



HEALTH SYSTEMS TRUST BULLETIN

4 March 2011

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Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

Policy Brief: Should we pursue a universal health system or something else in South Africa?

Strategies for Health Insurance for Equity in Less Developed Countries.

This brief arises from the SHIELD (Strategies for Health Insurance for Equity in Less Developed Countries) project, which ended in September 2010. The brief summarises findings from the final phase of SHIELD, which focused on the feasibility and sustainability of alternative health financing reforms in relation to their respective resource requirements....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://newsletters.tenacityworks.com/ty/vfijkl/nlyurykur/r> [Accessed: 3 March 2011]

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Design and methods of a longitudinal study investigating the impact of antiretroviral treatment on the partnerships and sexual behaviour of HIV-infected individuals in rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

Nuala McGrath, Linda Richter and Marie-Louise Newell. BMC Public Health 2011, 11:121. Published: 19 February 2011.

Diagnosed HIV-infected people form an increasingly large sub-population in South Africa, one that will continue to grow with widely promoted HIV testing and greater availability of antiretroviral therapy (ART). For HIV prevention and support, understanding the impact of long-term ART on family and sexual relationships is a health research priority. This includes improving the availability of longitudinal demographic and health data on HIV-infected individuals who have accessed ART services but who are not yet ART-eligible....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/11/121> [Accessed: 3 March 2011]

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Tobacco control in Sub-Saharan Africa: Moving from Knowledge Discovery (research) to Policy Delivery (practice)

Lekan Ayo-Yusuf. PHASA. Published: 15 February 2011.

Use of tobacco in the form of cigarettes and snuff is common in Africa. However, data on tobacco use prevalence in several countries in sub-Saharan African region is scarce. The most comprehensive global comparison of adult smoking rates suggests a smoking prevalence of 18% (28% among males and 8% among females). Because smoking rates in the African region, especially among women, are considered to be relatively low compared to the more developed countries, the tobacco industry has turned its attention to the African region as its future growth market....[Read More »](#)

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“One Teabag Is Better than Four”: Participants Response to the Discontinuation of 2% PRO2000/5 Microbicide Gel in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Mitzy Gafos, Misiwe Mzimela, Hlengiwe Ndlovu, Nkosinathi Mhlongo, Yael Hoogland, and Richard Mutemwa. PLoS One. 2011; 6(1). Published: 21 January 2011.

The Microbicides Development Programme evaluated the safety and effectiveness of 0.5% and 2% PRO2000/5 microbicide gels in reducing the risk of vaginally acquired HIV. In February 2008 the Independent Data Monitoring Committee recommended that evaluation of 2% PRO2000/5 gel be discontinued due to futility. The Africa Centre site systematically collected participant responses to this discontinuation.....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3024978/?tool=pubmed> [Accessed: 3 March 2011]

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Scaling up HIV treatment in resource-limited countries: The challenge of staff shortages

Christian Laurent. Journal of Public Health Policy. Published: 24 February 2011.

Scaling up antiretroviral therapy (ART) in resource-limited countries is a major challenge for health professionals and program managers due to the large number of patients and the severe shortage of health-care workers. The estimated number of patients in those settings requiring ART in 2009 was 14.6 million, of whom 64 per cent were not yet treated. The World Health Organization estimates that there is an overall deficit of more than 4 million physicians, nurses, midwives, and support workers for achieving the essential health interventions and the Millennium Development Goals (including the scaling up of HIV care). Strengthening the health systems through education, job-specific training, recruitment, and retention of health-care workers is imperative. In the meantime, task shifting is a key element of the response to the staff shortages, but further innovative models of care delivery are needed....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.palgrave-journals.com/jphp/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/jphp20118a.html> [Accessed: 3 March 2011]

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Migration and health in SADC: A review of the literature

Vearey, J., Wheeler, B. and Jurgens-Bleeker, S., 2011. International Organization for Migration, Pretoria: South Africa.

This review presents a synthesis of published literature relating to migration and health in the Southern African Development Community (SADC). To support this review, a set of key informant interviews with representatives of academic institutions and international organizations working on migration and health in SADC have been undertaken to supplement the findings from the literature.....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.migration.org.za/publication/vearey-j-wheeler-b-and-jurgens-bleeker-s-2011-migration-and-health-sadc-review-literatur> [Accessed: 3 March 2011]

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Recent News

Govt plans health care teams

IOL. Published: 3 March 2011.

The government was introducing the new family health care teams because it wanted to get better outcomes from the people, who were currently known as community health care workers, Fidel Hadebe, the spokesman for the Department of Health, said this week. Last week, Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan allocated R1.2 billion for this function over a three-year period. He said it was part of a number of initiatives that would lay the foundation for the national health insurance....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.iol.co.za/business/business-news/govt-plans-health-care-teams-1.1035674> [Accessed: 4 March 2011]

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Finance body warns NHI will knock GDP

Linda Ensor. *Business Day*. Published: 2 March 2011.

Growth in gross domestic product (GDP) would fall if the government decided to fund the proposed National Health Insurance (NHI) scheme through tax increases rather than by borrowing, research conducted by the Financial and Fiscal Commission has shown. Private consumption spending and private investment would also fall if the government decided to pursue this option, the commission's acting chairman and CEO, Bongani Khumalo, said yesterday. He was addressing a joint sitting of Parliament's finance committees which are holding public hearings on the budget's fiscal framework and revenue proposals.... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=135920> [Accessed: 3 March 2011]

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SECTION27 and the TAC welcome the increased budget for health

Health-e News. Published: 28 February 2011.

SECTION27 and the TAC welcome the proposed increases in health expenditure outlined in the budget tabled by Minister of Finance Pravin Gordhan on 23 February 2011. In particular, we welcome the Minister's commitment to significant investment in strengthening the public health sector. However, we are concerned that the additional R11 billion available for 2011/12 will not necessarily translate into improvements in the delivery of health care services in the absence of a reasonable plan to address endemic and systemic problems with budgeting and expenditure within health departments at all spheres of government....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20033092> [Accessed: 1 March 2011]

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UN celebrates birth of powerful new agency for women and girls

UN News Centre. Published: 24 February 2011.

Luminaries from the worlds of politics, entertainment, business, the media, music and film are joining the United Nations today as it celebrates the birth of a powerful new agency giving voice to women and girls worldwide. UN Women – formally known as the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women – was established in July 2010 by the General Assembly, merging four previous UN bodies dealing with women's issues....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=37612&Cr=UN+Women&Cr1=> [Accessed: 1 March 2011]

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Is HIV drug resistance spreading? Early warning signals say `yes`

Aidsmap. Published: 3 March 2011.

Signals warning of the transmission of drug-resistant HIV are growing in low and middle-income countries, and governments should step up surveillance efforts as they scale up treatment, experts concluded today at the Eighteenth Retroviruses Conference in Boston. A World Health Organization survey of `early warning indicators` - levels of performance that treatment services should be hitting in order to minimise the risk of drug resistance – showed substantial problems with drug stock-outs, loss to follow-up and patients picking up drugs on time in nine African countries in 2008.....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.aidsmap.com/page/1684209/> [Accessed: 3 March 2011]

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Training and Resources

Popular skills-building sessions to feature at 5th SA AIDS Conference

www.saaids.com

Skills-building sessions at the SA AIDS Conference series have always been a very popular activity with a tangible value that delegates could use and apply back at the workplace or in their communities. Some of the skills-building sessions that have been lined up for conference delegates:

- The Biggest HIV/AIDS PR Blunders of All Time and How to Avoid Them: practical skills on writing a press release and engaging with the media.
- Nurses and the ART of Comprehensive HIV/TB Care: essential skills for professional nurses to initiate and manage pregnant women, children and adults on antiretroviral therapy (ART) and to diagnose and manage common opportunistic illnesses, with an emphasis on TB.
- HIV and Opportunistic Infections - Case Studies in Adults: reviewing challenging case studies in HIV management, with a focus on opportunistic infections.
- Assessing the Capacity of a Health Facility Manager: background principles for health care managers in particular, pertaining to capacity assessment including common pitfalls and practical tools. The responsibility of management and specific roles with regards to job profiling will also be explored.
- Making Evidence-informed Decisions Using the Latest HIV/AIDS Evidence: Workshop participants will learn about the role of the Cochrane Collaboration in the fight against HIV/AIDS, how to navigate the Cochrane Library to find relevant reviews of HIV/AIDS interventions, and how to interpret the results of a Cochrane systematic review
- Medical Male Circumcision: Standardised Instrument Kits for Adult Circumcision and Early Infant Male Circumcision Devices: providing clinicians with an overview of the pre-assembled disposable kit for adult male

circumcision using the forceps-guided technique and the three WHO-endorsed devices for early infant male circumcision.

CEU accreditation: Medical doctors can obtain 32 CEUs (Continuing Education Units) when they attend the SA AIDS Conference. General enquiries for SA AIDS Conference: sec@saids.com or +27 (0) 12 816 9000.

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New PHASA website

<http://www.phasa.org.za/>

PHASA has launched a new website providing the latest information on public health in South Africa. PHASA advocates equitable access to the basic conditions necessary to achieve health for all South African as well as equitable access to effective health care. PHASA will work with other public health associations and related organisations and advocate on national and international issues that impact on the conditions for a healthy society.

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Reports and Publications

The State of the World's Children 2010: Adolescence – An age of opportunity

UNICEF

Young people are the key to a more equitable and prosperous world, according to UNICEF's new flagship report, 'The State of the World's Children 2011 – Adolescence: An Age of Opportunity,' launched today at UN headquarters in New York. The report says that investing in the world's 1.2 billion adolescents – those who are between the ages of 10 and 19 – can break entrenched cycles of poverty....[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: http://www.unicef.org/adolescence/files/SOWC_2011.pdf [approx. 3Mb]

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WHO recommendations for induction of labour

World Health Organization, Dept. of Reproductive Health and Research.

The primary goal of the guidelines is to improve the quality of care and outcomes for pregnant women undergoing induction of labour in under-resourced settings. The target audience of these guidelines includes obstetricians, midwives, general medical practitioners, health-care managers and public health policy-makers. The guidance provided is evidence-based and covers selected topics related to induction of labour that were regarded as critical priority questions by an international, multidisciplinary group of health-care workers, consumers and other stakeholders....[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/maternal_perinatal_health/9789241501156/en/index.html

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Conferences

Toward universal health coverage in Africa

Second Conference of African Health Economics and Policy Association.

15th - 17th March 2011. Saly, Palm Beach Hotel - Senegal.

URL: <http://afhea.org/>

AfHEA calls on all African health economists and health policy analysts, those working in Africa or on research of relevance to Africa to attend the Second Conference of the African Health Economics and Policy Association (AfHEA), which will be held in Saly Portudal (Palm Beach), Senegal from 15th to 17th March 2011. The overall theme of this conference is "Toward universal health coverage in Africa". Universal coverage is understood to mean providing financial protection against health care costs for all, as well as ensuring access to quality health care for all when needed.

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5th Annual South African Institute of Health Care Managers Conference

6-7 June 2011. ICC, Durban, South Africa.

URL: <http://www.saihcm.co.za/2011conference>

This conference will focus on successful strategies for improving health care delivery in South Africa and a special focus will be on creative and innovative management solutions; ethics and management; health care delivery; and health and migration. The 5th Annual conference is expected to draw health care managers from across all provinces in South Africa, and will represent both the public and private sector.

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Call for Abstracts: 6th SAHARA Conference and Exhibition

28 November – 2 December 2011. Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University Conference Centre, Port Elizabeth.

URL: <http://www.sahara.org.za>

The SAHARA Conference has the vision of reducing the number of new HIV infections through the promotion of collaborative research, research capacity building, networking and disseminating scientific evidence. We invite you to submit abstracts based on one of the following themes: HIV/AIDS and human rights; MARPS, hiv prevention, accessibility, uptake and adherence to treatment, political accountability in the AIDS response.

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Call for Abstracts: Towards Global Health Equity: Opportunities and Threats - The 13th Triennial World Congress on Public Health

21-29 April 2012. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

URL: <http://wfpha.confex.com/wfpha/2012/cfp.cgi>

The 13th Triennial World Congress on Public Health, to be hosted by Ethiopia and held from April 21-29, 2012 in Addis Ababa, will bring together leaders in health from across the globe to discuss these important issues on African soil. The Congress will harness the synergy and strengths of innovation and experience from the developing and developed worlds. It will address the enormous challenges and opportunities facing public health organizations worldwide in making progress towards collectively attaining global health equity.

Abstract Deadline: Friday, October 21, 2011.

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Job Opportunities

South Africa Federation for Mental Health: National Executive Director

Closing date: 22 March 2011

The South Africa Federation for Mental Health (SAFMH) is a non-profit organisation aiming to coordinate, monitor and promote services for persons with Intellectual Disability (Mental Handicap) and Psychiatric Disability (Mental Illness), as well as promoting mental health and well-being. SAFMH seeks to appoint a National Executive Director, based in Johannesburg.

For more details: <http://www.ngopulse.org/opportunity/south-africa-federation-mental-health-national-executive-director>

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