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INTERCONNECTION OF POPULATION HEALTH IN ZIMBABVE WITH ACTIVITY OF CHURCH ASSOCIATED HOSPITALS

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Актуальность. Zimbabwe is a landlocked country in Southern Africa with a total population of 15.1 million. According to Zimbabwe Association of Church Related Hospitals (ZACH) church associated hospitals and clinics in Zimbabwe contribute 68% health care delivery in rural Zimbabwe and 35% nationally. There are 62 church associated hospitals in Zimbabwe. Kenneth and team mentioned that ,"It is interesting to note that seemingly harmless religious practices like prayer and respect for religious figureheads can result in fatal maternal outcomes"[1].

Цель. To analyze the interconnection between activity of church associated hospitals and the health of Zimbabwe's population.

Методы исследования. Questionnaire survey (in-depth online interview).

Результаты и их обсуждение. From the results of this research church associated hospitals offer health services such as antenatal care (100% of hospitals), family planning (19.35%), treatment of non- communicable and communicable diseases (100%), child immunization (100%), surgical services (83.87%), HIV and Aids (100%) and many more.

These hospitals also have medical organization problems of activity such as lack of ambulances (29%), patients' overload (6.45%), lack of specializing doctors (67.74%).

Выводы. Truly church associated hospitals are impacting the public health of Zimbabwe in various ways. With their financial stability these hospitals have managed to carter for the health needs of Zimbabweans even in times of doctors strikes and economic problems. Also, religion still continues to affect maternal and child death rate because it interferes with issues such as child immunization and antenatal care. With awareness campaigns being done the situation can improve in the future.

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