



HEALTH SYSTEMS TRUST

BULLETIN

3 September 2010

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Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

A knowledge management tool for public health: health-evidence.ca

Dobbins M, DeCorby K, Robeson P, Husson H, Tirilis D, Greco L. BMC Public Health 2010, 10:496. Published: 18 August 2010.

The ultimate goal of knowledge translation and exchange activities is to facilitate incorporation of research knowledge into program and policy development decision making. Evidence-informed decision making involves translation of the best available evidence from a systematically collected, appraised, and analyzed body of knowledge. Knowledge management is emerging as a key factor contributing to the realisation of evidence-informed public health decision making. The goal of health-evidence.ca is to promote evidence-informed public health decision making through facilitation of decision maker access to, retrieval, and use of the best available synthesized research evidence evaluating the effectiveness of public health interventions...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/10/496/abstract> [Accessed: 25 August 2010]

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Public health in an era of personal health records: opportunities for innovation and new partnerships

Bonander J, Gates S. Journal of Medical Internet Research. 2010; 12(3):e33.

In the near future, citizens will be able to control and manage their own health information through electronic personal health record systems and tools. The clinical benefits of this innovation, such as cost savings, error reduction, and improved communication, have been discussed in the literature and public forums, as have issues related to privacy and confidentiality. Receiving little attention are the benefits these will have for public health. The benefits and potential for innovation are broad and speak directly to core public health functions such as health monitoring, outbreak management, empowerment, linking to services, and research. Coupled with this is a new relationship with citizens as key partners in protecting and promoting the public's health...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.jmir.org/2010/3/e33/> [Accessed: 25 August 2010].

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Innovative health service delivery models in low and middle income countries - what can we learn from the private sector?

Bhattacharyya O, Khor S, McGahan A, Dunne D, Daar AS, Singer PA. Health Research Policy and Systems 2010, 8:2. Published: 15 July 2010.

The poor in low and middle income countries have limited access to health services due to limited purchasing power, residence in underserved areas, and inadequate health literacy. This produces significant gaps in health care delivery among a population that has a disproportionately large burden of disease. They frequently use the private health sector, due to perceived or actual gaps in public services. A subset of private health organizations, some called social enterprises, have developed novel approaches to increase the availability, affordability and quality of health care services to the poor through innovative health service delivery models. This study aims to characterize these models and identify areas of innovation that have led to effective provision of care for the poor...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-policy-systems.com/content/8/1/24> [Accessed: 30 August 2010]

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Improving public health training and research capacity in Africa: a replicable model for linking training to health and socio-demographic surveillance data

Williams JR, Schatz Enid, Clark BD, Collinson MA, Clark SJ, Menken J, et al. Global Health Action 2010. Published: 31 August 2010.

Research training for public health professionals is key to the future of public health and policy in Africa. A growing number of schools of public health are connected to health and socio-demographic surveillance system field sites in developing countries, in Africa and Asia in particular. Linking training programs with these sites provides important opportunities to improve training, build local research capacity, foreground local health priorities, and increase the relevance of research to local health policy...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.globalhealthaction.net/index.php/gha/article/view/5287/5955> [Accessed: 2 September 2010]

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Recent News

Most vulnerable pay during strike

Health-e. Published: 30 August 2010.

OPINION: Florence Nightingale, the woman widely credited with introducing professional nursing standards, died 100 years ago this month. But what Nightingale has come to symbolise – humane, professional nursing -- has died hundreds of times over in South Africa during the public sector workers' strike. Despite the weekend court interdict ordering essential services staff including nurses back to work and prohibiting strikers from intimidating non-strikers, few nurses turned up for work this week. Women with birth complications, premature babies, sick children, accident victims and people dependent on antiretroviral medication have literally been caught in the crossfire between strikers and government. Some have died already, while others will still die as a result..... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20032911> [Accessed: 3 September 2010]

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RuDASA Statement on Public Sector Strike

Rural Health Advocacy Project. Published: 29 August 2010.

RuDASA acknowledges the real issues raised by striking public sector workers and recognize that apart from salaries, anger has been fuelled by workers not feeling valued, poor management and working conditions, as well as terrible overload and burn out. However, we cannot but condemn the manner in which the strike has been conducted and urge the unions to stop the intimidation, violence and loss of life that have shaken so many South Africans to the core... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.rhap.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/RuDASA-Statement-On-Public-Sector-Strike1.pdf> [Accessed: 3 September 2010]

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More sterilisations of HIV-positive women uncovered

PlusNews. Published: 30 August 2010.

Veronica* did not realize she had been sterilised while giving birth to her daughter until four years later when, after failing to conceive, she and her boyfriend consulted a doctor. "I was like 'Okay, fine', because there was nothing I could do by then, but I was angry. I hate [those nurses]," she told IRIN/PlusNews. Veronica tested HIV-positive during a routine antenatal visit and was given a form to sign by nurses at the hospital where she went to deliver. "I didn't know what it was all about, but I did sign," said Veronica, who was 18 at the time and had been scolded by the nurses for being unmarried. She vaguely recalls being unconscious and then coming to and giving birth to her daughter, but did not ask questions about the cut on her abdomen. "My aunt - she's a nurse - went there and asked them what the cut was all about. They didn't answer her; they said it was private and confidential."... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=90337> [Accessed: 30 August 2010]

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Access to pain meds a human rights issue

Health-e. Published: 19 August 2010.

At least five billion people live in countries with limited or no access to controlled pain medication with the vast majority having inadequate access to the most basic treatment for moderate to severe pain. World cancer leaders this week launched the Global Access to Pain Relief Initiative (GAPRI) and called for universal access to controlled pain medication for cancer patients worldwide. In a joint statement released at the World Cancer Leaders' Summit taking place at the World Cancer Congress, the American Cancer Society, LIVESTRONG, the World Economic Forum and the World Health Organization said the pain of cancer could be safely and effectively treated through the use of opioid analgesics such as morphine...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/cancer/news/article.php?uid=20032895> [Accessed: 3 September 2010].

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Training and Resources

Health and human rights

Dates: 18 October-28 November 2010.

This short certificate course jointly organised by HREA and the Human Rights Centre of the UN Mandated University for Peace introduces participants to the doctrinal, actual and policy related linkages between health and human rights, and the contemporary challenges associated with them. Participants will explore the normative concepts of the right to health as a human right and will also study the intersections between the human right to health on the one hand and some of the other human rights such as the right to life, food, work, development etc. on the other.

For more information: http://www.hrea.org/index.php?base_id=795&language_id=1

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Health rights of women assessment instrument (HeRWAI)

The Human Rights Impact Resource Centre.

HeRWAI is a strategic tool to enhance lobbying activities for better implementation of women's health rights. A HeRWAI analysis links what actually happens with what should happen according to the human rights obligations of a country. Based on this analysis you make recommendations to a government to improve their policies or the implementations of their policy.

For more information: <http://www.humanrightsimpact.org/themes/womens-human-rights/herwai/herwai-home/>

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Publications

Improving the reproductive health of Sub-Saharan Africa's Youth: a route to achieve the Millennium Development Goals

Population Reference Bureau.

As the fastest-growing region in the world, sub-Saharan Africa is confronting many of the greatest global health and development challenges. With a population of more than 840 million, and growing at the rate of 2.4 percent per year, sub-Saharan Africa will double in size in just 30 years. It is widely accepted that the future of sub-Saharan Africa rests to a great extent on the investments made in the education, health, and employment opportunities of its youth, and on how successfully its youth transition to a healthy and productive adulthood....
[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: <http://www.prb.org/pdf10/youthchartbook.pdf> (Approximately: 3209 KB) [Accessed: 25 August 2010].

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Country profiles for population and reproductive health: policy developments and indicators 2009/2010

United Nations Population Fund.

Country Profiles for Population and Reproductive Health: Policy Developments and Indicators 2009/2010 provides an abundance of easy-to-access information that can be helpful in building the case for increased resources. Since 2003, UNFPA and the Population Reference Bureau have collaborated in publishing this book. Each country profile has more than 100 indicators on health and development, including internal disparities, public financing for health and education, and progress toward meeting the MDGs. The regional overviews and indicators provide snapshots of the most important population and reproductive health challenges....
[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: <http://www.prb.org/pdf10/unfpacountryprofiles.pdf> (Approximately: 3363 KB) [Accessed: 30 August 2010].

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Family planning: a global handbook for providers

World Health Organization, Johns Hopkins.

Published by the Knowledge for Health - K4Health Project at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public

Health, the book offers clinic-based health care professionals in developing countries the latest guidance on providing contraceptive methods. Through an organized, collaborative process, experts from around the world have come to consensus on practical guidance that reflects the best available scientific evidence. The World Health Organization convened this process. Many major technical assistance and professional organizations have endorsed and adopted this guidance...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: <http://info.k4health.org/globalhandbook/handbook.pdf> [Approximately: 9310 KB]..

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Increasing access to health workers in remote and rural areas through improved retention: global policy recommendations

World Health Organization.

Policy-makers in all countries, regardless of their level of economic development, struggle to achieve health equity and to meet the health needs of their populations, especially vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. One of their most complex challenges is ensuring people living in rural and remote locations have access to trained health workers. Skilled and motivated health workers in sufficient numbers at the right place and at the right time are critical to deliver effective health services and improve health outcomes. A shortage of qualified health workers in remote and rural areas impedes access to health-care services for a significant percentage of the population, slows progress towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals and challenges the aspirations of achieving health for all...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2010/9789241564014_eng.pdf (Approximately: 1220 KB) [Accessed: 30 August 2010]..

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Promising Practices to Build Human Resources Capacity in HIV Strategic Information

The Capacity Project.

Countries addressing HIV epidemics must lay the cornerstone for evidence-based planning and decision-making by first gathering strategic information (SI) from national monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems. National governments and development partners have made tremendous progress toward achieving "the three ones" - one national HIV strategic plan, one national HIV coordinating authority and one national HIV M&E system - to support an efficient response to HIV. However, gaps remain, particularly in building comprehensive, national M&E systems that function across the national, sub-national and service delivery levels (Peersman et al., 2009)...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: http://www.hst.org.za/uploads/files/BuildHRCapacity_HIV.pdf [Accessed: 3 September 2010].

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Conferences

MEDINFO 2010: 13th World Congress on Medical and Health Informatics

12 to 15 September 2010

URL: <http://www.medinfo2010.org/>

This will be the first time MEDINFO is held in Africa. It promises to boost exposure to grassroots healthcare delivery and the underpinning health information systems. This will open the door to new academic partnerships into the future and help to nurture a new breed of health informaticians.

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Job Opportunities

Lecturer: social and behaviour change communication

School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand

Closing date: 23 September 2010.

The School of Public Health, a dynamic, vibrant and growing part of Wits University in partnership with Soul City Institute for Health and Development Communication, an award winning multi-media health and development intervention seeks to appoint a person with excellent skills in social and behaviour change communication to join its team. The person will contribute to curriculum development, teaching and research.

More information: <http://www.hst.org.za/news/20042001>

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14 Posts available at Reproductive Health and HIV Research Unit

Reproductive Health & HIV Research Unit

Closing Date: 3 September 2010.

RHRU has the following vacancies available:

COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES - JHB

Head of Community Programmes (1 post)

Operations Researcher (1 post)

Community Care Centre Manager (1 post)

NORTH WEST

District Manager (1 post)

Quality Improvement Mentor (Regional) /RQIM (1 post)
Quality Improvement Mentor (Clinical) /CQIM (6 posts)
Quality Improvement Mentor (Prevention) /PQIM (3 posts).

More information: Carmen Slinger, Recruitment Consultant, Wits Health Consortium (Pty) Ltd, Tel: +27 11 358 5476, Email: cslinger@rhru.co.za

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AHP - African Health Placements

AHP is a not-for-profit project that aims to support the recruitment and retention of healthcare workers in South Africa. AHP is focused on assisting healthcare professionals make the right choice for their future in South Africa. No placement fees are charged.

Please view the website for more details <http://www.ahp.org.za> or contact on 011 328 1300

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