

10 December 2010

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Dear Subscriber,

The HST Bulletin will be taking a short break over the festive period.  
The next Bulletin will be published on 7 January 2011.

Best wishes,  
The HST Bulletin Editorial Team

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## Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

### **Cost-effectiveness analysis for priority-setting in South Africa – what are the possibilities?**

Jane Doherty. *S Afr Med J* 2010; 100: 816-821. Published: December 2010.

Priority-setting in the health system is necessary because resources are constrained. The role of cost-effectiveness analysis in supporting decision-making around health care priorities in South Africa is explored by referring to South African studies that have provided clinical and policy guidance at the levels of the patient, the service and the population. Cost-effectiveness evidence is positioned in relation to other concerns such as equity and the overall performance of the health system....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.samj.org.za/index.php/samj/article/viewFile/4440/3031>

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### **The History of AIDS Exceptionalism**

Julia H Smith and Alan Whiteside. *Journal of the International AIDS Society* 2010, 13:47.  
Published: 3 December 2010..

In the history of public health, HIV/AIDS is unique; it has widespread and long-lasting demographic, social, economic and political impacts. The global response has been unprecedented. AIDS exceptionalism - the idea that the disease requires a response above and beyond "normal" health interventions. More recently, AIDS exceptionalism came to refer to the disease-specific global response and the resources dedicated to addressing the epidemic. There has been a backlash against this exceptionalism, with critics claiming that HIV/AIDS receives a disproportionate amount of international aid and health funding. This paper situates this debate in historical perspective. By reviewing histories of the disease, policy developments and funding patterns, it charts how the meaning of AIDS exceptionalism has shifted over three decades. ...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.jiasociety.org/content/13/1/47/abstract>

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## Increased vulnerability of rural children on antiretroviral therapy attending public health facilities in South Africa: a retrospective cohort study

Fatti G, Bock P, Grimwood A, Eley B. *J Int AIDS Soc.* 13(1):46. Published: 25 November 2010.

A large proportion of the 340,000 HIV-positive children in South Africa live in rural areas, and yet there is little sub-Saharan data comparing rural paediatric antiretroviral therapy (ART) programme outcomes with urban facilities. We compared clinical, immunological and virological outcomes between children at seven rural and 37 urban facilities across four provinces in South Africa...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.jiasociety.org/content/13/1/46>

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## Recent News

### South African Health Review 2010 Press Release

*Health Systems Trust.* Published: 8 December 2010

The Review shows that there is neither doubt nor dispute that the South African health system is in need of significant reform. Private sector perspectives on national health insurance reflect the sectors willingness to engage in developing a NHI for the country. The theme is reiterated in a civil society contribution suggesting that a NHI policy that increases access to quality health care will be welcomed and supported...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://hst.org.za/news/20042008>

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### MDG TB target out of reach

*Anso Thom. Health-e News.* Published: 8 December 2010

South Africa remains below target on reaching the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) pertaining to tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, according to the 2010 South African Health Review. MDG 6 has as a target detecting at least 70% of new sputum smear-positive TB cases and cure at least 85% of these cases plus to reduce TB prevalence and death rates by 50% relative to 1990 levels....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20033044>

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### SA fails to prevent maternal deaths

*Lungi Langa. Health-e News.* Published: 8 December 2010

South Africa's high maternal mortality rate is mostly attributable to preventable causes, according to the 2010 South African Health Review (SAHR). One of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) is to reduce the deaths of mothers by 2015, but until now South Africa has failed to do so....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20033042>

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### Mobile phones for health

*IRIN PlusNews.* Published: 3 December 2010

Some 80 health professionals and telecom operators are meeting in the Ghanaian capital Accra to explore ways to use mobile phones for better healthcare delivery. "What we are trying to do here is to find out what mobile technology applications will help us fix some of Africa's health problems," said Fiemu Nwariaku, professor of surgery in Ghana and a moderator at the 2-3 December Mobile Health Africa Summit. The efforts are aimed particularly at improving healthcare for underserved populations....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=91287>

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### Focus on six risk factors could prevent up to 80% of HIV infections in South African women

*Aidsmap.* Published: 29 November 2010

Addressing five modifiable risk factors could significantly reduce the number of new HIV infections among South African women, according to a study published in the online edition of *AIDS and Behavior*. The researchers found that six risk factors were associated with HIV seroconversion and that five of them could be addressed through prevention initiatives....[Read More »](#)

Source:

<http://www.aidsmap.com/Focus-on-six-risk-factors-could-prevent-up-to-80-of-HIV-infections-in-South-African-women/page/1545624/>

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### HIV prevention in clinical settings is feasible and shows results

*Aidsmap.* Published: 8 December 2010

Participation in a short training programme increases the likelihood of HIV care providers discussing sexual risk behaviour with their patients in routine clinical settings, US research published in the December 15th edition of the *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes* shows. In addition, the patients of providers who received the training reported a significant decrease in their number of sex partners....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.aidsmap.com/HIV-prevention-in-clinical-settings-is-feasible-and-shows-results/page/1560515/>

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## Training and Resources

### **Masters Degree programme with a focus on health workforce development**

WHO. University of Western Cape

Competent leaders are needed to tackle the critical shortage of health workers and to spearhead the planning, production and management of the health workforce for years to come. To generate these leaders in Sub-Saharan Africa, WHO is supporting a pioneering initiative with networks of educational institutions applying a distance-learning approach to deliver a Masters Degree with a focus on Health Workforce Development..

For more information: <http://www.who.int/hrh/education/masters/en/index.html>

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### **Master of HIV**

University of Copenhagen

The Master of HIV is the first education ever that combines teaching in clinical and organisational management of HIV. Training is carried out as a 1 year masters education in Denmark at the University of Copenhagen.

For more information: <http://www.mhiv.ku.dk/>

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## Reports and Publications

### **South African Health Review 2010: Reflections on the MDGs and Perspectives on a National Health Insurance**

Health Systems Trust

The 2010 edition of the SAHR focuses on two main issues: Reflections on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Perspectives on a National Health Insurance (NHI) for South Africa. As is customary, the Review ends with the Indicators section which provides a range of indicators relevant to the MDGs and NHI. In the section on the MDGs, a series of overview chapters on selected MDGs are presented. These overview chapters are accompanied by companion chapters or profiles which illustrate examples of successful methods or case studies in achieving the MDGs. The profiles also highlight problems and issues in relation to either achieving the MDG or measuring the related indicators...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: <http://www.hst.org.za/publications/876>

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### **Financing Global Health 2010: Development assistance and country spending in economic uncertainty**

Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation

Development assistance and country spending in economic uncertainty shows the continued rise in development assistance for health globally and provides a comprehensive picture of the total amount of health funding flowing from aid agencies, governments, and private donors to developing countries. It also shows the dramatic increase in health spending by developing countries on their own health projects and the way development assistance for health appears to affect those domestic funding decisions...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: [http://www.healthmetricsandevaluation.org/resources/policyreports/2010/financing\\_global\\_health\\_1110.html](http://www.healthmetricsandevaluation.org/resources/policyreports/2010/financing_global_health_1110.html)

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### **Children and AIDS: Fifth Stocktaking Report, 2010**

UNICEF

Advocacy and investment on behalf of children affected by AIDS have had an impact, and the goal of eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV appears within reach. But for every problem solved or advance made, new challenges and constraints have arisen. This Children and AIDS: Fifth Stocktaking Report examines current data, trends and the progress that's been made - pointing out disparities in access, coverage and outcomes - and calls for concrete actions to benefit the millions of children, women and families worldwide who bear the burden of the epidemic...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: <http://zunia.org/post/children-and-aids-fifth-stocktaking-report-2010/>

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## Job Opportunities

### **Programme Manager**

HIVSA.

**Closing date: 30 December 2010.**

HIVSA seeks to appoint a Programme Manager, based at its offices near NASREC in Johannesburg.

More information: <http://www.ngopulse.org/opportunity/hivsa-programme-manager-0>

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### **AHP - African Health Placements**

AHP is a not-for-profit project that aims to support the recruitment and retention of healthcare workers in South Africa. AHP is focused on assisting healthcare professionals make the right choice for their future in South Africa. No placement fees are charged.

Please view the website for more details <http://www.ahp.org.za> or contact on 011 328 1300

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