

# HST Bulletin



## CATEGORIES

[Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles](#)

[Recent News](#)

[Training and Resources](#)

[Publications and Reports](#)

[Conferences and Events](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

## ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

### **To err is human, to correct is public health: a systematic review examining poor quality testing and misdiagnosis of HIV status**

*Journal of the International AIDS Society* | Published: 29 August 2017.

*Cheryl C Johnson, Virginia Fonner, Anita Sands, Nathan Ford, Carla Makhlouf Obermeyer, Sharon Tsui, Vincent Wong, Rachel Baggaley*

In accordance with global testing and treatment targets, many countries are seeking ways to reach the “90-90-90” goals, starting with diagnosing 90% of all people with HIV. Quality HIV testing services are needed to enable people with HIV to be diagnosed and linked to treatment as early as possible. It is essential that opportunities to reach people with undiagnosed HIV are not missed, diagnoses are correct and HIV-negative individuals are not inadvertently initiated on life-long treatment. We conducted this systematic review to assess the magnitude of misdiagnosis and to describe poor HIV testing practices using rapid diagnostic tests.

### **Misdiagnosed HIV infection in pregnant women initiating universal ART in South Africa**

*Journal of the International AIDS Society* | Published: 29 August 2017.

*Nei-yuan Hsiao, Allison Zerbe, Tamsin K Phillips, Landon Myer, Elaine J Abrams*

Rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) are the primary diagnostic tools for HIV used in resource-constrained settings. Without a proper confirmation algorithm, there is concern that false-positive (FP) RDTs could result in misdiagnosis of HIV infection and inappropriate antiretroviral treatment (ART) initiation, but programmatic data on FP are few.

### **Sexual partnership age pairings and risk of HIV acquisition in rural South Africa**

*AIDS* | Published: 12 July 2017.

*Adam Akullian, Anna Bershteyn, Daniel Klein, Alain Vandormael, Till Bärnighausen, Frank Tanser*

[In order] to quantify the contribution of specific sexual partner age groups to the risk of HIV acquisition in men and women in a hyperendemic region of South Africa we conducted a population-based cohort study among women (15–49 years of age) and men (15–55 years of age) between 2004 and 2015 in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

## **The important role of food composition in policies and programmes for better public health: A South African case study**

*Food Chemistry | Published: 1 January 2018.*

*Hettie C Schönfeldt, Nicolette Hall, B Pretorius*

Most governments have committed to the set of Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations (UN) to be achieved by 2030. Subsequently the governments have drafted, or are in process of drafting, policies and programmes which aim to answer to these global requests. South Africa provides a unique case study: despite economic growth, undernutrition has not improved when compared to other industrialised nations, while at the same time, diet-related non-communicable diseases and obesity have exponentially increased. Access to healthy food is a constitutional right of all South Africans, and towards increasing food security and improving population health, various policies, programmes and regulations have been developed and implemented by the government to rectify the situation. The paper presents an overview of food composition within these public health policies, programmes and regulations and unpacks the important role of accurate food composition data.

## **The SPARK Tool to prioritise questions for systematic reviews in health policy and systems research: development and initial validation**

*BioMed Central | Published: 4 September 2017.*

*Elie A Akl, Racha Fadlallah, Lilian Ghandour, Ola Kdouh, Etienne Langlois, John N Lavis, Holger Schünemann, Fadi El-Jardali*

Groups or institutions funding or conducting systematic reviews in health policy and systems research (HPSR) should prioritise topics according to the needs of policymakers and stakeholders. The aim of this study was to develop and validate a tool to prioritise questions for systematic reviews in HPSR.

## **Major health service transformation and the public voice: conflict, challenge or complicity?**

*Journal of Health Services Research & Policy | Published: 4 September 2017.*

*Graham P Martin, Pam Carter, Mike Dent*

Calls for major reconfigurations of health services have been accompanied by recommendations that wide ranging stakeholders be involved. In particular, patients and the wider public are seen as critical contributors as both funders and beneficiaries of public health care. But public involvement is fraught with challenges, and little research has focused on involvement in the health service transformation initiatives. This paper examines the design and function of public involvement in reconfiguration of health services within the English NHS.

## **HIV, violence, blame and shame: pathways of risk to internalized HIV stigma among South African adolescents living with HIV**

*Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 21 August 2017.*

*Marija Pantelic, Mark Boyes, Lucie Cluver, Franziska Meinck*

Internalized HIV stigma is a key risk factor for negative outcomes amongst adolescents living with HIV (ALHIV), including non-adherence to anti-retroviral treatment, loss-to-follow-up and morbidity. This study tested a theoretical model of multi-level risk pathways to internalized HIV stigma among South African ALHIV.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

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## **RECENT NEWS**

### **Concern Over Popular Contraceptive and HIV Vulnerability in South Africa**

*News Deeply | 29 August 2017.*

Recent studies have shown that the three-month injectable contraceptive Depo-Provera might make people more vulnerable to contracting HIV. In South Africa, where more than 7 million people are infected with HIV, the injectable is the most commonly used contraceptive.

### **Op-Ed: Has the National Health Insurance process been captured?**

*Daily Maverick | 28 August 2017.*

Barely a week after gazetting the latest White Paper as a policy document the National Department of

Health abandoned its commitment to principles of equity and human rights when it gazetted a set of seven “institutions, bodies and commissions” to take the National Health Insurance process forward with no apparent effort to inform key stakeholders — even some who had made important submissions to the Green and White Papers. This begs the question: Are we having to confront another example of corporate state capture?

### **TAC is back!**

*Health-e News | 28 August 2017.*

The Treatment Action Campaign accused politicians for turning their backs on HIV and TB at its 6th National Congress last week.

### **Esidimeni: Doctors erase ‘unnatural’ deaths**

*Health-e News | 4 September 2017.*

The dead have one final shot at justice. It lies with the medical officers who sign their death certificate. They are supposed to refer questionable deaths for post-mortems, but even this was bungled for the Esidimeni patients.

### **New drug plan promises shift in policy**

*GoundUp | 29 August 2017.*

For the first time, the plan includes input from drug users.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

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## **TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

### **AVERT: Infographics and Media**

*AVERT | 2017.*

All AVERT infographics, videos, audio and photo galleries brought together in one searchable hub.

### **Gender-Based Violence and Violence Against Children Resources**

*AIDSFree and USAID | 2017.*

This collection of training resources has been developed to build the capacity of and train health care providers and social welfare officers to deliver effective gender-based violence- and violence against children-related prevention and response services.

### **CROI 2018 Abstract Submissions Open**

*CROI 2018*

Abstract submissions for the 25th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) are now being accepted. The deadline for general abstract and scholarship submissions is September 27, 2017. Late-breaker abstract submissions are due by January 16, 2018. CROI 2018 will be held March 4 through 7, 2018, in Boston, Massachusetts.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

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## **PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS**

### **WHO, UNAIDS statement on HIV Testing Services: New opportunities and ongoing challenges**

*WHO and UNAIDS | 29 August 2017.*

The World Health Organization (WHO) and UNAIDS have released a joint statement on HIV testing services that reinforces two key principles that ensure a human rights-based and public health approach to HIV testing. The statement says that HIV testing, no matter how it is delivered, must always respect personal choice and adhere to ethical and human rights principles. It makes it clear that WHO and UNAIDS do not recommend mandatory, compulsory or coerced HIV testing of individuals on public health grounds.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

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# CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

## Global Evidence Summit

13-16 September 2017

International Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa

## CROI (Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections)

4-7 March 2018

Hynes Convention Centre, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

## Fifth Global Symposium on Health Systems Research: Advancing Health Systems for All in the SDG Era

8-12 October 2018

Liverpool, England

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

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# JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

## Health Systems Trust: District Information Officer

Closing Date: 14 September 2017

## Health Systems Trust: Research Nurse (FRESH)

Closing Date: 15 September 2017

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

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