



## CATEGORIES

[Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles](#)

[Recent Public Health News](#)

[Training and Resources](#)

[Publications and Reports](#)

[Conferences and Events](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

## ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

### **Factors Associated with Viral Suppression Among Adolescents on Antiretroviral Therapy in Homa Bay County, Kenya: A Retrospective Cross-Sectional Study**

*Dove Press | 24 December 2021*

*A Mwangi, B van Wyk*

Despite the success in initiating adolescents living with HIV on antiretroviral therapy (ART), questions remain about factors affecting viral suppression. In Kenya, only 63% of adolescents (aged 10–19 years) on ART had achieved viral suppression in 2016. We investigated factors associated with viral suppression among adolescents initiated on ART before November 30, 2017 in Homa Bay County, Kenya.

### **Effect of universal HIV testing and treatment on socioeconomic wellbeing in rural Kenya and Uganda: a cluster-randomised controlled trial**

*The Lancet Global Health | 1 January 2022*

*Aleksandra Jakubowski, Jane Kabami, Laura Balzer, James Ayieko, Prof Edwin Charlebois, et al*

Universal testing and treatment for HIV has shown promise as an approach to reduce mortality and lower HIV incidence. Evidence on the economic effects of this approach on individuals and households in low-resource settings is scarce. We aimed to examine the effect of universal HIV testing and treatment on a range of economic outcomes.

### **The contribution of unstable housing to HIV and hepatitis C virus transmission among people who inject drugs globally, regionally, and at country level: a modelling study**

*The Lancet Public Health | 7 January 2022*

*Jack Stone, Adelina Arteni, Prof Matthew Hickman, Prof Natasha Martin, Prof Louisa Degenhardt, et al*

A considerable proportion of people who inject drugs are unstably housed. Although unstable housing is associated with HIV and HCV infection among people who inject drugs, its contribution to transmission is unknown. We estimated the global and national proportions of incident HIV and HCV infections among people who inject drugs attributed to housing instability from 2020 to 2029.

### **Duration of the second stage of labor and risk of subsequent spontaneous preterm**

## birth

*BJOG* | 13 January 2022

*Geffen Kleinstern, Roy Zigran, Shay Porat, Joshua Rosenbloom, Misgav Rottenstreich, et al*

To determine the risk of spontaneous preterm birth (sPTB) associated with the length of second stage of labor in the first term delivery.

## Psychological factors of diet quality among rural populations of Latin America during the COVID-19 pandemic: a cross-sectional study

*Remote and Rural Health* | 14 January 2022

*Samuel Durán-Agüero, María Fernanda Vinuesa-Veloz, Gabriel González-Medina, Valeria Carpio-Arias, Israel Ríos-Castillo, et al*

**Purpose:** To determine the relationship between symptoms of anxiety and/or anhedonia and diet quality during the confinement due to COVID-19 in rural population.

**Conclusions:** Among the rural population, a worse diet quality is associated with symptoms of anhedonia and anxiety, as well as lower level of education and being male during the COVID-19 pandemic. Proposals to improve the quality of the diet could include interventions aimed at people's mental health.

## HIV prevention: better choice for better coverage

*Wiley Online Library* | 14 January 2022

*Linda-Gail Bekker, Carey Pike, Sharon Hillier*

Antiretroviral-based pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is today an established, effective and safe method of HIV prevention used in multiple countries worldwide by a broad range of populations at risk of HIV infection. Biomedical innovations are critical in supporting the primary prevention of HIV; however, their potential can only be maximized if end-user challenges are recognized, described and used to develop next-generation models.

## Telehealth use in rural and remote health practitioner education: an integrative review

*Remote and Rural Health* | 17 January 2022

*Pauline Calleja, Susan Wilkes, Melinda Spencer, Steven Woodbridge*

For rural and remote clinicians, quality education is often difficult to access because of geographic isolation, travel, time, expense constraints and lack of an onsite educator. The aims of this integrative review were to examine what telehealth education is available to rural practitioners, evaluate the existence and characteristics of telehealth education for rural staff, evaluate current telehealth education models, establish the quality of education provided through telehealth along with the facilitators or enablers of a successful service and develop recommendations for supporting and developing an education model for rural and remote health practitioners through telehealth.

## Fluid therapy for severe malaria

*The Lancet Infectious Diseases* | 17 January 2022

*Laura Kalkman, Prof Thomas Hänscheid, Prof Sanjeev Krishna, Prof Martin Grobusch*

Fluid therapy is an important supportive measure for patients with severe malaria. Patients with severe malaria usually have normal cardiac index, vascular resistance, and blood pressure and a small degree of hypovolaemia due to dehydration. Cell hypoxia, reduced kidney function, and acidosis result from microcirculatory compromise and malarial anaemia, which reduce tissue oxygenation, not hypovolaemia. Hence, aggressive fluid loading does not correct acid–base status, enhance kidney function, or improve patient outcomes, and it risks complications such as pulmonary oedema. Individualised conservative fluid management is recommended in patients with severe malaria. Physical examination and physiological indices have limited reliability in guiding fluid therapy. Invasive measures can be more accurate than physical examination and physiological indices but are often unavailable in endemic areas, and non-invasive measures, such as ultrasound, are mostly unexplored. Research into reliable methods applicable in low-resource settings to measure fluid status and response is a priority. In this Review, we outline the current knowledge on fluid management in severe malaria and highlight research needed to optimise fluid therapy and improve survival in severe malaria.

## Health trends, inequalities and opportunities in South Africa's provinces, 1990–2019: findings from the Global Burden of Disease 2019 Study

*BMJ Epidemiology and Community Health* | 19 January 2022

Tom Achoki, Benn Sartorius, David Watkins, Scott Glenn, Andre Kengne, et al

Over the last 30 years, South Africa has experienced four 'colliding epidemics' of HIV and tuberculosis, chronic illness and mental health, injury and violence, and maternal, neonatal, and child mortality, which have had substantial effects on health and well-being. Using data from the 2019 Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries and Risk Factors Study (GBD 2019), we evaluated national and provincial health trends and progress towards important Sustainable Development Goal targets from 1990 to 2019.

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

---

## RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

### **Maternal and child healthcare isn't reaching everyone in urban sub-Saharan Africa**

*The Conversation* | 12 January 2022

The world has seen dramatic improvements in maternal, newborn and child health. For instance, the World Health Organisation reported a 38% reduction in maternal deaths between 2000 and 2017, globally. Maternal deaths refer to deaths due to complications from pregnancy or childbirth. Many countries in sub-Saharan Africa have also seen a reduction in maternal mortality by as much as half since 2000. Still, there's a great variation in maternal deaths between low- and high-income countries. Low- and middle-income countries still account for a high proportion of the world's maternal deaths. Countries in sub-Saharan Africa also report the highest neonatal mortality rates in the world. Neonatal mortality refers to death of infants within 28 days of birth. The decline in neonatal mortality rates in sub-Saharan Africa from 1990 to 2017 was low (40%) compared to that of high-income countries (55%). On top of this, mortality in children under five years old was highest in sub-Saharan Africa.

### **Questions over implementation of SA's new infection control plan**

*Spotlight* | 12 January 2022

Whether it is in the queue outside a community healthcare clinic, in a GP's waiting room, or in the ICU at a private sector hospital, healthcare-acquired infections (HAIs) pose a threat to people's health. These places are after all where people go if they are struggling with infectious diseases. Measures taken to reduce these infection risks are referred to in healthcare circles as infection prevention and control (IPC) practices. Though the Covid-19 pandemic has firmly placed the spotlight on infection control – particularly as it relates to personal protective equipment and limited access to Covid-19 wards - challenges with IPC are much older and much broader than just Covid-19.

### **Gauteng exits fourth wave, but vaccine stats 'can improve' – Phaahla**

*Health-E News* | 14 January 2022

It's official – Gauteng, the former epicentre of South Africa's Omicron variant driven surge in cases last November – has exited the fourth wave. But, Health Minister, Joe Phaahla, who announced the news while updating the country on government's latest efforts to fight COVID-19 earlier today, is worried about the country's vaccination rates. "In terms of the technical definition of a wave, we can now say officially that Gauteng has technically exited the fourth wave this week," said Phaahla. Phaahla said the National Department of Health has seen a 13,9% reduction of new cases and 6.3% reduction in hospitalisations. However, the Western Cape, followed by KwaZulu-Natal, aren't out the woods just yet. Both provinces recorded their highest number of cases this past week.

### **Covid may soon be 'endemic' in Britain and much of the world. But is that a good or a bad thing?**

*The Telegraph* | 15 January 2022

The coronavirus has a knack for dividing us and this week it opened up a new battleground: a scrap over the meaning of the word "endemic". You won't be surprised to learn that views on the subject are somewhat polarised. "Covid Will Soon Be Endemic, Thank Goodness", announced Dr Monica Gandhi, an infectious-disease physician and professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, in the pages of the Wall Street Journal. "Widespread immunity, vaccinated and natural, will bring control and a full return to normal".

### **COVAX delivers its 1 billionth COVID-19 vaccine dose**

WHO | 16 January 2022

On 15 January 2021, a shipment of 1.1 million COVID-19 vaccines to Rwanda included the billionth dose supplied via COVAX. Together with our partners, COVAX is leading the largest vaccine procurement and supply operation in history, with deliveries to 144 countries to date. But the work that has gone into this milestone is only a reminder of the work that remains. As of 13 January 2022, out of 194 Member States, 36 WHO Member States have vaccinated less than 10% of their population, and 88 less than 40%. COVAX's ambition was compromised by hoarding/stockpiling in rich countries, catastrophic outbreaks leading to borders and supply being locked. And a lack of sharing of licenses, technology and know how by pharmaceutical companies meant manufacturing capacity went unused. COVAX is working with governments, manufacturers and partners to ensure that when countries receive vaccines they can get them to people quickly.

### **Annual health checkups: Nip potential problems in the bud**

Health-E News | 17 January 2022

No one ever squeals with delight when they have to go for annual health checkups – but this is no reason to dread or avoid them. They are designed to assess the risk of potential medical conditions and allow a doctor to pick up early warning signs. Once you reach the age of 45, these yearly visits become imperative. Early detection and treatment will not only give one a better quality of life, but also possibly a longer life. Dr Mvuyisi Mzukwa, Vice Chairperson of the South African Medical Association (SAMA), highlighted the importance of these health checkups. He also reminded the younger generation that they aren't immune.

### **Coronavirus loses most of infection capacity after 20 minutes in air**

Business Live | 17 January 2022

Coronavirus loses most of its ability to infect shortly after being exhaled and is less likely to be contagious at longer distances, a study from the University of Bristol's Aerosol Research Centre showed. Researchers found that the virus loses 90% of its contagion capacity 20 minutes after becoming airborne and that most of that loss happens in the first five minutes of it reaching the air, according to the study, that simulates how the virus behaves after exhaling.

### **Hepatitis B may increase cancer risk in people with HIV**

Aidsmap | 17 January 2022

People with both HIV and hepatitis B have a higher rate of non-liver cancers compared to other people with HIV, a large European study has found. The study investigators, who have published their findings in the journal *HIV Medicine*, say that people coinfecting with HIV and hepatitis B may need extra screening for some common cancers. The study found that the rate of non-liver cancers was 23% higher in people with HIV and hepatitis B compared to people with HIV alone. Viral hepatitis (hepatitis B or C) raises the risk of hepatocellular carcinoma (liver cancer). Studies of people with hepatitis B alone also show a raised risk of some non-liver cancers but the risk of non-liver cancers in people coinfecting with hepatitis B and HIV is unclear.

### **Pre-exposure prophylaxis use expands, but not fast enough**

UNAIDS | 17 January 2022

It has been more than a decade since the first evidence of the efficacy of daily oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) was published. PrEP is now a valuable additional option for people who are at higher risk of acquiring HIV, and its global uptake has continued to increase, despite the COVID-19 pandemic: country data show that approximately 845 000 people in at least 54 countries received PrEP in 2020—a 43% increase since 2019, and a 182% increase since 2018. Much of the PrEP scale-up is still highly concentrated in a fairly small number of countries, notably the United States of America, and in eastern and southern Africa, where Kenya and South Africa accounted for 158 630 (19%) of people who received PrEP at least once during 2020 in the region. There continue to be substantial gaps in the availability of PrEP, however: the total number of people using this prevention option in 2020 was just 28% of the target of 3 million in low- and middle-income countries, which represents only 8% of the new global 2025 target.

### **In-depth: Top 10 health issues to watch in 2022**

Spotlight | 17 January 2022

COVID-19 will continue to dominate headlines in 2022, but from National Health Insurance to the

availability of a new HIV prevention injection, it will also be an important year for other areas of health service delivery and for health system governance and reforms in South Africa. Here is Spotlight's pick of the top ten issues to keep an eye on.

### **Warning against mandatory vaccination policies in South Africa**

*Business Tech | 17 January 2022*

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) has warned companies against introducing mandatory vaccination policies, which it says risks infringing the Constitutional rights of workers. The Chapter 9 body raised concerns around a recent study that found that some Covid-19 vaccines may cause a small change to the menstrual cycle length – but that this change is temporary. While health experts believe this finding is not clinically significant, the Commission cautioned businesses and various institutions against forcing employees to vaccinate and imposing harsh sanctions on them if they do not.

### **Bullying: Going back to school a nightmare for some kids**

*Health-E News | 19 January 2022*

Parents may be breathing a sigh of relief as the last of the country's schools reopen for the 2022 academic year, but not all children are looking forward to meeting their fellow classmates. For them, going back to school means only one thing – more bullying. Simphiwe Radebe\* recalls the hellish start to his first year of high school. What should've been an exciting time for this 17-year-old Grade 12 learner, quickly turned into something he'd rather forget.

### **Covid-19: How South Africa differs from the rest of the continent**

*GroundUp | 19 January 2022*

Among African states, South Africa is often singled out as the mysterious exception because, according to official estimates, we have fared much worse through the Covid-19 pandemic than most of the continent. But is this true? Almost certainly not. At least one commentator has used the official statistics to claim that the SA government's response has been worse than much of the continent. While there is much to criticise about the government response, there is one primary reason why Covid deaths appear higher in South Africa than most of the continent: we have better systems for measuring them.

### **Millions are dying from drug-resistant infections, global report says**

*BBC News | 20 January 2022*

More than 1.2 million people died worldwide in 2019 from infections caused by bacteria resistant to antibiotics, according to the largest study of the issue to date. This is more than the annual death toll from malaria or Aids. Poorer countries are worst affected but antimicrobial resistance threatens everyone's health, the report says. Urgent investment in new drugs and using current ones more wisely are recommended to protect against it. The overuse of antibiotics in recent years for trivial infections means they are becoming less effective against serious infections. People are dying from common, previously treatable infections because the bacteria that cause them have become resistant to treatment.

### **More People Died of Antibiotic-Resistant 'Superbugs' Than HIV/AIDS In 2019, Sub-Saharan Africa Worst Affected**

*Health Policy Watch | 20 January 2022*

Antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections killed 1.27 million people in the world in 2019, according to a one-of-a-kind study in *The Lancet*. According to the study, led by the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington, with dozens of authors worldwide, the increased resistance of many common pathogens to treatment, known as antimicrobial resistance (AMR), was a leading cause of death worldwide in 2019. AMR caused more fatalities than HIV/AIDS or malaria, which caused 860,000 and 640,000 deaths respectively, in the same time period. More people than ever are dying from previously treatable infections since the bacteria causing such infections have become resistant to previously life-saving drugs.

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

---

## **TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

### **Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust Bulletin**

The Health Systems Trust (HST) produces a weekly bulletin on Fridays focusing on key public health news, peer-reviewed journal articles and other important primary healthcare resources.

### **Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust 60percent**

HST produces a weekly online publication, 60percent, which keeps subscribers abreast with the latest news and developments pertaining to HIV-related maternal, adolescent, child and youth health. The name 60percent signifies that southern Africa is responding to a feminised HIV/AIDS epidemic, with at least 60% of those living with HIV being women.

Subscribe to 60percent by simply visiting HST's website (<https://www.hst.org.za>), scroll to the bottom of the page, hit the SUBSCRIBE button, and follow the prompts. Let's keep you posted!

### **HSTi offers accredited and non-accredited short courses and full programmes**

The Health Systems Training Institute (HSTi) is the training arm of the Health Systems Trust (HST), a leading force in the South African public health sector. HST was established in 1992, on the brink of democracy in South Africa, and has since played a significant role in strengthening the national primary health system through health research, informatics, clinical support, capacity-building and training.

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

---

## **PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS**

### **The gendered experience of close-to-community providers in fragile and shock-prone settings: implications for policy and practice during and post COVID-19**

The aim of this review is to examine relevant existing global literature on close-to-community providers during the COVID-19 pandemic in fragile and shock-prone settings, applying a critical gender, equity and justice lens. This provides a wide understanding of the gendered experiences of CTC providers during COVID-19 pandemic at the global level. The review is part of a wider study – The gendered experience of close-to-community providers in fragile and shock-prone settings: implications for policy and practice during and post COVID-19.

### **SAMRC SARS-CoV-2 Wastewater Surveillance Dashboard: An early warning system for COVID-19 infections**

The SAMRC wastewater Surveillance and Research Programme monitors the non-infectious SARS-CoV-2 RNA, the fragments of the virus that causes COVID-19. The non-infectious SARS-CoV-2 RNA can be shed in feces of individuals that are symptomatic or asymptomatic. By testing wastewater weekly, we can measure the SARS-CoV-2 RNA signal and see whether it is increasing or decreasing. This can be used as an early indicator of COVID-19 case trends within a community. The information shared on this interactive dashboard should be used in combination with other available public health data. Further details can be found under FAQs. Please refer to the How-To Guide to assist your navigation through the results presented on the dashboard.

### **The Lancet Global Health**

Feb 2022 Issue

Volume 10 | Issue 2

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

---

## **CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

### **Webinar: New technologies and strategies to overcome the challenges of sexually transmitted infections**

When: 26 January 2022

Where: Virtual Webinar

Time: 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Click on link to register: <https://cutt.ly/hU6ngzp>

### **HSR 2022: Call for Abstracts!**

HSG is pleased to invite abstract submissions for the 7th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research (HSR2022), to be held in Bogota, Colombia October 31 – November 4, 2022. Read below for theme details, field building requirements, and submission guidelines.

Theme: Systems Performance in the Political Agenda: Sharing lessons for current and future global challenges.

### **Call for Mentees: Publication Mentorship Program for First-time Women Authors in the Field of HPSR**

Health Systems Global (HSG) and The Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research (the Alliance) invite early-career women working on HPSR issues, based in Low- and Middle-Income countries, to participate in this call. Those who are interested in publishing their HPSR research for the first time in a global peer-reviewed journal and require guidance and support to submit a publishable manuscript should apply.

### **Call for abstracts: 24th International AIDS Conference**

Abstracts may be submitted through your conference account until 27 January 2022 (23:59 CET). Track scope and objectives, track categories and full submission guidelines can be found on this page. Abstracts submitted to AIDS 2022 will go through a blind peer-review process by an international review panel. Members of the AIDS 2022 Organizing Committee will make the final abstract selection by mid-April. The highest-scoring abstracts will be selected for oral presentation in a session or as an e-poster to be displayed on site in the exhibition hall and virtually on the conference platform. In addition, a small number of high-scoring posters will be selected for oral presentation in e-poster sessions in Montreal.

### **Calling all filmmakers!**

The World Health Organization is looking for your original short film submissions showcasing global health champions for the upcoming #HealthForAll Film Festival.

Deadline: 30 January 2022

### **International Women's Day 2022**

Theme: Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow

Date: 8 March, 2022

#IWD2022

### **World Hearing Day 2022 (3 March)**

Theme: To hear for life, listen with care!

On World Hearing Day 2022, WHO will focus on the importance of safe listening as a means of maintaining good hearing across the life course. In 2021, WHO launched the World report on hearing that highlighted the increasing number of people living with and at risk of hearing loss. It highlighted noise control as one of the seven key H.E.A.R.I.N.G. interventions and stressed the importance of mitigating exposure to loud sounds.

The World Hearing Day 2022 with the theme "To hear for life, listen with care" will focus on the importance and means of hearing loss prevention through safe listening, with the following key messages:

- It is possible to have good hearing across the life course through ear and hearing care
- Many common causes of hearing loss can be prevented, including hearing loss caused by exposure to loud sounds
- 'Safe listening' can mitigate the risk of hearing loss associated with recreational sound exposure
- WHO calls upon governments, industry partners and civil society to raise awareness for and implement evidence-based standards that promote safe listening

### **International Classification of Diseases 11th Revision (ICD-11) Webinar for dermatology**

The WHO Classifications and Terminologies Unit is organising an ICD-11 webinar for dermatology that

will be held in collaboration with the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) on January 25th, 2022 at 14:00 CET.

### **INTEREST Conference 2022 abstract submission open**

The annual INTEREST Conference is the premier scientific conference for HIV in Africa and brings together scientists involved in HIV treatment, pathogenesis, and prevention research from around the world. The conference will showcase cutting-edge knowledge in the diagnosis and treatment of HIV and the prevention of the HIV-1 infection. Additionally, it will continue to foster building a community of African physicians and scientists to facilitate the implementation of local solutions for the management of patients living with HIV-1 infection and for the prevention of HIV transmission.

We invite young investigators, researchers, and other healthcare professionals from all over the world to submit their findings. Abstract submission for INTEREST 2022 is open. The deadline is Friday, 28 January 2022.

### **World TB Day 2022 Theme: INVEST TO END TB. SAVE LIVES.**

The theme for this year's World TB Day is: "Invest to End TB. Save Lives."

World TB Day is observed every year on 24 March to build public awareness about the global TB epidemic and efforts to eliminate the disease.

### **African Diaspora Investment Conference**

Topic: The State of Africa in Healthcare Access

26 January 2022

11:00 AM in Eastern Time (US and Canada)

The future of healthcare in Africa doesn't look like what we see today. The COVID-19 pandemic has put a spotlight on the global shortage of healthcare workers at all levels. Across Africa, overburdened healthcare systems are drowning with the demands of the pandemic while attempting to address non-pandemic patients with limited budgets and inefficient systems. Prior to the pandemic, a person between 30 and 70 years old in Africa had a 1 in 5 chance of dying from a major chronic illness, such as cancer, diabetes, or cardiovascular disease. This number is expected to rapidly increase.

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

---

## **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Facility Team Leaders (5): HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING (HSS) UNIT**

*Closing Date: 26 January 2022*

### **Area Co-ordinators (2): HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING (HSS) UNIT**

*Closing Date: 26 January 2022*

### **District Co-ordinator (uMgungundlovu District): HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING (HSS) UNIT**

*Closing Date: 26 January 2022*

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

---



**Our mailing address is:**

[hst@hst.org.za](mailto:hst@hst.org.za)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)