

**Topic: Development of an intervention to increase gender based violence (GBV) disclosure and detection among pregnant women in Ghana**

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**Abstract**

Gender based violence (GBV), a broad term which covers different forms of violence against women occurring in pregnancy is one of the leading causes of maternal death, poses serious health risks to the pregnant woman and her unborn baby as well as a predictor of postpartum outcomes. In spite of the adverse outcomes of GBV on maternal and newborn health outcomes, evidence suggests that most cases of GBV go unreported, hence victims receive no support. In Ghana, little has been done on the phenomenon of GBV in pregnancy. This study, being the first of its kind aims to develop an intervention for screening pregnant women to increase GBV disclosure and detection among pregnant women in Ghana. The study will be guided by the Bronfenbrenner's ecological model.

The study will adopt a mixed-method multiphase design using an explanatory sequential study. . The first phase will qualitatively explore GBV disclosure among pregnant women. The second phase will explore the feasibility of using an intervention to increase GBV detection by midwives. The third phase will be used to develop an intervention for screening pregnant women to increase GBV disclosure and detection in pregnancy. Data will be collected using interviews, focus group discussions and questionnaires. A monograph thesis from the study will be submitted to the University of Ghana for the award of a PhD in nursing. A policy brief of the developed screening tool will further be submitted to the Ministry of Health and the Ghana Health Service for piloting, validation and adoption for clinical practice in Ghana.