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HST IN THE NEWS

Medics under pressure (video)

Tonight with Jane Dutton | 28 March 2019.

Doctors are a lot more likely to commit suicide than the general population. They're also the least likely to seek help. Courtesy of DSTV.

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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Prevalence and predictors of postpartum depression by HIV status and timing of HIV diagnosis in Gauteng, South Africa

PlosOne | Published: 4 April 2019.

Idah Mokhele, Cornelius Nattey, Nelly Jinga, Constance Mongwenyana, Matthew P Fox, Dorina Onoya

Postpartum depression (PPD) is a common mental health condition that can compromise the quality of life and functional capacity of mothers and cause health and developmental problems in children born to affected mothers. We set out to measure the prevalence of PPD comparing postpartum HIV-1 infected women with pre-pregnancy HIV care experience, newly diagnosed (in latest pregnancy) HIV-1 infected women and HIV negative women, and to identify predictors of major PPD among these women in a peri-urban clinic in South Africa.

“I am still negative”: Female sex workers’ perspectives on uptake and use of daily pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention in South Africa

PlosOne | Published: 9 April 2019.

Robyn Eakle, Rutendo Bothma, Adam Bourne, Sanele Gumede, Keneilwe Motsosi, Helen Rees

Women remain highly vulnerable to HIV infection in sub-Saharan Africa, with female sex workers (FSWs) facing some of the highest rates of HIV. Oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) has the potential to reduce new infections among populations at highest risk and end-user perspectives of actual use in ‘real-world’ settings are critical to informing PrEP implementation. This paper presents findings from serial in-depth interviews (IDIs) conducted with FSW participants during the course of the Treatment And Prevention for Sex workers (TAPS) Demonstration Project in South Africa, exploring the lived experiences and perceptions of taking up and using PrEP.

Patterns of Co-occurring Comorbidities in People Living With HIV

Open Forum Infectious Diseases | Published: 24 October 2018.

Davide De Francesco, Sebastiaan O Verboeket, Jonathan Underwood, Emmanouil Bagkeris, Ferdinand W Wit, Patrick W G Mallon, Alan Winston, Peter Reiss, et al

The aims of this study were to identify common patterns of comorbidities observed in people living with HIV (PLWH), using a data-driven approach, and evaluate associations between patterns identified. Principal component analysis (PCA) identified 6 patterns among the 1073 POPPY PLWH (85.2% male; median age [interquartile range {IQR}], 52 [47–59] years): cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), mental health problems, cancers, metabolic disorders, chest/other infections.

National guidance and district-level practices in the supervision of community health workers in South Africa: a qualitative study

BMC Human Resources for Health | Published: 3 April 2019.

Tumelo Assegaai, Helen Schneider

Supportive supervision is considered critical to community health worker programme performance, but

there is relatively little understanding of how it can be sustainably done at scale. Supportive supervision is a holistic concept that encompasses three key functions: management (ensuring performance), education (promoting development) and support (responding to needs and problems). Drawing on the experiences of the ward-based outreach team (WBOT) strategy, South Africa's national community health worker (CHW) programme, this paper explores and describes approaches to supportive supervision in policy and programme guidelines and how these are implemented in supervision practices in the North West Province, an early adopter of the WBOT strategy. Outreach teams typically consist of six CHWs plus a nurse outreach team leader (OTL).

Effects and determinants of tuberculosis drug stockouts in South Africa

BMC Health Services Research | Published: 3 April 2019.

LEM Koomen, R Burger, EK A van Doorslaer

The frequent occurrence of medicine stockouts represents a significant obstacle to tuberculosis control in South Africa. Stockouts can lead to treatment alterations or interruptions, which can impact treatment outcomes. This study investigates the determinants and effects of TB drug stockouts and whether poorer districts are disproportionately affected.

Health effects of dietary risks in 195 countries, 1990–2017: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017

The Lancet | Published: 3 April 2019.

GBD 2017 Diet Collaborators

Suboptimal diet is an important preventable risk factor for non-communicable diseases (NCDs); however, its impact on the burden of NCDs has not been systematically evaluated. This study aimed to evaluate the consumption of major foods and nutrients across 195 countries and to quantify the impact of their suboptimal intake on NCD mortality and morbidity.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Urban-rural inequalities will hamper a successful NHI

Health-e News | 10 April 2019.

Rural areas bear the brunt of healthcare worker shortages and this inequality needs to be solved, before any form of National Health Insurance (NHI) is possible.

Health department scrambles to stop US cut in HIV funds

BD Live | 10 April 2019.

Poorly performing treatment programmes prompt move to reduce assistance as more people stop treatment than have started.

'You often get sick': the deadly toll of illegal gold mining in South Africa

The Guardian | 9 April 2019.

Driven by need, tens of thousands of women are risking death, disease and sexual violence to scrape a living in the country's informal mining sector.

First year of PrEP in Scotland: more users than expected, few dropouts, few HIV infections

Medical Brief | 10 April 2019.

The report on the first year of the implementation of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) through the National Health Service (NHS) in Scotland concludes: "Year one has been a resounding success in terms of establishing a new nationwide service – the first of its type in the UK and one of the first worldwide."

A Global Public Health Epidemic Going Completely Untreated: Intimate Partner Violence

Forbes | 8 April 2019.

When thinking about traumatic brain injuries (TBI), most people immediately conjure images of NFL players, car accidents or nasty falls. But there is a global public health epidemic going completely unrecognized – and untreated: intimate partner violence (IPV). In fact, IPV is the most common form of violence against women in the world, with nearly 1 in 3 women age 15 or older experiencing physical or sexual IPV. And it occurs in all settings, amongst all socioeconomic, religious and cultural groups.

Dabbling in weed could be good for democracy

Daily Maverick | 10 April 2019.

It appears that cannabis's moment has arrived. Lobbyists agree that the time has come for it to emerge from the shadows and start flourishing, not just as a crop, but as an investment opportunity. Benefits for both the fiscus and business owners could, well, high. The world cannabis business could reach upwards of US\$630-billion in market value by 2040 — and that has investors reaching for their rizlas. But one African country is lagging. Guess which.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

TB Data Hub

US AID | 2019.

The TB Data, Impact Assessment and Communications Hub (TB DIAH) project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is associated with USAID's Global Accelerator to End Tuberculosis (TB). The Accelerator is USAID's new business model to focus on performance-based measures for combating TB. TB DIAH aims to ensure optimal demand for and analysis of TB data and the

appropriate use of such information to measure performance and to inform national TB programs and USAID interventions and policies. This website and data hub contain information, guidance, and tools for data users to achieve those ends.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Protecting Rural Healthcare in Times of Economic Crisis - There is Another Way: An Overview

Rural Health Advocacy Project | 9 April 2019.

South Africa, unlike many other countries, was able to weather the initial impact of the 2008 global financial crisis. However, as the country's economy faltered, health expenditure started flat lining from 2012. The Rural Health Advocacy Project's (RHAP) 2015 report on the causes and implications of the moratoria on the filling of vacant posts in the public health sector we found that the practice was largely informed by budgetary constraints. After a long period of denial, findings of that report have since been confirmed by the National Department of Health (NDoH) as well as by a ministerial task team investigating service delivery in public health facilities across the nine provinces.

Strengthening Capacity to Prevent HIV among Adolescent Girls and Young Women: Supporting DREAMS programming results brief: Inspiring a new way of thinking

Project SOAR/ Population Council | 2019.

The DREAMS (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe) Partnership aims to significantly reduce HIV infections among AGYW. Project SOAR provided technical assistance to DREAMS implementing partners (IPs) in five countries to design girl-centered programming and to improve their program coverage. Learn about the evidence-informed concepts, tools, and tactics that were the focus of SOAR's technical assistance and the lessons learned in fostering innovation among DREAMS IPs.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Anaesthesia refresher course

3-7 June 2019

Colleges of Medicine, Cape Town

VIIth Conference of the South African Immunology Society

18-20 June 2019

aha Gateway hotel, Umhlanga, Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa

STI & HIV 2019 World Congress

14-17 July 2019

Vancouver Convention Centre East Building, in Vancouver, Canada

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Health Systems Trust: Lab Technician

Closing Date: 18 April 2019

Health Systems Trust: Self-Screening Co-ordinator

Closing Date: 18 April 2019

Health Systems Trust: Administrator

Closing Date: 18 April 2019

Health Systems Trust: Pharmacists (15)

Closing Date: 18 April 2019

Health Systems Trust: Pharmacist Assistants (48)

Closing Date: 18 April 2019

Health Systems Trust: Pharmacy Manager

Closing Date: 18 April 2019

Health Systems Trust: Phlebotomists

Closing Date: 18 April 2019

Health Systems Trust: Junior Administrator

Closing Date: 18 April 2019

Health Systems Trust: Senior Administrator

Closing Date: 18 April 2019

Health Systems Trust: (CCMDD) National Programme Co-ordinator

Closing Date: 18 April 2019

Health Systems Trust: Human Resources Administrators

Closing Date: 18 April 2019

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