



24 July 2009

Dear Bulletin Subscriber,

The Health Systems Trust is pleased to be able to publish its re-vamped bulletin. Now renamed, the Health Systems Trust Bulletin welcomes your opinion of its content and your suggestions for its further improvement.

Best regards,

The Editorial Team
editor@hst.org.za

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Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

Determinants of knowledge of HIV status in South Africa: results from a population-based HIV survey.

Peltzer K, Matseke G, Mzolo T, Majaja M. Health Promotion Research Unit, Social Aspect of HIV/AIDS and Health, Human Sciences Research Council, Pretoria, South Africa. kpeltzer@hsrc.ac.za Published: 5 June 2009

Over 30% of women and men in the South African national HIV household of 2005 indicated that they had previously been tested for HIV (of which 91% were aware of their test results). This paper seeks to describe the associations between socio-demographic, behavioural and social characteristics and knowledge of HIV status among a nationally representative population in South Africa... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/content/pdf/1471-2458-9-174.pdf> [accessed July 21, 2009]

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HIV/AIDS knowledge, attitudes, practices and perceptions of rural nurses in South Africa.

Delobelle P, Rawlinson JL, Ntuli S, Malatsi I, Decock R, Depoorter AM. Department of Public Health, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium. pdelobel@vub.ac.be Journal of Advanced Nursing Volume 65 Issue 5, Pages 1061 - 1073 Published Online: 11 Mar 2009

This paper is a report of a study exploring HIV/AIDS-related knowledge, attitudes, practices and perceptions of nurses in the largely black and rural Limpopo Province of South Africa... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/122251054/abstract?CRETRY=1&SRETRY=0> [accessed July 21, 2009]

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Reinventing primary health care: the need for systems integration

Julio Frenk MD a The Lancet, Volume 374, Issue 9684, Pages 170 - 173, 11 Published: July 2009

The world has come a long way since the Alma Ata Declaration 30 years ago. However, achievements have fallen short of expectations. This is therefore the time to launch a renewed effort to strengthen health systems as the fundamental strategy for integrating primary health care... [Read More »](#)

Source: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(09\)60693-0/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(09)60693-0/fulltext) [accessed July 21, 2009]

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A model for community mental health services in South Africa.

Lund C, Flisher AJ. Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa. Tropical Medicine & International Health Published Online: 22 Jun 2009

A situation analysis was conducted of current community-based mental health service provision in South Africa to provide a model to estimate human resource needs for community-based mental health services in South Africa... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/122464157/abstract> [accessed July 21, 2009]

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An evaluation of the quality of IMCI assessments among IMCI trained health workers in South Africa.

Horwood C, Vermaak K, Rollins N, Haskins L, Nkosi P, Qazi S. Centre for Rural Health, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa PLoS ONE 4(6)

Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) is a strategy to reduce mortality and morbidity in children under 5 years by improving case management of common and serious illnesses at primary health care level, and was adopted in South Africa in 1997. This paper reports an evaluation of IMCI implementation in two provinces of South Africa... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0005937> [accessed July 21, 2009]

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The democratization of health in Mexico: financial innovations for universal coverage

Julio Frenk, Octavio Gómez-Dantés & Felicia Marie Knaul a. Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA, United States of America. Bulletin of the World Health Organization. Published online: 25 May 2009

This paper describes the financial innovations behind the expansion of health-care coverage in Mexico to everyone and their effects. Evidence shows improvements in mobilization of additional public resources; availability of health infrastructure and drugs; service utilization; effective coverage; and financial protection. Future challenges are discussed, among them the need for additional public funding to extend access to costly interventions for non-communicable diseases not yet covered by the new insurance scheme, and to improve the technical quality of care and the responsiveness of the health system... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/87/7/08-053199/en/index.html> [accessed July 21, 2009]

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Task shifting: the answer to the human resources crisis in Africa?

Uta Lehmann , Wim Van Damme , Françoise Barten and David Sanders. Human Resources for Health Published: 21 June 2009

Ever since the 2006 World Health Report advocated increased community participation and the systematic delegation of tasks to less-specialized cadres, there has been a great deal of debate about the expediency, efficacy and modalities of task shifting. The delegation of tasks from one cadre to another, previously often called substitution, is not a new concept. It has been used in many countries and for many decades, either as a response to emergency needs or as a method to provide adequate care at primary and secondary levels, especially in understaffed rural facilities, to enhance quality and reduce costs... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.human-resources-health.com/content/7/1/49> [accessed July 21, 2009]

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Recent News

Healthcare in reverse

Percy Mabandu and Faraanaz Parker, Mail & Guardian, 12 July 2009

South Africa is failing on the most basic international measures of poverty and healthcare, especially regarding infant and maternal mortality. Speaking this week at the release of this year's District Health Barometer, the annual report produced by research and advocacy NGO the Health Systems Trust, Dr Molefi Sefularo, the deputy health minister, said South Africa is moving backwards on the United Nations' millennium development goals (MDGs) and preventative healthcare. The report quantifies levels of deprivation across 52 districts in South Africa by looking at factors such as access to piped water, sanitation, electricity and housing... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-07-11-healthcare-in-reverse> [accessed July 21, 2009]

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Failed by the system

Jaine Roberts, Mail & Guardian, 8 July 2009

Thandile Qwalela died in the tuberculosis (TB) ward of his Eastern Cape district hospital at the age of 48. He was an underground miner from age 20 who served 17 years as a stoper and winch driver on the gold mines. Qwalela was diagnosed with TB while in mine service in 1997 and was dispatched to his home in the Eastern Cape. There he started wasting away, while remaining convinced that he would recover.

His modest expectation was that his community could be helped with agricultural development. "We want to do ploughing as a project," he said. "After I've recovered I'll be able." He knew nothing of the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act 78 of 1973 -- or that he was entitled, until the amendment of 2002, to annual "benefit medical examinations", free of charge, and thereafter to free examinations every second year... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-07-08-failed-by-the-system> [accessed July 21, 2009]

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Trust in health system key to NHI success

Lucy Gilson, Health-e News, 21 June 2009

There is a crisis of trust in our health care system. Every day yet another group laments their lack of trust in 'the system', be they patients, doctors, nurses, wage negotiators or commentators. There are certainly critical problems. For those on the lowest incomes, use of health services is often demeaning and too often, simply does not lead to better health. Even the small cost of catching a taxi to reach the local hospital, added to other household costs, can threaten a family's ability to buy food, or get them into greater debt. And the rich are also feeling the pressure of rising medical aid costs combined with more and more limits on what services are covered by the monthly premium...

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Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20032359&PHPSESSID=ceed16442f3b1f022d4a5afa52da9a07> [accessed July 21, 2009]

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The Director of the Human Sciences Research Council weighs in on the current NHI debate

Olive Shisana, Health-e News, 30 July 2009

The issue of the need to establish a national health insurance system is not a new phenomenon. Before the second world war which broke out in 1939, more than 30 countries already had compulsory national health insurance (NHI) schemes. Voluntary national health insurance schemes were also in existence. The working class were eager to pool their resources to set up health insurance schemes to provide social security that included health care for every one. In our country, the effort to set up a national health insurance system is older than many of us who are grappling with this issue. The initiative to establish the National Health Insurance as well as the debate in South Africa began more than 70 years ago... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20032371&PHPSESSID=81aa66999057168e8d8bb00615aa3658> [accessed July 21, 2009]

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Tracking the MDGs

Phakamile Magamdela, Health-e News, 27 June 2009

While South Africa has made some progress towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), mental health and poverty remain major challenges, according to public hearings on the MDGs hosted by the SA Human Rights Commission. The first of the eight Millennium Development Goals is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. Representing government, Dr Kamy Chetty, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Health, told the South African Human Rights Commission that the government has "implemented a policy of food fortification and providing food parcels with added nutrients and vitamins to address poverty and hunger"...

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Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20032367&PHPSESSID=ceed16442f3b1f022d4a5afa52da9a07> [accessed July 21, 2009]

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Health care model 'unsustainable'

SAPA, IOL, 30 June 2009

South Africa's model of health care financing is "primitive" and will be abandoned, Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi said on Tuesday. "The present system of health care financing can no longer be allowed to go on,

because it is simply unsustainable," Motsoaledi said during his budget vote speech in Parliament... [Read More](#)
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Source: http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?from=rss_Health&set_id=1&click_id=125&art_id=nw20090630195000454C427920 [accessed July 21, 2009]

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SOUTH AFRICA: Urgent action needed on TB, HIV co-infection

PLUSNEWS, 22 July 2009

South Africa's tuberculosis (TB) programme is improving: fewer people are defaulting on treatment, and the cure rate has increased, says a joint review by government and the World Health Organization (WHO)... [Read More](#)
»

Source: <http://www.plusnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=85379> [accessed July 22, 2009]

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Reports

HIV/AIDS in Namibia: Behavioral and Contextual Factors Driving the Epidemic

Cristina de la Torre, Shane Khan, Erin Eckert, Jennifer Luna, and Todd Koppenhaver. Republic of Namibia Ministry of Health and Social Services USAID/Namibia May 2009

This report identifies and describes what current evidence indicates are the main behavioral and contextual factors that are driving the HIV epidemic in Namibia. The report is intended to assist in the development of a national prevention strategy for combating the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Data from several sources are triangulated to assess which factors are most likely to contribute to the spread of HIV across the population. [Click Here for Full Report >>>](#)

Source: <http://www.cpc.unc.edu/measure/publications/pdf/sr-09-53.pdf> [accessed: July 22, 2009]

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Saving Mothers 2005-2007: Fourth Report on Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths in South Africa Expanded Executive Summary

By NCCEMD

The Confidential Enquiries system of recording and analysing maternal deaths has been in operation in South Africa since 1 October 1997. The first comprehensive report into maternal deaths was published in October 1999, and dealt in detail with maternal deaths occurring during 1998. The second comprehensive report covered the triennium 1999-2001, and the third comprehensive report covered 2002-2004. All have described the magnitude of the problem of maternal deaths, the pattern of disease causing maternal deaths, the avoidable factors, missed opportunities and substandard care related to these deaths and made recommendations concerning ways of decreasing the number of maternal deaths. This is the fourth comprehensive report in the series and deals with the triennium 2005-2007... [Click Here for Full Report >>>](#)

Source: <http://www.doh.gov.za/docs/savingmothers-f.html> [accessed: July 22, 2009]

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Publications

The District Health Barometer 2007/08

The Health Systems Trust (HST) released its latest edition of the District Health Barometer on the 6th of July at the HISA conference, Emperors Palace, Gauteng. The publication illustrates important aspects of the health system at district level through the analysis of a selected range of health indicators from which comparisons among districts and provinces can be made. Data feeding into the report are drawn from a range of sources including the national Department of Health, Statistics SA, the TB register and the national Treasury. It is the only publication of its kind in South Africa that makes available comparative data for the purpose of measuring and tracking progress in primary health care at the district level.

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Source: <http://www.hst.org.za/publications/850> [accessed July 21, 2009]

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The Millennium Development Goals Report 2009

United Nations, 2009

Recent gains in eradicating hunger and poverty endangered by economic and food crises, says UN report.

[Click Here for Publication >>>](#)

Source: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG%20Report%202009%20ENG.pdf> [accessed July 21, 2009]

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Health workforce retention in remote and rural areas: call for papers for WHO Bulletin special theme issue

Carmen Dolea, Jean-Marc Braichet & Daniel MP Shaw WHO Bulletin, July 2009

WHO has recently launched a programme of work to support countries to increase access to health workers in remote and rural areas through improved retention. The programme consists of three strategic pillars: building the evidence base; supporting countries to implement and evaluate effective strategies; and producing evidence-based recommendations to improve retention of health workers in remote and rural areas. An important part of this programme is the work on expanding the knowledge base and the evidence on effective strategies and policies that countries can use to address the issue of inequitable distribution of health workers in remote and rural areas...

Manuscripts should be submitted to: <http://submit.bwho.org> by 1 October 2009.

The special issue will be published in Spring 2010, to coincide with the launch of WHO Global Recommendations on increasing access to health workers in remote and rural areas through improved retention.

[Click Here for Editorial Call >>>](#)

Source: <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/87/7/09-068494/en/index.html> [accessed July 21, 2009]

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Conferences

2nd Access to Healthcare in Africa Conference focuses on improving access to health care

15-16 September 2009 Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa

The Conference will concentrate on challenges to quality, product availability, access and management in effective health care, with a focus on HIV and AIDS, TB and Malaria.

By attending the 2nd Access to Healthcare in Africa Conference at Emperors Palace Convention Centre in Johannesburg on 15 and 16 September 2009, you can share your experiences in health care management with your peers while tapping into the knowledge and insight of experts in this field. [Registration Details »](#)

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4th Africa Conference on Sexual Health and Rights

8-15 February 2010 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Would like to invite Abstracts (oral presentations and posters) exploring the overall theme of the Conference 'Sexuality and HIV & AIDS in Africa'. The objectives and sub-themes and more information can be found at <http://www.africasexuality.org/>. Any queries/request for additional information should be sent to: 4srhconference@ippfaro.org

Abstract Submission Deadline: 30th September 2009

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13th National Rural Health Conference 2009

27-29 August 2009 Broederstroom, North West Province, South Africa

RuDASA invites ALL rural health practitioners to participate in the 13th National Rural Health Conference, to be held in Broederstroom, North West province, close to the Hartbeespoort Dam.

[Registration Details »](#)

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Measuring health workforce inequalities: methods and applications - Special topic meeting 57th Session of the International Statistical Institute (ISI)

16-22 August 2009, Durban, KZN, South Africa

On 16-22 August 2009, Durban will play host to the 57th Session of the International Statistical Institute, the first in Sub-Saharan Africa. An ISI Session, held biennially, provides a platform for the gathering of over 5000 of the world's statisticians from public, private, research and educational institutions to share experience in a diverse range of statistical issues. The theme of this Session is aptly titled "Statistics: our past, present and future", as South Africa and the African continent celebrate a revitalization of statistics and statistical development.

The STCPM will take place on 18 August 2009 from 15:30-17:45 at the Durban International Convention Centre. Contributed papers will represent different experiences from selected low and middle income countries, including Brazil, Mexico and Ethiopia. Travel awards for researchers to present their work at the STCPM are being provided by WHO/HRH. The final papers will be published in a forthcoming WHO publication on health workforce inequalities. [Registration Details »](#)

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Training and Resources

MASTERS DEGREES: Advanced Learning in International Health Research Ethics 2010

The South African Research Ethics Training Initiative, SARETI, is a joint project by the University of KwaZulu-Natal, the University of Pretoria, faculty from Johns Hopkins University, and the Fogarty International Center of the US National Institutes of Health to offer advanced learning in health research ethics.

The programme is aimed at scientists, health professionals, members of ethics review committees, public health personnel, social scientists, philosophers, ethicists, health journalists, lawyers, and other professionals whose work impacts on health.

Applications for the 2010 Masters programme (which starts in January 2010) are invited. The closing date for applications is 21st August 2009. For further information and application forms, see SARETI's website: <http://www.up.ac.za/sareti> or

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