



HEALTH SYSTEMS TRUST BULLETIN

24 June 2011

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Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

Using research to influence sexual and reproductive health practice and implementation in Sub-Saharan Africa: a case-study analysis

Olivia Tulloch, Philippe Mayaud, Yaw Adu-Sarkodie, Baafuor Kofi Opoku, Nana Oye Lithur, Eugene Sickle, Sinead Delany-Moretlwe, Mwita Wambura, John Chagalucha and Sally Theobald. Health Research Policy and Systems 2011, 9(Suppl 1):S10. Published: 16 June 2011.

Research institutions and donor organizations are giving growing attention to how research evidence is communicated to influence policy. In the area of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and HIV there is less weight given to understanding how evidence is successfully translated into practice. Policy issues in SRH can be controversial, influenced by political factors and shaped by context such as religion, ethnicity, gender and sexuality...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-policy-systems.com/content/9/S1/S10/?mkt=>[Accessed: 24 June 2011]

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Utilization of HIV-related services from the private health sector: A multi-country analysis

Wang, Wenjuan, Sulzbach, Sara, De, Susna. Social Science & Medicine 72. Published: 2011.

Increasing the participation of the private health sector in the AIDS response could help to achieve universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. Yet little is known about the extent to which the private health sector is delivering HIV-related services. This study uses data from the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and AIDS Indicator Surveys (AIS) from 12 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean to explore use of HIV testing and STI care from the private for profit sector, and its

association with household wealth status...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.eldis.org/cf/rdr/?doc=58233> (N.B. 156Kb) [Accessed: 24 June 2011]

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Investing in the future: lessons learnt from communicating the results of HSV/ HIV intervention trials in South Africa

Sinead Delany-Moretlwe, Jonathan Stadler, Philippe Mayaud and Helen Rees. Health Research Policy and Systems 2011, 9(Suppl 1):S8. Published: 16 June 2011.

Communicating the results of randomised controlled trials may present challenges for researchers who have to work with communities and policy-makers to anticipate positive outcomes, while being aware that results may show no effect or harm...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-policy-systems.com/content/9/S1/S8/?mkt=> [Accessed: 23 June 2011]

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Strategies and tensions in communicating research on sexual and reproductive health, HIV and AIDS: a qualitative study of the experiences of researchers and communications staff

Joanna Crichton and Sally Theobald. Health Research Policy and Systems 2011, 9(Suppl 1):S4. Published: 16 June 2011.

Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and HIV issues are often controversial and neglected, leading to challenges with engaging policy actors. Research evidence is complex, posing further challenges for ensuring that policy and practice are evidence-based. Many health researchers are adopting innovative approaches to engaging stakeholders in their research, yet these experiences are not often shared. This qualitative study focuses on the research communication and policy influencing objectives, strategies and experiences of four research consortia working on SRH, HIV and AIDS...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-policy-systems.com/content/9/S1/S4/?mkt=> [Accessed: 22 June 2011]

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Developing a matrix to identify and prioritise research recommendations in HIV Prevention

Sydney Anstee, Alison Price, Amanda Young, Katharine Barnard, Bob Coates, Simon Fraser and Rebecca Moran. BMC Public Health 2011, 11:381. Published: 24 May 2011.

HIV prevention continues to be problematic in the UK, as it does globally. The UK Department of Health has a strategic direction with greater focus on prevention as part of its World Class Commissioning Programme. There is a need for targeted evidence-based prevention initiatives. This is an exploratory study to develop an evidence mapping tool in the form of a matrix: this will be used to identify important gaps in contemporary HIV prevention evidence relevant to the UK. It has the potential to aid prioritisation in future research...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/11/381> [Accessed: 22 June 2011]

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Recent News

Thousands of students test for HIV

BuaNews. Published: 23 June 2011.

An HIV testing campaign, targeting first-year students at universities across the country, has spread its message of awareness to young South Africans, with 21 000 students tested since the campaign started four months ago. Since the launch of the campaign, 21 000 students, including 12 000 of whom had never been tested before, got tested at 17 universities and 23 different campuses. Twice as many females as males were tested, with the majority between 19 and 21 years of age...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.buanews.gov.za/news/11/11062314551001> [Accessed: 24 June 2011]

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SA healthcare spending declines

Tamar Kahn. Business Day. 23 June 2011.

Provincial health departments have dramatically improved their financial management in the past year, Treasury officials told Parliament's health portfolio committee yesterday. The nine departments collectively underspent by R2.6bn last year, reversing the trend which saw them run into the red to the tune of R2.4bn in fiscal year 2009-10 and R7.5bn the year before. The provinces had a combined health budget of R101bn last year...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.businessday.co.za/Articles/Content.aspx?id=146523> [Accessed: 24 June 2011]

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Treasury seeks equality in tax for medical bills

IOL. Published: 20 June 2011.

The government moved a step closer to introducing equitable access to health care for all citizens on Friday. The National Treasury published a proposal to convert medical deductions and qualifying out-of-pocket health expenses to medical tax credits...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.iol.co.za/business/business-news/treasury-seeks-equality-in-tax-for-medical-bills-1.1085260> [Accessed: 23 June 2011]

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Midwives could save 3.6-million lives

Health-e News. Published: 21 June 2011.

Ninety percent of all maternal deaths could be prevented if pregnant women were cared for by trained midwives, with specialised back-up in case of emergencies. This is according to the first-ever report on the State of the World's Midwifery released at the International Confederation of Midwives in Durban yesterday...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20033197> [Accessed: 23 June 2011]

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How does Africa tackle cervical cancer?

Guardian. Published: 20 June 2011.

Cancer kills more people worldwide than AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria together - but most of Africa doesn't even have a word for it. So where should Africa's medical profession start in the bid to increase screening?...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2011/jun/20/africa-cervical-cancer> [Accessed: 23 June 2011]

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Plug the fraud drain

TimesLive. Published: 21 June 2011.

Despite substantial cuts in donor funds to the HIV/AIDS sector, South Africa has enough money to deal with the epidemic - if we plug the corruption drain. By late last year, government was investigating procurement and tender fraud worth R25-billion, according to Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan. Some R10-billion has been wasted by municipalities alone, and the last audit of the 219 municipalities found that 88% of them were non-compliant with laws governing municipalities...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.timeslive.co.za/thetimes/2011/06/21/plug-the-fraud-drain> [Accessed: 24 June 2011]

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New Math in HIV Fight

Wall Street Journal. Published: 21 June 2011.

Scientists using a powerful mathematical tool previously applied to the stock market have identified an Achilles heel in HIV that could be a prime target for AIDS vaccines or drugs...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303936704576397491582757396.html> [Accessed: 23 June 2011]

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Local scientists lead study of anti-HIV gel

TimesLive. Published: 14 June 2011.

South African scientists are launching an important HIV clinical trial to confirm the efficacy of a gel that reduces the risk of women getting HIV. This is the first South African-led consortium to conduct HIV research at seven centres, said the executive director of the Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute, Professor Helen Rees...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.timeslive.co.za/lifestyle/health/2011/06/14/local-scientists-lead-study-of-anti-hiv-gel> [Accessed: 23 June 2011]

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Bold new goal for 2020 set at UN AIDS summit

PlusNews. Published: 13 June 2011.

The United Nations High-Level Meeting on AIDS was nothing if not bold. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for a global commitment to eliminate AIDS by 2020. "That is our goal - zero new infections, zero stigma and zero AIDS-related deaths," Ban said to a round of applause at the UN General Assembly last week in New York...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.plusnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=92962> [Accessed: 24 June 2011]

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Training and Resources

HST launches new website

<http://www.hst.org.za>

Health Systems Trust is pleased to announce the launch of its new website. In keeping with the high standards set by its predecessor, the new improved website (www.hst.org.za) provides cutting edge information related to health systems strengthening and research, with an updated look and improved navigation. We welcome all comments and suggestions to webmaster@hst.org.za.

Please visit: <http://www.hst.org.za>

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Stop TB Partnership seeks nominations for the 2011 Kochon Prize

Deadline: 31 July 2011

Kochon Foundation, a non-profit foundation registered in the Republic of Korea is seeking nominations for The Stop TB Partnership-Kochon Prize aimed at supporting the global fight against tuberculosis. The Stop TB Partnership-Kochon Prize is awarded once a year to persons, institutions, or organizations that have made a highly significant contribution to combating tuberculosis.

For more information: <http://www.fundsforgos.org/awards-and-prizes/stop-tb-partnership-seeks-nominations-2011-kochon-prize/#ixzz1PzpC1jLU>

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Advanced Sexualities Studies Course (ASSC)

International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Culture and Society (IASSCS) and the Centre for Visual Methodologies, UKZN.

This course aims to provide advanced training in sexuality theory, issues and research methodology with a focus on sexual and reproductive health and sexual rights to 15 selected participants. The course is being jointly hosted by the International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Culture and Society (IASSCS) and the Centre for Visual Methodologies at UKZN, from 17-28 October 2011 at Palm Dune, Blythesdale, KZN.

For more information: <http://www.hst.org.za/news/advanced-sexualities-studies-course-assc>

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Reports and Publications

The State of World's Midwifery 2011: Delivering Health, Saving Lives

UNFPA. Published: June 2011.

The report provides new information and data gathered from 58 countries in all regions of the world. Its analysis confirms that the world lacks some 350,000 skilled midwives -- 112,000 in the neediest 38 countries surveyed -- to fully meet the needs of women around the world. The report explores a range of issues related to building up this key health workforce...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: <http://www.unfpa.org/sowmy/report/home.html> [Accessed: 23 June 2011]

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World report on disability

World Health Organization and the World Bank Group. Published: June 2011.

The first ever World report on disability, produced jointly by WHO and the World Bank, suggests that more than a billion people in the world today experience disability. People with disabilities have generally poorer health, lower education achievements, fewer economic opportunities and higher rates of poverty than people without disabilities. This is largely due to the lack of services available to them and the many obstacles they face in their everyday lives. The report provides the best available evidence about what works to overcome barriers to health care, rehabilitation, education, employment, and support services, and to create the environments which will enable people with disabilities to flourish. The report ends with a concrete set of recommended actions for governments and their partners...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/en/index.html [Accessed: 23 June 2011]

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Prevention and treatment of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections among men who have sex with men and transgender people

World Health Organization. Published: June 2011.

The Guidelines focus on the prevention and treatment of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender people. They include evidence-based recommendations, the summary and grading of evidence, implementation issues and key research gaps. Although the focus of this guidance is on low- and middle-income countries, WHO recommends that this guidance be available for MSM and transgender people in high-income countries as well. The document presents good practice recommendations that focus on ensuring an enabling environment for the recognition and protection of the human rights of MSM and transgender people. Without such conditions, implementation of the more specific technical recommendations is problematic...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: http://www.who.int/hiv/pub/guidelines/msm_guidelines2011/en/ [Accessed: 23 June 2011]

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Conferences

RuDASA Rural Health Conference 2011

When: 8-10 September 2011

Venue: Village of Rhodes in the Eastern Cape.

URL: <http://www.ruralhealthconference2011.co.za/>

This year's Rural Health Conference, titled "Making Primary Health Care Better". The conference will be focusing on primary health care and its integration into district systems, as well as on the role of the multidisciplinary team in primary health care. There will also be many practical skills sessions, as well as a track for student presentations and rural health advocacy. Abstracts for presentations and posters are welcomed from all medical and allied health practitioners, as well as students of these disciplines. Presentation topics should relate to rural health and primary health care. Closing date for abstract submissions is 16 July 2011.

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7th PHASA 2011 Conference

When: 28 - 30 November 2011

Venue: Sandton Convention Centre, Gauteng, South Africa

URL: <http://www.phasaconference.org.za/index.html>

The 2011 PHASA conference will have as its focus, a scientific debate and discussion on health inequities and the role of public health leadership, education and practice in reducing health equity gaps. The theme of the conference is "Closing the health equity gap: Public health leadership, education and practice". An exciting programme of local and international speakers is being put together. Speakers will include policy-makers, leading local and international academics and representatives of international organizations. Abstract submission deadline is 4 July 2011.

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Job Opportunities

AHP - African Health Placements

AHP is a not-for-profit project that aims to support the recruitment and retention of healthcare workers in South Africa. AHP is focused on assisting healthcare professionals make the right choice for their future in South Africa. No placement fees are charged.

Please view the website for more details <http://www.ahp.org.za> or contact on 011 328 1300

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Data Quality Officer

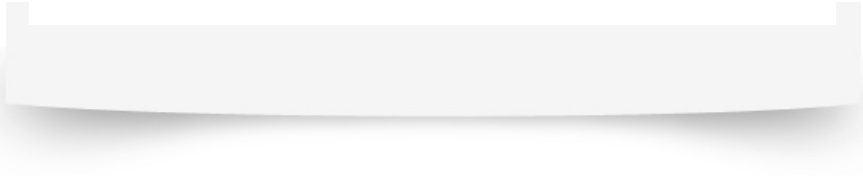
University of Cape Town.

Closing Date: 11 July 2011.

The Centre for Infectious Disease Epidemiology & Research (CIDER) seeks to appoint a Data Quality Officer for this project initially on a one-year contract appointment. The incumbent will have two primary functions. Firstly, he/she will review, validate and improve the quality of key PMTCT indicator data reported via the district health information system used at antenatal services. Secondly, he/she will play a central role in improving the data from the sites through training and support of site staff.

Please view our website for more details <http://www.hst.org.za/content/data-quality-officer>

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