

11 June 2010

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Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

Local-level mortality surveillance in resource-limited settings: a case study of Cape Town highlights disparities in health

Groenewald P , Bradshaw D, Daniels J, Zinyakatira N , Matzopoulos R , Bourne D , Shaikh N and Naledi T.
Bulletin of the World Health Organization 2010;88:444-451.

It is increasingly recognised that cause-of-death data are an essential component of health information systems. Mortality data are required to identify the health needs of a community, monitor progress in the implementation of programmes and track changes over time. Numerous authors have highlighted the need to strengthen national statistics systems and improve the comparability of mortality data and of international collection and reporting of data. While the importance of such data at national level is well established, recent evidence of heterogeneous mortality patterns within countries and districts and the health inequities that they reflect – suggests that it is also important to compile such data at sub national level...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/88/6/09-069435/en/index.html> [Accessed: 9 June 2010]

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Primary health care facility infrastructure and services and the nutritional status of children 0 to 71 months old and their caregivers attending these facilities in four rural districts in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal Provinces, South Africa

Schoeman S, Smuts CM, Faber M, Van Stuijvenberg M, Oelofse A, Laubscher JA, Benadé AJS, Dhansay MA. *South African Journal of Clinical Nutrition* 2010; 23(1):21-27.

Inadequate health services and an unhealthy environment are underlying causes of malnutrition in children, while poor food quality, insufficient food intake and severe or repeated infections also contribute to malnutrition. People in rural communities are most likely to experience such conditions. In 1994, with the inauguration of a government of national unity in South Africa, new health policies were put in place to ensure that public health services were sufficient for and were accessible and affordable to all consumers at all times and that facilities were adequately equipped for the delivery of safe and optimal health care...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://ajol.info/index.php/sajcn/article/view/52744/0> [Accessed: 9 June 2010]

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The willingness of private-sector doctors to manage public-sector HIV/AIDS patients in the eThekweni metropolitan region of KwaZulu-Natal

Naidoo P, Jinabhai CC, Taylor M. *African Journal of Primary Health Care & Family Medicine*. 2010; 2(1).

South Africa is severely affected by the AIDS pandemic and this has resulted in an already under-resourced public sector being placed under further stress, while there remains a vibrant private sector. To address some of the resource and personnel shortages facing the public sector in South Africa, partnerships between the public and private sectors are slowly being forged. However, little is known about the willingness of private-sector doctors in the eThekweni Metropolitan (Metro) region of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa to manage public-sector HIV and AIDS patients...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.phcfm.org/index.php/phcfm/article/view/102> [Accessed: 8 June 2010]

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HIV and maternal mortality: turning the tide

Abdool-Karim Q, AbouZahr C, Dehne K, Mangiaterra V, Moodley J, Rollins N, Say L, Schaffer N, Rosen JE, de Zoysa I. *The Lancet*, Volume 375, Issue 9730, Pages 1948 - 1949, 5 June 2010.

The two top causes of death in women of reproductive age globally are HIV/AIDS and complications related to pregnancy and childbearing, which account for 19% and 15% of all deaths in women aged 15—44 years, respectively. The growing burden of HIV infection in young sexually active women and the maternal health problems that they face have been described as two intersecting epidemics. In settings with a high HIV burden and high maternal mortality ratios, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, many HIV-infected pregnant women are confronted not only with the risk of death associated with advancing HIV disease, but also with an increased risk of pregnancy-related death...[Read More »](#)

Source: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(10\)60747-7/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(10)60747-7/fulltext) (NB: Free access with registration) [Accessed: 9 June 2010]

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Recent News

Integrate TB-HIV services!

Health-e. Published: 6 June 2010.

Seven out of 10 South Africans with TB also have HIV, yet they have to get their TB and HIV treatment in different clinics. The buzzword at this week's national TB conference in Durban was "integration" of TB and HIV services. But despite support from Health Minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi who said the "dual epidemic is a public health emergency", this integration isn't happening on the ground... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20032821> [Accessed: 9 June 2010]

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Community mobilisation key to fight TB

Inter Press Service News Agency. Published: 4 June 2010

African medical experts have realised they need to make a much bigger effort to educate rural communities if they want to effectively contain the continent's tuberculosis (TB) epidemic. Until recently, TB testing and treatment was mainly offered in hospital settings, which meant that poor people who live in peri-urban or rural areas struggled to access those services. Moreover, many patients failed to adhere to the months-long course of treatment because they live too far away from their nearest hospital to go to regular follow-up visits and pick up their medication... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.ipsnews.net/africa/nota.asp?idnews=51727> [Accessed: 7 June 2010]

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South Africa: Top Notch Health Services for World Cup

allAfrica.com. Published: 9 June 2010

With two days to go to the kick-off of the first World Cup on African soil, the Health Ministry has put in place extra measures to ensure that local and international fans alike receive the best medical care during the month-long tournament. Since 2006, planning for the much anticipated tournament began. This included the establishment of the coordinating units by provinces in 2007. The 2010 Health Task Team, led by the department of health, under the leadership of the late Deputy Health Minister, Molefi Sekularo, was also established and comprised of the South African Military Health Services (SAMHS), the private health sector, non-profit organisations and the Local Organising Committee (LOC) Medical Services Unit...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/201006100192.html> [Accessed: 9 June 2010]

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African governments urged to save their own - Living with AIDS

Health-e. Published: 10 June 2010

The majority of countries in sub-Saharan Africa rely on foreign funding to run their national AIDS programmes. But this over-reliance on donor agencies is now proving unsustainable as funders are freezing or reducing their support. Thus, local governments are now required to look no further than inward to save their own.

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Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20032833> [Accessed: 10 June 2010]

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Reports

The 2nd South African National Youth Risk Behaviour Survey 2008

Medical Research Council

This 2nd National Youth Risk Behaviour Survey reports on the prevalence of behaviours that place secondary school learners at risk for disease and ill health. The results of this study will be helpful to government departments and non-governmental organisations who are interested in developing programmes that will address these risk behaviours and subsequently assist in alleviating some of the adverse consequences. It is important to intervene in a timely manner to ensure the positive and successful development of youth in South Africa... [Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: http://www.mrc.ac.za/healthpromotion/yrbs_2008_final_report.pdf (1249 KB) [Accessed: 10 June 2010]

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Countdown to 2015 - Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival

World Health Organization and UNICEF 2010.

The Countdown to 2015 tracks coverage levels for health interventions proven to reduce maternal, newborn and child mortality. It calls on governments and development partners to be accountable, identifies knowledge gaps and proposes new actions to reach Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5, to reduce child mortality and improve maternal health. The Countdown Initiative is a supra-institutional collaborative effort of concerned individuals and partner organisations... [Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: <http://www.countdown2015mnch.org/documents/2010report/CountdownReportAndProfiles.pdf> (21665KB)

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Health of Migrants – the way forward

World Health Organization

The 2010 Global Consultation on Migrant Health was convened as a result of the 2008 World Health Assembly Resolution on the Health of Migrants, which asks Member States to take action on migrant-sensitive health policies and practices, and directs WHO to promote migrant health on the international agenda, in collaboration with other relevant organisations and sectors...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: http://www.who.int/hac/events/consultation_report_health_migrants_colour_web.pdf (3317 KB)

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Publications

Strong ministries for strong health systems

The African Center for Global Health and Social Transformation and The New York Academy of Medicine.

The health of the people is directly related to effective health systems. Strengthening of health systems has

emerged as a priority in global and national health policy and practice because a gap remains between knowing what can make a difference in the health of individuals and populations, and taking action to achieve results. In order to close this implementation gap and achieve the prevention and treatment goals of traditional disease-specific programs, a comprehensive national health system that works for the entire population is needed... [Click Here for more info »](#)

Source: <http://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/uploads/files/8819cca6-1738-4158-87fe-4d2c7b738932.pdf>

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Conferences

The 26th International Paediatric Association Congress of Paediatrics 2010

4-9 August 2010. Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa

URL: <http://www.kenes.com/ipa/mailshot/ms3.htm?ref3=db1>

Three leading paediatric associations, IPA, SAPA, and UNASPA, are uniting to host the 26th International Paediatric Association Congress of Paediatrics. More than 5,000 participants are expected to attend this landmark event, the first IPA Congress to be held in Sub-Saharan Africa. Just five years before the due date of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), IPA 2010 will unite paediatricians and health professionals working towards the MDGs target to reduce child mortality by two thirds before 2015.

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Training and Resources

Management and leadership development programme

Footsteps

The footsteps management and leadership development programme (mldp) is a new, 16-month learning programme designed to support middle managers of civil society organisations to achieve their full potential as managers and leaders, in their organisations and beyond. This programme is open to middle managers and coordinators working in civil society organisations. If you want to develop yourself to lead and manage people, systems and processes more effectively, this course was designed with you in mind. Directors of smaller organisation are also welcome, but should be accompanied by one or two other managers (or potential managers).

If you are interested in applying to participate in this exciting learning programme, contact Varsha at footsteps.int@gmail.com for an application form. For further information, please feel free to call the footsteps office on (031) 206 2954 or write to us at the e-mail address above.

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Core competencies adopted to help strengthen the public health work force

Council on Linkages between academia and public health practice unanimously adopted a new set of core competencies for Public Health Professionals. The competency-to-curriculum toolkit and the competencies assessment tool forms part of the core competencies.

Competency-to-curriculum tool kit: This toolkit has been developed to facilitate the development of a public health workforce competent to meet its assigned mission. One part of that process is the use of competency-based curricula in public health training or education. A competent workforce is one of the key components of the nation's public health infrastructure: a workforce that has the basic knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes that allow for delivery of essential public health services in all program areas, in a way that is culturally competent and effective.

Source: <http://www.asph.org/userfiles/Competency-to-Curriculum-Toolkit08.pdf> (2697 KB) [Accessed: 9 June 2010]

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Competencies Assessment Tool 2010

The American College of Healthcare Executive Competencies Assessment Tool is offered as an instrument for healthcare executives to use in assessing their expertise in critical areas of healthcare management. The self-assessment is designed to help you identify areas of strength as well as areas you may wish to include in your personal development plan. Used in such a manner, the competency self-assessment can be a powerful tool in facilitating feedback about gaps in skills necessary for optimising performance.

Source: http://www.ache.org/pdf/nonsecure/careers/competencies_booklet.pdf (177KB) [Accessed: 9 June 2010]

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Job Opportunities

Director: District Support and Community Development

Health Systems Trust

Closing date: 13 June 2010

Health Systems Trust (HST) is a not for profit organisation (NPO) that supports the development of an equitable and comprehensive health system for the provision of quality health care. We have a senior vacancy in the organisation for a Director of the District Support and Community Development (DSCD) Cluster. This is a two year contract position which is renewable based on funding and performance.

Please view the website for more details <http://www.hst.org.za/news/20041993>

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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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