

HST Bulletin



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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Available data sources for monitoring non-communicable diseases and their risk factors in South Africa

South African Medical Journal | Published: April 2017.

M Wandai, J Aagaard-Hansen, C Day, B Sartorius, K J Hofman

Health information systems for monitoring chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in South Africa (SA) are relatively less advanced than those for infectious diseases (particularly tuberculosis and HIV) and for maternal and child health. NCDs are now the largest cause of premature mortality owing to exposure to risk factors arising from obesity that include physical inactivity and accessible, cheap but unhealthy diets. The National Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases 2013 - 17 developed by the SA National Department of Health outlines targets and monitoring priorities.

American Mock World Health Organization: An Innovative Model for Student Engagement in Global Health Policy

Global Health: Science and Practice | Published: 24 March 2017.

Mia Lei, Neha Acharya, Edith Kwok Man Lee, Emma Catherine Holcomb, Veronica Kapoor

The American Mock World Health Organization (AMWHO) provides a platform for students to apply their knowledge of global health policy through simulations of the World Health Assembly (WHA). This model engages and empowers future global leaders in health policy while sharpening their skills in diplomacy, public speaking, and conflict resolution. The major theme for the AMWHO 2015 was Universal Health Coverage, reflecting what the WHA had discussed in preceding months.

Patient Portals as a Tool for Health Care Engagement: A Mixed-Method Study of Older Adults With Varying Levels of Health Literacy and Prior Patient Portal Use

Journal of Medical Internet Research | Published: 30 March 2017.

Taya Irizarry, Jocelyn Shoemake, Marci Lee Nilsen, Sara Czaja, Scott Beach, Annette DeVito Dabb

Growing evidence that patient engagement improves health outcomes and reduces health care costs has fueled health providers' focus on patient portals as the primary access point for personal health information and patient-provider communication. Whereas much attention has been given to identifying characteristics of older adults who do and do not adopt patient portals and necessary adaptations to portal design, little is known about their attitudes and perceptions regarding patient portal use as a tool for engagement in their health care within the context of health literacy, experience navigating Web-based health information, and previous patient portal use.

“Culture Is So Interspersed”: Child-Minders’ and Health Workers’ Perceptions of Childhood Obesity in South Africa

Journal of Obesity | Published: 1 March 2017.

Roger Figueroa, Jaclyn Saltzman, Jessica Jarick Metcalfe, Angela Wiley

Forty-one million children globally are overweight or obese, with most rapid rate increases among low- and middle-income nations. Child-minders and health workers play a crucial role in obesity prevention efforts, but their perceptions of childhood obesity in low- and middle-income countries are poorly understood. This study aims to explore child-minders and health workers' perceptions of the causes, consequences, potential strategies, and barriers for childhood obesity prevention and intervention in Cape Town, South Africa and to provisionally test the fit of a socioecological framework to explain these perceptions.

Conceptions of Contraceptive Use in Rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa: Lessons for Programming

International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health | Published: 28 March 2017.

Catherine Ndinda, Tidings Ndhlovu, Nene Ernest Khalema

Community family planning programmes in South Africa arose from the controversial apartheid history of controlling the African population while encouraging the growth of European migrant population. Post-apartheid population policies shifted away from population control to aligning policies to the global agenda that placed emphasis on the link between population and development. The focus on population and development policies in post-apartheid South Africa is on social equality, justice and peace rather than controlling sections of the population. Given the shift, this paper interrogates the conceptions of contraceptive use among rural communities in KwaZulu-Natal. Our primary objective is to understand the dynamics surrounding access to and use of family planning services in peri-urban and rural areas of KwaZulu-Natal.

Improving antiretroviral therapy adherence in resource-limited settings at scale: a discussion of interventions and recommendations

Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 22 March 2017.

Jessica E Haberer, Lora Sabin, K Rivet Amico, Catherine Orrell, Omar Galárraga, Alexander C Tsai, Rachel C Vreeman, Ira Wilson, et al

Successful population-level antiretroviral therapy (ART) adherence will be necessary to realize both the clinical and prevention benefits of antiretroviral scale-up and, ultimately, the end of AIDS. Although many people living with HIV are adhering well, others struggle and most are likely to experience challenges in adherence that may threaten virologic suppression at some point during lifelong therapy. Despite the importance of ART adherence, supportive interventions have generally not been implemented at scale. The objective of this review is to summarize the recommendations of clinical, research, and public health experts for scalable ART adherence interventions in resource-limited settings.

Age-disparate sex and HIV risk for young women from 2002 to 2012 in South Africa

Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 26 December 2016.

Meredith Evans, Kathryn Risher, Nompumelelo Zungu, Olive Shisana, Sizulu Moyo, David D Celentano, et al

Age-disparate sex has long been considered a factor that increases HIV risk for young women in South Africa. However, recent studies from specific regions in South Africa have found conflicting evidence. Few studies have assessed the association between age-disparate partnerships (those involving an age gap of 5 years or more) and HIV risk at the national level. This study investigates the relationship between age-disparate sex and HIV status among young women aged 15–24 in South Africa.

Ask women living with HIV what's needed to achieve safe pregnancies in serodifferent relationships

Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 8 March 2017.

Luisa Orza, Susan Bewley, E Tyler Crone, Lillian Mworeko, Angelina Namiba, Teresia Otieno, et al
Safe conception and healthy motherhood starts with upholding all women's reproductive desires and rights. This includes a pleasurable sex life, access to comprehensive non-judgmental factual information, and choices over a range of contraceptive methods, to determine if and when to become pregnant.

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RECENT NEWS

"Depression: let's talk" says WHO, as depression tops list of causes of ill health

WHO | 30 March 2017.

Depression is the leading cause of ill health and disability worldwide. According to the latest estimates from WHO, more than 300 million people are now living with depression, an increase of more than 18% between 2005 and 2015.

World TB Day – Launch of online TB Surveillance Dashboard

Medical Brief | 29 March 2017.

South Africa has the highest estimated tuberculosis (TB) incidence rate amongst the 22 high burden countries globally, with 834 new TB cases per 100,000 population. But there is evidence that the rate of new confirmed TB cases in the country is dropping. Now an online TB Surveillance Dashboard has been developed to better track and analyse the infectious disease.

How successful were the millennium development goals?

The Guardian | 30 March 2017.

As the world embarks on new development goals, there is still confusion about the success of the MDGs. But our research shows that at least 21 million lives were saved due to accelerated progress.

Health department in sick bay: R3.2bn budget shortfall leaves 11.5% of jobs unfilled

Times Live | 4 April 2017.

The Department of Health has revealed that it cannot afford to hire its full complement of nurses and doctors, telling MPs it is short of at least R3.2-billion for the 2017-2018 financial year.

Committee hears of NHI pilot problems

BD Live | 29 March 2017.

Teething problems at provincial health departments, including a lack of co-ordination, poor planning and uncertainty in districts, remain stumbling blocks to the effective testing of how the National Health Insurance (NHI) will work at pilot sites.

In primary school and pregnant: The shocking numbers

Times Live | 27 March 2017.

More than 190 learners in Grade 3, 4 and 5 fell pregnant between 2014 and 2016, a response to a parliamentary question has revealed.

Latest transmission patterns for drug resistant TB pose a new challenge

The Conversation | 23 March 2017.

The emergence of drug resistant tuberculosis has resulted in scientists taking a more aggressive and urgent approach to research into the development of the disease.

New study helps crack the problem of diagnosing TB in people with HIV

The Conversation | 24 March 2017.

Diagnosing TB in people who have HIV has been a challenge because they often have low levels of the bacteria in their system. This has been a serious problem for a country like South Africa where 454,000 people are infected with TB each year, half of whom are HIV positive. The Conversation Africa's Health and Medicine Editor Candice Bailey spoke to Professor Bavesh Kana about a landmark study that provides a solution to tackling this diagnostic problem.

The Story Behind the First AIDS Drug

Time | 19 March 2017.

Today, if someone is diagnosed with HIV, he or she can choose among 41 drugs that can treat the disease. And there's a good chance that with the right combination, given at the right time, the drugs can keep HIV levels so low that the person never gets sick. That wasn't always the case.

Busted: The myths that could be standing between you and the HIV prevention pill

Bhekisisa | 5 April 2017.

A single daily tablet could slash your risk of HIV infection, could it be for you?

Call for nominations to serve on HSRC Board

Human Sciences Research Council | 30 March 2017.

The Minister of Science and Technology invites interested parties to nominate candidates to be considered for appointment to the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) Board. The Board of the Council is being reconstituted in line with section 5 of the HSRC Act, 2008 (Act No. 17 of 2008).

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

TB Surveillance Dashboard

National Institute for Communicable Diseases | *Published: 24 March 2017.*

Real-time dashboard indicating the incidence trends in TB per province.

Girls' Globe

Girls' Globe is an innovative, women-led online magazine and a global network of individuals and organizations focused on the rights and health of women and girls. With expertise in the area of communications and advocacy [its] network spans over twenty countries with unique global reach and diversity. [its] readership spans almost every country with interests ranging from feminism to global development and women's health to motherhood, and beyond.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

National Strategic Plan on HIV, TB and STIs 2017 – 2022

SANAC | *Published: 31 March 2017.*

The South African National Strategic Plan on HIV, TB and STIs 2017 - 2022 (NSP) serves as a roadmap

for the next stage of our journey towards a future where these three diseases are no longer public health problems. This plan sets out the destinations – or goals – of our shared journey and establishes landmarks in the form of specific measurable objectives. The purpose of the NSP is to enable the many thousands of organisations and individuals who drive the response to HIV, TB and STIs to act as a concerted force, moving in the same direction.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

INTEREST Workshop

16 - 19 May 2017

Lilongwe, Malawi

International Council of Nurses Congress

27 May - 1 June 2017

Barcelona, Spain

HEAIDS Conference (Higher Education and Training): Empowering our youth in South Africa

9 - 11 June 2017

International Conference Centre, Durban, South Africa

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Health Systems Trust: Females Rising through Education, Support and Health (FRESH): Computer Instructor

Closing Date: 7 April 2017

Health Systems Trust: Health Systems Research (HSR) Unit Public Health Technical Specialists - 2x Full-time or Part-time

Closing Date: 24 April 2017

Health Systems Trust: Health Systems Research (HSR) Unit Programme Manager

Closing Date: 24 April 2017

Umduduzi: Nurse

Closing Date: 10 April 2017

SANAC: Provincial M&E Officer

Closing Date: 15 April 2017



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