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Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

Evaluating the Cost Effectiveness of Pre Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and Its Impact on HIV-1 Transmission in South Africa

Pretorius C, Stover J, Bollinger L, Bacaër N, Williams B. *PLoS ONE* 5(11): e13646. Published: 5 November 2010.

Mathematical modelers have given little attention to the question of how pre-exposure prophylaxis may impact on a generalized national HIV epidemic and its cost-effectiveness, in the context of control strategies such as condom use promotion and expanding ART programs. We use an age- and gender-structured model of the generalized HIV epidemic in South Africa to investigate the potential impact of PrEP in averting new infections. The model utilizes age-structured mortality, fertility, partnership and condom use data to model the spread of HIV and the shift of peak prevalence to older age groups. The model shows that universal PrEP coverage would have to be impractically high to have a significant effect on incidence reduction while ART coverage expands... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0013646> [Accessed: 24 November 2010]

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Building capacity for public and population health research in Africa: the consortium for advanced research training in Africa (CARTA) model

Alex C. Ezech, Chimaraoke O. Izugbara, Caroline W. Kabiru, Sharon Fonn, Kathleen Kahn, Leonore Manderson, Ashiwel S. Undieh, Akinyinka Omigbodun, Margaret Thorogood *Global Health Action* 2010, 5: 5693. Published: 12 November 2010.

Globally, sub-Saharan Africa bears the greatest burden of disease. Strengthened research capacity to understand the social determinants of health among different African populations is key to addressing the

drivers of poor health and developing interventions to improve health outcomes and health systems in the region. Yet, the continent clearly lacks centers of research excellence that can generate a strong evidence base to address the region's socio-economic and health problems ...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.globalhealthaction.net/index.php/gha/article/view/5693/6286> [Approx. 250kb] [Accessed: 24 November 2010].

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Defining Research to Improve Health Systems

Remme JHF, Adam T, Becerra-Posada F, D'Arcangues C, Devlin M, et al. *PLoS Med* 7(11): e1001000. Published: 16 November 2010.

A major obstacle to achieving the health related Millennium Development Goals is the weakness of the health systems in many low- and middle-income countries, and their struggle to effectively provide health care to populations in need. Several global health initiatives have been created over the last decade to support the delivery of available interventions for priority health problems, and in recent years there have been some major new initiatives to support health system strengthening. These developments have been accompanied by a growing recognition of the role of research in improving health systems and health care delivery...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1001000> [Accessed: 24 November 2010]

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Implications of the new WHO guidelines on HIV and infant feeding for child survival in South Africa

Tanya Doherty, David Sanders, Ameena Goga & Debra Jackson. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*.

The World Health Organization released revised principles and recommendations for HIV and infant feeding in November 2009. The recommendations are based on programmatic evidence and research studies that have accumulated over the past few years within African countries. This document urges national or subnational health authorities to decide whether health services should mainly counsel and support HIV-infected mothers to breastfeed and receive antiretroviral interventions, or to avoid all breastfeeding, based on estimations of which strategy is likely to give infants in those communities the greatest chance of HIV-free survival...[Read More »](#)

Source: http://www.who.int/entity/bulletin/online_first/10-079798.pdf [approx.67kb] [Accessed: 26 November 2010]

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Recent News

UNAIDS pushes simpler treatment plan

Kerry Cullinan. *Health-e*. Published: 24 November 2010.

UNAIDS is promoting a new approach to HIV treatment, which it estimates could save 10 million more lives than conventional approaches over the next 15 years. Called "Treatment 2.0", the approach is aimed reducing treatment costs, making treatment regimens simpler and smarter, reducing the burden on health systems and improving the quality of life for people living with HIV and their families. Treatment 2.0—a radically simplified treatment platform—holds promise to simplify treatment and provide all people needing it with a better pill, less likely to lead to resistance, simpler diagnostics and monitoring, easier HIV testing, and more community empowerment. All stakeholders should unite to make this a reality...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20033021> [Accessed: 24 November 2010]

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Pill 'lowers risk of HIV transmission'

Tamar Khan. *Business Day*. Published: 24 November 2010.

A daily AIDS pill can cut the risk of HIV transmission between men by almost half, according to an international study including volunteers from Cape Town. The strategy of using a well-established treatment to help people fight off an infection is already used to combat diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis, but until now had yet to be proven for HIV/AIDS. The iPreX study, which is published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* this week, is the first evidence that pre-exposure prophylaxis reduces the risk of HIV transmission, and adds to a growing list of options offering partial protection against the virus, which causes AIDS...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=127603> [Accessed: 24 November 2010]

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Preventative TB therapy halves risk of death among ARV patients

PlusNews. Published: 11 November 2010.

Preventative tuberculosis (TB) therapy can reduce death among patients on antiretroviral (ARV) treatment by about half, according to new research from South Africa. Based on an observational study, researchers found that patients newly initiated on ARV treatment who had also been given Isoniazid Preventative TB therapy (IPT) had about a 50 percent lower risk of death after their first year of treatment than patients not given IPT. Isoniazid is a standard first-line TB drug that has more commonly been given as preventative therapy to HIV-infected patients not yet eligible for ARVs...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=91055> [Accessed: 24 November 2010]

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Training and Resources

Integration of Family Planning into HIV Counseling and Testing, Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission, and Antiretroviral Therapy Services. Training Facilitator's Guide.

Pathfinder International

This training package is designed to train practicing HIV service providers in FP counseling and service provision for FP integration in HIV Counseling and Testing, PMTCT and ART services. It has four parts, a Training Facilitator's Guide, a Participant Handbook, PowerPoint Slides that summarize training content, and a job aid (to guide HIV service providers when providing FP counseling and services to HIV-positive clients).

For more information: http://www.pathfind.org/site/DocServer/FP-HIV_Trainers_Gd_4.pdf?docID=18701 (Approximately: 909 KB)

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Policy Brief: Aid Effectiveness for health

Save the Children

Through the Paris Declaration in 2005 and the Accra Agenda for Action in 2008, donor governments committed to improve the effectiveness of official development assistance (ODA) for health, by harmonising and aligning ODA with recipient governments' priorities, plans and processes.¹ However, success in implementing these principles has been limited. To accelerate progress on the health-related MDGs, achieve universal coverage of good quality health services, and address prevailing inequities, significant reforms to the current aid architecture are urgently needed.

For more information:

http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/en/docs/ODA_briefing_final%281%29.pdf (Approximately: 85 KB)

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Reports and Publications

Levels & Trends in Child Mortality. Report 2010: Estimates Developed by the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation

United Nations Children's Fund

Millennium Development Goal 4 calls for reducing the under-five mortality rate by two-thirds between 1990 and 2015. As global momentum and investment for accelerating child survival grow, monitoring progress at the global and country levels has become even more critical. Generating accurate estimates of under-five mortality poses a considerable challenge because of the limited data available for many developing countries. In 2004 the United Nations established the Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation to advance the work on monitoring progress towards MDG 4 and to enhance country capacity to produce timely and properly assessed estimates of child mortality...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: http://www.unglobalpulse.org/sites/all/files/reports/UNICEF_Child_mortality_for_web_0831.pdf
[Accessed: 25 November 2010]

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Global Report: UNAIDS Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic 2010

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

The 2010 edition of the UNAIDS Report on the global AIDS epidemic includes new country by country scorecards on key issues facing the AIDS response. Based on the latest data from 182 countries, this global reference book provides comprehensive analysis on the AIDS epidemic and response. For the first time the report includes trend data on incidence from more than 60 countries...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: http://www.unaids.org/documents/20101123_GlobalReport_em.pdf [Accessed: 24 November 2010]
(Approximately: 3787 KB)

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The World Health Report - Health Systems Financing: The Path to Universal Coverage

World Health Organization

In this report, the World Health Organization maps out what countries can do to modify their financing systems so they can move more quickly towards this goal - universal coverage - and sustain the gains that have been achieved. The report builds on new research and lessons learnt from country experience. It provides an action agenda for countries at all stages of development and proposes ways that the international community can better support efforts in low income countries to achieve universal coverage and improve health outcomes...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: <http://www.who.int/whr/2010/en/index.html> [Accessed: 23 November 2010]

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Global Tuberculosis Control 2010

World Health Organization

The World Health Organization today issued its most comprehensive report ever on the progress being made in combating the tuberculosis (TB) epidemic. The publication contains the very latest data, and for the first time also includes online profiles from 212 countries and territories...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: http://www.who.int/tb/publications/global_report/2010/en/index.html [Accessed: 24 November 2010]

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Conferences

6th PHASA 2010 Conference

29 November -1 December 2010, East London

URL: <http://www.phasa2010.org.za/>

Theme: Healthy environments, healthy people and public health advocacy

PHASA is a voluntary organisation of public health practitioners focusing on the prevention of disease, the promotion of health, and the improved functioning of South Africa's health care system. As an African public health association, we are committed to strengthening local and regional capacity in public health. We intend to use the conference both for networking and skills-building among public health practitioners.

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Third International Conference for Improving Use of Medicines: Informed Strategies, Effective Policies, Lasting Solutions

Venue: 10 -14 April 2011, Alexandria, Egypt

URL: <http://www.inrud.org/ICIUM/ICIUM-2011.cfm>

In April 2011, members of the international community will assemble in Alexandria, Egypt for ICIUM 2011: Third International Conference for Improving Use of Medicines. Many working in the pharmaceutical field will remember the landmark ICIUM 1997 and ICIUM 2004 conferences, which summarized the evolving state-of-the-art policies and interventions to improve use of medicines. The conference will again be highly interactive and designed to produce actionable results. Its focus will remain on presenting and summarizing knowledge about ways to improve medicines use and health, especially for vulnerable populations. Participants will help to shape evidence based policy recommendations and a future research agenda on these topics. The sequence of half-day sessions will be organized around different levels of the health care system.

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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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Research Associate - mothers2mothers

Closing Date: 29 November 2010

mothers2mothers seeks to appoint a Research Associate, based in Cape Town, to provide specialised technical support to research and evaluation activities led by the Department of Strategic Information and Technical Support (DSITS) and conducted in collaboration with other technical Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) specialists, m2m programme staff and other internal and external stakeholders.

Please view the website for more details <http://www.ngopulse.org/opportunity/mothers2mothers-research-associate-0>

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Research Director - The Health Economics and HIV/AIDS Research Division (HEARD)

Closing Date: 30 November 2010

HEARD seeks to appoint a Research Director on a two-year renewable contract to lead and manage its research programmes.

Please view the website for more details <http://www.ngopulse.org/opportunity/heard-research-director>

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