

HST Bulletin



CATEGORIES

[Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles](#)

[Recent News](#)

[Training and Resources](#)

[Publications and Reports](#)

[Conferences and Events](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Understanding relevance of health research: considerations in the context of research impact assessment

BioMed Central | Published: 17 April 2017.

Mark J Dobrow, Fiona A Miller, Cy Frank and Adalsteinn D Brown

With massive investment in health-related research, above and beyond investments in the management and delivery of healthcare and public health services, there has been increasing focus on the impact of health research to explore and explain the consequences of these investments and inform strategic planning. Relevance is reflected by increased attention to the usability and impact of health research, with research funders increasingly engaging in relevance assessment as an input to decision processes. Yet, it is unclear whether relevance is a synonym for or predictor of impact, a necessary condition or stage in achieving it, or a distinct aim of the research enterprise. The main aim of this paper is to improve our understanding of research relevance, with specific objectives to (1) unpack research relevance from both theoretical and practical perspectives, and (2) outline key considerations for its assessment.

Contraception coverage and methods used among women in South Africa: A national household survey

The South African Medical Journal | Published: April 2017.

M F Chersich, N Wabiri, K Risher, O Shisana, D Celentano, T Rehle, M Evans, H Rees

Globally, family planning services are being strengthened and the range of contraceptive choices expanded. Data on contraceptive coverage and service gaps could help to shape these initiatives. [This study] assess[es] contraception coverage in South Africa (SA) and identif[ies] underserved populations and aspects of programming that require strengthening.

Effects of injectable progestogen contraception versus the copper intrauterine device on HIV acquisition: sub-study of a pragmatic randomised controlled trial

Journal of Family Planning & Reproductive Healthcare | Published: 5 April 2017.

G Justus Hofmeyr, Mandisa Singata-Madliki, Theresa A Lawrie, Eduardo Bergel, Marleen Temmerman

Evidence from observational studies suggests an increased risk of HIV acquisition among women using depot medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA) contraception. Within the context of a South African programme to increase women's access to the intrauterine contraceptive device (IUD), we conducted a pragmatic, open-label, parallel-arm, randomised controlled trial (RCT) of the IUD versus injectable progestogen contraception (IPC) at two South African hospitals. The primary outcome was pregnancy; secondary outcomes included HIV acquisition. Findings on HIV acquisition are reported in this article.

Antiretroviral Treatment Adherence: Knowledge and Experiences among Adolescents and Young Adults in Soweto, South Africa

AIDS Research and Treatment | Published: 20 March 2017.

Stefanie Hornschuh, Janan Janine Dietrich, Celokuhle Tshabalala, and Fatima Laher

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) management of adolescents and young adults (AYAs) is particularly pertinent to sub-Saharan Africa, where the pediatric HIV burden is marked. Antiretroviral treatment (ART) adherence is a major challenge for AYAs. This qualitative study explored knowledge and experiences of adherence amongst AYAs attending treatment at the Perinatal HIV Research Unit (PHRU), Soweto, South Africa.

Adolescents' experience of a rapid HIV self-testing device in youth-friendly clinic settings in Cape Town South Africa: a cross-sectional community based usability study

Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 23 December 2016.

Philip Smith, Melissa Wallace, Linda-Gail Bekker

Since HIV testing in South African adolescents and young adults is sub-optimal, the objective of the current study was to investigate the feasibility and acceptability of an HIV rapid self-testing device in adolescents and young people at the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation Youth Centre and Mobile Clinic.

Community-based strategies to strengthen men's engagement in the HIV care cascade in sub-Saharan Africa

PlosOne | Published: 11 April 2017.

Monisha Sharma, Ruanne V Barnabas, Connie Celum

The successful scale-up of antiretroviral therapy (ART) in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) will require policy makers to address the gender gap in HIV testing and treatment access. Men in SSA are less likely than women to undergo HIV testing and more likely to start ART at advanced disease stages and interrupt or drop out of ART. These disparities have resulted in a life expectancy gap of up to 10 years between HIV-positive men and women. Low male testing and treatment rates also increase HIV transmission to female partners.

Realizing the Promise of the Global Plan: Engaging Communities and Promoting the Health and Human Rights of Women Living With HIV

Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome | Published: 1 May 2017.

Rebecca Matheson, Sophie Brion, Aditi Sharma, Sophie Dilmitis, Kathrin Schmitz, Stuart Kean, Katie Filous, et al

The Global Plan Towards the Elimination of New HIV Infections Among Children by 2015 and Keeping Their Mothers Alive highlighted the need to put the health and well-being of women and mothers at the center of efforts to prevent vertical transmission. This article will examine a selection of community engagement practices in 3 key areas: (1) as an accountability tool, (2) in service delivery, and (3) as a facilitator of human rights. The lived experiences of women living with HIV as recipients of and participants in services for the prevention of vertical transmission provide both the framework for an exploration of best community engagement practices and suggestions for the way forward.

“Guilty until proven innocent”: the contested use of maternal mortality indicators

in global health

Critical Public Health | Published: 20 December 2016.

Katerini T Storeng, Dominique P Béhague

The MMR – maternal mortality ratio – has risen from obscurity to become a major global health indicator, even appearing as an indicator of progress towards the global Sustainable Development Goals. This has happened despite intractable challenges relating to the measurement of maternal mortality. Even after three decades of measurement innovation, maternal mortality data are widely presumed to be of poor quality, or, as one leading measurement expert has put it, 'guilty until proven innocent'. This paper explores how and why leading epidemiologists, demographers and statisticians have devoted the better part of the last three decades to producing ever more sophisticated and expensive surveys and mathematical models of globally comparable MMR estimates.

Relationship between HIV serostatus, CD4 count and rehospitalisation: Potential implications for health systems strengthening in South Africa

Southern African Journal of Infectious Diseases | Published: 29 June 2016.

Yoshan Moodley, Andrew Tomita

Despite three decades of scientific response to HIV/AIDS, the generalised HIV epidemic continues to persist in South Africa. There is growing acknowledgement that health system strengthening will be critical in tackling HIV/AIDS. Patient rehospitalisation is an important quality benchmark of health service delivery, but there is currently limited data on rehospitalisation of patients with HIV/AIDS in South Africa, a setting with a high burden of HIV disease.

The social accountability of doctors: a relationship based framework for understanding emergent community concepts of caring

BioMed Central | Published: 12 April 2017.

Lionel P Green-Thompson, Patricia McInerney, Bob Woollard

Social accountability is defined as the responsibility of institutions to respond to the health priorities of a community. There is an international movement towards the education of health professionals who are accountable to communities. There is little evidence of how communities experience or articulate this accountability. In this grounded theory study eight community based focus group discussions were conducted in rural and urban South Africa to explore community members' perceptions of the social accountability of doctors. The discussions were conducted across one urban and two rural provinces. Group discussions were recorded and transcribed verbatim.

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

RECENT NEWS

The political argument for investing in global health

The Lancet | April 2017.

An insular, nativist, authoritarian wave has been on the rise in countries around the world. These movements play on people's fears and insecurities. They create scapegoats, especially vulnerable minorities, and attempt to falsely blame these groups as the cause of people's fears.

KZN health in bad state

Times Live | 18 April 2017.

The healthcare system is collapsing in KwaZulu-Natal as hospitals are short-staffed and filled with broken equipment.

Campaign to teach traditional healers how to conduct HIV/Aids tests

Medical Brief | 11 April 2017.

KwaZulu-Natal Health, together with an NGO called Integration of TB in Education and Care for HIV and Aids – known as I-TEACH – have embarked on a campaign to train thousands of traditional healers to conduct HIV/Aids tests on their clients.

How to fund a failing health system

Bhekisia | 6 April 2017.

Could Zimbabwe's new Health Development Fund rescue the country's cash-strapped clinics and hospitals?

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

TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Khutbah and Sermon Guides on Children and HIV for Religious Leaders

AIDSFREE (PEPFAR) | Published: 2017.

These khutbah and sermon guides were developed to empower religious leaders with the tools and skills to reach their congregations with key messages on paediatric HIV transmission and prevention; stigma and discrimination; and treatment, care, and support; as well as male involvement in the HIV prevention and response continuum. Both guides were developed in collaboration with religious leaders.

World Health Worker Week 2017 Podcast Series: Conquering health workforce challenges can pave the way to a healthier world

USAID | Published: 31 March 2017.

In many ways, a fully functioning health workforce drives the well-being of communities, regions, and entire countries. Policy-makers at the national level can use reliable data to make decisions about where and what type of health workers are needed based on population health needs. In honour of World Health Worker Week 2017, HRH2030 project directors explore some of the human resources for health (HRH) obstacles that impede access to quality health care and discuss solutions.

Webinar: Information Products to Drive Decision Making: How to Promote the Use of Routine Data Throughout a Health System

MEASURE Evaluation | 9 May 2017.

Join MEASURE Evaluation for a one-hour webinar on using information products to drive decision making on May 9, 2017, at 15:00 GMT +2. The webinar will be led by MEASURE Evaluation's Eric Geers.

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

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

OHSC: Annual Inspection Report 2015/ 2016

Office of Health Standards Compliance | Published: 2017.

The Chairperson of the Office of Health Standards Compliance is pleased to present the 2015/2016 National Core Standards Inspectorate Annual Report. This is the second annual report compiled and produced by the Office of Health Standards Compliance on issues of quality and safety of South Africa's health establishments.

Sustainable HIV Epidemic Control: PEPFAR POSITION PAPER

PEPFAR | Published: November 2016.

The global response to the HIV pandemic has been unprecedented. Billions of dollars and millions of people were quickly mobilized to save lives and fight the pandemic. The gains have been tremendous. If country governments, donors, and civil society work in partnership, and continue to ensure every investment has a clear outcome, it is within our grasp to control the epidemic. Yet, this potential success is at risk if we do not take decisive actions to ensure the HIV response is sustainable. A series of concrete actions are available that will have rapid impact and accelerate our progress towards long-term sustainability.

Technical Brief: Addressing Gender to Ensure Effective PrEP Introduction

OPTIONS | Published: September 2016.

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) was conceived to fill the urgent need for a woman-controlled HIV prevention method. However, biomedical technology alone will not alter the underlying gender inequalities that make women and girls vulnerable to HIV. As new HIV prevention methods are rolled out, women, girls, men who have sex with men (MSM), and transgender people will face barriers to product access and use that stem from cultural norms, lack of power in relationships and society, and limited access to resources. Gender analyses conducted in Kenya, South Africa, and Zimbabwe identified ways to address these potential barriers during PrEP introduction.

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

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

INTEREST Workshop

16 - 19 May 2017

Lilongwe, Malawi

International Council of Nurses Congress

27 May - 1 June 2017

Barcelona, Spain

HEAIDS Conference (Higher Education and Training): Empowering our youth in South Africa

9 - 11 June 2017

International Conference Centre, Durban, South Africa

STI & HIV World Congress 2017

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

9 – 12 June 2017

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

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Health Systems Trust: Health Systems Research (HSR) Unit Public Health Technical Specialists - 2x Full-time or Part-time

Closing Date: 24 April 2017

Health Systems Trust: Health Systems Research (HSR) Unit Programme Manager

Closing Date: 24 April 2017



Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Health Systems Trust · 34 Essex Terrace · Westville · Durban, KZN 3630 · South Africa

MailChimp