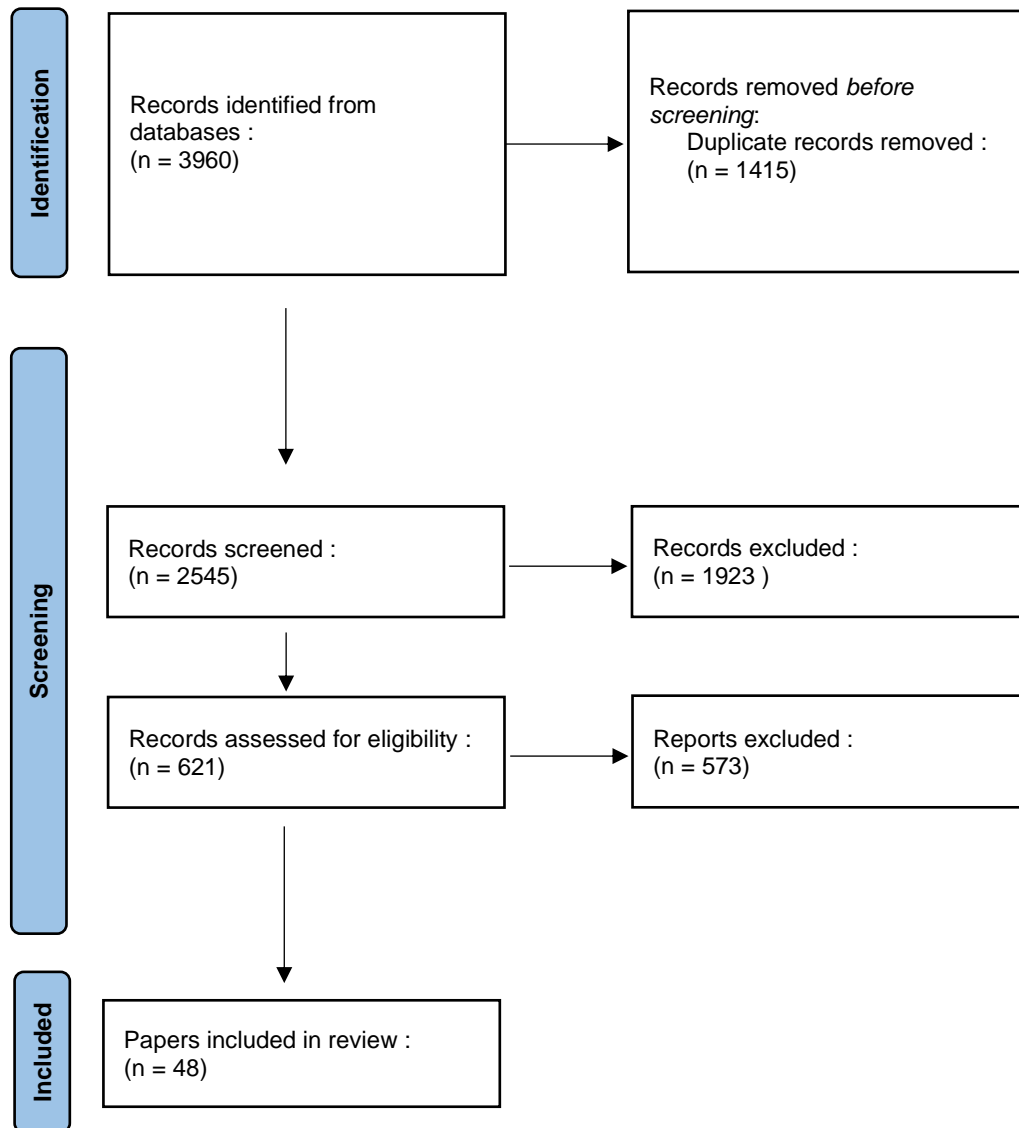
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Appendix A

Figure 1

PRISMA Flowchart of the Search Criteria and Screening Process



From: Page MJ, McKenzie JE, Bossuyt PM, Boutron I, Hoffmann TC, Mulrow CD, et al. The PRISMA 2020 statement: an updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews. *BMJ* 2021;372:n71. doi: 10.1136/bmj.n71

Appendix B

Table 1

List of publications included in the scoping review (n=48)

Authors	Date	Country	Lead Author Discipline	Aim	Design
Addlakha	2010	India	Sociology & Anthropology	To examine a legal case study of intellectual disabled woman and provide rationale for jurisprudence in India.	Legal case study
Addlakha et al.	2017	USA	Sociology & Anthropology	To bring awareness and understanding to sexuality in disability, while dismantling harmful conceptions of the sexuality of disabled people.	Legal reviews
Agaronnik et al.	2020	USA	Disability Studies	To explore views and experiences of practising U.S. physicians about caring for people across disability types.	Qualitative (interviews and focus group)
Alhusen et al.	2020	USA	Nursing	To explore associations between experiences of reproductive coercion and unintended pregnancy (UIP) among WWD (larger study examining facilitators and barriers to UIP among WWD).	Qualitative (interviews)
Amos et al.	2023	USA	Nursing	To examine the prevalence of reproductive coercion in postpartum WWD.	Quantitative (cross-sectional survey)
Annas	1981	USA	Law	To identify standards of decisions and protection of human rights in cases involving sterilization of persons with intellectual disability.	Legal review

Applebaum & La Puma	1994	USA	Healthcare ethics	To analyze the ethics of involuntary sterilization of a girl with an intellectual disability.	Legal case study
Ballan & Freyer	2017	USA	Social Welfare	To provide preliminary overview of the sexuality related healthcare and educational needs of women with intellectual disability and recommendations for professionals to support their emergent sexual development.	Literature review
Bays-Beinart	1983	USA	Law	To examine the bases for jurisdiction in the Indiana courts in order to determine which courts have the power to entertain petitions to sterilize incompetent minors.	Legal review
Brady	2001	Australia	Violence Against Women	To explore the discourses within the court reports sterilization application of intellectual disabled minors in Australia between between 1992-1999.	Qualitative
Brahams	1989	England	Law	To analyze the legal right to sterilize disabled women and girls in the context of the British decision in re D (1976) which sought to protect the mentally incapable through the courts.	Legal case study
Brown	1996	England	Social Welfare	To share experiences of women with learning difficulties in relation to sexuality, reproductive rights and mothers that will encourage gendered responses from service providers.	Literature review
Burns	2010	England	Psychology	To explore and understand resistance to the reproductive rights of women with intellectual disabilities in relation to women's social standing at large.	Qualitative

Cepko	1993	USA	Law	To provide an exploration of the court decisions of sterilization applications of women with intellectual disability in the US.	Legal review
Davis	1979	USA	Law	To examine the dilemma of the ‘mentally incompetent’ female who is incapable of consenting to a medically desirable sterilization procedure.	Legal case study
Devine et al.	2017	Philippines	Global Health	To highlight the need for better reproductive healthcare and access to healthcare amongst WWD in the Philippines by evaluating participation action groups.	Qualitative (interviews)
Dickens	1987	Canada	Law	To share the rationale of the decision within the Eve case in Canada.	Legal case study
Diekema & Fost	2010	USA	Bioethics	To provide a brief review of the case and the issues it raised, then address 25 distinct substantive ethical arguments that have been proposed as reasons that Ashley’s treatment might be unethical.	Legal case study
Dotson et al.	2003	USA	Psychology	To assess disabled women’s level of knowledge, their access to resources and their feelings of control over choices concerning their bodies.	Qualitative (interviews)
Ganjekar et al.	2023	India	Psychiatry	To summarise the provisions of the existing legislations on the reproductive rights of women with intellectual disability and put forward guidance for clinicians on how to approach the issue.	Legal review
Gilmore	1986	Canada	Law	To examine the ethics behind contraceptive and sterilization of persons with disabilities and informed consent.	Legal review

Holland-Hall	2011	USA	Pediatrics	To consider the ethics of and barriers to sterilization for WWD.	Literature review
Huang et al.	2022	China	Law	To explore the legal hurdles faced by women with intellectual disability in China and offer an analysis into their situation and hopes to draw national and international attention to their lack of equal rights in marriage and reproduction.	Legal review
Insogna & Fiester	2015	USA	Obstetrics & Gynecology	To explore the issue of sterilization in women with intellectual disabilities, asking whether the field's stance of sterilization as a last resort is best viewed as a protection of this vulnerable population or does significant harm.	Legal review
Jain & Sengupta	2021	India	Law	To apply the reproductive justice approach to disability-selective abortions situated within a capitalistic system within the context of India.	Legal review
Kallianes & Rubinfeld	1997	USA	Obstetrics & Gynecology	To examine the constraints and negative assumptions surrounding the reproductive rights of WWD.	Literature review
Knight	2017	USA	Political Science	To use political theories of liberty, feminist theories on reproductive rights, and the disability studies literature on ableism to analyze disabled women's reproductive freedoms.	Literature review
Kong	2019	USA	Law	To present an alternative analytical framework of female agency in order to accommodate how women with learning disabilities undertake the complex negotiation of power and social norms, as well as render visible their	Literature review

				agency in their sexual, relational, and reproductive choices.	
Ledger et al.	2016	England	Education & Language Studies	To explore who decides about contraception for women with learning disabilities.	Qualitative (survey)
Lee et al.	2015	Philippines	Global Health	To contribute to the available evidence by examining service providers' perceptions of disability and their experiences providing sexual and reproductive health services to women with disability.	Qualitative (interviews)
Manning	2021	England	Law	To explore the decisions regarding women with intellectual disabilities and reproductive decisions based on substitute decision makers.	Legal review
Marcus	1991	USA	Law	To examine the Colorado Supreme Court decision to protect disabled persons from forced sterilization following <i>In re Romero</i> .	Legal review
Melvin	2004	USA	Reproductive Health	To explore various professionals and two parents' views on a 'real-life ethical dilemma' of a 25-year-old woman with Down Syndrome that requests to remove IUD to have a child.	Legal case study
Ngwena	2018	South Africa	Obstetrics & Gynecology	To explore how the CRPD can have implications for supporting the rights of women with intellectual disabilities within the reproductive autonomy.	Legal review
Ofuani	2017	Nigeria	Law	To draw lessons from the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that are pertinent to protecting adolescent girls with intellectual disabilities from involuntary sterilisation in Nigeria.	Legal review

Panko	2022	USA	Women's Health	To explore the injustices that deaf women face in making choices and accessing reproductive healthcare.	Literature review
Paransky & Zurawin	2003	USA	Obstetrics & Gynecology	To provide a review of medical, legal and ethical aspects related to the management of menstrual problems and contraception of women with intellectual disability.	Literature review
Petersen	1991	Australia	Law	To examine legal tenants surrounding the question of sterilization of disabled girls.	Legal review
Serrato Calero et al.	2021	Spain	Social Science	To explore the contributions contained in the scientific literature of Social Sciences regarding the forced sterilization of WWD.	Literature review
Sharma & Sivakami	2019	India	Public Health	To highlight the paucity of research on the sexual and reproductive health concerns of people with disabilities, particularly women, in the Indian context using existing literature on India, and to identify the possible reasons of this neglect.	Literature review
Shrestha et al.	2022	USA	Reproductive Health	To identify the challenges faced by intellectually disabled women in receiving gynecological and reproductive care and highlight evidence-based strategies to overcome those challenges.	Literature review
Silvers et al.	2016	USA	Philosophy	To examine questions of meaningful access to reproductive autonomy and services for WWD.	Literature review
Stefánsdóttir	2014	Iceland	Disability Studies	To examine the experiences of sterilization of Icelandic women with intellectual disabilities.	Qualitative (interviews)
Sumskiene & Orlova	2015	Lithuania	Social Work	To analyze one of the most severe and under-reported human rights violations experienced by women who	Qualitative (interviews)

				have intellectual disabilities, while residing in social care institutions: the violation of their sexual and reproductive rights.	
Tilley et al.	2012	England	Disability Studies	To provide an overview of published research on sterilization of persons with intellectual disability historical practices, focusing on the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and the Nordic countries.	Literature review
Vaidya	2015	India	Sociology	To examine the experiences of disabled women in the context of sexuality and motherhood.	Literature review
Waxman	1994	USA	Disability Studies	To provide a review of disabled women's reproductive health status and explore research implications.	Literature review
Wiseman & Ferrie	2020	Scotland	Sociology	An empirical exploration of women with intellectual disabilities' experiences of reproductive (in)justice in Scotland.	Qualitative (survey)