

HST Bulletin



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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Exploring how different modes of governance act across health system levels to influence primary healthcare facility managers' use of information in decision-making: experience from Cape Town, South Africa

BioMed Central | Published: 15 September 2017.

Vera Scott, Lucy Gilson

Governance, which includes decision-making at all levels of the health system, and information have been identified as key, interacting levers of health system strengthening. However there is an extensive literature detailing the challenges of supporting health managers to use formal information from health information systems (HISs) in their decision-making. While health information needs differ across levels of the health system there has been surprisingly little empirical work considering what information is actually used by primary healthcare facility managers in managing, and making decisions about, service delivery. This paper, therefore, specifically examines experience from Cape Town, South Africa, asking the question: How is primary healthcare facility managers' use of information for decision-making influenced by governance across levels of the health system?

Tuberculosis, human rights and ethics considerations along the route of a highly vulnerable migrant from sub-Saharan Africa to Europe

The International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease | Published: 1 October 2017.

V Wild, D Jaff, N Shah, M Frick

Migrant health is a critical public health issue, and in many countries attention to this topic has focused on the link between migration and communicable diseases, including tuberculosis (TB). When creating public health policies to address the complex challenges posed by TB and migration, countries should focus these policies on evidence, ethics, and human rights. This paper traces a commonly used migration route from sub-Saharan Africa to Europe, identifying situations at each stage in which human rights and ethical values might be affected in relation to TB care. This illustration provides the basis for discussing TB and migration from the perspective of human rights, with a focus on the right to health.

"I think it is right": a qualitative exploration of the acceptability and desired future

use of oral swab and finger-prick HIV self-tests by lay users in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

BioMed Central | Published: 18 September 2017.

Lucia Knight, Tawanda Makusha, Jeanette Lim, Roger Peck, Miriam Taegtmeier and Heidi van Rooyen

The uptake of HIV testing has increased in sub-Saharan Africa over the past three decades. However, the proportion of people aware of their HIV status remains lower than required to change the pandemic. HIV self-testing (HIVST) may meet this gap. Assessment of readiness for and the acceptability of HIVST by lay users in South Africa is limited. This paper presents results from a formative study designed to assess the perceived usability and acceptability of HIVST among lay users using several self-test prototypes.

High mortality rates in men initiated on anti-retroviral treatment in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

PlosOne | Published: 13 September 2017.

Kogieleum Naidoo, Razia Hassan-Moosa, Nonhlanhla Yende-Zuma, Dhineshree Govender, Nesri Padayatchi, Halima Dawood, Rochelle Nicola Adams, Aveshen Govender, et al

In attaining UNAIDS targets of 90-90-90 to achieve epidemic control, understanding who the current utilizers of HIV treatment services are will inform efforts aimed at reaching those not being reached. A retrospective chart review of CAPRISA AIDS Treatment Program (CAT) patients between 2004 and 2013 was undertaken. Men presented later in the course of their HIV disease for ART initiation with more advanced disease and experienced a higher mortality rate compared to women.

An implementation science protocol of the Women's Health CoOp in healthcare settings in Cape Town, South Africa: A stepped-wedge design

BioMed Central | Published: 18 September 2017.

Wendee M Wechsberg, Jacqueline W Ndirangu, Ilene S Speizer, William A Zule, Winnifred Gumula, Courtney Peasant, Felicia A Browne, Laura Dunlap

In response to the HIV epidemic, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS has put forth the 90-90-90 global goals to achieve an AIDS-free generation by 2020. Ensuring access to ART is an important first step in reducing HIV incidence, especially among vulnerable populations such as women who use substances and bear the burden of HIV in South Africa. Additionally, alcohol and other drug (AOD) use and exposure to gender-based violence are associated with increased risk of HIV infection and reduced adherence to ART. However, no research has estimated ART adherence rates for women who use substances in South Africa since the government approved the provision of ART to all people living with HIV.

Improving HIV test uptake and case finding with assisted partner notification services

AIDS | Published: 24 August 2017.

Shona Dalal, Cheryl Johnson, Virginia Fonner, Caitlin Kennedy, Nandi Siegfried, Carmen Figueroa, Rachela Baggaley

Despite the enormous expansion of HIV testing services (HTS), an estimated 40% of people with HIV infection remain undiagnosed. To enhance the efficiency of HTS, new approaches are needed. The WHO conducted a systematic review on the effectiveness of assisted partner notification in improving HIV test uptake and diagnosis, and the occurrence of adverse events, to inform the development of normative guidelines.

Young women's perceptions of transactional sex and sexual agency: a qualitative study in the context of rural South Africa

BioMed Central | Published: 22 August 2017.

Meghna Ranganathan, Catherine MacPhail, Audrey Pettifor, Kathleen Kahn, Nomhle Khoza, Rhian Twine, Charlotte Watts, Lori Heise

Evidence shows that HIV prevalence among young women in sub-Saharan Africa increases almost five-fold between ages 15 and 24, with almost a quarter of young women infected by their early-to mid-20s. Transactional sex or material exchange for sex is a relationship dynamic that has been shown to have an association with HIV infection.

Leadership and governance of community health worker programmes at scale: a cross case analysis of provincial implementation in South Africa

BioMed Central | Published: 15 September 2017.

Helen Schneider, Nonhlanhla Nxumalo

National community health worker (CHW) programmes are returning to favour as an integral part of primary health care systems, often on the back of pre-existing community based initiatives. There are significant challenges to the integration and support of such programmes, and they require coordination and stewardship at all levels of the health system. This paper explores the leadership and governance tasks of large-scale CHW programmes at sub-national level, through the case of national reforms to South Africa's community based sector, referred to as the Ward Based Outreach Team (WBOT) strategy.

Pandemics, public health emergencies and antimicrobial resistance - putting the threat in an epidemiologic and risk analysis context

Archives of Public Health | Published: 14 September 2017.

C Raina MacIntyre, Chau Minh Bui

Public health messaging about antimicrobial resistance (AMR) sometimes conveys the problem as an epidemic. We outline why AMR is a serious endemic problem manifested in hospital and community-acquired infections. AMR is not an epidemic condition, but may complicate epidemics, which are characterised by sudden societal impact due to rapid rise in cases over a short timescale.

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RECENT NEWS

Why the path to longer and healthier lives for all Africans is within reach

The Conversation | 13 September 2017.

There is huge diversity within and across the 49 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The challenges these countries face in achieving health outcomes that are at par with low and middle income countries in other regions of the world are numerous and diverse. But they are not insuperable.

A 10% cut in funding could mean 5.6-million people dead from AIDS by 2030

BD Live | 13 September 2017.

Potential cuts to foreign aid threaten the world's chances of ending poverty and eradicating diseases by 2030, with particularly dire consequences for Africa's HIV/AIDS efforts, Microsoft founder Bill Gates has warned ahead of the upcoming UN General Assembly in New York.

HIV drug to be more affordable in SA

Times Live | 22 September 2017.

A state-of-the art HIV pill containing Dolutegravir, already widely used in rich countries, is set to become more quickly available at an affordable price in SA, thanks to an agreement announced by UNAIDS in New York on [21 September].

Stigma keeps women from seeking counselling before abortion

Health-E News | 21 September 2017.

When Maria terminated her pregnancy in 2007 she had no idea how it would continue to haunt her.

Would you or wouldn't you? South Africans dish about the DIY HIV test

Bhekisisa | 13 September 2017.

South Africa is one of about three dozen countries that supports HIV self-testing, but will it catch on? Here's what people who live here had to say.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

HIV Testing Services Guidance Database

AIDSFree

Globally, 50 percent of people living with HIV are unaware that they are HIV-positive. The first step in UNAIDS' 90-90-90 Strategy to end the HIV epidemic is for 90 percent of PLHIV to know their status. In light of WHO's 2015 HIV testing guidance, the AIDSFree HTS Guidance Database provides national

guidelines and policies on HIV testing services from many priority countries around the world on consent and confidentiality, testing algorithms and strategies, use of mandatory testing, self-testing, and quality assurance and quality improvement.

The HTS Guidance Database is organized by country and category. Once you click through to the specific country page of interest, you can view the guidance on any device, download or e-mail a summary of the guidance, or view the original country guidance documents.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision for HIV Prevention in 14 Priority Countries in Eastern and Southern Africa

World Health Organisation | 2017.

A Progress Brief outlining key highlights of the VMMC (Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision) intervention in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Noncommunicable Diseases Progress Monitor 2017

World Health Organisation | 18 September 2017.

Governments must step up efforts to control noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) to meet globally agreed targets, including preventing the premature deaths of millions of people from these conditions, according to a new WHO report released on [18 September 2017].

Treat All: Policy Adoption and Implementation Status in Countries

World Health Organisation | July 2017.

With the 2016 Consolidated guidelines on the use of antiretroviral drugs for treating and preventing HIV infection, WHO updated and launched new policy recommendations on the clinical and service delivery aspects of HIV treatment and care, and raised the bar to treat all PLHIV (Treat All). WHO has worked with countries to ensure uptake and implementation of these recommendations in support of the to the 90-90-90 target.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

2017 International Population Conference

29 October - 4 November 2017

Cape Town, South Africa

The Global Health & Innovation Conference

14-15 April 2018

Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, USA

The 32nd International Congress on Occupational Health

29 April – 4 May 2018

The Convention Centre Dublin, Ireland

Health Systems Trust Conference 2017

9-11 May 2018

Birchwood Conference Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Health Systems Trust: Driver - Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) Unit

Closing Date: 9 October 2017

Health Systems Trust: District Co-ordinator - Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) Unit

Closing Date: 13 October 2017

Health Systems Trust: Data Capturer - Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) Unit

Closing Date: 13 October 2017

Madibeng Centre for Research (MCR): Senior Research Physician/Investigator and Research Physician/Investigator

Closing Date: 8 October 2017

SolidarMed: Tanzania Country Director and Clinical Training Project Manager

Closing Date: 30 November 2017

Epicentre: Fieldworkers

Closing Date: Not specified

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