



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

Local solutions can boost healthier food choices in South Africa

The Conversation Africa | 7 March 2019.

The crisis in health triggered by cheap food that's high in fat and sugar is now well documented. Obesity related diseases such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes are rapidly overtaking HIV as the top causes of death in South Africa. A bad diet is a major contributor to this epidemic because people increasingly opt for unhealthier, processed and fast foods.

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

ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Stock-outs of antiretroviral and tuberculosis medicines in South Africa: A national cross-sectional survey

PlosOne | Published: 12 March 2019.

Bella Hwang, Amir Shroufi, Tinne Gils, Sarah Jane Steele, Anna Grimsrud, Andrew Boulle, Anele Yawa, Sasha Stevenson, et al

HIV and TB programs have rapidly scaled-up over the past decade in Sub-Saharan Africa and uninterrupted supplies of those medicines are critical to their success. However, estimates of stock-outs are largely unknown. This survey aimed to estimate the extent of stock-outs of antiretroviral and TB medicines in public health facilities across South Africa, which has the world's largest antiretroviral treatment (ART) program and a rising multidrug-resistant TB epidemic.

Digital depression screening in HIV primary care in South Africa: mood in retroviral + application monitoring [MIR + IAM]

Global Mental Health | Published: 28 January 2019.

RV Passchier, SE Owens, MN Wickremsinhe, N Bismilla, ID Ebuenyi

Integrating mental health care into HIV services is critical to addressing the high unmet treatment needs for people living with HIV and comorbid major depressive disorder. Introducing routine mental health screening at the primary health care level is a much needed diagonal approach to enhancing HIV care. In low-resource settings with a shortage of mental health care providers, eMental Health may provide a novel opportunity to attenuate this treatment gap and strengthen the health system.

Coital frequency and condom use in age-disparate partnerships involving women aged 15 to 24: evidence from a cross-sectional study in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

BMJ Open | Published: 9 March 2019.

Gavin George, Brendan Maughan-Brown, Sean Beckett, Meredith Evans, Cherie Cawood, David Khanyile, Kaymarlin Govender, Ayesha BM Kharsany

This study examines the role of age-disparate partnerships on young women's HIV risk by investigating coital frequency and condom use within age-disparate partnerships involving women aged 15 to 24. A community-based, cross-sectional study was conducted. Participants were randomly selected using a two-stage random sampling method in uMgungundlovu district, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, between June 2014 and June 2015.

Voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) for prevention of heterosexual transmission of HIV and risk compensation in adult males in Soweto: Findings from a programmatic setting

PlosOne | Published: 7 March 2019.

Hillary Mukudu, Janan Dietrich, Kennedy Otwombe, Mmatsie Manentsa, Khuthadzo Hlongwane, Maeta Haas-Kogan, Benn Sartorius, Neil Martinson

Clinical trials have clearly shown a reduction in HIV acquisition through voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC). However, data assessing risk compensation under programmatic conditions is limited. This was a prospective cohort of HIV seronegative males aged 18–40 years receiving VMMC between November 2012 and July 2014. HIV serostatus was determined pre and post VMMC. Risk compensation was defined as a decrease in condom use at last sex act and/or an increase in concurrent sexual relationships, both measured twelve months post-circumcision.

Evaluating a South African mobile application for healthcare professionals to improve diagnosis and notification of pesticide poisonings

BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making | Published: 11 March 2019.

Siti Kabanda, Hanna-Andrea Rother

Mobile health is a fast-developing field. The use of mobile health applications by healthcare professionals (HCPs) globally has increased considerably. While several studies in high income countries have investigated the use of mobile applications by HCPs in clinical practice, few have been conducted in low- and middle-income countries. The University of Cape Town developed a pesticide notification guideline which has been adapted and embedded into a South African Essential Medical Guidance mobile application. This study evaluated the usefulness of the guideline within a mobile application for improving the ability of HCPs to diagnose and notify on acute pesticide poisonings (APPs).

Association between the Human Development Index and Millennium Development Goals 6 Indicators in Sub-Saharan Africa from 2000 to 2014: Implications for the New Sustainable Development Goals

Journal of Epidemiology and Global Health | Published: 1 December 2018.

MLH Mabaso, TP Zama, L Mlangeni, S Mbiza, ZL Mkhize-Kwitshana

It is important to assess whether regional progress toward achieving the millennium development goals (MDGs) has contributed to human development and whether this has had an effect on the triple burden of disease in the continent. This analysis investigates the association between the human development index (HDI) and co-occurrence of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), and malaria as measured by MDG 6 indicators in 35 selected sub-Saharan African countries from 2000 to 2014. The analysis used secondary data from the United Nations Development Programme data repository for HDI and disease data from WHO Global Health observatory data repository.

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

RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

WHO unveils sweeping reforms in drive towards “triple billion” targets

World Health Organisation | 6 March 2019.

WHO today announced the most wide-ranging reforms in the Organization’s history to modernize and

strengthen the institution to play its role more effectively and efficiently as the world's leading authority on public health.

Red tape is stifling innovation healthcare in SA

BD Live | 12 March 2019.

SA's tight regulatory environment poses a challenge to the roll out of new health technology, putting a damper on initiatives that could provide cheaper care to more people, a senior government official conceded on Tuesday.

This president is putting his money where his mouth is when it comes to an NHI

Bhekisisa | 12 March 2019.

Mali joins the ranks of countries such as Sierra Leone, South Africa & Burkina Faso to provide free healthcare to moms and tots.

There will always be medico-legal claims— and the NHI needs to take that into account

Daily Maverick | 7 March 2019.

With the publication of the National Health Insurance Bill, proposed amendments to the Medical Schemes Act, and the anticipation of amendments to another 12 or so pieces of legislation needed to implement National Health Insurance, a review of the funding of medico-legal claims would also be useful.

Monthly shots control HIV as well as daily pills in two big studies

STAT | 7 March 2019.

SEATTLE — Monthly shots of HIV drugs worked as well as daily pills to control the virus that causes AIDS in two large international tests, researchers reported Thursday [7 March].

New HIV drug safe with preventive TB meds

Health-e News | 7 March 2019.

A new blockbuster HIV drug is safe in combination with a shorter and more effective prescription to prevent deadly tuberculosis (TB), according to breaking research from South Africa.

The London Patient and a Plan to End the H.I.V. Epidemic in the United States

The New Yorker | 9 March 2019.

Stunning success in medicine can be born from abject failure. This week, researchers reported in the journal Nature what they hope will be a triumph: a man in London who had H.I.V. and may have been cured of the infection. This promising outcome is the direct result of earlier, unsuccessful attempts at a cure.

Surviving stigma against all odds

Health-e News | 13 March 2019.

Traditional medicine, cultural respect, HIV and TB infections are among the many issues that compounded and confused things for a young mother. Despite all these problems, she is happy and grateful that her daughter has survived and is now a healthy 17-year-old who fully understands her need for medication.

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

TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Why we need to talk about losing a baby

World Health Organisation | March 2019.

Losing a baby in pregnancy through miscarriage or stillbirth is still a taboo subject worldwide, linked to stigma and shame. Many women still do not receive appropriate and respectful care when their baby dies during pregnancy or childbirth. Here, we share your stories from around the globe. As these first-person accounts show, women who lose their babies are made to feel that should stay silent about their grief, either because miscarriage and stillbirth are still so common, or because they are perceived to be unavoidable.

PODCAST: Did the apartheid government inject black people with HIV? We look to science.

Bhekisisa | 13 March 2019.

This month, the New African boasts a shocking headline: "We deliberately spread Aids in South Africa." Could that be true?

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

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Global Influenza Strategy for 2019-2030

World Health Organisation | 11 March 2019.

WHO [on 11 March] released a Global Influenza Strategy for 2019-2030 aimed at protecting people in all countries from the threat of influenza. The goal of the strategy is to prevent seasonal influenza, control the spread of influenza from animals to humans, and prepare for the next influenza pandemic.

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

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Building Children's Nursing for Africa Conference

16-18 April 2019

The River Club, Observatory, Cape Town, South Africa

20th International Workshop on Clinical Pharmacology of HIV, Hepatitis & other Antiviral Drugs

14-16 May 2019

The Netherlands

PHASA 2019

16-18 September 2019

College of Cape Town, Crawford Campus, Athlone, Cape Town

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

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Health Systems Trust: District Information Officer

Closing Date: 22 March 2019

Health Systems Trust: Nurse Clinicians

Closing Date: 22 March 2019

Health Systems Trust: Health Systems Training Institute (HSTi) Director

Closing Date: 22 March 2019

Health Systems Trust: Tropical Epidemiology Group (TEG) Fellowship

Opportunity for postgraduate training in medical statistics for African Scientists

Closing Date: 19 April 2019

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



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