

HST Bulletin



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HST IN THE NEWS

South African Health Review (SAHR) 2019

Health Systems Trust | Published: 27 January 2020.

Moeti T, Padarath A (Eds.)

The purpose of the SAHR has always been to analyse and assess progress and challenges in key areas of the health system, and to propose recommendations for improvement. We are pleased to continue this tradition in the 2019 edition, which presents a unique collection of perspectives on the key challenges in implementing universal health coverage (UHC) in South Africa, as analysed by experts in various fields. Each of the 20 chapters deals with aspects of the UHC journey, dedicated towards an equitable and inclusive national health system that leaves no-one behind. While some authors describe the fundamental changes and practical considerations required to reconfigure the country's health system, others have reflected on specific programmatic areas and have made recommendations from a National Health Insurance (NHI)/UHC lens.

Curious about what the National Health Insurance will cover? Then you'll want to read this

Bhekisisa | 30 January 2020.

What will the National Health Insurance pay for? It's the question on everyone's mind when it comes to the move set to redefine how healthcare is financed and managed in South Africa. We give you a behind-the-scenes look at the development of a framework that will help guide policies in this edited extract from the Health Systems Trust's latest Health Review.

How the NHI will change the way healthcare is bought, sold and managed

Bhekisisa | 27 January 2020.

Think you know what the National Health Insurance is all about? Diane McIntyre is one of South Africa's leading health economists and contributed to policy proposals for an NHI in the country. She explains how the NHI may change how healthcare is funded and delivered in South Africa in this edited extract from the Health Systems Trust's latest edition of its annual South African Health Review.

SAHR 2019: The relationship between South Africa's youth and healthcare

Health-e News | 27 January 2020.

Young people make up about a third of the country's population, but healthcare services are not designed for their needs.

Smokers and drinkers may cough up more to fund NHI

Times Live | 29 January 2020.

With many South Africans still in the dark about how the financing of the proposed National Health Insurance (NHI) will affect their pockets, smokers and drinkers should mentally prepare themselves since they could feel the pinch most.

Water issues raise concern at Limpopo hospital

Health-e News | 29 January 2020.

Water shortages and restrictions are some of the issues that impact the quality of care at Kgapane Hospital in Limpopo.

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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Public health system challenges in the Free State, South Africa: a situation appraisal to inform health system strengthening

BMC Health Services Research | Published: 23 January 2020.

B Malakoane, J C Heunis, P Chikobvu, N G Kigozi, W H Kruger

Since the advent of democracy, the South African government has been putting charters, policies, strategies and plans in place in an effort to strengthen public health system performance and enhance service delivery. However, public health programme performance and outcomes remained poor while the burden of disease increased. This was also the case in the Free State Province, where major public health system challenges occurred around 2012. Assessment was necessary in order to inform health system strengthening.

Social engagement pattern, health behaviors and subjective well-being of older adults: an international perspective using WHO-SAGE survey data

BMC Public Health | Published: 23 January 2020.

Mengyun Luo, Ding Ding, Adrian Bauman, Joel Negin, Philayrath Phongsavan

Social engagement forms the basis of social relationships by providing a sense of belonging, social identity, and fulfillment. Previous research demonstrates that social engagement was associated with positive health behaviors among older adults. However, the results have been different across health-related behaviors, and mostly based on data from high-income countries. For example, studies from the US and UK showed that social engagement was protective against smoking, while others found social engagement encouraged more smoking in many Asian cultures. In this study, we aim to examine the association between social engagement and a range of health-related behaviors and subjective well-being among older adults in six low- to middle-income countries.

The impact of differing frames on early stages of intersectoral collaboration: the case of the First 1000 Days Initiative in the Western Cape Province

BMC Health Research Policy and Systems | Published: 9 January 2020.

Ida Okeyo, Uta Lehmann & Helen Schneider

While intersectoral collaboration is considered valuable and important for achieving health outcomes, there are few examples of successes. The literature on intersectoral collaboration suggests that success relies on a shared understanding of what can be achieved collectively and whether stakeholders can agree on mutual goals or acceptable trade-offs. When health systems are faced with negotiating intersectoral responses to complex issues, achieving consensus across sectors can be a challenging and uncertain process. Stakeholders may present divergent framings of the problem based on their disciplinary background, interests and institutional mandates. This raises an important question about how different frames of problems and solutions affect the potential to work across sectors during the initiating phases of the policy process.

The short-term effects of the implementation of the "Treat All" guidelines on ART service delivery costs in Namibia

PlosOne | Published: 21 January 2020.

Carl Schutte, Steven Forsythe, Johnface Fedes Mdala, Brady Zieman, Rachael Linder, Lung Vu

The introduction of "Treat All" (TA) has been promoted to increase the effectiveness of HIV/AIDS treatment by having patients initiate antiretroviral therapy at an earlier stage of their illness. The impact of introducing TA on the unit cost of treatment has been less clear. The following study evaluated how costs changed after Namibia's introduction of TA in April 2017. A two-year analysis assessed the costs of antiretroviral therapy (ART) during the 12 months before TA (Phase I–April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017) and the 12 months following (Phase II–April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018). The analysis involved interviewing staff at ten facilities throughout Namibia, collecting data on resources utilized in the treatment of ART patients and analyzing how costs changed before and after the introduction of TA.

Service delivery interventions to increase uptake of voluntary medical male circumcision for HIV prevention: A systematic review

PlosOne | Published: 13 January 2020.

Kaitlyn Atkins, Ping Teresa Yeh, Caitlin E Kennedy, Virginia A Fonner, Michael D Sweat, Kevin R O'Reilly, Rachel Baggaley, et al

Voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) remains an essential component of combination HIV prevention services, particularly in priority countries in sub-Saharan Africa. As VMMC programs seek to maximize impact and efficiency, and to support World Health Organization guidance, specific uptake-enhancing strategies are critical to identify.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Children's health in 2020: Top 10 issues to watch

Spotlight | 23 January 2020.

With little progress being made in certain areas of child, adolescent and maternal health, Kathryn Cleary spoke to the experts to outline the top 10 issues to watch for the new year and the new decade.

In coronavirus response, AI is becoming a useful tool in a global outbreak, data experts say

STAT | 29 January 2020.

Artificial intelligence is not going to stop the new coronavirus or replace the role of expert epidemiologists. But for the first time in a global outbreak, it is becoming a useful tool in efforts to monitor and respond to the crisis, according to health data specialists.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) technical guidance

World Health Organisation | January 2020.

On 31 December 2019, WHO was alerted to several cases of pneumonia in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China. The virus did not match any other known virus. This raised concern because when a virus is new, we do not know how it affects people. One week later, on 7 January, Chinese authorities confirmed that they had identified a new virus. The new virus is a coronavirus, which is a family of viruses that include the common cold, and viruses such as SARS and MERS. This new virus was temporarily named "2019-nCoV." The World Health Organisation has released a number of guidelines aimed at preventing the spread and proliferation of the virus.

President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Interactive Database

PEPFAR | 29 January 2020.

FDA launches mobile-friendly database with information on life-saving HIV drugs as part of ongoing mission to empower the public through increased access to information and data. As of January 29, 2020,

with support from the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and Special Representative for Global Health Diplomacy, Ambassador Deborah L. Birx, FDA launched a new interactive PEPFAR database that provides information to the public about antiretroviral (ARV) drugs tentatively approved or approved that are eligible for procurement under PEPFAR.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Virology Africa

10-14 February 2020

Radisson Blu Hotel V&A Waterfront, Cape Town, South Africa

International Workshop on Clinical Pharmacology of HIV, Hepatitis and Other Antiviral Drugs

11-13 May 2020

New York, USA

International Forum on Quality and Safety in Healthcare

4-5 July 2020

New Delhi, India

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Health Systems Trust: Differentiated Care Co-ordinator

Closing Date: 5 February 2020

Health Systems Trust: Pharmacist

Closing Date: 5 February 2020

Health Systems Trust: Area Co-ordinator

Closing Date: 14 February 2020

Health Systems Trust: Post-Basic Pharmacist Assistants

Closing Date: 14 February 2020

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