

# HST Bulletin



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## HST IN THE NEWS

### Phakama Digest

*Health Systems Trust | 6 November 2019.*

We are pleased to announce the release of the second edition of the Phakama Digest, which profiles our SA SURE Plus Project implementation experiences. The focus of this edition is on HIV services for men and boys. We provide a broad overview of key study findings on the delivery of HIV testing services (HTS) to men of all ages explores what is known about the norms, beliefs, needs, hopes, fears, risk perceptions, motivators and other factors influencing young men's uptake of HIV testing and treatment; how to reach more men earlier, and the health system changes needed for male-centred service delivery.

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## ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

### **Barriers to and enablers of uptake of and adherence to antiretroviral therapy in the context of integrated HIV and tuberculosis treatment among adults in sub-Saharan Africa: a protocol for a systematic literature review**

*BMJ Open | Published: 28 October 2019.*

*Benjamin Momo Kadia, Noah Fongwen Takah, Christian Akem Dimala, Adrian Smith*

The scale-up of integrated Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and tuberculosis (TB) treatment has been an important intervention to curb the burden of HIV and TB co-infection worldwide. Uptake of and adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART) are key determinants of the quality and therapeutic endpoints of this intervention. This study aims to conduct an up-to-date collection and synthesis of evidence on barriers to and facilitators of uptake of and adherence to ART in HIV/TB integrated treatment programs in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

### **Clinical determinants associated with quality of life for people who live with HIV/AIDS: a Meta-analysis**

*BMC Health Services Research | Published: 29 October 2019.*

*Hesam Ghiasvand, Katherine M Wayne, Mehdi Noroozi, Gholamreza Ghaedamini Harouni, Bahram Armoon, Azadeh Bayani*

During recent years, Quality of Life (QoL) is a significant assessment factor in clinical trials and epidemiological researches due to the advent of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART). Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) has become a manageable, chronic disease. With regards, more attention must be paid to the QoL of infected patients. Limited evidence exists on the impact of ART on QoL among HIV infected patients. Due to lacking of a systematic approach to summarizing the available evidence on the clinical determinants of People Who Live with HIV/AIDS (PWLHs') QoL, this study aimed to analyze the impact of clinical determinants (ART experience, CD4 count < 200, co-morbidities, time diagnosis and accessibility to cares) on QoL among PWLHs'.

### **Awareness and uptake of layered HIV prevention programming for young women: analysis of population-based surveys in three DREAMS settings in Kenya and South Africa**

*BMC Public Health | Published: 30 October 2019.*

*Annabelle Gourlay, Isolde Birdthistle, Nondumiso Thandiwe Mthiyane, Benedict O Orindi, Sheru Muuo, Daniel Kwaro, Maryam Shahmanesh, Kathy Baisley, et al*

The DREAMS Partnership is an ambitious effort to deliver combinations of biomedical, behavioural and structural interventions to reduce HIV incidence among adolescent girls and young women (AGYW). To inform multi-sectoral programming at scale, across diverse settings in Kenya and South Africa, [this study] identified who the programme is reaching, with which interventions and in what combinations.

### **Why we need to evaluate the quality of tuberculosis care in South Africa's private health sector**

*The South African Medical Journal | Published: 31 October 2019.*

*J Boffa, S Moyo, J Chikovore, A Salomon, S Jooste, T Mkhombo, M Pai, A Daftary*

Poor-quality tuberculosis (TB) care is now a larger barrier to reducing mortality than poor access. South Africa (SA) has one of the highest TB burdens globally. Despite ongoing efforts to improve access to testing and treatment in primary care settings, only half of South Africans with drug-susceptible TB and 22% with rifampicin-resistant TB successfully navigate TB care pathways in the public sector. Furthermore, a recent study showed that 29% of South Africans with TB symptoms first report to the private sector. Delays in TB diagnosis have been reported in the public and private sectors. Efforts to evaluate and improve quality of TB care must therefore involve both sectors.

### **The development of an ultra-short, maternal mental health screening tool in South Africa**

*Global Mental Health | Published: 7 October 2019.*

*T van Heyningen, L Myer, M Tomlinson, S Field, S Honikman*

The burden of common perinatal mental disorders (CPMD) in low-and-middle-income countries is substantially higher than high-income countries, with low levels of detection, service provision and treatment in resource-constrained settings. [The authors] describe the development of an ultra-short screening tool to detect antenatal depression, anxiety disorders and maternal suicidal ideation. A sample of 376 women was recruited at a primary-level obstetric clinic. Five depression and anxiety symptom-screening questionnaires, demographics and psychosocial risk questionnaires were administered.

### **Cross-sectional study of the health of southern African truck drivers**

*BMJ Open | Published: 28 October 2019.*

*Samanta Tresha Lalla-Edward, Alex Emilio Fischer, WD Francois Venter, Karine Scheuermaier, Ruchika Meel, Catherine Hankins, Gabriela Gomez, Kerstin Klipstein-Grobusch, et al*

Lifestyle and working conditions of truck drivers predisposes them to risk-factors associated with communicable and non-communicable diseases, but little is known about the health status of African truck driver. This study aims to assess a cross-section of truckers in South Africa to describe their health information. The study took place across three truck-stop rest areas in the South African provinces of Free State and Gauteng. The trucker survey explored demographics; working conditions; sexual, eating and sleeping behaviours; mental health status, medical history and cardiac risk-factors.

### **Trends in HIV Prevention, Treatment, and Incidence in a Hyperendemic Area of**

## **KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa**

*JAMA Network Open | Published: 1 November 2019.*

*Ayesha BM Kharsany, Cherie Cawood, Lara Lewis, Nonhlanhla Yende-Zuma, David Khanyile, Adrian Puren, Savathree Madurai, Cheryl Baxter, et al*

What are the trends in the coverage of HIV prevention and treatment programs and HIV incidence in a hyperendemic area of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa? This community-based cohort study of 2 sequential surveys in 9812 and 10 236 respondents showed that HIV incidence in young women (aged 15-19 years) declined significantly from 4.63 to 2.74 per 100 person-years, but declines were marginal or remained unchanged among men and women in other age groups. In parallel, the uptake of medical male circumcision, knowledge of HIV-positive status, antiretroviral therapy, and viral suppression increased.

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## **RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS**

### **NHI Bill deviates from goal of universal health coverage**

*Daily Maverick | 31 October 2019.*

Under the current bill, refugees, asylum seekers and undocumented migrants will get only limited access to healthcare.

### **How a lack of competition in South Africa's private health sector hurts consumers**

*The Conversation Africa | 31 October 2019.*

An extensive inquiry into South Africa's health market was recently concluded – the first ever process in the country that involved gathering evidence and then studying the private healthcare market from the perspective of competition and competition law.

### **Can the world afford universal healthcare?**

*Al Jazeera | 2 November 2019.*

Can the UN reach universal healthcare for all by 2030 and how can technology help?

### **Six highlights from a week of important TB developments**

*Daily Maverick | 6 November 2019.*

Last week, researchers, policymakers and activists gathered in Hyderabad, India for the world's leading TB conference. Spotlight picked six of the week's most important stories.

### **Experimental TB vaccine a 'game changer' that offers new hope**

*Business Day | 31 October 2019.*

Finding new ways to combat TB is particularly important for SA, where the HIV epidemic has fuelled the spread of the infectious disease. An experimental tuberculosis (TB) vaccine developed by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) protects half the people who received it, scientists announced at the 50th union world conference on lung health earlier this week, offering fresh hope in the fight against the deadly disease.

### **Stellenbosch's \$18.9m grant agreement to develop child-friendly treatments for TB**

*Medical Brief | 6 November 2019.*

Stellenbosch University and UNITAID have signed a \$ 18.9m grant agreement to develop child-friendly treatments and preventive therapy for treating multidrug-resistant TB in children. The agreement was announced at the 50th Union World Conference on Lung Health (WCOLH) in Hyderabad, India.

### **How business misrepresented evidence: the South African sugar tax story**

*The Conversation Africa | 31 October 2019.*

In a recently published study on the political activities of the soft drinks industry in the lead up to South Africa introducing a sugar tax, we outlined the complex and systematic way in which big corporations and business associations misrepresented evidence to the country's National Treasury.

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## **TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

## **2019 Global 16 Days Campaign Advocacy Guide**

*Center for Women's Global Leadership | 21 October 2019.*

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership and used by activists around the world as an organizing strategy to call for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence. The 2019 Global 16 Days Campaign Advocacy Guide explains why this campaign is needed and recommends specific actions that can be taken from November 25-December 10, 2019, to amplify the call for ratification and implementation of C190 and R206.

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## **PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS**

### **The State of the World's Children 2019: Children, food and Nutrition - Growing well in a changing world**

*UNICEF | 22 October 2019.*

At least 1 in 3 children under 5 is undernourished or overweight and 1 in 2 suffers from hidden hunger, undermining the capacity of millions of children to grow and develop to their full potential. Sadly, as this State of the World's Children report shows, far too many of our children and young people are not getting the diets they need, which is undermining their capacity to grow, develop and learn to their full potential. That hurts not just individual children and young people, it hurts us all.

### **Project SOAR: Using Implementation Science to Accelerate Progress toward achieving the 90-90-90 Goals (journal supplement)**

*AIDS and Behavior | September 2019.*

SOAR is generating findings to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of HIV programs by addressing emerging issues, evidence gaps, and country needs. This special issue takes a broad perspective and includes papers examining the implementation strategies in new contexts [community-based ART distribution and HIV self-testing (HIVST)] and exploring barriers along the HIV testing and treatment cascade (gender and depression), and methodological topics [modeling, resilience scale development, and mapping and time-location sampling (TLS) to reach a vulnerable population].

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## **CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

### **Virology Africa**

10-14 February 2020

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

### **23rd International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2020)**

6-10 July 2020

San Francisco & Oakland, United States

### **HIVR4P (HIV Research for Prevention)**

11-15 October 2020

Cape Town, South Africa

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## **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

Please click on the job title for more information.

### **THINK: Outreach Officers**

Closing date: 13 November 2019

**Health Systems Trust: Clinical eMCI Nurse Mentor**

Closing date: 15 November 2019

**Bulungula Incubator: Community Nurse**

Closing date: 15 November 2019

**AIDS Foundation: Board Member**

Closing date: 18 November 2019

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