

HST Bulletin_24 March 2023

[View this email in your browser](#)

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

Integration of Case-Based Dialogue to Enhance Medical Students' Understanding of Using Health Communication to Address Social Determinants of Health

Dove Medical Press | 15 March 2023

King, J & Taylor J

With the ever-growing diversity within our communities, it is imperative that we integrate social determinants of health (SDOH) such as racial disparity, economic instability, lack of transportation, intimate partner violence, and limited social supports, and the importance of health literacy into undergraduate medical education. By incorporating evidence-based curriculum on the disproportionality within healthcare faced by racial and ethnic minorities, we have the opportunity to develop more culturally sensitive providers. The purpose of this study was to assess the impact of a case-based debrief experience on medical students' knowledge about how social determinants of health can impact health and healthcare within a family medicine clinical setting and their intent to practice in an underserved community.

Science-Informed Health Policies for Oral and Systemic Health

Dove Medical Press | 16 March 2023

Harold C Slavkin, Peter A Dubois, Dushanka V Kleinman & Ralph Fuccillo

Oral, dental and craniofacial (ODC) health has a profound impact on general health and welfare throughout life, yet US dentists and physicians operate across misaligned silos. This protracted division limits access to optimal health, supports fee for services, and exacerbates health disparities. Early in the 20th century, the most frequent dental therapy was tooth extraction: removed infected teeth were substituted by prosthetic appliances – commonly, dentures or nothing. Most adults assumed becoming edentulous was a normal corollary of aging. With the discovery of penicillin and other antibiotics, healthcare professionals and policy makers predicted infectious diseases would become irrelevant. However, given numerous health threats, including SARS-CoV-2, HIV, multidrug-resistant bacteria, Zika virus, Ebola virus, and now monkeypox, public and professional awareness of transmissible infectious diseases has never been more evident. Ironically, little attention has been paid to unmet transmissible, infectious, common oral diseases – dental caries and periodontal diseases. Therefore, these persist within

“the silent and invisible epidemic”. The preventable death of a young boy in 2007 from an infected untreated tooth that produced bacterial meningitis is a profound reminder that our nation has vast inequities in education, health, and welfare. The impact of oral infections on hospital-acquired pneumonia, post-operative infection in cardiac valve surgery, and even academic performances of disadvantaged children displayed through sociodemographic characteristics and access to care determinants also are profound! This paper asserts that current and emerging ODC health knowledge and science will inform health policies and advance equity in access to care, affordable costs, and optimal healthcare outcomes. We recommend that legal and regulatory systems and public health programs be required to ensure health equity. A fair healthcare system that addresses holistic healthcare must be transparent, accessible, integrated and provide a standard of oral healthcare based upon scientific evidence for all people across the lifespan.

Walkability and urban built environments—a systematic review of health impact assessments (HIA)

BMC Public Health | 17 March 2023

Joachim Westenhöfer, Elham Nouri, Merle Linn Reschke, Fabian Seebach & Johanna Buchcik

Urban environments are important determinants of human health. The term walkability summarizes features of the urban built environment that promote walking and other types of physical activity. While the beneficial effects of active and public transport have been well established, the health impact of other features of walkability are less well documented.

Fast-tracking progress to End TB: high-level opportunities for investment and action

The Lancet | 20 March

Tereza Kasaeva, Hannah Monica Dias, Madhukar Pai

In September, 2023, heads of state will reconvene at the 2023 UN General Assembly and report back on progress in keeping the promises made at the first UN High-Level Meeting on Tuberculosis in 2018. All three of us were privileged to be a part of this meeting, and still remember the excitement and hope we felt about the pledges made by world leaders to end tuberculosis, and the ambitious targets that were laid out.

Life expectancy after 2015 of adults with HIV on long-term antiretroviral therapy in Europe and North America: a collaborative analysis of cohort studies

The Lancet HIV | 20 March 2023

Adam Trickey, Prof Caroline A Sabin, Greer Burkholder, Prof Heidi Crane, Prof Antonella d'Arminio Monforte, et al.

The life expectancy of people with HIV taking antiretroviral therapy (ART) has increased substantially over the past 25 years. Most previous studies of life expectancy were based on data from the first few years after starting ART, when mortality is highest. However, many people with HIV have been successfully treated with ART for many years, and up-to-date prognosis data are needed. We aimed to estimate life expectancy in adults with HIV on ART for at least 1 year in Europe and North America from 2015 onwards.

Infectious syphilis in women and heterosexual men in major Australian cities: sentinel surveillance data, 2011–2019

The Medical Journal of Australia | 20 March 2023

Allison Carter, Hamish McManus, James S Ward, Tobias Vickers, Jason Asselin, et al.

Objectives: To examine changes in the positive infectious syphilis test rate among women and heterosexual men in major Australian cities, and rate differences by social, biomedical, and behavioural determinants of health. **Design, setting:** Analysis of data extracted from de-identified patient records from 34 sexual health clinics participating in the Australian Collaboration for Coordinated Enhanced Sentinel Surveillance of Sexually Transmissible Infections and Blood Borne Viruses (ACCESS). **Participants:** First tests during calendar year for women and heterosexual men aged 15 years or more in major cities who attended ACCESS sexual health clinics during 2011–2019.

Optimising adolescent wellbeing in a digital age

BMJ | 20 March 2023

Louise Holly, Brian Li Han Wong, Robin van Kessel, Isang Awah, Anurag Agrawal & Njide Ndili

As major users of digital media, adolescents are particularly exposed to their potential benefits and harms. More evidence is needed on the impact of digital technology use on adolescent development. Nevertheless, experiences during adolescence are widely accepted as having both positive and negative consequences for health and wellbeing throughout the lifecourse. Interactions with digital media during this critical period of physical and emotional development form part of the foundation for their future wellbeing as much as their interactions in the physical world.

Combined and progestagen-only hormonal contraceptives and breast cancer risk: A UK nested case–control study and meta-analysis

Plos Medicine | 21 March 2021

Danielle Fitzpatrick, Kirstin Pirie, Gillian Reeves, Jane Green, Valerie Beral, et al.

Current or recent use of combined oral contraceptives (containing oestrogen+progestagen) has been associated with a small increase in breast cancer risk. Progestagen-only contraceptive use is increasing, but information on associated risks is limited. We aimed to assess breast cancer risk associated with current or recent use of different types of hormonal contraceptives in premenopausal women, with particular emphasis on progestagen-only preparations.

Debriefing after critical incidents in rural and remote healthcare settings – a remote clinician perspective

Rural and Remote Health | 22 March

Dr John Floridis

Debriefing following a critical incident allows teams to reflect on the experience and to work together to improve future performance. Hot, warm and cold debriefs occur at various stages following the incident – each with its own structure and objectives. Effective debriefing requires training and practice, with a variety of tools available for this purpose. Healthcare professionals working in rural and remote areas face a variety of unique barriers, not encountered by colleagues in urban settings, that may make debriefing challenging. A hypothetical case example illustrates the complexities of a critical incident in a remote service. Evidence-based strategies are outlined to support team members in rural and remote areas to debrief effectively, including the use of technology, formal teaching in university curriculums and regular practice by simulation.

Modelling the impact of combining HIV prevention interventions on HIV dynamics in fishing communities in Uganda

BMC Infectious Diseases | 22 March 2023

Cecile Kremer, Anatoli Kamali, Monica Kuteesa, Janet Seeley, Nie Hens, et al.

In countries with mature generalized HIV epidemics such as Uganda, there are still groups of individuals that are disproportionately affected. Among the key populations in Uganda are fishing communities, which make up about 10% of the population. Compared to the general population, HIV prevalence and incidence among individuals living in these communities is high. This high HIV burden has been attributed to several factors including limited access to prevention and treatment services as well as ongoing high-risk sexual behaviour.

The impact of community delivery of intermittent preventive treatment of malaria in pregnancy on its coverage in four sub-Saharan African countries (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Mozambique, and Nigeria): a quasi-experimental multicentre evaluation

The Lancet Global Health | April 2023

Raquel González, Manu Manun'Ebo, Martin Meremikwu, Victor Rabeza, Charfudin Sacoar, et al

Intermittent preventive treatment of malaria in pregnancy (IPTp) with sulfadoxine–pyrimethamine is recommended at each antenatal care clinic visit in high-moderate transmission areas. However, its coverage remains unacceptably low in many countries. Community health workers can effectively deliver malaria preventive interventions. The aim of this study was to assess the effect of community delivery of IPTp (C-IPTp) on antenatal care and IPTp coverage.

The effects of racism, social exclusion, and discrimination on achieving universal safe water and sanitation in high-income countries

The Lancet Global Health | April 2023

Joe Brown, Charisma Acey, Carmen Anthonj, Dani J Barrington, Cara Beal

Drinking water and sanitation services in high-income countries typically bring widespread health and other benefits to their populations. Yet gaps in this essential public health infrastructure persist, driven by structural inequalities, racism, poverty, housing instability, migration, climate change, insufficient continued investment, and poor planning. Although the burden of disease attributable to these gaps is mostly uncharacterised in high-income settings, case studies from marginalised communities and data from targeted studies of microbial and chemical contaminants underscore the need for continued investment to realise the human rights to water and sanitation. Delivering on these rights requires: applying a systems approach to the problems; accessible, disaggregated data; new approaches to service provision that centre communities and groups without consistent access; and actionable policies that recognise safe water and sanitation provision as an obligation of government, regardless of factors such as race, ethnicity, gender, ability to pay, citizenship status, disability, land tenure, or property rights.

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

RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

EDITORIAL: Stop wasting energy on NHI and fix the rot

Business Day | 17 March 2023

The release this week of the health ombud's shock report into the harrowing conditions confronting pregnant women and babies at the Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital came as no surprise to anyone who has had the misfortune to rely on public health services in Gauteng. While there are undoubtedly many hard-working and committed doctors and nurses providing excellent care, the vast majority of the 16-million people who depend on the province's public health facilities face a callous, uncaring and degrading system.

Anal cancer in the United States linked to AIDS and inequalities

Aidsmap | 17 March 2023

Anal cancer diagnoses in men in the United States aged 50 and over rose over a decade and states with a higher frequency of AIDS diagnoses tended to have a higher frequency of anal cancer diagnoses too, a national study of anal cancer mortality published in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* reports. The study authors suggest that structural inequalities leading to late HIV diagnosis, poor access to care and a diagnosis of AIDS contribute to a higher risk of anal cancer in some parts of the United States for men. In women, anal cancer rates were strongly correlated with smoking prevalence but not with AIDS. Alarmingly, anal cancer in women aged 50 and over had become almost as common as cervical cancer in some states in the midwest and south-east of the United States by 2014-2018.

Teenagers are sent to these camps to purge 'The West'. They leave bruised and abused

Bhekisisa | 17 March 2023

- In Somalia and Kenya, children who grew up in the West are sent to re-education camps to “get them away from the Western world and learn about their culture”.
- These unregulated centres called *dhaqan celis* have no age limit and operate outside of the law. Children who are found drinking or disobeying their parents are sent to these centres where they are beaten, starved, chained and sexually assaulted.
- These young Somali women from the United Kingdom detail their experiences of sexual assault and physical abuse they were subjected to.

Severe COVID-19 increases the risk of developing heart disease later in life

News Medical Life science | 17 March 2023

Patients who have been hospitalized with severe COVID-19 have permanent changes in their cholesterol 3 months after recovery, according to a study from the University of Oslo. This increases their risk of developing heart disease later in life. Many clinicians and scientists have wondered whether COVID-19 disease affects people's health later in life. Several recent studies have shown that there is an association between COVID-19 and heart disease. Does being severely ill with COVID-19 increase people's risk of developing heart disease? "Recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 increases the risk of cardiovascular disease. However, the mechanisms for this are still unclear", Ida Gregersen, a researcher

at the University of Oslo and Oslo University Hospital, says.

To #endAIDS, bridge gap between awareness and action

Sunday Guardian Live | 19 March 2023

Generally, deaths generate more news, but wellness a little. Ditto same with HIV/AIDS, that has changed its status from a ghastly deadly disease during the 1990s to a chronic manageable condition now that can be considered better than diabetes. This journey wasn't easy for India that had topped globally in HIV/AIDS cases in 1996. Since then we have come a long way. Though the research in finding anti-retroviral therapy (ART) was done elsewhere, India realised the dreams of millions of people living with HIV (PLHIV) globally by making the fruits of such developments affordable and assessable. Today we are poised to set another dream and that is #endAIDS. That isn't an easy goal either with the challenges around, fortified with collateral damages due to the protracted Covid pandemic.

Deputy President Mashatile to lead World TB DAY commemoration and launch of the National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB AND STIs: 2023-2028

sacoronavirus.co.za | 20 March 2023

Deputy President Paul Mashatile, in his capacity as Chairperson of the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC), will on Friday, 24 March 2023, lead the official commemoration of World TB Day and Launch of the National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs for 2023-2028 in Rustenburg, Tlhabane Stadium, in the North West Province. Given that TB remains one of the leading causes of ill health and death in South Africa, and the challenges of TB patients not completing their treatment as well as the Missing TB Patients, the World TB Day commemoration was designated for March 24 every year to create awareness about the health, social and economic impact of TB locally and around the globe. South Africa remains among the nations hardest hit by TB. This year's theme for World TB Day is 'Yes! You and I Can End TB', and it is clarion call to encourage all South Africans to contribute to the national effort against TB.

Opinion: Urgent course correction needed on NHI, climate change, and economic policy

Spotlight | 20 March 2023

Kedibone Mmupele (27), her two children Onkarabile (2) and Nkune (6), and her younger siblings Mapule (7) and Sebengu (9) had not had a decent meal in weeks, media reports at the time showed. It was 2011. There was no food in their home near Verdwaal, a small place in the North-West Province. So she decided to walk to a farm 18 kilometres away to find food. On that Thursday in October 2011, the temperature rose to 32 degrees Celsius.

Nontsikelelo Zwedala: an unsung hero of the struggle for HIV medicines

GroundUp | 20 March 2023

Nontsikelelo Zwedala, an activist at the forefront of the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) protests in the early 2000s, died this month at the age of 52. We asked Zackie Achmat, TAC leader at the time that Nontsikelelo was active in the organisation, to write an obituary for her. Our soft Ntsiki, with a will of steel, is no more. I started writing these words last year as a historical tribute to Nontsikelelo Zwedala and Christopher Moraka as part of a paper on TAC's campaign for the antifungal medicine fluconazole. Nontsikelelo was still alive.

Cervical Stump Cancer: Symptoms, Diagnosis, And Treatment

Health Digest | 20 March 2023

The cervix is the narrow canal between a woman's uterus and vagina, and the cervical stump is the piece of the uterine cervix that remains after a supravaginal hysterectomy (per a 2021 study published in the journal *Cureus*). A 2017 study published in the journal *Preventative Medical Reports* describes a supravaginal hysterectomy as a procedure that removes the uterus but not the cervix. The most common reason for undergoing a supravaginal hysterectomy is the presence of uterine fibroids.

Validation platform allows local hospitals to determine how well AI systems would detect breast cancer

Medical Express | 20 March 2023

While there are currently a dozen approved AI systems for breast cancer screening, it has been difficult to evaluate their clinical performance objectively. Now, however, there is a Swedish validation platform ready

to compare how well AI systems detect signs of breast cancer—and its development has been led by researchers at Karolinska Institutet. The pilot project started in 2021 and the platform was ready for trial last year. So far it has been used to start the evaluation of three different companies' algorithms based on about 40,000 mammograms from three Swedish regions.

Editorial: New guidelines are a step forward for SA's TB response

Spotlight | 20 March 2023

New tuberculosis infection guidelines released ahead of World TB Day are another important step in the right direction for South Africa's TB response, argues Spotlight editor Marcus Low, while also warning of the substantial implementation challenges that remain.

Ladies, take charge of your sexual health: How to use internal condoms like a pro

Health Shots | 20 March 2023

Ladies, let's talk about sex – specifically, how to make it safe and fun with the help of internal condoms! If you're looking for a reliable and exciting form of contraception, look no further than the trustworthy female condom. It's high time we ditch the stereotype that only men buy or wear condoms. Women should take charge of ensuring that they are safe from unwanted pregnancy or STDs during sexual activity. In this article, you will find ways to use internal condoms like a pro, so you can focus on pleasure without any worries.

Putting Teeth on the Global Agenda for Oral Health

Health Policy Watch | 20 March 2023

While noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), which cause some 74% of all deaths, are getting increased attention from global health influencers, there is one elephant in the room that has received insufficient attention to date. Oral disease. That's despite the fact that oral diseases may be the most prevalent of all NCDs – affecting some 3.5 billion people, or nearly half the world's population. Notwithstanding some recent progress, political recognition of the need to adequately fund and respond to the public health implications of that disease burden remains painfully slow.

South Africans have heart: heroes of the public healthcare strike came from all walks of life

Daily Maverick | 20 March 2023

As public health facilities were rocked by a violent strike over the past two weeks, patients were in crisis. With only skeleton staff attending, there were not enough hands to look after the country's most vulnerable. But then South Africans stepped up.

Deadly Fungus Spread Rapidly During the Pandemic, C.D.C. Says

New York Times | 20 March 2023

Candida auris, a drug-resistant fungus that health officials hoped to contain is now in more than half the 50 states, according to a new research paper.

Strong support systems tied to PrEP adherence among adolescent girls and young women in South Africa

Aidsmap | 21 March 2023

A qualitative study published in PLOS Global Public Health explored how disclosure of PrEP use was related to adherence among adolescent girls and young women in South Africa. Those who received positive reactions generally had high adherence and disclosed more readily to more people. Those with low adherence were more fearful to disclose and received more neutral or negative reactions. In South Africa, adolescent girls and young women are disproportionately impacted by HIV. In the Buffalo City Metro Health District, the site of the study, around 13% of girls and women aged 15-24 are living with HIV compared to 4% of young men. Relationship dynamics and interpersonal violence limit HIV prevention options for adolescent girls and young women. Prevention methods under a person's direct control, like PrEP, are a critical tool in preventing HIV among this vulnerable population.

School meals fuel young minds, but most vulnerable still missing out: WFP

UN | 21 March 2023

Amid the current global food crisis, with many families struggling to put food on the table, governments are

increasingly seeing the value of these initiatives, according to the State of School-Feeding Worldwide report.

How To Manage Breakthrough Bleeding When On Birth Control

Health Digest | 21 March 2023

Breakthrough bleeding — sometimes referred to as spotting — affects many people who are taking birth control, especially within the first few months of use (via WebMD). But wait a minute, you might be saying. Isn't birth control designed to help regulate menstrual bleeding? If so, how is it that breakthrough bleeding can still occur? As it turns out, bleeding that occurs unexpectedly between periods is not all that uncommon when it comes to birth control use. However, how mild or heavy one's spotting may be can vary from person to person depending on a number of factors, such as the form of birth control one is using.

Study finds similar association of progestogen-only and combined hormonal contraceptives with breast cancer risk

Medical Express | 21 March 2023

There is a relative increase of 20% to 30% in breast cancer risk associated with both combined and progestogen-only contraceptives, whatever the mode of delivery, though with five years of use, the 15-year absolute excess incidence is at most 265 cases per 100,000 users. The results appear in a new study published March 21 in the open access journal PLOS Medicine by Kirstin Pirie of University of Oxford, U.K., and colleagues.

New data support B/FTC/TAF use in HIV+ children

MIMS Pharmacy | 21 March 2023

Data from a French study presented at CROI 2023 support the use of bicitgravir 50 mg/emtricitabine 200 mg/tenofovir alafenamide 25 mg (B/FTC/TAF) in the management of paediatric patients with HIV. "B/FTC/TAF is now approved for use in HIV-positive children weighing ≥ 25 kg. However, published data about its efficacy in the paediatric population are limited to only one trial that includes subjects with suppressed viremia at baseline, good adherence to treatment, and short-term follow-up," noted the team of researchers led by Dr Pierre.

Our lifetime opportunity to enable water, sanitation and hygiene for all

Joint WHO/UNICEF statement | 22 March 2023

As the historic United Nations Water Conference commences today – the first in nearly 50 years – the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) call on all nations to radically accelerate action to make water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) a reality for all. The numbers are staggering – around the world, 2 billion people lack safe drinking water and 3.6 billion people – almost half the world's population – use sanitation services that leave human waste untreated. Millions of children and families do not have adequate WASH services, including soap to wash their hands. The consequences can often be deadly.

Millions of doses of the Pfizer vaccine will expire by end of March

Health-e News | 22 March 2023

According to the National Department of Health (NDoH), 3.3 million doses of Pfizer are due to expire on the 31st of March, 2023. The remainder of the vaccines is due to expire at the end of April 2023. The most recent comprehensive report from the 12th of February shows that South Africa (SA) currently has 29.67 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines in stock. With roughly 8 million Johnson & Johnson doses and the rest being Pfizer. With just over 38 million COVID-19 vaccines administered in the whole vaccination period, the country still sits below the target of 70% of the population being vaccinated. Only 4.2 million people have come forward for booster doses, including people that are developing severe diseases and who are most in need of input.

New directions for HIV treatment

Medical Express | 22 March 2023

Northwestern Medicine scientists have identified a new compound which could inform future HIV cure strategies, according to research published in Science Advances. The current standard treatment for people living with HIV is antiretroviral medication, which suppresses viral replication and spread, but does

not cure HIV. This is because the virus can hide inside immune cells, making itself undetectable to the body's immune system and resistant to antiretroviral therapy.

Unmasking the secret of broadly neutralizing COVID-19 therapeutic antibodies

Medical Express | 22 March 2023

The rapid evolution and emergence of new SARS-CoV-2 variants, such as the omicron variant, renders it highly capable of evading the host immunity. At the same time, vaccines based on original wild-type strain of SARS CoV-2 shows reduced protection against newer variants, particularly for the omicron variant. This results in break-through infections among those vaccinated and highly infectious among non-vaccinated individuals.

Supply issues delaying wider rollout of shorter TB preventive therapy

Spotlight | 22 March 2023

Though estimates vary substantially, it is thought that in the region of 300 000 people fall ill with tuberculosis (TB) in South Africa every year. Many more people, however, have TB bacteria in their lungs and do not fall ill – something referred to as latent TB infection. It is estimated that only around 5% to 15% of adults with latent TB infection go on to develop active TB disease – mostly within months of inhaling the TB bacteria, sometimes only years later.

RSV on the rise, hospitals urged to prepare for paediatric admissions

SA News | 22 March 2023

The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) has announced that the detection rate of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is rising sharply. The NICD has since issued a warning to clinicians and hospitals to prepare for an uptick in paediatric admissions. RSV, according to the public health institute, is the most common cause of bronchiolitis and lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI) among young children. It is highly contagious and transmits mainly by respiratory droplets.

[LISTEN] Is this the new TB patient? About half of infected people don't have symptoms

Bhekisisa | 23 March 2023

For years, experts have told the public that someone with tuberculosis (TB) is coughing, feeling very poorly, losing weight, having night sweats and fevers during the day. Now, research suggests that the mental image people have of a TB patient is wrong. About half of people who have evidence of the bacteria in their spit don't experience any symptoms at all. Little is known about whether those with asymptomatic TB spread the bacteria to others, or whether all such cases will go on to develop symptoms. In this podcast, Emily Wong from the African Health Research Institute in Durban explains how scientists are thinking about this type of TB patient, and what the health department is already doing to catch more asymptomatic cases.

Depression too often gets deemed 'hard to treat' when medication falls short

News24 | 23 March 2023

A plumber who shows up to fix a leaking toilet with a single tool is not likely to succeed. The same is true if a mental health professional offers only one approach for a complex problem like depression. Sadly, the number of people struggling with depression increased dramatically at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. Stress – from school closures to job losses to the death of loved ones – made life more challenging and increased the risk of developing emotional difficulties. For some groups that have experienced discrimination, ongoing inequities made their mental health even worse.

Forced Sterilisation Remains a Reality For SA Women

Health-e News | 23 March 2023

Black women living with HIV continue to experience forced sterilisation at South African public health institutions, the Sexual and Reproductive Justice Conference heard at Diep in Die Berg, in Pretoria, on Wednesday. Organised by the Department of Social Development, the conference brought together policymakers, civil society organisations, researchers, and young people to deepen and promote sexual and reproductive justice.

SA spends R4bn to treat TB, but thousands of sufferers go undiagnosed

News24 | 23 March 2023

SA faces a gap between its policy and implementation of TB treatment and prevention, a report has found. The country spends around R4 billion a year on its TB programme. Less than 60% of all TB cases are diagnosed in South Africa.

The cholera emergency is avoidable

World Health Organization | 23 March 2023

The world is facing an upsurge in cholera, even touching countries that have not had the disease in decades. Years of progress against this age-old disease have disappeared. While the situation is unprecedented, the lesson to draw is not a new one: safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene are the only long-term and sustainable solutions to ending this cholera emergency and preventing future ones.

Cyclone Freddy deepens health risks in worst-hit countries

WHO Africa | 23 March 2023

Brazzaville – The devastation by Tropical Cyclone Freddy is exposing major health risks in the hardest-hit southern Africa countries where emergency response efforts are being ramped up to provide relief to affected communities. More than 300 health facilities have been destroyed or flooded in Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique following the devastation by Cyclone Freddy, leaving communities without adequate access to health services. The cyclone's devastation has raised public health risks including the increased spread of cholera, malaria, vaccine-preventable diseases, COVID-19, as well as malnutrition. Support for trauma and mental health are also critical.

[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!

The Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) – calling all public health champions!

PHASA is a voluntary organisation of individuals passionate about population health improvements and the reduction of health inequities, and whose work focuses on the prevention of disease, the promotion of health, and the improved functioning of the country's health care system. Are you passionate about improving the health and wellbeing of communities? Do you want to expand your professional network and stay current in the field of public health? Do you want to be part of the movement to improve Public Health? Then join the Public Health Association of South Africa today to make a difference and enhance your career!

As a member, you will:

- Gain access to cutting-edge research, resources, and best practices
- Connect with public health professionals from around the country
- Participate in educational events and conferences
- Contribute to shaping the future of public health
- Have access to mentors in the field
- Be at the forefront of advocacy initiatives.

To become a member, simply visit our website and complete the membership application. Don't miss this opportunity to advance your career and improve public health.

[March 2023] Recently Opened Grant Calls for NGOs, Non-profits to boost the fight against HIV/AIDS

Deadline: 28 March 2023

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking applications for a cooperative agreement from qualified entities to implement the HIV Vaccine Innovation, Science, and Technology Acceleration in Africa (HIV-VISTA) Project. The objective of the HIV-VISTA Project is to support sub-Saharan African scientists, institutions, and innovative systems of collaboration in designing and testing improved HIV vaccine candidates that will advance the field toward the long-term goal of a safe and globally-effective HIV vaccine.

USAID High Potential Grants for NGO-led Development Projects in 2023

Deadline: 11 May 2023

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has launched new grant opportunities to support organizations, individuals, and communities worldwide. Check out the list below and start applying!

Sub-Saharan Africa - Call for Application 2023

To submit applications/nominations for this program, you must be logged in to your account. If you are unable to access the form once you are logged in, please refer to the "How do I apply for a program?" section of the FAQ.

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

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

South African Health Review 2021

Health Systems Trust | 2021

When it comes to service delivery and access in both the public and private health sectors, COVID-19 has put everything to the test. It has demonstrated how central public health security is to health and livelihoods, and how pandemic health emergencies expose the weaknesses and vulnerabilities of health systems, costing lives and causing immeasurable damage to economies. Few could have imagined the impact of COVID-19 when this pandemic reached our shores in March 2020.

This edition considers the government's and broader health sector's response to COVID-19, explores the current challenges facing the health system at this unprecedented time, and reflects on lessons learnt for future for public health emergencies. The chapters offer information on, inter alia, the challenges of balancing lives with livelihoods, and the impact of COVID-19 on different cadres of healthcare workers, especially Community Health Workers who found themselves at the forefront of our COVID-19 response. Other areas covered include the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations like children, persons with disabilities, farmworkers, migrants, and the poorest in our society.

Call to Action: Shorter and more effective treatment for all people suffering from drug-resistant TB

Reliefweb | 22 March 2023

The World Health Organization (WHO) and its partners are calling on governments and other stakeholders to accelerate the implementation of the novel, 6-month all-oral regimen for the treatment of drug-resistant tuberculosis. This Call to Action highlights WHO's latest guidelines on drug-resistant TB treatment recommend rapid roll-out of the novel BPaLM/BPaL regimen that has the potential to dramatically increase cure rates due to its high efficacy, allow broader access due to its lower cost and improve patient quality of life as this regimen is all-oral and significantly shorter than conventional treatment regimens.

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

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Global meeting on skin-related neglected tropical diseases (skin NTDs)

Date: 27 – 31 March 2023

The World Health Organization (WHO) is holding its first global meeting on skin-related neglected tropical diseases (skin NTDs) on 27–31 March 2023. This hybrid meeting (in person and remote attendees) is expected to bring together more than 600 global experts, partners and stakeholders. Discussions will focus mainly on progress and challenges in implementing integrated skin NTD activities at country level, as underscored in the WHO NTD road map 2021–2030.

Webinar - Making PrEP Accessible: Updates on Long-acting Injectable Options

Date: 30 Mar 2023

Time: 02:00 PM in Zurich

The objective of this webinar is to provide the latest updates on long-acting injectable PrEP, including science and research emerging from recent conferences, such as the results of HPTN 083. Participants will also hear the civil society perspective on the evolving PrEP landscape, as well as on-the-ground approaches to increase access to long-acting PrEP.

TeleECHO™ on Pediatric and Adolescent HIV Treatment and Care

TeleECHO™ is a webinar series on Pediatric & Adolescent HIV Treatment & Care, hosted by WHO and partners, in collaboration with PATA. These regular TeleECHO bring together health and care providers into the spotlight for strategic discussions, sharing of best practices and updated guidelines, offering practical recommendations in the treatment and care of children and adolescents living with HIV. Join the TeleECHO™ series in 2023 on Pediatric and Adolescent HIV treatment and care. Upcoming dates for 2023 TeleECHO™ series:

Date: 4 April 2023

Time: 2PM SAST

Psychosocial interventions for adolescents: New insights and experiences

Reaching the 95-95-95 targets: How can industry contribute?

Learning from both the success and failures towards reaching the 2020 targets is essential to increase the chance of ending AIDS as a global public health threat by 2030. Success will require commitment from all stakeholders in the HIV response. The Industry Liaison Forum at IAS – the International AIDS Society – is organizing a series of online roundtables to explore important gaps and how the biomedical industry can actively contribute to achieving the 95-95-95 target by 2025.

The series will have three events, each focusing on one of the specific 95-95-95 targets:

Session 1: "HIV testing strategies to reach key populations"

Session 2: "Ensuring linkage to and retention in care"

Session 3: "Overcoming global challenges: Achieving and sustaining viral suppression"

Time

Apr 18, 2023 04:00 PM

May 4, 2023 04:00 PM

May 23, 2023 04:00 PM

Time shows in Zurich

The 5th Paediatric and Adolescent HIV Learning Collaborative for Africa (PAHLCA) Meeting in Maputo Mozambique

Dates: 7 - 8 May 2023

Time: 9:00pm - 5:00pm

The Paediatric and Adolescent HIV Learning Collaborative for Africa (PAHLCA) is hosting its first face-to-face event in Maputo from 7-8 May 2023. With the theme "Prevention of Vertical Transmission of HIV: A Key Pivot in Ending Paediatric HIV and AIDS," PAHLCA aims to:

1. Fostering learning, innovation, and collaboration among MOH programming teams and partners in African countries.

2. Providing a platform for sharing guidelines, implementation frameworks, curricula, toolkits, job aids, and client/caregiver information/education/communication materials that can be used to improve paediatric and adolescent HIV programs.
3. Maintaining an updated directory of Ministry of Health pediatric and adolescent HIV focal persons to facilitate communication, coordination, and sharing across countries.
4. Facilitating networking among country teams to form research collaborations for multi-country studies to improve pediatric and adolescent HIV services.

South African Nursing Council Indaba

Date: 18-19 May 2023

The South African Nursing Council (SANC) is pleased to welcome you to this key event where we will focus on The Future of Nursing. The SANC is a statutory body entrusted to set and maintain standards of Nursing Education and Practice in the Republic of South Africa, to protect the public. It is an autonomous, financially independent, statutory body operating under the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act No. 33 of 2005). The Council of the SANC is constituted in terms of the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act No. 33 of 2005). The tenure of the current and 16th Council of the SANC is from 2018 – 2023 and will end in August 2023. The Indaba program thus contains a focus on the milestones achieved by the 16th Council, and in addition, provides a wide variety of topics that affect Nursing as a whole.

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

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Data Capturer (FRESH) CLINICAL RESEARCH SITE

Closing Date: 2023-03-28

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



Copyright © 2019 HEALTH SYSTEMS TRUST, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

hst@hst.org.za

Want to change how you receive these emails?

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