

HST 60percent – 27 October 2023

Picture this – living with HIV



Aidsmap | 18 October 2023

Visibility is a powerful tool in the fight against HIV stigma, so when we decided to refresh the photography on our website, we turned to the HIV community asking for volunteers to represent themselves and their lives. Within a few hours of putting a call out on Instagram we were overwhelmed by the generosity of people willing to give up their time and share their lives and stories on camera, becoming our very visible faces of HIV. Not everyone wants their status to be known, but a lot do, and those were the people we wanted to photograph. Our goal was to create relaxed 'everyday' imagery that reflects the reality of people living with HIV. I was tired of seeing imagery where the faces of people living with HIV were being obscured, or photographed from an angle that hid their identity, as it was thought that HIV was something to be ashamed of.

<https://www.aidsmap.com/news/oct-2023/picture-living-hiv>

COVID-19 raises the risk of cardiovascular disease in people with HIV

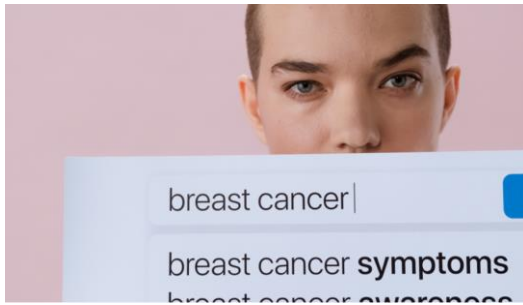


Aidsmap | 20 October 2023

People with HIV who were diagnosed with COVID-19 had a 35% higher risk of a major cardiovascular event in the following year compared to other people with HIV, a Spanish study presented on Thursday at the 19th European AIDS Conference (EACS 2023) in Warsaw reported. The difference in risk was concentrated in three types of cardiovascular problem: thrombosis (disorders caused by blood clots), heart failure (failure of the heart to pump sufficient blood) and other heart disorders including aneurysms (where a blood vessel balloons and may suddenly rupture). People with HIV with a diagnosis of COVID-19 did not have higher rates of heart attack or stroke.

<https://www.aidsmap.com/news/oct-2023/covid-19-raises-risk-cardiovascular-disease-people-hiv>

Global Cancer Awareness Month: Redefining women's health conversations with creative engagement

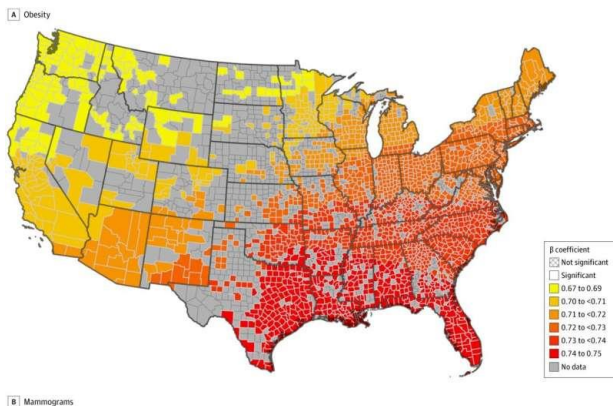


IOL | 20 October 2023

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is observed worldwide in October, shedding light on the alarming statistics surrounding the disease. According to Dr Liana Roodt, a renowned breast surgeon and founder of Project Flamingo, an estimated 12.5% of South African women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. Project Flamingo is an NPO that specialises in providing free mastectomies to state patients in critical need. These figures may be even higher due to the inaccuracy of current statistics. Roodt further states that this translates to 1 in 8 women based on global statistics provided by the World Health Organization (WHO).

<https://www.iol.co.za/sunday-tribune/lifestyle/global-cancer-awareness-month-redefining-womens-health-conversations-with-creative-engagement-a6e7539b-bb08-45b8-83b3-d4bc067831e5>

With breast cancer risks, where you live matters, researchers find



Medical Xpress | 20 October 2023

Inadequate health care access, unhealthy diets and not enough exercise are all well-known risk factors for the number one cause of cancer-related deaths in women—breast cancer—but what was never clear is why death rates for the disease differ regionally. But now, researchers from the University of Maryland with collaborators from George Mason University have identified patterns of breast cancer survival that link social and environmental factors with geographic regions across the United States.

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2023-10-breast-cancer.html>

Screening and Early Treatment for Anal Cancer in People With HIV



Poz | 22 October 2023

HIV-positive people treated with topical trichloroacetic acid were about equally likely to experience improvement or resolution of precancerous anal cell changes as those who underwent electrocautery, but they were less likely to experience pain and other side effects, according to study results presented at the European AIDS Conference (EACS 2023). Another study, presented at IDWeek 2023, found that many gay men living with HIV are not receiving screening to detect anal cancer at an early, more treatable stage.

<https://www.poz.com/article/screening-early-treatment-anal-cancer-people-hiv>

Expanding PrEP Coverage in the U.S. to Help End the HIV Epidemic



Poz | 23 October 2023

Today, as part of CDC's quarterly HIV Surveillance Data Tables*, CDC published preliminary data on pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) coverage. These preliminary data (Tables 3A-3C) indicate that in 2022, for the first time, more than one-third of people in the U.S. who could benefit from PrEP had been prescribed it. Increasing PrEP coverage is one of the key prevention strategies outlined in the Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. (EHE) initiative.

<https://www.poz.com/blog/expanding-prep-coverage-us-help-end-hiv-epidemic>

Cervical cancer cases rising in regions with health inequity



Contemporary OB|GYN | 23 October 2023

Cervical cancer incidence and mortality have significantly increased from 2009 to 2019 in Appalachian Kentucky, according to a recent study published in JAMA Network Open. From 2015 to 2019, the greatest incidence of cervical cancer in the United States was observed in Kentucky. Cervical cancer screening and care is especially lacking in the central Appalachian region, where high economic distress, health inequity, and persistent poverty cause isolation, lack of transportation, and health care shortages.

<https://www.contemporaryobgyn.net/view/cervical-cancer-cases-rising-in-regions-with-health-inequity>

TechnoGirl Trust and HIVSA partner up to raise HIV and health awareness



IOL | 23 October 2023

TechnoGirl Trust and HIVSA have partnered to boost HIV and health awareness among South African young women, empowering them to achieve their goals while maintaining their health and wellbeing. The two organisations share the strategic priority of empowering young people to achieve their aspirations while looking after their health and wellbeing. This partnership addresses important challenges that South Africa continues to face, with 24% of women aged between 18 and 49 living with HIV, 150,000 young girls experiencing teenage pregnancy, and limited resources to address personal sexual health in many impoverished communities.

<https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/western-cape/technogirl-trust-and-hivsa-partner-up-to-raise-hiv-and-health-awareness-cc13cba0-c5cc-4249-b457-107286f60a8d>

Should nurses be allowed to hand out psychiatric drugs?



Bhekisisa | 23 October 2023

By 2028, trained nurses in South Africa should be able to prescribe psychiatric medicines — if lawmakers move fast enough. This will make antidepressants and drugs to deal with anxiety easier to get, especially for people with HIV, who are about five times more likely than those without the virus to have depression, and eight times more likely to experience anxiety.

<https://bhekisisa.org/multimedia/2023-10-23-should-nurses-be-allowed-to-hand-out-psychiatric-drugs/>

How reactive oxygen species impact cervical cancer risk



Contemporary OB/GYN | 24 October 2023

Oxidation of the vaginal space may reduce the risk of cervical cancer, according to a recent study published in *Open Medicine*. In 2020, 604,127 new cases and 341,831 deaths from cervical cancer were reported, 35,000 and 30,000 greater than in 2018, respectively. This indicates cervical cancer as a global health problem, highlighting the need for solutions.

<https://www.contemporaryobgyn.net/view/how-reactive-oxygen-species-impact-cervical-cancer-risk>

Nigeria to vaccinate 7.7 million girls against leading cause of cervical cancer



PMNC | 24 October 2023

Nigeria today introduced the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine into its routine immunization system, aiming to reach 7.7 million girls – the largest number in a single round of HPV vaccination in the African region – in a vaccination drive against the virus that causes nearly all cases of cervical cancer.

<https://pmnch.who.int/news-and-events/news/item/24-10-2023-nigeria-to-vaccinate-7.7-million-girls-against-leading-cause-of-cervical-cancer>

National Survey Reveals Women of All Ages Cite Mental Health as Their Number One Health Concern

Yahoo!finance | 24 October 2023

LevLane Advertising, an award-winning full-service agency headquartered in Philadelphia, has released the results of its 2023 Women's Health Concerns Survey of 400 women, ages 18+, which explores how women are approaching various aspects of their health and wellness. The survey, which was conducted by a market research provider on behalf of LevLane, paints a concerning picture, as women report deprioritizing sexual/reproductive health and almost every other aspect of their well-being, while mental health concerns take priority. This is true even in the younger age groups where sexual health is traditionally considered as a primary concern (ages 18-34).

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/national-survey-reveals-women-ages-140000518.html>

Preferences, educational messaging, and demand creation channels for multipurpose-prevention technologies (MPTs) among women in South Africa

BMC Public Health | 25 October 2023

South African women, including female sex workers (FSWs), are disproportionately affected by HIV, experience a high unmet need for contraception and high rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Products that address the interlinked risk between HIV, unplanned pregnancy, and other STIs are needed. There are several multipurpose-prevention technologies (MPTs) in development, aimed at preventing both HIV and pregnancy. This study aimed to explore educational messaging and demand creation channels to improve the potential uptake of a hypothetical MPT implant, using participatory action research. It also aimed to look at product and service provision attributes preferred by potential end users.

<https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-023-16904-0>

Some women in France are using PrEP, but only transgender women tend to stay on it



Aidsmap | 25 October 2023

The number of gay and bisexual men in France at enough risk of HIV to benefit from PrEP is about 142,000, the country's premier PrEP researcher, Professor Jean-Michel Molina, told

the [19th European AIDS Conference \(EACS 2023\)](#) in Warsaw last Saturday. Even though this represents only 0.6% of the adult male population, it is still many more than the 42,000 men who are actually taking PrEP – 29.5% of those in need of it.

<https://www.aidsmap.com/news/oct-2023/some-women-france-are-using-prep-only-transgender-women-tend-stay-it>

Towards Universal Health Coverage, Strengthening Primary Health Care: A whole of Government, whole of Society approach conference



The South African National Department of Health, the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, the World Health Organization and Health Systems Trust cordially invite you to participate in a Primary Health Care (PHC) themed, **Towards Universal Health Coverage, Strengthening Primary Health Care: A whole of Government, whole of Society approach**, conference to be held at the East London International Convention Centre from 14-17 November 2023.

The goals of the conference are to reinvigorate South Africa's commitment to the PHC approach as a strategic component of comprehensive health services in a unified health system, within a National Health Insurance (NHI) dispensation and to re-commit the country (i.e. government, citizens and social partners) to the PHC principles as being central to health promotion, disease prevention, and building a people-centred and resilient health system that is able to adapt and respond to emerging health challenges in a rapidly changing world.

For more information do go to the [conference web page](#)

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>

Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust Bulletin



The Health Systems Trust (HST) produces a weekly bulletin on Fridays focusing on key public health news, peer-reviewed journal articles and other important primary healthcare resources.

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