Title- Culture clash of female Somali adolescents and sexual and reproductive health services in Oslo, Norway.

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Abstract

Culture clash of female Somali adolescents and sexual and reproductive health services in Oslo, Norway. Fourteen young women aged 16–20 years were recruited using the snowball technique with purposive sampling. In-depth interviews using a semi-structured interview guide were used to collect data, and thematic analysis was applied.

Participants perceived sexual and reproductive health as a very private matter and open discussion of SRH was extremely limited owing to certain Somali cultural beliefs and values. As the participants intend to practise chastity before marriage, they believed that existing SRH services were largely irrelevant and inappropriate. Where they felt the need to access SRH services, participants wished to do so in a way they considered culturally appropriate.

In conclusion, Somali culture markedly influences individuals' perceptions of SRH services. It is recommended to modify existing SRH services by increasing confidentiality and anonymity in order to take into account the cultural requirements of female Somali adolescents.