

# HST Bulletin



Dear Subscribers,

The HST Bulletin will be taking a break over the festive period. The next Bulletin will be published on 18 January 2019. Best wishes for the festive season and a prosperous New Year.

The HST Bulletin Editorial Team

---

## CATEGORIES

[HST in the News](#)

[Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles](#)

[Recent Public Health News](#)

[Training and Resources](#)

[Publications and Reports](#)

[Conferences and Events](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

---

## HST IN THE NEWS

### **South African Health Review 2019 Call for Abstracts: Now Open**

The editors are pleased to announce that the call for abstracts for the 2019 edition of the SAHR is now open. Abstracts providing fresh insights into health systems strengthening efforts supporting the realisation of universal health coverage in South Africa are particularly sought. Preference will be given to manuscripts that take cognisance of the World Health Organization's six building blocks for an effective, efficient and equitable health system.

### **Health staff shortages make NHI a 'pipe dream'**

*Health-e News | 12 December 2018.*

Universal health coverage (UHC) or National Health Insurance (NHI) will remain a "pipe dream" if human resources for health, especially in rural areas, aren't urgently addressed.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

---

## **ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES**

### **South African Health Review 2018**

*Health Systems Trust | Published: 12 December 2018.*

While the central focus of the 2018 Review is human resources for health (HRH), this edition also provides analysis and commentary on other important topics in our national discourse on citizen health and the responsiveness of the health system. Chapters on mental health, quality improvement, management of infectious and communicable diseases, and increase in 'obesogenic' environments have been included. These illustrate the complexity of health systems and the range of issues that need to be addressed in order to achieve universal health coverage in South Africa.

### **Urgency for South Africa to prioritise cardiovascular disease management**

*The Lancet | Published: 6 December 2018.*

*Aletta E Schutte*

Over the past few decades, the burden of high blood pressure has shifted from high-income to low-income and middle-income countries, including sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>1</sup> Raised blood pressure is accompanied by rising obesity trends, with 68% of South African women and 31% of men being overweight or obese.<sup>2</sup> In South Africa, the age-standardised death rates for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are now higher than those of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis combined,<sup>3, 4</sup> with cardiovascular disease being the leading category of NCDs.

### **Implications of scaling up cardiovascular disease treatment in South Africa: a microsimulation and cost-effectiveness analysis**

*The Lancet | Published: 6 December 2018.*

*Sanjay Basu, Ryan G Wagner, Ronel Sewpaul, Priscilla Reddy, Justine Davies*

Cardiovascular diseases and their risk factors—particularly hypertension, dyslipidaemia, and diabetes—have become an increasing concern for middle-income countries. Using newly available, nationally representative data, we assessed how cardiovascular risk factors are distributed across subpopulations within South Africa and identified which cardiovascular treatments should be prioritised.

### **Heavy drinking and contextual risk factors among adults in South Africa: findings from the International Alcohol Control study**

*BMC Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy* | Published: 5 December 2018.

*Pamela J Trangenstein, Neo K Morojele, Carl Lombard, David H Jernigan, Charles D H Parry*

There is limited information about the potential individual-level and contextual drivers of heavy drinking in South Africa. This study aimed to identify risk factors for heavy drinking in Tshwane, South Africa. A household survey using a multi-stage stratified cluster random sampling design. Complete consumption and income data were available on 713 adults. Heavy drinking was defined as consuming  $\geq 120$  ml (96 g) of absolute alcohol (AA) for men and  $\geq 90$  ml (72 g) AA for women at any location at least monthly.

### **Risks and benefits of dolutegravir-based antiretroviral drug regimens in sub-Saharan Africa: a modelling study**

*The Lancet* | Published: 29 November 2018.

*Andrew N Phillips, Francois Venter, Diane Havlir, Anton Pozniak, Daniel Kuritzkes, Annemarie Wensing, Jens D Lundgren, Andrea De Luca, et al*

The integrase inhibitor dolutegravir could have a major role in future antiretroviral therapy (ART) regimens in sub-Saharan Africa because of its high potency and barrier to resistance, good tolerability, and low cost, but there is uncertainty over appropriate policies for use relating to the potential for drug resistance spread and a possible increased risk of neural tube defects in infants if used in women at the time of conception. We used an existing individual-based model of HIV transmission, progression, and the effect of ART with the aim of informing policy makers on approaches to the use of dolutegravir that are likely to lead to the highest population health gains.

### **The impact of approaches in improving male partner involvement in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV on the uptake of safe infant feeding practices by HIV positive women in sub-Saharan Africa. A systematic review and meta-analysis**

*PlosOne* | Published: 3 December 2018.

*Noah F. Takah, Jeannine A. Atem, Leopold N. Aminde, Moffat Malisheni, Grant Murewenhema*

The low level of male partner involvement in Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV services such as safe infant feeding practices poses a serious challenge to the implementation of guidelines on safe infant feeding and may undermine efforts towards elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). We conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis to identify the approaches that have been utilized to improve male partner involvement in PMTCT services as well as their impact on the uptake of safe infant feeding practices by HIV positive mothers in SSA.

### **A study protocol “saving futures: developing an integrated model of rehabilitation and paediatric HIV care to foster success at school”**

*BMC Pilot and Feasibility Studies | Published: 28 November 2018.*

*Verusia Chetty, Stacy Maddocks, Saul Cobbing, Jill Hanass-Hancock*

A significant number of children experience disabilities as a result of living with HIV, including those on antiretroviral therapy (ART). Current paediatric HIV care does not prioritise rehabilitation. Furthermore, little attention is paid to cognitive development and educational needs, thereby placing the future of these children at risk. This can be mitigated by providing rehabilitation services to help overcome these disabilities.

### **The Relationship Between Body Image Perceptions and Condom Use Outcomes in a Sample of South African Emerging Adults**

*Prevention Science | Published: 30 November 2018.*

*Rosalie Corona, Kristina B Hood, Firoza Haffejee*

HIV continues to be a health priority in South Africa. Consistent condom use helps prevent HIV, yet less than half of South African emerging adults use condoms consistently. Cultural beliefs about illnesses (e.g., being thin is perceived to be a sign of HIV infection) suggest that body image perceptions may play a role in emerging adults' condom use outcomes. We explored the relationships between body image perceptions (i.e., body dissatisfaction, body consciousness) and condom use outcomes (e.g., attitudes, negotiation efficacy, past use) in a sample of South African emerging adults.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

---

## **RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS**

### **Over 5,000 health staff to be sought in huge recruitment drive, Aaron Motsoaledi says. This is more than double the number of healthcare posts announced in President Cyril Ramaphosa’s economic stimulus package in September**

*Business Day | 10 December 2018.*

Health minister Aaron Motsoaledi has worked with his provincial counterparts to mobilise additional resources for hiring staff, more than doubling the number of healthcare posts announced in President Cyril Ramaphosa’s economic stimulus package in September.

### **US doubles funding to combat SA’s HIV ‘crisis’**

*Business Day | 3 December 2018.*

US global AIDS co-ordinator says SA will have 10-million people living with HIV by 2030 if it does not find a way to stem the tide of new infections.

### **Treatment Action Campaign celebrates two decades of fighting against the odds —**

### **and winning**

*Daily Maverick | 7 December 2018.*

The Treatment Action Campaign remains as relevant in 2018 as it was 20 years ago, when it was formed to become a thorn in government's side and a symbol of hope for people dying from HIV/Aids.

### **Placing new nurses going smoothly, says government**

*Business Day | 5 December 2018.*

A total 3,535 nurses qualified in 2018, of whom 3,470 have already been placed, MPs told.

### **Cabinet turns down contentious NHI bill**

*Business Day | Published: 6 December 2018.*

Thursday's statement makes it clear the cabinet has not given the bill the green light, but it is unclear what its concerns are.

### **Lots Of Antibiotics Are Used In Beef Production. McDonald's Vows To Change This**

*NPR | 11 December 2018.*

Antibiotic resistance poses a threat to global health and food security. And McDonald's — one of the globe's largest purchasers of beef — gets it: The more that antibiotics are given to livestock, the more quickly bacteria could adapt and become resistant to them. Ultimately, experts say this could render the drugs ineffective for people.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

---

## **TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

### **HIV and TB Programme Supportive Supervision Toolkit**

*Health Systems Trust | November 2018.*

This Toolkit has been compiled to support health managers and partners in providing on-site, supportive supervision to facility staff by standardising and focusing supervision practices, thereby increasing efficiencies in the priority programmes.

The processes and algorithms contained in the Toolkit are derived from National Department of Health policies and guidelines, which should always be utilised as key source documents for deeper understanding and guidance. This Toolkit enables any manager or supervisor to examine processes in the clinic to determine whether they are working well – and if not, to identify where the challenges lie and design Quality Improvement Plans.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

---

## **PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS**

## **Survive and Thrive: Transforming care for every small and sick newborn**

*UNICEF | Published: 13 December 2018.*

Nearly 30 million babies are born too soon, too small or become sick every year and need specialized care to survive, according to a new report by a global coalition that includes UNICEF and WHO.

“When it comes to babies and their mothers, the right care at the right time in the right place can make all the difference,” said Omar Abdi, UNICEF Deputy Executive Director. “Yet millions of small and sick babies and women are dying every year because they simply do not receive the quality care that is their right and our collective responsibility.”

## **Global status report on road safety 2018**

*World Health Organisation | Published: 7 December 2018.*

The Global status report on road safety 2018, launched by WHO in December 2018, highlights that the number of annual road traffic deaths has reached 1.35 million. Road traffic injuries are now the leading killer of people aged 5-29 years. The burden is disproportionately borne by pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists, in particular those living in developing countries. The report suggests that the price paid for mobility is too high, especially because proven measures exist.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

---

# **CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

## **The Future of Food Safety: Transforming knowledge into action for people, economies and the environment**

12-13 February 2018

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

## **9th SA AIDS Conference 2019**

11-14 June 2018

Durban International Convention Centre, Durban, South Africa

## **10<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2019)**

21-24 July 2018

Mexico City, Mexico

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

---

# **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

Please click on the job title for more information.

**Health Systems Trust: Clinician**

Closing Date: 7 January 2019

**Health Systems Trust: Radiographer**

Closing Date: 7 January 2019

**Health Systems Trust: Lab Technician**

Closing Date: 7 January 2019

**(Return to Top)**

---



---

*Copyright © 2018 HEALTH SYSTEMS TRUST, All rights reserved.*

**Our mailing address is:**

[hst@hst.org.za](mailto:hst@hst.org.za)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

---

This email was sent to [<<Email Address>>](#)

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

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

