

HST Bulletin



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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

'When you talk to someone in a bad way or always put her under pressure, it is actually worse than beating her': Conceptions and experiences of emotional intimate partner violence in Rwanda and South Africa

PLOS ONE | Published: 14 November 2019.

Erin Stern, Andrew Gibbs, Samantha Willan, Kristin Dunkle, Rachel Jewkes

Emotional intimate partner violence (IPV) is extremely common and has significant health and social consequences, yet typically receives much less attention in research and programming than physical and sexual IPV. This limits our understanding of how women experience and understand emotional IPV in different settings, which is required to inform effective prevention and response. This paper draws on qualitative data collected in mixed-methods impact evaluations of two IPV prevention programmes conducted as part of the What Works to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls Global Programme. In doing so, [the authors] seek to develop a more nuanced understanding of the forms, causes and consequences of emotional IPV in heterosexual relationships in two distinct African settings.

Meeting the mental health needs of low- and middle-income countries: the start of a long journey

BJPsych Open | Published: 15 November 2019.

Steve Kisely, Dan Siskind

Mental health is increasingly recognised as an important component of global health. In recognition of this fact, the European Union funded the Emerald programme (Emerging Mental Health Systems in Low- and Middle-Income Countries). The aims were to improve mental health in the following six low- and middle-income countries (LMICs): Ethiopia, India, Nepal, Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda. The Emerald programme offers valuable insights into addressing the mental health needs of LMICs. It provides a framework and practical tools. However, it will be important to evaluate longer-term effects including improvements in mental health outcomes, as well as the applicability to LMICs beyond existing participant countries. Importantly, this must be coupled with efforts to improve health worker retention in LMICs.

Preferred product characteristics for therapeutic vaccines to improve tuberculosis

treatment outcomes: Key considerations from World Health Organization consultations

Vaccine | Published: 13 November 2019.

Johan Vekemans, Michael James Brennan, Mark Hatherill, Lewis Schragar Bernard Fritzell, Kathryn Rutkowski, Beatrice De Vos, Matteo Zignol et al

Treating tuberculosis (TB) requires a multidrug course of treatment lasting 6 months, or longer for drug-resistant TB, which is difficult to complete and often not well tolerated. Treatment failure and recurrence after end-of-treatment can have devastating consequences, including progressive debilitation, death, the transmission of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* – the infectious agent responsible for causing TB – to others, and may be associated with the development of drug-resistant TB. The burden on health systems is important, with severe economic consequences. Vaccines have the potential to serve as immunotherapeutic adjuncts to antibiotic treatment regimens for TB.

Mapping evidence on the burden and distribution of childhood obesity in sub-Saharan Africa: a scoping review protocol

BMC Systematic Review | Published: 13 November 2019.

Frederick I Danquah, Matilda Yeboah, Vitalis Bawontuo, Desmond Kuupiel

Obesity in childhood is associated with adverse health outcomes and complications throughout the life-span of a child. Available evidence suggests a dramatic increase in childhood obesity in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) over the past two decades. The health risks associated with obesity/overweight are particularly problematic in children due to the potential for long-term health concerns. The researchers propose to conduct a systematic scoping review to map evidence on the burden and distribution of childhood obesity in SSA.

Changes in rates of early exclusive breast feeding in South Africa from 2010 to 2013: data from three national surveys before and during implementation of a change in national breastfeeding policy

BMJ Open | Published: 18 November 2019.

Debra Jackson, Sonja Swanevelder, Tanya Doherty, Carl Lombard, Sanjana Bhardwaj, Ameen Goga
Between 1998 and 2009 reported exclusive breastfeeding (EBF) rates in South African infants, aged 0–6 months, ranged from 6.2% to 25.7%. In 2011, the National Minister of Health shifted policy to promote 'exclusive' breast feeding for all women in South Africa irrespective of HIV status (Tshwane Declaration of Support for Breastfeeding in South Africa). This analysis examines early EBF prior to and through implementation of the declaration.

Cost-effectiveness of integrating postpartum antiretroviral therapy and infant care into maternal & child health services in South Africa

PLOS ONE | Published: 15 November 2019.

Caitlin M Dugdale, Tamsin K Phillips, Landon Myer, Emily P Hyle, Kirsty Brittain, Kenneth A Freedberg, Lucy Cunnamo, Rochelle P Walensky, et al

Poor engagement in postpartum maternal HIV care is a challenge worldwide and contributes to adverse maternal outcomes and vertical transmission. [The objective of this study] was to project the clinical and economic impact of integrated postpartum maternal antiretroviral therapy (ART) and pediatric care in South Africa. Using the CEPAC computer simulation models, parameterized with data from the Maternal and Child Health–Antiretroviral Therapy (MCH-ART) randomized controlled trial, [the authors] evaluated the cost-effectiveness of integrated postpartum care for women initiating ART in pregnancy and their children.

Field testing of a household-scale onsite blackwater treatment system in South Africa

Science of the Total Environment | Published: 11 November 2019.

Tapuwa Sahondo, Sarah Hennessy, Rebecca C Sindall, Hitendra Chaudhari, Stephanie Teleski, Brendon J Lynch, Katelyn L Sellgrend, Brian R Stoner, et al

Innovations that enable cost-effective and resource-conserving treatment of human waste are required for the 4.2 billion people in the world who currently lack safe and reliable sanitation services. Onsite treatment and reuse of blackwater is one strategy towards this end, greatly reducing the need to transport wastewater over long distances either via sewers or trucks. Here, we report on the field testing of a prototype onsite blackwater treatment system conducted over a period of 8 months. The system was

connected to a women's toilet in a public communal ablution block located in an informal settlement near Durban, South Africa.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

WHO & African Union Sign MOU To Expand Access To Medicines & Bolster Epidemic Preparedness

Health Policy Watch | 18 November 2019.

The World Health Organization and African Union have signed a sweeping Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on improving access to medicines, strengthening epidemic preparedness, and expanding universal health coverage across the African continent.

Global study reveals relatively low cost of SA medicines

Medical Brief | 20 November 2019.

In a finding that may surprise many, South Africa ranked among the lowest on the cost of 13 common medicines in a 50-nation study by UK digital healthcare provider Medbelle, writes MedicalBrief. SA came in at 45 with costs 54% below the global median, while the United States has the most expensive medication, costing 307% more than the global median.

Unemployed nurses demand vacant hospital posts be filled

Ground Up | 12 November 2019.

"Patients are dying on hospital benches while hundreds of nurses are unemployed," says Nonhlanhla Mazibuko. She was one of over 200 unemployed nurses who marched to the Department of Health head office in the Natalia Building, Pietermaritzburg, on Monday.

Diabetes rates soar in SA

Business Day | 14 November 2019.

A new report says this country has the highest proportion of adult diabetics in Africa.

Have your say: 3 key elements of NHI Bill that need to change

BD Live | 15 November 2019.

What the NHI Bill actually says and how it will affect access to health care services.

Spotlight on NHI: Mixed reaction to NHI Bill in Makwarela, Limpopo

Spotlight NSP | 19th November 2019.

Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Health has in recent weeks been conducting public hearings on the National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill in Mpumalanga, the Northern Cape, and now Limpopo. KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape are to follow shortly.

Google's Totally Creepy, Totally Legal Health-Data Harvesting

The Atlantic | 14 November 2019.

Google is an emerging health-care juggernaut, and privacy laws weren't written to keep up.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Population Analysis for Planners

MEASURE Evaluation | November 2019.

Welcome to Population Analysis for Planners, an online course developed by Dr. Linda Lacey and reviewed for MEASURE Evaluation by Dr. Ilene Speizer. The purpose of this course is to help planners use population information and analysis to develop, evaluate, and revise regional, district, and local development plans. The course is intended for planners with expertise in a number of areas of planning such as education, health, housing, and community development. It assumes a limited knowledge of population analysis.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

Center for Women's Global Leadership | November 2019.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership and used by activists around the world as an organizing strategy to call for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence. This website provides information and resources relating to the campaign. The core 16 Days campaign takes place every year between November 25 and December 10 and is run by more than 6,000 organizations in 187 countries. The 16 Days community organizes year-round, currently focused on ratification and implementation of the new ILO Convention 190 and Recommendation 206 to end GBV in the world of work.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Harnessing the power of data for gender equality: Introducing the 2019 EM2030 SDG Gender Index

Equal Measures 2030 | November 2019.

The 2019 SDG Gender Index is the most comprehensive tool available to explore the state of gender equality across 129 countries (covering 95% of the world's girls and women), 14 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and 51 targets linked to issues inherent in the SDGs.

The Index includes 51 indicators across 14 of the 17 official Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and covers 129 countries across all regions of the world. Each goal in the index is covered by three to five indicators. The indicators are both those that are gender-specific and those that are not, but nonetheless have a disproportionate effect on girls and women.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

COP25 Climate Change Conference

2-13 December 2019

Madrid, Spain

Virology Africa

10-14 February 2020

Radisson Blu Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa

International Social and Behavior Change Communication Summit

30 March-3 April 2020

Marrakech, Morocco

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Health Systems Trust: Provincial Clinical Implementation Co-ordinator - CCMDD/ SyNCH

Closing Date: 28 November 2019

Pact World: District Health Referral & Linkages Coordinator

Closing Date: 29 November 2019

FHI 360: Clinical Associates VMMC - QA / QI District Coordinators

Closing Date: 29 November 2019

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