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CATEGORIES

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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Level of Knowledge on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights Among the Teenage Mothers and Their Parents in Rwanda: A Comparative Cross-Sectional Study

Dovepress | 16 January 2024

Lutasingwa D, Favina A, Ochora M, Rukanikigitero JMV, Gutabarwa LT, Kagaba A, et al.

Background: Parents are the primary caregivers and influential figures in adolescents' lives. They play a crucial role in shaping their children's attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors regarding sexual reproductive health. A vast difference in knowledge between adolescents and their parents indicates failure in knowledge translation and is associated with sexual and reproductive consequences, such as teenage pregnancies.

“As I Grew Older, My Life Got Better”: Conceptions of Successful Aging among Older Women Living with or at Risk of HIV

Aids and Behaviour | 18 January 2024

Anna A. Rubtsova, Tonya N. Taylor, Gina Wingood, Ighovwerha Ofotokun, Deborah Gustafson, et al.

Successful aging (SA) is an important target for HIV care. However, we have insufficient understanding of how older women living with HIV (OWLH) in the US define SA. We explored conceptions of SA by OWLH and older women at risk of HIV and examined whether SA conceptions differed by (1) HIV serostatus, and (2) participation in the Women's Interagency HIV Study (WIHS). These analyses were part of a larger mixed-methods study with a sequential design. Participants were recruited at two clinical WIHS sites. We enrolled both WIHS participants and non-WIHS clinic patients. Our sample was 84% Black and included 29 OWLH and 15 older women at risk of HIV.

The City Clinic Cohort Study: Hepatitis B, HTLV-III/LAV, and CDC AIDS Project 24

AIDS and Behavior | 18 January 2024

William W. Darrow

Anticipating the availability of a safe vaccine, scientists at the Center for Disease Control (CDC) planned for a multicenter study of the prevalence, incidence, and efficacy of an experimental vaccine for hepatitis B in 1977, conducted the study among homosexual male volunteers in five collaborating sexually transmitted infection (STI) clinics in the United States from April 1978 through 1980, and concluded that the candidate vaccine was highly efficacious in preventing infections with the hepatitis B virus. Then something completely unexpected and portentous happened.

Heavy Alcohol Use and HIV Outcomes: The Moderating Role of Pain

AIDS and Behavior | 18 January 2024

Mora M. Lucero, Tibor P. Palfai, Timothy C. Heeren, Michael D. Stein, Theresa W. Kim, et al.

Pain and heavy alcohol consumption are prevalent among people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH), each contributing to impaired functioning and diminished quality of life. Each of these conditions may have negative effects on the HIV care continuum, but less is known about their combined influences. The current study examined how heavy drinking and pain were associated with HIV viral suppression and CD4 cell count among participants receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART). The study sample consisted of 220 PLWH with past 12-month substance dependence or ever injection drug use enrolled in a large HIV cohort study.

Perception and Awareness about Monkeypox and Vaccination Acceptance in an At-Risk Population in Brescia, Italy: An Investigative Survey

AIDS and Behavior | 19 January 2024

Verena Crosato, Beatrice Formenti, Maurizio Gulletta, Silvia Odolini, Silvia Compostella, et al.

Before 2022, monkeypox virus (Mpox) infection in humans was seldom reported outside Africa. During the May 2022 outbreak, most cases were detected among men who have sex with men (MSM). Since Mpox is largely unknown to the general population, through a self-completion questionnaire, we investigated the behaviours and knowledge of our at-risk population belonging to the sexually transmitted infection (STI) outpatient clinic of the Infectious Diseases Unit of the ASST Spedali Civili of Brescia, Italy, between August and October 2022. Most patients that took part in the compilation are HIV positive MSM. The other participants were HIV-seronegative patients with other STIs.

Detectable viral load associated with unmet mental health and substance use needs among trans women living with HIV in San Francisco, California

BMC Women's Health | 20 January 2024

Erin C. Wilson, Glenda N. Baguso, Jerry Quintana, Bow Suprasert & Sean Arayasirikul, et al.

Substance use and mental distress are known barriers to HIV care engagement among trans women. Less is known about access and utilization of mental health and substance use care among trans women and the relationship between unmet behavioral health needs and HIV viral suppression. We examined the relationship between mental health and substance use on HIV viral load among trans women living with HIV. We also examined the relationship between mental health and substance use services needs with HIV care engagement and having a detectable viral load by comparing engagement in care cascades.

Systematic review of cash plus or bundled interventions targeting adolescents in Africa to reduce HIV risk

BMC Public Health | 22 January 2024

Kate Rogers, Rikke Le Kirkegaard, Joyce Wamoyi, Kaley Grooms, Shaffiq Essajee & Tia Palermo, et al.

HIV remains a leading cause of death for adolescents and young people aged 10–24 years. HIV prevention requires multisectoral approaches that target adolescents and young people, addressing HIV risk pathways (e.g., transactional sex, gender-based violence, and school attendance) through bundled interventions that combine economic strengthening, health capabilities, and gender equality education. However, best practices are unknown because evidence on multisectoral programming targeted to adolescents and combining these components has not been systematically reviewed.

Satisfaction of antiretroviral therapy services and its associated factors among adult clients attending antiretroviral therapy in Woliso town, Ethiopia

Aids Research and Therapy | 22 January 2024

Bayisa Abdissa, Rahel Abdissa, Jiregna Derega & Senahara Korsu Wake

Antiretroviral therapy client satisfaction is a significant tool that enables to strengthen the quality of life of the clients. The study aimed to assess the satisfaction of clients with antiretroviral therapy services and its associated factors among adult clients attending antiretroviral therapy.

Financial burden of tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment for patients in Ethiopia: a systematic review and meta-analysis

BMC Public Health | 22 January 2024

Dawit Getachew Assefa, Zewdu Gashu Dememew, Eden Dagnachew Zeleke, Tsegahun Manyazewal & Ahmed Bedru

Despite the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis (TB) given free of charge in many high-burden countries, the costs that patients face in the cascade of care remain a major concern. Here, we aimed to investigate the financial burden of TB diagnosis and treatment for people with TB in Ethiopia.

Poor HIV-related Knowledge, Perceived Risks and Attitudes Among Urban-dwelling Malaysian Older Adults: Key Barriers to Zero HIV Transmission by 2030

AIDS and Behavior | 23 January 2024

Wen Ying Ho, Malinee Neelamegam, Valerie A. Earnshaw, Vivian Chong, Hong Gee Lee, et al.

Globally and in Malaysia, there are increasing rates of HIV infection among older adults but a corresponding decline in other younger age groups. We aimed to investigate the HIV-related knowledge, perceived risks, attitudes, and risk behaviours among multi-ethnic urban-dwelling older adults in Malaysia. A cross-sectional, questionnaire-based study was conducted among 320 adults aged 50 years and above residing in urban Klang Valley, Malaysia. Participants were recruited via convenience sampling in the community and in the outpatient clinics and pharmacy of University Malaya Medical Centre, Malaysia, from April 2021 to January 2022.

Relationship between religiosity and HPV vaccine initiation and intention in urban black and hispanic parents

BMC Public Health | 23 January 2024

Deidra Carroll Coleman, Christine Markham, Vincent Guilamo-Ramos & Diane Santa Maria, et al.

Religion is believed to be an important sociocultural influence in the U.S., but little is known about how religiosity shapes the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine decision in racial/ethnic minorities. The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between religiosity and HPV vaccine initiation and intention among urban, racial/ethnic minority parents of adolescents 11–14 years old.

HIV Support Source: Development of a Distress Screening Measure for Adults with HIV

AIDS and Behavior | 23 January 2024

Alexandra K. Zaleta, Erica E. Fortune, Melissa F. Miller, Julie S. Olson, Kelseanna Hollis-Hansen, et al.

To provide an effective, multidimensional, and psychometrically valid measure to screen for distress among people with HIV, we developed and assessed the psychometric properties of HIV Support Source, a distress screening, referral, and support program designed to identify the unmet needs of adults with HIV and link them to desired resources and support. Development and testing were completed in three phases: item generation and initial item pool testing (N = 375), scale refinement via exploratory factor analysis (N = 220); external/internal item quality, and judging theoretical and practical implications of items, and confirmatory validation (N = 150) including confirmatory factor analysis along with reliability and validity analyses to corroborate dimensionality and psychometric properties of the final measure.

Electronic aggregated data collection on cervical cancer screening in Bangladesh

since 2014: what the data tells us?

BMC Public Health | 23 January 2024

Ashrafun Nessa, Md Shahadat Hossain, Sheikh Md Nazim Uddin, Md Rafiqul Islam, Muhammad Abdul Hannan Khan, et al.

To reduce the high prevalence of cervical cancers among the Bangladeshi women, the Government of Bangladesh established a national cervical cancer screening programme in 2005 for women aged 30 to 60 years. The District Health Information System Version 2 (DHIS2) based electronic aggregated data collection system is used since the year 2013. This study summarises data from the year 2014 to 2022 to assess the effectiveness of the electronic data collection system in understanding the outcome of the screening programme.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

R.I.P. Frankie Franklin-Foxx, a “Feisty Fighter” for Women With HIV

Poz | 16 January 2024

Frankie Franklin-Foxx, who learned she had HIV in the 1980s and became an early advocate for other women with the virus in Chicago, died December 13, 2023, of a heart attack. She was 68, according to an obituary posted by her family on InclusiveFuneralCare.com, which added: “She will be remembered as a very strong and outgoing character—a feisty fighter!” In 1988, she became a founding member of the Chicago Women’s AIDS Project, a support group for HIV-positive women. She was a client and peer counselor and served on the board of directors. Franklin-Foxx was also active with Women’s Interagency HIV Study, the nation’s largest observational study of women living with or at risk of contracting HIV. (Funded by the National Institutes of Health and launched in 1993, the multisite study is ongoing.)

Big hospital, big boss — Bara ICU's Rudo Mathivha retires

Bhekisisa | 17 January 2024

Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital, like so many public hospitals in South Africa, feels conspicuously old-fashioned. For me, it’s the walkways between buildings, covered with decades-old zinc, radiating heat. Even the trees bordering the parking lots look wizened, their roots one with the pavements.

WHO needs \$1.5bn for health crises, mainly in Africa

Juta Medical Brief | 17 January 2024

The World Health Organisation will need \$1.5bn this year for 41 health emergencies resulting from climate change, extreme weather events, food insecurity, conflict and displacement – mostly in Africa.

Parenting sessions increase child HIV testing in Lesotho

Be In The Know | 18 January 2024

Young children in rural areas can miss out on vital health and development services, including HIV testing. But a parenting programme delivered by community health workers has been successful at improving outcomes.

Study explores link of social media health videos to HPV awareness

Contemporary OB/GYN | 18 January 2024

Watching health-related videos on social media leads to increased awareness about human papillomavirus (HPV) and the HPV vaccine, according to a recent study published in the Journal of Medical Internet Research. Approximately 80% of US individuals consult the internet for health

information, with almost 70% turning to the internet for health-related questions before any other source. Health information can be shared online through blogs, social media, informational webpages, health support groups, links, polls, status updates, pictures, and videos.

New Global Alliance for Women's Health Launched

iAfrica | 18 January 2024

A new World Economic Forum report released today shows that closing the women's health gap would allow more women to live healthier, higher-quality lives, and provide an unprecedented boost to the global economy. Closing the Women's Health Gap: A \$1 Trillion Opportunity to Improve Lives and Economies, developed in collaboration with the McKinsey Health Institute, analyses the health conditions that uniquely or disproportionately affect women and quantifies the health gap today and the potential economic boon of bridging it tomorrow

PMNCH advocates for the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents at the WEF annual forum

PMNCH | 18 January 2024

In the face of a seemingly endless onslaught of global issues in recent years, from the COVID-19 pandemic, widespread economic downturn, climate change and geopolitical fall-out of current conflicts in the Middle East, Ukraine and Africa, the 2024 World Economic Forum (WEF) focused its lens on the roots of global cooperation: trust, transparency, consistency and accountability, bringing together public and private sectors, key stakeholders, leaders, and young people for collaboration and to build the foundations for a sustainable future.

How does anti-HIV medication work — and would you use it?

Bhekisisa | 19 January 2024

It's one thing to have medicines available that can prevent people from getting infected with germs that lead to incurable diseases; getting folks to use them is an entirely different story. The daily HIV prevention pill was introduced to South African government clinics in 2016 — but far fewer people than originally planned for have used it. If taken daily, the pill can reduce your chances of getting HIV through sex to virtually zero. Now there's an anti-HIV jab. Early this year, scientists in the country started to roll the injection out in implementation trials to find out what will make people use it. Bhekisisa's Health Beat anchor, Mia Malan, spoke to a researcher who runs such a trial.

Cameroon Becomes the First of 20 African Countries to Roll Out Routine Malaria Vaccination in 2024

Health Policy Watch | 22 January 2024

The Central African country of Cameroon became the first country globally to implement routine malaria vaccinations on Monday, marking a significant stride in the fight against the deadly disease that claims over half a million lives annually, primarily affecting children under five in Africa.

Women's health emergency persists even as pandemic wanes, global index reveals

News Medical Life Science | 22 January 2024

The world faces an emergency in women's health even as the COVID-19 pandemic wanes, according to one of the largest annual updates on women's well-being — the Hologic Global Women's Health Index. Women's health innovation company Hologic, Inc. partners with Gallup to create the Index, which in its third year shows that billions of women are not getting tested for potentially life-threatening conditions. The Index also shows that more women are sad, angry and worried now than at the height of the pandemic. Many young women don't feel safe walking alone in their communities at night, and nearly 1 billion women spend a lot of their day in physical pain.

Better treatment, screening cut breast cancer deaths

UPI | 22 January 2023

Breast cancer deaths declined by a dramatic 58% between 1975 and 2019, and researchers think they can pinpoint the exact reasons for the reduction. Advances in medical technology aided by routine breast cancer screening have helped save lives, researchers concluded in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Three-quarters of the decline in breast cancer deaths is due to better treatment of early-stage and advanced cancers, with the remaining quarter due to routine screening, researchers found. In particular, researchers found that about 29% of the reduction in breast cancer deaths is due to better treatment of advanced cancers that have spread to other parts of the body.

PrEP marketing should not be a story about HIV, but a story about young women

Aidsmap | 23 January 2024

What do we want young women's hearts to feel and minds to think about PrEP? This was the question a group of researchers and marketing experts sought to answer in order to build a strong, evidence-informed, and unified brand positioning for PrEP. After reviewing all the available campaigns that focus on young women and PrEP, holding consultative meetings with key stakeholders, including group discussions with 121 young women from Kenya, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, and finally analysing the data gathered using marketing insights, the team concluded that: "For more adolescent girls and young women to use PrEP, communication should resonate with young women's inner strength, their unwavering determination to live a full and healthy life, and their commitment to self-care as an act of self-love."

Brazil to launch vaccination campaign as dengue surges

Medical Xpress | 23 January 2024

Brazil will start a vaccination campaign against dengue fever in February, authorities said, as a sharp rise in cases of the potentially deadly disease raised fears of a runaway outbreak. The country of 203 million people, which approved the new "Qdenga" vaccine in December, will be the first in the world to offer it through the public health system, officials said. However, the number of available doses remains limited by a shortage of supply from its developer, Japanese pharmaceutical company Takeda, Brazil's health ministry said.

Africa: How Long Does Immunity Last After a Covid Infection?

allAfrica | 23 January 2024

Everyone's immune system is slightly unique, and SARS-CoV-2 continues to mutate, so knowing exactly how long COVID immunity lasts is complicated. Evidence suggests immunity following infection should generally last six months in healthy adults, and can be prolonged with vaccination. But there are exceptions, and all of this assumes the virus has not mutated so much that it "escapes" our immune response. While many people feel the COVID pandemic is over, it's important we don't forget the lessons we have learned. Practices such as wearing a mask and staying home when unwell can reduce the spread of many viruses, not only COVID.

MEASLES CASES SOAR IN EUROPE: WHO

eNCA | 23 January 2024

Measles cases soared in Europe in 2023 to 42,200, a nearly 45-fold increase over the previous year, the UN health agency said on Tuesday, calling for urgent vaccination efforts to halt the spread. Some 41 countries out of 53 the World Health Organization includes in its Europe region reported the infectious disease, WHO said. In 2022, 941 cases were registered. Vaccination rates against the disease slipped during the Covid-19 pandemic and "urgent vaccination efforts are needed to halt transmission and prevent further spread".

The latest on an HIV vaccine

Plus | 23 January 2024

It's back to the drawing board for a potential HIV vaccine as the latest study on such a prevention was

halted after showing little chance for success. The study, known as PrEPVacc, involved 1,513 participants in the nations of Uganda, Tanzania, and South Africa, all of which are heavily impacted by HIV. Researchers with PrEPVacc stated at the recent International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa that their trial “has stopped further vaccinations as there is little or no chance of the trial demonstrating vaccine efficacy in preventing HIV acquisition.”

Bombardment, displacement and collapsed health care: a crisis for women and girls in Gaza

Reliefweb | 23 January 2024

Women and girls are among the most vulnerable groups in any society. Their vulnerability is typically amplified in times of crisis, such as the displacement of Gaza's population because of the war. Nearly 1 million women and girls have been displaced, and more than 17,000 women and children have been killed since the war began in October.

Watch: CERVICAL CANCER | HOW TO TACKLE CERVICAL CANCER IN AFRICAN REGION

eNCA | 23 January 2024

Officials say while cervical cancer is a preventable disease, it is still the most common cause of cancer in the African Region. It's believed to account for 22% of all female cancers and 12% of all newly diagnosed cancers in both men and women every year.

Early Tecovirimat Treatment Shows Promise in Preventing Severe Mpox Progression in People with HIV

Managed Healthcare Executive | 23 January 2024

The progression of mpox, also known as monkeypox, disease is less likely to occur in people with HIV (PWH) who receive tecovirimat treatment as their mpox symptoms begin rather than who receive treatment later or not at all. In a recent study published in *Jama Internal Medicine*, researchers belonging to different health systems in Atlanta aimed to evaluate if PWH and mpox who were treated with tecovirimat within 7 days of symptoms beginning were less likely to have mpox disease progression. Tecovirimat is an antiviral agent made to treat smallpox but can also tackle mpox.

Want to make sense of SA's 2022 antenatal HIV survey? We've got you

Bhekisisa | 23 January 2024

Every second year, South Africa releases a national antenatal HIV survey, which looks at the proportion of pregnant women who are HIV-positive and have syphilis. The latest report, released at the end of last year, shows that fewer pregnant women have HIV. Although the prevalence of HIV dropped by only 2.5% from levels in 2019, the downward trend means we could be making steady progress to having a generation born HIV-free. In the first of a three-part series, we help you make sense of the survey's results and what it means for the country's HIV outlook.

Internalized HIV Stigma, Depressive Symptoms Linked in People Living With HIV

AJMC | 23 January 2024

Mental health outcomes could be improved in people living with HIV (PLWH) by addressing feelings of inferiority due to an HIV diagnosis and managing symptoms of depression, according to a study published in *Frontiers in Public Health*. Initiatives to reduce the stigma in others are also needed in the future.

Machine Learning Effective in Predicting Hospital Stay, Prolonged Hospitalization in People Living With HIV

AJMC | 23 January 2024

The length of stay in a hospital as well as prolonged hospitalization in people living with HIV (PLWH) could both be predicted using machine learning models, according to a study published in *Frontiers in Public*

Health. There were approximately 1.5 million new HIV diagnoses and 650,000 deaths due to HIV globally in 2021. HIV-associated comorbidities remain major problems in survival in PLWH in China. Planning interventions in diagnosis and management of HIV can be helped through accurate predictions of length of stay in the hospital and identifying risk factors of a longer stay. Machine learning (ML) has the potential to predict these factors. This study aimed to use more than 1 ML model to predict length of stay and the risk of prolonged stay in PLWH.

Two cases show COVID virus mutating around standard treatment remdesivir

Medical Xpress | 23 January 2024

Patients with weakened immune systems could be inadvertently helping COVID-19 develop resistance to the antiviral drug remdesivir, a new study reports. After lengthy COVID infections, two kidney transplant patients on immune-suppressing drugs to prevent organ rejection developed a mutated version of SARS-CoV-2 resistant to remdesivir, according to researchers at NYU Grossman School of Medicine and NYU Long Island School of Medicine.

AMR burden weighs heavily on Africa – global study

Juta Medical Brief | 24 January 2024

The rapid acceleration of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a major concern for the future of global health and modern healthcare, and a particularly urgent threat in the WHO African region, with notable and important differences between countries. The findings of a paper recently published in *The Lancet* – part of a collection of studies aiming to describe the regional burden of bacterial AMR – extends the results of the Global Burden of AMR study, providing more granular and country-specific estimates within the WHO African region.

Does NHI spell the end for medical aid and gap cover?

IOL | 24 January 2024

The controversial National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill in South Africa could fundamentally change healthcare delivery in the country if it becomes law, says Andre Jacobs, Marketing Manager at The People Company and Vice Chair of the FIA Health Exco. Medical aid and gap cover could still play vital roles, but the extent of their involvement remains uncertain. Jacobs advises the public to fully comprehend their current medical aid and gap cover to prepare for the NHI's potential impact.

Failure to tackle SA's food crisis harks back to Aids denialism

Juta Medical Brief | 24 January 2024

This year is likely to be tumultuous in South Africa, with social unrest aggravated by electoral politicking, and rapidly growing food insecurity – and cases of severe acute malnutrition – likely to exacerbate the situation. Mortality rates are the ultimate bottom line in gauging the success of the healthcare system and are well-documented in South Africa, but morbidity, on the other hand – the extent of suffering from diseases or other health conditions – does not get as much attention in our society. These terrible twins of death and disease are typically consigned to the health sector, but the Covid pandemic made stark the connection between health and broader socio-economic development, write Mvuyo Tom and David Harrison in *Daily Maverick*.

Call To Action: Eradicating Cervical Cancer Through Innovation And Investment

Forbes | 24 January 2024

The global health community stands at a critical juncture in the fight against cervical cancer, a disease that has long cast a shadow over women's health. Recent years have seen a surge in awareness and action, with cervical cancer startups Amplexd Therapeutics, Ananya Health, and Mission-Driven Tech leading the charge. These companies, formed by a coalition of clinicians, scientists, engineers, and survivors, are pioneering innovative treatments to tackle this pressing issue. Their open letter, aligned with the World Health Organization and leaders of the global Cervical Cancer Elimination movement, calls for a concerted effort to eradicate this disease.

Even after cure, TB slashes lung function in teens

Juta Medical Brief | 24 January 2024

TB infection can interfere with normal lung development during an important stage of growth – with researchers finding that two out of three teenagers diagnosed with TB have lung abnormalities even after successfully completing treatment for the disease, and despite being “cured”. This, said the Stellenbosch University team, meant the teens would be unable to reach their full potential when they reached adulthood. In a first study to comprehensively assess lung function in adolescents with TB during and after treatment, researchers found that despite being cured, those who had been infected had less lung function than peers who have never been diagnosed with TB, putting them at risk of developing chronic lung disease prematurely.

New drug combo tackles malaria in HIV+ mums

Sci Dev Net | 24 January 2024

Researchers have tested a new combination of medications that could thwart resistance to common malaria drugs, significantly reducing the infection risk in pregnant women living with HIV. The WHO estimates that 1 million women living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa are also infected with malaria during pregnancy every year. At the same time, existing drugs are becoming less effective as malaria parasites become resistant to them. The researchers from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Kenya Medical Research Institute, Kamuzu University of Health Sciences, and Malawi University of Science and Technology, unveiled this treatment in a collaborative study published earlier this month (12 January) in *The Lancet*.

Reformulating flu jab easier said than done, say experts

Juta Medical Brief | 24 January 2024

Flu vaccine makers have argued that despite being urged by the World Health Organisation and some national drug regulators to drop the component known as B/Yamagata from their shots as quickly as possible, it's not as simple as it sounds. The WHO and others believe this lineage of flu B viruses died out during the Covid-19 pandemic and that it is now superfluous in the vaccines – but the manufacturers say the process of leaving out the component is far more complex than assumed.

Medical groups call for government to regulate Hubbly Bubbly, vaping

SABC News | 24 January 2024

Medical organisations are calling on the South African government to regulate the use of Hubbly Bubbly, vaping, and other tobacco products amid concerns about misleading safety claims by manufacturers. According to the organisations, Hubbly Bubbly and vaping are widely promoted as being less harmful, when they are, in fact, dangerous.

Scientists prepare safeguards against possible Arctic zombie viruses

Juta Medical Brief | 24 January 2024

Scientists, who have warned that ancient viruses frozen in the Arctic permafrost could one day be released by earth's warming climate and unleash a major disease outbreak, have begun planning a monitoring network to detect early cases of any infections triggered by the micro-organisms. Strains of these Methuselah microbes – or zombie viruses as they are also known – have already been isolated by researchers who have raised fears that a new global medical emergency could be triggered, not by an illness new to science but by a disease from the distant past.

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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

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: South African Health Review

The editors of the 2024 *South African Health Review* (SAHR) invite the submission of abstracts that aim to address the challenges facing mental health care in South Africa, including how to **improve access to quality mental health services, and address current gaps in mental health service provision at all levels of the health service from community through primary and tertiary care levels.**

For more information kindly go to https://www.hst.org.za/media/Pages/SAHR-Call-for-Abstracts_2024.aspx/

The 2022 South African Health Review is available!

We are pleased to release the 25th edition of the South African Health Review (SAHR). Entitled 'health systems strengthening after COVID-19', the journal provides valuable insights and recommendations on how to improve the response to the pandemic and build more resilient health systems.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the world, and the health sector has been at the forefront of the response. Curated as a supplement to the 2021 edition, which addressed the response of government and the broader health sector to COVID-19, the 2022 South African Health Review provides a platform for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to share their experiences and insights on how they navigated this crisis and build more robust health systems for the future.

The journal encompasses a diverse array of subjects, including reflections on the work of the Ministerial Advisory Committee during COVID-19 and the knowledge gained and lessons learned from these processes. Additionally, it explores the ramifications of COVID-19 on maternal, women, and child health and highlights the gendered implications of the pandemic, revealing that women experienced more pronounced effects of stress, fear, and depression during the lockdown period compared to men.

Commenting on its release, CEO and co-editor of the Review Dr Themba Moeti said that "This edition of the South African Health Review offers promising examples of COVID-19 response, mitigation and recovery strategies for us to use the emerging lessons to enhance our health system resilience and better prepare for future pandemics."

Strong messages emerging from this edition emphasise that in order to effectively promote national vaccination programmes, it is imperative to equip healthcare workers (HCWs) with comprehensive, relevant, and current information. This will enable them to enhance patient communication and increase vaccine acceptance. Subsequent chapters delineate an inventive collaboration between the public and private sectors aimed at mitigating the accumulated volume of elective surgical procedures at Groote Schuur Hospital and reflect on the importance of consulting, involving and deploying community based organisations such as clinic committees in public health emergencies from the outset.

The crucial importance of inter-country collaboration is emphasised in mitigating disease transmission and impact, with authors advocating for a more coordinated approach to managing cross-border health measures.

Additionally, the Review highlights the intersection between climate change and health systems and reinforces the imperative to prioritise health within the framework of a 'just transition' and to enhance the capabilities of healthcare systems to be low-carbon and climate-resilient as crucial focal points for improving pandemic preparedness.

For more information on the journal and to access the latest edition, visit <https://www.hst.org.za/publications/Pages/SAHR2022.aspx>

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

ESMO Preceptorship on Breast Cancer: Cape Town 2024

Learn about breast cancer screening, diagnosis, staging, biology, and management. Understand the importance of multidisciplinary care in treating early, locally advanced, and metastatic breast cancer

through surgery, radiation therapy, and systemic therapy.

When: 8 – 9 February 2024

Where: Cape Town

For more information: <https://10times.com/e1rx-36r4-9frd>

HIMSS 2024 Global Health Conference & Exhibition

The 2024 HIMSS European Health Conference & Exhibition brings together over 30,000 healthcare industry professionals, innovators, and educators from around the world to connect, learn, and experience innovative tech products and solutions that support the transformation of the health ecosystem through information and technology.

When: March 11-15, 2024

Where: Orlando, FL | McCormick Place Convention Center

For more information: <https://healthcaretransformers.com/healthcare-business/healthcare-conferences/healthcare-conferences-2024/>

3rd Edition of International Public Health Conference

The theme for this year's conference is "Restraining Pandemics Through Exploration of Trends and Public Health Challenges." With over 40 scientific sessions, attendees are sure to gain insights across a wide range of topics including infectious diseases, preventative medicine, chronic diseases, clinical trials and research, global health, health economics, and more.

When: March 21 – 23, 2024

Where: Singapore

For more information: <https://healthcaretransformers.com/healthcare-business/healthcare-conferences/healthcare-conferences-2024/>

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/>

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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