

HST Bulletin_05 May 2023

[View this email in your browser](#)

CATEGORIES

[Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles](#)[Recent Public Health News](#)[Training and Resources](#)[Publications and Reports](#)[Conferences and Events](#)[Job Opportunities](#)

ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Understanding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on healthcare services for adults during three waves of COVID-19 infections: A South African private sector experience

SAMJ | April 2023 edition

N Nematswerani, L Steenkamp, S Haneef, RM Naidoo and S Fonn

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, healthcare resources have been repurposed to focus on COVID-19. Resource reallocation and restrictions to movement that affected general access to care may have inadvertently resulted in undue disruptions in the continuum of care for patients requiring non-COVID-19 healthcare services.

The HIV care continuum for sexually active transgender women in three metropolitan municipalities in South Africa: findings from a biobehavioural survey 2018–19

The Lancet HIV | 26 April 2023

Allanise Cloete, Musawenkosi Mabaso, Helen Savva, Leigh-Ann van der Merwe, Dhee Naidoo, et al.

Despite high HIV prevalence in transgender women in sub-Saharan Africa, to our knowledge no study presents data across the HIV care continuum for this population in the region. The aim of this study was to estimate HIV prevalence and present data to develop the HIV care continuum indicators for transgender women in three South African metropolitan municipalities.

Effect of HIV on mortality among hospitalised patients in South Africa

Southern African Journal of HIV Medicine | 26 April 2023

Dirk J Lamprecht, Neil Martinson, Ebrahim Variava

HIV and AIDS continues to impose substantial healthcare challenges in sub-Saharan Africa, but there are limited local data comparing inpatient outcomes between people with HIV (PLWH) and those uninfected. Objectives: To compare cause-specific mortality among hospitalised adolescents and adults, stratified by HIV-serostatus.

Missed opportunities for HIV testing among those who accessed sexually transmitted infection (STI) services, tested for STIs and diagnosed with STIs: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 26 April 2023

Kanwal Saleem, Ee Lynn Ting, Andre JW Loh, Rachel Baggaley, Maeve B Mello, et al.

Of 37.7 million people living with HIV in 2020, 6.1 million still do not know their HIV status. We synthesize evidence on concurrent HIV testing among people who tested for other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). We conducted a systematic review using five databases, HIV conferences and clinical trial registries. We included publications between 2010 and May 2021 that reported primary data on concurrent HIV/STI testing. We conducted a random-effects meta-analysis and meta-regression of the pooled proportion for concurrent HIV/STI testing.

Public Awareness and Stigmatizing Attitudes toward People Living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome in Saudi Arabia

Open AIDS Journal | 27 April 2023

Marwan J Alwazzeh, Abdullah H Kabbani, Muhannad A Alghamdi, Khalid I Alharbi, Abdullah A Qoqandi, et al.

Recently, there have been efforts to increase HIV/AIDS education and awareness programs to reduce the stigmatization and discrimination of people living with human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome (PLWHA). However, it is essential to understand that these efforts must be ongoing and sustained to be effective. This study aimed to assess the Saudi population's awareness and stigmatizing attitudes toward PLWHA.

Timing of seasonal influenza epidemics for 25 countries in Africa during 2010–19: a retrospective analysis

The Lancet Global Health | May 2023 issue

Ledor S Igboh, Katherine Roguski, Perrine Marcenac, Gideon O Emukule, Myrna D Charles, et al.

Using country-specific surveillance data to describe influenza epidemic activity could inform decisions on the timing of influenza vaccination. We analysed surveillance data from African countries to characterise the timing of seasonal influenza epidemics to inform national vaccination strategies.

Use of point-of-care C-reactive protein testing for screening of tuberculosis in the community in high-burden settings: a prospective, cross-sectional study in Zambia and South Africa

The Lancet Global Health | May 2023 issue

Maria Ruperez, Kwame Shanaube, Linda Mureithi, Chali Wapamesa, Michael J Burnett, et al.

WHO recommends community-wide, systematic tuberculosis screening in high-prevalence settings. C-reactive protein has been proposed as a tuberculosis screening tool for people living with HIV. We aimed to assess the performance of a point-of-care C-reactive protein test for tuberculosis screening in the community in two countries with a high tuberculosis burden.

Risk of early horizontal transmission of hepatitis B virus in children of uninfected mothers in sub-Saharan Africa: a systematic review and meta-analysis

The Lancet Global Health | May 2023 issue

Aiifa Ansari, Jeanne Vincent, Louisa Moorhouse, Yusuke Shimakawa and Shevanthi Nayagam

Sub-Saharan Africa is highly endemic for hepatitis B virus (HBV); historically, most people were exposed during childhood through vertical or horizontal transmission. Although all African countries now provide a three-dose infant hepatitis B vaccination starting at age 6–8 weeks, only a third of African countries have introduced birth dose (HepB-BD) vaccine. Adding HepB-BD is fundamental to prevent vertical transmission, but its effectiveness in preventing horizontal transmission, compared with the three-dose infant vaccination alone, is unknown. We aimed to estimate the risk of early horizontal transmission in children of hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)-negative mothers in sub-Saharan Africa stratified according to the vaccination schedule.

Prevalence and predictors of sex under the influence of psychoactive substances among young people in informal settlements in Kampala, Uganda

BMC Public Health | 2 May 2023

Tonny Ssekamatte, Aisha Nalugya, Richard Mugambe, Brenda Wagaba, Doreen Nakalembe, et al.

The use of psychoactive substances such as alcohol, heroin and marijuana is associated with negative health outcomes such as sexual violence and unintended pregnancies, and risky sexual behaviours. Although there is evidence linking psychoactive substance use and risky sexual behaviours such as inconsistent condom use and multiple sexual relationships, there is limited data on sex under the influence of psychoactive substances among young people. This study aimed to investigate the prevalence and predictors of sex under the influence of psychoactive substances among young people in informal settlements in Kampala, Uganda.

Virological Outcomes Among Pregnant Women Receiving Antiretroviral Treatment in the Amhara Region, North West Ethiopia

Dovepress | 2 May 2023

Endalamaw Alamneh, Shiferaw MB, Getachew Demissie, Emiru MA, Zemene Kassie, et al.

Globally, approximately 35 million people are infected with HIV infection. Sub-Saharan countries contributed 71% of global burden. Women are the most affected groups accounting for 51% of global infection and 90% of HIV infections in children (< 15 years) are a result of mother to child transmission. In the absence of any intervention, mother-to-child transmission has been estimated to 30– 40% that could occur at various periods like during pregnancy, delivery, and post-partum, via breastfeeding. For future generations to be born HIV-free, evidences on the level of viremia and contributing factors in pregnant mothers is important.

Prevalence and factors associated with sexual and reproductive health services use among reproductive age women with disabilities: a community based cross-sectional study

BMC Women's Health | 2 May 2023

Bayew Rade, Animut Tamiru, Getie Aynalem, Eden Taye, Mamaru Melkie et al.

According to International Convention on the Right of Person with Disabilities (CRPD), all nations should discern Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) as human rights and needs of all people living with disabilities. Women and girls with disabilities are highly vulnerable to SRH disparities including unintended pregnancy, acquiring sexual transmitted infections and unsafe abortion. Little has known about SRH service uptake and influencing factors among reproductive aged women living with disabilities.

Trends of a decade in risk factors of patient delay among pulmonary tuberculosis patients during fast aging and urbanization - analysis of surveillance data from 2008 to 2017 in Wuhan, China

BMC Public Health | 2 May 2023

Xiaojun Wang, Yuehua Li, Qian Fu & Meilan Zhou

Tuberculosis (TB) is a leading infectious cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide. However, delay in health care seeking has remained unacceptably high. The aim of this study was to clarify the trend of patient delay and its associated risk factors during rapid aging and urbanization in Wuhan, China from 2008 to 2017.

Changes in emergency department utilisation in Germany before and during different phases of the COVID-19 pandemic, using data from a national surveillance system up to June 2021

BMC Public Health | 2 May 2023

Madlen Schranz, T. Sonia Boender, Timo Greiner, Theresa Kocher, Birte Wagner, et al.

During the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health and social measures, decreasing patient numbers have been described in various healthcare settings in Germany, including emergency care. This could be explained by changes in disease burden, e.g. due to contact restrictions, but could also be a result of changes in utilisation behaviour of the population. To better understand those dynamics, we analysed routine data from emergency departments to quantify changes in consultation numbers, age distribution, disease acuity and day and hour of the day during different phases of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Complete childhood vaccination and associated factors among children aged 12–23

months in Dabat demographic and health survey site, Ethiopia, 2022

BMC Public Health | 2 May 2023

Abebaw Gelagay, Abebaw Worku, Debework Bashah, Nigusie Tebeje, Mignote Gebrie, et al.

Childhood immunization is one of the most cost-effective public health strategies to prevent children's mortality and morbidity from infectious diseases, but the Covid-19 pandemic and associated disruptions have strained health systems, and worldwide 25 million children missing out on vaccination in 2021. Of the 25 million, more than 60% of these children live in 10 countries including Ethiopia. Therefore, this study aimed to assess complete childhood vaccination coverage and associated factors in the Dabat district.

Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy and HIV: analysis of a province-wide cohort during 2018 and 2019

AIDS | 1 June 2023

Slogrove, Amy L; Davies, Mary-Ann; Phelanyane, Florence; De Beer, Shani; Theron, Gerhard^f; et al

We evaluated the prevalence of de novo hypertensive disorders of pregnancy (dnHDP) in pregnant people with HIV (PPHIV) in the Western Cape Province, South Africa in 2018–2019 by HIV and antiretroviral therapy (ART) status. All people with a pregnancy outcome from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2019 in the Western Cape Provincial Health Data Centre (WCPHDC) were included. The WCPHDC integrates data from multiple electronic platforms according to unique identifiers. dnHDP was classified by ICD-10 code or first-time prescription of antihypertensive drugs less than 140 days before delivery. Pregnant people with preexisting hypertension without superimposed preeclampsia/eclampsia were not considered to have dnHDP. Adjusted prevalence ratios (aPR) for dnHDP by HIV/ART status were calculated using Poisson regression with robust variance. Among 180 553 pregnant people studied, 13 677 (7.6%) had dnHDP and 33 978 (18.8%) were PPHIV. Among PPHIV, 11.3% ($N = 3827$) had no evidence of ART, 59.7% ($N = 20 283$) initiated ART preconception and 29.0% ($N = 9868$) had ART initiated.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

CALLS FOR CALM AMID ANOTHER COVID-19 VACCINE RELATED DEATH IN SA

Health-e News | 26 April 2023

A third person has died after receiving the Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccine in South Africa. But an immunisation expert says that it is highly unlikely that SA will record a higher number of deaths from the vaccine than other countries worldwide. On Friday, the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority(SAHPRA) reported a South African citizen experienced Guillain-Barre Syndrome(GBS) after receiving a Covid-19 jab and died. GBS is a very rare but potentially severe neurological adverse event that is associated with the administration of various vaccines and other medicines. It can also be triggered by some bacterial or viral infections.

PEPFAR 20 YEARS: WE NO LONGER SEE THE “LOOK OF HIV”

Health-e News | 26 April 2023

Dhirisha Naidoo remembers the “look of HIV” vividly. She saw it on a daily basis when she was a nurse at a mission hospital in Durban just out of college in 2004. “People were usually very thin, skin and bone, emaciated completely. You’d see these hopeless, helpless patients lying on stretchers and wheelchairs,” says Naidoo. Almost 20 years later, Naidoo is now Chief of Party at APACE BroadReach, a PEPFAR-funded USAID program sustaining HIV epidemic control in South Africa. Health-e News Hannah Zihhan Jiang caught up with her in Mpumalanga while the organisations marked 20 years of collaborative effort fighting the HIV epidemic.

New mental health policy welcomed, but experts concerned over implementation

Spotlight | 26 April 2023

South Africa’s long-awaited new National Mental Health Policy Framework and Strategic Plan 2023 – 2030 took centre stage this week at the two-day SA Mental Health Conference in Johannesburg. As Spotlight previously reported, the old policy framework technically expired in 2020. But even though there

has been a gap from 2020 to 2023, speaking to Spotlight at the conference, Minister of Health Dr Joe Phaahla said that it doesn't mean there was a gap in terms of updating. "Every either three or five years, we revise the policy. So, it is not that there has been a gap. There has been a policy, which has been guiding," he said.

Trans women receiving gender-affirming care less likely to contract HIV, study finds

Pink News | 27 April 2023

HIV diagnosis rates among trans women in America are worryingly high, according to a new study. Research published in *The Lancet HIV* revealed that, each year, 0.55 per cent of trans women in the US contract the virus, which can lead to Aids. It also found that those who sought gender-affirming care were less likely to contract HIV, possibly due to economically or socially vulnerable women being less able to access care and HIV-preventative medication. Advocacy groups praised the research, led by Dr Andrea Wirtz, as a comprehensive look into a community that is rarely considered in HIV studies.

Current PrEP provision does not align with women's preferences, UK survey suggests

Aidsmap | 28 April 2023

An online survey of women found greater interest in long-acting injectables or event-based dosing of PrEP than daily pills, while many would like to access PrEP from a pharmacy or GP surgery. However, these options are not yet available in the UK. Despite accounting for over a quarter of new HIV diagnoses, only 1.3% of PrEP users in England are women. As described in *aidsmap's* new research briefing on PrEP and women, only a third of women whose behaviour and clinical characteristics align with a need for PrEP actually have those needs recognised when they visit a sexual health clinic. Melissa Cabecinha of University College London presented both quantitative and qualitative data at the British HIV Association conference in Gateshead this week.

Health workers cope with a huge amount of stress - how to build a resilient health system in South Africa

The Conversation | 30 April 2023

Popular and academic literature is replete with examples of how to cope with daily stresses. Mental health professions have also long researched and implemented strategies to deal with burnout from workplace stressors. Coping with stress is not a new phenomenon. But COVID-19 and the responses to the pandemic have increased our attention on how people and systems cope with stress-inducing shocks. This should not surprise us given the impact of COVID-19 on almost every aspect of our lives. There are indications that many people and countries are still struggling to emerge from its shadow. Resilience is a relatively new area of study in the health sector and is explained as the ability of an individual to withstand and recover from adversity using their inner strength, optimism, and being flexible and competent.

Chances of eliminating HIV infection increased by novel dual gene-editing approach

Medical express | 1 May 2023

Gene-editing therapy aimed at two targets—HIV-1, the virus that causes AIDS, and CCR5, the co-receptor that helps the virus get into cells—can effectively eliminate HIV infection, new research from the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University and the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) shows. The study, published online in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, is the first to combine a dual gene-editing strategy with antiretroviral drugs to cure animals of HIV-1. "The idea to bring together the excision of HIV-1 DNA with inactivation of CCR5 using gene-editing technology builds on observations from reported cures in human HIV patients," said Kamel Khalili, Ph.D., Laura H.

Lassa fever – Nigeria

WHO | 1 May 2023

Nigeria is currently experiencing a large outbreak of Lassa fever, with 4702 suspected cases, five probable cases, and 877 confirmed cases between epidemiological weeks 1 and 15 of 2023 (week ending 16 April). Among confirmed cases, there have been 152 deaths (CFR 17%). Lassa fever is endemic in Nigeria and parts of West Africa where the multimammate rat, the main reservoir of the Lassa virus, is common. Responding to the current outbreak is challenging due to the need to respond to multiple emergencies simultaneously.

The Big Catch Up: Recovering the Gains Made in Africa through Vaccinations

GAVI | 1 May 2023

The advent of vaccines has been one of the greatest achievements in modern medicine, eradicating and controlling several life-threatening diseases that were once widespread. Routine immunisation systems contribute significantly to Africa's health security and are a vital part of a comprehensive and functional public health system. Vaccination prevents the spread of diseases and reduces the likelihood of outbreaks. Basic routine immunizations protect individuals who are at higher risk, such as children, from contracting serious and sometimes deadly illnesses like measles, polio, and rubella. Over the last decades, vaccines have saved millions of lives, prevented serious illnesses and outbreaks, and reduced healthcare costs.

Malaria fight is a collective effort

Monitor | 1 May 2023

What is the current and future funding trends for Malaria?

Uganda has made substantial gains in the fight against malaria over the years, with deaths from the disease falling by almost two-thirds between 2002-2020. However, Malaria remains the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in Uganda and globally. In the current grant cycle (NFM III) running from January 2021 to December 2023, the Global Fund has invested a total of over USD816 Million (Shs3.064trn) in the fight against HIV, TB, Malaria and contributing to Resilient Sustainable Systems for Health that can effectively respond to health emergencies and pandemics like Covid-19 and Ebola.

HIV Status Does Not Affect Outcomes of Tecovirimat Treatment for Mpox

Auburnpub | 1 May 2023

HIV status seems not to affect treatment outcomes among patients receiving tecovirimat for mpox, according to a study published online May 2 in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Jacob McLean, D.O., from the Columbia University Medical Center in New York City, and colleagues compared the clinical presentation and treatment outcomes of people with HIV (PWH) and HIV-negative persons with mpox virus (MPXV) infection treated with tecovirimat. A total of 196 persons treated with tecovirimat from June 20 to Aug. 29, 2022, were included; 154 tested positive for MPXV, of whom 72 were PWH.

CDC Set To Cease Tracking Community COVID Levels

Health digest | 1 May 2023

It's hard to believe that three years ago we were scouring the internet looking for the various COVID outbreaks around the country. We planned our lives — maybe even our vacations — around COVID hotspots for fear of contracting or spreading the virus. As the national public health emergency is set to expire on May 11, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will stop tracking COVID infections at the community level, according to CNN. Instead, the CDC will focus more on hospitalizations, the way the organization typically tracks the flu. It will also continue to monitor wastewater as an early indicator of a new spread of infection.

COVID's future: mini-waves rather than seasonal surges

Nature | 1 May 2023

Whether you call it a surge, a spike, a wave or perhaps just a wavelet, there are signs of a rise in SARS-CoV-2 infections — again. A growing proportion of tests in some countries are coming back positive, and new variants, most notably a lineage called XBB.1.16, are pushing aside older strains, fuelling some of the uptick in cases. Welcome to the new normal: the 'wavelet' era. Scientists say that explosive, hospital-filling COVID-19 waves are unlikely to return. Instead, countries are starting to see frequent, less deadly waves, characterized by relatively high levels of mostly mild infections and sparked by the relentless churn of new variants.

Both medical and social factors linked with accelerated brain ageing in people living with HIV

Aidsmap | 2 May 2023

Heart disease risk factors, hepatitis C and detectable HIV emerged as key factors associated with older-appearing brain structures in people with HIV. Social factors, such as unemployment and living in a poorer neighbourhood also appear to play a central role. The study examined structural brain changes that are

visible on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans.

Second Presidential Health Summit – summiting while the health system burns

Daily Maverick | 2 May 2023

This week, the Presidency and the Health Department will host a second Presidential Health Summit. The first took place in 2018. This summit takes place at a time when the health system is breaking: basic services have all but collapsed in several provinces. For example, in the Eastern Cape there is a waiting list of 5,000 people for wheelchairs; the burden of non-communicable disease is growing while the number of health workers is shrinking. Health experts warn that even gains made in the past, particularly the flagship HIV/Aids programme, are being rolled back.

SOUTH AFRICAN MEASLES OUTBREAK UPDATE 2023 (2 MAY 2023)

NICD | 2 May 2023

The NICD has tested 5798 serum samples for measles since epidemiological week 40, 2022, of which 970 (17%) were confirmed positive. In outbreak-affected provinces, 964 cases have been reported since week 40, 2022. In the past weeks (week 15 up until week 16, 18/04/2023) there have been 20 laboratory-confirmed measles cases detected across the country, of which the majority were from Limpopo (12).

The percentage of samples testing positive (PTP) increased from 20% of 99 samples tested in week 14 to 22% of 79 samples tested in week 15.

Measles outbreak has been declared in all the provinces in South Africa except for the Eastern Cape. In week 16, no new cases were reported in Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, Western Cape, Northern Cape and North West provinces.

Researchers discover COVID-19 does not infect immune cells that contribute to chronic inflammation

Medical Xpress | 3 May 2023

A treatment to prevent runaway inflammation in patients with severe COVID-19 is a step closer after a University of Queensland-led study into how immune cells respond to the virus. Dr. Larisa Labzin and Professor Kate Schroder from UQ's Institute for Molecular Bioscience with Dr. Sarah Londrigan at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity have discovered that most immune cells which contribute to chronic inflammation are not infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus which causes COVID-19. Dr. Labzin said instead of triggering a protective response to eliminate the virus, these uninfected cells called macrophages detect damage and death in neighboring cells and trigger a strong inflammatory response.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust Bulletin

The Health Systems Trust (HST) produces a weekly bulletin on Fridays focusing on key public health news, peer-reviewed journal articles and other important primary healthcare resources.

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!

The Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) – calling all public health champions!

PHASA is a voluntary organisation of individuals passionate about population health improvements and

the reduction of health inequities, and whose work focuses on the prevention of disease, the promotion of health, and the improved functioning of the country's health care system. Are you passionate about improving the health and wellbeing of communities? Do you want to expand your professional network and stay current in the field of public health? Do you want to be part of the movement to improve Public Health? Then join the Public Health Association of South Africa today to make a difference and enhance your career!

As a member, you will:

- Gain access to cutting-edge research, resources, and best practices
- Connect with public health professionals from around the country
- Participate in educational events and conferences
- Contribute to shaping the future of public health
- Have access to mentors in the field
- Be at the forefront of advocacy initiatives.

To become a member, simply visit our [website](#) and complete the membership application. Don't miss this opportunity to advance your career and improve public health.

USAID High Potential Grants for NGO-led Development Projects in 2023

Deadline: 11 May 2023

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has launched new grant opportunities to support organizations, individuals, and communities worldwide. Check out the list below and start applying!

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2024: ALBERTINA SISULU EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM IN HEALTH (ASELPH) FELLOWSHIP A UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT IN EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 30th June 2023

The Albertina Sisulu Executive Leadership Program in Health (ASELPH) is a unique collaborative program through the University of Pretoria that was jointly developed and initially implemented with contributions from the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health, and the National and Provincial Departments of Health in South Africa. A key aim is to improve the South African health system through the training of health workers to become exceptional executive leaders, who are better able to drive local health system strengthening and performance.

The Program is focussed on developing Executives (middle and senior health system managers or clinicians) for the unique environment and challenges of the South African health system; this 120 credit (1200 learning hours) postgraduate diploma covers modules in Leadership, Ethics, Strategic Planning, Health sector Transformation, Decentralization & health service re-engineering; Complex Problem Solving, Financial Management, Human Resources For Health, Quality Improvement, Strategic Marketing and Communication and Monitoring and Evaluation. Innovative teaching and learning approaches include peer learning, case study methodology, reflective learning and mentorship. Each Fellow completes a research project and 12 core and elective modules. These are provided through a hybrid learning approach which includes pre-module online work, a 3-day contact class per module at the University of Pretoria and post module assignments. In all, there are approximately 35 contact class days in 6 blocks (Mon-Sat) over a calendar year.

This is a call for applications for the 6th cohort of the Albertina Sisulu Executive Leadership Program in Health starting in January 2024 at the University of Pretoria. This is a part-time Postgraduate Diploma in Health Systems Management in Executive Leadership.

Target Group: Those in middle and senior management and leadership positions, including clinicians, in the health system are encouraged to apply. Applicants from NGOs, technical agencies and the private health sector are also welcome to apply for the training programme. Preference is for current public health sector employees.

Minimum Requirements for Admission are a three-year University Bachelor's Degree (NQF 7 or above) and a minimum of four years management experience in the health sector.

Partial or Full Tuition Bursaries may be available for public health sector employees, while it is anticipated that relevant Departments of Health will cover travel and accommodation costs. This includes applicants from provincial health services as well as municipal health services.

Preference is for current South African public health sector employees and will be for those who have not had any previous post graduate training in public health, management or leadership programs and/or those who have not benefited from any prior health sector financial support for any form of training.

Application and Selection Process: All SA public health sector officials eligible for consideration will be subjected to a joint Provincial DOH / ASELPH Recruitment, Interview and Selection process. Applications, together with supporting documents (ID, CV, motivation letter and copy of qualifications labelled with prospective applicant's student number) must be submitted online at: https://upnet.up.ac.za/psc/upapply/EMPLOYEE/SA/c/UP_OAP_MENU.UP_OAP_LOGIN.GBL

For further information contact Mr Lesiba Mpati at lesiba.mpati@up.ac.za

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

South African Health Review 2021

Health Systems Trust | 2021

When it comes to service delivery and access in both the public and private health sectors, COVID-19 has put everything to the test. It has demonstrated how central public health security is to health and livelihoods, and how pandemic health emergencies expose the weaknesses and vulnerabilities of health systems, costing lives and causing immeasurable damage to economies. Few could have imagined the impact of COVID-19 when this pandemic reached our shores in March 2020.

This edition considers the government's and broader health sector's response to COVID-19, explores the current challenges facing the health system at this unprecedented time, and reflects on lessons learnt for future for public health emergencies. The chapters offer information on, inter alia, the challenges of balancing lives with livelihoods, and the impact of COVID-19 on different cadres of healthcare workers, especially Community Health Workers who found themselves at the forefront of our COVID-19 response. Other areas covered include the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations like children, persons with disabilities, farmworkers, migrants, and the poorest in our society.

Report on the global action plan on HIV drug resistance 2017–2021

WHO | 1 May 2023

The Global Action Plan on HIV drug resistance 2017–2021 provided a comprehensive framework for global and country action and outlined a package of interventions and resources to guide the collective response to HIV drug resistance. The conclusion of this Global Action Plan on HIV drug resistance at the end of 2021 offered an opportunity for WHO to analyse the achievements realised over the preceding five years and identify barriers to the plan's implementation. The plan's successes, impact and shortfalls were assessed using indicators established in Global Action Plan on HIV drug resistance 2017–2021 and qualitative interviews of key stakeholders at all levels. This report summarizes the findings of the assessment.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Reaching the 95-95-95 targets: How can industry contribute?

Learning from both the success and failures towards reaching the 2020 targets is essential to increase the chance of ending AIDS as a global public health threat by 2030. Success will require commitment from all stakeholders in the HIV response. The Industry Liaison Forum at IAS – the International AIDS Society – is organizing a series of online roundtables to explore important gaps and how the biomedical industry can actively contribute to achieving the 95-95-95 target by 2025.

The series will have three events, each focusing on one of the specific 95-95-95 targets:

Session 1: "HIV testing strategies to reach key populations"

Session 2: "Ensuring linkage to and retention in care"

Session 3: "Overcoming global challenges: Achieving and sustaining viral suppression"

Time:

Apr 18, 2023 04:00 PM

May 4, 2023 04:00 PM

May 23, 2023 04:00 PM

Time shows in Zurich

The 5th Paediatric and Adolescent HIV Learning Collaborative for Africa (PAHLCA) Meeting in Maputo Mozambique

Dates: 7 - 8 May 2023

Time: 9:00pm - 5:00pm

The Paediatric and Adolescent HIV Learning Collaborative for Africa (PAHLCA) is hosting its first face-to-face event in Maputo from 7-8 May 2023. With the theme "Prevention of Vertical Transmission of HIV: A Key Pivot in Ending Paediatric HIV and AIDS," PAHLCA aims to:

1. Fostering learning, innovation, and collaboration among MOH programming teams and partners in African countries.
2. Providing a platform for sharing guidelines, implementation frameworks, curricula, toolkits, job aids, and client/caregiver information/education/communication materials that can be used to improve paediatric and adolescent HIV programs.
3. Maintaining an updated directory of Ministry of Health paediatric and adolescent HIV focal persons to facilitate communication, coordination, and sharing across countries.
4. Facilitating networking among country teams to form research collaborations for multi-country studies to improve paediatric and adolescent HIV services.

South African Nursing Council Indaba

Date: 18–19 May 2023

The South African Nursing Council (SANC) is pleased to welcome you to this key event where we will focus on The Future of Nursing. The SANC is a statutory body entrusted to set and maintain standards of Nursing Education and Practice in the Republic of South Africa, to protect the public. It is an autonomous, financially independent, statutory body operating under the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act No. 33 of 2005). The Council of the SANC is constituted in terms of the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act No. 33 of 2005). The tenure of the current and 16th Council of the SANC is from 2018 – 2023 and will end in August 2023. The Indaba program thus contains a focus on the milestones achieved by the 16th Council, and in addition, provides a wide variety of topics that affect Nursing as a whole.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

HEALTH SYSTEMS RESEARCH UNIT: RESEARCHER

Closing date: 5 May 2023 @ 16:30

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING (HSS) UNIT: AREA CO-ORDINATOR

Closing date: 11 May 2023 @ 16:30

**HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING UNIT: CLINICAL LABORATORY ADVISOR
(ETHEKWINI DISTRICT)**

Closing date: 11 May 2023 @ 16:30

[\(Return to Top\)](#)



Copyright © 2019 HEALTH SYSTEMS TRUST, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

hst@hst.org.za

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)