



# HEALTH SYSTEMS TRUST BULLETIN

29 October 2010

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## Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

### **Young and vulnerable: Spatial-temporal trends and risk factors for infant mortality in rural South Africa (Agincourt), 1992-2007**

Sartorius BK, Kahn K, Vounatsou P, Collinson MA, Tollman SM. *BMC Public Health*. 2010, 10:645. Published: 26 October 2010.

Infant mortality is an important indicator of population health in a country. It is associated with several health determinants, such as maternal health, access to high-quality health care, socioeconomic conditions, and public health policy and practices. A spatial-temporal analysis was performed to assess changes in infant mortality patterns between 1992-2007 and to identify factors associated with infant mortality risk in the Agincourt sub-district, rural northeast South Africa....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/10/645/abstract> [Accessed: 26 October 2010]

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### **The willingness of private-sector doctors to manage public-sector HIV/AIDS patients in the eThekweni metropolitan region of KwaZulu-Natal**

Naidoo P, Jinabhai CC, Taylor M. *Afr J Prm Health Care Fam Med*. 2010;2(1).

South Africa is severely affected by the AIDS pandemic and this has resulted in an already under-resourced public sector being placed under further stress, while there remains a vibrant private sector. To address some of the resource and personnel shortages facing the public sector in South Africa, partnerships between the public and private sectors are slowly being forged. However, little is known about the willingness of private-sector doctors in the eThekweni Metropolitan (Metro) region of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa to manage public-sector HIV and AIDS patients...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.phcfm.org/index.php/phcfm/article/view/109> [Accessed: 26 October 2010]

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### **Home self-testing for HIV/AIDS exceptionalism gone wrong**

Richter M, Venter WD, Gray A. *S Afr Med J*. October 2010; 100 (10): 636-642.

Self-tests for HIV in South Africa are currently unregulated. Gaps in law and policy have created a legal loophole where such tests could effectively be sold in supermarkets, but not in pharmacies. At the same time, South Africa lacks an effective regulating mechanism for diagnostic tests, which brings the quality and reliability of all self-tests into question. The authors argue for greater access to, and availability of, quality HIV self-tests. This strategy will encourage regular HIV testing, allay fears about stigma and confidentiality when testing in public facilities, and decrease the costs associated with traditional voluntary counselling and testing, and is likely to lead to earlier diagnosis and treatment of HIV....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.sami.org.za/index.php/sami/article/viewFile/4198/2959> [Accessed: 26 October 2010]

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### **Intensive tuberculosis screening for HIV-infected patients starting antiretroviral therapy in Durban, South Africa.**

*Bassett IV, Wang B, Chetty S, Giddy J, Losina E, Mazibuko M, et al. Clin Infect Dis. 2010; 1;51(7):823-9.*

The World Health Organization recommends cough as the trigger for tuberculosis screening in human immunodeficiency virus - infected patients, with acid-fast bacillus smear as the initial diagnostic test. Our objective was to assess the yield and cost of a more intensive tuberculosis screening in HIV-infected patients starting antiretroviral therapy in Durban, South Africa....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20735240> [Accessed: 27 October 2010]

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### **Health services strengthening in Africa – research is a key component**

*Jaffar S, Lazarus JV, Onyebujoh P, Chakaya J, Garrib A, Mwaba P, et al. Trop Med Int Health. 2010; 15: 1270-1273..*

Sub-Saharan Africa faces huge challenges in tackling high burden diseases. It has the weakest health systems and the highest disease burden. Given current resource constraints, there is an urgent need to invest more in research to maximise the impact of health interventions. A vastly improved evidence base is needed on how to implement and scale-up interventions of proven efficacy and how to deliver health services more effectively within the current infrastructure, i.e. to optimise existing health service delivery.....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-3156.2010.02626.x/pdf>

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## **Recent News**

### **Extra R1.5bn to combat HIV/AIDS**

*South Africa.info. Published: 27 October 2010*

South Africa is to spend an extra R1.5-billion on HIV/Aids prevention programmes over the next three years, says Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan. R100-million of this will be spent this year, bringing the total HIV/Aids and sexually transmitted diseases budget for 2010/11 to R6.6-billion. Presenting his medium-term budget policy statement to Parliament in Cape Town, Gordhan said the State's free antiretroviral programmes was adding around 300 000 new entrants each year, and that this was expected to increase to 400 000 new entrants a year over the next three years... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.southafrica.info/about/health/minibudget2010c.htm>

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### **Better management of hospitals crucial for NHI**

*Health-e. Published: 22 October 2010.*

The Junior Doctors Association of South Africa argues that the ills that afflict the country's public health system are largely the result of poor management. With the National Health Insurance scheme, the quality of people appointed to manage hospitals will determine the success or failure of the system.... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20032985> [Accessed: 26 October 2010]

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### **Business to boost funding, monitoring of national VCT campaign**

*PlusNews. 19 October 2010.*

South African business leaders have banded together to introduce new ways to finance and monitor the world's most ambitious national HIV testing campaign. Since the April 2010 launch of the campaign, which aims to test 15 million people over 12 months, about 2.8 million people have answered the call to be tested for HIV. In response to the call for better monitoring and evaluation (M&E), the South African Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS (SABCOHA) has launched an online reporting tool, Bizwell, geared at private sector providers of voluntary HIV testing and counselling (VCT) services.....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=90818> [Accessed: 28 October 2010]

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### **Minister suggests watchdog to regulate NHI compliance**

*Health-e. Published: 18 October 2010.*

Health Minister, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, says he plans to appoint a regulatory body that will ensure that hospitals

comply with set requirements to be accredited as suitable facilities under the proposed National Health Insurance system. Minister, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, says he envisages a system where hospitals will have to pass a number of tests before they can be passed as being ready to provide services under the National Health Insurance system. He says this can be done through the appointment of a standards regulatory body to monitor that hospitals satisfy criteria that has been set as requirements for NHI approval...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20032976> (Accessed: 26 October 2010)

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## Training and Resources

### Best Practices in Global Health Award

*Closing Date: 15 February 2011*

The Best Practices in Global Health Award is given annually by the Global Health Council to celebrate and highlight the efforts of a public health practitioner or organisation dedicated to improving the health of disadvantaged and disenfranchised populations, and to recognise the programmes that effectively demonstrate the link between health, poverty, and development. The person or organisation selected for this award must be able to demonstrate the success of the programme(s) and measurable results in the field, as well as possess the ability and expertise to share, inspire, and extend best practices for improving health.

For more information and to submit entries:

<http://www.ngopulse.org/opportunity/best-practices-global-health-award-0>

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### Health and Human Rights - Call for submissions

Disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, civil war, and other sudden large-scale calamities often trigger health crises and can result in responses that compromise and even devalue the fulfillment of human rights. For this issue, we invite submissions that explore the human rights and health aspects of disaster relief preparation, management, and outcomes..

For more information: <http://www.hhrjournal.org/submissions.php>

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## Reports and Publications

### Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health

*United Nations*

The "Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health" sets out the key areas where action is urgently required to enhance financing, strengthen policy and improve service delivery. These include: support to country-led health plans, supported by and life-saving interventions – so women and their children can access prevention, treatment and care when and where they need it; stronger health systems, with sufficient skilled health workers at their core and innovative approaches to financing, product development and the efficient delivery of health services. [Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: [http://www.un.org/sg/hf/Global\\_StrategyEN.pdf](http://www.un.org/sg/hf/Global_StrategyEN.pdf) (Approximately: 507 KB)

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### Communications Handbook for Clinical Trials

*Family Health International*

This handbook is designed to serve the needs of anyone who conducts, plans, or implements clinical trials especially trials that evaluate new drugs or interventions in a community setting. We want to make your job easier, whether you are a researcher, a study co-ordinator, or a communications professional. Writing this handbook, we have prioritised the needs and perspectives of individuals operating at a site level, those actually living and working in the community where the trial is conducted. The handbook will also be useful to people who provide communications support at the trial network or headquarters level. In addition, public health advocates and other partners planning to work or currently working with clinical trials may also find the handbook valuable. [Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: <http://www.mmci-communications.org/resources/communications-handbook-for-clinical-trials> (Free download)

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## Conferences

### 3rd HIV and AIDS in the Workplace Research Conference

*9-11 November 2010, Gallagher Estate, Midrand*

URL: [http://www.sabcoha.org/conference/index.php?option=com\\_frontpage&Itemid=1](http://www.sabcoha.org/conference/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1)

The conference, which has already received huge interest from beyond South Africa's borders, will, for the first time, reflect on the intersection of workplace HIV responses, academic research and surveillance, with a particular focus on strengthening prevention interventions in the fight against HIV and AIDS in Africa and linking prevention research to workplace practice..

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## Job Opportunities

### Senior Programme Manager

*Health Systems Trust*

*Closing date: 5 November 2010*

Health Systems Trust is a not-for-profit organisation (NPO) supporting the development of an equitable and comprehensive health system for the provision of quality health care in South and southern Africa. We have a vacancy in the organisation for a Public Health Specialist to take up the position of Senior Programme Manager: Health Systems Strengthening. This is a one year contract position which is renewable based on funding and performance. The successful candidate will manage, assure quality and provide technical leadership in the health systems strengthening (HSS) projects in line with the organisations goal of contributing to building equitable, effective and efficient national health systems in South Africa and the region, through the development and maintenance of functional districts.

For more information: <http://www.hst.org.za/news/20042006>

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### Vacancies within the University of the Western Cape

*Closing date: 29 October 2010*

#### Professor

*School of Public Health*

The successful candidate will work with a strong multi-disciplinary team of academics, and be expected to provide academic leadership in the School and the University through demonstrating and fostering excellence in research, teaching, service development and related professional activities. S/he will play a central role in the School's postgraduate and short-course programmes, including Master's, Doctoral and Postdoctoral supervision, and in leading and developing existing and new research areas in the School.

#### Professor/Associate Professor/ Senior Lecturer

*School of Nursing*

The successful candidate will be expected to: provide academic and administrative leadership, initiate and lead research, attract funding, participate in strategic planning, teach at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The following will be added advantages: current knowledge and experience pertaining to postgraduate Nursing Education, qualifications and experience in Advanced Midwifery or Neonatal Care.

Forward applications to: Mr Jason Fortuin, Human Resources Department, University of the Western Cape, Private Bag X17, Bellville 7535

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### 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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