

# HST Bulletin



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## ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

### **Improving Access to, Use of, and Outcomes from Public Health Programs: The Importance of Building and Maintaining Trust with Patients/ Clients**

*Frontiers in Public Health | Published: 8 March 2017.*

*Paul Russell Ward*

The central argument in this paper is that “public trust” is critical for developing and maintaining the health and wellbeing of individuals, communities, and societies. I argue that public health practitioners and policy makers need to take “public trust” seriously if they intend to improve both the public’s health and the engagement between members of the public and public health systems. Public health practitioners implement a range of services and interventions aimed at improving health but implicit a requirement for individuals to trust the practitioners and the services/interventions, before they engage with them.

### **Supporting HIV prevention and reproductive goals in an HIV-endemic setting: taking safer conception services from policy to practice in South Africa**

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

*NECG Davies, LT Matthews, TL Crankshaw, D Cooper, and SR Schwartz*

Safer conception care encompasses HIV care, treatment and prevention for persons living with HIV and their partners who desire children. In 2012, South Africa endorsed a progressive safer conception policy supporting HIV-affected persons to safely meet reproductive goals. However, aside from select research-supported clinics, widespread implementation has not occurred. Using South Africa as a case study, we identify key obstacles to policy implementation and offer recommendations to catalyse expansion of these services throughout South Africa and further afield.

### **Hope for HIV control in southern Africa: The continued quest for a vaccine**

*PlosOne | Published: 28 February 2017.*

*Linda-Gail Bekker, Glenda Gray*

It is estimated that almost 2 million new HIV infections occurred in the world in 2015. Southern and eastern Africa, with 6.2% of the world's population, bear a disparate half of the world's HIV infection burden and would benefit greatly from inexpensive innovations aimed at curtailing the epidemic. As sub-Saharan Africa has the highest incidence of HIV infection in the world, that the introduction of a vaccine with only partial efficacy could have such a dramatic effect, despite the existing availability of comprehensive prevention methods, is strongly persuasive for the pursuit of a vaccine-based approach.

### **Initiating community engagement in an ecohealth research project in Southern Africa**

*BioMed Central | Published: 7 March 2017.*

*Rosemary Musesengwa, Moses J Chimbari and Samson Mukaratirwa*

Community Engagement (CE) in health research ensures that research is consistent with the socio-cultural, political and economic contexts where the research is conducted. The greatest challenges for researchers are the practical aspects of CE in multicentre health research. This study describes the CE in an ecohealth community-based research project focusing on two vulnerable and research naive rural communities.

### **Structural Level Differences in the Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission Rate in South Africa: A Multilevel Assessment of Individual-, Health Facility-, and Provincial-Level Predictors of Infant HIV Transmission**

*JAIDS | Published: 15 April 2017.*

*Selamawit A Woldesenbet, Debra J Jackson, CJ Lombard, Thu-Ha Dinh, Vundli Ramokolo, Tanya Doherty, Gayle G Sherman, Yogan Pillay, Ameena E Goga*

In 2010, South Africa reported an early mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) rate of 3.5% at 4–8 weeks postpartum. Provincial early MTCT rates ranged from 1.4% [95% confidence interval (CI): 0.1 to 3.4] to 5.9% (95% CI: 3.8 to 8.0). We sought to determine reasons for these geographic differences in MTCT rates.

### **What do You Need to Get Male Partners of Pregnant Women Tested for HIV in Resource Limited Settings? The Baby Shower Cluster Randomized Trial**

*Aids and Behavior | Published: February 2017.*

*Echezona E Ezeanolue, Michael C Obiefune, Wei Yang, Chinenye O Ezeanolue, Jennifer Pharr, Alice Osuji, Amaka G Ogidi, Aaron T Hunt, et al.*

Male partner involvement has the potential to increase uptake of interventions to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT). Finding cultural appropriate strategies to promote male partner involvement in PMTCT programs remains an abiding public health challenge. We assessed whether a congregation-based intervention, the Healthy Beginning Initiative (HBI), would lead to increased uptake of HIV testing among male partners of pregnant women during pregnancy.

### **Evaluating Adherence to Antiretroviral Therapy Using Pharmacy Refill Records in a Rural Treatment Site in South Africa**

*AIDS Research and Treatment | Published: 31 January 2017.*

*George Gachara, Lufuno G Mavhandu, Elizabeth T Rogawski, Cecile Manhaeve, and Pascal O Bessong*

Optimal adherence to combination antiretroviral therapy (cART) is critical to maintain virologic suppression, thereby ensuring the global success of HIV treatment. We evaluated adherence to cART using pharmacy refill records and determined the adherence threshold resulting in >90% virologic suppression in a community run treatment site in South Africa. Additionally, we analysed factors associated with adherence using univariable and multivariable logistic regression models. Logistic regression was also performed to determine the relationship between adherence and virologic suppression and the adherence threshold resulting in <10% virologic failure.

### **Ending violence in childhood: a global imperative**

*Psychology, Health & Medicine | Published: 2 March 2017.*

*A. K. Shiva Kumar, Vivien Stern, Ramya Subrahmanian, Lorraine Sherr, Patrick Burton, Nancy Guerra, Robert Muggah, Maureen Samms-Vaughan, et al.*

The time has come to end violence in childhood. The best and only way we can build peaceful societies is by preventing victimization of children and perpetration of violence by children. This can and must be done – with the aspiration to achieve this within a single generation. Collective action and concerted efforts succeeded in ending great evils such as the slave trade and apartheid.

### **A new malaria vector mosquito in South Africa**

*Nature | Published: 6 March 2017.*

*Ashley Burke, Leonard Dandalo, Givemore Munhenga, Yael Dahan-Moss, Frans Mbokazi, Sifiso Ngxongo, Maureen Coetzee, Lizette Koekemoer, Basil Brooke*

South Africa aims to eliminate malaria within its borders by 2018. Despite well-coordinated provincial vector control programmes that are based on indoor residual insecticide spraying, low-level residual malaria transmission continues in the low-altitude border regions of the north-eastern sector of the country. In order to identify the underlying causes of residual transmission, an enhanced vector surveillance system has been implemented at selected sites in the Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) provinces.

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## **RECENT NEWS**

### **Healthcare shows signs of life**

*Times Live | 6 March 2017.*

The 2015-16 district health barometer survey, released by the Health Systems Trust last week, shows the country's public health system has made impressive strides in reducing the infant mortality rate, a marked increase in the immunisation of children under one and an increase in cervical screening coverage.

### **Radical transformation begins with fixing how we fund healthcare in remote areas**

*Bhekisisa | 2 March 2017.*

Once slices of the healthcare funding pie are dished out to provinces, there is little control over how this money is spent to benefit the rural poor.

### **The inequality gap and its impact on health**

*Health-E News | 27 February 2017.*

Social injustice is the biggest threat to global health and a radical change in society is needed if we really want people to live long, healthy lives.

### **Statistics SA: How South Africans die**

*Medical Brief | 1 March 2017.*

Statistics South Africa has released its exhaustive analysis of mortality and causes of death in 2015, noting a 3% decline to 460,236 deaths. The three leading causes were tuberculosis, diabetes and cerebrovascular disease.

### **Drugmaker to provide new TB drug worth almost half a million for free**

*Bhekisisa | 8 March 2017.*

A deal brokered with the health department guarantees free access but for how long?

### **Full steam ahead for SA's clinic-on-rails**

*Business Day | 7 March 2017.*

SA's Phelophepa train draws a crowd wherever it goes. The sound of the lumbering 19-car clinic-on-

rails signals the arrival of badly needed free healthcare for thousands of South Africans as it tours the country.

### **Gauteng increases mental health spending after Esidimeni crisis**

*Business Day | 7 March 2017.*

Gauteng finance MEC Barbara Creecy on Tuesday tabled a R108bn budget for the province, which included R10bn added to the baseline of departments to meet increased demand.

### **South Africa launches clinical trial to cut heart disease in HIV positive people**

*The Conversation | 27 February 2017.*

Scientists are embarking on a massive clinical trial to test a drug to reduce the chances of people living with HIV developing heart diseases and suffering from heart-related illnesses like strokes. The trial is being launched in South Africa but will span four continents and involve 6,500 participants.

### **African app cuts medical costs with community "virtual pharmacy"**

*Times Live | 24 February 2017.*

A mobile app in Senegal helps families save money and reduce waste through a "virtual pharmacy" where users can exchange leftover medication for new prescriptions.

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## **TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

### **World TB Day: Campaign Materials**

*Stop TB Partnership | Published: 2017.*

This year's campaign runs under the tagline "Unite to End TB!". This campaign draws on the goals set out in the Global Plan to End TB, the roadmap to accelerating impact on the TB epidemic and reaching the targets of the WHO End TB Strategy.

### **Country-specific data on the contraceptive needs of adolescents**

*WHO | Published: 2017.*

The sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the Global strategy for women's, children's and adolescents' health 2016–2030 have placed renewed emphasis on understanding and addressing the sexual and reproductive health needs of adolescents. Although they are the largest cohort of adolescents in history, to date, we know relatively little about their contraceptive needs. This is particularly true for unmarried adolescents as data for them are rarely reported, even when collected. As the SDGs and the global strategy require country-level tracking of indicators related to contraception, including met need, a key question is "What can be done to support adolescents to prevent unintended pregnancy?"

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

*WHO | Published: 2017.*

The first e-learning course on health financing policy for universal health coverage has now been launched.

### **Community Engagement in HIV Prevention Is a Disaster Management Plan (Video)**

*IFARA | CROI 2017.*

In an interview given by Mark Hubbard and Stacey Hannah at CROI 2017, they explain the broadened scope of the Good Participatory Practice (GPP), which now includes a wider stakeholder engagement audience, e.g. policymakers, funders and others.

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## PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

### **District Health Barometer 2015/16**

*Health Systems Trust | Published: 2016.*

The District Health Barometer 2015/16, now in its 11th edition, seeks to highlight, health system performance, inequities in health outcomes, and health-resource allocation and delivery, and to track the efficiency of healthcare delivery processes across all provinces and districts in South Africa. Over the years, the DHB has become an important planning and management resource for health service providers, managers, researchers and policy-makers. This year, the DHB contains 44 indicators, with trend illustrations and health profiles across South Africa's nine provinces and 52 health districts.

### **Global tuberculosis report 2016**

*WHO | Published: 2016.*

The main aim of the Global tuberculosis report is to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of the TB epidemic, and of progress in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the disease at global, regional and country levels. This is done in the context of recommended global TB strategies and targets endorsed by WHO's Member States and broader development goals set by the United Nations. The data in this report is updated annually. This report supersedes all previous global TB reports.

### **Hormonal contraceptive eligibility for women at high risk of HIV Guidance Statement**

*WHO | Published: 2017.*

The World Health Organization (WHO) convened a technical consultation during 1–2 December 2016 to review new evidence on the risk of HIV acquisition with the use of hormonal contraception. The issue was recognized as a critical one, particularly for sub-Saharan Africa, where women have a high lifetime risk of acquiring HIV, hormonal contraceptives constitute a significant component of the contraceptive method mix and unintended pregnancy is a common threat to the well-being and lives of women and girls.

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## CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

### **Building Children's Nursing for Africa Conference**

28-30 March 2017

The River Club, Observatory, Cape Town, South Africa

### **15th World Congress on Public Health**

3-7 April 2017

The Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Melbourne, Australia

### **17th Annual World Vaccine Congress**

10-12 April 2017

Grand Hyatt, Washington D.C, USA

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## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

### **Beyond Zero: 2x Quality Nurse Mentor – BCM**

Closing Date: 13 March 2017

**Beyond Zero: 3x Clinical Nurse Mentors – BCM**

Closing Date: 13 March 2017

**CareWorks: M&E Assistant (Monitoring and Evaluation)**

Closing Date: 15 March 2017

**UWC: Senior Lecturer, School of Public Health**

Closing Date: 15 March 2017

**SFH: Medical Programmes Director**

Closing Date: 16 March 2017

**Project Last Mile (PLM) Coordinating Administrator**

Closing Date: 17 March 2017



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