



HEALTH SYSTEMS TRUST BULLETIN

11 November 2011

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Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

Beyond the rhetoric: Towards a more effective and humane drug policy framework in South Africa

Charles Parry, Bronwyn Myers. *South African Medical Journal*, Vol 101, No 10 (2011). Published: 2011.

The March 2011 Anti-Substance Abuse Summit in Durban continued the outdated approach to policy around illicit drugs in South Africa. It missed opportunities for discussing how to impact significantly on the health and social harms associated with problematic drug use and reduce the burden of drug-related cases in the criminal justice system...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.samj.org.za/index.php/samj/article/view/5222/3573>[Accessed: 11 November 2011]

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Prioritizing WHO normative work on maternal and perinatal health: a multicountry survey

Cordelia EM Coltart, Joao Paulo Souza and Ahmet M Gulmezoglu. Reproductive Health 2011, 8:30. Published: 28 October 2011.

WHO develops evidence-based guidelines for setting global standards and providing technical support to its Member States and the international community, as a whole. There is a clear need to ensure that WHO guidance is relevant, rigorous and up-to date. A key activity is to ascertain the guidance needs of the countries. This study provides an international comparison of priority guidance needs for maternal and perinatal health. It incorporates data from those who inform policy and implementation strategies at a national level, in addition to targeting those who use and most need the guidance at grassroot level...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.reproductive-health-journal.com/content/8/1/30/abstract>
[Accessed: 11 November 2011]

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Reproductive Decision-Making and Periconception Practices Among HIV-Positive Men and Women Attending HIV Services in Durban, South Africa

Lynn T. Matthews, Tamaryn Crankshaw, Janet Giddy, Angela Kaida, Jennifer A. Smit, Norma C. Ware and David R. Bangsberg. AIDS and Behavior pages 1-10. Published: 2011.

Understanding reproductive decisions and periconception behavior among HIV-discordant couples is important for designing risk reduction interventions for couples who choose to conceive. In-depth interviews were conducted to explore reproductive decision-making and periconception practices among HIV-positive women with recent pregnancy (n = 30), and HIV-positive men (n = 20), all reporting partners of negative or unknown HIV-status, and attending HIV services in Durban, South Africa...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.springerlink.com/content/m520564040w04824/>[Accessed: 11 November 2011]

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Access to health care of persons with disabilities as an indicator of equity in health systems

Malcolm MacLachlan, Hasheem Mannan, and Eilish McAuliffe. Open Med. 2011; 5(1): e10-e12. Published: January 18 2011.

Health systems are often evaluated using indicators such as maternal mortality, which reflect the health status of the population and the effectiveness of health services. Addressing the right to health of persons with disabilities is a significant challenge for health systems because health services for this subgroup are interdependent on other sectors in society, such as education, employment and transportation. By considering health care access of persons with disabilities, it is possible to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the health system in terms of equity, accessibility and right to health...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3205810/?tool=pubmed>[Accessed: 11 November 2011]

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Measuring capacity building in communities: a review of the literature

Selma C Liberato, Julie Brimblecombe, Jan Ritchie, Megan Ferguson and John Coveney. BMC Public Health 2011, 11:850. Published: 9 November 2011.

Although communities have long been exhorted to make efforts to enhance their own health, such approaches have often floundered and resulted in little or no health benefits when the capacity of the community has not been adequately strengthened. Thus being able to assess the capacity building process is paramount in facilitating action in communities for social and health improvement...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/11/850>[Accessed: 11 November 2011]

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Integrated delivery of HIV and tuberculosis services in sub-Saharan Africa: a systematic review

Jennifer Uyei, David Coetzee, James Macinko, Sally Gutmacher. The Lancet Infectious Diseases, Volume 11, Issue 11, Pages 855 - 867. Published: November 2011.

Tuberculosis is a major cause of morbidity and mortality in people with HIV and about a quarter of HIV-related deaths are attributed to tuberculosis. In this Review we identify and synthesise published evidence for the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of eight integrated strategies recommended by WHO that represent coordinated delivery of HIV and tuberculosis services...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.thelancet.com/>[Accessed: 11 November 2011]

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Redesigning the AIDS response for long-term impact

Heidi J Larson, Stefano Bertozzi & Peter Piot. Bulletin of the World Health Organization 2011;89:846-852. Published: 6 October 2011.

Despite signs of progress, the world is far from beating the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). In 2009 alone there were an estimated 2.6 million new human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections and 1.8 million deaths globally. In 2009, 69% of the world's new HIV infections and 72% of the deaths were in sub-Saharan Africa, where average life expectancy in several countries has decreased by 20 years or more since 1990...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/89/11/11-087114/en/index.html>[Accessed: 11 November 2011]

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Food Security in South Africa: Perceptions of the role of local government

Justin G. Steyn. Governance and AIDS Programme, IDASA. Published: October 2011.

This paper from the Governance and Aids Programme at Idasa examines the role that local government might play in promoting food security for people living with HIV in a democratic governance context. It examines local government's role in food security through interviews with local councillors in the Tshwane area...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.hst.org.za/publications/food-security-south-africa-perceptions-role-local-government/>[Accessed: 11 November 2011]

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Recent News

Richard Kamwi: Redouble efforts to rid SADC region of malaria

Business Day. Published: 11 November 2011.

This week, 12 Southern African Development Community (Sadc) health ministers are meeting in Limpopo with the goal of working together to make malaria history... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=158456>
[Accessed: 11 November 2011]

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Superbugs are not going away

Business Day. Published: 7 November 2011.

Antibiotic resistant "superbugs" in SA's hospitals are likely to make headlines in the coming years as the world faces the threat of an end to potent and cost-effective treatments for many infectious diseases. In recent weeks, 10 patients have tested positive for a "superbug" called New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase (NDM-1) at Life Glynnwood Hospital in Benoni... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=157977>
[Accessed: 11 November 2011]

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KZN medical staff scarce

IOL. Published: 3 November 2011.

The KwaZulu-Natal Health Department is struggling to fill about 2 700 vacant posts for doctors, leaving hospitals with a dire shortage of general practitioners and specialists. Less training, poor working conditions, doctors moving into private practice, poor hospital maintenance, meagre pay and the loss of doctors to other countries are among the reasons cited by the department for the problem... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/kwazulu-natal/kzn-medical-staff-scarce-1.1170986> [Accessed: 11 November 2011]

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Taking strides to fill the gaps in public health

Health-e News. Published: 30 October 2011.

The National Health Minister, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, has applauded Wits University for heeding his call to increase their intake of medical students in order to address the shortages of human resources in the public health sector. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20033316> [Accessed: 11 November 2011]

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Improved health pricing model needed, say experts

Business Live. Published: 9 November 2011.

Decision-making on annual health benefit and price changes in SA would be better served by a proper price index for medical scheme contributions, a new study has revealed. The report by the School of Management Studies at the University of Cape Town was presented to the Actuarial Society of SA conference on Wednesday, and made some startling revelations that cut to the heart of the medical inflation problems in the country... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.businesslive.co.za/> [Accessed: 11 November 2011]

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Brazil's Health System Inspires Abroad, Frustrates at Home

IPS. Published: 4 November 2011.

News that the government of South Africa was inspired by Brazil's health system in setting up its own universal coverage scheme might meet with scepticism in this South American country. Sociologist Walkiria Dutra de Oliveira was one of the many Brazilians who had a negative opinion of the country's public healthcare system... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=105729> [Accessed: 11 November 2011]

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Minister begins groundwork for NHI

Business Day. Published: 4 November 2011.

An audit of various health facilities across SA had begun ahead of implementing the National Health Insurance (NHI) scheme, Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi said yesterday. The first phase of the NHI scheme will be implemented from April next year, at 10 pilot projects in 10 districts... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=157849> [Accessed: 11 November 2011]

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Benefits of NHI 'exceed cost' – KPMG

Business Day. Published: 4 November 2011.

The economic benefits of introducing the National Health Insurance (NHI) scheme in SA could far outweigh the costs of the programme, global accountancy firm KPMG said yesterday... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=157851> [Accessed: 11 November 2011]

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NHI needs 'fraud-detection tool' before roll-out

Business Day. Published: 9 November 2011.

A mechanism to detect fraud and abuse should be developed well ahead of the roll-out of the National Health Insurance (NHI) scheme and funds should be set aside for this immediately, Human Sciences Research Council CEO Olive Shisana said yesterday... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=158178> [Accessed: 11 November 2011]

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Wits scientists working towards neutralising HIV

Health-e News. Published: 9 November 2011.

South African scientists are at the coalface of understanding whether HIV can be eradicated from an HIV-positive individual, essentially curing the person...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20033323> [Accessed: 11 November 2011]

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Sex workers stuck in HIV nightmare

IOL. Published: 10 November 2011.

Harassment by police and humiliation at clinics mean just 5 percent of sex workers are getting health care. This is according to research by the Sex Worker Education Advocacy Taskforce (Sweat), which says up to 60 percent of sex workers nationwide were HIV-positive and nearly 20 percent of all new infections were related to the industry through clients, partners, abuse and rape, according to its research...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.iol.co.za/dailynews/news/sex-workers-stuck-in-hiv-nightmare-1.1175929> [Accessed: 11 November 2011]

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Training and Resources

Resource Pack: Communicating with Children

UNICEF. Published: 2011.

Communicating with Children is a resource pack that facilitates the process of learning about the critical importance of communication that is age- appropriate and child-friendly, holistic, positive, strengths-based and inclusive. We believe effective communication is a two-way process for sharing ideas and knowledge that involves understanding people: their needs, skills, beliefs, values, societies and cultures. .
[Click Here](#) for further information.

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Call for Proposals for Women's Rights and Women's Empowerment

European Commission. Published: 2011.

The European Commission has issued a call for proposals under the "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment" theme to address inequalities and promoting women's rights. The overall objective of the call for proposals is to contribute to the promotion of women's social and economic empowerment and rights.
[Click Here](#) for further information.

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Annual Helen Kanzira Lecture: 'Climate Change and Human Rights: Connecting the Dots on Sexual and Reproductive Health'

Date: Tuesday 29 November 2011

Time: 17:30 for 18:00

Venue: Senate Hall, University of Pretoria

This public lecture on 'Climate Change and Human Rights: Connecting the Dots on Sexual and Reproductive Health' will be presented by Ms Mary Robinson, Former President of the Republic of Ireland; Former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and President of the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice. RSVP: Kindly confirm your attendance by Monday 22 November 2011 by sending an email to karen.stefiszyn@up.ac.za. Enquiries: Karen Stefiszyn (+27 12 420 4525)

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Reports and Publications

Closing the Cancer Divide: A Blueprint to expand access in low and middle income countries

President and Fellows of Harvard College. Published: 2011.

The paper argued that much could be done to prevent and treat cancer by deploying primary and secondary caregivers, using global financing mechanisms effectively, making off-patent drugs available and all drugs and inputs more affordable, and by using global and regional procurement mechanisms. Further, the paper argued, increasing access to CCC can strengthen health systems so they also can meet the challenges of other diseases...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

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2011 Human Development Report: Sustainability and Equity: A Better Future for All

United Nations Development Programme. Published: 2011.

Progress in health and development in the poorest countries is in serious danger if the world does not make a concerted effort to reduce inequities, protect the environment and promote sustainability. This is the stark warning highlighted in the 2011 Human Development Report...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

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Conferences

7th PHASA 2011 Conference

When: 28 - 30 November 2011

Venue: Sandton Convention Centre, Gauteng, South Africa

URL: <http://www.phasaconference.org.za/index.html>

The 2011 PHASA conference will have as its focus, a scientific debate and discussion on health inequities and the role of public health leadership, education and practice in reducing health equity gaps. The theme of the conference is "Closing the health equity gap: Public health leadership, education and practice". An exciting programme of local and international speakers is being put together. Speakers will include policy-makers, leading local and international academics and representatives of international organizations.

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Climate and Health Summit

When: 4 December 2011

Venue: Tropicana Hotel, Durban, South Africa

URL: <http://www.climateandhealthcare.org/action/climate-and-health-summit/>

On December 4, 2011, Health Care Without Harm is co-organizing the First Climate and Health Summit, which

will take place parallel to the UNFCCC meetings at the Tropicana Hotel in Durban, South Africa. The event will bring key health sector actors from around the world together to discuss the impacts of climate change on public health and solutions that promote greater health, as well as economic equity between and within nations.

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3rd Annual Healthcare Summit: Addressing the issues surrounding healthcare reform in South Africa

When: 24 – 26 January 2012
Venue: Convention Dynamics, Isando, Johannesburg
URL: <http://www.iir.co.za/detail.php?e=2394>

The Healthcare Summit is a three-day event that deals with all the current issues facing the stakeholders in the healthcare industry. This year's Summit will focus on the latest developments surrounding healthcare reform in South Africa in both private and public sectors and in particular the impact the NHI is likely to have on the industry.

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Future eHealth Leaders Summit

When: 21 - 25 February 2012
Venue: Cape Town, South Africa
URL: <http://www.futurehealthleaders.org>

Future eHealth Leaders provides you with a unique learning experience outside your familiar setting. It promotes collaboration between diverse countries and regions, mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe. This provides participants with rich opportunities and inspiration by linking with experienced colleagues who work in vastly different contexts and circumstances. You will be able to enhance your personal development and create new approaches to your leadership challenges.

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Healthcare in Africa

When: 6-7 March 2012
Venue: Cape Town, South Africa
URL: <http://cemea.economistconferences.com/event/healthcare-africa>

Healthcare in Africa will bring together influential healthcare stakeholders from government, providers, suppliers and patient groups to confront and explore key issues around healthcare systems in Africa. You'll be able to participate in interactive brainstorming sessions, hear cutting-edge case studies, and hear from a range of inspiring speakers.

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3rd SA TB Conference

When: 12-15 June 2012
Venue: ICC, Durban, South Africa
URL: <http://www.tbconference.co.za/>

The 3rd TB Conference will build on the momentum of the previous TB conferences and give communities an opportunity to assess progress towards reaching TB/HIV targets. Thus, giving meaning to the theme for the 2012 TB Conference: "Reaching the target".

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Job Opportunities

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.

The following positions with AHP are currently available:

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

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Health Systems and Services Research (HSSR) Lecturer or Senior Lecturer (part-time or fulltime)

Faculty of Health Sciences of Stellenbosch University
Closing date: 16 November 2011.

The Faculty of Health Sciences of Stellenbosch University is participating in an international collaboration to develop Health Systems and Services Research capacity in Africa. Applications are invited from suitably qualified individuals to participate in this new project.

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

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