

# **THE HMIS CHALLENGES OF IMPLEMENTING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR HIV CARE MANAGEMENT AND TREATMENT PLAN FOR SOUTH AFRICA IN SA'S PUBLIC SECTOR FACILITIES (Oral and Poster)**

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## **Introduction**

The realisation of the importance of information in management is reaching unprecedented levels in South Africa and is of particular relevance in the implementation of the Operational Plan for Comprehensive HIV Care Management and Treatment (CCMT) for South Africa.

## **Aim of project**

In January 2005, the National Department of Health: Research, Surveillance and Information Directorate awarded a tender to the Health Systems Trust (HST) and Health Information Systems Project (HISP) to provide training to departmental officials on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the Comprehensive Plan in all nine provinces.

## **Methods**

During the first phase of the project, consultation was undertaken with the national and provincial departments followed by the development of the training materials to be used. This was followed by the training of a total of 428 health officials during a series of 4-day training courses held per province. Participants included nurses, doctors, ART site managers, data capturers, information officers, clerks district health information officers and provincial managers responsible for the CCMT programme and for health information. During the third and final phase, support was provided to facilities, districts and provinces to collect, analyse and use data for monitoring and evaluation. Finally, the project was evaluated through conducting interviews with key informants and analysing the responses of workshop participants in self administered questionnaires.

## **Key Achievements**

The developed training materials were rated very highly by users and the department and availed to the department to conduct future training. The training courses received very positive feedback. Health officials began to collect the required data and a pool of trained health officials was available in each province to support management and use data for programme M&E.

## **Key challenges**

The lack of standardised data collection processes, a too large dataset, high staff turnover and poor response rate to the self-administered questionnaires.

## **Recommendations**

A data flow policy should be developed and implemented. Data handling processes should be addressed. Particular focus should be placed on data quality, human resources and information and communication technology infrastructure. An interface between the various electronic systems in use and the DHIS should be explored.