

HST Bulletin



Dear Subscribers,

The HST Bulletin will be taking a break over the festive period. The next Bulletin will be published on 12 January 2018. Best wishes for the festive season and a prosperous New Year.

The HST Bulletin Editorial Team

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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

The end of HIV: Still a very long way to go, but progress continues

Plos Medicine | Published: 30 November 2017.

Steven G Deeks, Sharon R Lewin, Linda-Gail Bekker

Let's End It is the theme of this year's World AIDS Day, which falls on December 1. In the spirit of the event, *PLOS Medicine* is devoting this special issue to a discussion on advances in HIV prevention, treatment, and cure. Here, we describe many of the remaining barriers in ending the epidemic and highlight a number of accompanying studies that provide paths forward for overcoming some of these challenges.

Estimating the impact of antiretroviral treatment on adult mortality trends in South Africa: A mathematical modelling study

Plos Medicine | Published: 12 December 2017.

Leigh F Johnson, Margaret T May, Rob E Dorrington, Morna Cornell, Andrew Boulle, Matthias Egger, Mary-Ann Davies

Substantial reductions in adult mortality have been observed in South Africa since the mid-2000s, but there has been no formal evaluation of how much of this decline is attributable to the scale-up of antiretroviral treatment (ART), as previous models have not been calibrated to vital registration data. We

developed a deterministic mathematical model to simulate the mortality trends that would have been expected in the absence of ART, and with earlier introduction of ART.

Antimicrobial resistance and universal health coverage

BMJ Global Health | Published: 31 October 2017.

Gerald Bloom, Gemma Buckland Merrett, Annie Wilkinson, Vivian Lin, Sarah Paulin

The WHO launched a Global Action Plan on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in 2015. World leaders in the G7, G20 and the UN General Assembly have declared AMR to be a global crisis. World leaders have also adopted universal health coverage (UHC) as a key target under the sustainable development goals. This paper argues that neither initiative is likely to succeed in isolation from the other and that the policy goals should be to both provide access to appropriate antimicrobial treatment and reduce the risk of the emergence and spread of resistance by taking a systems approach.

How income and food prices influence global dietary intakes by age and sex: evidence from 164 countries

BMJ Global Health | Published: 15 September 2017.

Andrew Muhammad, Anna D'Souza, Birgit Meade, Renata Micha, Dariush Mozaffarian

While income and prices are key drivers of dietary choices, how their influence varies by food category, nation, and demographics is not well established. Based on intake data for 164 countries and 11 food categories, we examined how income and food prices relate to food intake globally, including by world region, age, and sex.

Fighting TB stigma: we need to apply lessons learnt from HIV activism

BMJ Global Health | Published: 31 October 2017.

Amrita Daftary, Mike Frick, Nandita Venkatesan, Madhukar Pai

In 2015, 10.4 million people were diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB) and 2.1 million people tested positive for HIV. Over two-thirds of new TB and HIV infections are in lower income and middle-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Together, TB and HIV cause over 2.5 million deaths each year, and immeasurable social calamities. Key among these is widespread stigmatisation incited by their deep-set association with poverty, social marginalisation, risk of transmission and death, and perpetuated to varying degrees by subversive policies and practices. The stigma is doubly worse for the 1.2 million people world over who live with both infections.

Time to Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis Treatment in a Prospective South African Cohort

Global Paediatric Health | Published: 31 November 2017.

Brittney J van de Water, Janet Prvu Bettger, Susan Silva, Janice Humphreys, Coleen K Cunningham, Jason E Farley

This study examined time to treatment initiation by age among a prospective cohort with drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB). Participants aged 13 years or older nested within a cluster-randomized trial in 2 South African provinces were evaluated. Outcomes were treatment initiation within 5 days of DR-TB diagnosis (National Tuberculosis Program guidelines) and days from diagnosis to treatment. One in 6 individuals with DR-TB received treatment per guidelines, and average time to treatment was 11 days. Strategies are needed to decrease treatment delays and meet the recommended guidelines for treatment for patients of all ages.

Paid staff or volunteers – does it make a difference? The impact of staffing on child outcomes for children attending community-based programmes in South Africa and Malawi

Global Health Action | Published: 7 December 2017.

Mark Tomlinson, Lorraine Sherr, Ana Macedo, Xanthe Hunt, Sarah Skeen

Globally, and in low and middle income countries (LMIC) specifically, there is a critical shortage of workers. The use of volunteers to support such care delivery systems has been examined, there is scant literature on the impact of volunteers on child outcome in high human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-affected communities.

The Effect of Branding to Promote Healthy Behavior: Reducing Tobacco Use among Youth and Young Adults

Policy interventions such as public health mass media campaigns disseminate messages in order to improve health-related knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and behaviors at the population level. Only more recently have campaigns that promote health-related behaviors adopted branding, a well-established marketing strategy, to influence how consumers think and feel about a message. This study examines whether positive brand equity for the national truth® campaign is associated with lower likelihood of cigarette use over time using the nationally representative Truth Longitudinal Cohort of youth and young adults, aged 15–21.

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HST IN THE NEWS

‘Don’t let thugs hijack ulwaluko!

The Daily Sun | 11 December 2017.

Traditional male circumcision (ulwaluko) is a centuries-old traditional practice which is a rite of passage from boyhood to manhood. Sadly, one of our oldest and most sacred customs now has been hijacked by thugs and money-grabbers. This most sacred rite of passage has been tainted by people who have no spiritual or cultural understanding and seek only to exploit young men for financial gain.

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RECENT NEWS

NGOs plan to ease KZN health woes

Health-e News | 12 December 2017.

Right to Care, together with the Bhhekuzulu Self-sustaining Project and the Mpilonhle Sanctuary Organization are working together to offer patients a one-stop shop where they can have all their chronic conditions seen to in a single visit.

Why traditional healers could have a role to play in fighting HIV

The Conversation | 30 November 2017.

Many cultures and societies throughout the world turn to traditional healers to find out why they are ill and to seek treatment. In many settings, including sub-Saharan Africa, traditional healers are often called on to provide cures for various ailments.

South Africa’s HIV treatment programme: a phoenix rising from the ashes?

GroundUp | 13 December 2017.

Over 4 million people are on treatment but the programme may be stuttering

We have designed a tool to track HIV infection rates cheaply and accurately

The Conversation | 28 November 2017.

A critical part of reaching zero new HIV infections by 2030 – as the UN’s Sustainable Development Goal aims to do – is to be able to track accurately when specific high risks groups become infected with the virus.

HIV drug resistance approaching and exceeding 10%

Medical Brief | 6 December 2017.

HIV drug resistance is approaching and exceeding 10% in people living with HIV who are about to initiate or re-initiate first-line antiretroviral therapy, according to a study led by researchers at University College London (UCL) and the World Health Organisation (WHO). The study funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the WHO, was the largest meta-analysis to date on HIV drug resistance.

Life Esidimeni: Remembering those who died

Health-E News | 13 December 2017.

Despite almost two months of testimony at the Life Esidimeni (LE) arbitration hearings, so many questions still remain unanswered about the deaths of 143 mentally ill patients.

Developing countries could get sick before they get rich. Policy can help

The Conversation | 5 December 2017.

Improved human well-being is one of the modern era's greatest triumphs. The age of plenty has also led to an unexpected global health crisis: two billion people are either overweight or obese. Developed countries have been especially susceptible to unhealthy weight gain, a trend that could be considered the price of abundance. However, developing countries are now facing a similar crisis.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Health Indicators Database

Health Systems Trust | November 2017.

The health indicators database is now available with new search features. The resource attempts to include publicly available data from key international and national data sources on a range of health and health-related indicators. It seeks to make the key metrics accessible with links to the underlying sources for those who wish to explore the data in more depth. The selection of indicators is guided by (but not limited to) national and international frameworks such as the National Indicator Data Set, the Sustainable Development Goals and the WHO 100 Core Health Indicators.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

South African Health Review 2018 Call for Abstracts

Health Systems Trust | December 2017.

The editorial team of the 2018 SAHR is currently seeking abstracts that give consideration to advances made in the health system over the past 21 years, and reflect on areas of improvement for the future. In particular, abstracts that address the following range of topics are requested:

- Human resources for health (e.g. community health workers, production and distribution of health care workers; planning and forecasting, task shifting etc.)
- Responses to the prevention and management of non-communicable diseases
- Progress and challenges towards implementing universal health coverage

Philanthropic Support to Address HIV/AIDS in 2016

Funders Concerned about AIDS | December 2017.

HIV/AIDS philanthropic disbursements in 2016 reached the highest level to date: approximately \$680 million, a 2% increase from 2015. While the third straight year of increases in philanthropic funding is encouraging, it must be viewed in a broader context. This year's increase belies a trend of funding decreases for HIV. In fact, the majority of funders decreased the level of resources allocated to fight HIV and AIDS between 2015 and 2016. Without a \$41 million increase from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation—a routine fluctuation in disbursements—we would be recording an overall decrease in funding from private philanthropy.

South African Guidelines for the Prevention of Malaria

National Department of Health | November 2017.

Travellers to, and residents in, malaria endemic areas are at risk of acquiring malaria. Stringent non-drug measures should be taken to avoid mosquito bites throughout the year, even in low malaria transmission areas. In addition, effective chemoprophylaxis should be taken whenever and wherever the risks of acquiring malaria exceed the probability of experiencing a serious adverse reaction to the chemoprophylaxis. The risk of acquiring malaria is determined by the malaria transmission intensity in the area, season of visit, length of stay, type of accommodation, and likely activities between dusk and dawn.

Domestic resource mobilization for sustainable financing for health in Africa African Region: Working Paper prepared by the WHO Regional Office for Africa

World Health Organization | 12 December 2017.

Given the primacy and importance of domestic resource mobilization for health, this paper takes stock of the efforts in the region in mobilizing domestic financing for health thus far and proffers some policy considerations for action going forward.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

World Conference on Tobacco or Health

7-8 March 2018

Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa

SAAHIP Conference 2018

8-10 March 2018

Champagne Sports Resort, Drakensburg, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Medicine Quality & Public Health

23-28 September 2018

Keble College, Oxford, United Kingdom

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Epicentre Aids Risk Management: Junior Bookkeeper

Closing Date: 22 December 2017

Ndlovu Care group: Programme/Assistant Clinic Manager

Closing Date: 30 December 2017

SA Federation for Mental Health: Project Leader - Awareness and Information

Closing Date: 5 January 2018

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