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## CATEGORIES

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## ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

### **Mortality and its predictors among human immunodeficiency virus-infected children younger than 15 years receiving antiretroviral therapy in Ethiopia: a systematic review and meta-analysis**

*BMC Infectious Disease* | 3 May 2024

*Beshada Zerfu Woldegeorgis, Yordanos sisay Asgedom, Amanuel Yosef Gebrekidan, Gizachew Ambaw Kassie, Ushula Deboch Borko & Mohammed Suleiman Obsa*

Despite antiretroviral treatment (ART), the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) continues to pose a considerable health burden in resource-poor countries. This systematic review and meta-analysis aimed to determine the pooled incidence density of mortality and identify potential predictors among HIV-infected children receiving ART, from studies conducted in various parts of Ethiopia.

### **The importance of self-management for better treatment outcomes for HIV patients in a low-income setting: perspectives of HIV experts and service providers**

*AIDS Research and Therapy* | 4 May 2024

*Tegene Legese Dadi, Yadessa Tegene, Nienke Vollebregt, Girmay Medhin & Mark Spigt*

Self-management is the most important strategy to improve quality of life in patients with a chronic disease. Despite the increasing number of people living with HIV (PLWH) in low-income countries, very little research on self-management is conducted in this setting. The aim of this research is to understand the perspectives of service providers and experts on the importance of self-management for PLWH.

### **Prevalence and factors associated with antepartum depression among adolescent women in the assin north district of Ghana: a cross-sectional study**

*BMC Women's Health* | 7 May 2024

*Hannah Amoquandoh Asante, Shadrach Tetteh Boyetey, Ebenezer Essaw, Christopher Amoah Nyame, Bertha Mante, et al.*

Globally, depression is a leading cause of disease-related disability among women. In low-and-middle-income countries (LMICs), the prevalence rate of antepartum depression is estimated to range between 15% and 57% and even higher in adolescent antepartum women. Although a number of studies have

shown that depression is common in adolescent pregnancies and has a prevalence rate between 28% and 67% among adolescent mothers, there currently exists no literature on depression among adolescent pregnant women in Ghana. The study aimed to determine the prevalence of antepartum depression and identify the factors associated with it among pregnant adolescent women.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance and Hesitancy among People Living with HIV: Review and Meta-Analysis**

*Aids and Behavior* | 7 May 2024

*Marcos Pereira, Italo Ricardo Santos Aleluia, Caroline Tianeze de Castro, Tarcio de Almeida Oliveira, Mila Silva Cunha, et al.*

This study aims to estimate the COVID-19 vaccine acceptance and hesitancy among people living with HIV (PLWHA). A search for observational studies was conducted in five databases and preprinted literature. Summary estimates were pooled using a random effects model and meta-regression. Of 150 identified studies, 31 were eligible (18,550 PLWHA). The weighted prevalence of COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy overall was 29.07% among PLWHA (95%CI = 24.33–34.32;  $I^2 = 98\%$ ), and that of vaccine acceptance was 68.66% (95%CI = 62.25–74.43;  $I^2 = 98\%$ ).

### **Quality of life and its related-influencing factors in patients with cervical cancer based on the scale QLICP-CE(V2.0)**

*BMC Women's Health* | 7 May 2024

*Huiyan Chen, Lin Zhou, Daniel Fong, Yingli Cun, Zheng Yang & Chonghua Wan*

Quality of life research can guide clinical workers to adopt more targeted treatment and intervention measures, so as to achieve the purpose of improving patients' quality of life. The objective of this study was to evaluate health-related quality of life in Chinese patients with cervical cancer and to explore its influencing factors.

### **HIV Screening Among Young Black Men Who Have Sex with Women in New Orleans, LA**

*Aids and Behavior* | 7 May 2024

*Aneeka Ratnayake, Gérard Gomes & Patricia J. Kissinger*

There are significant disparities in HIV acquisition, with Black individuals facing disproportionately more new diagnoses. Per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), all people aged 13–64 should be tested at least once in their lifetime, and men at increased risk (e.g., those who have male sexual contact, multiple partners, have partners with multiple partners, or share drug injection equipment) should be tested annually. The study included young Black men who have sex with women (MSW), aged 15–26, and who live in New Orleans, LA.

### **Sustaining HIV service delivery to key population clients using client-centered models during the debate and enactment of the Anti-Homosexuality Act in Uganda**

*Journal of the International AIDS Society* | 7 May 2024

*Vamsi Vasireddy, Natalie E. Brown, Neha Shah, Trevor A. Crowell*

Punitive and discriminatory laws against key populations (KP), particularly men who have sex with men (MSM), have been on the rise for over a decade. Studies have shown these laws to be associated with healthcare avoidance, decreased HIV testing and increased HIV prevalence. These laws further marginalize groups that are disproportionately affected by HIV and imperil the achievement of the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets.

### **Factors influencing presentation delay among cancer patients: a cross-sectional study in Malaysia**

*BMC Public Health* | 8 May 2024

*Tshewang Gyeltshen, Hoon Shien Teh, Ching Ee Loo, Nicholas Yee Liang Hing, Wei Yin Lim, et al.*

Cancer represents a significant global public health challenge, with escalating incidence rates straining healthcare systems. Malaysia, like many nations, has witnessed a rise in cancer cases, particularly among the younger population. This study aligns with Malaysia's National Strategic Plan for Cancer Control Programme 2021–2025, emphasizing primary prevention and early detection to address cancer's impact. Therefore, we aim to describe the timeliness of cancer care for symptom presentation, socio-demographic, patient, as well as organizational-related factors among patients in Malaysia diagnosed with

breast, colorectal, nasopharyngeal, and cervical cancer.

### **SARS-CoV-2 vaccine breakthrough infection and the evaluation of safety precaution practice before and after vaccination among healthcare workers in South West, Nigeria**

*BMC Public Health | 8 May 2024*

*Oluwatosin Idowu Oni, Patrick Olanrewaju Osho, Tayelolu Mary Odesanmi, Habeebat Motunrayo Raji, Faith Titilayo Oluranti*

Worldwide, it has been reported that fully vaccinated people still die of COVID-19-associated symptoms, generating public uncertainty about the safety and effectiveness of the vaccines. Hence, this research is aimed at assessing the incidence of COVID-19 breakthrough infection among vaccinated Health Workers and the possible effect of changes in the practice of post-vaccination safety precautions.

### **Assessing the resilience of HIV healthcare services provided to adolescents and young adults after the COVID-19 pandemic in the city of Beira (Mozambique): an interrupted time series analysis**

*AIDS Research and Therapy | 9 May 2024*

*Roberto Benoni, Francesco Cavallin, Virginia Casigliani, Annachiara Zin, Dara Giannini, et al.*

The COVID-19 pandemic has put the provision of health services globally at risk. In Sub-Saharan Africa, it had a major impact on HIV services. However, there is a lack of data on the post-pandemic period. This study aims to evaluate the resumption of HIV services and retention in care for adolescents and young people in the period following the COVID-19 pandemic.

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## **RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS**

### **Africa: New Nets Prevent 13 Million Malaria Cases in Sub-Saharan Africa**

*allAfrica | 17 April 2024*

Compared to standard nets, the introduction of 56 million state-of-the-art mosquito nets in 17 countries across sub-Saharan Africa averted an estimated 13 million malaria cases and 24,600 deaths. The New Nets Project, an initiative funded by Unitaid and the Global Fund and led by the Innovative Vector Control Consortium (IVCC), piloted the use of dual-insecticide in malaria-endemic countries between 2019 and 2022 to address the growing threat of insecticide resistance.

### **.Study shows ChatGPT can be helpful for Black women's self-education about HIV, PrEP**

*Medical Xpress | 3 May 2024*

The artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot called ChatGPT is a powerful way for Black women to educate themselves about HIV prevention, as it provides reliable and culturally sensitive information, according to a study in *The Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care*. "In addition to immediately available information, regardless of time or geographic location, privacy and anonymity can be maintained compared with being physically present in a clinical office setting," lead investigator Rasheeta D. Chandler, Ph.D., RN, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN, Associate Professor of Nursing at Emory University in Atlanta, and colleagues note about the use of ChatGPT.

### **From South Africa to Sweden: Collaborative Research Efforts Improving Pregnant Women's Health**

*University of Gothenburg | 3 May 2024*

In the bustling Tygerberg University Hospital in Cape Town, a dedicated research team led by Lina Bergman, is on a mission to improve the lives of women facing the challenges of pregnancy-related complications. Particularly, the team studies preeclampsia, a condition with far-reaching effects on both mother and baby.

### **Defining the Term "Syndemic" in the Context of HIV Advocacy**

*Poz | 3 May 2024*

Many of our colleagues often ask the HIV.gov team about the term “syndemic” and how it applies to our work. HIV.gov recently spoke with our colleague Nate Fecik, MPH, Syndemic Senior Advisor, Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy (OIDP), who shared the following and encouraged us to share with our readers information about an upcoming webinar on HHS's approach to syndemics.

### **Three health reforms the new government must prioritise for SA**

*Spotlight | 3 May 2024*

To drum up support as South Africans head to the polls, President Cyril Ramaphosa reportedly vowed to “end the apartheid that remains in healthcare” when he hit the campaign trail. Professor Bob Mash has three health reforms on his wishlist for the incoming administration to prioritise.

### **Learning what women prefer in STI preventive care**

*AJMC | 3 May 2024*

The tendencies and preferences of sexually transmitted infection (STI) preventive care among women in Kenya became a focal point of research from the dPEP Kenya Study Team recently, after analysis into the utility of doxycycline hycate 200 mg (doxycycline PEP) showed promising treatment was underutilized by sexually active cisgender women at greater risk of STIs. In the second segment of an interview with Contemporary OB/GYN, dPEP Kenya investigator Jenell Stewart, DO, MPH, assistant professor of infectious diseases at Hennepin Healthcare, discussed her perspective on her team's findings regarding lesser doxycycline PEP adherence among cisgender women in Kenya, and the follow-up research efforts to better quantify what women may want in an STI preventive therapy.

### **Cold, flu wave 'not Covid', health specialists say as high alert issued**

*IOL | 5 May 2024*

ALTHOUGH the official cold and flu season has not officially arrived, reports and evidence of symptoms are widespread across the country, and health experts have cautioned safety as people struggle to shake them off. According to the Department of Health, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) was at peak circulation, and flu infections were starting to increase, but, they added, it was not Covid, despite rumours circulating far and wide.

### **DISCUSSION | WOMEN'S HEALTH | 1 IN 10 WOMEN AFFECTED BY ENDOMETRIOSIS**

*eNCA | 5 May 2024*

1 in 10 women are affected by endometriosis. The chronic disease involves tissue similar to the lining that grows outside the uterus. It can cause severe pain in the pelvic region and make it harder to get pregnant. The condition is more common than diabetes in South Africa, but receives less funding, less attention with women often having to wait years for a diagnosis.

### **Expert weighs in on flu prevention, vaccines, misconceptions and building community immunity**

*IOL | 6 May 2024*

The flu season is here. With the arrival of colder weather, the question of how to protect ourselves from the flu becomes more pressing than ever. The flu, or influenza, is not just a bad cold; it can seriously affect anyone, leading to hospital stays and, in severe cases, it can be life-threatening.

### **5 conditions that highlight the women's health gap**

*Gavi | 6 May 2024*

In 2019, a study of almost 7 million people in Denmark found that women were diagnosed with hundreds of health conditions when they were, on average, four years older than men. Diagnoses for diabetes came four and a half years later, while cancer was diagnosed in women when they were an average two and a half years older. The researchers surmised that a combination of genetics and environment could be at play but that gender bias might also be partly responsible for the difference.

### **AIDS 2024 Programme Now Available**

*Poz | 6 May 2024*

The programme for AIDS 2024, the 25th International AIDS Conference, is now available! Browse over 200 sessions, including plenary presentations, invited-speaker symposia, oral abstract sessions, workshops, pre-conferences and satellites. Discover over 2,000 posters! You can also find out which organizations will feature in the AIDS 2024 exhibition. AIDS 2024 takes place in Munich, Germany, and virtually from 22 to 26 July, with pre-conferences on 20 and 21 July. The Global Village (free entry) opens

its gates on Sunday, 21 July. Its programme will be shared in the coming weeks.

## **Social Equity, Strong Health Care Systems Can Improve Advanced Breast Cancer Outcomes Globally**

*AJMC | 6 May 2024*

Advanced breast cancer can be improved and resolved through more robust health systems or pathways, as well as social education, that must be developed across the cancer continuum. Breast cancer, a heterogenous disease, is often defined based on the hormone receptor expression pattern (estrogen/progesterone receptors and HER2). When breast cancer spreads, it develops into advanced breast cancer, a highly incurable disease.

## **To Win The Fight Against Cholera In Zimbabwe, The Approach Must Be Changed**

*Health-e News | 6 May 2024*

Zimbabwe is grappling with the second-biggest outbreak of cholera in its history, with cases rapidly spreading across the country. It started on 12 February 2023, and to date, more than 600 people have died from cholera, and over 35,000 have been infected. To prevent people from continuously falling sick and to save lives, Zimbabwe has to invest in its water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure.

## **Zimbabwe Turns Tide on HIV – Although a Few People Still Refuse Treatment**

*Health Policy Watch | 6 May 2024*

Michelle and Michael Mutsvaki were infected with HIV at birth, but while their parents have shunned antiretroviral (ARV) medicine to treat their HIV, the siblings opted for treatment in their teens. The siblings, now aged 22 and 24, learnt about their HIV status from their mother, but she assured them that their faith would protect them from succumbing to the disease.

## **Gauteng Cancer Patients Continue To Die While On The Waiting List For Treatment**

*Health-e News | 6 May 2024*

More than 3000 cancer patients' lives are on the line as they wait to receive radiation treatment at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital. According to Cancer Alliance, a collective group of non-profit organisations and cancer advocates some patients have been waiting since 2020. All this while the Gauteng health department sits on R784 million that the treasury has allocated for the outsourcing of radiation oncology services. Cancer activists, patients and their families staged a protest in Johannesburg last week, demanding that the department use the allocated funds.

## **World's Three Largest Health Philanthropies Join Forces in \$300 Million Initiative to Support Innovation in Developing Countries**

*Health Policy Watch | 7 May 2024*

The Novo Nordisk Foundation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Wellcome Trust have announced a new partnership, committing \$300 million over three years to stimulate innovative research in developing countries into three of the world's most critical global health challenges and their interlinkages – climate change, infectious disease and antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

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

## **#InTheSpotlight | Diabetes is a leading killer in SA – yet we don't know who has it or where they are**

*Spotlight | 7 May 2024*

Diabetes is the second leading cause of death in South Africa after tuberculosis, according to Statistics South Africa. It is the leading cause of death in women. Yet, despite being a major driver of deaths and illness, we do not have a clear picture of how many people in the country have diabetes or how many people are receiving diabetes care. This leaves our health system ill-equipped to handle the growing diabetes crisis.

## **Unemployed Doctor In Mpumalanga Speaks Out About The Dire Situation**

*Health-e News | 7 May 2024*

I am one of the unemployed doctors in Mpumalanga. As I sit in my small flat, surrounded by the remnants of my medical school days, I can't help but feel a sense of frustration and despair. I'm not alone in this feeling. I'm one of many unemployed doctors in Mpumalanga, struggling to find a place in the very system

we're passionate about serving.

## **Gauteng NPOs Face Closure Due To Budget Cuts**

*Health-e News | 7 May 2024*

Expenditure on non-profit social care services in Gauteng has decreased by at least R299 million over the last two financial years, according to Lisa Vetten, a research associate at the Centre for Inequality Studies at the University of Witwatersrand. "In 2021/22 the budget for Gauteng Province was R144 billion which has seen an increase in 23/24. It has increased by R21.635 billion to R165.812 billion to be shared between 15 different provincial departments.

## **South Africa's cesarean birth rates are too high—they can be dangerous for mothers and babies**

*Medical Xpress | 7 May 2024*

A cesarean section is an important surgical intervention that can save the lives of mother and baby. Cesarean sections are essential in complicated labors such as prolonged or obstructed labor or if the baby is distressed. The World Health Organization says that while "every effort should be made to provide a cesarean section to women in need," country cesarean rates should range between 10% and 15%.

## **50 years of lifesaving vaccinations: WHO's EPI saves 154 million lives**

*News Medical LifeScience | 7 May 2024*

The World Health Assembly established the EPI in 1974, marking a significant commitment to extend the benefits of vaccination to all. The WHO launched the initiative to initially vaccinate children against measles, poliomyelitis, smallpox, pertussis, tetanus, diphtheria, and tuberculosis by 1990. Currently, the EPI includes protection against other pathogens across all ages. This growth in vaccination programs covering more diseases has led to a massive increase in the breadth of protection.

## **Namibia makes huge progress in eliminating mother-to-child HIV transmission**

*Africanews | 8 May 2024*

Namibia has become the first country in Africa – and the first high-burden country in the world - to reach a key milestone in eliminating the mother-to-child transmission of both HIV and viral hepatitis B, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Monday. It said that eastern and southern Africa are home to more than half the world's HIV burden, and the continent accounts for two-thirds of new hepatitis B infections globally.

## **Does your party take health seriously? Use this tool to find out**

*Bhekisisa | 8 May 2024*

From NHI to climate change, corruption and social grants to gender-based violence, Bhekisisa is rolling out a handy online tool to help you scrutinise parties' manifestos for what they promise on healthcare. Right now, you will have access to the big parties ANC, DA and EFF — then we move on to smaller parties that have drawn media attention. It's about making informed decisions on the big issues that can affect your health and checking that scientific thought isn't destroyed by political agendas. Our tool is dynamic — we will add more parties as the countdown to 29 May continues.

## **'I felt like I was dirty': experiences of gay men diagnosed with mpox in England**

*Poz | 8 May 2024*

"After I left the clinic, I got very emotional. Not because I had monkeypox...But I felt let down by the way the discourse, and the way that the infection, the virus or whatever it is, was being portrayed as well. It took me to a place where I just didn't expect to feel in terms of my experience, as a gay man, with lots of privilege in lots of ways. Usually I felt like I had dignity in the [health] service and the way I am treated by the government and the likes of that. And it just kind of really sped away suddenly." A recent study found that men diagnosed with mpox, clinicians and community stakeholders believe that the government's perceived inaction towards the illness was due to its association with stigmatised sexual minorities. This systemic failure was often compared to the initial response to the AIDS crisis.

## **A humanist with an unblinking gaze – Professor Ntobeko Ntusi takes the hot-seat at the South African Medical Research Council**

*Spotlight | 8 May 2024*

Professor Ntobeko Ntusi may be softspoken, but he is not afraid to stand by his strongly held views. As he is set to take up the hot-seat at the country's primary health research funder, he tells Spotlight's Biënne Huisman about his background and his priorities for the new job.

## **10 Years Later Bheki Mlangeni Hospital Is In Dire Need Of 'Competent And Honest Management'**

*Health-e News | 8 May 2024*

On 30 April 2014, a R730-million, 300-bed hospital, Zola Jabulani (later renamed Bheki Mlangeni) was opened in Soweto to ease the load on Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, which served a population of more than 500,000 from Soweto, and referrals from outside the province. The Gauteng Premier at the time, Nomvula Mokonyane, urged the community to look after the new infrastructure.

## **There's a new COVID-19 variant called FLiRT: Here's what you need to know about it**

*USA Today | 8 May 2024*

A new set of COVID-19 variants, nicknamed FLiRT, has been detected in wastewater surveillance, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. From April 14 through April 27, the variant, labeled KP.2, makes up about 25% of the cases in the United States, according to the CDC. That makes it the new dominant variant in the country, overtaking JN.1. The JN.1 variant, which spread globally over the winter, made up 22% of COVID-19 cases in the U.S. in the same two-week span.

## **Enhancing capacity for malaria vaccine introduction and rollout in Africa through experience sharing**

*Reliefweb | 8 May 2024*

Since 2019, Ghana, Kenya and Malawi have been rolling out malaria vaccines, with over 2.5 million children already receiving at least one dose of the life-saving vaccine that is protecting children from deadly malaria. In 2024, more than 20 countries in Africa are to introduce the vaccine into routine immunization, with Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Benin, Liberia and Sierra Leone already leading the way. The scale-up of malaria vaccines in Africa will increase access to malaria prevention and save tens of thousands of young lives every year.

## **People Are Urged To Get The Flu Jab But Free State Clinics Have No Shots**

*Health-e News | 8 May 2024*

South Africa is seeing a rise in flu cases, and health officials are urging people to get vaccinated against the flu. Vaccines are available at public clinics free of charge for people at high risk such as the elderly and those with underlying conditions. But this has not been the case for some patients in the Free State. Health-e News spoke with patients who say they've not been able to get the flu vaccine at their local clinics.

## **Unpacking Covid-19's effect on the gut**

*Juta Medical Brief | 8 May 2024*

Covid-19, which is not just a respiratory infection, can cause symptoms throughout the body, with gastrointestinal symptoms being common in both acute and long Covid, and with gut issues often persisting long after initial infection. Lack of appetite, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, and abdominal pain may not be the symptoms people expect with the virus, but around 50% of people experience them after SARS-CoV-2 infection, and in some people they're the only symptoms.

## **Scientists find Paxlovid does not shorten Covid symptoms in fully jabbed**

*Juta Medical Brief | 8 May 2024*

Researchers have suggested that for people who are fully vaccinated but have at least one risk factor for severe Covid, the antiviral drug Paxlovid did little to reduce symptom duration – however, experts have cautioned that the findings might not apply to older patients, and that further studies are needed. The phase 2/3 trial of 1 296 participants, led by Pfizer scientists, were randomly assigned in a 1:1 ratio to receive nirmatrelvir–ritonavir (Paxlovid) or placebo every 12 hours for five days within five days of Covid-19 symptom onset.

## **High immunity levels a challenge for Covid trials**

*Juta Medical Brief | 8 May 2024*

Researchers deliberately infected participants with SARS-CoV-2 in 'challenge' trials – but high levels of immunity complicated efforts to test vaccines and treatments, frustrating the scientists and raising questions about the usefulness of such trials. When Paul Zimmer-Harwood volunteered to be intentionally infected with SARS-CoV-2, he wasn't sure what to expect. He was ready for a repeat of his first brush with Covid-19, through a naturally acquired infection that gave him influenza-like symptoms.

### **Moretele clinics face chronic shortage of medicine**

*Health-e News | 9 May 2024*

Medicine stock outs is a recurring problem, which *Health-e News* has previously **reported on**. At the time, the North West Department of Health spokesperson Tebogo Lekgethwane said that the shortage was dealt with. Less than a year later more than five clinics in Moretele sub-district have a shortage of basic medication.

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## **TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

### **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.

### **Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust 60percent**

HST produces a weekly online publication, 60percent, which keeps subscribers abreast with the latest news and developments pertaining to HIV-related maternal, adolescent, child and youth health. The name 60percent signifies that southern Africa is responding to a feminised HIV/AIDS epidemic, with at least 60% of those living with HIV being women. Subscribe to 60percent by simply visiting HST's website (<https://www.hst.org.za>), scroll to the bottom of the page, hit the SUBSCRIBE button, and follow the prompts. Let's keep you posted!

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

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 country
- 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** and complete the membership application. Don't miss this opportunity to advance your career and improve public health.



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## PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

### DISTRICT HEALTH BAROMETER 2022/2023

The 16th edition of the DHB provides information across a wide range of district health services, covers over 30 indicators and continues to provide policy-makers, health workers, planners, researchers, academics and stakeholders a unique overview of the performance of public health services in South Africa. By providing a detailed analysis of health indicators, trends, and challenges at the district level, the DHB equips district managers and other stakeholders with the data necessary to identify priorities, plan and implement targeted interventions, and monitor progress. This year's Barometer also includes a chapter on air quality and health as we introduce environmental drivers of health in the publication in response to the effects of climate change on health.

As an innovation for the publication, an online interactive dashboard has been developed. This dashboard will include all the indicators that have been compiled in the publication along with accompanying narratives on the key findings for the most recent year of data. It provides userled navigation, with the ability to drill down geographically from provincial to district level. Users will be able to decide what indicators to focus on, over what time window, and at the level of aggregation they choose. There are also timesliders available to navigate the most recent 5 years of data.

<https://www.hst.org.za/publications/Pages/-District-Health-Barometer-2022-2023.aspx>

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## CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

### 8<sup>th</sup> SA TB Conference 2024

In keeping with the conference theme, the 8th SA TB conference will focus on innovations that will move South Africa further towards ending TB. Look out for exciting plenary presentations, Round Table discussions and Skills Building Workshops. Be part of the conference and submit your abstract early! Your abstract submission ahead of schedule will make a significant impact.

When: 4-7 June 2024

Where: Durban ICC

For more information: <https://tbconference.co.za/>

### International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Conference

FIP holds the World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, which takes place in a different country each year. In addition to this annual congress, FIP hosts the Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress every three to four years. At the annual congress thousands of pharmacists meet, learn, share and exchange views. Our varied programme, offering something for everyone, makes this congress the premier international event in pharmacy each year. The theme for this year's congress is "Innovating for the Future of Health Care".

When: 1-4 September 2024

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

For more information: <https://capetown2024.fip.org/>

## World Congress of Epidemiology Congress

When: 24-27 September 2024

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

For more information: <https://www.wce2024.org/>

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## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### District Information Officer

Closing date: 10 May 2024

<https://careers.hst.org.za/careers/3274/view>

### Health Information Technology (HIT) Technicians

Closing date: 17 May 2024

<https://careers.hst.org.za/careers/3275/view>

### INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION (ICT) SUPPORT TECHNICIANS

Closing date: 22 May 2024

[https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Information-and-Communication-\(ICT\)-Support-Technicians.aspx](https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Information-and-Communication-(ICT)-Support-Technicians.aspx)

## HST Bulletin Evaluation

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We appreciate your participation and look forward to hearing your thoughts.

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HST\\_Bulletin](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HST_Bulletin)

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