

# HST Bulletin



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## HST IN THE NEWS

### **Does one SA doctor treat 4,000 patients in public care, but fewer than 300 privately?**

*Africa Check | 7 August 2018.*

To find the most recent estimates of doctor to patient ratios in the public sector, health department spokesperson Popo Maja suggested we look at the **South African Health Review** (SAHR). This annual peer-reviewed journal analyses health systems in South Africa. It is published by the **Health Systems Trust** (HST), an organisation that focuses on the country's health policy and development. The latest edition was published in May 2017.

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## RECENT NEWS

### **Fathers need to get involved in the first 1000 days of their kids' lives**

*The Conversation | 6 August 2018.*

The first 1000 days of a child's life are crucial. During this time the foundations for optimum health, rapid brain growth and child development are laid. South Africa has made great strides in prioritising these first 1000 days since it adopted the National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy in 2015. It's also embarked on a number of initiatives that focus on improving maternal, newborn and child health. But an important factor is missing from these efforts: the role that fathers have to play, particularly during the early stage of their child's life.

### **Too much, too soon: Are provinces ready to take the wheel of SA's HIV response?**

*Bhekisisa | 8 August 2018.*

It's been a steep learning curve for provinces that sometimes don't have the know how — or the data — to write and track local plans.

### **Smokers face possible fines or jail time if new regulations are passed**

*Times Live | 5 August 2018.*

Thou shalt not smoke or vape.

That's the commandment from the department of health, whose "draconian" planned changes to the country's laws have smokers hot under the collar.

### **Similar virological suppression for those switching to once-daily darunavir/ritonavir**

*Medical Brief | 1 August 2018.*

Stable patients on a twice-daily lopinavir/ritonavir (LPV/r)-based second-line regimen who switched to a once-daily 400/100 mg darunavir/ritonavir (DRV/r) one maintained similar virological suppression to those who remained on LPV/r at 48 weeks. [1] These data from Johannesburg were presented by researchers at the University of Witwatersrand, WITS Reproductive Health and HIV Institute, Imperial College London and Liverpool University at AIDS 2018.

### **New tuberculosis treatment could help tackle global epidemic**

*The Guardian | 1 August 2018.*

One quarter of the world's population has latent tuberculosis - with 10.4m new cases and 1.7m deaths reported in 2016 alone.

### **Reduction of new HIV infections in SSA's youth is far off-track**

*Medical Brief | 1 August 2018.*

Africa is far off-track in reducing new HIV infections among children and young people and is unlikely to reduce new infections in young people substantially before 2030 due to an anticipated doubling of the adolescent population, according to findings from a UNICEF modelling exercise presented at the 22nd International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2018) in Amsterdam.

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## **ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES**

### **Changes to the World Health Organization guideline on hormonal contraceptive eligibility for women at high risk of HIV: South African perspective and response**

*South African Medical Journal | Published: August 2018.*

*Z Nene, G J Hofmeyr, M Patel, M Panday, H Rees, M Makua, Y Pillay*

The World Health Organization (WHO) published guidelines for hormonal contraceptive eligibility for women at high risk of HIV in March 2017. This guidance followed from a technical consultative meeting convened by the WHO in December 2016, where all the available evidence on hormonal contraceptives and risk of HIV acquisition was reviewed. This guidance will have an impact on countries that have a high HIV disease burden and where progestogen-only injectable contraceptives are the highest used, as in South Africa (SA). The information has to be communicated in line with the WHO's sexual and reproductive health rights principles of ensuring that all women should receive evidence-based recommendations.

### **Implementation of district-based clinical specialist teams in South Africa: Analysing a new role in a transforming system**

*BMC Health Services Research | Published: 3 August 2018.*

*Kafayat Oboirien, Bronwyn Harris, Jane Goudge, John Eyles*

Improving the quality of health care is a national priority in many countries to help reduce unacceptable levels of variation in health system practices, performance and outcomes. In 2012, South Africa introduced district-based clinical specialist teams (DCSTs) to enhance clinical governance at the lowest level of the health system. This paper examines the expectations and responses of local health system actors in the introduction and early implementation of this new DCST role.

### **Effect of foreign direct investments, economic development and energy consumption on greenhouse gas emissions in developing countries**

*Science of the Total Environment | Published: 1 January 2019 (ahead of print)*

*Samuel Asumadu Sarkodie, Vladimir Strezov*

In accordance with the Sustainable Development Goal 17 of improving global partnership for sustainable development, this study examined the effect of foreign direct investment inflows, economic development,

and energy consumption on greenhouse gas emissions from 1982 to 2016 for the top five emitters of greenhouse gas emissions from fuel combustion in the developing countries, namely; China, India, Iran, Indonesia and South Africa. The study employed a panel data regression with Driscoll-Kraay standard errors, U test estimation approach and panel quantile regression with non-additive fixed-effects. The study found a strong positive effect of energy consumption on greenhouse gas emissions and confirmed the validity of the pollution haven hypothesis.

### **Global implementation survey of Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI): 20 years on**

*BMJ Open* | Published: 30 July 2018.

*Cynthia Boschi-Pinto, Guilhem Labadie, Thandassery Ramachandran Dilip, Nicholas Oliphant, Sarah L Dalglish, Samira Aboubaker, Olga Adjoa Agbodjan-Prince, Teshome Desta, et al*

[The objective of this study was] to assess the extent to which Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) has been adopted and scaled up in countries.

The 95 countries that participated in the survey are home to 82% of the global under-five population and account for 95% of the 5.9 million deaths that occurred among children less than 5 years of age in 2015; 93 of them are low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs).

### **Gender-specific HIV and substance abuse prevention strategies for South African men: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial**

*BMC* | Published: 3 August 2018.

*Mary Jane Rotheram-Borus, Mark Tomlinson, Andile Mayekiso, Jason Bantjes, Danielle M Harris, Jacqueline Stewart, Robert E. Weiss*

Young men in South Africa face concurrent epidemics of HIV, drug and alcohol abuse, and unemployment. Standard HIV prevention programs, located in healthcare settings and/or using counseling models, fail to engage men. Soccer and vocational training are examined as contexts to deliver male-specific, HIV prevention programs.

### **Effect of the Number of Pregnancies on Mortality Risk in HIV-Infected Women: a Prospective Cohort Study in Rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa**

*AIDS and Behavior* | Published: 2 August 2018.

*Hyunsuk Yoo, Juyeon Lee, Jae-Joon Yim, Till Bärnighausen, Frank Tanser, Sue K Park*

We investigated whether mortality risk increases with the number of full-term pregnancies in HIV-infected women. Our study is based on data from the ACDIS cohort, collected in rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Mortality risk for different number of pregnancies in HIV-infected women was analyzed using Cox proportional hazards model. The risk of TB or AIDS mortality in HIV-uninfected women did not change with the number of full-term pregnancies, while the corresponding risk increased markedly in HIV-infected women. The risk of TB or AIDS mortality increased 1.48-fold (95% CI 1.25–1.75), 1.76-fold (95% CI 1.45–2.13), and 1.59-fold (95% CI 1.31–1.94) for one, two, and three or more full-term pregnancies compared to none, respectively. Finally, women who are young (age < 26) have greater risk of TB or AIDS mortality compared to women who are old (age ≥ 26), and women residing in rural areas have greater risk compared to women who reside in non-rural areas.

### **Behavioral and cognitive interventions to improve treatment adherence and access to HIV care among older adults in sub-Saharan Africa: an updated systematic review**

*BMC* | Published: 2 August 2018.

*Lucia Knight, Ferdinand C Mukumbang, Enid Schatz*

Approximately 14% of Africans infected with HIV are over the age of 50, yet few intervention studies focus on improving access to care, retention in care, and adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART) in this population. A review of the published literature until 2012, found no relevant ART management and care interventions for older people living with HIV (OPLHIV) in sub-Saharan Africa. The aim of this systematic review is to update the original systematic review of intervention studies on OPLHIV, with a focus on evidence from sub-Saharan Africa.

### **Global susceptibility and response to noncommunicable diseases**

*WHO Bulletin* | Published: 2 August 2018.

*Arian Hatefi, Luke N Allen, Thomas J Bollyky, Sarah A Roached & Rachel Nugente*

Globalization and human interdependence have created immeasurable value for humanity. These forces,

however, also provide channels for health risks to spread throughout the world. Global functions for health, such as international partnerships or research and development, are a rational response to global health risks like pandemics or globalized supply chains. Self-interest compels governments, or donors, to provide global functions even though their benefits are widely shared the world over.

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## TRAINING AND RESOURCES

### **Two new dashboards in the Health, Nutrition and Population data portal**

*World Bank | 26 July 2018.*

[The World Bank is] pleased to launch new dashboards in the Health, Nutrition and Population Portal, following the portal's revamp last year. The renewed HNP portal has two main dashboards covering Population and Health. Both dashboards are designed to be interactive data visualization tools where users can see various population and health indicators. Users can access various charts and maps by selecting specific time, country or region and indicators. New indicators, charts and new health topics such as Universal Health Coverage and Surgery and Anesthesia, have been added.

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## PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

### **Outbreaks: Behind the headlines**

*World Health Organisation | August 2018.*

At any one time, dozens of infectious disease outbreaks are happening around the world. Those on the frontlines are often more visible, but behind the scenes, many activities are taking place to control the spread of these diseases.

In this special feature, [WHO] visits a series of recent health emergencies, telling the stories behind the headlines and exploring the many different dimensions of an outbreak response.

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## CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

### **KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health Research Day**

9 September 2018

Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital - Residence Hall

### **WHO Technical Briefing Seminar on Essential Medicines and Health Products**

1-5 October 2018

Geneva, Switzerland

### **Free State Annual Provincial Health Research Day**

8-9 October 2018

Bloemfontein

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## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

### **Living Hope: Health Care Centre Manager**

Closing Date: 31 August 2018

### **Call for Applications: Tekano Atlantic Fellows For Health Equity In South Africa**

Closing Date: 31 August 2018

**Procare Health: Registered Nurse**

Closing Date: 31 August 2018

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