

# HST Bulletin



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## ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

### Reaching global HIV/AIDS goals: What got us here, won't get us there

*Plos One* | Published: 7 November 2017.

*Wafaa M El-Sadr, Katherine Harripersaud, Miriam Rabkin*

A decade ago, today's progress towards confronting the global HIV epidemic would have been unimaginable. A remarkable global mobilization of resources through the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, combined with the commitment of affected countries and communities, has enabled 19.5 million persons living with HIV (PLHIV) to access life-saving antiretroviral therapy (ART). This has resulted in decreasing HIV-related morbidity and mortality and contributed to a significant decline in the number of new infections.

### Contemporary disengagement from antiretroviral therapy in Khayelitsha, South Africa: A cohort study

*Plos One* | Published: 7 November 2017.

*Samantha R. Kaplan, Christa Oosthuizen, Kathryn Stinson, Francesca Little, Jonathan Euvrard, Michael Schomaker, Meg Osler, Katherine Hilderbrand, et al*

Retention in care is an essential component of meeting the UNAIDS "90-90-90" HIV treatment targets. In Khayelitsha township (population 500,000) in Cape Town, South Africa, more than 50,000 patients have received antiretroviral therapy (ART) since the inception of this public-sector program in 2001. Disengagement from care remains an important challenge. We sought to determine the incidence of and risk factors associated with disengagement from care during 2013–2014 and outcomes for those who disengaged.

### Do digital innovations for HIV and sexually transmitted infections work? Results from a systematic review (1996-2017)

*BMJ* | Published: 3 November 2017.

*Jana Daher, Rohit Vijh, Blake Linthwaite, Saily Dave, John Kim, Keertan Dheda, Trevor Peter, Nitika Pant Pai*

Digital innovations with internet/mobile phones offer a potential cost-saving solution for overburdened

health systems with high service delivery costs to improve efficiency of HIV/STI (sexually transmitted infections) control initiatives. However, their overall evidence has not yet been appraised. [This study evaluates] the feasibility and impact of all digital innovations for all HIV/STIs.

### **The association between social capital and HIV treatment outcomes in South Africa**

*Plos One* | Published: 9 November 2017.

*Grace Musanse Mukoswa, Salome Charalambous, Gill Nelson*

HIV treatment has reduced morbidity and mortality. By 2012, it was estimated that 60.4% of eligible South Africans accessed antiretroviral treatment; however, treatment adherence and retention remain the greatest challenges. There is a growing belief that social capital, seen as "the features of social organization that facilitate cooperation for mutual benefit", is important in promoting HIV treatment retention. The aim of this study was to establish whether social capital is associated with HIV treatment outcomes.

### **Indoor air pollution from secondhand tobacco smoke, solid fuels, and kerosene in homes with active tuberculosis disease in South Africa**

*BioMed Central* | Published: 13 November 2017.

*Jessica L Elf, Onyinyechi Eke, Modiehi Rakgokong, Ebrahim Variava, Yudesh Baliram, Katlego Motlhaoleng, Limakatso Lebina, Adrienne E Shapiro, et al*

Secondhand tobacco smoke (SHS), use of solid fuels, and kerosene may play an important role in perpetuating the tuberculosis (TB) epidemic. The purpose of this study was to explore the prevalence of household air pollution (HAP) from these sources in homes of someone with TB in a high HIV-prevalence setting. A convenience sample of homes and household members participating in an ongoing active case-finding study in Matlosana district townships surrounding Klerksdorp, South Africa were included.

### **Improving adherence in mental health service users with severe mental illness in South Africa: a pilot randomized controlled trial of a treatment partner and text message intervention vs. treatment as usual**

*BioMed Central* | Published: 9 November 2017.

*Goodman Sibeko, Henk Temmingh, Sumaya Mall, Peter Williams-Ashman, Graham Thornicroft, Ezra S Susser, Crick Lund, Dan J Stein, Peter D Milligan*

Medication non-adherence is a significant problem in treatment of severe mental disorders and is associated with poor clinical outcomes and increased demand on services. Task-shifting interventions incorporating mobile health may improve adherence in mental health service users in low- and middle-income countries. Seventy-seven participants were recruited from a psychiatric hospital in Cape Town, with 42 randomized to receive the intervention and 35 to treatment as usual. Intervention pairs underwent treatment-partner contracting and psychoeducation, and received monthly text message reminders of clinic appointments.

### **Quantifying research output on poverty and non-communicable disease behavioural risk factors in low-income and lower middle-income countries: a bibliometric analysis**

*BMJ* | Published: 12 November 2017.

*Luke Nelson Allen, Nicholas Fox, Alissa Ambrose*

Low-income and lower middle-income countries (LLMICs) bear a disproportionate burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). WHO has repeatedly called for more research on poverty and NCDs in these settings, but the current situation remains unquantified. We aimed to assess research output on poverty and NCD risk factors from these countries in relation to upper middle-income and high-income countries.

### **Addressing challenges in scaling up TB and HIV treatment integration in rural primary healthcare clinics in South Africa (SUTHI): a cluster randomized controlled trial protocol**

*BioMed Central* | Published: 13 November 2017.

*Kogieleum Naidoo, Santhanalakshmi Gengiah, Nonhlanhla Yende-Zuma, Nesri Padayatchi, Pierre Barker, Andrew Nunn, Priashni Subrayen, Salim S Abdool Karim*

A large and compelling clinical evidence base has shown that integrated TB and HIV services leads to reduction in human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)- and tuberculosis (TB)-associated mortality and morbidity. Despite official policies and guidelines recommending TB and HIV care integration, its poor

implementation has resulted in TB and HIV remaining the commonest causes of death in several countries in sub-Saharan Africa, including South Africa. This study aims to reduce mortality due to TB-HIV co-infection through a quality improvement strategy for scaling up of TB and HIV treatment integration in rural primary healthcare clinics in South Africa.

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## RECENT NEWS

### **The Changing Demographics of Global Health**

*Council on Foreign Relations | 7 November 2017.*

Population growth and aging are fueling a spectacular rise in noncommunicable diseases, such as cancers and cardiovascular diseases, in poor countries that are ill-prepared to handle them.

### **Parliament finally ready to vote on sugary drinks tax**

*Health-e News | 8 November 2017.*

The tax on sugary drinks will finally go before Parliament to be voted on within the next few weeks after more than a year of intense consultation.

### **Bread Tax: Healthier brown bread could cost 14% more next year**

*Daily Maverick | 13 November 2017.*

Consumers can expect to pay more for whole-wheat bread if proposed changes to the Tax Law Amendment Act are adopted. It's the latest item to be targeted for taxing. But is government simply going after "soft targets" rather than dealing with bigger issues of corruption?

### **Keeping track of state's spending on mental health is impossible, department says**

*Business Day | 14 November 2017.*

It was impossible to say how much the state spent on care for mentally ill patients each year because there was no set budget for this in the provinces, the Department of Health disclosed on Tuesday.

### **HIV remission: the quest to turn lessons from exceptional cases into solutions**

*The Conversation | 9 November 2017.*

The case of an HIV-infected child in South Africa who has been in remission for nearly nine years without taking any antiretroviral drugs has provided further proof that HIV remission is possible.

### **As the eradication of polio nears, a new crisis for global health looms**

*STAT | 13 November 2017.*

The world — or the part that pays attention to polio eradication, anyway — has fixed its sights on zero, the nearly 30-year-old goal of stopping transmission of the paralyzing virus that causes polio. But as the finish line comes into view, officials are largely overlooking a big potential problem, a new report warned Monday.

### **Treating diabetes takes more than insulin: Senegal mobile phone project promoting public health**

*WHO | November 2017.*

Every morning, mother of six Mariama rises early to sell fish in her local market in Senegal. For the past decade, she has lived with diabetes, and takes insulin regularly. But her medication is not the only tool she relies on to look after her health – her mobile phone plays a critical part of her diabetes control regimen.

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## TRAINING AND RESOURCES

### **Christian Faith and living with HIV video series**

*Positive Faith | Published: 2017.*

This video series explores key questions that may arise from having a Christian Faith and living with HIV, and will be useful for a range of audiences. The topics of these videos represent the common issues in the journey of a Christian diagnosed with HIV.

## Urban Adolescent SRH SBCC Implementation Kit

*SBCC Implementation Kits | Published: 2017.*

The Urban Adolescent Social and Behavior Change Communication Implementation Kit (I-Kit) provides a selection of Essential Elements and tools to guide the creation, or strengthening, of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) social and behavior change communication (SBCC) programs for urban adolescents aged 10 to 19. The I-Kit is designed to teach these essential SBCC elements and includes worksheets to illustrate each element and facilitate practical application.

The tool is divided into four parts:

**Part 1** provides the background and information you should know to use the I-Kit.

**Part 2** includes the seven Essential Elements of program planning and interactive worksheets.

**Part 3** provides strategies to address program implementation challenges.

**Part 4** encourages you to share what you have learned.

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## PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

### Report on Financing a National Health Insurance for South Africa, for the Minister of Finance

*The Davis Tax Committee | Published: March 2017.*

The Davis Tax Committee (DTC) was established in 2013 by the Minister of Finance to inquire into the role of the tax system in promoting inclusive economic growth, employment creation, development and fiscal sustainability. On 15 December 2015, the Department of Health released a White Paper: Health Insurance for South Africa: Towards Universal Coverage (henceforth “the NHI White Paper”). Chapter 7 of the White Paper discusses various financing proposals for the proposed NHI. The DTC takes these policy objectives, proposed institutional arrangements and cost projections as its point of departure. The NHI implementation is likely to be a long term enterprise, spanning at least 14 years, during which many of the implementation and costing details will be refined.

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## CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

### Africa Forum on Quality and Safety in Healthcare

19-21 February 2018

Durban, South Africa

### International Congress on Occupational Health

29 April - 4 May 2018

Dublin, Ireland

### World Conference on Migration, Ethnicity, Health and Race

17-16 May 2018

Edinburgh, Scotland

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## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

### Health Systems Trust: Data Capturer, FRESH

Closing Date: 21 November 2017

### Health Systems Trust: Nurse Clinician

Closing Date: 21 November 2017

**Health Systems Trust: Office Administrator, iTEACH**

Closing Date: 21 November 2017

**HEARD: Senior Research Fellow**

Closing Date: 17 November 2017

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