

HST Bulletin



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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

The integration of occupational- and household-based chronic stress among South African women employed as public hospital nurses

PlosOne | Published: 1 May 2020.

Jennifer Cohen, Willem Daniel Francois Venter

Nurses are a critical part of healthcare delivery systems, especially in under-resourced environments. Compared to other female-dominated professions in South Africa, nurses are securely employed and relatively well-paid. However, they are often drawn from complex, poor communities where they are responsible for many dependents and must accommodate community and family expectations of financial, health, and other forms of support.

Harnessing the PRECISE network as a platform to strengthen global capacity for maternal and child health research in sub-Saharan Africa

BMC Reproductive Health | Published: 30 April 2020.

Meriel Flint-O'Kane, Peter von Dadelszen, Prestige Tatenda Makanga, Esperança Sevene, Anna Roca, Peter Dukes, et al

It is widely acknowledged across the global health sector that research programmes need to be designed and implemented in a way that maximise opportunities for strengthening local capacity. This paper examines how the United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI) Grand Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) funded PRECISE (PREgnancy Care Integrating translational Science, Everywhere) Network has been established as a platform to strengthen global capacity for research focused on the improvement of maternal, fetal and newborn health in sub-Saharan Africa.

HIV infection is associated with increased meningococcal carriage acquisition amongst first-year students in two South African universities

Clinical Infectious Diseases | Published: 5 May 2020

Susan Meiring, Cheryl Cohen, Linda de Gouveia, Mignon du Plessis, Karistha Ganesh, Jackie Kleynhans

Invasive meningococcal disease clusters occur amongst university students and may reflect higher carriage prevalence amongst this population. [The study] aimed to measure meningococcal carriage prevalence, acquisition and risk factors amongst first-year university students in South Africa, a middle-

income country. In summer to autumn 2017, after consenting to participate, [the authors] collected oropharyngeal swabs and questionnaires on carriage risk factors and tested students for HIV infection at two universities, during registration week (survey one) and 6-8 weeks later (survey two). Meningococci were detected by culture and polymerase chain reaction.

Factors influencing uptake, continuation, and discontinuation of oral PrEP among clients at sex worker and MSM facilities in South Africa

PlosOne | Published: 30 April 2020.

Diantha Pillay, Kayla Stankevitz, Michele Lanham, Kathleen Ridgeway, Mercy Murire, Elmarie Briedenhann, et al

South Africa became the first country in Africa to introduce oral PrEP in June 2016. The National Department of Health has used a phased approach to rollout, allowing for a dynamic learn-and-adapt process which will lead ultimately to scale-up. Phased rollout began with provision of oral PrEP at facilities providing services to sex workers in 2016 and was expanded in 2017, first to facilities providing services to MSM and then to students at selected university campus clinics, followed by provision at primary health care facilities. Programmatic data shows variability in initiation and continuation between these populations. This study examines factors related to PrEP initiation, continuation, and discontinuation at facilities providing services to sex workers and MSM during the national PrEP rollout.

A systematic review regarding women's emotional and psychological experiences of high-risk pregnancies

BMC Psychology | Published: 3 May 2020.

Nazeema Zainura Isaacs, Michelle Glenda Andipatin

High-risk pregnancy refers to a pregnancy that negatively affects the health of the mother, the baby, or both. High-risk pregnancy evokes a range of emotional and psychological experiences for the expectant mother, and can adversely affect both the mother and the baby's health. Medical research on high-risk pregnancy abounds, while women's emotional/psychological experiences are not sufficiently documented, and hence much less attention and/or programming is directed to support women with high risk pregnancies.

A Scoping Review of Spatial Analysis Approaches Using Health Survey Data in Sub-Saharan Africa

Environmental Research and Public Health | Published: 28 April 2020.

Samuel Manda, Ndamonaonghenda Haushona, Robert Bergquist

Spatial analysis has become an increasingly used analytic approach to describe and analyze spatial characteristics of disease burden, but the depth and coverage of its usage for health surveys data in Sub-Saharan Africa are not well known. The objective of this scoping review was to conduct an evaluation of studies using spatial statistics approaches for national health survey data in the SSA region. An organized literature search for studies related to spatial statistics and national health surveys was conducted through PMC, PubMed/Medline, Scopus, NLM Catalog, and Science Direct electronic databases.

Ethics of instantaneous contact tracing using mobile phone apps in the control of the COVID-19 pandemic

BMJ Journal of Medical Ethics | Published: 4 May 2020.

Michael J Parker, Christophe Fraser, Lucie Abeler-Dörner, David Bonsall

In this paper [the authors] discuss ethical implications of the use of mobile phone apps in the control of the COVID-19 pandemic. Contact tracing is a well-established feature of public health practice during infectious disease outbreaks and epidemics. However, the high proportion of pre-symptomatic transmission in COVID-19 means that standard contact tracing methods are too slow to stop the progression of infection through the population. In [this] paper, [theauthors] outline some ethical considerations that need to be addressed in any deployment of this kind of approach as part of a multidimensional public health response. [They] also, briefly, explore the implications for its use in future infectious disease outbreaks.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Malaria 'completely stopped' by microbe

BBC News | 4 May 2020.

Scientists have discovered a microbe that completely protects mosquitoes from being infected with malaria. The team in Kenya and the UK say the finding has "enormous potential" to control the disease.

One billion people will live in insufferable heat within 50 years – study

The Guardian | 5 May 2020.

Human cost of climate crisis will hit harder and sooner than previously believed, research reveals. The human cost of the climate crisis will hit harder, wider and sooner than previously believed, according to a study that shows a billion people will either be displaced or forced to endure insufferable heat for every additional 1C rise in the global temperature.

Scores of coronavirus vaccines are in competition — how will scientists choose the best?

Nature | 30 April 2019.

Developers and funders are laying the groundwork for efficacy trials, but only a handful of vaccines are likely to make the cut.

How Long Will a Vaccine Really Take?

The New York Times | 30 April 2020.

A vaccine would be the ultimate weapon against the coronavirus and the best route back to normal life. Officials like Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, the top infectious disease expert on the Trump administration's coronavirus task force, estimate a vaccine could arrive in at least 12 to 18 months. The grim truth behind this rosy forecast is that a vaccine probably won't arrive any time soon.

Numbers can kill: politicians should handle South Africa's coronavirus data with care

The Conversation Africa | 21 April 2020.

Numbers tell stories. Usually, stories of people – often happy stories, like births, marriages, finishing school, getting a degree, getting a job. Even paying taxes. Sometimes they tell sad stories – death, divorce, disease, liquidations.

COVID-19 Report 2: Questions that don't yet have answers

Spotlight NSP | 4 April 2020.

This is the second issue of the COVID-19 report published jointly by GroundUp and Spotlight. [The authors] point you to the latest quality science on the pandemic. If you come across unfamiliar terms, there is a glossary at the bottom of the article.

Why don't we know how many people have been infected with Covid-19 in South Africa?

Daily Maverick | 5 May 2020.

Of the many gaps in our knowledge about Covid-19, one of the most significant is the actual rate of infection, ie how many people are being infected. This article has two key messages – why knowledge of the infection rate is so critical to our decisions about how to manage the epidemic; and why it is so difficult at present to know what the infection rate is. Hence putting these messages together, the article is also about why we are still fumbling in the dark to determine the best strategy.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

WATCH: Di McIntyre's Presentation on how best we can achieve a universal health system

Health Systems Trust South African Health Review | 12 March 2020.

Listen to Emeritus Professor Diane McIntyre presenting her chapter on: 'How best we can achieve a universal health system: a public conversation' which was published in the 2019 edition of the South African Health Review. She calls for a broadening of the national discourse on universal health coverage and proposes that the term is replaced with the term 'universal health system' which she suggests is less open to misinterpretation.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Provision of Essential Maternity and Reproductive Health Services the COVID-19 pandemic: Guidelines for Provincial, District, Facility and Clinical Managers

National Department of Health | 4 April 2020.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global pandemic on 11th March 2020. The first case was diagnosed in South Africa on 5th March 2020. South Africa faces a particular challenge given the large vulnerable immunocompromised population living in overcrowded conditions. These guidelines provide guidance to healthcare workers and managers for the management and treatment of pregnant women in the context of COVID-19. They should be read in conjunction with the current Maternal and Neonatal health Guidelines and the Guidelines for Clinical Management of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 disease.

Managing the pregnant woman during the COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa: A clinical guide for health workers and clinical managers

National Department of Health | April 2020.

These guidelines provide guidance to healthcare workers and managers for the management and treatment of pregnant women in the context of COVID-19. This summary is based on a combination of available evidence and expert opinion. This is an evolving situation and this summary is a living document that may be updated if or when new information becomes available.

COVID-19: Maternal and newborn care guidelines

National Department of Health | 30 April 2020.

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory tract infection caused by a newly emergent coronavirus, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), that was first recognized in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. Pregnant and recently pregnant women with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should be managed with supportive care, taking into account the immunologic and physiologic adaptations during and after pregnancy.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Due to the disruption COVID-19 has caused the conferencing industry many events have been cancelled or postponed. As a result of this uncertainty we have decided not to list any conferences and events in the Bulletin for the time being.

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Health Systems Trust: Call for expressions of interest - Design and Layout Agencies

Closing Date: 8 May 2020

m2m: Clinical Technical Officer

Closing Date: 14 May 2020

Hospice Plett: Social Worker & Prof Nurse

Closing Date: 15 May 2020

STAR: Senior Policy Advisor

Closing Date: 17 May 2020

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