

HST Bulletin



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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

The US President's Malaria Initiative and under-5 child mortality in sub-Saharan Africa: A difference-in-differences analysis

PlosOne | Published: 13 June 2017.

Aleksandra Jakubowski, Sally C Stearns, Margaret E Kruk, Gustavo Angeles, Harsha Thirumurthy

Despite substantial financial contributions by the United States President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) since 2006, no studies have carefully assessed how this program may have affected important population-level health outcomes. We utilized multiple publicly available data sources to evaluate the association between introduction of PMI and child mortality rates in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

What Influences Linkage to Care after Home-Based HIV Counselling and Testing?

Aids and Behaviour | Published: 22 June 2017.

Reshma Naik, Wanga Zembe, Fatima Adigun, Elizabeth Jackson, Hanani Tabana, Debra Jackson, Frank Feeley, Tanya Doherty

To maximize the benefits of test and treat strategies that utilize community-based HIV testing, clients who test positive must link to care in a timely manner. However, linkage rates across the HIV treatment cascade are typically low and little is known about what might facilitate or hinder care-seeking behaviour. This qualitative study was conducted within a home-based HIV counselling and testing (HBHCT) intervention in South Africa. In-depth interviews were conducted with 30 HBHCT clients who tested HIV positive to explore what influenced their care-seeking behaviour.

A paradigm shift for socioeconomic justice and health: from focusing on inequalities to aiming at sustainable equity

Public Health | Published: 20 June 2017.

Juan E Garay, David E Chiriboga

The objective of this study was to measure the 'best possible health for all', incorporating sustainability,

and to establish the magnitude of global health inequity. We identified countries with three criteria: (1) a healthy population—life expectancy above world average; (2) living conditions feasible to replicate worldwide—per-capita gross domestic product (GDP-pc) below the world average; and (3) sustainability—per-capita carbon dioxide emissions lower than the planetary pollution boundary. Using these healthy, feasible, and sustainable (HFS) countries as the gold standard, we estimated the burden of global health inequity (BGHiE) in terms of excess deaths, analysing time-trends (1950–2012) by age, sex, and geographic location. Finally, we defined a global income ‘equity zone’ and quantified the economic gap needed to achieve global sustainable health equity.

Effectiveness of an Integrated Approach to HIV and Hypertension Care in Rural South Africa: Controlled Interrupted Time-Series Analysis

Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes | Published: 1 August 2017.

Soter Ameh, Kerstin Klipstein-Grobusch, Eustasius Musenge, Kathleen Kahn, Stephen Tollman, Francesc Xavier Gómez-Olivé

South Africa faces a dual burden of HIV/AIDS and noncommunicable diseases. In 2011, a pilot integrated chronic disease management (ICDM) model was introduced by the National Health Department into selected primary health care (PHC) facilities. The objective of this study was to assess the effectiveness of the ICDM model in controlling patients' CD4 counts (>350 cells/mm³) and blood pressure [BP (<140/90 mm Hg)] in PHC facilities in the Bushbuckridge municipality, South Africa.

Integration of sexually transmitted infection (STI) services into HIV care and treatment services for women living with HIV: a systematic review

British Medical Journal | Published: 21 June 2017.

Caitlin E Kennedy, Sabina A Haberlen, Manjulaa Narasimhan

This study aimed to review and critically appraise the existing evidence on integration of sexually transmitted infection (STI) services into HIV care and treatment services for women living with HIV.

Real-time monitoring through the use of technology to enhance performances throughout HIV cascades.

Current Opinion in HIV and AIDS | Published: 23 June 2017.

Matthew Avery, Stephen J Mills, Eric Stephan

Controlling the HIV epidemic requires strong linkages across a 'cascade' of prevention, testing, and treatment services. Information and communications technology (ICT) offers the potential to monitor and improve the performance of this HIV cascade in real time. We assessed recent (<18 months) peer-reviewed publications regarding uses of ICT to improve performance through expanded and targeted reach, improved clinical service delivery, and reduced loss to follow-up.

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RECENT NEWS

How the NHI white paper ignores the economic downturn

BD Live | 30 June 2017.

Economist warns on the use of 2010 figures in official government documents despite much-touted policy developments

Recession, ratings downgrade could sink SA's spiralling health system

Bhekisisa | 19 June 2017.

Experts warn state health clinics and hospitals are likely to further deteriorate as the public purse shrinks

WHO sets stage of for global ministerial TB conference, seeks input on declaration

Science Speaks | 21 June 2017.

When ministers of health and leaders of other government offices and agencies worldwide gather in Moscow this November for a Global Ministerial Conference on Ending TB, they will face the task of

agreeing to make enough changes to what they are doing now to pull goals of ending the impact of the world's leading infectious disease killer into reach.

Cholesterol-lowering vaccine jab to stop heart attacks could be close

The Guardian | 20 June 2017.

Vaccine to be trialled by humans could be effective alternative to statins

Cancer treatment in the public sector 'in crisis'?

Health-E News | 26 June 2017.

Activists say the recent break-down of cancer services in KwaZulu-Natal is indicative of a broader problem in SA.

Open, free access to health evidence: a new precedent for Africa

The Conversation | 25 June 2017.

One of the SAMRC units, Cochrane South Africa, has procured a national licence that provides "one-click" access to the Cochrane Library for everyone in South Africa. This will provide fair, equal – and free – access to evidence-based Cochrane Reviews for all.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Health Systems Trust Website

Health Systems Trust | June 2017.

Health Systems Trust's new website was launched this week. Containing rich resources from HST's own work and gathered from other organisations, the website provides reliable information for anyone working in the public health sector.

PhD Bursaries for Researching Obesogenic Food Environments in South Africa

Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies

Two PhD bursaries are available as part of the IDRC-funded project "Researching Obesogenic Food Environments", which is led by Profs David Sanders and Rina Swart at the UWC School of Public Health in partnership with the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS) and with Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Ghana.

Contact details for submission of applications and for enquiries: florian@plaas.org.za

Good Practice Guide: Adolescent HIV Programming

AIDS Alliance | 15 May 2017.

This guide is one of a series of good practice guides, and contains information, strategies and resources to help HIV programmers implement HIV programming for adolescents.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

The importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights to prevent HIV in adolescent girls and young women in eastern and southern Africa: Evidence Brief

World Health Organisation | 2017.

Over the last several years, countries in the eastern and southern Africa (ESA) region have made significant and commendable progress in preventing mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV and in scaling up HIV treatment efforts. However, despite these gains, there have been no significant reductions in new HIV infections and the region continues to be the hardest hit by the epidemic, highlighting the need to place stronger emphasis on HIV prevention.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

12th Population Association of Southern Africa Conference

12-14 July 2017

Pretoria, South Africa

Rural Health Conference 2017

22-25 September 2017

Taug Hotel School & Convention Centre, North West, South Africa

ICASA 2017: 19th International Conference on AIDS and STDs in Africa

4-9 December 2017

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Health Systems Trust: Females Rising through Education, Support and Health (FRESH) Research Nurse

Closing Date: 30 June 2017

Health Systems Trust: Lay Counsellor

Closing Date: 10 July 2017

Health Systems Trust: District Coordinator

Closing Date: 10 July 2017

Health Systems Trust: Data Capturers

Closing Date: 10 July 2017

Health Systems Trust: Nurse Clinicians

Closing Date: 10 July 2017

Health Systems Trust: Clinical Technical Advisor

Closing Date: 12 July 2017



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