

**60percent – 15 September 2023**

### **FDA Provides Tentative Approval for HIV Therapy for Children**



Contagion Live | 5 September 2023

The FDA have given a tentative approval for a new drug application for a combination therapy abacavir /dolutegravir/lamivudine for the treatment of HIV in the pediatric population. "The approval of this single tablet regimen – the fixed-dose combination of abacavir 60 mg/dolutegravir 5 mg/lamivudine 30 mg - will reduce the pill burden for children living with HIV," Rakesh Bamzai, president of India, Emerging Asia & Access Markets at Viatris, said in a statement. The FDA's tentative approval through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) program means the formulation meets all the agency's quality, safety, and efficacy standards. Viatris is global healthcare company and has signed a licensing agreement for dolutegravir from the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) and development agreement with ViiV Healthcare and the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) for producing and distributing the fixed-dose combination of abacavir/ dolutegravir/lamivudine.

<https://www.contagionlive.com/view/fda-provides-tentative-approval-for-hiv-therapy-for-children>

### **Condensed Proton Therapy Schedule Shows Promise for Patients With Breast Cancer**



*AJMC | 8 September 2023*

Hypofractionated proton postmastectomy radiotherapy (PMRT) has shown promise in reducing radiation exposure to the heart and lungs in patients with breast cancer, according to new research published in *The Lancet Oncology*. Breast cancer is a common malignancy affecting millions of women worldwide, and treatment often involves radiation therapy following mastectomy. However, the radiation can inadvertently affect nearby organs like the heart and lungs, potentially leading to complications. Proton therapy offers a precise alternative by using proton beams to target cancer cells while sparing surrounding healthy tissues.

<https://www.ajmc.com/view/condensed-proton-therapy-schedule-shows-promise-for-patients-with-breast-cancer>

### **Survey of Swedish Women With HIV Suggests Stigma, Discrimination Persist**



*AJMC | 8 September 2023*

Reported discrimination in the social lives of women living with HIV (LWH) in Sweden emphasizes the need for updated knowledge and clarified guidelines for HIV in the country, according to a survey study published in *Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters*. There are 8289 people in Sweden who are LWH, according to the study, with women representing approximately 40% of all cases. National response to HIV has changed over time, with guidelines being altered in Sweden to only notifying partners based on treatment status. Guidelines for women LWH who breastfeed and are looking to reproduce have also changed. This study aimed to gain insight into the perceptions and experiences of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) by surveying women LWH in Sweden.

<https://www.ajmc.com/view/survey-of-women-with-hiv-suggests-stigma-discrimination-persist-in-sweden>

**View 2021 HIV Data Where You Live and Find Faith-Based Groups, Thanks to AIDSVu**



*Poz | 7 September 2023*

AIDSVu, which organizes HIV data into graphs and interactive maps, has updated its content to reflect HIV data at the state and county levels for 2021, the most recent year for which such data are available. What's more, the interactive website also launched a first-of-its-kind public Faith Based Organization Locator for users. The update includes new data highlighting the impact of HIV on people experiencing homelessness or unstable housing. The local data were compiled via a partnership between AIDSVu and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Medical Monitoring Project, according to an AIDSVu news release. About 17% of people living with HIV in 2021 experienced homelessness or unstable housing.

<https://www.poz.com/article/view-2021-hiv-data-live-find-faithbased-groups-thanks-aidsvu>

**Perceived ideal number of children among adolescent girls in sub-Saharan Africa: does exposure to family planning messages matter?**

*Million Phiri, Musonda Lemba, Liness Shasha, Milika Sikaluzwe & Simona Simona*



*BMC Women's health | 9 September 2023*

Even though evidence shows that fertility transition has begun almost everywhere in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), the decline has been slower than in other parts of the world. Research shows that there is a positive relationship between fertility levels and fertility preference. Therefore, many countries in the region are implementing family planning education campaigns targeting at influencing reproductive behavior of women. Thus, this study aimed to examine the extent to which exposure to family planning communication influences fertility preferences of adolescent girls in SSA.

<https://bmcwomenshealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12905-023-02609-4>

### **Program Structure, Group Dynamics Fundamental to HIV Intervention Success**



*AJMC | 11 September 2023*

An intervention created for Black women living with HIV in the United States was found to be successful due to how the program was structured and the group dynamics of peers in the intervention, according to a study published in International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. Black women are more vulnerable to HIV due to economic and social determinants of health. They are 5 times more likely to report HIV compared with other races. HIV prevention intervention design has started to integrate social and structural components and address economic determinants of health. Common Threads was an intervention created to help Black women understand the social, economic, and cultural factors that increase vulnerability to HIV. This qualitative study aimed to “explore the experience of the participants with a focus on evaluating the impact of this intervention through the framework of the client-focused considering work (CFCW) model.”

<https://www.ajmc.com/view/program-structure-group-dynamics-fundamental-to-hiv-intervention-success>

**Pharmacy Month: Western Cape promotes responsible use of antibiotics and antimicrobials**

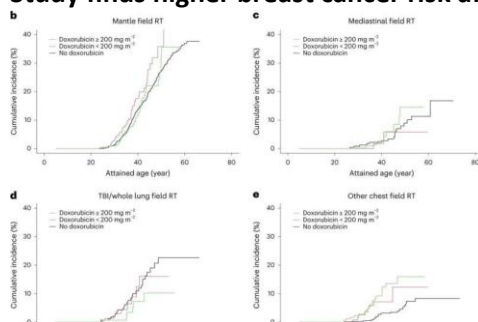


IOL | 11 September 2023

September is Pharmacy Month, and the theme this year includes antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) and reporting of adverse drug reactions (ADRs). AMS comprises actions to promote the responsible use of antibiotics, while the person reporting a suspected adverse drug reaction becomes a source of data on the safety of medicinal products.

<https://www.iol.co.za/lifestyle/health/pharmacy-month-western-cape-promotes-responsible-use-of-antibiotics-and-antimicrobials-02503c87-2d72-4528-959d-e871211a1bf0>

### Study finds higher breast cancer risk after certain forms of childhood cancer treatment



Medical Xpress | 11 September 2023

Three out of four children with cancer are successfully treated and survive the disease. But the treatment, which often consists of a combination of surgery, chemotherapy and radiation, can cause serious side effects and late effects in some survivors. One of those late effects is developing a second cancer in adulthood. In a new study, scientists from the Princess Máxima Center investigated the risk of breast cancer in women who were treated for childhood cancer with so-called anthracycline chemotherapy, including doxorubicin. They looked at the medical records of nearly 18,000 childhood cancer survivors treated between 1946 and 2012 in the Netherlands, France, the United States and Switzerland. The study results were published in Nature Medicine.

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2023-09-higher-breast-cancer-childhood-treatment.html>

**National African Immigrant and Refugee HIV/AIDS & Hepatitis Awareness Day 2023**



Poz | 12 September 2023

It's official! National African Immigrant and Refugee HIV/AIDS & Hepatitis Awareness (NAIRHHA) Day has been recognized by the federal government. Advocates began promoting the awareness day in 2014 via citywide events in Boston, and now thanks to the Department of Health and Human Services their efforts can help raise awareness of HIV and hepatitis among African immigrants and refugees nationwide each September 9. NAIRHHA Day is led by the Hepatitis B Foundation, the Africans For Improved Access program at the Multicultural AIDS Coalition and the Coalition Against Hepatitis for People of African Origin.

<https://www.poz.com/article/national-african-immigrant-refugee-hiv-hepatitis-awareness-day-2023-nairrhaday>

### Final USCHA 2023 Conversations: PrEP Uptake, AI & a Federal HIV Plenary [VIDEOS]



Poz | 12 September 2023

During the final two days of the 2023 US Conference on HIV/AIDS (USCHA) in Washington, DC, HIV.gov continued its conversations with a focus on the theme, "A Love Letter to Black Women." On Friday, CAPT Jyl Martin, MPH, CHES, NHDP-BC, U.S. Public Health Service and Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy (OIDP), chatted with Dr. Marissa Robinson, DrPH, MPH, RPCV, EHE Coordinator, about her workshop Ending the HIV Epidemic: Black Women, HBCUs, & PrEP Uptake.

<https://www.poz.com/blog/final-uscha-2023-conversations-prep-uptake-ai-federal-hiv-plenary-videos>

### HIV Prevention Choice Manifesto for Women and Girls in Africa launched



UNAIDS | 12 September 2023

UNAIDS Executive Director, Winnie Byanyima, joined women's coalitions, government officials, development partners and community groups from across East and Southern Africa to launch the HIV Prevention Choice Manifesto. Led by the African Women Prevention Community Accountability Board and supported by the International Community of Women Living with HIV (ICW) East Africa and Advocacy for Prevention of HIV and AIDS (APHA), the Choice Manifesto advocates for choice in the HIV prevention options available for women and a commitment to expanding access to long-acting HIV health technologies. Further, these options should be people centred, women-centred and women-led.

[https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2023/september/20230912\\_choice-manifesto](https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2023/september/20230912_choice-manifesto)

### **Training program for health workers aims to reduce the burden of breast cancer in Malawi**



*News Medical Life Science | 12 September 2023*

Women in rural Malawi are learning how to detect breast cancer thanks to the country's first dedicated training programme for health workers, aimed at reducing the burden of the disease. Across Sub-Saharan Africa, many countries are grappling with high mortality rates from breast cancer, with the disease often diagnosed too late and access to treatments lacking. In Malawi, breast cancer is the third most common cancer in women, with low survival rates from the time of diagnosis. Fewer than ten per cent of patients survive beyond 18 months, according to the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

<https://www.news-medical.net/news/20230912/Training-program-for-health-workers-aims-to-reduce-the-burden-of-breast-cancer-in-Malawi.aspx>

### **There can be no gender equality without menstrual justice**



*The BMJ | 12 September 2023*

*Lillian Bagala, Therese Mahon, Arundati Muralidharan and Emily Wilson*

The menstrual cycle and menstruation are normal, physiological processes. But the experience of menstruation is shaped by social, economic, and structural factors and associated inequalities. These factors pose substantial challenges to accessing information about their bodies, menstrual products, toilets, water, disposal facilities, and health services to women, girls, and other people who menstruate. A menstrual justice lens can facilitate action to tackle the inequities that underlie poor menstrual health, bringing about change for menstrual, sexual, and reproductive health, and gender inequality.

<https://www.bmj.com/content/382/bmj.p2079>

### **ViiV Healthcare's S Salon put Black women at the center of HIV/AIDS prevention**



*The Grio | 12 September 2023*

Instead of a dinner party, the Washington, D.C., stop was a massive luncheon during the U.S. Conference on HIV/AIDS at the Marriott Marquis. Building on the tradition of Zora Neale Hurston's salons, the event featured Amanda Seales, Ts Madison, spoken word poetry, music, and plenty of comedy spread across three acts: Desire, Intimacy, and Pleasure. Much like the sexual health activity books ViiV Healthcare launched earlier this year, the S Salon championed Black women while offering a safe space for them to engage with the fact that Black women continue to lead in new HIV/AIDS cases.

<https://thegrio.com/2023/09/12/viiv-healthcares-s-salon-put-black-women-at-the-center-of-hiv-aids-prevention/>

### **Competing priorities impact HIV treatment adherence for South Africans with low incomes**



*AIDS Map | 13 September 2023*

Difficulty in balancing work commitments and clinic appointments, diverting resources towards substance use, and covering other basic household needs over ART-related costs negatively affected the ability of people living with HIV to access or adhere to ART, South African researchers report in the journal *AIDS Research and Therapy*.

<https://www.aidsmap.com/news/sep-2023/competing-priorities-impact-hiv-treatment-adherence-south-africans-low-incomes>

## **SOUTH AFRICAN CHILDREN LACK PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT. ‘EVERY SCHOOL NEEDS A SOCIAL WORKER’**



*Health E News | 13 September 2023*

Social workers, researchers and teachers are desperate for more psychosocial support for children and adolescents in South Africa. They say it’s a “no-brainer” that every school needs a social worker. The issue of mental illness among learners has made recent headlines. The Gauteng Department of Education has recorded more than 40 cases of suicides in the provinces’ schools since the beginning of the 2023 academic year.

<https://health-e.org.za/2023/09/13/south-african-children-lack-psychosocial-support-every-school-needs-a-social-worker/>

## **LIFE ON THE WAITING LIST: BLACK STEM CELL DONORS URGENTLY NEEDED TO SAVE LIVES**



*Health E News | 14 September 2023*

It’s been two years since Health-e News first met Oreokame Sehularo from the Northern Cape. Two birthday celebrations later, and the 11-year-old, affectionately called “Oreo” by family and close friends, is still waiting for a life saving stem cell donation.

<https://health-e.org.za/2023/09/14/life-on-the-waiting-list-black-stem-cell-donors-urgently-needed-to-save-lives/>

**The Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) – calling all public health champions!**





## PHASA

PHASA is a voluntary organisation of individuals passionate about population health improvements and the reduction of health inequities, and whose work focuses on the prevention of disease, the promotion of health, and the improved functioning of the country's health care system. Are you passionate about improving the health and wellbeing of communities? Do you want to expand your professional network and stay current in the field of public health? Do you want to be part of the movement to improve Public Health? Then join the Public Health Association of South Africa today to make a difference and enhance your career!

As a member, you will:

- Gain access to cutting-edge research, resources, and best practices
- Connect with public health professionals from around the world
- Participate in educational events and conferences
- Contribute to shaping the future of public health
- Have access to mentors in the field
- Be at the forefront of advocacy initiatives.

To become a member, simply visit our [website](https://phasa.org.za/index.php/get-involved/membership) and complete the membership application. Don't miss this opportunity to advance your career and improve public health.

<https://phasa.org.za/index.php/get-involved/membership>

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<https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Subscription.aspx>