

HST Bulletin_3 February 2023

[View this email in your browser](#)

CATEGORIES

[Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles](#)[Recent Public Health News](#)[Training and Resources](#)[Publications and Reports](#)[Conferences and Events](#)[Job Opportunities](#)

ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

The association of self-efficacy and coping strategies with body mass index is mediated by eating behaviors and dietary intake among young females: A structural-equation modeling approach

Plos One | 27 January 2023

Aydin Aynehchi, Sevda Saleh-Ghadimi and Parvin Dehghan

According to a 2017 report by the World Health Organization, more than 815 million people are undernourished throughout the world and around 1.9 billion adults are overweight and obese. Based on these data, a large proportion of human population is under threat, because it is generally accepted that any significant deviation from normal weight (over/underweight) has major health consequences. For instance, in a well-designed population-based cohort study in 2018, Bhaskaran et al. investigated the data of about 3.6 million adults in UK and concluded that, in most cases, there was either a "U- or J-shaped" relationship between various causes of mortality and Body Mass Index (BMI) and the lowest risks were shown in people with normal BMI.

Contribution of remote M.tuberculosis infection to tuberculosis disease: A 30-year population study

Plos One | 27 January 2023

Understanding the relative contribution of recent and remote M.tuberculosis (Mtb) infection to the incidence of tuberculosis disease (TB) is fundamental for control strategies. It is known that TB can occur decades after infection, and in areas where TB incidence has fallen, the higher incidence of TB in the elderly, especially that caused by unique strains, can be explained by remote infections acquired in earlier life. Considerable uncertainty remains, however, about the importance of remote infection (currently defined as at least 2 years since exposure) on the burden of disease in areas where infection rates are high. A recent review found few studies with follow-up beyond 10 years, in modern high-incidence settings, or with a comparison between groups infected and uninfected at baseline.

Discontinuation of government subsidized HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis in Australia: a whole-of-population analysis of dispensing records

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 27 January 2023

Nicholas Andrew Medland, Doug Fraser, Benjamin R. Bavinton, Fengyi Jin, Andrew E. Grulich, et al.

HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is highly effective in the prevention of HIV infection. High coverage of PrEP interrupts transmission networks, particularly in settings with high uptake of effective antiretroviral therapy for HIV. In the Australian context, men who have sex with men are specifically targeted by HIV prevention strategies and large reductions in HIV incidence have been observed where there has been high uptake of PrEP in those at risk. From 2016, PrEP was available in Australia through implementation projects which included 18,000 individuals. In April 2018, daily PrEP was subsidized by the Australian Government Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme providing universal, inexpensive access to citizens and long-term residents. In 2019, Australian guidelines were updated to include a recommendation for event-based PrEP for cis-gender men involving a minimum of four doses for each risk event. PrEP can be prescribed by non-specialist doctors without specific training or by accredited nurse practitioners in general practice, sexual health, community and hospital settings. The government-defined “general” subsidy allows Australian citizens, permanent residents and people from countries with which Australia has reciprocal healthcare agreements to purchase PrEP at a maximum co-payment of AU\$42.50 for a 1-month supply. In addition, a “concessional” subsidy based on income, employment, health, disability and yearly pharmaceutical expenditure reduces the co-payment to AU\$6.80 or less.

Does self-perceived HIV risk mediate the potential association between HIV-related symbolic stigma and sexual behaviour among young adult women in Cape Town, South Africa?

BMC Public Health | 28 January 2023

Takwanisa Machededze

Perception of risk is a central construct of models of health behaviour change as it is assumed to be an intermediate step before adoption of the related safer behaviour. In the context of HIV/AIDS, the literature suggests that psychosocial factors such as stigmatising attitudes related to stereotyping people who contract HIV may influence how people perceive their own risk of HIV infection. However, findings on the relationships between HIV-related stigma, HIV risk perception and sexual behaviour have been inconsistent. We investigated the potential mediating role of HIV risk perception on the link between HIV-related symbolic stigma and sexual behaviour.

Implementing complex interventions to mitigate burnout among qualified healthcare professionals: a realist review protocol

BMJ | 30 January 2023

Sabrina Figueiredo

Reported burnout rates among qualified healthcare professionals (QHP) are alarming. Systematic reviews evaluating the effectiveness of burnout interventions for QHP exist; however, findings are contradictory. In addition, to date, there is no indication of how these interventions work and what specific intervention elements mitigate burnout. This review aims to explain how burnout interventions work and the contextual factors that mediate the intended outcomes. Our ultimate goal is to formulate actionable recommendations to guide the implementation of complex burnout interventions for QHP working in the hospital setting.

A Qualitative Approach to Understanding Canadian Healthcare Workers' Use of Coping Strategies during the COVID-19 Pandemic

International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health | 31 January 2023

Mauda Karram, Andrea M. D'Alessandro-Lowe, Kimberly Ritchie, Andrea Brown, Yuanxin Xue, et al.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, healthcare workers (HCWs) have been exposed to highly stressful situations, including increased workloads and exposure to mortality, thus posing a risk for adverse psychological outcomes, including acute stress, moral injury, and depression or anxiety symptoms. Although several reports have sought to identify the types of coping strategies used by HCWs over the course of the pandemic (e.g., physical activity, religion/spirituality, meditation, and alcohol), it remains unclear which factors may influence HCWs' choice of these coping strategies. Accordingly, using a qualitative approach, the purpose of the present study was to gain a deeper understanding of the factors influencing HCWs' choice of coping strategies during the COVID-19 pandemic in Canada. Fifty-one HCWs participated in virtual, semi-structured interviews between February and June 2021. Interview transcripts were analysed through an inductive thematic approach, yielding two primary themes. First, HCWs described an ongoing shift in their approach to coping depending on their mental “bandwidth”, ranging

from “quick fix” to more “intentional effort” strategies to engage in proactive strategies to improve mental health. Second, many HCWs identified various barriers to desired coping strategies during the pandemic, including the preponderance of pandemic- and other circumstantial-related barriers. The findings from this study offer a unique understanding of the factors influencing HCWs' choice of coping strategies under novel and increased stress. This knowledge will be central to developing appropriate forms of support and resources to equip HCWs throughout and after the pandemic period, and in mitigating the potential adverse mental health impacts of this period of prolonged stress and potential trauma.

Determinants of Acceptance of COVID-19 Vaccination in Healthcare and Public Health Professionals: A Review

MDPI Vaccines | 31 January 2023

Fathema Ghare, Rehab Meckawy, Michael Moore and Marta Lomazzi

Vaccinations of healthcare workers (HCWs) aim to directly protect them from occupational diseases, and indirectly protect their patients and communities. However, studies increasingly highlight that HCWs can be vaccine hesitant. This review aims to analyze HCWs' and public health professionals' sentiments toward COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019) vaccination and determinants across different countries. A search strategy was conducted in PubMed using keywords such as “COVID-19”, “sentiment/acceptance”, “healthcare workers”, “vaccine hesitancy”, and “influenza”. A total of 56 articles were selected for in-depth analyses. The highest COVID-19 vaccination uptake was found in an Italian study (98.9%), and the lowest in Cyprus (30%). Older age, male gender, the medical profession, higher education level, presence of comorbidities, and previous influenza vaccination were associated with vaccine acceptance. Factors for low acceptance were perceived side effects of the vaccine, perceived lack of effectiveness and efficacy, and lack of information and knowledge. Factors for acceptance were knowledge, confidence in the vaccine, government, and health authorities, and increased perception of fear and susceptibility. All studies focused on healthcare providers; no studies focusing on public health professionals' sentiments could be found, indicating a gap in research that needs to be addressed. Interventions must be implemented with vaccination campaigns to improve COVID-19 vaccine acceptance.

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

RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Why Are We Delaying Coverage of New HIV Prevention?

Aidsmap | 26 January 2023

At first glance, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force's (USPSTF) December 13, 2022, release of its draft updated recommendations for Prevention of HIV Infection: Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) is a positive development in increasing access to PrEP and accordingly preventing transmission of HIV. However, belying progress in this space is the reality that private payers will not be required to provide coverage of long-acting injectable (LAI) PrEP with zero patient out-of-pocket costs (known as first dollar coverage) for years, until January of 2025 or 2026. The USPSTF's recommendations were released just one week shy of the one-year anniversary of the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) approval of cabotegravir, a new LAI form of PrEP that is administered every two months. LAI PrEP is the latest iteration in an increasingly successful progression of antiretroviral therapy and PrEP products that reduce HIV transmission. Injected at two-month intervals, it is revolutionary for its duration of protection, which improves patient adherence to the PrEP regimen. Increased patient adherence to the regimen is directly correlated with lowering the risk of transmission. For patients who struggle with adherence, LAI PrEP is a game-changer. Yet, this innovation must contend with the fragmented system of prevention policy governance, which threatens to impair clarity for payers and providers and, most concerningly, prevents patients from accessing the protection they need from HIV infection.

Hepatitis delta very common in people who inject drugs with HIV and hepatitis B

Aidsmap | 26 January 2023

One in two people with HIV and hepatitis B with a history of injecting drug use had coinfection with hepatitis delta, a virus that depends on hepatitis B to replicate and leads to far worse liver disease outcomes, an analysis of people living with HIV in Europe has found. Hepatitis delta levels in other groups of people with HIV matched those in the general population, the study reported. The findings are published in the journal *HIV Medicine*. Hepatitis delta (hepatitis D) is a defective virus that can only

replicate in the presence of hepatitis B virus. It uses hepatitis B surface antigen proteins to assemble new viruses. As hepatitis B surface antigen is difficult to clear with hepatitis B antiviral treatments, current treatments for hepatitis B do not suppress hepatitis D. A new antiviral, bulevirtide (Hepcludex), has been shown to suppress hepatitis D replication in between half and two-thirds of those treated.

As with COVID-19, the effects of TB can linger long after it is cured

Spotlight | 26 January 2023

According to the World Health Organization, of the roughly 10 million people who fall ill with TB annually, over 80% survive, in most cases due to a six-month treatment course. Unfortunately, as with long COVID, being cured is not always the last hurdle and many people go on to struggle with post-TB lung disease. Professor Keertan Dheda, a general physician, pulmonologist, and critical care specialist who heads up the Division of Pulmonology at Groote Schuur Hospital and the University of Cape Town, explains that post-TB lung disease refers to any chronic lung or respiratory abnormality (residual structural damage or scarring) after the successful completion of TB treatment.

HIV at center of latest culture war after Tennessee rejects federal funds

The Washington Post | 26 January 2023

Tennessee has rejected millions of dollars from the federal government for HIV/AIDS prevention — a move that public health experts worry will politicize the response to the disease and has the potential to destabilize decades of progress in getting the epidemic under control. The controversy, which critics say was triggered by questions about the inclusion of transgender and abortion rights groups, is the latest example of Republican pushback against federal leadership and oversight that has resulted in clashes in areas that once had bipartisan support.

Family planning in Global South hit by UK aid cuts, research finds

The Telegraph | 26 January 2023

The use of contraception is soaring around the world, but international funding to meet demand for family planning in the developing world has been hit by sharp UK aid cuts, research has found. A survey of more than 80 nations found more women were using contraception than ever before and contraceptive users had doubled in many nations over the past decade. Growth was sharpest in sub-Saharan Africa, according to the research by the FP2030 family planning alliance.

Medicare Seeks Public Input on Covering PrEP to Prevent HIV

POZ | 26 January 2023

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is considering national Medicare coverage of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent HIV, notably the long-acting injectable Apretude, which is administered to people at risk for HIV every two months. As part of the analysis, CMS is seeking input from the public, particularly comments that include scientific evidence. Comments can be submitted online on CMS.gov until February 11. Medicare is the U.S. health insurance program for people 65 and older and for people under 65 who have certain illnesses. CMS is part of the Department of Health and Human Services. Currently, Medicare coverage of PrEP varies by state, county and plan, Endpoints News reports. But if after completing its national coverage determination for PrEP, CMS concludes that PrEP is reasonable and necessary, then Medicare contractors in all states and jurisdictions will be required to cover PrEP.

Whooping cough cases increase rapidly, officials urge vigilance

Health-e News | 27 January 2023

The number of laboratory confirmed whooping cough (pertussis) cases in South Africa has risen dramatically, with cases doubling in just a few weeks. In December the National Institute for Communicable Diseases reported a total of 408 cases countrywide, with 230 of those cases in the Western Cape. Speaking to Health-e News, Professor Cheryl Cohen, Head of the Centre for Respiratory Diseases and Meningitis at the NICD said reported cases now stand at 818, but could be higher. "These numbers are a minimum estimate as many pertussis cases don't get a specific test and are not diagnosed."

WHO Experts Confer on Possible End to COVID International Health Emergency

Health Policy Watch | 27 January 2023

The World Health Organization's Emergency Committee on the COVID-19 pandemic was meeting Friday evening – with mixed signals emerging about whether the expert advisory group would recommend that the global health agency end the state of international public health emergency over the virus whose emergence stunned the world a little more than three years ago. At a press conference in December 2022, WHO's Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus expressed hopes that the emergency that he first declared on 30 January, 2020, under WHO's International Health Regulations, could finally be concluded sometime in 2023.

South Africa's weapon for the early detection of Covid-19

IOL | 28 January 2023

Surveillance and early detection of new pathogens and variants is the weapon our scientists are using to keep their finger on the pulse. Professor Tulio de Oliveira, of the Centre for Epidemic Response & Innovation confirmed that just weeks ago, health authorities instructed that each positive case undergoes PCR tests. These must be made available for genomic surveillance and to have a short turnaround time.

Children Denied Same Access to Treatment for HIV/AIDS as Adults

VOA News | 28 January 2023

The U.N.'s main AIDS program says thousands of children are dying from HIV/AIDS because, unlike adults, they do not receive treatment for the deadly disease. HIV/AIDS is no longer an automatic death sentence. People infected with the disease can live a normal lifespan, provided they receive treatment and care. Unfortunately, there is a glaring disparity between the way children and adults with HIV/AIDS are treated. UNAIDS spokeswoman Charlotte Sector says 76 percent of adults have access to treatment but only half of children living with HIV are receiving lifesaving treatment.

WATCH: Spike in measles cases

SABC | 29 January 2023

The National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) has warned that the measles outbreak is spreading fast. It's now in five provinces, with at least 406 confirmed cases. The NICD, along with the Health Department, first confirmed a measles outbreak after around 200 cases were recorded in December. Now let us discuss this we are now joined via zoom by Christine Muhigana, Unicef South Africa's representative.

Children and teens aren't doing enough physical activity - new study sounds a health warning

The Conversation | 29 January 2023

Physical inactivity is the fourth leading cause of death worldwide. It's also associated with chronic illness and disability. Recent research estimates that the world could see close to half a billion new cases of major chronic diseases by 2030 if people don't get more active. Regular physical activity helps to prevent and manage many chronic diseases. Popular ways to be physically active include walking, cycling, and playing sports. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that children and adolescents (5-17 years old) get an average of at least 60 minutes per day of moderate to vigorous intensity physical activity. This should incorporate vigorous aerobic activities, as well as those that strengthen muscle and bone, at least three days a week.

HIV vaccine research set to change focus in wake of Mosaico disappointment

Spotlight | 30 January 2023

Hopes for the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) Mosaico vaccine – the only HIV vaccine candidate in late-stage (Phase 3) clinical trials – were dashed with manufacturer Janssen Pharmaceuticals' recent announcement that the vaccine lacked efficacy in preventing HIV infection. In the wake of this announcement, top South African HIV clinicians are now setting their sights on different approaches to finding an HIV vaccine. The Mosaico study was conducted in several countries in North and South America and Europe to test the safety and efficacy of the vaccine in 3 900 cisgender men and transgender individuals who have sex with cisgender men and/or transgender individuals. Although the vaccine did not stop HIV transmission, it was found to be safe.

Statement on the fourteenth meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

WHO | 30 January 2023

The WHO Director-General has the pleasure of transmitting the Report of the fourteenth meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR) Emergency Committee regarding the coronavirus 2019 disease (COVID-19) pandemic, held on Friday 27 January 2023, from 14:00 to 17:00 CET. The WHO Director-General concurs with the advice offered by the Committee regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and determines that the event continues to constitute a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC). The Director-General acknowledges the Committee's views that the COVID-19 pandemic is probably at a transition point and appreciates the advice of the Committee to navigate this transition carefully and mitigate the potential negative consequences.

Bringing Neglected Tropical Diseases out of the Silo

Health Policy Watch | 30 January 2023

The number of people requiring treatment for Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) decreased from 2.19 to 1.65 billion between 2010 and 2021 – an impressive 25 percent decline. However, interlinked challenges, including the COVID pandemic and, now, accelerating patterns of climate change are putting this progress at risk. On World NTD Day, we need to recognise these emerging challenges and look to more integrated approaches. The impressive 25 percent decrease in the number of people requiring treatment for NTDs and the mounting number of countries that have eliminated at least one NTD are testimony to the progress being made to stamp out some of the world's most deadly and debilitating diseases – which strike mostly at communities in developing countries and at people living in poverty.

Media Statement: Government opens for additional COVID-19 booster doses

SA Coronavirus | 30 January 2023

The Department of Health would like to announce that additional COVID-19 vaccine booster doses are available at all active vaccination sites across the country with effect from Monday, 30 January 2023. The is in line with the announcement by Minister of Health, Dr Joe Phaahla, earlier this month that government has been inundated with requests from fully-vaccinated members of the public, especially the most vulnerable groups, seeking to maintain and enhance their protection against current and evolving COVID variants.

COVID-19 vaccines don't contain HIV

AP News | 30 January 2023

AP'S ASSESSMENT: False. There is no evidence that any COVID-19 vaccine contains HIV, an expert in infectious diseases and vaccinology told The Associated Press. Experts have repeatedly shot down similar claims in the past, explaining that the vaccines also do not make recipients more susceptible to contracting HIV. THE FACTS: An Instagram post featuring baseless claims that the COVID-19 vaccines contain HIV, or human immunodeficiency virus, has spread widely online in recent days. The post, which was viewed over 18,000 times, features a video with audio of someone stating, "The COVID-19 shot contains HIV." The post's caption also includes the same claim, and also says: "So many Vaccine Aids victims." The claim is baseless. The COVID-19 vaccines do not contain HIV, according to John Swartzberg, a clinical professor of infectious diseases and vaccinology at the University of California, Berkeley.

SAHPRA Registers Paxlovid, An Anti-Viral Medicine For COVID-19

SAHPRA | 30 January 2023

The South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) has registered Paxlovid, an anti-viral medicine manufactured by Pfizer, to treat COVID-19. Paxlovid, which contains Nirmatrelvir (150mg) and Ritonavir (100mg), is a medicine that is used for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 in adults who do not require supplemental oxygen and who are at increased risk for progression to severe COVID-19. Paxlovid consists of tablets for a 5-day oral treatment regimen, with morning and evening doses. Expected side-effects include hypersensitivity reactions, diarrhoea, vomiting, and altered taste.

Thumbs up for Steve Biko Academic Hospital's prostate cancer facility

IOL | 30 January 2023

The new state-of-the-art prostate cancer facility currently under construction at Steve Biko Academic Hospital received a thumbs up from the ministry of Health. This came after the Deputy Minister of Health, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, together with the EU Commissioner of Health and Food Safety, Stella Kyriakides,

and University of Pretoria vice-chancellor Tawana Kupe, recently conducted a site-visit at the Pretoria facility.

Fraud, waste and abuse continue to plague medical schemes industry, costing up to R28bn a year

Daily Maverick | 30 January 2023

One of the largest medical aid administrators in the country, Medscheme, is responsible for the administration of 11 schemes including Bonitas, Polmed and Fedhealth, and also provides forensic services to other schemes it does not administer. Although the Covid pandemic thrust healthcare into the global spotlight in recent times, the Council for Medical Schemes (CMS) says the sector still loses R22-billion to R28-billion a year in South Africa alone due to fraud, waste and abuse (FWA).

Artificial intelligence can help patients interpret home tests for COVID-19

Medical Express | 30 January 2023

New machine learning research led by George Mason University's Professor Farrokh Alemi and Professor Janusz Wojtusiak provides a way for patients and clinicians to better predict whether symptoms are due to COVID-19, influenza, or RSV. A more accurate diagnosis leads to better decisions on course of care to heal patients and prevent the disease from spreading. With fellow George Mason University researchers and Vibrent Health, Alemi and Wojtusiak recently published a series of articles in a special edition of the Journal of Quality Management in Healthcare discussing how artificial intelligence (AI) can help in the diagnosis of COVID from a combination of symptoms and home tests.

NCI awards \$3.5 million grant to eliminate cervical cancer among women with HIV in low-resource countries

News Medical Life Science | 30 January 2023

Weill Cornell Medicine, Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Fla., and the University of North Carolina have received a \$3.5 million, five-year grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI), part of the National Institutes of Health, to improve screening and preventative treatment of cervical cancer for women living with HIV in low-resource countries. Women living with HIV are more vulnerable to cervical cancer, especially in the low- and middle-income countries. Eighty-five percent of cervical cancer deaths occur in these settings, where high quality preventative services are often lacking.

Providers, Advocates Call for New Strategies to Improve Access to HIV Care

HIVMA | 30 January 2023

A significant number of people with HIV are left out of the health system, and new delivery models are needed to improve their access to needed care, according to a new report released by the HIV Medicine Association. The report notes that in 2020 more than 20% of people with HIV had unmet mental health needs, and nearly 20% experienced unstable housing or homelessness, making it more difficult to access traditional health services. The report highlights two promising approaches to HIV care: Street medicine takes health care outside of the four walls of a clinic and differentiated service delivery tailors care to the specific needs of the patient. The report outlines how state and federal policymakers can use these models to tailor and improve access to critical health services. "The United States cannot make meaningful progress toward ending the HIV epidemic without addressing long-standing, systemic barriers to care," said Michelle Cespedes, MD, MS, chair of HIVMA. "Federal policymakers and other health leaders can help improve access to HIV services for those who need them most by enacting policies that accelerate implementation of new ways to deliver health care services." People with HIV contributed to the report, along with public health officials, community leaders, clinical providers and patient advocates.

Nigeria: Factsheet - What You Should Know About the Diphtheria Outbreak in Nigeria

allAfrica | 30 January 2023

An outbreak of diphtheria, a serious disease that is especially harmful to children, has been confirmed in Nigeria. But what is diphtheria, and what leads to its spread? The agency that tackles public health emergencies in Nigeria has raised the alarm over an outbreak of diphtheria, a serious bacterial infection. In an advisory on 20 January 2023, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) said it was monitoring cases in four states, where all 123 cases so far have been confirmed.

Patient engagement can improve HIV care in the Caribbean

Aidsmap | 31 January 2023

A project to increase engagement of people living with HIV in improving the quality of HIV care in the Caribbean, reported in the journal *Global Health: Science and Practice*, showed that increased mutual understanding and empathy between people living with HIV and health care providers can be achieved in regions with poor records of engaging people living with HIV in improving health care services. Bringing people living with HIV onto quality improvement teams in Caribbean countries with poor histories of patient involvement increased health providers' attention to issues such as strengthening patient confidentiality and protecting people living with HIV from harassment from other patients. The evaluation concluded that successful engagement of people living with HIV requires planning for real, consistent and equal participation of patients at all levels of programme development and evaluation. It also requires a new culture of and language for engagement. People living with HIV should be given clear leadership roles, and both people living with HIV and health care providers need to learn new skills and develop insights into each other's lived experience and perspectives. These can help to counter the power differences between patient and provider that are typical of health care delivery.

Decriminalising sex work can protect sex workers – and everybody else – from GBV

Bhekisisa | 31 January 2023

South Africa could see a drop in gender-based violence (GBV) if it follows through on a draft Bill to scrap all existing legal penalties on sex work. The proposed changes to the current legislation, which will make it legal for adults to buy and sell sex, was announced in December. If it's signed into law, the Bill will also clear people who were previously charged or jailed of any wrongdoing. The period for public comment on the Bill closes today.

[Return to Top](#)

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!

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

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

South African Health Review 2021

Health Systems Trust | 2021

When it comes to service delivery and access in both the public and private health sectors, COVID-19 has put everything to the test. It has demonstrated how central public health security is to health and livelihoods, and how pandemic health emergencies expose the weaknesses and vulnerabilities of health systems, costing lives and causing immeasurable damage to economies. Few could have imagined the impact of COVID-19 when this pandemic reached our shores in March 2020.

This edition considers the government's and broader health sector's response to COVID-19, explores the current challenges facing the health system at this unprecedented time, and reflects on lessons learnt for future for public health emergencies. The chapters offer information on, inter alia, the challenges of

balancing lives with livelihoods, and the impact of COVID-19 on different cadres of healthcare workers, especially Community Health Workers who found themselves at the forefront of our COVID-19 response. Other areas covered include the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations like children, persons with disabilities, farmworkers, migrants, and the poorest in our society.

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

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

The Lancet Summit - Childhood obesity: consequences across the life course

March 2-3, 2023 | Virtual | Free to attend

In partnership with the World Health Organization, UNICEF and the World Obesity Federation. Join us online for the Lancet Summit - Childhood obesity: consequences across the life course.

Resilient Health Systems for Africa: Re-envisioning the Future Now

For seven years Amref Health Africa, together with like-minded partners have been hosting the Africa Health Agenda International Conference (AHAIC), a biennial high impact convening that brings together diverse stakeholders from around the world to discuss challenges and opportunities for improving health in Africa.

Date: March 5th - 8th 2023

Venue: Kigali Convention Centre, Rwanda

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

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING (HSS) UNIT: Information System Support Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist

Closing date: 6 February 2023

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING (HSS) UNIT: Facility Team Leaders (4) – Ethekwini District

Closing date: 9 February 2023

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING (HSS) UNIT: Stakeholder Liaison Co-Ordinator – DO ART Project

Closing date: 9 February 2023

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING (HSS) UNIT: Area Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (SA SURE PRO Project) – Zululand District

Closing date: 9 February 2023

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING (HSS) UNIT: GENETIC COUNSELLOR – Pregnancy Exposure Registries (Per) Project

Closing date: 13 February 2023

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



Copyright © 2019 HEALTH SYSTEMS TRUST, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

hst@hst.org.za

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)