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 - Director: Technical Support
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Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

Explaining the role of the social determinants of health on health inequality in South Africa

John Ele-Ojo Ataguba, Candy Day and Di McIntyre. *Global Health Action*. Published: 16 September 2015.

Action on the social determinants of health (SDH) is relevant for reducing health inequalities. This is particularly the case for South Africa with its very high level of income inequality and inequalities in health and health outcomes. This paper provides evidence on the key SDH for reducing health inequalities in the country using a framework initially developed by the World Health Organization... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.globalhealthaction.net/index.php/gha/article/view/28865> [Accessed: 18 September 2015]

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Global, regional, and national levels and trends in under-5 mortality between 1990 and 2015, with scenario-based projections to 2030: A systematic analysis by the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation

Danzhen You, Lucia Hug, Simon Ejdemyr, Priscila Idele, Daniel Hogan, Colin Mathers, et al. *The Lancet*. Published: 8 September 2015.

In 2000, world leaders agreed on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). MDG 4 called for a two-thirds reduction in the under-5 mortality rate between 1990 and 2015. We aimed to estimate levels and trends in under-5 mortality for 195 countries from 1990 to 2015 to assess MDG 4 achievement...[Read More »](#)

Source: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(15\)00120-8/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(15)00120-8/fulltext)[Accessed: 18 September 2015]

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When frontline practice innovations are ahead of the health policy community: The example of behavioral health and primary care integration

Benjamin F. Miller. *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine*. Published: September/October 2015.

Innovation in health care delivery often far outpaces the speed at which health policy changes to accommodate this innovation. Integrating behavioral health and primary care is a promising approach to defragment health care and help health care achieve the triple aim of decreasing costs, improving outcomes, and enhancing patients' experiences...[Read More »](#)

Source: http://www.jabfm.org/content/28/Supplement_1/S98.full[Accessed: 18 September 2015]

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Dual indices for prioritizing investment in decentralized HIV services at Nigerian primary health care facilities

Nancy Fronczak, Kola' A Oyediran, Stephanie Mullen and Usman M Kolapo. *Health Policy and Planning*. Published: 11 September 2015.

Decentralizing health services, including those for HIV prevention and treatment, is one strategy for maximizing the use of limited resources and expanding treatment options; yet few methods exist for systematically identifying where investments for service expansion might be most effective, in terms of meeting needs and rapid availability of improved services...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://heapol.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2015/09/11/heapol.czv076.short?rss=1>[Accessed: 18 September 2015]

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Human resources for primary health care in sub-Saharan Africa: Progress or stagnation?

Merlin L Willcox, Wim Peersman, Pierre Daou, Chiaka Diakité, Francis Bajunirwe, Vincent Mubangizi, et al. *Human Resources for Health*. Published: 10 September 2015.

The World Health Organization defines a "critical shortage" of health workers as being fewer than 2.28 health workers per 1000 population and failing to attain 80% coverage for deliveries by skilled birth attendants...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.human-resources-health.com/content/13/1/76>[Accessed: 18 September 2015]

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Pre-exposure prophylaxis to prevent the acquisition of HIV-1 infection (PROUD): Effectiveness results from the pilot phase of a pragmatic open-label randomised trial

Sheena McCormack, David T Dunn, Monica Desai, David I Dolling, Mitzy Gafos, Richard Gilson, et al. *The Lancet*. Published: 10 September 2015.

Randomised placebo-controlled trials have shown that daily oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) with tenofovir-emtricitabine reduces the risk of HIV infection. However, this benefit could be counteracted by risk compensation in users of PrEP. We did the PROUD study to assess this effect...[Read More »](#)

Source: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(15\)00056-2/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(15)00056-2/fulltext)[Accessed: 18 September 2015]

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Reasons for home delivery and use of traditional birth attendants in rural Zambia: A qualitative study

Cephas Sialubanje, Karlijn Massar, Davidson H. Hamer and Robert AC Ruiter. *BioMed Central*. Published: 11 September 2015.

Despite the policy change stopping traditional birth attendants (TBAs) from conducting deliveries at home and encouraging all women to give birth at the clinic under skilled care, many women still give birth at home and TBAs are essential providers of obstetric care in rural Zambia...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2393/15/216>[Accessed: 18 September 2015]

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Recent News

Call for abstracts: Health Systems Trust Conference 2016

Health Systems Trust. Published: 3 September 2015.

HST is hosting a conference from 4-6 May 2016 at the Birchwood Conference Centre, Boksburg, Gauteng. Under the banner of *Strengthened health systems for sustainable development: sharing, supporting, synergising*, the event is designed to advance the global public health agenda in improving health outcomes. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.hstconference2016.org.za> [Accessed: 18 September 2015]

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Kenya focuses on strong health system, less crisis funding

Reuters. Published: 10 September 2015.

When Grace's five-year-old daughter was admitted to hospital in Kenya with a chest infection, she didn't suspect HIV. It was only four years later, when Grace became so ill she had to be carried to hospital, that she found they were both HIV positive... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/09/15/us-development-goals-kenya-health-idUSKCNORF00120150915> [Accessed: 18 September 2015]

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Newsletter of the HIV, TB and MNCWH Cluster

National Department of Health. Published: September 2015.

The United Nations will adopt the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) this month (September), thus setting the development path for the world for the next 15 years... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.hst.org.za/publications/hiv-tb-and-mncwh-news-newsletter-7> [Accessed: 18 September 2015]

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Tshwane rolls out new medicine pick up programme

Health-e News. Published: 4 September 2015.

Tshwane has become the latest district to roll out a new programme that will let patients pick up chronic medication at community pharmacies. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/2015/09/04/tshwane-rolls-out-new-convenient-medicine-pick-up-programme/> [Accessed: 18 September 2015]

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MDR-TB treatment comes closer but not close enough

Health-e News. Published: 7 September 2015.

As many as about 60 per cent of patients started on treatment for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) will not be cured. With odds already stacked against them, Eastern Cape MDR-TB patients face a long and costly journey for treatment. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/2015/09/07/mdr-tb-treatment-comes-closer-but-not-close-enough/> [Accessed: 18 September 2015]

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Spanish pharmacy HIV testing programme detects many new infections

aidsmap. Published: 16 September 2015.

A programme in which cheap, 30-minute HIV tests were offered in local pharmacy shops in three Spanish regions, diagnosed over 200 new infections, amounting to 10.6% of all HIV diagnoses in the three regions during the study period. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.aidsmap.com/Spanish-pharmacy-HIV-testing-programme-detects-many-new-infections/page/2998441/> [Accessed: 18 September 2015]

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Can involving pharmacists in A&E shorten waiting times and help doctors?

The Guardian. Published: 9 September 2015.

Accident and emergency departments are nearing crisis point, but evidence suggests that some of the pressure comes from patients who want to avoid having to wait for a GP appointment. Could pharmacists reduce the burden by helping to treat A&E patients suffering relatively minor conditions? [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/healthcare-network/2015/sep/09/pharmacists-shorten-waiting-times-help-doctors>[Accessed: 18 September 2015]

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Malaria: Huge progress on global killer

BBC News. Published: 17 September 2015.

The World Health Organization is reporting a huge fall in the number of cases of malaria. It has long been one of the world's biggest killers so what has changed and is eradication now a possibility? [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.bbc.com/news/health-34269314#>[Accessed: 18 September 2015]

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Tax threshold limit on low-cost options 'a blow for workers'

IOL. Published: 12 September 2015.

Providers of primary healthcare plans that may soon be disallowed say that low-cost benefit medical scheme options will not cater for people using these plans who earn more than the tax threshold but cannot afford scheme membership. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.iol.co.za/business/personal-finance/tax-threshold-limit-on-low-cost-options-a-blow-for-workers-1.1914879>[Accessed: 18 September 2015]

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Researchers are trying again to help you take your medicine

Washington Post. Published: 5 September 2015.

When a doctor tells you to "take two of these and call me in the morning," he truly means two – not three, not one – and to get back to him the next day, not later in the week or the following month... [Read More »](#)

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/researchers-are-trying-again-to-help-you-take-your-medicine/2015/09/05/6f26d896-525d-11e5-9812-92d5948a40f8_story.html[Accessed: 18 September 2015]

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Alcohol addiction: Swedish discovery could change lives

Daily Maverick. Published: 15 September 2015.

Swedish scientists have discovered a potentially life-changing therapy for patients addicted to alcohol. The even better news: it's already approved for use in diabetic patients. But is it a realistic alternative to existing therapies? [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2015-09-15-alcohol-addiction-swedish-discovery-could-change-lives/>[Accessed: 18 September 2015]

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Training and Resources

Practical Approach to Care Kit (PACK) for low and middle income countries

British Medical Journal. Published: 8 September 2015.

The PACK programme is a comprehensive clinical practice aid that enables healthcare practitioners to diagnose and manage common conditions. It covers 40 common symptoms and 20 conditions including cardiovascular disease, respiratory diseases, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, women's health, and end-of-life care. [Click Here»](#)

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BioSharing information sharing portal

BioMed Central

BioSharing is a web-based, curated and searchable portal ensuring that standards, databases and policies in the life sciences are registered, informative and discoverable. [Click Here»](#)

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Books, Publications, Reports and Manuals

South African Health Review 2015/16 – Call for chapters

Health Systems Trust

The South African Health Review (SAHR), published annually by Health Systems Trust (HST) for 18 years, is an accredited peer-reviewed journal that is widely respected as an authoritative source of research, analysis and reflection on health systems. [Click Here»](#)

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Annual Report 2014/15

Council for Medical Schemes. Published: 2015.

During the 15 years of its existence, the Council for Medical Schemes (CMS) has built a proud culture of protecting beneficiaries of medical schemes by enforcing compliance with the provisions of the Medical Schemes Act. [Click Here»](#)

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Guidelines for Maternity Care in South Africa

National Department of Health. Published: 2015.

The National Department of Health has identified maternal health care as a priority area requiring urgent action in South Africa. This is in line with the target to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as we as the targets set in our National Development Plan (NDP). [Click Here»](#)

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Conferences and Events

Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) Conference

When: 7-9 October 2015

Venue: Southern Sun Elangeni, Durban, South Africa

URL: <http://www.phasaconference.org.za>

The 11th Annual Conference of the Public Health Association of South Africa takes place between 7-9 October 2015 in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. With 2015 being the target date for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the conference will provide an opportunity to reflect on the challenges faced by South Africa and Africa in trying to achieve the MDGs.

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9th Action Learning, Action Research (ALARA) and 13th Participatory Action Research World Congress

When: 4-7 November 2015

Venue: St. George Hotel and Conference Centre, Centurion (Pretoria), South Africa

URL: <http://www.alarassociation.org/pages/events/alara-world-congress-2015>

The theme of this World Congress is a challenge to Action Learning / Action Research practitioners the world over, whether working in resource rich or more socio-economically challenged contexts, to explain how they are contributing to the creation of a fairer world.

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9th World Congress on Developmental Origins of Health and Disease

When: 8-11 November 2015

Venue: Cape Town International Convention Centre, South Africa

URL: <http://www.dohad2015.org/>

The 9th World Congress in Cape Town, South Africa, will bring together scientists, clinical researchers, obstetricians, paediatricians, public health professionals and policy leaders from around the world. These experts will address, head-on, the many challenges that currently impact the health of mothers, babies in the womb, infants, children and adolescents, as well as explore solutions, interventions and policies to optimise health across the life of people. The 9th World Congress, the first to be held in Africa, presents an incredible opportunity to feature the vastly relevant DOHaD research to African researchers, clinicians and policy leaders. This important event is expected to attract more than 1 200 participants and will showcase over 350 speakers.

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18th International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa

When: 29 November to 4 December 2015

Venue: Rainbow Towers Hotel & Conference Centre, Harare, Zimbabwe

URL: <http://icasa2015zimbabwe.org/overview/icasa-2015-background/>

As ICASA Zimbabwe coincides with the MDG target year, the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa is offering the strategic first forum for post-MGD to leaders, activists, scientists and community to take stock of the outcomes of the MDG high level meeting challenges and to pave the way for a new, innovative and efficient approach towards an Africa AIDS free generation.

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6th Child Health Priorities Conference: Walk the Talk

When: 3-5 December 2015

Venue: University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg Campus, South Africa

Contact: infochpc2015@gmail.com

The theme of the conference this year is "Walk the Talk" and the focus will be the recommendations that have

arisen from the Ministerial Committees looking at Maternal, Newborn and Child Mortality.

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Sparking Population Health Solutions 2016

When: 25-26 April 2016

Venue: Shaw Centre Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada

URL: <http://bit.ly/1ePNrmp>

Global health problems cannot be solved one person at a time. Policies, programs, and how resources are distributed all contribute to preventing disease, promoting health and addressing the determinants of health. Population health research has catalyzed new ways of thinking about why some people are healthy (and others are not) by shining the light on the social, cultural and environmental factors that determine health and disease. We now have a wealth of new knowledge from the investments we've made. So what's next? Join us in the conversation.

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HST Conference 2016

When: 4-6 May 2016

Venue: Birchwood Conference Centre, Boksburg, Gauteng

URL: <http://www.hstconference2016.org.za>

Health Systems Trust (HST) is hosting a conference from 4-6 May 2016 at the Birchwood Conference Centre, Boksburg, Gauteng. Under the banner of *Strengthened health systems for sustainable development: sharing, supporting, synergising*, the event is designed to advance the global public health agenda in improving health outcomes.

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Job Opportunities

HISP-SA

- **ICT Technical Support Officer**
Closing Date: 22 September 2015
Please view our website for more details
<http://www.hst.org.za/jobs/ict-technical-support-officer>
- **Database Manager (two posts)**
Closing Date: 22 September 2015
Please view our website for more details
<http://www.hst.org.za/jobs/database-manager-2-posts>
- **Director: Technical Support**
Closing Date: 22 September 2015
Please view our website for more details
<http://www.hst.org.za/jobs/director-technical-support>

Ndlovu Care Group: General Medical Practitioner

Closing Date: 30 September 2015

Please view our website for more details

<http://www.hst.org.za/jobs/general-medical-practitioner>

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