

HST Bulletin



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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Health financing policies in Sub-Saharan Africa: government ownership or donors' influence? A scoping review of policymaking processes

BioMed Central | Published: 8 August 2017.

Lara Gautier, Valéry Ridde

The rise on the international scene of advocacy for universal health coverage (UHC) was accompanied by the promotion of a variety of health financing policies. Major donors presented health insurance, user fee exemption, and results-based financing policies as relevant instruments for achieving UHC in Sub-Saharan Africa. The "donor-driven" push for policies aiming at UHC raises concerns about governments' effective buy-in of such policies. Because the latter has implications on the success of such policies, we searched for evidence of government ownership of the policymaking process.

Pregnant adolescents living with HIV: what we know, what we need to know, where we need to go

Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 4 August 2017.

Tegan Callahan, Surbhi Modi, Jennifer Swanson, Bernadette Ng'eno, Laura N Broyles

HIV-infected pregnant and breastfeeding adolescents are a particularly vulnerable group that require special attention and enhanced support to achieve optimal maternal and infant outcomes. The objective of this paper is to review published evidence about antenatal care (ANC) service delivery and outcomes for HIV-infected pregnant adolescents in low-income country settings, identify gaps in knowledge and programme services and highlight the way forward to improve clinical outcomes of this vulnerable group.

High rates of retention and viral suppression in the scale-up of antiretroviral therapy adherence clubs in Cape Town, South Africa

Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 21 July 2017.

Priscilla Ruvimbo Tsondai, Lynne Susan Wilkinson, Anna Grimsrud, Precious Thembekile Mdlalo, Angelica Ullauri, Andrew Boule

Increasingly, there is a need for health authority scale up of successfully piloted differentiated models of antiretroviral therapy (ART) delivery. However, there is a paucity of evidence on system-wide outcomes after scale-up. In the Cape Town health district, stable adult patients were referred to adherence clubs

(ACs) – a group model of ART delivery with five visits per year. By the end of March 2015, over 32,000 ART patients were in an AC. We describe patient outcomes of a representative sample of AC patients during this scale-up.

‘Side effects’ are ‘central effects’ that challenge retention in HIV treatment programmes in six sub-Saharan African countries: a multicountry qualitative study

British Medical Journal | Published: 23 July 2017.

Jenny Renju, Mosa Moshabela, Estelle McLean, William Ddaaki, Morten Skovdal, Fred Odongo, Dominic Bukonya, Joyce Wamoyi

[A study] to explore the bodily and relational experience of taking antiretroviral therapy (ART) and the subsequent effect on retention in HIV care in six sub-Saharan African countries.

Progress of UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets in a district in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, with high HIV burden, in the HIPSS study: a household-based complex multilevel community survey

The Lancet | Published: 2 August 2017.

Dr Anneke Grobler, Cherie Cawood, David Khanyile, Adrian Puren, Prof Ayesha B M Kharsany

With the goal of eliminating new HIV infections, UNAIDS set the ambitious 90-90-90 targets to be achieved by 2020. We assessed whether these targets are being met among participants of the HIV Incidence Provincial Surveillance System (HIPSS) in a high-burden district of South Africa.

Unsuccessful TB treatment outcomes with a focus on HIV co-infected cases: a cross-sectional retrospective record review in a high-burdened province of South Africa

BioMed Central | Published: 10 July 2017.

M C Engelbrecht, N G Kigozi, P Chikobvu, S Botha, H C J van Rensburg

South Africa did not meet the MDG targets to reduce TB prevalence and mortality by 50% by 2015, and the TB cure rate remains below the WHO target of 85%. TB incidence in the country is largely fuelled by the HIV epidemic, and co-infected patients are more likely to have unsuccessful TB treatment outcomes. This paper analyses the demographic and clinical characteristics of new TB patients with unsuccessful treatment outcomes, as well as factors associated with unsuccessful treatment outcomes for HIV co-infected patients.

Survival of HIV-positive patients starting antiretroviral therapy between 1996 and 2013: a collaborative analysis of cohort studies

The Lancet | Published: 10 May 2017.

Adam Trickey, Margaret T May, Jorg-Janne Vehreschild, Niels Obel, M John Gill, Heidi M Crane, Christoph Boesecke, Sophie Patterson, et al

Health care for people living with HIV has improved substantially in the past two decades. Robust estimates of how these improvements have affected prognosis and life expectancy are of utmost importance to patients, clinicians, and health-care planners. We examined changes in 3 year survival and life expectancy of patients starting combination antiretroviral therapy (ART) between 1996 and 2013.

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RECENT NEWS

Why it's so difficult to tackle diabetes in sub-Saharan Africa

The Conversation | 8 August 2017.

In the 1990s diabetes was seen as a condition that mainly affected rich people in high income countries. Nowadays, it's one of the leading contributors to death in all countries in the world, driven by increases in national and personal wealth resulting in people having more disposable income. In addition, urbanisation has led to more and more people living sedentary lifestyles. A commission of experts, which was set up in 2014 to tackle the challenge in Africa, have recently released their findings.

Are African governments in the driver's seat when it comes to health financing policymaking?

BioMed Central Blog | 8 August 2017.

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) has recently become very popular in international forums: the 2016-approved WHO development agenda consecrated UHC as Sustainable Development subgoal 3.8. Thus, many of the “old” health financing policies get re-framed in the language of UHC. One question that may arise is whether national governments actually embrace the concept and decide to implement strategies that will achieve this (almost sacred) goal.

UK pledges £100m to global efforts to eradicate polio

The Guardian | 4 August 2017.

Money will fund vaccination of 45 million children annually until 2020, when the world could finally be declared polio-free.

Demonstration projects explore the feasibility of PrEP for adolescents and young women in South Africa

AidsMap | 26 July 2017.

One of the first studies to explore the acceptability, safety and use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in adolescents in an African context has found that PrEP was safe and tolerable, although PrEP usage and adherence did tail off during the twelve months of the programme.

To be successful, multi-month prescribing needs fine tuning

Medical Brief | 9 August 2017.

Shifts to less frequent clinic visits and medication pick-ups to free up healthcare resources and make life easier for people living with HIV are being implemented successfully in some African countries, but still need fine tuning, several studies presented at the 9th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2017) show.

Why the number of people with more than one chronic condition is rising in Africa

The Conversation | 25 July 2017.

More and more people around the world are getting sick with two or more health conditions at the same time. For example, people are increasingly coping with two chronic non-infectious diseases, like hypertension and diabetes. Or they will have a chronic infectious disease like HIV and a chronic non-infectious disease like asthma.

Could better health for your baby come in a cardboard box?

Bhekisisa | 10 August 2017.

All the rage in Finland, 'Moses baskets' could soon be coming to South African shores. South Africa is exploring the possibility of giving boxes to mothers of newborn babies in an effort to reduce infant deaths.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

zeroHIVdiscrimination Tool-Finder

Program on Global Health & Human Rights (GHHR) and UNAIDS | August 2017.

HIV-related stigma and discrimination in health care settings are known to negatively affect the HIV response. Experiences of HIV-related stigma and discrimination have been widely reported in health care settings around the world and have constituted a deterrent to accessing HIV-related and other health services. The tool-finder is designed to help you find the most appropriate tool for the work you want to do on HIV-related stigma and discrimination in health care settings.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Good Practice Guide: Adolescent HIV Programming

International HIV/AIDS Alliance | 15 May 2017.

This guide is one of a series of good practice guides, and contains information, strategies and resources to help HIV programmers implement HIV programming for adolescents.

Guidelines for the managing advanced HIV disease and rapid initiation of antiretroviral therapy

WHO | July 2017.

The objectives of these guidelines are to provide recommendations outlining a public health approach to managing people presenting with advanced HIV disease, and to provide guidance on the timing of initiation of antiretroviral therapy (ART) for all people living with HIV.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

HST Conference

9-11 May 2018

Birchwood Conference Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa

Global Evidence Summit: Using evidence. Improving lives.

13-16 September 2017

Cape Town, South Africa

Rural Health Conference

22-25 September 2017

Taung Hotel School & Convention Centre, North West, South Africa

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

HealthEnabled: Research Fieldworker (1 x Gauteng & 1 x KwaZulu-Natal)

Closing Date: 15 August 2017

Society for Family Health: HIV Self-Testing Programme Manager

Closing Date: 20 August 2017

I-TECH: Help Desk Support Assistant

Closing Date: 22 August 2017

HealthEnabled: NurseConnect Helpdesk Coordinator

Closing Date: 25 August 2017

AVAC: The Advocacy Fellows Program

Closing Date: 8 September 2017

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