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## CATEGORIES

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## ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

### **Acceptability of the Dapivirine Vaginal Ring and Daily Oral Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) during Pregnancy in Malawi, South Africa, Uganda, and Zimbabwe**

*AIDS and Behavior* | 25 July 2024

*Alinda M. Young, Marie C.D. Stoner, Florence Mathebula, Rebone Mohuba, Alejandro Baez, et al.*

Pregnant and lactating persons in sub-Saharan Africa face a heightened risk of HIV acquisition, due to biological and behavioral factors, combined with limited access to prevention and treatment services. Oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and the dapivirine vaginal ring are promising tools for HIV prevention, and the ring's recent approval in multiple African countries represents a significant advancement in expanding access to HIV prevention. In a nested qualitative study within the MTN-042 trial, we explored the acceptability of study products among pregnant persons in the second and early third trimesters.

### **Magnitude of consistent condom use and associated factors among people living with HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia: Implication for reducing infections and re-infection. A systematic review and meta-analysis**

*Plos One* | 29 July 2024

*Firomsa Bekele, Lalise Tafese and Teshome Debushe*

The human immune virus or acquired immune deficiency syndrome, is a major threat to the health of millions of people worldwide. In Ethiopia, there were more than a million people living with HIV/AIDS. The continuous and appropriate use of condoms, particularly among those who have HIV-positive clients, is essential to a comprehensive and long-term approach to avoiding HIV and other STIs as well as unintended pregnancy. But irregular condom use is regularly reported. There is inconsistent reports of the prevalence and correlates of frequent condom use in Ethiopia. This study's goal is to provide an overview of the most recent research on magnitude condom use among people living with HIV in Ethiopia.

### **Cohort study on association between catastrophic costs and unfavorable**

## **tuberculosis treatment outcomes among TB-HIV and TB-diabetes comorbid patients in India**

*BMC Public Health* | 29 July 2024

Mihir P. Rupani, Sheetal Vyas & Immad A. Shah

India grapples with an alarming burden of tuberculosis (TB), reporting 2.6 million incident cases in 2023, necessitating intensified efforts toward TB elimination. The prevalence of catastrophic costs, defined as expenses exceeding 20% of annual household income, varies widely. Our objective was to determine the association between catastrophic costs from TB-HIV and TB-diabetes care and unfavorable TB treatment outcomes.

## **Unlocking food safety: a comprehensive review of South Africa's food control and safety landscape from an environmental health perspective**

*BMC Public Health* | 30 July 2024

*Khathutshelo Vincent Mphaga, Dingani Moyo & Phoka Caiphus Rathebe*

Food fraud (often called fake food in South Africa) the deliberate misrepresentation or adulteration of food products for financial gain, is a growing problem in South Africa (SA) with severe public health and financial consequences for consumers and businesses. The recent public outcry against food fraud practices especially in communities that have lost loved ones due to the consumption of allegedly adulterated foodstuffs, highlights the grave danger that food fraud poses to consumers and the potential for significant reputational damage to food manufacturers.

## **Global burden of stroke in adolescents and young adults (aged 15–39 years) from 1990 to 2019: a comprehensive trend analysis based on the global burden of disease study 2019**

*BMC Public Health* | 30 July 2024

*Zixuan Ma, Wenkai He, Yuanxin Zhou, Li Mai, Lifeng Xu, et al*

The incidence of stroke is rising among individuals aged 15–39. Insufficient research targeting this age group hampers the development of effective strategies. This study analyzes data from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019 (GBD 2019) to examine trends from 1990 to 2019 and propose future interventions.

## **Respiratory conditions and health symptoms associated with air pollution amongst children aged six years and below in Melusi Informal Settlement, Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality, South Africa: a cross-sectional study**

*BMC Public Health* | 30 July 2024

*Moipoti Ruth Makgalemane, Sean Patrick & Joyce Shirinde*

Respiratory conditions and health symptoms associated with air pollution in children are a major public health concern, as their immune systems and lungs are not yet fully developed. This study aimed to assess self-reported respiratory conditions and health symptoms associated with air pollution sources amongst children aged six years and below in Melusi informal settlement, Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality, South Africa.

## **Determinants of comprehensive knowledge of HIV transmission and prevention among women of reproductive age 15–49 years in Nigeria**

*Plos Global Public Health* | 30 July 2024

Comprehensive knowledge of HIV transmission and prevention has been reported as a necessary factor for ending the HIV epidemic. Women of reproductive age identified as a vulnerable group to HIV infection require this knowledge to prevent contracting HIV infection. Therefore, this study aimed to identify those factors that impact these women's comprehensive knowledge of HIV transmission and prevention. This study used secondary data from the 2018 Nigerian Demographic and Health Survey. A weighted sample of women of reproductive age with complete data on the determinants and comprehensive knowledge of HIV was included in each analysis.

## **Coping efforts made: Psychological burden of people living with tuberculosis due to social stigma in society. A qualitative phenomenology study**

*Plos One* | 30 July 2024

*Abd Nasir, Intan Idiana Hassan, Anwar Ma'ruf, Novianto Edi Suharno, Sianiwati Goenharto, et al.*

The psychological burden is greatly felt by people living with tuberculosis because the characteristics of the disease are very visible and very contagious, and the obligation to take the right dose of medication with long treatment. This is what makes tuberculosis a very stigmatic disease. The aim of this research is to explore the psychological burden felt by people living with tuberculosis due to social stigma by society and how coping efforts are made. This research uses a qualitative phenomenological design through in-depth face-to-face interviews which take place in a semi-structured manner with the hope of obtaining complete data. The purposive sampling method was used in this research with Participatory Interpretative Phenomenology analysis involving 25 participants consisting of 16 men and 9 women.

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## RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

### **HIV-prevention jab roll-out a game-changer for SA**

*Juta Medical Brief | 24 July 2024*

South Africa's HIV infection rates could be slashed significantly when the twice-a-month HIV vaccine, among new treatments offering hope in reducing the massive global burden of HIV, is rolled out by the end of the year. Health experts and world leaders at the International Aids Conference in Germany in the past week, marked significant advancements in the treatment of the disease – which has infected nearly 89m people worldwide – and killed about 42.3m, notes MedicalBrief.

### **South African teens are struggling: Western Cape study shows 33% have symptoms of depression**

*The Conversation | 25 July 2024*

In South Africa, little research has been done on depression and anxiety among younger adolescents, those between the ages of 10 and 14. Existing studies have primarily targeted older adolescents and those living with HIV. The age range of 10- to 14-year-olds has been neglected. This age group is important because half of all mental health problems develop before the age of 14. As mental health researchers we conducted a study focusing on these young adolescents in 10 schools in under-resourced areas within Cape Town and the Cape Winelands.

### **Medicines stockouts persist in North West as tide turns slowly**

*Spotlight | 25 July 2024*

Despite some improvement over the past three years, the North West province continues to experience medicine shortages, according to a survey by a community clinic monitoring initiative. We unpack the latest findings and ask why shortages persist in the province. Some people in need of HIV or tuberculosis (TB) medicines were sent home empty handed after visiting clinics in the North West. This is according to the latest survey of public healthcare services in the province published by community-led clinic monitoring group Ritshidze. The survey data was collected in April and May this year.

### **Childhood vaccine coverage in SA declined in 2023, finds WHO report**

*Spotlight | 26 July 2024*

New data from the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF show that globally childhood immunisation coverage stalled in 2023, while in South Africa it decreased. Elri Voigt unpacks the new data and asks local experts to put it in context. A new report found that vaccination coverage rates around the world have not yet returned to levels seen in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted immunisation programmes. There has been no meaningful change in immunisation coverage between 2022 and 2023, according to the WHO and UNICEF report published in July. It means progress in immunisation coverage has effectively stalled, leaving 2.7 million additional children who are either unvaccinated or under-vaccinated compared to pre-pandemic levels in 2019.

### **AIDS 2024: Exciting developments with the jabs promising to revolutionise HIV prevention**

*Spotlight | 29 July 2024*

Taking antiretrovirals to prevent HIV infection mostly still involves swallowing one or more pills a day. Some long-acting products that work for a month or two at a time have been approved but are not yet in wide use in South Africa. As delegates gathered for the 25th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2024) last week, Elri Voigt takes stock of the latest developments in this fast-moving field. When taken as prescribed, certain antiretroviral tablets are highly effective at preventing HIV infection. The snag is that not everyone at risk of HIV infection is always able to swallow a tablet every day for a variety of reasons.

## **Governments urged to prioritise testing, treatment and vaccinating against hepatitis**

*SA News | 29 July 2024*

A liver performs over 500 vital functions every single day to keep us alive, that is the reason that the World Health Organisation (WHO) believes testing, treating and preventing viral hepatitis is so important. On Sunday, the globe commemorated World Hepatitis Day and the WHO called on all governments to prioritise testing, treatment and vaccination to realise a hepatitis-free world by 2030.

## **The five most common cancers in South Africa**

*IOL | 29 July 2024*

In a nation where health is a growing concern, understanding the prevalent types of cancer is crucial. South Africa, like many countries, faces its own unique challenges in combating this disease. According to recent medical data, certain types of cancer stand out as the most frequently diagnosed among South Africans.

## **Developing Countries Grapple With How to Expand HIV Care to Include NCDs**

*Health Policy Watch | 29 July 2024*

The extraordinary global focus on HIV has resulted in a siloed network of HIV clinics to treat the virus – but there is growing acknowledgement that countries' HIV gains will be lost if they don't get NCDs under control. "People living with HIV are disproportionately affected with NCDs. It is estimated that one in three people living with HIV have either hypertension or other NCDs," says Professor Kaushik Ramaiya, General Secretary of the Tanzania NCD Alliance and a member of the NCD Alliance Board.

## **SA wants to buy the 2-monthly anti-HIV jab — 18 days after a US donation deal**

*Bhekisisa | 29 July 2024*

The national health department has asked drugmakers to submit prices, and how much they can make, of the two-monthly anti-HIV jab, CAB-LA. This comes 18 days after the department accepted a donation of 231 000 doses over two years from the US government. The department says it can't simply rely on donations and then stop handing out the jab, it needs to also buy its own supply. CAB-LA can cut down South Africa's new HIV infections by more than a quarter over 20 years. But will generic companies come in with a low enough price?

## **Health Beat #21: Eight years later — what does psychiatric care look like after Life Esidimeni?**

*Bhekisisa | 30 July 2024*

Condemned as a shameful human rights violation, eight years since the Life Esidimeni fiasco, psychiatric care in our public health system is still wanting. Suicidal young people often have to wait weeks for counselling, while homes for those living with mental and physical disabilities are few and far between. It's an environment that needs more education and larger budgets, say experts. Health Beat visits a centre in Hammanskraal that is, despite challenges, providing a stimulating environment for disabled children.

## **Africa: HIV - Africa Govts, Others Urged to Increase Domestic Funding for Sustainable Response**

*allAfrica | 30 July 2024*

*The African Networks of People Living with HIV have enjoined governments across the region to increase domestic funding to strengthen local sustainability of HIV response.*

The networks also called on Germany, the European community, US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)'s upcoming five-year, and the international community to continue investments to strengthen health systems, make them resilient and capable of sustaining the response to HIV and other emerging pandemics.

## **Children at Greatest Risk as Drug-Resistant Malaria Spreads**

*Newscentral | 30 July 2024*

A new report published in the journal *Science* warns that urgent action is needed to prevent the spread of drug-resistant malaria in Africa, which could endanger the lives of millions, especially children. The paper highlights the emergence of resistance to artemisinin, the primary drug used to combat malaria, in various East African countries.

## **Can Cancer Meds Play a Role in an HIV Cure? These Researchers Aim to Find Out**

*Poz | 30 July 2024*

Three HIV scientists exploring potential HIV cures received grants totaling \$1.2 million from amfAR, the Foundation for AIDS Research. All three will focus on ways to eliminate the so-called HIV reservoir, where latent virus hides out, even when people are on successful treatment and their viral load is undetectable. (If treatment is stopped, the virus rebounds and begins its damage.)

## **Mental load of household tasks takes toll on mothers' mental health**

*News Medical Life Science | 30 July 2024*

Moms execute more household tasks. But they're also family executives, doing more of the thinking ahead and assigning that are part of all those chores – bad news for their mental health. When you think about housework, you likely think of actions: scrubbing the dishes, running errands, chopping vegetables for dinner. And it's not news to say that mothers often shoulder the burden for most of those activities.

## **Aids Healthcare Foundation supporting more than 2 million people living with HIV**

*IOL | 30 July 2024*

The non-profit organisation, Aids Healthcare Foundation (AHF), says it has reached a historic milestone in that it supports more than two million individuals living with HIV worldwide. The country programme director for AHF South Africa, Dr Kate Ssamula, said the mission was to provide quality and effective HIV services to those in need, driven by accurate data.

## **One in Four Teen Girls in a Relationship Experience Partner Violence**

*Health Policy Watch | 30 July 2024*

By the time they turn 20 years old, nearly a quarter (24%) of adolescent girls who have been in a relationship will have experienced physical or sexual violence from their intimate partner, according to a report from the World Health Organization (WHO) published Monday found. Even though the prevalence of violence among teenagers largely parallels that of women overall, minors are more affected because of their economic dependence and the devastating effect it has on their health and life prospects.

## **Africa: HIV - Africa Govts, Others Urged to Increase Domestic Funding for Sustainable Response**

*allAfrica | 30 July 2024*

The African Networks of People Living with HIV have enjoined governments across the region to increase domestic funding to strengthen local sustainability of HIV response. The networks also called on Germany, the European community, US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)'s upcoming five-year, and the international community to continue investments to strengthen health systems, make them resilient and capable of sustaining the response to HIV and other emerging pandemics. The networks made the call at a media roundtable moderated by Shaun van Rooyen during the 25th International AIDS Conference in Munich, Germany.

## **Mpox crossing borders in east Africa, new variant amid DRC conflict worrying – experts**

*News24 | 30 July 2024*

Public health experts are concerned a new variant of mpox, the clade I virus that emerged last year in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), could spread further into the East African Community (EAC) and SADC. So far, Burundi and Rwanda have recorded cases linked to North Kivu in the DRC. Last week, health officials in Burundi said they had detected two cases in Bujumbura and one in Isare.

## **A modernized Clinical Trials Network to tackle health challenges associated with**

## **HIV and other sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections in Canada**

*McGill Health-e News | 30 July 2024*

Globally and in Canada, new cases of HIV and other sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBIs) have been rising steadily. Although significant progress has been made in developing effective therapies to combat HIV, a cure and vaccine remain elusive. Coinfections also pose unique challenges in terms of diagnosis, treatment and prevention.

## **Doctor urges KZN HIV patients to resist 'treatment fatigue'**

*IOL | 30 July 2024*

KwaZulu-Natal has urged people living with HIV not to stop taking their treatment. Speaking at the latest episode of Health Chat DotGov hosted by Ntokozo Maphisa on Friday, Dr Nomzamo Huwa, a medical doctor at Inanda Community Health Centre, highlighted the topic's challenges. A Health Chat viewer, Njabulo Sbobozane Mabika from Hluhluwe, put a question to the head of KZN Health, Dr Sandile Tshabalala, about why the government does not end HIV. He also said many people have claimed to be experiencing "treatment fatigue".

## **Hepatitis B Birth Dose Gaps Threaten Progress in Eliminating Mother-to-Child Transmission**

*Contagion Live | 31 July 2024*

In 2022, an estimated 5 million people in the World Health Organization (WHO) Region of the Americas (AMR) were living with chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection, a leading cause of liver cancer and cirrhosis worldwide. Vaccination with Hepatitis B (HepB) vaccine, including the birth dose (HepB-BD) and additional doses (HepB3), has been crucial in preventing mother-to-child transmission (MTCT). While HepB3 coverage is high, HepB-BD is still missing in 17 countries, and recent declines in vaccination coverage threaten progress toward eliminating MTCT.

## **Lenacapavir — what it would take to get the six-monthly anti-HIV jab to South Africa**

*Daily Maverick | 31 July 2024*

The shot was tested on teen girls and young women between the ages of 16 and 25 in South Africa and Uganda and made world headlines in June, and also at the recent International Aids Conference in Munich, when results showed not one of the 2,134 study participants who received the six-monthly injection contracted HIV.

## **Eliminating Cervical Cancer: A Battle We Can Win — Dr Ganesh Ramachandran & Dr Khine Pwint Phyu**

*CodeBlue | 31 July 2024*

Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women worldwide, with approximately 660,000 new cases in 2022. Low and middle-income countries, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, Central America, and Southeast Asia, bear the highest incidence rates due to socioeconomic factors, affecting vaccination uptakes, screening, and treatment.

## **Commonly used drug may extend women's fertility, claim researchers – here's what you need to know about rapamycin**

*CNN | 31 July 2024*

A growing number of people are waiting longer to have kids. While there are many reasons people may want to hold back on that decision, about one-third of couples will have difficulties getting pregnant if the female partner is over 35. This is because women's fertility begins declining around that age. But the researchers of an ongoing clinical trial claim rapamycin, a drug commonly used to prevent organ transplants from failing, may be able to extend a woman's fertile years by up to five years. This is based on the early communication of results from the small pilot study they conducted, which has not yet been peer reviewed.

## **Early Menopause Could Raise a Woman's Odds for Breast Cancer**

*HealthDay | 31 July 2024*

Women who experience early menopause appear to be at greater risk of breast cancer, a new study reports. Women who underwent menopause at an age younger than 46 were nearly twice as likely to

have breast cancer compared to others their age, researchers found. The study focused on women with primary ovarian insufficiency (POI), a condition that occurs when the ovaries stop working properly due to the early loss of eggs. This causes some to go through menopause at an earlier age than usual.

### **The basket of HIV prevention options needs to be filled**

*The Citizen | 31 July 2024*

According to the UN, 82% of all adolescent girls and young women (ages 15–24) globally who acquired HIV in 2022 live in sub-Saharan Africa. Yet, in the 19 sub-Saharan African countries with a high burden of HIV infections, less than half of all locations with high HIV incidence have dedicated HIV prevention programmes that serve adolescent girls and young women.

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## **TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

### **The United States and AWIEF launch the 2024 Academy for Women Entrepreneurs Lesotho, Eswatini and South Africa (AWE LESA)**

The U.S. Mission to South Africa and the Africa Women Innovation and Entrepreneurship Forum (AWIEF) proudly announce the launch of the 2024 Academy for Women Entrepreneurs program in Lesotho, Eswatini and South Africa.

The Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) is an initiative of the U.S. Department of State and Arizona State University's Thunderbird School of Global Management. It supports the U.S. National Strategy on Gender, Equity and Equality and reflects the United States' commitment to advancing gender equity and economic prosperity in Southern Africa

The Academy for Women Entrepreneurs LESA (Lesotho, Eswatini and South Africa) program is centred on the Francis and Dionne Najafi 100 Million Learners Global Initiative, an accredited online global management and entrepreneurship certificate consisting of five world-class courses and available to learners across the globe.

The overall goal of the program is to promote economic prosperity, including equitable economic development opportunities for historically disadvantaged groups and individuals. AWE LESA provides a resource for women entrepreneurs to engage in online education with guided facilitation and localization; fosters networks that support participants' access to peer-to-peer mentorship, business partners, and scaling opportunities with businesses in the region and in the United States; as well as provides access to a range of educational programs tailored to women's economic empowerment to expand the impact on the participant.

AWE LESA 2024 will empower 100 young women entrepreneurs in seven cities – five in South Africa and one each in Lesotho and Eswatini. The program will host cohorts in Bloemfontein (10 participants), Cape Town (10 participants), Johannesburg (15 participants), Polokwane (15 participants), Manzini (20 participants), Maseru (20 participants), and Pietermaritzburg (10 participants). The participants will attend in-person training sessions and events at designated American Corners and partner spaces in each location.

AWE LESA 2024 activities will take place between August 2024 and January 2025, and this edition will bring the total number of women entrepreneurs trained through the U.S. Mission to South Africa and AWIEF partnership to more than 700.

#### **What do you gain from participating in the AWE LESA program?**

- Free entry to the program;
- Enrolment in the Francis and Dionne Najafi 100 Million Learners platform for online learning;
- Expert-facilitated in-person business management training and mentorship sessions at American Spaces;
- Networking and peer-learning opportunities with like-minded entrepreneurs;
- A collaboratively developed and refined draft of your business plan;
- A 100 Million Learners certificate after completing the program;
- Access to the U.S. alumni network's robust network of support, including business opportunities, potential seed funding and a vast, global network of like-minded and highly regarded entrepreneurs;
- Membership to the AWIEF Community which provides ongoing peer learning and support; and
- Free delegate pass to AWIEF2024 Conference, Exhibition and Awards scheduled to take place at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town on November 28 and 29, 2024.

#### **What are the criteria to apply?**

- Young women (aged 21 – 35);
- Early-stage entrepreneurs (with businesses in operation for 1-3 years);
- Citizens/legal residents of South Africa, Lesotho and Eswatini;
- Read, write, speak and listen to the program in English;
- Reside within 40km of one of the seven program cities: Bloemfontein, Cape Town, Johannesburg, Polokwane, Maseru, Manzini, and Pietermaritzburg;
- Commit to weekly in-person training sessions at a designated American Space of the U.S. Missions to Lesotho, Eswatini and South Africa;
- Commit to up to 5 hours of weekly programmatic assignments; and
- Basic computer skills, access to a computer with a data plan to access program content and activities.

#### **Applications Open Now!**

Academy for Women Entrepreneurs applications are officially open for highly motivated and self-driven young women entrepreneurs from Lesotho, Eswatini and South Africa. THERE IS NO COST TO APPLICANTS AT ANY STAGE.

To submit your application, please follow this link: <https://awieforum.typeform.com/awelesa24>

The deadline for submission is August 4, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. South Africa Standard Time (SAST).

For more information, email: [info@awieforum.org](mailto:info@awieforum.org)

#### **FORMER GOLD MINeworkERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ENCOURAGED TO LODGE COMPENSATION CLAIMS FOR SILICOSIS AND TB**

The Tshiamiso Trust is on a drive to ensure that all potentially eligible former gold mineworkers and their families, know about their right to lodge a claim for compensation, and are given the opportunity to do so. The Tshiamiso Trust was established in 2020 to give effect to the settlement agreement reached between six mining companies and claimant attorneys in the historic silicosis and TB class action. The companies are African Rainbow Minerals, Anglo American South Africa, AngloGold Ashanti, Harmony Gold, Sibanye Stillwater and Gold Fields. To date, the Trust has compensated over 18,000 beneficiaries, to the value of R1.67 billion. The Trust is committed to ensuring that all eligible ex-mineworkers and their families get the compensation they deserve, and appeals for your assistance in reaching potential claimants.

To lodge a claim:

- Mineworkers must have carried out risk work at one of the qualifying gold mines during the qualifying periods between 12 March 1965 and 10 December 2019, as indicated in schedule F of the Trust Deed.
- Living mineworkers must have permanent lung impairment from silicosis or TB that they contracted while doing risk work at these mines.



- For deceased mineworkers, there must either be evidence that they DIED FROM work-related TB within a year of leaving the mine if it's a TB claim, OR evidence that they had silicosis or died from silicosis if it's a silicosis claim.

For more information and to check eligibility, contact the Trust in one of the following ways:

- Phone the call centre - 080 100 0240
- Send a "Please call me" to 072 557 8077
- Chat on WhatsApp - 00 27 78 504 9004 (select option 12 from the menu)
- Send us a message on Facebook (@silicosissettlement)
- Email [info@tshiamisotrust.com](mailto:info@tshiamisotrust.com)

Claimants can also self-check to see if they are eligible to lodge a claim using an online tool found at <https://www.tshiamisotrust.com/information/status-check/>.

Claimants are reminded to be careful of people impersonating the Trust or promising to help speed up their claims. Only the Tshiamiso Trust can process claims, and this is a FREE service. Claimants must only share their documents with the officials at the lodgement offices and should not pay anyone to help them with their claims.

### **Adult Primary Care 2023 Full Course**

Date: 15 March 2024 - 10:00 am until 31 December 2024 - 12:00 pm

Duration: 5 Days

Time commitment: 2 Hours

Certificate offered: Certificate of Completion

Delivery method: Self-paced

This online course was developed to support the provision of health-related services and is reasonably believed to represent appropriate healthcare practices at the date of first publication, 27 October 2023. This course has been created for health care workers who have NOT already been exposed to APC training.

<https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/course/adult-primary-care-2023-full-course>

### **Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust 60percent**

HST produces a weekly online publication, 60percent, which keeps subscribers abreast with the latest news and developments pertaining to HIV-related maternal, adolescent, child and youth health. The name 60percent signifies that southern Africa is responding to a feminised HIV/AIDS epidemic, with at least 60% of those living with HIV being women. Subscribe to 60percent by simply visiting HST's website (<https://www.hst.org.za>), scroll to the bottom of the page, hit the SUBSCRIBE button, and follow the prompts. Let's keep you posted!

<https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Subscription.aspx>

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## **PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS**

### **Defining access to countermeasures: landscape report: executive summary**

This landscape report on the current status of activities related to medical countermeasures (MCMs) for pandemic response underscores the urgent need for action in this critical area. From bolstering research and development to diversifying manufacturing capacities, coordinating global procurement efforts, ensuring equitable allocation approaches for these lifesaving interventions, and making sure arrangements are in place so that they reach the very last mile and enable appropriate use by those in

need, the journey toward pandemic preparedness traverses a multifaceted landscape.

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240097124>

### **Call for papers - HIV and TB co-infection – closing date 20 December 2024**

*BMC Infectious Diseases* is calling for submissions to their Collection on HIV and TB co-infection. This collection seeks to explore the complex relationship between tuberculosis (TB) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), two prominent pathogens within the domain of infectious diseases. They invite submissions on co-infection research, interventions, and perspectives from various stakeholders aiming to advance understanding and improve outcomes in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and control of HIV and TB co-infection, covering topics such as epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical management, drug interactions, public health approaches, socioeconomic determinants, therapeutics innovation, community engagement, and health systems strengthening.

<https://bmcinfectdis.biomedcentral.com/>

### **Call for papers - Mental health of adolescents – closing date 7 March 2025**

*BMC Public Health* is calling for submissions to our Collection on mental health of adolescents. Adolescence is a critical developmental stage marked by significant physical and emotional changes, with mental health being heavily influenced by societal pressures, academic demands, and technology. Rising rates of anxiety, depression, and other mental health disorders among adolescents pose a global concern, affecting both immediate quality of life and long-term well-being. Addressing these issues is essential for fostering healthy development and preventing future psychosocial challenges. This Collection seeks submissions that explore factors influencing adolescent mental health, such as trends in mental health disorders, risk and protective factors, the impact of digital platforms, school environments, family relationships, barriers to accessing mental health services, and effective intervention strategies.

<https://www.biomedcentral.com/collections/mehado>

### **DISTRICT HEALTH BAROMETER 2022/2023**

The 16th edition of the DHB provides information across a wide range of district health services, covers over 30 indicators and continues to provide policy-makers, health workers, planners, researchers, academics and stakeholders a unique overview of the performance of public health services in South Africa. By providing a detailed analysis of health indicators, trends, and challenges at the district level, the DHB equips district managers and other stakeholders with the data necessary to identify priorities, plan and implement targeted interventions, and monitor progress. This year's Barometer also includes a chapter on air quality and health as we introduce environmental drivers of health in the publication in response to the effects of climate change on health.

As an innovation for the publication, an online interactive dashboard has been developed. This dashboard will include all the indicators that have been compiled in the publication along with accompanying narratives on the key findings for the most recent year of data. It provides userled navigation, with the ability to drill down geographically from provincial to district level. Users will be able to decide what indicators to focus on, over what time window, and at the level of aggregation they choose. There are also timesliders available to navigate the most recent 5 years of data.

<https://www.hst.org.za/publications/Pages/-District-Health-Barometer-2022-2023.aspx>

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## **CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

### **Webinar: Monitoring DHS performance towards UHC: How can we find a pragmatic way forward?**

Health systems need to respond to changing priorities. They must be regularly adjusted to reflect the most important needs of the population. Therefore, regular assessments of health systems performance help to

identify and adjust priorities and inform decisions and consequent actions that will ensure the most appropriate responses to these priorities. Assessing the performance of a health system effectively is the first step to improving it. Join us as we reflect on current M&E approaches in the DHS while exploring new ways of health systems performance.

When: 15 August 2024, 16:00

Where: Zoom

Register: <https://uwc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEldOiggj0tEtUPjRlzlHXq5geTnr7lCp3G#/registration>

### **South African Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology**

When: 28 Aug - 1 Sep 2024

Where: Sun City Convention Centre

For more information: <https://sasog.co.za/>

### **International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Conference**

FIP holds the World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, which takes place in a different country each year. In addition to this annual congress, FIP hosts the Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress every three to four years. At the annual congress thousands of pharmacists meet, learn, share and exchange views. Our varied programme, offering something for everyone, makes this congress the premier international event in pharmacy each year. The theme for this year's congress is "Innovating for the Future of Health Care".

When: 1 – 4 September 2024

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

For more information: <https://capetown2024.fip.org/>

### **World Congress of Epidemiology**

When: 24 – 27 September 2024

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

For more information: <https://www.wce2024.org/>

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## **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Cross-site Facilitator**

**Closing Date for Application: 07 August 2024**

**Go to: <https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Cross-Site-Facilitators-Operation-Phuthuma.aspx>**

### **Sub-district Co-ordinators**

**Closing Date for Application: 07 August 2024**

**Go to: [https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Sub-District-Co-ordinators-x-3-\(uMgungundlovu-District\)-.aspx](https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Sub-District-Co-ordinators-x-3-(uMgungundlovu-District)-.aspx)**

### **Researcher or Senior Researcher**

**Closing Date for Application: 11 August 2024**

**Go to: <https://www.wits.ac.za/vacancies/>**

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