

HST Bulletin\_15 December 2022

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## CATEGORIES

[Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles](#)[Recent Public Health News](#)[Training and Resources](#)[Publications and Reports](#)[Conferences and Events](#)[Job Opportunities](#)

## ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

### **Achieving the health and well-being Sustainable Development Goals among adolescent mothers and their children in South Africa: Cross-sectional analyses of a community-based mixed HIV-status cohort**

*Plos One | 8 December 2022*

*Elona Toska, Wylene Saal, Jenny Charles, Camille Wittesaele, Nontokozi Langwenya, et al.*

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a visionary and multi-sectoral agenda for human development. With less than a decade left to reach these targets, it is important to identify those at greatest risk of not meeting these ambitious targets. Adolescent mothers and their children are a highly vulnerable group. We mapped 35 SGD-related targets among 1,046 adolescent mothers and their oldest child (n = 1046). Questionnaires using validated scales were completed by 10- to 24-year-old adolescent girls and young women who had their first child before age 20 in an HIV-endemic district in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa. Maternal outcomes included 26 SDG-aligned indicators, while child-related outcomes included 9 indicators. Data was collected by trained researchers, following informed voluntary consent by the adolescent mothers and their caregivers.

### **When patients are victims: access to online records and medical misconduct**

*The BMJ | 9 December 2022*

*Charlotte Blease*

A review into the records of 44 patients who died while under the care of former Belfast Trust neurologist Michael Watt was published on 29 November 2022. In 2018, concerns about the quality of Watt's care led to one of the biggest patient recalls in NHS history, and the largest ever in Northern Ireland. The review identified numerous concerns, including lack of proper clinical investigation, inaccurate diagnoses, poor prescribing practices, poor recording keeping, lack of openness and effective communication, inappropriate treatment, and the risks of clinicians working in isolation.

### **Ntobeko Ntusi: valuing a culture of inclusivity and reciprocity**

*The Lancet | 10 December 2022*

*Udani Samarasekera*

Before our interview, Ntobeko Ntusi, Chair and Head of the Department of Medicine at the University of Cape Town (UCT) and Groote Schuur Hospital, South Africa, had been doing a bedside tutorial with students. He highlighted the different way they had presented the Black and White patients. "I asked the students why it is important to clarify the HIV status of Black patients when you present them when it has no bearing on their clinical presentation. And you can see the dumbfounded faces because it's not something they do consciously, but these biases are so in-built, even at this young age", he says. Ntusi, who is also a cardiologist and Professor of Medicine at UCT, has written and spoken about racism in medicine.

### **Modelling longitudinal binary outcomes with outcome dependent observation times: an application to a malaria cohort study**

*Malaria Journal* | 10 December 2022

Adelino Martins, Sereina A. Herzog, Levicatus Mugenyi, Christel Faes, Niel Hens et al.

In spite of the global reduction of 21% in malaria incidence between 2010 and 2015, the disease still threatens many lives of children and pregnant mothers in African countries. A correct assessment and evaluation of the impact of malaria control strategies still remains quintessential in order to eliminate the disease and its burden. Malaria follow-up studies typically involve routine visits at pre-scheduled time points and/or clinical visits whenever individuals experience malaria-like symptoms. In the latter case, infection triggers outcome assessment, thereby leading to outcome-dependent sampling (ODS). Commonly used methods to analyze such longitudinal data ignore ODS and potentially lead to biased estimates of malaria-specific transmission parameters, hence, inducing an incorrect assessment and evaluation of malaria control strategies.

### **HIV related stigma: a dangerous roadblock**

*The BMJ* | 12 December 2022

Jane Anderson and Kevin Fenton

World AIDS Day, on 1 December 2022, marked the first anniversary of the Department of Health and Social Care's action plan to end new HIV infections in England by 2030, improve quality of life for people living with HIV, and to tackle HIV related stigma. Stigma reinforces existing prejudices, exacerbates health inequalities, and is a foremost barrier to effective HIV prevention, treatment, and care. Today, for those living with HIV in the UK who are diagnosed early and have access to effective antiretroviral therapy, outcomes are among the best in the world, with life expectancy approaching that of the general population. Treatment delivering virological suppression to undetectable levels prevents onward transmission, stopping HIV in its tracks. The consensus that undetectable equals untransmissible (U=U) has been revolutionary for people living with HIV and the direction of the epidemic.

### **Beliefs and Barriers to COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance in Three Countries with Different Human Development Index (HDI) Scores: A Comparative Study**

*Dovepress* | 13 December 2022

Makki S, Siddiqua A, Wahab S, Siddiqui S, Faheemuddin M, et al.

Every aspect of life has been adversely affected by the current recession brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. In order to stop coronavirus infections and further devastation from the pandemic, vaccines have been developed. The World Health Organization (WHO) has already approved many vaccines, and vaccination campaigns have already begun in several countries. Although there is much evidence that vaccines are safe and help to improve health outcomes, there is still a lack of acceptance of vaccines among some people. The general public's reluctance to receive a COVID-19 vaccine is frequently attributed to apprehension about side effects, vaccine safety, and vaccine efficacy.

### **Effect of obesity on dolutegravir exposure in Black Southern African adults living with HIV**

*Southern African Journal of HIV Medicine* | 13 December 2022

Enkosi Mondleki, Clifford G Banda, Nomathemba C Chandiwana, Simiso Sokhela, Lubbe Wiesner, et al.

Dolutegravir, a component of the preferred first-line antiretroviral therapy regimen, has been associated with increased weight gain. South Africa has a high prevalence of obesity, especially among women. Understanding dolutegravir exposure in patients with obesity is important for dose optimisation.

### **A peer-facilitated psychological group intervention for perinatal women living with**

## **HIV and depression in Tanzania-Healthy Options: A cluster-randomized controlled trial**

*PLOS Medicine* | 13 December 2022

*Sylvia Kaaya, Hellen Siril, Mary C Smith Fawzi, Zenaice Aloyce, Ricardo Araya, et al.*

Perinatal women living with HIV (PWLH) have a greater risk of depression compared to other women; however, there are limited specialized mental health services available to them. We aimed to determine whether a stepped-care intervention facilitated by trained lay providers can improve mental health outcomes postpartum for PWLH.

## **Achieving the UNAIDS 90–90–90 targets: a comparative analysis of four large community randomised trials delivering universal testing and treatment to reduce HIV transmission in sub-Saharan Africa**

*BMC Public Health* | 13 December 2022

*K Sabapathy, L Balzer, J Larmarange, L Block, S Floyd, et al.*

Four large community-randomized trials examining universal testing and treatment (UTT) to reduce HIV transmission were conducted between 2012–2018 in Botswana, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia and South Africa. In 2014, the UNAIDS 90–90–90 targets were adopted as a useful metric to monitor coverage. We systematically review the approaches used by the trials to measure intervention delivery, and estimate coverage against the 90–90–90 targets. We aim to provide in-depth understanding of the background contexts and complexities that affect estimation of population-level coverage related to the 90–90–90 targets.

## **Utilization of Antibiotics for Hospitalized Patients with Severe Coronavirus Disease 2019 in Al-Madinah Al-Munawara, Saudi Arabia: A Retrospective Study**

*Dovepress* | 14 December 2022

*Inass Taha, Yasser Abdou, Ikhlas Hammad, Omnia Nady, Gamal Hassan, et al.*

Since its start in December 2019, the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic had significantly affected the world in terms of health-care priorities and economic burden.<sup>1</sup> In general, the symptoms are mild to moderate in 80% of cases, severe in 20% of patients, and approximately 6% of affected patients require care in an intensive care unit (ICU).<sup>2</sup> About 90% of patients admitted to hospitals with COVID-19 pneumonia receive empirical antibiotics, without supporting evidence of a bacterial infection.<sup>3</sup> The type, dose, and justification for the empirical antibiotics for patients with COVID-19 have not yet been well established. These antibiotics are usually wide spectrum. As they are also expensive, developing countries usually suffer more because of limited resources.<sup>4,5</sup> Considering the risk of antibiotic-related adverse events, their impact on antimicrobial resistance, and burden on the economy, it appears that more efforts should be made to set a guideline for the use of anti-bacterial antibiotics for patients with severe COVID-19.

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

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## **RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS**

### **South Africa measles outbreak reported in four provinces**

*Outbreak News Today* | 9 December 2022

In a follow-up on the measles outbreak in South Africa, the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) reports the number of measles cases in the country is rising. Four out of nine provinces have recorded outbreaks to date. 137 cases of laboratory-confirmed measles cases from the declaration of the outbreak in Limpopo province from the 11th of October up until the 6th of December 2022.

### **South Africa plans to legalize sex work in a bid to tackle crime against women and HIV infections**

*CBS News* | 9 December 2022

South Africa on Friday said it would decriminalize sex work, hoping to tackle high levels of crime against women in a country with one of the world's highest HIV caseloads. The sale and purchase of sexual services will no longer be treated as a crime under proposed legislation put forward by the justice ministry. According to advocacy groups there are over 150,000 sex workers in the country. "It is hoped that decriminalization will minimize human rights violations against sex workers," Justice Minister Ronald

Lamola told a press briefing.

## **Forced sterilisation of HIV + women, high black maternal deaths and GBVF . . . connecting the dots**

*Drum | 9 December 2022*

History repeats itself when we do not learn from it. This is why the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted in 1948, following the atrocities of war experienced by the world. Torture, maiming, raping - these were some of the evils experienced by civilians and prisoners of war who simply became statistics as nation fought nation. Now, more than seven decades later, South African women – and women of colour around the globe – find themselves fighting for the human right to not be tortured.

## **COVID-19 jobs for kids tops Phaahla's agenda**

*Health-e-News | 9 December 2022*

Health Minister Dr Joe Phaahla has announced that from early next year, all children aged between five and 11, living with conditions that place them at risk of severe COVID-19 disease, will be eligible for the jab. This comes as the country crossed the 38 million mark for vaccines this week. Phaahla said the children will be offered two doses of the paediatric Comirnaty vaccine, otherwise known as the Pfizer vaccine, with an interval of 21 days in between. “This will include children with chronic respiratory, heart, neurological, kidney, liver and gastrointestinal conditions as well as those with certain endocrine disorders, conditions associated with immunosuppression and serious genetic abnormalities,” said Phaahla. The minister was speaking during a media briefing in Johannesburg on Thursday. “Although the number of COVID-19 cases remains very low around the country, sub-variants of Omicron continue to be detected at low levels. We continue to record deaths every week. COVID-19 vaccination is now integrated into our primary healthcare services, and we have closed the majority of our special vaccination sites.

## **Inequality still hampers Africa's HIV fightback – Podcast**

*SciDev.Net | 9 December 2022*

Eastern and Southern Africa have the highest HIV/AIDS burden in the world. And it is mostly women and girls in low- and middle-income countries who bear the greatest burden. This year, World AIDS Day highlighted the inequalities holding back progress in ending HIV/AIDS. In this episode of Africa Science Focus, we speak to Anne Githuku-Shongwe, UNAIDS Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa, about the inequalities faced by people on the African continent in accessing HIV treatment. Eva Kiwango, country director of UNAIDS South Africa, focuses on access to HIV treatment in South Africa.

## **Masking could fight the 'triple endemic', experts say. Will anyone listen?**

*The Guardian | 10 December 2022*

Masking can feel like a thing of the past in the US, even in cities such as New York and Los Angeles that once embraced the precaution. But as healthcare facilities grapple with a “triple endemic” of respiratory viruses – with Covid, flu and RSV surging simultaneously – experts are once again urging the public to don face coverings.

## **Ending the “triple threat” of early pregnancies, new HIV infections and sexual violence among adolescent girls and young women**

*Reliefweb | 10 December 2022*

A single act of sexual violence against women and girls can result in HIV infections and other sexually transmitted diseases resulting in shame, fear and trauma. However, for adolescent girls and young women (AGYW), sexual violence can also result in early pregnancy and childbearing, which carries its own stigma. Globally, girls between 15 to 24 years of age have HIV infection rates twice as high as adolescent boys of the same age, accounting for 22 percent of all new HIV infections, and 31 percent of all new infections occurring in Sub-Saharan Africa.

## **Africa: 'Vaccination A Safe Medical Procedure That Saves Lives' - Africa Must Eradicate Polio**

*allAfrica | 12 December 2022*

To address declining immunization rates and the resurgence of polio, President Macky Sall - speaking during the Forum for Polio Vaccination and Eradication in Africa held this weekend in Dakar - called on heads of state and other stakeholders to urgently re-mobilize around the Addis Declaration. Sall also



encouraged them to reaffirm their commitment to systematic immunization towards the eradication of polio, the fight against the resurgence of other vaccine-preventable diseases given the downward trend in basic vaccination coverage throughout the continent, and the establishment of vaccine manufacturing programs on the continent so that no child is left behind.

### **Lifelong access to antiretrovirals nearly eliminates risk for vertical HIV transmission**

*Healio | 12 December 2022*

In Tanzania, pregnant women with HIV who had access to antiretroviral therapy for life had less than a 2% risk for vertical transmission, according to data published in *The Lancet HIV*. Although 84% of pregnant Tanzanian women with HIV had access to antiretroviral therapy (ART) in 2020, the estimated risk for vertical transmission was 11.1%, according to study background.

### **Mental burden weighs heavily on TB sufferers**

*Health-e News | 12 December 2022*

Being diagnosed with Tuberculosis (TB) comes with social stigma, economic stressors and added burdens stemming from the health system. According to a local TB expert, this can leave people with the disease vulnerable to depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues. Dr Jennifer Furin, DR-TB Clinical Manager for Doctors Without Borders in Khayelitsha, said that studies have shown that anywhere between 10-50% of people living with TB experience clinically defined depression at some point during their illness.

### **Breast cancer: Estrogen-blocking drugs reduce mortality rates in high-risk women**

*Medical News Today | 12 December 2022*

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Trusted Source, women with a strong family history of breast cancer or inherited BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene mutations, have an increased risk of getting breast cancer. A 2021 study Trusted Source concluded that women with estrogen receptor-positive (ER-positive) breast cancer are at high risk of breast cancer recurrence for up to 32 years after initial diagnosis. In ER-positive breast cancer, the tumor cells have receptors for the hormone estrogen, which fuels the growth of the tumor.

### **Free State rural areas in dire need of mobile clinics**

*Health-e News | 12 December 2022*

Pregnant with her second child, 25-year-old Kea Selai hopes to raise her kids in an environment with access to health care services. Her wish, however, seems unobtainable as she and others living in Zone 1 in Thaba Nchu have to walk long distances to seek basic medical care at clinics. Selai<sup>2</sup> said the entire community feels abandoned by the government. She said mobile clinics provided by the department are not servicing them, except for delivering medication once a week. "We got to go to Zone 2 clinic, which is way too small to service two towns, but we go because we are desperate," she said.

### **Severe COVID Ages Brain Tissue at Molecular Level: Study**

*WebMD | 12 December 2022*

People who died of severe COVID-19 had brain tissue similar to that of people who were at least 71 years old, prompting Harvard Medical School researchers to recommend that recovered COVID-19 patients seek neurological follow-up care. The new study adds molecular-level findings to the growing body of evidence that severe and long COVID add to thinking problems sometimes referred to as "brain fog." "Ours is the first study to show that COVID-19 is associated with the molecular signatures of brain aging," author Maria Mavrikaki, PhD, an instructor of pathology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) and Harvard Medical School, said in a news release. "We found striking similarities between the brains of patients with COVID-19 and aged individuals."

### **Revolutionary Malaria Detection Tool**

*Azo Optics | 12 December 2022*

Usually, a blood test is used to detect malaria, but researchers have developed a technique that uses a device that shines a beam of safe infrared light on a person's finger or ear for five to ten seconds. This method collects an infrared signature that is then analyzed by a computer algorithm. Dr. Maggy Lord, the international team leader from the School of Biological Sciences at University of Queensland, stated that the technology would completely alter how malaria is tackled worldwide.

## **Sahpra mulls over application to register anti-Covid drug from Pfizer**

*Daily Maverick | 12 December 2022*

An application for Paxlovid, an anti-viral medication that has proved effective against Covid-19, especially in older patients, is currently before the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority. Sahpra spokesperson Yuveng Gouden has confirmed receipt of the application from pharmaceutical company Pfizer and that it is being reviewed.

## **Aspen secures \$30m for African childhood vaccines**

*Business Day | 12 December 2022*

SA's largest pharmaceutical manufacturer Aspen Pharmacare has secured \$30m from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) to support its plan to make childhood vaccines for Africa, it announced on Monday. Aspen secured a 10-year agreement with the Serum Institute of India (SII) in August, to bottle four vaccines used in childhood immunisation programmes, which it will market and distribute under its own brand in Africa. The agreement is aimed at using spare capacity in Aspen's sterile plant in Gqeberha, which has lines lying idle due to slower than expected demand for Covid-19 shots, and reducing Africa's reliance on vaccine imports, which leave it vulnerable in times of scarcity.

## **More evidence that older version of tenofovir protects against severe COVID – in people over 50**

*Aidsmap | 12 December 2022*

People with HIV who took the older formulation of tenofovir with emtricitabine during 2020 had a substantially lower risk of hospital admission due to COVID-19 than people taking the new formulation of tenofovir or abacavir/lamivudine, a large Spanish study has reported. However, the effect was only clear-cut in people aged 50 and over, probably due to the small number of cases of severe illness requiring hospital treatment in the under-50s. The findings are consistent with another large study, carried out in men living with HIV in the United States, which showed that taking tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (TDF), the older formulation of tenofovir, significantly reduced the risk of symptomatic COVID-19 and hospitalisation with COVID-19 compared to people taking the new formulation of tenofovir (tenofovir alafenamide, TAF) or abacavir/lamivudine.

## **Health department clears the air on social media reports of new Covid-19 variant**

*Times Live | 13 December 2022*

The health department has dismissed messages circulating on social media calling for people to wear face masks because of the alleged detection of a new Covid-19 variant of concern. The department said it has noted the misleading message attributed to the health ministry.

## **Indonesia to produce Merck's HPV vaccines to combat cervical cancer**

*Reuters | 13 December 2022*

Indonesia will produce drugmaker Merck & Co's vaccines for human papillomavirus (HPV), the chief of its state-owned pharmaceutical company Bio Farma said on Tuesday, in a bid to combat HPV-linked cervical cancer in the country. Cervical cancer is the fourth-most common cancer among women globally, with an estimated 604,000 new cases and 342,000 deaths in 2020, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). About 90% of new cases and deaths worldwide occurred in low- and middle-income countries that year.

## **15 000 young women test positive for HIV**

*South Coast Herald | 13 December 2022*

"Old men must stop destroying the nation through the sexual exploitation of young girls," said KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC, Nomagugu Simelane. The MEC said this a trend that is largely responsible for the province's growing rate of HIV and sexually-transmitted infections among girls aged between 15 and 24.

## **NHI: Implementation headaches loom for health dept**

*Health-e News | 13 December 2022*

As the National Department of Health moves towards the next phase of its quest to implement the proposed National Health Insurance (NHI), it admits that several challenges lie ahead. This comes after

the National Assembly Portfolio Committee on Health concluded the 'clause-by-clause' deliberations. The NHI is a health financing system designed to pool funds to provide access to quality, affordable personal health services for all South Africans based on their health needs.

## **SA's birth control stock shortage a major setback for women's reproductive health rights**

*Bizcommunity | 13 December 2022*

Depo Provera, an injectable, is the most widely used and easy to administer contraceptive in public facilities across South Africa, and the ongoing stockouts leave many women who depend on it at a loss, without alternatives. This is the warning from Indira Govender of Rural Doctors Association of Southern Africa, and founding member of the Stop Stockouts Project (SSP). Govender was speaking at The Rural Health Advocacy Project's release of a new report Health System Strengthening Post-Covid-19 on 12 December in Sandton. The report drives home the degree to which medicine and vaccine stocks in rural primary health care facilities have been compromised due to the supply-chain disruptions caused by the Covid-19 lockdowns.

## **HIV treatment in SA is changing. Here are 7 things you need to know**

*Bhekisisa | 13 December 2022*

From April 2023, everyone with HIV who is older than four weeks (and who weighs more than three kilograms) will be able to go on a treatment plan that includes the antiretroviral (ARV) drug dolutegravir, according to Thato Chidarikire, the health department's acting head of HIV programmes. Chidarikire was speaking on a Bhekisisa webinar on 7 December, during which the Southern African HIV Clinicians Society (SAHCS) previewed its 2023 (private sector) treatment guidelines for adults and children, which should also be available to the public early next year.

## **The US needs more structural interventions to address the effects of systemic racism in HIV**

*Aidsmap | 14 December 2022*

The US has laid out ambitious goals to end HIV domestically through the National HIV Strategy and Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative. These goals will not be achieved without intentional efforts to address health inequities faced by racial and ethnic minorities. In 2018, Black people accounted for 43% of new HIV diagnoses, despite representing only 13% of the population. Hispanic people accounted for 18% of the U.S. population and 26% of new HIV diagnoses the same year. Inequities are exacerbated among those with multiple marginalised identities, such as gender and sexual minorities. Between 2010 and 2018, HIV incidence in the US declined overall. But new diagnoses among Hispanic people rose by 30% during the same period, driven by a 68% increase among Hispanic gay and bisexual men aged 25-34. If current trends continue, Black gay and bisexual men face a 50% lifetime risk for acquiring HIV. Those who do will live 6.3 years shorter on average than White gay and bisexual men, according to research Katherine Rich and colleagues from Harvard Medical School presented at IDWeek 2022.

## **African Leaders and Global Health Experts Convene in Rwanda for the 2nd International Conference on Public Health in Africa, CPHIA 2022**

*African Union, Africa CDC | 14 December 2022*

Conference aims to significantly advance efforts to strengthen research, innovation and emergency management in Africa. The 2nd International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA 2022), which will be held in Kigali, Rwanda, at the Kigali Convention Centre kicks off today with African Heads of State, ministers of health, and leading researchers and scientists scheduled to give remarks during three days of official sessions. The conference, which is taking place from 13-15 December, is now in its second edition and aims to build on conversations started at CPHIA 2021, helping to serve as a catalyst for accelerating progress against the continent's most significant health challenges and building more resilient health systems.

[Return to Top](#)

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## **TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

### **Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust Bulletin**

The Health Systems Trust (HST) produces a weekly bulletin on Fridays focusing on key public health news, peer-reviewed journal articles and other important primary healthcare resources.

### **Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust 60percent**

HST produces a weekly online publication, 60percent, which keeps subscribers abreast with the latest news and developments pertaining to HIV-related maternal, adolescent, child and youth health. The name 60percent signifies that southern Africa is responding to a feminised HIV/AIDS epidemic, with at least 60% of those living with HIV being women. Subscribe to 60percent by simply visiting HST's website (<https://www.hst.org.za>), scroll to the bottom of the page, hit the SUBSCRIBE button, and follow the prompts. Let's keep you posted!

### **The Common Purpose Leadership Training**

The Africa Venture is an annual leadership development programme that seeks to bring together exceptional emerging leaders from across all African nations onto a common platform, where they work together to address pressing issues relevant to the region.

#### **Upcoming dates:**

Phase 1 : Online begins 8 May – 14 July 2023

*Interactive asynchronous content*

Phase 2 : 17 – 20 July 2023

*Four days of intensive, dynamic, synchronous sessions*

Phase 3 : Online begins 21 July – 1 September 2023

*Interactive asynchronous content*

Phase 4 : 5 – 7 September 2023

*3 days in-person, in a leading African city*

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

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## **PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS**

### **South African Health Review 2021**

*Health Systems Trust | 2021*

When it comes to service delivery and access in both the public and private health sectors, COVID-19 has put everything to the test. It has demonstrated how central public health security is to health and livelihoods, and how pandemic health emergencies expose the weaknesses and vulnerabilities of health systems, costing lives and causing immeasurable damage to economies. Few could have imagined the impact of COVID-19 when this pandemic reached our shores in March 2020.

This edition considers the government's and broader health sector's response to COVID-19, explores the current challenges facing the health system at this unprecedented time, and reflects on lessons learnt for future for public health emergencies. The chapters offer information on, inter alia, the challenges of balancing lives with livelihoods, and the impact of COVID-19 on different cadres of healthcare workers, especially Community Health Workers who found themselves at the forefront of our COVID-19 response. Other areas covered include the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations like children, persons with disabilities, farmworkers, migrants, and the poorest in our society.

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

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## **CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

### **International conference on latest Medical research and Development (ICMRD)**

21 December 2022

It aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars to exchange and share their experiences and research results on all aspects of English and American Studies. It also



provides a premier interdisciplinary platform for researchers, practitioners and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns as well as practical challenges encountered and solutions adopted in the fields of latest Medical research and Development.

### **Open call for short films: 4th edition Health for All Film Festival**

31 October 2022 – 31 January 2023

The Health for All Film Festival aims to recruit a new generation of film and video innovators to champion global health issues, launching its 4th edition, the festival is opening an invitation to independent film-makers, production companies, NGOs, communities, students, and film schools from around the world to submit their original short films about health.

### **Antimicrobial Chemotherapy Conference 2023**

#SaveTheDate and join us for the Antimicrobial Chemotherapy Conference 2023 – Equipping African researchers tackling rising AMR

Africa CDC

Date: 1 & 2 February 2023

Time: 13h30 - (EAT)

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

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## **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Research Registered Nurse: Females Rising Through Education Support and Health (FRESH)**

Closing date: 20 December 2022

### **Health Systems Strengthening unit: Area Monitoring and Evaluation Officer**

Closing date: 22 December 2022

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

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