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HST IN THE NEWS

PUBLISHED: District Health Barometer 2017/18

Health Systems Trust | 31 January 2019.

The editors are pleased to present the 13th edition of the District Health Barometer (DHB) which provides information across a wide range of district health services and spans 43 indicators. This annual publication continues to provide policy makers, health care workers, planners, researchers, academics and other consumers of national health system information a unique overview of the performance of public health services in South Africa.

SA gets full marks for HIV treatment but fails on condoms

Health-e News | 31 January 2019.

While South Africa has increased HIV spending at district level with stellar results, access to condoms has plummeted, according to the latest District Health Barometer (DHB).

Report highlights SA's public healthcare lottery

BD Live | 31 January 2019.

Women in the Eastern Cape's OR Tambo district are 10 times more likely to die during pregnancy or childbirth than those in Joe Gqabi district.

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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

A health systems strengthening intervention to improve quality of care for sick and small newborn infants: results from an evaluation in district hospitals in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

BMC Pediatrics | Published: 24 January 2019.

C Horwood, L Haskins, S Phakathi, N McKerrow

Many newborn infants die from preventable causes in South Africa, often these deaths occur in district hospitals. A multipronged intervention aiming to improve quality of newborn care in district hospitals was implemented comprising training in clinical care for sick and small newborns, skills development for health managers, on-site mentoring, and hospital accreditation. We present the results of the project evaluation.

Residual or recurrent precancerous lesions after treatment of cervical lesions in HIV-infected women: a systematic review and meta-analysis of treatment failure

Clinical Infectious Diseases | Published: 2 January 2019.

Pierre Debeaudrap, Joelle Sobngwi, Pierre-Marie Tebeu, Gary M Clifford

Screening and treating premalignant cervical lesions (CIN2+) is an effective way to prevent cervical cancer, and recommendations exist for monitoring of treatment success. Yet, there is no specific recommendation for HIV-infected women, who are at known increased risk of cervical cancer. There is strong evidence for increased risk of treatment failure in HIV-infected women in comparison to their HIV-negative counterparts.

Cost-effectiveness of urine-based tuberculosis screening in hospitalised patients with HIV in Africa: a microsimulation modelling study

The Lancet | Published: 1 February 2019.

Krishna P Reddy, Ankur Gupta-Wright, Prof Katherine L Fielding, Sydney Costantini, Amy Zheng, Prof Elizabeth L Corbett, Liyang Yu, Prof Joep J van Oosterhout, et al

Testing urine improves the number of tuberculosis diagnoses made among patients in hospital with HIV. In conjunction with the two-country randomised Rapid Urine-based Screening for Tuberculosis to Reduce

AIDS-related Mortality in Hospitalised Patients in Africa (STAMP) trial, we used a microsimulation model to estimate the effects on clinical outcomes and the cost-effectiveness of adding urine-based tuberculosis screening to sputum screening for hospitalised patients with HIV.

Application of provincial data in mathematical modelling to inform sub-national tuberculosis program decision-making in South Africa

PlosOne | Published: 25 January 2019.

Piotr Hippner, Tom Sumner, Rein MGJ Houben, Vicky Cardenas, Anna Vassall, Fiammetta Bozzani, Don Mudzengi, Lindiwe Mvusi, et al

South Africa has the highest tuberculosis (TB) disease incidence rate in the world, and TB is the leading infectious cause of death. Decisions on, and funding for, TB prevention and care policies are decentralised to the provincial governments and therefore, tools to inform policy need to operate at this level. We describe the use of a mathematical model planning tool at provincial level in a high HIV and TB burden country, to estimate the impact on TB burden of achieving the 90-(90)-90 targets of the Stop TB Partnership Global Plan to End TB.

“To speak or not to speak”: A qualitative analysis on the attitude and willingness of women to start conversations about voluntary medical male circumcision with their partners in a peri-urban area, South Africa

PlosOne | Published: 25 January 2019.

Candice M. Chetty-Makkan, Jonathan M. Grund, Reuben Munyai, Vuyokazi Gadla, Violet Chihota, Mpho Maraisane, Salome Charalambous

Voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) reduces the risk of HIV infection in heterosexual men and has long-term indirect protection for women, yet VMMC uptake in South Africa remains low (49.8%) in men (25–49 years). We explored the attitude and willingness of women to start conversations on VMMC with their sexual partners in a South African peri-urban setting to increase VMMC uptake.

The psychology of “cure” - unique challenges to consent processes in HIV cure research in South Africa

BMC Medical Ethics | Published: 24 January 2018.

Keymanthri Moodley, Ciara Staunton, Theresa Rossouw, Malcolm de Roubaix, Zoe Duby, Donald Skinner

Consent processes for clinical trials involving HIV prevention research have generated considerable debate globally over the past three decades. HIV cure/eradication research is scientifically more complex and consequently, consent processes for clinical trials in this field are likely to pose a significant challenge. Given that research efforts are now moving toward HIV eradication, stakeholder engagement to inform appropriate ethics oversight of such research is timely. This study sought to establish the perspectives of a wide range of stakeholders in HIV treatment and research to inform consent processes for cure research.

Food in the Anthropocene: the EAT–Lancet Commission on healthy diets from

sustainable food systems

The Lancet | Published: 16 January 2019.

Walter Willett, Johan Rockström, Brent Loken, Marco Springmann, Tim Lang, Sonja Vermeulen, Tara Garnett, David Tilman, et al

Food systems have the potential to nurture human health and support environmental sustainability; however, they are currently threatening both. Providing a growing global population with healthy diets from sustainable food systems is an immediate challenge. Although global food production of calories has kept pace with population growth, more than 820 million people have insufficient food and many more consume low-quality diets that cause micronutrient deficiencies and contribute to a substantial rise in the incidence of diet-related obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases, including coronary heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. We quantitatively describe a universal healthy reference diet to provide a basis for estimating the health and environmental effects of adopting an alternative diet to standard current diets, many of which are high in unhealthy foods.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

'HIV testing was compulsory. If you didn't test, they wouldn't treat you'

Bhekisisa | 28 January 2019.

The struggle to survive pregnancy and death in a land of plenty and poverty hasn't changed much in the past five years — there are lives to prove it.

HIV+ teen shocked after accidentally discovering her status

Health-e News | 23 January 2019.

Northern Cape – The Northern Cape Department of Health has, along with the Department of Social Development, undertaken to conduct basic HIV training for guardians and parents of children living with HIV, after it has emerged that many are battling to know when and how to disclose the information to children.

Provincial health services at risk over R80.4bn in medical negligence claims

Medical Brief | 30 January 2019.

A “near exponential” increase in medical negligence claims against the state has left provincial health departments with R80.4bn in contingent liabilities, equivalent to more than 40% of total budgets for next year, Treasury data shows.

It's time to get serious about the economics of expanded access

STAT | 30 January 2019.

As the winds of change blow away the lingering odors of the “right to try” miasma, it's time to get serious about expanded access 2.0.

Half of birth defects are preventable

Health-e News | 31 January 2019.

It is believed that more than half of all birth defects can be prevented or treated, despite statistics showing that birth defects are the third highest cause of early deaths in the Western Cape.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

e-Learning Course on Health Financing Policy for universal health coverage (UHC)

World Health Organisation | 2019.

The first e-learning course on health financing policy for universal health coverage has now been launched. This e-learning course comprises six modules which cover the core functions of health financial policy as conceptualised by WHO.

Each module is divided into a number of sub-topics. This is a foundational course which targets participants of various levels of experience and expertise.

Influenza: are we ready?

World Health Organisation | 2018.

2018 mark[ed] the 100th anniversary of one of the most catastrophic public health crises in modern history, the 1918 influenza pandemic known colloquially as “Spanish flu”. This Spotlight focuses on the lessons we can learn from previous flu pandemics, how prepared we are for another one, and how work on seasonal flu can boost capacity for pandemic preparedness.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

District Health Barometer

Health Systems Trust | 31 January 2018.

The DHB provides a detailed overview of the country’s public health services in all 52 health districts. The publication has become an important planning and management resource for health service providers, managers, researchers and policy-makers in the country.

The DHB also serves as a tool with which managers in the health sector can monitor and evaluate not only trends in health status and service delivery, but also the underlying quality of routinely collected health information in South Africa.

South Africa Demographic and Health Survey 2016

South African Medical Research Council | 30 January 2019.

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), in partnership with the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), conducted the South Africa Demographic and Health Survey 2016 (SADHS 2016) at the request of the National Department of Health (NDoH). Technical assistance was provided through The DHS Program. Timely information about the health of the nation is essential for monitoring and evaluation. Survey data collection took place from 27 June 2016 to 4 November 2016.

Also see: **South Africa Demographic and Health Survey 2016: Key Findings**

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

The Future of Food Safety: Transforming knowledge into action for people, economies and the environment

12-13 February 2019

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI)

4-7 March 2019

Washington State Convention Center in Seattle, Washington

The International Conference on (Re-) Emerging Infectious Diseases

13-5 March 2019

The African Union Commission Conference Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Rondebosch Medical Centre: Registered Nurses, Enrolled Nurses & Enrolled Nursing Auxiliary Nurses

Closing Date: Unspecified

Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation: Medical Officer

Closing Date: 14 February 2018

NOAH: Health Manager

Closing Date: 15 February 2018

Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) – South Africa: Monitoring and Evaluation Associate

Closing Date: 28 February 2018

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