

In this issue

- **Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles**
 - The World Health Organization's mechanisms for increasing the health sector budget: The South African context
 - Mortality trends in South Africa: Progress in the shadow of HIV/AIDS and apartheid
 - NHS England: Preparing for PrEP
 - Taking mHealth Forward: Examining the Core Characteristics
 - Building Global Capacity for Conducting Operational Research Using the SORT IT Model: Where and Who?
- **Recent News**
 - Call for abstracts: The South African Health Review (SAHR)
 - Funding sought for community healthcare worker policy
 - 'Better Off Knowing' campaign aims to encourage people living with HIV to access ARVs
 - Healthcare report delayed in wait for more data
 - Breast is best: Exclusive breastfeeding could turn Africa's child mortality tide
 - Hormonal contraception and the risk of HIV acquisition
- **Training and Resources**
 - The need for routine viral load testing: Questions and answers
 - English Technical Briefing Seminar on Essential Medicines Policies and Programmes
- **Books, Publications, Reports and Manuals**
 - Updates on HIV and Infant Feeding Guideline
 - Pharmacovigilance related activities of Member States and the European Medicines Agency concerning medicinal products for human use (2012 – 2014)
 - National HIV Testing Services Policy
- **Conferences and Events**
 - Public Health Informatics Conference: "Access, Analysis, Action"
 - E-Health Alive 2016
 - World Nutrition Congress
 - Public Health Association of South Africa 2016 Conference
 - 4th International Conference on HIV/AIDS, STDs and STIs
 - Fourth Global Symposium on Health Systems Research
 - 2016 International Leadership in Healthcare Conference
 - 2017 JOPPP Conference on Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice Research
- **Job Opportunities**
 - Health Systems Trust: Business Development Intern
 - Khethimpilo: District Coordinator (Cape Town)
 - Ithembalabantwana: Executive Director

Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

The World Health Organization's mechanisms for increasing the health sector budget: The South African context

Venter FH, Wolfaardt JE. *South African Medical Journal*. Published: 4 July 2016.

South Africa (SA) has limited scope for raising income taxes, and the proposed National Health Insurance (NHI) scheme will necessitate growth in the health sector budget. The NHI White Paper suggests five funding scenarios to meet the expected shortfall. These scenarios are a mixture of a surcharge on taxable income, an increase in value-added tax and a payroll tax. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.samj.org.za/index.php>[Accessed: 19 August 2016]

[back to top](#) ↑

Mortality trends in South Africa: Progress in the shadow of HIV/AIDS and apartheid

Toli Oni, Bongani M Mayosi. *The Lancet Global Health*. Published: 4 September 2016.

In *The Lancet Global Health*, Victoria Pillay-van Wyk and colleagues report a large-scale analysis of more than 8 million deaths that occurred in South Africa over a 16-year period (1997-2012). The study provides important subnational information on mortality by province and by the different communities in South Africa - a feature that is a major improvement on the previous studies of the burden of disease in South Africa and the Global

Burden of Disease study-thus making this report more useful to policy makers and planners at national and provincial levels of the country. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.thelancet.com/>[Accessed: 19 August 2016]

[back to top](#) ↑

NHS England: Preparing for PrEP

The Lancet. Published: 13 August 2016.

The landmark decision by the UK High Court on Aug 2, 2016, concerning NHS England and the funding of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is still resonating. Unless NHS England successfully appeals against the judgment, responsibility for funding an estimated £ 10-20 million a year HIV prevention programme will land squarely in its court. Yet any future funding of PrEP within NHS England will have to be considered alongside 18 other recommended new treatment programmes shortlisted for the next round of commissioning, such as funding for prosthetics for lower limb loss, or rituximab for immunoglobulin G4-related disease. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.thelancet.com/journals/>[Accessed: 19 August 2016]

[back to top](#) ↑

Taking mHealth Forward: Examining the Core Characteristics

Teaniese Latham Davis, Ralph DiClemente, Michael Prietula. Journal of Medical Internet Research mHealth. Published: 10 August 2016.

The emergence of mobile health (mHealth) offers unique and varied opportunities to address some of the most difficult problems of health. Some of the most promising and active efforts of mHealth involve the engagement of mobile phone technology. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://mhealth.jmir.org/2016/3/e97/>[Accessed: 19 August 2016]

[back to top](#) ↑

Building Global Capacity for Conducting Operational Research Using the SORT IT Model: Where and Who?

Rony Zachariah, Stefanie Rust, Selma Dar Berger, Nathalie Guillerm, Karen Bissell, Paul Delaunoy, et al. Plos One. Published: 9 August 2016.

Research capacity is weakest in low and middle-income countries (LMICs) where operational research is highly relevant and needed. Structured Operational Research and Training Initiative (SORT IT) courses have been developed to train participants to conduct and publish operational research and influence policy and practice. Twenty courses were completed in Asia, Africa, Europe and the South Pacific between 2009 and 2014. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0160837>[Accessed: 19 August 2016]

[back to top](#) ↑

Recent News

Call for abstracts: The South African Health Review (SAHR)

Health Systems Trust. Published: 18 August 2016.

Published annually by Health Systems Trust, the South African Health Review is an accredited peer-reviewed journal that is widely respected as an authoritative source of research, analysis and reflection on health systems. 2017 marks the 20th edition of the SAHR. To commemorate the occasion, chapters that give consideration to advances made in the health system over the past 20 years, or reflect on what the next 20 years may bring, are actively being sought. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.hst.org.za/news/sahr-2017-call-chapters>[Accessed: 19 August 2016]

[back to top](#) ↑

Funding sought for community healthcare worker policy

BDLive. Published: 16 August 2016.

The National Health Department is in talks with the National Treasury about funding community healthcare workers, Parliament heard on Tuesday. The Health Department's deputy director-general for primary healthcare services Jeanette Hunter told the portfolio committee on health that a community healthcare worker policy had been drafted, but that it needed to be funded before it could be implemented. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.bdlive.co.za/national/health/2016/08/16/>[Accessed: 19 August 2016]

[back to top](#) ↑

'Better Off Knowing' campaign aims to encourage people living with HIV to access ARVs

Health Systems Trust. Published: 19 August 2016.

In June the leading public health NGO Health Systems Trust (HST) launched its 'Better Off Knowing' campaign, motivating South Africans from all walks of life to get tested for HIV so that they know their status - and if HIV-positive, receive treatment and live longer. The high-profile campaign forms part of South Africa's contribution to the ambitious UNAIDS 'Fast-Track' 90-90-90 global targets for combatting HIV in communities and achieving an AIDS-free generation by 2030. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.hst.org.za/news/media-release/>[Accessed: 19 August 2016]

[back to top](#) ↑

Healthcare report delayed in wait for more data

BDLive. Published: 18 August 2016.

The Competition Commission's healthcare market inquiry has postponed the publication of its interim report, due for release last week, citing delays in obtaining key data from medical schemes and private hospitals. The inquiry was established to probe the nature of the private healthcare market, and determine whether there were barriers to effective competition and patient access. It was due to publish its interim report on August 5, with a final report and recommendations due on December 15. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.bdlive.co.za/national/health/2016/08/10/>[Accessed: 19 August 2016]

[back to top](#) ↑

Breast is best: Exclusive breastfeeding could turn Africa's child mortality tide

Bhekisisa. Published: 18 August 2016.

The African continent has the ignominious distinction of housing the seven countries in which the highest number of children die before their fifth birthday, according to the United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation. These countries - Angola, the Central African Republic, Chad, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Somalia - all have an under-five mortality rate above 100 deaths per 1 000 live births. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://bhekisisa.org/article/>[Accessed: 19 August 2016]

[back to top](#) ↑

Hormonal contraception and the risk of HIV acquisition

WHO. Published: 9 August 2016.

The expert review group will assess whether current WHO guidance needs to change in the light of a new review of data, published in AIDS on 9 August 2016, which was commissioned by WHO. [Read More »](#)

Source: www.who.int/entity/reproductivehealth/[Accessed: 19 August 2016]

[back to top](#) ↑

Training and Resources

The need for routine viral load testing: Questions and answers

UNAIDS. Published: 2016.

Greatly expanded access to routine viral load testing will be a game-changer in the global response to AIDS. Routine viral load tests improve treatment quality and individual health outcomes for people living with HIV, contribute to prevention, and potentially reduce resource needs for costly second- and third-line HIV medicines. [Click Here»](#)

[back to top](#) ↑

English Technical Briefing Seminar on Essential Medicines Policies and Programmes

World Health Organization.

When: 17-21 October 2016.

The technical briefing will be of interest to Ministry of Health officials who deal with pharmaceutical issues, WHO regional advisers and country office staff of WHO and other UN agencies, national and regional drug regulators, and government and non-government officials working in related areas. Academics and pharmaceutical company representatives have also attended past seminars. [Click Here»](#)

[back to top](#) ↑

Books, Publications, Reports and Manuals

Updates on HIV and Infant Feeding Guideline

WHO. Published: 2016.

WHO guidelines on HIV and Infant Feeding in 2010 for the first time recommended the use of antiretroviral drugs to prevent postnatal transmission of HIV through breastfeeding. This resulted in a major change from an individualised counselling approach toward a public health approach regarding how maternal and child health services should routinely promote and support infant feeding practices among mothers living with HIV. [Click Here»](#)

[back to top](#) ↑

Pharmacovigilance related activities of Member States and the European Medicines Agency concerning medicinal products for human use (2012 - 2014)

European Commission. Published: 2016.

In the European Union (EU) medicinal products for human use are subject to strict testing and assessment of their quality, efficacy and safety before being authorised either at Member State or EU level. Once placed on the market they continue to be monitored through pharmacovigilance activities. [Click Here»](#)

[back to top](#) ↑

National HIV Testing Services Policy

National Department of Health. Published: July 2016.

Responding to HIV and AIDS is one of the most important tasks in South Africa, which is why the prevention of new HIV infections and treatment and care of HIV-infected people are one of the South African government's top priorities. Recent new South African and international guidelines and recommendations prompted the review of South Africa's HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT) guidelines, which resulted in this newly revised document, the South African National HIV Testing Services: Policy, 2016. [Click Here»](#)

[back to top](#) ↑

Conferences and Events

Public Health Informatics Conference: "Access, Analysis, Action"

When: 21 - 24 August 2016

Venue: Atlanta, USA

URL: <http://phiconference.org/>

[back to top](#) ↑

E-Health Alive 2016

When: 6 - 7 September 2016

Venue: Sandton Convention Centre, Sandton, South Africa

URL: <http://ehealthalive.co.za/>

[back to top](#) ↑

World Nutrition Congress

When: 30 August - 2 September 2016

Venue: Cape Town, South Africa

URL: <http://www.wncapetown2016.com/>

[back to top](#) ↑

Public Health Association of South Africa 2016 Conference

When: 19 - 22 September 2016

Venue: East London, South Africa

E-Mail: deon.salomo@mrc.ac.za

[back to top](#) ↑

4th International Conference on HIV/AIDS, STDs and STIs

When: 3 - 5 October 2016

Venue: Orlando, Florida, USA

URL: <http://hiv-aids-std.conferenceseries.com/>

[back to top](#) ↑

Fourth Global Symposium on Health Systems Research

When: 14 - 18 November 2016

Venue: Vancouver, Canada

URL: <http://www.csih.org/en/events/fourth-global-symposium-on-health-systems-research/>

[back to top](#) ↑

2016 International Leadership in Healthcare Conference

When: 27 - 30 November 2016

Venue: Cape Sun International Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa

URL: <http://leadership2016.co.za>

[back to top](#) ↑

2017 JOPPP Conference on Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice Research

When: 14 - 16 July 2017

Venue: University of Reading Malaysia Campus, Johor, Malaysia

URL: <https://www.reading.ac.uk>

[back to top](#) ↑

Job Opportunities

Health Systems Trust: Business Development Intern

Closing date: 29 August 2016

Please view our website for more details

<http://www.hst.org.za/jobs/business-development-intern>

Khethimpilo: District Coordinator (Cape Town)

Closing date: 25 August 2016

Please view our website for more details

<http://www.hst.org.za/jobs/district-coordinator>

Ithembalabantwana: Executive Director

Closing date: 5 September 2016

Please view our website for more details

<http://www.hst.org.za/jobs/executive-director-0>

[back to top](#) ↑