

HST Bulletin\_26 August 2022

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## CATEGORIES

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## ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

### **Health-related needs reported by adolescents living with HIV and receiving antiretroviral therapy in sub-Saharan Africa: a systematic literature review**

*Wiley Online Library | 19 August 2022*

*Elvis Chem, Alissa Ferry, Janet Seeley, Helen Weiss, Victoria Simms*

Adolescents living with HIV (ALHIV) on antiretroviral therapy (ART) have specific health needs that can be challenging to deliver. Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is home to 84% of the global population of ALHIV, of whom about 59% receive ART. Several studies in SSA have demonstrated health service gaps due to lack of synchronized healthcare for ALHIV receiving ART. We conducted a systematic review of health-related needs among ALHIV on ART in SSA to inform decisions and policies on care.

### **A cross-cultural adaptation and validation of a scale to assess illness identity in adults living with a chronic illness in South Africa: a case of HIV**

*AIDS Research and Therapy | 21 August 2022*

*Neo Phyllis Sematlane, Lucia Knight, Caroline Masquillier and Edwin Wouters*

The chronic illness trajectory and its outcomes are well explained by the concept of illness identity; the extent to which ill individuals have integrated their diagnosed chronic illness into their identity or sense of self. The capacity to measure illness identity in people living with HIV (PLHIV) is still relatively unexplored. However, this is potentially useful to help us understand how outcomes for PLHIV could be improved and sustained. This paper aims to explore the cross-cultural adaptation of a Belgian developed Illness Identity Questionnaire (IIQ) and validate the instrument using a sample of South African adults living with HIV.

### **Integrating what matters to patients in the care of older adults with cancer**

*The Lancet Healthy Longevity | 22 August 2022*

*Jane Murphy and Nicolò Matteo Luca Battist*

The field of geriatric oncology is advancing, and more level I evidence derived from randomised clinical trials now shows a range of clinically meaningful benefits associated with the integration of an oncogeriatric care approach into the routine management of older adults with cancer. Recently, the GAP70+ and the Geriatric Assessment-Driven Intervention (ie, GAIN) studies showed that older patients

with cancer receiving systemic anticancer therapy who were randomised to oncogeriatric care exhibited significantly lower rates of severe toxicities than did those patients who received usual care. In the Integrated Geriatric Assessment and Treatment Effectiveness (INTEGRATE) randomised controlled trial published in *The Lancet Healthy Longevity*, Wee Kheng Soo and colleagues<sup>3</sup> showed that the provision of comprehensive geriatric assessment (CGA) also improves quality of life and health-care delivery for this specific population.

### **Determinants of losses in the tuberculosis infection cascade of care among children and adolescent contacts of pulmonary tuberculosis cases: A Brazilian multi-centre longitudinal study**

*The Lancet Regional Health (Americas) | 23 August 2022*

*Luciana Sobral, Maria B Arriaga, Alexandra B Souza, Maraina Araujo-Pereira & Beatriz Barreto-Duarte*

Approximately 10% of the global tuberculosis (TB) burden is in children. Identification, diagnosis, and early treatment of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection (TBI) is critical to prevent progression to TB in children. The risk of TB, including severe disease, is highest in children <5 years old. We evaluated the cascade of TBI care among child and adolescent TB contacts to identify factors associated with losses in the cascade.

### **A multi-country cross-sectional study to assess predictors of daily versus on-demand oral pre-exposure prophylaxis in youth from South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe**

*Wiley Online Library | 24 August 2022*

*Janan Dietrich, Nadia Ahmed, Emily Webb, Gugulethu Tshabalala, Stefanie Hornschuh, et al*

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) carries the burden of the HIV epidemic, especially among adolescents and young people (AYP). Little is known about pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) uptake and preferences among AYP in SSA. We describe preferences for daily and on-demand PrEP among AYP in South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

### **Characteristics of Prescription Opioid Analgesics in Pregnancy and Risk of Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome in Newborns**

*Jama Network Open | 24 August 2022*

*Daina Esposito, Krista Huybrechts, Martha Werler, et al*

Question: Does risk of neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome (NOWS) after in utero exposure to prescription opioids vary across commonly prescribed types of opioids?

Findings: In this cohort study of 48202 opioid-exposed pregnancies with live-born neonates, strong agonists were associated with a higher risk of NOWS compared with weak agonists, and long half-life opioids were associated with an increased risk compared with short half-life products. These associations were independent of morphine milligram equivalents.

Meaning: The study suggests that knowing the varying opioid-specific risk of NOWS associated with in utero exposure may help prescribers select opioids for pain management in late stages of pregnancy.

### **Analysis of Clinical Characteristics and Risk Factors for Drug Resistance in Newly-Treated Patients with Pulmonary Tuberculosis Complicated with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease**

*Dove Medical Press | 25 August 2022*

*Ma L, Gao M*

Compared with TB alone patients, those with COPD combined TB face more severe health threats. Patients with COPD complicated pulmonary tuberculosis (PTB) often have a poor prognosis if they could not get suitable treatment in time. In addition, the cure rate of drug-resistant TB is extremely low. Drug resistance of TB bacilli increases the difficulty of treatment and the cost of patients, which brings more barriers to the treatment and prevention of TB. Therefore, it is necessary to analyze the clinical characteristics of COPD complicated PTB. The aim of this study was to analyze the clinical characteristics of newly-treated COPD complicated PTB patients, and the risk factors of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* drug resistance, so as to provide reference for clinical practice.

### **Viral suppression and HIV-1 drug resistance 1 year after pragmatic transitioning to dolutegravir first-line therapy in Malawi: a prospective cohort study**

*The Lancet HIV* | 31 August 2022

*Birgit Schramm, Elvis Temfack, Diane Descamps, Sarala Nicholas, et al.*

Many countries are now replacing non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI)-based first-line antiretroviral therapy (ART) with a regimen containing tenofovir disoproxil fumarate, lamivudine, and dolutegravir (TLD). Recognising laboratory limitations, Malawi opted to transition those on NNRTI-based first-line ART to TLD without viral load testing. We aimed to assess viral load and HIV drug resistance during 1 year following transition to TLD without previous viral load testing.

### **Simplifying the path to elimination of hepatitis C**

*The Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology* | September 2022

Although the number of individuals with viraemic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection has decreased since 2015, efforts to achieve global elimination targets by 2030 are not on track. New guidance from WHO to accelerate HCV elimination was launched on June 24, 2022, centring on three areas—treatment for adolescents and children aged 3 years or older, simplified service delivery, and HCV diagnostics.

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## **RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS**

### **Public call for data on targeted Next-Generation Sequencing solutions for detection of drug resistance among people diagnosed with tuberculosis**

*WHO* | 22 August 2022

WHO is issuing a public call for data, appealing to industry, researchers, national TB programmes and other agencies to provide suitable evidence on the performance of these technologies. The obtained data will be essential to facilitate the process of WHO policy updates, scheduled to start at the end of 2022.

### **UNAIDS responds to EU approval of a long acting HIV treatment option: “To end AIDS, share technology.”**

*UNAIDS* | 23 August 2022

Responding to the news that the European Commission has approved an HIV treatment option designed for twice-yearly dosing, UNAIDS Executive Director Winnie Byanyima said: 'It is great news that a range of long-acting HIV treatment options are set to come on stream. A range of options for long-acting treatments, received every few months, could enable more people to get on treatment or offer better clinical options for patients showing resistance to current regimens, therefore staying longer on treatment, and prevent many AIDS-related deaths – if they become available for all who need them. The evidence is clear: monopoly production cannot ensure global availability and affordability. Worldwide availability of affordable long-acting treatments will require the transfer of technology to enable generic production.'

### **World has reached another turning point in fight against HIV**

*Health-e News* | 23 August 2022

The world stands at an inflexion point once more in the war against HIV. For those of us working in the field in South Africa, it feels eerily like the battle that was fought 25 years ago. At the time, I was doing my internship as a doctor at Chris Hani Baragwanath. Antiretroviral therapy was available in rich countries but not yet in Africa. It was heartbreaking to know that a simple, yet often inaccessible, intervention was the difference between suffering and relief. We knew we could make a difference. We could stop the transmission from mother to child. We could turn the tide. We could manage the medical conditions of HIV-positive patients, rendering the sickness chronic, rather than the death sentence it had been with its inevitable progression to AIDS – if only we could prescribe and dispense those life-saving ARVs. Ultimately, we were.

### **Analysis: What is behind the Western Cape's low PrEP numbers?**

*Spotlight* | 23 August 2022

It is estimated that in 2021, only around 0.3% of sexually active people in the Western Cape were taking antiretroviral medicines to prevent HIV infection. When taken as prescribed, such pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is about 99% effective at preventing HIV infection. The Western Cape ranks seventh among South Africa's nine provinces on this measure – only Limpopo and the Northern Cape are doing worse. Mpumalanga is in the lead at 2.3%, followed by KwaZulu-Natal at 1.8%, and Gauteng at 1%. The

estimate for South Africa as a whole is 1%. The figures are from the latest published outputs of Thembisa, the leading model of HIV in South Africa.

### **The UK government is dangerously neglecting sexual health services**

*The Guardian* | 23 August 2022

Progress on vaccine supply alone isn't enough to support sexual health services, which are critically overburdened and need additional funding now (UK trials smaller doses of monkeypox vaccine as supplies run low, 22 August). Due to a lack of support from the government, they are struggling to deal with monkeypox, HIV prevention and STIs. We're hearing of waiting times climbing for the HIV prevention drug PrEP, and some clinics have reported a 90% reduction in their ability to provide PrEP and other services. Through inaction, the government's promise to end HIV transmissions by 2030 will be derailed. By choosing not to give additional support, it is also choosing to risk more people being diagnosed with HIV and STIs. Deborah Gold Chief executive, National Aids Trust, Dr Will Nutland Co-founder, PrEPster, Ian Green Chief executive, Terrence Higgins Trust.

### **Slow rollout for child-friendly ARV treatment**

*Health-e News* | 24 August 2022

South African children will have to wait until next year for the rollout of the child friendly, 'sweet-tasting' antiretroviral (ARV) treatment, despite this new 4-in-1 combination receiving the green light. The South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) approved the combo, which includes abacavir, lamivudine, lopinavir, and ritonavir in June. But the National Department of Health isn't ready to roll out the treatment especially designed for infants and young children. Currently, the same combination is given to children in pill form, that's hard to swallow.

### **Women in Health: From test tubes to impacting lives – Dr Thesla Palanee-Phillips on making a difference with science**

*Spotlight* | 24 August 2022

"It's really, really rewarding to know that burning the candle at both ends – the hard days in the clinic, late nights, and taking calls – traveling throughout the African continent and taking these long trips to the US for meetings paid off," says Dr Thesla Palanee-Phillips. "It's just really humbling to know we were part of that work." The headline-making work the South African researcher is talking about is the ASPIRE study – a phase 3 trial of a vaginal Ring used to prevent HIV infection. The ring contains the antiretroviral drug dapivirine. The ring has been widely hailed as offering women a means to protect themselves against HIV infection that does not involve taking pills or negotiating condom use. Spotlight previously reported on the ring [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

### **UNAIDS Country Director in Nigeria shares how lessons from the AIDS response apply to the Monkeypox response**

*UNAIDS* | 24 August 2022

Dr Leo Zekeng, UNAIDS Country Director and Representative in Nigeria, has shared how lessons from the AIDS response apply to the Monkeypox response. Dr Zekeng said: "Monkeypox is endemic in Nigeria, and in recent weeks there has been a significant increase in suspected and confirmed cases. The Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC)'s most recently published sitrep (7th August 2022) indicates that in 2022 there have been over 473 suspected Monkeypox cases (407 of which are since 30th May), of which have been 172 confirmed (151 of which are since 30th May). In the most recent weekly data published (1st to 7th August), 60 suspected cases were recorded in one week, out of which 15 were confirmed.

### **Transforming Africa's health system in wake of COVID-19 pandemic**

*World Health Organization* | 24 August 2022

Lomé – As Africa strives to recover from the deepfelt impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, health authorities and experts gathering this week for the Seventy-second session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for Africa launched a new drive to find ways of revamping the region's health systems. At a special event on Rethinking and rebuilding resilient health systems in Africa during the 22 – 26 August Regional Committee meeting in Lomé, Togo, delegates examined the measures that have worked in achieving universal access to health care as well as the shortfalls. They also explored ways to maintain essential services during outbreaks and the investments and actions needed to ensure equitable access to quality medical products and health technologies.

## #NationalShutdown: Fix public health system

*Health-e News | 24 August 2022*

A basic government grant of at least R1,000 could improve the health of South Africans and reduce some of the pressure the public health system faces. This is the view of the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC), one of the civil society organisations that participated in Wednesday's national shutdown. The national shutdown drew attention to the worsening socio-economic conditions, the rising cost of living, the unemployment rate and the poor state of the public health system.

## Think. Test. Treat TB

*August 2022*

Tuberculosis (TB), or TB disease, is one of the world's leading infectious disease killers. The bacteria responsible for causing TB can live in the body for years without symptoms. This is called inactive TB or latent TB infection. Without treatment, inactive TB can become active TB disease at any time and make you sick. Once TB becomes active, it can spread from person to person through the air. Starting a conversation with your doctor is the first step to protecting your family, friends, and community from this highly contagious disease.

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# 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!

## HSTi offers accredited and non-accredited short courses and full programmes

The Health Systems Training Institute (HSTi) is the training arm of the Health Systems Trust (HST), a leading force in the South African public health sector. HST was established in 1992, on the brink of democracy in South Africa, and has since played a significant role in strengthening the national primary health system through health research, informatics, clinical support, capacity-building and training.

## World Health Organization (WHO) free online public health courses have 7 million enrolments!

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# PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

## South African Health Review 2022 | Call for Abstracts

South Africa's health systems strengthening efforts in pursuit of universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals have been greatly hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic. As first responders to the country's epidemic, healthcare workers found themselves facing a wide-range of challenges that had a negative impact on both their ability to provide care and their mental health and well-being. Access to health care for chronic conditions, services for sexual and reproductive health, as

well as testing, starting treatment, and continuity of care for HIV and TB, have all been compromised. As South Africa rebuilds its health system and transitions from the pandemic response to recovery, it is necessary to consider how to leverage our response to COVID-19 towards strengthening the health system for future pandemic preparedness.

The editorial team of the South African Health Review (SAHR) 2022 invites the submission of abstracts describing promising examples of response, mitigation, recovery and health systems strengthening strategies to rebuild the health system in wake of the country's COVID-19 response.

Closing Date: Monday, 15 August 2022

## **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.

## **Ensuring Health Security in the African Region**

*World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa (WHO AFRO)*

The World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa (WHO AFRO) launched three flagship projects to improve the capacity of all Member States to prepare for, detect and respond to public health emergencies. The flagship projects build upon existing infrastructure to implement a well-organized partner support system that augments national capacity when needed, incorporating lessons learned from COVID-19, Ebola and other health emergencies.

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# **CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

## **World Health Organization | Storytelling for Infodemic Management Workshop Application**

16 August – 12 September 2022

Through building storytelling skills, infodemic managers can become more effective communicators and explain to others the power of narratives that can mislead and cause harm online, talk about their infodemic management work and how stories can be used as a force for promoting public health. This is a free training for successful applicants who have been working in and responding to health misinformation, worked in the COVID-19 pandemic, and understand how information informs people's personal health decisions. Successful applicants will be invited to the workshop and encouraged to share and record their stories of how health misinformation and information overload have affected their lives either professionally or personally during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their stories will be featured in a community storytelling project of the WHO infodemic manager community.

## **Sexual & Reproductive Justice from the Margins to the Centre (Morison & Mavuso, eds)**

Date: 7 September

Time: 17h30-19h00

Venue: Rhodes University / Zoom

## **PHASA (Public Health Association of South Africa) 17<sup>th</sup> annual public health conference**

Date: 11 – 14 September

Location: Durban

Late Registration: 16 July – 26 Aug 2022

The Public Health Association of South (PHASA) invites you to attend their annual conference in Durban (eThekweni), on the east coast of South Africa. PHASA hosts an annual conferences, with the aim of engaging public health practitioners and interested people from around the country and world to share their experiences and research, discuss topical public health issues, and mentor public health students and young researchers. Hosting the national PHASA conference in Durban aims to add stimulus to the local economy, and contribute to enhanced awareness and widespread advocacy, for health, the social determinants of health, and healthcare in the region.

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## **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Research/Professional Nurse**

Closing Date: 2022-08-30

### **Clinical Research Assistant**

Closing Date: 2022-08-30

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