

HST Bulletin



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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Measuring quality of health-care services: what is known and where are the gaps?

World Health Organisation | Published: 2017.

Margaret E Kruk, Edward Kelley Shamsuzzoha B Syed, Finn Tarp, Tony Addison, Yoko Akachic

The United Nations sustainable development goal (SDG) 3 seeks “to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all and at all ages”. To build healthcare systems that were able to progress towards the millennium development goals, many countries had to extend delivery systems to increase coverage. They also greatly improved measurement of people’s contacts with the health system. However, with the reduction in disease burden due to specific infectious diseases and childhood illnesses, people tend to live longer, have multiple noncommunicable diseases and require more complex services. The focus on measuring access is not sufficient to capture whether people receive effective care; hence this month’s papers on measurement of quality of care in low- and middle-income countries.

South Africa’s vital statistics are currently not suitable for monitoring progress towards injury and violence Sustainable Development Goals

The South African Medical Journal | Published: 24 May 2017.

Megan Prinsloo, Debbie Bradshaw, Jané Joubert, Richard Matzopoulos, Pam Groenewald

Two of the most important targets to achieving the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for reducing violence and other injuries are Target 3.6: to ‘halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents’ by 2020; and Target 16.1: the significant reduction of ‘all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere’. Police statistics on homicide, and transport deaths from the Road Traffic Management Corporation, are considered to be under-reported and are not a reliable source for monitoring SDGs.

Cohort profile: the Right to Care Clinical HIV Cohort, South Africa

British Medical Journal | Published: 10 June 2017.

Matthew P Fox, Mhairi Maskew, Alana T Brennan, Denise Evans, Dorina Onoya, Given Maletse, et al

The research objectives of the Right to Care Clinical HIV Cohort analyses are to: (1) monitor treatment outcomes (including death, loss to follow-up, viral suppression and CD4 count gain among others) for patients on antiretroviral therapy (ART); (2) evaluate the impact of changes in the national treatment guidelines around when to initiate ART on HIV treatment outcomes; (3) evaluate the impact of changes in the national treatment guidelines around what ART regimens to initiate on drug switches; (4) evaluate the cost and cost-effectiveness of HIV treatment delivery models; (5) evaluate the need for and outcomes on second-line and third-line ART; (6) evaluate the impact of comorbidity with non-communicable diseases on HIV treatment outcomes and (7) evaluate the impact of the switch to initiating all patients onto ART regardless of CD4 count.

Diagnostic preparedness for infectious disease outbreaks

The Lancet | Published: 31 May 2017.

Mark D Perkins, Christopher Dye, Manica Balasegaram, Prof Christian Bréchet, Jean-Vivien Mombouli, Prof John-Arne Røttingen, Prof Marcel Tanner, Dr Catharina C Boehme

Diagnostics are crucial in mitigating the effect of disease outbreaks. Because diagnostic development and validation are time consuming, they should be carried out in anticipation of epidemics rather than in response to them. The diagnostic response to the 2014–15 Ebola epidemic, although ultimately effective, was slow and expensive. If a focused mechanism had existed with the technical and financial resources to drive its development ahead of the outbreak, point-of-care Ebola tests supporting a less costly and more mobile response could have been available early on in the diagnosis process. A new partnering model could drive rapid development of tests and surveillance strategies for novel pathogens that emerge in future outbreaks. We look at lessons learned from the Ebola outbreak and propose specific solutions to improve the speed of new assay development and ensure their effective deployment.

Estimates of global, regional, and national morbidity, mortality, and aetiologies of diarrhoeal diseases: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2015

The Lancet | Published: 1 June 2017.

GBD Diarrhoeal Diseases Collaborators

The Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study 2015 (GBD 2015) provides an up-to-date analysis of the burden of diarrhoeal diseases. This study assesses cases, deaths, and aetiologies spanning the past 25 years and informs the changing picture of diarrhoeal disease worldwide.

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RECENT NEWS

SA's new HIV snag: Patients on ART think they're cured

Health-e News | 14 June 2017.

On the eve of South Africa's national AIDS conference taking place in Durban this week, Health-e News has found that people are defaulting on their ARVs and posing a risk to others.

Fears as Durban loses last state cancer specialist

Bhekisisa | 9 June 2017.

Only two state cancer specialists remain in the province of more than 10-million people.

SA, Egypt lead Africa's diabetes and obesity rates

Health-e News | 8 June 2017.

Obesity and diabetes are on the rise in Africa, reveals the first detailed analysis of these epidemics on the continent.

WHO says HIV prevention drug is essential

GroundUp | 12 June 2017.

A drug used to help prevent HIV has been included on the World Health Organisation's (WHO) "essential drug list", paving the way for it to be freely available in healthcare facilities around South Africa.

HIV positive teens struggling to adhere to ARV treatment

Health-e News | 13 June 2017.

HIV positive teenagers in the Northern Cape have started defaulting on their treatment because of the difficulties they encounter as they regularly have to miss school in order to fetch their medication.

HIV activists warn of "unravelling" AIDS response

Health-e News | 13 June 2017.

The country's most influential AIDS advocacy organisations have announced they may withdraw from SANAC, following allegations of corruption.

Memoirs of an activist: 'The real heroes of the HIV struggle are still unknown'

Bhekisisa | 8 June 2017.

The executive director of public-interest law organisation Section27, Mark Heywood, was a founding member of the Treatment Action Campaign and helped to lead the struggle for HIV treatment in South Africa. In his new book, *Get Up! Stand Up! Personal Journeys towards Social Justice*, Heywood recounts how the war was won — and its costs. In this edited excerpt, he describes the run-up to a landmark 2002 court case, brought against the state with the help of Sarah Hlalele, that forced the health department to begin providing HIV-positive pregnant women with antiretrovirals to protect their babies from the virus.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

HIV, Human Rights and Gender Equality: Technical Brief

The Global Fund | April 2017.

The purpose of this Technical Brief is to assist Global Fund applicants in their efforts to include and expand programs to remove human rights and gender-related barriers to HIV prevention, diagnosis and treatment services. This Brief discusses the barriers these programs help to remove, the various forms the programs take, the need to cost and allocate budget for them, and how to implement them in effective ways and at appropriate scale. It also aims to help stakeholders ensure that, as they are rolled out, HIV health services and programs promote and protect human rights and gender equality.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

The 90-90-90 Compendium Volume 2: Clinicians' Guide

Health Systems Trust | June 2017.

The 90-90-90 Compendium Volume 2: Clinicians' Guide is designed to assist busy medical practitioners in the field with patient management by providing current, essential, practical guidance and background, packaged into a single resource. Framed within the evolving Universal Test and Treat approach, the Guide presents illustrative cascades for adult and paediatric HIV care, HIV in pregnancy and PMTCT, and drug-sensitive and drug-resistant TB care. If used effectively, this Guide has the potential to make a significant impact on the quality of clinical care provided to HIV and TB clients. Although primarily a clinician's resource, it should also prove to be a useful tool for facility and public health managers in their oversight of HIV and TB service delivery at facility and district level.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

9th IAS Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2017)

23-26 July 2017

Palais des Congrès, 2 Place de la Porte Maillot, Paris

6th Conference of the International Society for Child Indicators (ISCI 2017)

28-30 June 2017

Delta Montreal 475, Montreal, Canada

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation: Project Coordinator

Closing Date: 18 June 2017

Philani : Nursing Sister

Closing Date: 20 June 2017

Medical Officer - Clinical Research

Closing Date: 23 June 2017

Ndlovu Care Group: Medical Laboratory Technician

Closing Date: 23 June 2017



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