

HST Bulletin



CATEGORIES

[Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles](#)

[Recent News](#)

[HST in the News](#)

[Training and Resources](#)

[Publications and Reports](#)

[Conferences and Events](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

From blockchain technology to global health equity: can cryptocurrencies finance universal health coverage?

BMJ | Published 10 November 2017.

Brian M Till, Alexander W Peters, Salim Afshar, John Meara

Blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies could remake global health financing and usher in an era of global health equity and universal health coverage. We outline and provide examples for at least four important ways in which this potential disruption of traditional global health funding mechanisms could occur: universal access to financing through direct transactions without third parties; novel new multilateral financing mechanisms; increased security and reduced fraud and corruption; and the opportunity for open markets for healthcare data that drive discovery and innovation. We see these issues as paramount to the delivery of healthcare worldwide and relevant for payers and providers of healthcare at state, national and global levels; for government and non-governmental organisations; and for global aid organisations, including the WHO, International Monetary Fund and World Bank Group.

Epidemiology of obesity and overweight in sub-Saharan Africa: a protocol for a systematic review and meta-analysis

BMJ | Published: 25 November 2017.

Sibhatu Biadgilign, Tennyson Mgutshini, Demewoz Haile, Bereket Gebremichael, Yonatan Moges, Kelemu Tilahun

Globally, overweight and obesity were estimated to cause 3.4 million deaths, 3.9% of years of life lost and 3.8% of disability-adjusted life years in 2010. Despite the fact that obesity and overweight is a problem of high-income countries, low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), in particular urban settings of sub-Saharan African countries, face the challenge of an increasing trend. The aim of this systematic review and meta-analysis will be to determine the prevalence of obesity and overweight individuals in sub-Saharan Africa and to help guide policy planners in the decision-making process for the increase in non-communicable diseases in Africa.

A scoping review of palliative care for children in low- and middle-income countries

BMC | Published: 25 November 2017.

Hatoko Sasaki, Marie-Charlotte Bouesseau, Joan Marston, Rintaro Mori

Ninety-eight percent of children needing palliative care live in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), and almost half of them live in Africa. In contrast to the abundance of data on populations in high income countries, the current data on populations in LMICs is woefully inadequate. This study aims to identify and summarize the published literature on the need, accessibility, quality, and models for palliative care for children in LMICs.

Treatment guidelines and early loss from care for people living with HIV in Cape Town, South Africa: A retrospective cohort study

PlosOne | Published: 14 November 2017.

Ingrid T Katz, Richard Kaplan, Garrett Fitzmaurice, Dominick Leone, David R Bangsberg, Linda-Gail Bekker, Catherine Orrell

South Africa has undergone multiple expansions in antiretroviral therapy (ART) eligibility from an initial CD4+ threshold of ≤ 200 cells/ μ l to providing ART for all people living with HIV (PLWH) as of September 2016. We evaluated the association of programmatic changes in ART eligibility with loss from care, both prior to ART initiation and within the first 16 weeks of starting treatment, during a period of programmatic expansion to ART treatment at CD4+ ≤ 350 cells/ μ l.

When are declines in condom use while using PrEP a concern? Modelling insights from a Hillbrow, South Africa case study

Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 20 September 2017.

Hannah Grant, Zindoga Mukandavire, Robyn Eakle, Holly Prudden, Gabriela B Gomez, Helen Rees, Charlotte Watts

Oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is a promising new prevention approach for those most at risk of HIV infection. However, there are concerns that behavioural disinhibition, specifically reductions in condom use, might limit PrEP's protective effect. This study uses the case of female sex workers (FSWs) in Johannesburg, South Africa, to assess whether decreased levels of condom use following the introduction of PrEP may limit HIV risk reduction.

Twelve-year mortality in adults initiating antiretroviral therapy in South Africa

Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 25 September 2017.

Morna Cornell, Leigh F Johnson, Robin Wood, Frank Tanser, Matthew P Fox, Hans Prozesky, Michael Schomaker, Matthias Egger, et al

South Africa has the largest number of individuals living with HIV and the largest antiretroviral therapy (ART) programme worldwide. In September 2016, ART eligibility was extended to all 7.1 million HIV-positive South Africans. To ensure that further expansion of services does not compromise quality of care, long-term outcomes must be monitored. Few studies have reported long-term mortality in resource-constrained settings, where mortality ascertainment is challenging. Combining site records with data linked to the national vital registration system, sites in the International Epidemiology Databases to Evaluate AIDS Southern Africa collaboration can identify >95% of deaths in patients with civil identification numbers (IDs). This study used linked data to explore long-term mortality and viral suppression among adults starting ART in South Africa.

Greater retention in care among adolescents on antiretroviral treatment accessing "Teen Club" an adolescent-centred differentiated care model compared with standard of care: a nested case-control study at a tertiary referral hospital in Malawi

Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 27 November 2017.

Rachel K MacKenzie, Monique van Lettow, Chrissie Gondwe, James Nyirongo, Victor Singano, Victor Banda, Edith Thaulo, Teferi Be, et al

There are numerous barriers to the care and support of adolescents living with HIV (ALHIV) that makes this population particularly vulnerable to attrition from care, poor adherence and virological failure. In 2010, a Teen Club was established in Zomba Central Hospital (ZCH), Malawi, a tertiary referral HIV clinic. Teen Club provides ALHIV on antiretroviral treatment (ART) with dedicated clinic time, sexual and reproductive health education, peer mentorship, ART refill and support for positive living and treatment adherence. The purpose of this study was to evaluate whether attending Teen Club improves retention in ART care.

Preventing tuberculosis-related death in children with HIV

The Lancet | Published: 23 November 2017.

Hafsah Deepa Tootla, Mark Patrick Nicol

In 2015 there were an estimated 1 million new cases of tuberculosis in children. During 2010, it was estimated that in some sub-Saharan countries with high HIV prevalence, more than 20% of tuberculosis cases occurred in children. In a meta-analysis, the pooled case fatality ratio in HIV-infected children receiving tuberculosis treatment but not antiretroviral therapy (ART) was 14.3%, compared to 3.4% in individuals receiving both tuberculosis treatment and ART. Marcy and colleagues describe high mortality (19%) in ART-naive HIV-infected children presenting for care with suspected intrathoracic tuberculosis. The authors categorised children by use of consensus definitions, which included clinical, microbiological, and radiological criteria, as having confirmed, unconfirmed, or unlikely tuberculosis. Tuberculosis treatment of children with confirmed or unconfirmed disease was associated with substantially lower mortality ($p < 0.0001$). Early ART was similarly associated with reduced mortality (hazard ratio=0.08).

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

RECENT NEWS

Brazil begins PrEP roll-out on World AIDS Day

World Health Organisation | 29 November 2017.

Brazil's Ministry of Health will start provision of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention in key higher-risk population groups through 35 sites across the country, beginning on World AIDS Day, 1 December 2017.

Johnson & Johnson, partners announce first efficacy study for investigational mosaic HIV-1 preventive vaccine

GhanaWeb | 29 November 2017.

On the eve of World AIDS Day (December 1) Johnson & Johnson announced that its Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies together with a consortium of global partners have initiated the first efficacy study for an investigational mosaic HIV-1 preventive vaccine.

Life Esidimeni: Manamela showed no interest in plight of relatives or patients, arbitration hears

Daily Maverick | 28 November 2017.

Dr Makgabo Manamela's testimony at the Life Esidimeni arbitration confirmed one overarching conclusion: neither she nor the Gauteng department of health cared about the voices of citizens. She still doesn't.

Politicians aid industry in dirty war over sugar tax

Health-e News | 27 November 2017.

For over 18 months, the sugar and beverage industries have had the help of politicians to wage war against a proposed tax on sugary drinks in a microcosm of all that is rotten in this country. But the fight is not yet over.

Counterfeit drugs killing tens of thousands in poor countries, says UN

IOL | 28 November 2017.

About 11 percent of medicines in developing countries are counterfeit and likely responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of children from diseases like malaria and pneumonia every year, the World Health Organization said Tuesday.

Cancer drug the first biosimilar to get local go-ahead

Business Day | 28 November 2017.

Cancer treatment advocates say the decision will boost competition and drive down prices

Paving the way to hell for SA's abused

Health-e News | 29 November 2017.

When government fails in their response to fight the scourge of sexual violence it's women like Poppy

Makgobatlou who suffer most.

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

HST IN THE NEWS

On the road for men's health

Daily Sun | 6 November 2017.

This month we will be looking at men's health - and how men can take care of themselves and others. We want to help men learn more about preventing HIV, safeguarding their health, and setting goals for their futures.

Men who have sex with men: staying safe

Daily Sun | 13 November 2017.

My name is Malibongwe Daweti and I am 42 years old. I come from Idutywa in Xauka, Eastern Cape and I work as a community coordinator for Health Systems Trust in the OR Tambo and Chris Hani districts.

'Protect yourself or abstain – those are the options'

Daily Sun | 10 November 2017.

My name is Innocent* and I am 20 years old, a second year electrical infrastructure and construction student in Durban. I attended the launch of the youth-friendly clinic in Lamontville, Durban which makes sure that young people have their own space at the health centre, where they can talk about things like HIV and STIs and pregnancy.

Dear Men: We need to talk about mental health

Daily Sun | 27 November 2017.

You know that you have to eat right, exercise and get enough sleep to have a healthy body. But how much attention do you give to your mental wellbeing?

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

TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Toolkit for Integrating Gender in the Monitoring and Evaluation of Health Programs

MEASURE Evaluation | December 2017.

This toolkit aims to help international health programs integrate a gender perspective in their monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities, measures, and reporting.

It is designed for use by Overview Imagehealth program staff working in various health sectors (such as HIV; malaria; reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health; and tuberculosis), and for various health agencies and initiatives. The toolkit will support health program staff to integrate gender in their programs, projects, and M&E activities.

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

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Child Gauge 2017: Investing in children for sustainable development - Survive. Thrive. Transform

The Children's Institute | 28 November 2017.

The South African Child Gauge® is published annually by the Children's Institute, University of Cape Town, to monitor progress towards realising children's rights. This issue focuses on children and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Acute public health events assessed by WHO Regional Offices for Africa, the Americas and Europe under the International Health Regulations (2005) 2016 Report

WHO | November 2017.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and its Member States have committed, within the framework of

the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR), to detect, verify, assess and report events that may pose a risk to international public health. This report summarizes public health events detected, verified, assessed and reported in three WHO Regions, namely Africa, the Americas and Europe from 2001 to 2016, with a focus on 2016.

World Malaria Report 2017

World Health Organisation | 29 November 2017.

The World Malaria Report 2017 draws on data from 91 countries and areas with ongoing malaria transmission. The information is supplemented by data from national household surveys and databases held by other organizations. This year's report shows that after an unprecedented period of success in global malaria control, progress has stalled. In 2016, there were an estimated 216 million cases of malaria, an increase of about 5 million cases over 2015. Deaths reached 445 000, a similar number to the previous year.

UNTREATED VIOLENCE: Critical gaps in medical and clinical forensic care for survivors of sexual violence in South Africa

MSF | 28 November 2017.

Sexual violence is a major problem in South Africa, with studies showing that up to one in four women have been raped in their lifetime. Only a small proportion of rapes – as few as 1 in 25 – are reported to the police and many survivors never access care.

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

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

World Psychiatric Association's Thematic Congress, Innovation in Psychiatry: Effective Interventions for Health and Society

25-28 February 2018

Melbourne, Australia

Future Healthcare 2018

13-14 March 2018

Olympia, London

SA TB Conference 2018

12-15 June 2018

Durban International Convention Centre, Durban, South Africa

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

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

CareWorks: Linkage Officer

Closing Date: 15 December, 2017

Southern African HIV Clinicians Society: Grants and Finance Manager

Closing Date: 15 December 2017

Epicentre Aids Risk Management: Junior Bookkeeper

Closing Date: 22 December 2017

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



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