

HST Bulletin



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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

The Burden of Caring: An Exploratory Study of the Older Persons Caring for Adult Children with AIDS-Related Illnesses in Rural Communities in South Africa

International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health | Published: 30 August 2019.

Makhosazane Ntuli, Sphiwe Madiba

Since the start of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, very little research has been conducted on the older persons' provision of HIV-related care to adult children. This is despite the fact that a large proportion of adults who die of AIDS-related illnesses stay with their elderly parents during the terminal stage of their illnesses. This paper explores how older persons in rural settings experience caring for their adult children with AIDS-related illnesses. In-depth interviews took place with older persons aged 60 years and above. The qualitative data analysis was informed by thematic approach to identify and report themes using inductive approach. The paper found that the older persons undertake the caring role without resources and support. As a result, they are burdened with having to care for adult children with AIDS-related illness. Fatigue arising from the hard work of physically caring for their sick adult children day and night adds to the physical burden on the older persons. Older persons will continue to carry the burden of caring for people with AIDS-related illnesses due to the increase in the number of new infections in South Africa. There is a need to involve them in HIV/AIDS programmes; their experience and wisdom would surely contribute positively and assist in addressing HIV prevention.

Understanding the implications of the Sustainable Development Goals for health policy and systems research: results of a research priority setting exercise

BMC Globalization and Health | Published: 9 January 2020.

Sara Bennett, Nasreen Jessani, Douglas Glandon, Mary Qiu, Kerry Scott, Ankita Meghani, et al

Given the paradigmatic shift represented by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as compared to the Millennium Development Goals - in particular their broad and interconnected nature - a new set of health policy and systems research (HPSR) priorities are needed to inform strategies to address these interconnected goals. [The objective of this study was] to identify high priority HPSR questions linked to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Communication regarding routine childhood vaccination

South African Medical Journal | Published: 12 December 2019.

S Cooper, R J Burnett, E Z Sambala, B M Schmidt, C S Wiysonge

Vaccine hesitancy is an emerging problem in South Africa (SA), which threatens to erode the country's immunisation achievements. Communication interventions may be an effective strategy for addressing vaccine hesitancy. We highlight a Cochrane review of qualitative evidence that explored parents' views and experiences of communication regarding childhood vaccinations, and provide implications for practice that are relevant to the SA context. The findings suggest that healthcare providers (HCPs) play a central role in childhood vaccination attitudes and decision-making. Therefore, capacitating HCPs to promote vaccination with confidence is key to effective communication to address vaccine hesitancy in SA.

“I like the way I am, but I feel like I could get a little bit bigger”: Perceptions of body image among adolescents and youth living with HIV in Durban, South Africa

PlosOne | Published: 10 January 2020.

Patrick Nyamaruze, Kaymarlin Govender

Body image concerns are common among people living with HIV (PLHIV). Research into how young people living with HIV (YPLHIV) experience and make sense of feared or actual body changes is limited, yet these changes have emotional, psychological and interpersonal implications for young people who associate physical attractiveness with social desirability. The current study examined the subjective perceptions of body appearance and coping mechanisms among a sample of YPLHIV in Durban, South Africa. An interpretive qualitative inquiry was adopted to understand their lived experiences in relation to their body image and body satisfaction. In-depth interviews were conducted with 18 YPLHIV (15–24 years). Findings indicate physical and psychosocial effects of living with HIV among young people including weight loss, skin sores, body dissatisfaction, loss of self-esteem and social withdrawal.

Protocol for a prospective evaluation of postpartum engagement in HIV care among women living with HIV in South Africa

BMJ Open | Published: 9 January 2020.

Christina Psaros, Amelia M Stanton, C Andres Bedoya, Nzwakie Mosery, Shannon Evans, Lynn Turner Matthews, et al

KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), South Africa (SA) has the highest prevalence of pregnant women living with HIV in the world. Pregnancy and the postpartum period offer opportunities to engage women in HIV care, to prevent perinatal transmission and to optimise maternal and infant well-being. However, research suggests that remaining engaged in HIV care during this time can be challenging.

HIV seroconcordance among heterosexual couples in rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa: a population-based analysis

Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 8 January 2020.

Hae-Young Kim, Guy Harling, Alain Vandormael, Andrew Tomita, Diego F Cuadros, Till Bärnighausen, Frank Tanser

High levels of HIV seroconcordance at the population level reduce the potential for effective HIV transmission. However, the level of HIV seroconcordance is largely unknown among heterosexual couples in sub-Saharan Africa. [This study] aimed to quantify the population level HIV seroconcordance in stable heterosexual couples in rural South Africa. [The authors] followed adults (≥ 15 years old) using a population-based, longitudinal and open surveillance system in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, from 2003 to 2016. Sexual partnerships and HIV status were confirmed via household surveys and annual HIV surveillance.

Legislative landscape for traditional health practitioners in Southern African development community countries: a scoping review

BMJ Open | Published: 7 January 2020.

Amber Louise Abrams, Torkel Falkenberg, Christa Rautenbach, Mosa Moshabela, Busisiwe Shezi, Suné van Ellewee, Renee Street

Globally, contemporary legislation surrounding traditional health practitioners (THPs) is limited. This is also true for the member states of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The main aim of this study is to map and review THP-related legislation among SADC countries. In order to limit the scope of the review, the emphasis is on defining THPs in terms of legal documents. This scoping review follows the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for Scoping Reviews methods.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Preventing TB: a big drug price cut paves the way for global scale-up

The Conversation Africa | 13 January 2020.

Lengthy negotiations ended in good news recently when the price of rifapentine, a lifesaving antibiotic, was marked down by 66% by its manufacturer Sanofi. When combined with another antibiotic (isoniazid), rifapentine can prevent tuberculosis (TB) disease. The move was announced at the Union World Conference on Lung Health in October 2019.

Not so hot: US data suggest human bodies are cooling down

Nature | 14 January 2020.

Normal body temperatures are a fraction of a degree colder than they were in the nineteenth century.

Employed vs. unemployed: Who is more likely to test HIV positive?

Bhekisisa | 16 January 2020.

You're far more likely to be offered an HIV test at a government health facility than at your GP or workplace clinic. Here's why — and what the consequences are.

Study sheds light on HIV raising risk of sudden cardiac death

Medical Brief | 15 January 2020.

The success of antiretroviral therapies has extended the lives of people living with HIV, long enough for other chronic health conditions to emerge, including a recently documented uptick in sudden death. Now, in a study comparing medical information and portable EKG patch data from men living with HIV to men without it, Johns Hopkins Medicine researchers and collaborators report they have found more variability of the electrical "reset" period between heartbeats — known as the QT interval — in men living with the virus, which may contribute to the increased risk of sudden cardiac deaths.

The power of peers and community in the continuum of HIV care

The Lancet | 7 January 2020.

Diagnosing the estimated 38 million people living with HIV globally and ensuring they are linked to, and remain fully adherent to, their lifelong antiretroviral therapy (ART) is an unprecedented global public health intervention.

South Africa steps up its game to end mother-to-child transmission of HIV

The Conversation Africa | 6 January 2020.

South Africa's prevention of mother-to-child transmission programme has achieved remarkable successes in recent years. It has improved the health and life expectancy for pregnant women living with HIV, and it has reduced the risk of transmission of the virus to their offspring.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Tuberculosis Research Funding Trends 2005-2018

Treatment Action Group | December 2019.

Tuberculosis (TB) is both preventable and curable, yet it remains a global health crisis. Nearly 1.5 million people lost their lives to TB in 2018, and 10 million fell sick with the disease. It is possible to eliminate TB, but doing so will require continued scientific innovation and equitable access to the benefits and applications of that innovation—both of which require substantial increases in funding. TAG has tracked TB research and development (R&D) funding since 2005 as one way to evaluate progress on eliminating TB. In every year since then, annual investments have fallen far short of the widely accepted US\$2 billion minimum funding target. At the United Nations High-Level Meeting on TB (HLM) in the fall of 2018, delegates endorsed a political declaration that contained a commitment to increase annual global TB research funding to US\$2 billion. The data presented in this year's report represent expenditures on TB research in fiscal year 2018 and provide the baseline against which we will measure states' performance

towards this US\$2 billion annual target in the years to come.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Human Development Report 2019 - Beyond income, beyond averages, beyond today: Inequalities in human development in the 21st century

United Nations Development Programme | December 2019.

Inequalities in human development are a roadblock to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They are not just about disparities in income and wealth. They cannot be accounted for simply by using summary measures of inequality that focus on a single dimension. And they will shape the prospects of people that may live to see the 22nd century. The 2019 Report explores inequalities in human development by going beyond income, beyond averages and beyond today. It asks what forms of inequality matter and what drives them, recognizing that pernicious inequalities are generally better thought of as a symptom of broader problems in a society and economy. It also asks what policies can tackle those drivers—policies that can simultaneously help nations to grow their economies, improve human development and reduce inequality.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Research Symposium

4 March 2020

Cape Town, South Africa

International Social and Behavior Change Communication Summit

30 March - 3 April 2020

Marrakech, Morocco

6th SA TB Conference 2020

2-5 June 2020

Durban International Convention Centre

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

URC: District TB Mentor / KZN - eThekweni District

Closing Date: 19 January 2020

URC: District Coordinator / KZN - uMkhanyakude District

Closing Date: 19 January 2020

One to One Africa: Digital Health and Data Quality Officer

Closing Date: 20 January 2020

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