

HST Bulletin



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HST IN THE NEWS

South African Health Review 2020: Call for Abstracts

Closing Date: 31 October 2019.

The call for abstracts for the 2020 edition of the SAHR is open. The theme for this edition is *equitable health care for people with disabilities in South Africa*. Papers offering fresh insights into health systems strengthening efforts supporting the realisation of universal health coverage in South Africa are also particularly sought. Overall, the 2020 edition will represent an evidence base which can be used to strengthen health systems and services and to inform future policy development in disability and health in South Africa. Preference will be given to manuscripts that take into account the complexities and opportunities for developing and sustaining inclusive health systems, especially in the context of universal health coverage.

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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Generating statistics from health facility data: the state of routine health information systems in Eastern and Southern Africa

BMJ Global Health | Published: 29 September 2019.

Abdoulaye Maïga , Safia S Jiwani, Martin Kavao Mutua , Tyler Andrew Porth, Chelsea Maria Taylor, Gershim Asiki, Dessalegn Y Melesse, Candy Day, et al

Health facility data are a critical source of local and continuous health statistics. Countries have introduced web-based information systems that facilitate data management, analysis, use and visualisation of health facility data. Working with teams of Ministry of Health and country public health institutions analysts from 14 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa, we explored data quality using national-level and subnational-level (mostly district) data for the period 2013–2017. The focus was on endline analysis where reported health facility and other data are compiled, assessed and adjusted for data quality, primarily to inform planning and assessments of progress and performance.

Mobile sexual health services for adolescents: investigating the acceptability of youth-directed mobile clinic services in Cape Town, South Africa

BMC Health Services Research | Published: 19 August 2019.

Philip Smith, Tsidiso Tolla, Rebecca Marcus, Linda-Gail Bekker

The Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) epidemic is growing rapidly among South African adolescents and young adults (AYA). Although HIV counselling and testing, HIV prevention and treatment options are widely available, many AYA delay health-seeking until illness occurs, demonstrating a need for youth responsive, integrated sexual and reproductive health services (SRHS). While feasibility and cost-effectiveness have been evaluated, acceptability of mobile clinics among AYA has yet to be established. The objective of this study was to investigate patient acceptability of mobile AYA SRHS and compare mobile clinic usage and HIV outcomes with nearby conventional clinics.

Adolescent HIV treatment in South Africa's national HIV programme: a retrospective cohort study

The Lancet | Published: 1 October 2019.

Mhairi Maskew, Jacob Bor, William MacLeod, Sergio Carmona, Gayle G Sherman, Matthew P Fox

The number of South African adolescents receiving HIV care and treatment in South Africa is growing. By use of routinely collected laboratory data from South Africa's National HIV Programme, we aimed to quantify the numbers of adolescents accessing HIV care and treatment over time, characterise the role of perinatal infection in these trends, and estimate proportions of adolescents seeking HIV care and antiretroviral therapy (ART) in South Africa's public sector.

Monitoring diagnosis, retention in care and viral load suppression in children testing HIV polymerase chain reaction-positive in two districts in South Africa

South African Medical Journal | Published: 28 August 2019.

F Moyo, A Haeri Mazanderani, U D Feucht, K Ngoma, S Bhardwaj, M Goosen, D Greyling, O B Mhlongo, G G Sherman

Retention in care is associated with improved virological control and survival among HIV-infected children. However, retention of children in HIV care remains a challenge. [The objective of this study was] to describe, using routine laboratory HIV test data, the retention-in-care and virological outcomes of HIV-infected children aged <18 months in two districts in South Africa.

Guidance for the Evaluation of Tuberculosis Diagnostics That Meet the World Health Organization (WHO) Target Product Profiles: An Introduction to WHO Process and Study Design Principles

The Journal of Infectious Diseases | Published: 8 October 2019.

Claudia M Denking, Samuel G Schumacher, Christopher Gilpin, Alexei Korobitsyn, William A Wells, Madhukar Pai, Mariska Leeflang, Karen R Steingart, et al

Existing high-priority target product profiles (TPPs) of the World Health Organization (WHO) establish important needs for tuberculosis (TB) diagnostic development. Building on this earlier work, this guidance series aims to provide study guidance for performing accuracy studies of novel diagnostic products that may meet the 4 high-priority WHO TPPs and thus enable adequate evidence generation to inform a WHO evidence review process.

The viral load monitoring cascade in a resource-limited setting: A prospective multicentre cohort study after introduction of routine viral load monitoring in rural Lesotho

PlosOne | Published: 28 August 2019.

Tracy Renee Glass, Lipontso Motaboli, Bienvenu Nsakala, Malebanye Lerotholi, Fiona Vanobberghen, Alain Amstutz, Thabo Ishmael Lejone, Josephine Muhairwe, et al

For HIV-positive individuals on antiretroviral therapy (ART), the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends routine viral load (VL) monitoring. We report on the cascade of care in individuals with unsuppressed VL after introduction of routine VL monitoring in a district in Lesotho.

The infectious diseases specialty in South Africa is in crisis

South African Medical Journal | Published: September 2019.

Tom Boyles, Marc Mendelson, Nelesh Govender, Nicolette du Plessis

HIV, tuberculosis, lower respiratory tract infections and diarrhoeal diseases are among the leading causes of death in South Africa (SA), and account for a large proportion of healthcare expenditure. However, complex problems related to the heavy burden of these and other infectious diseases (IDs), which require input and co-ordination from skilled specialists, persist in the healthcare system and cannot always be addressed by generic programme-level guidance. It is therefore vital that SA has the appropriate number of specialists to cope with this enormous burden of disease.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Have wheels, will travel: The all-male crews who are taking on sexual violence one car ride at a time

Bhekisisa | 9 October 2019.

Floods, fires and war — for decades, first responders have been using this mental health hack to help people after disasters hit. Could it work for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence too?

NHI implementation 2026 deadline is too tight, FFC warns

Business Day | 9 October 2019.

The Finance and Fiscal Commission says the timeline is too short to complete all the necessary steps to establish the National Health Fund.

Ramaphosa launches anti-corruption forum ‘to protect the NHI Fund’

Health-e News | 1 October 2019.

Ramaphosa is hopeful that cleaning up the healthcare system in efforts to protect the NHI Fund will ensure that South Africa reached universal health coverage.

South Africa delays rollout of new blockbuster HIV drug

Daily Maverick | 4 October 2019.

Stocks of the new treatment are already on the shelves of some clinics — but lingering concerns over a possible low risk of birth defects associated with this new antiretroviral have stalled the country's switch to better medication for a second time.

Mothers stigmatised because HIV status recorded on baby health cards

Health-e News | 7 October 2019.

Mothers say they experience stigma, discrimination, isolation and bullying because of their HIV status, and that of their children, because they are included in their health cards.

Medicine in motion: Patients receive chronic medical care at their convenience

Health-e News | 7 October 2019.

Anyone who uses chronic medication understands that admin involved in getting it month-to-month. Now, a bicycle delivery service is revolutionising the system.

Global health still mimics colonial ways: here's how to break the pattern

Bhekisisa | 2 October 2019.

Why it's time we look within for expertise on how to fix Global South healthcare issues.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Priorities for Local AIDS Control Efforts (PLACE) Tool Kit

MEASURE Evaluation | October 2019.

The PLACE Tool Kit incorporates best practices for using new tools in testing for HIV and sexually transmitted infections; new capabilities for geospatial analysis and electronic data collection; and an increased urgency to find people who are unaware that they are HIV-positive and get them on treatment—particularly to find key populations and other vulnerable people who may be at increased risk of transmitting the virus to others if they are not successfully engaged in treatment.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Measuring the Quality of HIV/AIDS Client-Level Data Using Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS)

MEASURE Evaluation | September 2019.

Tools and methods for assessing data quality have significantly advanced, in part by the need for good HIV/AIDS data to inform programs. Most of the existing tools, however, focus on aggregate data at subnational levels. Very few tools measure the quality of data at the primary source— individual client documents at health facilities and beneficiary documents for community-based programs. Reviewing the quality of data in these types of documents is time consuming and resource intensive. A triage system using lot quality assurance sampling (LQAS), a rapid survey method, can be implemented to identify acceptable or unacceptable source documents using a small sample of records.

Index Testing, Risk Network Referral (RNR), Enhanced Peer Outreach Approach (EPOA): What's the Difference?

Linkages (FHI360) | August 2019.

The Linkages across the Continuum of HIV Services for Key Populations Affected by HIV (LINKAGES) Project promotes multiple testing strategies to ensure efficient case-finding and improve the health and well-being of people living with HIV (PLHIV). These strategies are described below. The impact and efficiency of HIV testing services can be further improved by targeting testing in networks of PLHIV who are not yet virally suppressed.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

World Health Summit

27-29 October 2019

Berlin, Germany

International Society to Improve the Use of Medicines (ISIUM) Conference 2020

26-28 January 2019

Bangkok, Thailand

World Health Summit Regional Meeting: Africa

27-28 April 2020

Kampala, Uganda

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Health Systems Trust: Fleet Trainees

Closing Date: 17 October 2019

Friends of Valkenberg Trust: Part-time Volunteer Coordinator

Closing Date: 15 October 2019

Wits Health Consortium: Grant Accountant

Closing Date: 31 October 2019

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Health Systems Trust · 34 Essex Terrace · Westville · Durban, KZN 3630 · South Africa

