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CATEGORIES

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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

The association between academic achievement goals and adolescent depressive symptoms: a prospective cohort study in Australia

The Lancet | 17 April 2024

Thomas Steare, MSc, Prof Glyn Lewis, PhD, Katherine Lange, PhD, Gemma Lewis, PhD

Students define academic competence across two axes: developing skills and understanding (mastery) versus comparisons with peers (performance), and achieving goals (approach) versus avoiding failure (avoidance). We aimed to examine the longitudinal association between achievement goals and adolescent depressive symptoms.

Injection network drivers of HIV prevention service utilization among people who inject drugs: results of a community-based sociometric network cohort in New Delhi, India

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 17 April 2024

Neia S. Prata Menezes, Shruti H. Mehta, Amy Wesolowski, Steven J. Clipman, Aylur K. Srikrishnan, et al.

Injection drug networks may influence their network members' health-seeking behaviours. Using data from a sociometric injecting partner network of people who inject drugs (PWID) in New Delhi, India, we assessed the role of injecting partner (alter) behaviours on individual engagement in HIV prevention services.

Prevalence of overweight and obesity among adolescents living with HIV after dolutegravir - based antiretroviral therapy start in Kampala, Uganda

AIDS Research and Therapy | 18 April 2024

Irene Nakatudde, Elizabeth Katana, Eva Laker Agnes Odongpiny, Esther Alice Nalugga, Barbara Castelnuovo, et al.

Dolutegravir (DTG)-based antiretroviral therapy (ART) is currently the preferred first-line treatment for persons living with HIV (PLHIV) including children and adolescents in many low- and middle-income countries including Uganda. However, there are concerns about excessive weight gain associated with DTG especially in adults. There remains paucity of current information on weight-related outcomes among adolescents on DTG. We determined the prevalence of excessive weight gain and associated factors among adolescents living with HIV (ALHIV) receiving DTG-based ART in Kampala, Uganda.

Comparison of safety and effectiveness of antiretroviral therapy regimens among pregnant women living with HIV at preconception or during pregnancy: a systematic review and network meta-analysis of randomized trials

BMC Infectious Disease | 19 April 2024

Fatemeh Mehrabi, Mohammad Karamouzian, Behnam Farhoudi, Shahryar Moradi Falah Langeroodi, Soheil Mehmandoost, et al.

Mother-to-child transmission is the primary cause of HIV cases among children. Antiretroviral therapy (ART) plays a critical role in preventing mother-to-child transmission and reducing HIV progression, morbidity, and mortality among mothers. However, after more than two decades of ART during pregnancy, the comparative effectiveness and safety of ART medications during pregnancy are unclear, and existing evidence is contradictory. This study aimed to assess the effectiveness and safety of different ART regimens among pregnant women living with HIV at preconception or during pregnancy.

Disparities in HIV Testing and PrEP Awareness for Black Women who Inject Drugs in San Francisco, California

Aids and Behavior | 20 April 2024

Taqwa Brookins, Danyion Reagan, Moranda Tate, Bow Suprasert, Kelly D. Taylor, et al

HIV disproportionately affects Black/African Americans (AA), while PrEP is under-utilized by Black/AA, women, and people who inject drugs (PWID). In San Francisco, California's National HIV Behavioral Surveillance among PWID in 2022, Black/AA women were the least likely to be tested for HIV among all groups by sex and race/ethnicity and the least likely to be aware of PrEP among women. Yet, Black/AA women were no less likely to see a healthcare provider in the last year.

Teachers' Perceptions of the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Their Implementation of an Evidence-based HIV Prevention Program in the Bahamas

Aids and Behavior | 20 April 2024

Elizabeth Schieber, Lesley Cottrell, Lynette Deveaux, Xiaoming Li, Marcellus Taylor, et al

Information on how school-based programs is implemented and sustained during crises is limited. In this study, we assessed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of a HIV prevention intervention in The Bahamas. Data were collected from 139 Grade 6 teachers in 2021–2022. Teachers attended virtual training and received implementation monitoring from coordinators. On average, teachers taught 26.4 (SD = 9.2) of the 35 core activities, and 7.4 (SD = 2.4) out of 9 sessions. More than half (58.3%) of teachers completed 28 or more core activities; 69.1% covered eight or all nine sessions, which is equivalent to 80% of the HIV intervention curriculum.

Characteristics of Received HIV Prevention Advocacy from Persons Living with HIV in Uganda, and Associations with HIV Testing and Condom Use Among Social Network Members

Aids and Behavior | 20 April 2024

Glenn J. Wagner, Laura M. Bogart, Joseph K.B. Matovu, Stephen Okoboi, Violet Gwokyalya, et al.

Receiving peer advocacy has been shown to result in increased HIV protective behaviors, but little research has gone beyond assessment of the mere presence of advocacy to examine aspects of advocacy driving these effects. With baseline data from a controlled trial of an advocacy training intervention, we studied characteristics of HIV prevention advocacy received among 599 social network members of persons living with HIV in Uganda and the association of these characteristics with the social network members' recent HIV testing (past six months) and consistent condom use, as well as perceived influence of advocacy on these behaviors.

Stigma and mental health among people living with HIV across the COVID-19 pandemic: a cross-sectional study

BMC Public Health | 22 April 2024

Francesco Di Gennaro, Roberta Papagni, Francesco Vladimiro Segala, Carmen Pellegrino, Gianfranco Giorgio Panico, et al.

Mental health (MH) is extremely relevant when referring to people living with a chronic disease, such as people living with HIV (PLWH). In fact – although life expectancy and quality have increased since the advent of antiretroviral therapy (ART) – PLWH carry a high incidence of mental disorders, and this burden has been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic. In this scenario, UNAIDS has set new objectives for 2025, such as the linkage of at least 90% of PLWH to people-centered, context-specific MH services.

Aim of this study was to determine the prevalence of MD in PLWH followed at the Clinic of Infectious Diseases of the University of Bari, Italy.

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on HIV Test Uptake Among People Who Inject Drugs in the Context of an HIV Outbreak

Aids and Behavior | 22 April 2024

Kirsten M. A. Trayner, Alan Yeung, Norah E. Palmateer, Andrew McAuley, Max Wilkinson, et al.

Glasgow, Scotland's largest city, has been experiencing an HIV outbreak among people who inject drugs (PWID) since 2015. A key focus of the public health response has been to increase HIV testing among those at risk of infection. Our aim was to assess the impact of COVID-19 on HIV testing among PWID in Glasgow.

Socioeconomic and cultural factors associated with pap smear screening among French women living in Réunion Island

BMC Public Health | 23 April 2024

Rémi Houpert, Marc-Karim Bendiane, Laetitia Huiart, Anne-Deborah Bouhnik, Caroline Alleaume, et al.

Réunion Island is a French overseas territory located in the southern Indian Ocean, with a challenging socioeconomic and multicultural context. Compared to mainland France, Réunion has an overincidence and overmortality of cervical cancer. In order to investigate these two issues, it is important to evaluate the barriers and potential levers to Pap smear screening among female inhabitants of the island. We aimed to identify the specific socio-demographic factors, cultural factors, and living conditions associated with Pap smear screening in Réunion, with a view to increasing uptake.

Willingness and hesitancy towards the governmental free human papillomavirus vaccination among parents of eligible adolescent girls in Shenzhen, Southern China

BMC Women's Health | 23 April 2024

Dadong Wu, Peiyi Liu, He Wang, Wenwen Wan & Yueyun Wang

Since 2020, China has actively promoted HPV vaccination for eligible adolescent girls through various pilot programmes. This study investigated parental willingness and hesitancy towards the government-sponsored, free human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for eligible adolescent girls in Shenzhen, Southern China.

When one door closes: a qualitative exploration of women's experiences of access to sexual and reproductive health services during the COVID-19 lockdown in Nigeria

BMC Public Health | 23 April 2024

Babatunde Adelekan, Lanre Ikuteyijo, Erika Goldson, Zubaida Abubakar, Oluwatomi Adepaju, et al.

COVID-19 pandemic widely disrupted health services provision, especially during the lockdown period, with females disproportionately affected. Very little is known about alternative healthcare sources used by women when access to conventional health services became challenging. This study examined the experiences of women and adolescent girls regarding access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services during the COVID-19 lockdown in Nigeria and their choices of alternative healthcare sources.

Trends in body mass index in the pre-dolutegravir period in South Africa

Southern African Journal of HIV Medicine | 23 April 2024

Florian van Ginkel, Roos E. Barth, Hugo Tempelman, Kerstin Klipstein-Grobusch, Diederick E. Grobbee, et al.

Antiretroviral therapy (ART) is associated with weight gain, but this has been shown to be more marked with dolutegravir and other integrase strand transfer inhibitors. The researchers studied weight gain in people living with HIV (PLWH) on ART compared to the general population in the period before dolutegravir was introduced in a rural South African cohort. Longitudinal analysis of the Ndlovu Cohort Study including 36–48 months' follow-up data. From 2014 to 2019, data were collected annually in Limpopo, rural South Africa. Linear mixed models using HIV status, demographics, ART use and cardiovascular risk factors were used to estimate trends in body mass index (BMI) over time.

Exploring information needs among family caregivers of children with intellectual disability in a rural area of South Africa: a qualitative study

BMC Public Health | 24 April 2024

Mantji Juliah Modula & Mpho Grace Chipu

Globally, families experience challenges caring for and raising children with intellectual disability (ID). Family caregivers in rural states are mostly known for lacking support resources, including information on understanding the care of ID. Lack of adequate information on understanding of ID compromises the provision of life-long care and support of the children with ID's physical, emotional, psychological and social developmental well-being. The study aimed to explore the information needs of family caregivers regarding the care of children with ID in rural areas of Limpopo Province, South Africa.

Living with type 1 diabetes and schooling among young people in Ghana: a truism of health selection, inadequate support, or artefactual explanation of educational inequalities?

Bernard Afriyie Owusu & David Teye Doku

BMC Public Health | 24 April 2024

Type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM) is mostly diagnosed among young people. Despite the evidence that T1DM is disruptive, and affects individuals' health and cognitive ability, there is dearth of knowledge on the impact of T1DM on schooling in LMICs including Ghana. In this research, we explored the impact of T1DM on the schooling of young people living with the disease, and discussed the results within health selection, social support, and artefactual perspectives of inequality.

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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.

Social media for sex education: South African teens explain how it would help them

The Conversation | 17 April 2024

Most teenagers dread talking about sex with their parents. Their parents feel the same way. In some societies it's considered taboo to even broach the subject. And, even where sexuality education is taught at schools, research has shown that effective communication between young people and teachers is hindered because of age differences and, in some places, because of the societal taboos.

New study uncovers why boys born to mothers with HIV are at greater risk of health problems and death in infancy

Medical Xpress | 17 April 2024

Researchers have found that children of women with HIV infection have an increased risk of immune abnormalities following exposure to maternal HIV viremia, immune dysfunction, and co-infections during pregnancy. The research is published in Nature Communications. The study, led by Dr. Ceri Evans while at Queen Mary University of London, compared clinical outcomes between infants who were HIV-exposed and HIV-unexposed in the Sanitation Hygiene Infant Nutrition Efficacy (SHINE) trial in rural Zimbabwe.

HIV: Foundation trains women on preventing mother-to-child transmission

Punch | 18 April 2024

The AIDS Healthcare Foundation has trained women living with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus in the Federal Capital Territory on the prevention of transmission of the virus to infants. Speaking during the one-day workshop for participants across the six area councils of the FCT on Thursday, the organisation's Country Director, Dr Echey Ijezie, said the initiative is under the Mentor Mother programme to Prevent Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV. He also noted that the training was to train mentor mothers and Traditional Birth Attendants in the prevention of HIV in infants.

Spread the Word about the Link Between Syphilis and HIV

Hiv.gov | 18 April 2024

National STI Awareness Week is an opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of syphilis

prevention, testing, and treatment. Once nearly eradicated, syphilis has reemerged as a major health concern in the United States. According to the latest CDC report, 207,255 total syphilis cases were reported in the United States in 2022, representing an 80% increase since 2018. As with HIV, racial, ethnic, sexual, and gender minorities continue to be disproportionately affected.

To End AIDS, We Must Reclaim Our Unyielding Pursuit of Equity

IOL | 18 April 2024

As HIV practitioners gather this week in Yaoundé for AFRAVIH, the largest international Francophone conference on HIV/AIDS, and a few months before the 25th International AIDS Conference in Munich, the Vice-Chair of the Global Fund Board urges renewed focus on promoting equity in the fight against HIV particularly for groups that continue to suffer a disproportionate proportion of HIV infections.

HIV rates decline in South Africa, yet infections soar among young women aged 15-24, national survey finds

IOL | 18 April 2024

Long before Covid-19 started unsettling lives and livelihoods in South Africa, the nation was already grappling with a severe health crisis of its own. South Africa has the largest HIV epidemic worldwide, with 19 % of the global HIV population calling it home. Despite the daunting numbers, with over 3 million people still awaiting treatment and new infections hitting hard - especially among the youth - the HIV crisis threatens the very fabric of South Africa's future.

Understanding combined oral contraceptives and breast cancer risk

Contemporary OB/GYN | 18 April 2024

In a recent interview, Mitchell Creinin, MD, director of the Complex Family Planning Fellowship at the University of California Davis Health, discussed the association between combined oral contraceptive (COC) use and breast cancer risk. For decades, COCs only contained the estrogen ethinylestradiol (EE). However, the amount of EE included in COCs has decreased over time, with the aim of decreasing venous thromboembolism (VTE) risk.

What It's Like To Share Your HIV Status With Millions on TikTok

The Body | 19 April 2024

An experience at a theater camp when Joseph Kibler was 17 years old forever changed his life: He had been born with HIV and cerebral palsy and decided, during a theater game exercise, to share his HIV status with a room full of strangers. The warmth and comfort he felt in that room is something he still feels to this day, only now the space has gotten larger.

Significant global variation in COVID-19 guidelines: Most countries recommend at least one treatment that doesn't work

Medical Xpress | 22 April 2024

National clinical guidelines for the treatment of COVID-19 vary significantly around the world, with under-resourced countries the most likely to diverge from gold standard (World Health Organization; WHO) treatment recommendations, finds a comparative analysis published in the open access journal BMJ Global Health.

Chronic kidney disease rates have dropped in people with HIV, but late diagnosis remains a serious problem

Daily Maverick | 22 April 2024

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is damage to the kidney that occurs over time, normally at least three months, which affects its ability to filter waste products and get rid of fluid properly, Dr Nina Diana tells Spotlight. She is a consultant nephrologist based at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital and lecturer at Wits University. CKD occurs when the kidney stops working properly, sometimes due to a physical injury, certain medications, an infection or certain medical conditions, explains Dr Nicola Wearne, an associate professor and head of the nephrology and hypertension clinical unit at Groote Schuur Hospital.

Danish study finds that STI rates in gay men increase before they start PrEP, not after

Aidsmap | 22 April 2024

A Danish study which was able to chart the annual incidence of the three bacterial STIs, chlamydia,

gonorrhoea and syphilis, in people attending sexual health clinics both before and after they started PrEP has found that they had more than twice as many (115% more) STI diagnoses while on PrEP than they had some time before starting it.

#PutPeopleFirst: Launch of the Official AIDS 2024 Social Media Campaign

Poz | 22 April 2024

AIDS 2024, the 25th International AIDS Conference, kicks off in exactly three months, and it's time to start a conversation about what a person-centred and human rights-based HIV response looks like! In this spirit, we are calling on the global HIV response to unite behind the official AIDS 2024 theme, Put people first! Join thousands around the globe in sharing how you and/or your organization put people first and why it matters.

Africa: From Grassroots to Global - Lessons From the Zero Malaria Starts With Me Campaign 2014-2024

allAfrica | 22 April 2024

Friday, 25th April 2014 remains a special day in Speak Up Africa's institutional memory: the day that Zero Malaria Starts with Me was brought into the world. Government officials, led by the then Minister of Health and RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board Member Pr. Awa Coll-Seck, alongside donors, NGOs, and many others, gathered for the launch ceremony, without the knowledge of what would become of this campaign in just a few short years.

There's More To Self-Care Than Scented Candles Or Massages, It's A Key Public Health Tool

Health-e News | 22 April 2024

There's a new "It Girl" in the world of public health, and her name is "self-care". This type of self-care is not about scented candles or massages. It's about something far more radical: giving young people the power to protect and improve their own health without the help of health workers, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Young Woman With Rare Cervical Cancer Achieves Remission After Nivolumab Before Chemoradiotherapy

AJMC | 22 April 2024

A recent case report highlights the challenges of treating a rare type of cervical cancer, while also showing how clinicians can glean insights from reports of treating related cancers. Writing in Gynecologic Oncology Reports, authors from the Geneva University Hospitals of Switzerland shared details of the case of a 38-year-old woman with a rare type of clear cell carcinoma of the cervix, which was discovered after she sought treatment following bleeding after intercourse. Although the lesion was diagnosed at an advanced stage, cancer had not spread to the pelvic wall or metastasized to distant sites.

Two new malaria vaccines are being rolled out across Africa: how they work and what they promise

Polity | 23 April 2024

Malaria incidents are on the rise. There were 249-million cases of this parasitic disease in 2022, five-million more than in 2021. Africa suffers more than any other region from malaria, with 94% of cases and 95% of deaths worldwide. This year two revolutionary malaria vaccines are being rolled out across the continent. Nadine Dreyer asks Jaishree Raman if 2024 will be the year the continent takes a significant leap towards beating the disease.

Study highlights nutrition therapy's potential to manage gestational diabetes effectively

News Medical Life Science | 23 April 2024

A new study published in the journal Nutrients examines the role of medically directed nutritional patterns and supplements in managing gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM). GDM affects between 1-30% of pregnant women, with its prevalence varying widely between regions. Typically, GDM is diagnosed by an abnormal oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) between 24 and 28 weeks. GDM is consistent with fasting, one-hour, and two-hour glucose levels exceeding 92 mg/dL, 180 mg/dL, and 153 mg/dL, respectively.

Machine Learning AI Model Accurately Predicts HIV Incidence in Patients With STIs

Infectious Disease Advisor | 23 April 2024

A machine learning model was found to predict incident HIV infection in patients with sexually transmitted infections (STIs) with a high degree of accuracy, indicating the potential use of such models toward the development of tailored interventions for HIV prevention. These findings were published in *Clinical Infectious Diseases*. Researchers conducted a study to assess the accuracy of an artificial intelligence (AI)-based machine learning model for predicting the incidence of HIV infection. Data for this study were sourced from the State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System and Electronic HIV/AIDS Reporting System for Fulton County in Georgia.

Access To Clean Water And Stable Electricity Could Go A Long Way To Addressing Rising Food Poisoning In SA

Health-e News | 23 April 2024

South Africa has seen an increase in cases of foodborne illness, commonly known as food poisoning. Experts say this points to larger issues of limited access to food, safe water, and electricity. Food poisoning is an illness caused by consuming contaminated food or drinks. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) this is a growing public health problem. Globally one in 10 people get sick from contaminated food.

Innovative malaria prodrug targets liver, enhances efficacy while reducing toxicity, preclinical studies show

News Medical Life science | 23 April 2024

With malaria still posing a constant and often deadly threat to billions worldwide, new therapies are urgently required to combat the infection. This is made more difficult by the multiple stages of the parasite's lifecycle. A new report in *Scientific Advances* reports on tafenoquine, a prodrug that could fulfill the criteria for a mass eradication campaign.

Gavi and Unicef welcome approval of new oral cholera vaccine

Bizcommunity | 23 April 2024

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and Unicef welcome the news that a new oral cholera vaccine has now received World Health Organization (WHO) pre-qualification and can be made available to countries around the world. The pre-qualification of this new product - also known as Euvichol-S - will help EuBiologics, the manufacturer, produce more volumes of vaccine, faster, and at a lower cost – a key step to expanding supply amidst the ongoing acute global upsurge of cholera outbreaks.

Prolonged Power Outage Leaves Hospitals In The Dark For Two Days

Health-e News | 23 April 2024

Power has been restored in central Johannesburg after a transformer burned on Sunday, leaving residents – and hospitals – in the dark. Since 11 am on Sunday Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital had been operating at 65% capacity. The facility was relying on a backup generator for more than two days. As a result, the hospital only prioritised emergency procedures.

Switching from TAF to TDF leads to weight loss

Aidsmap | 23 April 2024

Switching from tenofovir alafenamide (TAF) to the older formulation of tenofovir disoproxil (TDF) resulted in modest weight loss in people with HIV in the Swiss HIV Cohort, researchers report in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*. Switching from TAF to TDF also brought benefits in the forms of reduced cholesterol and triglycerides.

Relationship skills can reduce the risk of HIV in young male couples

Aidsmap | 24 April 2024

An online HIV prevention and relationship education programme developed by Dr Michael Newcomb and colleagues from Northwestern University is proving effective in reducing the risk of HIV in young male couples in the United States, a group disproportionately affected by HIV.

World Immunization Week 2024: Vaccination against HPV and hepatitis viruses

WHO | 24 April 2024

This year, the World Health Organization (WHO) celebrates 50 years of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) and the efforts to save and improve countless lives by protecting against vaccine-preventable diseases. Researchers from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) have

been heavily involved in these efforts. Some cancer types are caused by infections. Fortunately, vaccines exist that can protect against some of these infections, such as vaccines against human papillomavirus (HPV), which causes almost all cases of cervical cancer, and vaccines against hepatitis viruses, which can cause liver cancer.

How To Stop Five-Year-Olds From Dying Every Minute This World Malaria Day

iAfrica | 24 April 2024

Goodbye Malaria calls for government, business, and non-profit sectors to work together to eliminate malaria in southern Africa by 2030. Malaria is a preventable and curable disease. Despite tremendous progress made to curb malaria in Africa, it still kills a child every 60 seconds. The mosquito-borne infection costs Africa around \$12 billion every year and in places where infections are recurring, up to 60% of school children have impaired learning ability. South Africa had more than 7 800 malaria cases last year.

Africa Vaccination Week: South Africa faces alarming measles spike, highlighting urgent need for vaccination

IOL | 24 April 2024

The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned of an 'alarming' increase in measles cases – almost 45-fold in Europe last year - but outbreaks of new cases and even deaths are being reported globally. WHO believes this is a result of fewer children being vaccinated against the disease, especially during the Covid pandemic. However, measles is preventable, thanks to a vaccine that was introduced in 1963. Since 2000, the measles vaccination programme has averted an estimated 57 million deaths worldwide.

Ending Aids in Africa is a challenge of equity, not science

Juta Medical Brief | 24 April 2024

The world has come a long way in the fight against HIV, but inequity – particularly for groups that continue to suffer a disproportionate number of infections – continues to be a hurdle, writes Bience Gawanas, vice-chair of the Global Fund Board. In Health Policy Watch Gawanas wrote: Every step we make in the fight against HIV today is going to be painstaking – we must press harder for progress. In the early years of the fight against this virus, our gains were often rapid and immense because everywhere you looked, there was great need.

Concern as Health Department omits insulin pens from tender

Juta Medical Brief | 24 April 2024

Doctors have warned that some diabetes patients' lives could be at risk because the National Department of Health failed to list life-saving premixed insulin pens on its tender awarded for insulin supply from May 2024 to April 2027. The Society for Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes of South Africa (SEMDSA) said that the department awarded tenders only for supply of premixed insulin in vials and syringes, reports GroundUp.

R2.4bn needed to fill 2 012 vacant posts – Phaahla

Juta Medical Brief | 24 April 2024

Health Minister Dr Joe Phaahla says there are 2 012 unfunded vacant posts of medical doctors countrywide – this does not include other categories like nurses, pharmacists, radiographers and dentists – and that the government will need R2.4bn to fill them. The Ministry would continue working with provincial Health MECs to activate unfunded vacant posts using the allocated additional budget to enable recruitment of more personnel, he added. News24 reports that Phaahla, providing an update on Friday on the state of public health services, had said that at least 2 066 appointments had been made between January and March 2024.

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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 launch soon!

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

8th 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

DATA CAPTURER

Closing Date: 29 April 2024

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

SENIOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION OFFICER

Closing Date: 3 May 2024

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

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