

HST Bulletin_29 July 2022

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CATEGORIES

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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Opt-in HIV testing in construction workplaces: an exploration of its suitability, using the socioecological framework

BMC Public Health | 23 July 2022

Sarah Somerset, Wendy Jones, Catrin Evans, Cecilia Cirelli, Douglas Mbang et al.

Despite improvements in HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) testing and treatment in recent years, late diagnosis remains a challenge. For example, individuals within Europe who contract HIV typically experience a three-year delay before diagnosis, with many opportunities for testing being missed in the intervening time. In the UK, men who are heterosexual and those aged fifty or older are at particular risk of late diagnosis, as are black African men. Late diagnosis increases the risk of poor health, premature death, and of spreading the disease to others prior to diagnosis and treatment. Improved interventions are therefore needed if the United Kingdom (UK) government is to achieve its goal of ending HIV transmission by 2030. Traditionally, HIV testing has focused on those believed to be at the highest risk, for example by testing in sexual health clinics. In recent years, there have been developments in community-based testing programmes, but these often still target specific high-risk groups, with events organised at gay pride events, in saunas and in centres for drug users and the homeless.

Observing the distribution of mosquito bites on humans to inform personal protection measures against malaria and dengue vectors

Plos One | 25 July 2022

Winifrida Mponzi, Johnson Swai, Emmanuel Kaindoa, Khamis Kifungo, Alvaro Eiras, et al.

Vector-borne diseases are widespread across the globe and are a major cause of public health and economic failures affecting millions. The most prevalent of these diseases are malaria and dengue fever, which are transmitted by Anopheles and Aedes mosquitoes, respectively. While vector control has contributed significantly to malaria control in Africa, both dengue fever and other Aedes-borne diseases remain highly neglected in the continent. Despite recent successes with the use of Wolbachia endosymbionts, the control of Aedes-borne viruses still relies mostly on personal protection measures. Successful transmission of mosquito-borne pathogens is mediated by the blood-feeding habits of female mosquitoes, which may express preferences for specific blood hosts. To acquire a blood meal, the host-

seeking females must successfully locate and bite their hosts. They identify human hosts by detecting specific cues in the environment before biting at selected sites. The mosquitoes rely on a variety of environmental and host-derived stimuli such as visual cues, moisture, heat, carbon dioxide and odours from skin emanations. Since female mosquitoes depend on blood meals for eggs development, these man-vector contacts are a vital component of the disease transmission process. Efficient vectors of human pathogens therefore tend to live near humans and can develop high degrees of anthropophily and anthropophagy.

Symptoms and risk factors for long COVID in non-hospitalized adults

Nature Medicine | 25 July 2022

Anuradhaa Subramanian, Krishnarajah Nirantharakumar, Sarah Huges, Puja Myles, Tim Williams, et al

Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection is associated with a range of persistent symptoms impacting everyday functioning, known as post-COVID-19 condition or long COVID. We undertook a retrospective matched cohort study using a UK-based primary care database, Clinical Practice Research Datalink Aurum, to determine symptoms that are associated with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection beyond 12 weeks in non-hospitalized adults and the risk factors associated with developing persistent symptoms. We selected 486,149 adults with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection and 1,944,580 propensity score-matched adults with no recorded evidence of SARS-CoV-2 infection. Outcomes included 115 individual symptoms, as well as long COVID, defined as a composite outcome of 33 symptoms by the World Health Organization clinical case definition. Cox proportional hazards models were used to estimate adjusted hazard ratios (aHRs) for the outcomes. A total of 62 symptoms were significantly associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection after 12 weeks. The largest aHRs were for anosmia (aHR 6.49, 95% CI 5.02–8.39), hair loss (3.99, 3.63–4.39), sneezing (2.77, 1.40–5.50), ejaculation difficulty (2.63, 1.61–4.28) and reduced libido (2.36, 1.61–3.47). Among the cohort of patients infected with SARS-CoV-2, risk factors for long COVID included female sex, belonging to an ethnic minority, socioeconomic deprivation, smoking, obesity and a wide range of comorbidities. The risk of developing long COVID was also found to be increased along a gradient of decreasing age. SARS-CoV-2 infection is associated with a plethora of symptoms that are associated with a range of sociodemographic and clinical risk factors.

Adequate funding of comprehensive community-based programs for key populations needed now more than ever to reach and sustain HIV targets

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 26 July 2022

Meghan DiCarlo, Gina Dallabetta, Chris Akolo, Sergio Bautista-Arredondo, Victor Digolo, et al

Globally, over half of the estimated new HIV infections now occur among key populations, including men who have sex with men, sex workers, people who inject drugs, transgender individuals, and people in prisons and other closed settings, and their sexual partners. Reaching epidemic control will, for many countries, increasingly require intensified programming and targeted resource allocation to meet the needs of key populations and their sexual partners. However, insufficient funding, both in terms of overall amounts and the way the funding is spent, contributes to the systematic marginalization of key populations from needed HIV services.

Applying machine learning and predictive modeling to retention and viral suppression in South African HIV treatment cohorts

Nature | 26 July 2022

Mhairi Maskew, Kieran Sharpey-Schafer, Lucien De Voux, Thomas Crompton, Jacob Bor, et al.

HIV treatment programs face challenges in identifying patients at risk for loss-to-follow-up and uncontrolled viremia. We applied predictive machine learning algorithms to anonymised, patient-level HIV programmatic data from two districts in South Africa, 2016–2018. We developed patient risk scores for two outcomes: (1) visit attendance \leq 28 days of the next scheduled clinic visit and (2) suppression of the next HIV viral load (VL). Demographic, clinical, behavioral and laboratory data were investigated in multiple models as predictor variables of attending the next scheduled visit and VL results at the next test. Three classification algorithms (logistical regression, random forest and AdaBoost) were evaluated for building predictive models.

Burden of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and its attributable risk factors in 204 countries and territories, 1990-2019: results from the Global Burden of Disease

Study 2019

The BMJ | 27 July 2022

Saeid Safiri, Kristin Carson-Chahhoud, Maryam Noori, Seyed Aria Nejadghaderi, Mark Sullman, et al

To report the global, regional, and national burden of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and its attributable risk factors between 1990 and 2019, by age, sex, and sociodemographic index.

Cervical cancer screening programmes and age-specific coverage estimates for 202 countries and territories worldwide: a review and synthetic analysis

The Lancet Global Health | 1 August 2022

Laia Bruni, Beatriz Serrano, Esther Roura, Laia Alemany, Melanie Cowan et al.

Cervical cancer screening coverage is a key monitoring indicator of the WHO cervical cancer elimination plan. We present global, regional, and national cervical screening coverage estimates against the backdrop of the 70% coverage target set by WHO. In this review and synthetic analysis, we searched scientific literature, government websites, and official documentation to identify official national recommendations and coverage data for cervical cancer screening for the 194 WHO member states and eight associated countries and territories published from database inception until Oct 30, 2020, supplemented with a formal WHO country consultation from Nov 27, 2020, to Feb 12, 2021. We extracted data on the year of introduction of recommendations, the existence of individual invitation to participate, financing of screening tests, primary screening and triage tests used, recommended ages and screening intervals, use of self-sampling, and use of screen-and-treat approaches. We also collected coverage data, either administrative or survey-based, as disaggregated as possible by age and for any available screening interval. According to data completeness and representativeness, different statistical models were developed to produce national age-specific coverages by screening interval, which were transformed into single-age datapoints. Missing data were imputed. Estimates were applied to the 2019 population and aggregated by region and income level.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Novel HIV combination therapies could prevent viral escape and rebound

UW News | 22 July 2022

A **study** published July 19 in the journal *eLife* brings new hope for HIV treatments. The research by scientists at the University of Washington, the Max Planck Institute for Dynamics and Self-Organization and the University of Cologne indicates that carefully designed cocktails of broadly neutralizing antibodies, or bNAbs, could help treat HIV while minimizing the risk of the virus evolving to “escape” treatment. The study shows that computational approaches to selecting combinations of bNAbs based on viral genetics could help prevent viral escape, making HIV treatment more effective.

New Monkeypox symptoms are making cases harder to recognise

Moneyweb | 22 July 2022

Monkeypox patients around the world are suffering from symptoms not normally linked to the virus, leading to missed and mistaken diagnoses, researchers said. Doctors are reporting some patients with only single sores from the disease, sometimes in the mouth, anus or genitals, according to a study released Thursday by the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The cases don't conform to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's definition of monkeypox. “Case recognition is vital, and we haven't been equipped to actually recognize the disease,” said Chloe Orkin, a clinical professor of HIV medicine at Queen Mary University in London and lead author of the study, said in an interview.

'I Am' movement of 7,000 health workers demands systemic changes from Phaahla and Makhura

Daily Maverick | 24 July 2022

The 'I Am' movement cannot be ignored. Backed by nearly 7,000 health workers, it is calling for concrete changes to systemically fix the falling-apart public healthcare system. Caught in the doldrums of bureaucracy and government inaction, the campaign has written a follow-up letter respectfully escalating their concerns. Instead of delays and platitudes from officialdom, the “I Am” movement is demanding a response from elected representatives. As workers on the ground in South Africa's public healthcare

system, they say they need to hear from the Premier of Gauteng, David Makhura and Minister of Health, Dr Joe Phaahla, with concrete plans to address concerns raised in their open letter submitted a month ago. The letter calls for an end to the victimisation of whistle-blowers and for systemic changes that will place decision-making power with properly constituted boards and CEOs who are primarily accountable to the hospital, its staff and patients rather than detached head offices.

Hair loss and lower libido among long COVID symptoms – new research

The Conversation | 25 July 2022

About 2 million people in the UK have persistent symptoms after COVID infection, termed long COVID. Commonly reported long COVID symptoms, such as fatigue and shortness of breath, have a significant effect on people's daily activities, quality of life and capacity to work. But long COVID symptoms are much broader than this. In a new study published in the journal *Nature Medicine*, we identified 62 symptoms associated with long COVID. We also explored some of the factors linked to an increased risk of developing long COVID. Much of the initial work undertaken to understand long COVID has been among people who were hospitalised, but most people infected with COVID have been managed in primary care. We therefore know relatively little about long COVID in people with typically milder initial infections.

WHO calls on global community to “do one thing” to save lives on World Drowning Prevention Day

WHO | 25 July 2022

Today, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued a call for people around the world to “do one thing” to prevent drowning. As one of the leading causes of death globally for children and young people ages 1–24, and the third leading cause of injury-related deaths overall, drowning tragically claims more than 236 000 lives each year. To galvanize action and mark World Drowning Prevention Day, the Jet d'Eau in Geneva will be illuminated in blue this evening, accompanied by similar actions in other cities around the world. More than 90% of drowning deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries, with children under the age of 5 being at highest risk. These deaths are frequently linked to daily, routine activities, such as bathing, collecting water for domestic use, travelling over water on boats or ferries, and fishing.

Scientists identify how the coronavirus spike protein causes heart damage

Sky News | 25 July 2022

New research has uncovered "direct evidence that the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein is toxic to heart muscle cells," according to its lead author. Scientists believe they have identified why heart damage is so common among patients hospitalised with COVID-19 in a preliminary study. The new research has found that the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus spike protein is capable of causing heart muscle injury through the inflammatory process, setting it apart from previously known coronaviruses. The good news is that the preliminary research suggests the damage caused by the process, which is part of the heart muscle cells' "own natural immune machinery" can be reduced by vaccination.

Monkeypox: How it Spreads, Who's at Risk – Here's What You Need to Know

African Business | 25 July 2022

Monkeypox is not a new disease, and in some African countries it is endemic. However, the international outbreak which began in May 2022, has prompted the World Health Organization (WHO) to declare a global health emergency. Here are some of the important things to know about monkeypox.

What is Monkeypox?

Monkeypox got its name in 1958, when it was detected in several laboratory apes. It is a zoonotic viral disease, which means it can be transmitted from animals to humans. It can also pass from human to human. Human monkeypox was first identified in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in a 9-month-old boy, in a region where smallpox (a close relative) had been eliminated in 1968. Symptoms are similar to those seen, in the past, in smallpox patients, but it is clinically less severe (smallpox was eradicated worldwide in 1980). In 2003, the first Monkeypox outbreak outside Africa was reported in the United States and was linked to contact with infected pet prairie dogs.

Covid Patients Should Take An Antiviral Even If They Don't Have Severe Symptoms, Study Finds

Forbes | 25 July 2022

Pfizer's Covid-19 antiviral Paxlovid and Merck's coronavirus pill molnupiravir appear to guard against

hospitalizations and death even when people aren't experiencing severe symptoms, a new study found, as the White House continues efforts to make these medications more widely available as Covid cases surge. Among those with non-severe Covid who took Paxlovid, there were 46 fewer admissions to the hospital per 1,000 patients, while there were 16 fewer admissions per 1,000 patients who took molnupiravir compared to placebo groups, researchers found in a systematic review published in *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, though many of the studies researchers analyzed were conducted before the emergence of the highly transmissible omicron variant.

COVID-19 in SA | You might need another booster shot

eNCA | 25 July 2022

You might have to get another COVID-19 jab even if you've already had two shots and a booster. As more COVID-19 variants develop, further boosters may be needed to increase immunity against the virus and prevent one from suffering severe symptoms. Professor Alex Welte from the SA Centre for Epidemiological Modelling and Analysis, said: "The immunity we are getting is not very long-lived, it's a bit like spending the day at the beach, not covered and having to apply and reapply again the SPF50 lotion, it gives you a high level of protection but only if you keep reapplying."

Food insecurity: SA women bear the biggest brunt

Health-e News | 26 July 2022

Food insecurity is becoming a problem for more South African women who head up the majority of single-person households. Statistics released in 2021 reveal that almost a quarter of SA households are run by one individual. According to a survey conducted by Statistics South Africa (StatsSA) last year, our population stood at 60.5 million, with about 18 million households. Of these, 23.6% are single-person households, placing additional pressure on women to put food on the table. Dr Jemima Moeng, the Chief Director of Food Security at the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development, said the problem was worse in urban areas.

Would you screen yourself for cervical cancer at home?

News24 | 26 July 2022

Self-tests for human papillomavirus (HPV) could help the National Health Insurance (NHI) scheme beat back one of the top killers of women in South Africa: cancer of the cervix. If cancer-causing HPV is caught early, it can be stopped. Doctors can remove cells that may become cancerous from the cervix so that healthy tissue can grow back (this is done during a procedure called a colposcopy). HPV vaccines are between 98% and 100% effective in preventing cervical cancer. Although South Africa introduced a school HPV vaccination programme in 2014, women from older generations who weren't vaccinated, are still at risk of cancer of the cervix. Many such women only find out that they've been infected with a dangerous HPV strain (not all types cause cancer) when they start experiencing the symptoms of cervical cancer, at which point they're far more likely to die of the disease.

Analysis: Vaccine partnership with US government boosts prospects for local production

Health24 | 26 July 2022

It has been just over a year since the World Health Organization (WHO) announced the selection of Afrigen Biologics, a Cape Town-based biotechnology company, to host its ambitious new project to create and transfer capacity to produce mRNA vaccines within and across developing countries. Since the announcement that Afrigen would host this WHO-backed "mRNA technology transfer hub", the company has gone from strength to strength. Earlier this year, Afrigen made headlines around the world when the company announced that it had successfully produced a laboratory-scale batch of mRNA vaccine substance without any help from Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech – the pharmaceutical companies with mRNA vaccines in the market. Both companies had declined calls to support the WHO-backed hub.

Spotlight on HIV: Six graphs that tell the story

Spotlight | 26 July 2022

In 2021, HIV was successfully suppressed in the bodies of around 63% of the close to eight million people living with HIV in South Africa. This is according to the latest outputs from Thembisa, the leading mathematical model of HIV in South Africa.

Study Finds Another Condition That Vitamin D Pills Do Not Help

New York Times | 26 July 2022

The idea made so much sense it was almost unquestioningly accepted: Vitamin D pills can protect bones from fractures. After all, the body needs the vitamin for the gut to absorb calcium, which bones need to grow and stay healthy. But now, in the first large randomized controlled study in the United States, funded by the federal government, researchers report that vitamin D pills taken with or without calcium have no effect on bone fracture rates. The results, published Thursday in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, hold for people with osteoporosis and even those whose blood tests deemed them vitamin D deficient.

Does the Covid vaccine really affect your period? Here's what our study found

The Guardian | 27 July 2022

In January 2021, my colleagues at the hospital were among the first to receive the Covid-19 vaccine. Comparing the side-effects afterwards, most of us had a sore arm, some of us felt feverish and generally under the weather, but one comment stood out. "My period was heavier than usual," said one of the midwives. "But that happens to me every year after we get our flu vaccines, too. It's just another of those vaccine side-effects, isn't it?"

Oldest Patient 'Cured' of HIV After Stem Cell Transplant

Health Policy Watch | 27 July 2022

A fourth person has been "cured" of HIV after receiving a stem cell transplant for leukaemia at the City of Hope Hospital in the US. The 66-year-old man, who was diagnosed with HIV in 1988, has been in remission 17 months after stopping antiretroviral therapy (ART) following a stem cell transplant for leukaemia. The City of Hope patient received the transplant nearly three and a half years ago, and is older than the three previous patients with HIV who have gone into remission after receiving stem cell treatment for a blood cancer.

African Countries Grapple with HIV Patients' Expanding Needs as Chronic Diseases Increase With Age

Health Policy Watch | 27 July 2022

South Africa is home to the biggest community of people with HIV, but more of its citizens are now dying of diabetes than HIV and the country is grappling with how to integrate treatment for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) into HIV care. This is something that all African countries with large communities of people are grappling with as the disease burden on the continent shifts from infectious diseases to NCDs and people with HIV get older and become more vulnerable to hypertension, diabetes, cancer and other NCDs.

Two HIV Patients Appear to Have Beaten Virus, Offering Hope for Cure

The Wall Street Journal | 27 July 2022

A 66-year-old man and a woman in her 70s who beat HIV will help researchers in search for cure for virus that causes AIDS

New insights into HIV latent cells yield potential cure targets

NewsWise | 27 July 2022

In a presentation today at AIDS 2022, the 24th International AIDS Conference in Montreal, scientists with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases' (NIAID) Vaccine Research Center (VRC) and their collaborators described how their use of cutting-edge technology revealed new insights into cellular reservoirs of HIV and what those observations could mean for the next steps in HIV cure research. NIAID is part of the National Institutes of Health.

Beyond the blood-brain barrier: HIV research at Texas Biomed gets NIH funding boost

NewsWise | 27 July 2022

Finding a cure for HIV has been extremely difficult, in part because the virus hides from antiretroviral treatments in one of the hardest places to reach: the brain. Scientists at Texas Biomedical Research Institute (Texas Biomed) and Temple University in Philadelphia recently received a \$3.9 million grant from National Institutes of Health (NIH) to overcome this challenge. Texas Biomed Associate Professor Binhua

“Julie” Ling, MD, PhD, and Temple University Professor Wenhui Hu, MD, PhD, will see if they can find and cut out the virus from infected brain cells using the latest gene-editing technology, CRISPR, combined with old-school virology.

UNAIDS welcomes ViiV's agreement to enable generic production of long acting PrEP to 90 countries

UNAIDS 28 July 2022

UNAIDS welcomes the agreement between ViiV and the Medicines Patent Pool to enable access to generic formulation of long acting Cabotegravir for PrEP to 90 low- and lower-middle income countries. UNAIDS Deputy Executive a.i. Dr Matthew Kavanagh said:

“UNAIDS applauds this decision by ViiV, and congratulates the Medicines Patent Pool for securing this agreement. Supporting the production of affordable generic CAB-LA could keep millions of people safe from HIV. Some pharmaceutical companies have claimed that technology sharing undermines the development of technology—but this licensing deal proves that companies can share and prosper. Progress in the global HIV response is slowing, and in too many countries we are even seeing rising infections. The 2025 targets are in danger, and only bold actions can enable the curve of new infections to be pulled down. We cannot afford to wait for new technologies to be deployed. Further action is essential to ensure that the potential that this announcement brings is fully realised.”

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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.

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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.

UNICEF South Africa COVID-19 Situation Report No. 21: May - June 2022

UNICEF has continued to scale up its financial and technical support in the rollout of COVID-19 vaccinations following new funding. The support includes direct cold chain technical support embedded at National and Provincial level to the National Department of Health (NDoH) and through Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) including social listening, data and evidence collection, community mobilisation and engagement. As a result of the support, the national vaccination rate has now topped 50% of the adult population, but variations (due to the tiered vaccine rollout and comparatively low levels of vaccine demand amongst youth) exist, from 37% of youth (18 – 34 years old) vaccinated, to almost 70% of the 60+ cohort.

Guiding Principles for Children on the Move in the Context of Climate Change

Unicef | July 2022

There is currently no global policy framework for addressing the needs and rights of children moving in the context of climate change. Where child-related migration policies do exist, they do not consider climate and environmental factors, and where climate change policies exist they usually overlook children's needs. The Guiding Principles have been developed to safeguard the rights and well-being of children moving in the context of climate change, and are as follows:

Principle 1: Rights-based approach

Principle 2: Best interests of the child

Principle 3: Accountability

Principle 4: Awareness and participation in decision-making

Principle 5: Family unity

Principle 6: Protection, safety and security

Principle 7: Access to education, health care and social services

Principle 8: Non-discrimination

Principle 9: Nationality

These Guiding Principles are intended to be used by local and national governments, international organizations and civil society groups working with children on the move in the context of climate change. They are based on existing international law as well as operational guidelines or frameworks which have been developed by a variety of stakeholders. The Principles are derived from the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and do not create new international legal obligations.

Priorities for antiretroviral drug optimization in adults and children report of a CADO, PADO and HIVResNet joint meeting

WHO | 25 July 2022

The CADO-4 and the PADO-5 meetings were held virtually between September and October 2021 to promote alignment and synergy across these two expert groups and to develop a shared vision for the future of HIV treatment optimization. Recognizing the critical role of HIV drug resistance in the ART drug optimization framework and the impact of drug resistance on ARV drug regimen durability and sequencing in the context of current and future options for second- and third-line therapy, the HIV Drug Resistance Network (HIVResNet) was also convened during the same period. This strategic alignment enabled HIVResNet to provide relevant input to the CADO-4 and PADO-5 priority-setting processes and to address drug resistance implications in the selection of new ART strategies, the alignment of drug regimens for HIV treatment and prevention and the impact of new ARV drugs on viral load suppression among pregnant women and the future role of postnatal prophylaxis. This joint report summarizes the key discussions and conclusions of CADO-4, PADO-5 and WHO HIVResNet meetings.

Full report — In Danger: UNAIDS Global AIDS Update 2022

UNAIDS | 27 July 2022

Progress in prevention and treatment is faltering around the world, putting millions of people in grave

danger. Eastern Europe and central Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East and North Africa have all seen increases in annual HIV infections over several years. In Asia and the Pacific, UNAIDS data now show new HIV infections are rising where they had been falling. Action to tackle the inequalities driving AIDS is urgently required to prevent millions of new HIV infections this decade and to end the AIDS pandemic.

Explore CDC's Role in Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

As the U.S. continues to respond to COVID-19, increased investments in the Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. (EHE) initiative are vital to regain momentum, advance innovation, and achieve health equity. The EHE initiative is scaling up four science-based strategies that can end the epidemic: Diagnose, Treat, Prevent, and Respond. For maximum impact, CDC is continuing to invest in communities most affected by HIV — to help local HIV programs recover, rebuild, and begin to expand EHE strategies in the wake of COVID-19.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

The 24th International AIDS Conference

Date: 29 July – 2 August

Venue: Montreal, Canada, and virtually

“As the global community gathers for #AIDS2022, we must all keep our eyes on our shared #EndAIDS2030 goal! We are closer than ever to controlling and ultimately ending the #HIV pandemic – the months and years ahead will be decisive.” – PEPFAR

Read more on the conference: <https://www.aids2022.org/>

PHASA (Public Health Association of South Africa) 17th 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

HST has no vacancies at this time.

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