

The SELF Study: Maternal Mental Health and Parenting Attitudes Among Sexual Violence Survivors in eastern DRC.

In the S.E.L.F. (Santé pour les Enfants et Les Femmes) Study, Susan Bartels, MD, MPH, FRCPC, and her team examine outcomes of sexual violence related pregnancies and makes use of a unique sampling methodology called Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS). RDS uses peer recruitment to study “hidden populations” – in this case, survivors of sexual violence who are often stigmatized by their communities. This is one of the first times that RDS has been used to study sexual violence. Interviews were conducted with women who are currently raising children conceived from sexual violence and women who terminated sexual violence related pregnancies.