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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Mapping HIV prevalence in sub-Saharan Africa between 2000 and 2017

Nature: International Journal of Science | Published: 15 May 2019.

Laura Dwyer-Lindgren, Michael A Cork, Simon I Hay

HIV/AIDS is a leading cause of disease burden in sub-Saharan Africa. Existing evidence has demonstrated that there is substantial local variation in the prevalence of HIV; however, subnational variation has not been investigated at a high spatial resolution across the continent. Here we explore within-country variation at a 5 × 5-km resolution in sub-Saharan Africa by estimating the prevalence of HIV among adults (aged 15–49 years) and the corresponding number of people living with HIV from 2000 to 2017. Our analysis reveals substantial within-country variation in the prevalence of HIV throughout sub-Saharan Africa and local differences in both the direction and rate of change in HIV prevalence between

2000 and 2017, highlighting the degree to which important local differences are masked when examining trends at the country level.

Governance and Health Aid from the Global Fund: Effects Beyond Fighting Disease

Annals of Global Health | Published: 13 May 2019.

Matthew M Kavanagh, Lixue Chen

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has proven highly effective at fighting the world's major killers. Strong governance and robust development institutions are necessary, however, for improving health long-term. While some suggest that international aid can strengthen institutions, others worry that aid funding will undermine governance, creating long-term harm. The Global Fund is a unique aid institution with mechanisms designed to improve transparency and accountability, but the effectiveness of this architecture is not clear.

National health information systems for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

BMJ Open | Published: 16 May 2019.

Amitabh Bipin Suthar, Aleya Khalifa, Olga Joos, Eric-Jan Manders, Abu Abdul-Quader, Frank Amoyaw, Camara Aoua, Getahun Aynalem, et al

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals will require data-driven public health action. There are limited publications on national health information systems that continuously generate health data. Given the need to develop these systems, we summarised their current status in low-income and middle-income countries. The survey team jointly developed a questionnaire covering policy, planning, legislation and organisation of case reporting, patient monitoring and civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems. From January until May 2017, we administered the questionnaire to key informants in 51 Centers for Disease Control country offices. Countries were aggregated for descriptive analyses in Microsoft Excel.

National, regional, and worldwide estimates of low birthweight in 2015, with trends from 2000: a systematic analysis

The Lancet Global Health | Published: 15 May 2019.

Hannah Blencowe, Julia Krusevec, Mercedes de Onis, Prof Robert E Black, Xiaoyi An, Gretchen A Stevens, Elaine Borghi, Chika Hayashi, et al

Low birthweight (LBW) of less than 2500 g is an important marker of maternal and fetal health, predicting mortality, stunting, and adult-onset chronic conditions. Global nutrition targets set at the World Health Assembly in 2012 include an ambitious 30% reduction in LBW prevalence between 2012 and 2025. Estimates to track progress towards this target are lacking; with this analysis, we aim to assist in setting a baseline against which to assess progress towards the achievement of the World Health Assembly targets.

Household relationships and healthcare seeking behaviour for common childhood illnesses in sub-Saharan Africa: a cross-national mixed effects analysis

BMC Health Services Research | Published: 14 May 2019.

Joshua O Akinyemi, Pamela Banda, Nicole De Wet, Adenike E Akosile and Clifford O Odimegw

Intra-household dynamics play crucial roles in utilisation of healthcare services for children. We investigated the influence of household relationships on healthcare seeking behaviour for common childhood illnesses in four sub-Saharan African regions.

HIV self-screening distribution preferences and experiences among men who have sex with men in Mpumalanga Province: Informing policy for South Africa

South African Medical Journal | Published: 29 March 2019.

O Radebe, S A Lippman, T Lane, H Gilmore, E Agnew, A Manyuchi, J A McIntyre

Current research suggests that HIV self-screening (HIVSS) is a feasible and acceptable approach to increase HIV testing among men who have sex with men (MSM). However, few data are available to shape policy around dissemination and implementation. Gaps in knowledge include preferences for distribution of HIVSS kits, potential social harms and benefits of their use, and how much test users would be willing to pay for the kits. The aim was to inform policy recommendations to optimise distribution of HIVSS kits to MSM in South Africa (SA), where there is a high HIV incidence and unmet testing needs. MSM in the high-HIV-prevalence Gert Sibande and Ehlanzeni districts of Mpumalanga Province, SA, were enrolled between October 2015 and May 2017. Participants were provided with their choice of blood or oral fluid HIVSS test kits, receiving 5 kits at enrolment and 4 additional kits at the 3-month follow-up visit. Questionnaires were administered at enrolment, 3 months and 6 months. We analysed participants' reported social benefits and harms, and their preferences for kit distribution and pricing.

Impact of Xpert MTB/RIF assay on multidrug-resistant tuberculosis treatment outcomes in a health district in South Africa

South African Medical Journal | Published: 29 March 2019

T C Mahwire, M Zunza, T C Marukutira, P Naidoo

Xpert MTB/RIF assay rapidly diagnoses rifampicin resistance, enabling early initiation of second-line tuberculosis (TB) treatment. However, the impact of an earlier multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) diagnosis on treatment outcomes is unknown. [The objective of this study was] to compare MDR-TB treatment outcomes in cases diagnosed with smear/culture and Xpert. This was a retrospective cohort study with cohorts defined by the diagnostic assay used in presumptive TB cases. Data were extracted from a drug-resistant (DR)-TB register including cases from January 2012 to June 2014. Treatment outcomes were assessed at recorded endpoints or after 2 years for those completing treatment.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

The struggle for hypertension in South Africa

Health-e News | 17 May 2019.

Tackling hypertension nationally and globally will require innovative thinking that looks at the condition as a socio-economic and systemic issue.

SA just endorsed a draft resolution that could bring Big Pharma to its knees

Bhekisisa | 17 April 2019.

Presented this week at the World Health Assembly, the document could usher in a new era in affordable healthcare. Here's why we need it.

Inadequate health facilities failing Mozambique's mothers

Al Jazeera | 14 May 2019.

Thousands of pregnant and lactating women face hardships following the destruction of health infrastructure by cyclones.

WHO gives pre-qualification approval for point-of-care viral load diagnostic test

Medical Brief | 15 May 2019.

m-PIMA™ HIV-1/2 VL, from Abbott, the world's first point-of-care viral load diagnostic test, has received the World Health Organisation's pre-qualification approval (WHO PQ). The test received CE Mark in December 2018.

Google says its AI can spot lung cancer a year before doctors

The Daily Telegraph | 7 May 2019.

Google said that it has created "promising" artificial intelligence that can spot lung cancer a year before a human doctor, potentially increasing survival chances for patients.

We're developing the world's first vaccine suitable for humans and livestock

The Conversation Africa | 7 May 2019.

If ever there were proof that humans are animals too, it's in the diseases that we share with other species. From rabies and Zika to Ebola and bird flu, many deadly diseases around the world can pass between animals and people.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Global Health Training Centre

The Global Health Network

The Training Centre brings together a wealth of training materials and resources from across The Global Health Network for all your research training and continued professional development needs. This platform is completely free, accessible to all and aims to provide research staff of all roles, all regions and

all disease areas with the 'how-to' training materials required to safely conduct high quality research. Use the portals below and the navigation tabs above to discover all the available content.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Protecting Rural Healthcare in Times of Economic Crisis: There is Another Way

Rural Health Advocacy Project | 9 April 2019

Rural communities comprise about 40% of the country's population of 57.8 million but, historically, these areas are the last to be considered when it comes to health provision by national, provincial and local authorities. The Protecting Healthcare in Times of Economic Crisis Report outlines the health, economic and political imperatives of addressing traditional deficiencies in delivering adequate, affordable and sustainable healthcare to rural areas, and presents a basic blueprint for rolling out a solution.

Test-And-Prevent Analysis: Key findings

Options | 10 April 2019.

Significant resources have created strong 'test and treat' programs globally. What about those who test HIV negative? How can we strengthen linkage of HIV-negative individuals to prevention programs in ways that work for them? In our recently completed Test-And-Prevent Analysis, the OPTIONS Consortium identifies practices for linking individuals from HIV testing to HIV prevention. This work aims to identify interventions that are effective, the enabling conditions that support linkage, and remaining questions.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

SAMA Conference 2019

8-10 August 2019

Southern Sun Elangeni & Maharani, Durban, South Africa

Healthcare Innovation Summit Africa 2019

16-17 October 2019

Gallagher Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa

17th European AIDS Conference

6-9 November 2019

Basel, Switzerland

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Wits Health Consortium Clinical Programme Advisor: Part-time/Sessional

Closing Date: 28 May 2019

IOM: Senior Migration Health Nurse

Closing Date: 29 May 2019

NACOSA : Global Fund Grant Manager

Closing Date: 2 June 2019

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