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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Willingness to Receive HIV Self-Testing Kits from Recent Sexual Partners Among Men in Dar Es Salam, Tanzania: Findings from the STEP Project Baseline Survey

Aids and Behavior | 30 May 2024

Kelia N. Olughu, Gaspar Mbita, Larissa Jennings Mayo-Wilson, James S. Ngocho, Geoffrey K. Kangogo, et al.

Globally, men are less likely to access HIV services, and addressing HIV service challenges among men is crucial to the global HIV/AIDS response. HIV self-testing (HIVST) has been shown to be a potentially effective strategy in improving HIV testing coverage among men. This study assessed and identified factors influencing willingness to receive HIVST kits from sexual partners among men in Tanzania. Data are from the baseline survey of the Self-Testing Education and Promotion (STEP) project, a five-year study comprising male participants aged 18 or older who self-reported as HIV-negative. Logistic regression models were used to assess factors associated with men's willingness to receive HIVST kits from their sexual partners.

Drug-resistant oral candidiasis in patients with HIV infection: a systematic review and meta-analysis

BMC Infectious Diseases | 31 May 2024

Amirreza Keyvanfar, Hanieh Najafiarab, Niki Talebian, Mahdi Falah Tafti, Gelareh Adeli, et al.

Oral candidiasis (OC) is a prevalent opportunistic infection in patients with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. The increasing resistance to antifungal agents in HIV-positive individuals suffering from OC raised concerns. Thus, this study aimed to investigate the prevalence of drug-resistant OC in HIV-positive patients.

Coprevalence and associations of diabetes mellitus and hypertension among people living with HIV/AIDS in Cameroon

AIDS Research and Therapy | 01 June 2024

Peter Vanes Ebasone, Anastase Dzudie, Nasheeta Peer, Donald Hoover, Qiuhu Shi, et al.

The association between HIV infection and increased cardiometabolic risk, attributed to chronic inflammation in people living with HIV (PLWH) and/or antiretroviral therapy (ART) effects, has been inconsistent. In this study, we aimed to assess the associations of HIV-related factors with hypertension (HTN) and type-2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM), and the potential mediation effects of body mass index (BMI) in the associations between ART use and HTN or T2DM in PLWH in Cameroon.

Public healthcare disparities in Africa: the food production systems and its dichotomy in a South African context

Journal of Health, Population and Nutrition | 1 June 2024

M. G. Manamela & M. E. Choung

One of the major concerns of development in Africa is the issue of public health. In Africa, public healthcare has been and still is a problem most African countries are faced with. The problem of public healthcare seems to be unabated even though there are measures that are put in place for its effectiveness. There is hunger, malnutrition, high mortality rate, illnesses and deterioration of life expectancy in most developing countries of Africa. The dramatic unprecedented public health disparity has become a scourge in developing countries where it has purportedly impaired the developmental efforts, economic growth and prosperity. As a result, there is a need to scrutinize possible causes that exacerbates public health issues in developing countries. The paper argues that the current food production system (conventional) contributes to current status of public health as compared to the previous food production system (organic). The purpose of this paper is to conceptualize public healthcare disparities, juxtaposing organic and conventional food production that result as human food consumption. The paper employs literature-based analysis as a methodology to assemble data in respect of public healthcare disparities and food production systems.

Comprehensive knowledge of mother-to-child HIV/AIDS transmission, prevention, and associated factors among reproductive-age women in East Africa: insights from recent demographic and national health surveys

BMC Women's Health | 1 June 2024

Bewuketu Terefe, Mahlet Moges Jembere & Bikis Liyew

More than 90% of babies acquire HIV/AIDS through vertical transmission, primarily due to low maternal comprehensive knowledge about Mother-To-Child Transmission (MTCT) of HIV/AIDS and its prevention, which is a cornerstone for eliminating MTCT of HIV/AIDS. However, there are limitations in terms of population data and literature evidence based on recent Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) reports in East Africa. Therefore, this study aims to assess the comprehensive knowledge and PMTCT of HIV/AIDS among women, as well as the associated factors in East Africa.

Subclinical tuberculosis linkage to care and completion of treatment following community-based screening in rural South Africa

BMC Global and Public Health | 2 June 2024

Zolelwa Sifumba, Helgard Claassen, Stephen Olivier, Palwasha Khan, Hloniphile Ngubane, et al.

Tuberculosis (TB), a leading cause of infectious death, is curable when patients complete a course of multi-drug treatment. Because entry into the TB treatment cascade usually relies on symptomatic individuals seeking care, little is known about linkage to care and completion of treatment in people with subclinical TB identified through community-based screening.

Past-Year HIV Testing, Current Antiretroviral Therapy Use, and Participation in Services for People Who Inject Drugs

Aids and Behavior | 02 June 2024

Itunu Sokale, Johnny Wilkerson, Paige Wermuth, Folefac Atem, Janet Burnett, et al.

Evaluating routine HIV testing and treatment and use of services for people who inject drugs (PWID) is critical to curb the ongoing HIV epidemic. We analyzed data from the 2018 National HIV Behavioral

Surveillance of PWID aged 18 years or older, recruited using respondent-driven sampling and offered anonymous HIV testing after survey. We performed bivariate and multivariable analyses with log-linked Poisson regression of the generalized linear models to examine the associations between demographics and PWID service use, past-year HIV testing, and current antiretroviral therapy (ART) use. Among 10,311 HIV-negative PWID, 56% reported past-year HIV testing, and of the 553 HIV-positive PWID, 69% reported current ART use.

Perceived stigma and depression among the HIV-positive adult people in Ethiopia: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Plos One | 3 June 2024

Fikreab Desta, Demisu Zenbaba, Biniyam Sahiledengle, Yohannes Tekalegn, Demelash Woldeyohannes, et al.

Depression is one of the most common psychiatric disorders, affecting approximately 60% of people infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Low and middle-income countries (LMICs), including Ethiopia, bear a disproportionate burden of depression among HIV/AIDS patients. Several factors, including perceived stigma, have been linked to increased depression among HIV/AIDS patients. Therefore, we aimed to estimate the pooled effect of perceived stigma on depression among HIV/AIDS patients in Ethiopia.

Interventions to increase vaccination in vulnerable groups: rapid overview of reviews

BMC Public Health | 3 June 2024

Ill Norman, Maartje Kletter & Jo Dumville

Groups which are marginalised, disadvantaged or otherwise vulnerable have lower uptake of vaccinations. This differential has been amplified in COVID-19 vaccination compared to (e.g.) influenza vaccination. This overview assessed the effectiveness of interventions to increase vaccination in underserved, minority or vulnerable groups.

Condom use increased after a peer group intervention implemented by community volunteers in Malawi

BMC Public Health | 3 June 2024

Kathleen F. Norr, Chimwemwe K. Banda, Cecilia Chang, Shruthi Krishna, Lily C. Kumbani, et al.

HIV prevention remains a global priority, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Our research team previously developed an evidence-based peer group program for HIV prevention called Mzake ndi Mzake (Friend to Friend). A community-engaged collaboration adapted the program for community ownership and implementation. Here we report whether this HIV prevention program, implemented by community volunteers, increased condom use among sexually active individuals in rural Malawi.

Using a Syndemics Perspective to (Re)conceptualize Vulnerability during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Scoping Review

Preprints.org | 4 June 2024

Yisel Hernandez Barrios, Dennis Perez Chacon, Yosiel Molina Gomez, Gryseels, Kristien Verdonck, et al.

Syndemics theory has been applied to study interactions between biomedical and social factors leading to clustering of diseases. Because syndemics theory focuses on interactions that enhance risk, the concept of vulnerability is central to this approach. We conducted a scoping review to better understand how syndemics theory helped to define, operationalize, and tackle issues of vulnerability during the COVID-19 pandemic. Original research, review, and opinion pieces elaborating on syndemics, vulnerability and COVID-19, published between December 2019 and October 2022 and available in PubMed, were eligible. We analysed 40 records and identified three framings of syndemics operating during this period.

Implications of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Management of Municipal Solid

Waste and Medical Waste: A Comparative Review of Selected Countries

MDPI | 4 June 2024

Ahmed Osama Daoud, Hoda Elattar, Gaber Abdelatif, Karim M ,RobertW. Peters, et al.

The COVID-19 outbreak has impacted many daily activities and services we depend on. Due to changes in waste quantity and types, solid waste management (SWM) services such as waste collection, transportation, and treatment/disposal suffered. Global rules and mandates were issued to address these changes and the COVID-19 pandemic. This mini review examines seven countries and summarises the pandemic's effects on municipal solid waste (MSW) and medical waste (MW) generation in terms of amount and composition, the SWM sector's challenges, and government or other SWM guidelines and management measures.

Risk factors associated with oral Human Papillomavirus (HPV) prevalence within a young adult population

BMC Public Health | 4 June 2024

Aimee F. Whitton, Gillian L. Knight & Elizabeth K. Marsh

The prevalence of, and risk factors for, genital Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infections within the young adult population are well-established; the same is not known for oral HPV. This observational study aimed to determine oral HPV prevalence and abundance within a UK young adult population, and examine if sexual practices and established risk factors of oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinomas (OPSCCs) (such as smoking and alcohol consumption) influenced HPV prevalence.

Personality Traits and eHealth Study Enrollment Among Racial and Sexual Minoritized Men Living with HIV

Aids and Behavior | 4 June 2024

Sabina Hirshfield, José E. Diaz, Portia Thomas, Martin J. Downing Jr., Derek T. Dangerfield II, et al.

Inequities in eHealth research enrollment persist among Black and Latinx sexual minoritized men (SMM) partly due to socio-ecological barriers. Less is known about how personality traits are associated with their study enrollment. We examined the role of personality traits among 1,285 U.S. Black and Latinx SMM living with HIV recruited from sexual networking websites/apps for an eHealth intervention. Lower neuroticism and higher openness were associated with greater odds of study enrollment among Latinx SMM.

Prevalence and risk factors associated with precancerous and cancerous cervical lesions among HIV-infected women in University of Gondar specialized comprehensive referral hospital, Northwest Ethiopia: cross-sectional study design

BMC Women's Health | 4 June 2024

Elfalet Worku, Getachew Yigizaw, Robel Admassu, Dawit Mekonnen, Winta Gessessa, et al.

Cervical cancer is one of the leading causes of death in women worldwide. The majority of the cases are found in developing countries. The increasing risk of cervical cancer prevalence and growing danger of death from cervical cancer and the high occurrence of human papillomavirus (HPV) infection in women who are HIV positive give us the ground to study the prevalence and associated risk factors.

Changes in Stigma and Social Support among Participants in a Randomized Trial of a Novel Expanded Social Network-based HIV Testing Intervention in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Aids and Behavior | 4 June 2024

Leslie D. Williams, Alastair van Heerden, Samuel R. Friedman, Buyisile Chibi, Wendy Avila Rodriguez

HIV-related stigma is a well-documented barrier to HIV testing in South Africa, and may be particularly likely to create reluctance to test among South African men, who have reported feeling blamed for HIV by their partners and communities. The present study presents a novel expanded social network recruitment to HIV testing (E-SNRHT) intervention explicitly designed to reduce stigma as a barrier to testing by asking people to recruit anyone they know to testing, thus allowing them to avoid the potential for increased stigma and/or blame associated with direct risk partner recruitment, and helping to normalize

openly discussing HIV among social networks.

Effects of mobile Internet use on the health of middle-aged and older adults: evidences from China health and retirement longitudinal study

BMC Public Health | 4 June 2024

Ying Wang & Hong Chen

The rapid development of digital technology has radically changed people's lives. Simultaneously, as the population is rapidly aging, academic research is focusing on the use of Internet technology to improve middle-aged and older people's health, particularly owing to the popularity of mobile networks, which has further increased the population's accessibility to the Internet. However, related studies have not yet reached a consensus. Herein, empirical analysis of the influence of mobile Internet use on the subjective health and chronic disease status of individuals in their Middle Ages and above was conducted utilizing ordered logit, propensity score matching (PSM), and ordered probit models with data from the 2020 China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study.

Body image, eating distress and emotional-behavioral difficulties among adolescents in Mbarara, Southwestern Uganda

BMC Infectious Diseases | 4 June 2024

Joan Abaaty, Godwin Twakiire, Alain Favina, Gideon Munaru & Godfrey Zari Rukundo

Adolescents frequently have emotional and behavioral difficulties as they struggle with the challenges of transition from childhood to adulthood. Many struggle with issues of body image and eating distress as they deal with the difficult and frequently perplexing changes that occur with puberty. Yet there is surprisingly little research on the emotional and behavioral challenges, as well as body image and eating distress among this sizable population in Uganda. This study sought to assess attitudes and behaviors related to body image and eating distress, as well as emotional and behavioral difficulties among adolescents in Mbarara, Southwestern Uganda.

Individual and community level factors associated with discriminatory attitudes against people living with HIV/AIDS among women of reproductive age in three sub-Saharan African countries: evidence from the most recent demographic and health survey (2021/22)

BMC Infectious Diseases | 5 June 2024

Belayneh Shetie Workneh, Alebachew Ferede Zegeye, Tadesse Tarik Tamir, Mohammed Seid Ali, Temesgen Ayenew, et al.

HIV-related stigma and discrimination significantly affects health, and well-being, willingness to be tested for HIV, initiation and adherence to antiretroviral therapy, and quality of life. However, the findings of the prior studies revealed that the prevalence of discrimination against people living with HIV is high. Thus, we aimed to assess the magnitude of discriminatory attitudes against people living with HIV/AIDS and associated factors in three sub-Saharan African countries.

Feasibility and Acceptability of the Novel Tu'Washindi Intervention to Increase PrEP Use among Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Siaya County, Kenya

Aids and Behavior | 5 June 2024

Alexandra M. Minnis, Kawango Agot, Miriam Hartmann, Sophie Otticha, Elizabeth T. Montgomery & Sarah T. Roberts

The Tu'Washindi intervention addressed intimate partner violence (IPV) and relationship dynamics to increase PrEP use among adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in Siaya County, Kenya. We evaluated feasibility and acceptability in a cluster-randomized trial in six DREAMS Safe Spaces. The multilevel intervention, delivered over 6 months, included three components delivered by DREAMS staff with support from the study team: an 8-session structured support club; community sensitization of male partners; and a couples PrEP education and health fair ("Buddy Day").

Assessing ChatGPT's Potential in HIV Prevention Communication: A Comprehensive Evaluation of Accuracy, Completeness, and Inclusivity

Aids and Behavior | 5 June 2024

Andrea De Vito, Agnese Colpani, Giulia Moi, Sergio Babudieri, Andrea Calcagno, et al.

With the advancement of artificial intelligence(AI), platforms like ChatGPT have gained traction in different fields, including Medicine. This study aims to evaluate the potential of ChatGPT in addressing questions related to HIV prevention and to assess its accuracy, completeness, and inclusivity. A team consisting of 15 physicians, six members from HIV communities, and three experts in gender and queer studies designed an assessment of ChatGPT. Queries were categorized into five thematic groups: general HIV information, behaviors increasing HIV acquisition risk, HIV and pregnancy, HIV testing, and the prophylaxis use.

Individual and community level factors associated with discriminatory attitudes against people living with HIV/AIDS among women of reproductive age in three sub-Saharan African countries: evidence from the most recent demographic and health survey (2021/22)

BMC Public Health | 5 June 2024

Belayneh Shetie Workneh, Alebachew Ferede Zegeye, Tadesse Tarik Tamir, Mohammed Seid Ali, Temesgen Ayenew & Enyew Getaneh Mekonen

HIV-related stigma and discrimination significantly affects health, and well-being, willingness to be tested for HIV, initiation and adherence to antiretroviral therapy, and quality of life. However, the findings of the prior studies revealed that the prevalence of discrimination against people living with HIV is high. Thus, we aimed to assess the magnitude of discriminatory attitudes against people living with HIV/AIDS and associated factors in three sub-Saharan African countries.

Facebook addiction and its impact on depression: a cross sectional study

Journal of Health, Population and Nutrition | 6 June 2024

Nahid Salma & Farhaduzzaman Bhuiyan

Facebook has become a part of daily life for its users and therefore become a very significant factor of mental health. As the number of Facebook users increases exponentially, the problems related to immense use have become more evident and more frequent. Therefore, the study aimed to explore the impact of Facebook addiction on depression among its users.

Impact assessment of self-medication on COVID-19 prevalence in Gauteng, South Africa, using an age-structured disease transmission modelling framework

BMC Public Health | 7 June 2024

Wisdom S. Avusuglo, Qing Han, Woldegebriel Assefa Woldegerima, Nicola Bragazzi, Ali Asgary, et al.

To assess the impact of self-medication on the transmission dynamics of COVID-19 across different age groups, examine the interplay of vaccination and self-medication in disease spread, and identify the age group most prone to self-medication.

Contextual determinants of multiple sexual partnerships amongst young people in South Africa: a multilevel analysis

BMC Public Health | 7 June 2024

Nebechukwu H. Ugwu & Clifford O. Odimegwu

Risky sexual behaviour (RSB), particularly multiple sexual partnerships (MSP) continues to be a major public health concern and has been linked to the increasing STIs, including HIV/AIDS in many parts of sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), suggesting that there is an association between contextual factors and multiple sexual partnering. However, in South Africa, this association is not well established in recent literature. Hence, this study examined the contextual factors contributing to multiple sexual partnerships among young people in South Africa.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

HPV jab effective for men against cancer, large analysis finds

Juta Medical Brief | 29 May 2024

A recent large analysis showed that vaccination of boys and men against the human papillomavirus (HPV) reduces their risk of head and neck cancers and other malignancies, adding to the jab's proven benefit in protecting women from cervical cancer. The study of more than 3.4m people is one of the first long-term analysis of the vaccine's real-world effect on preventing HPV-related cancers of the head and neck, anal areas, penis, vulva, vagina and cervix, said the researchers. Previous studies of the vaccine have focused mainly on cervical cancer, Reuters reports. In one large 2020 study from Sweden, for example, cervical cancer rates were 47 per 100 000 in vaccinated women and 94 per 100 000 in unvaccinated women.

Mental health admissions on the rise – Netcare

Juta Medical Brief | 29 May 2024

Netcare, which owns 14 mental health hospitals with 1 007 beds, has said that paid patient days grew 7% in the half-year to March, and that it will open two new hospitals in the next two years. Group CEO Dr Richard Friedland said there has been a surge in mental health conditions worldwide, partly because there was now less stigmatisation of mental illnesses. "Globally, and particularly in our own country, there is a lot of stress out there," he said. "We are facing a lot of societal pressures ... a lot of people haven't recovered from Covid and ... this leads to an increased burden of mental health and one we've all got to tackle. We don't have the solutions to it yet."

#WorldNoTobaccoDay: Is SA doing enough to protect teens from Big Tobacco?

Bhekisisa | 31 May 2024

Tobacco companies are using clever marketing tactics to make so-called new-generation tobacco products like vapes and nicotine pouches look cool — and punting them as less harmful than conventional smoking. It's a ploy to get a new generation hooked on tobacco, says a new World Health Organisation report, ahead of today's World No Tobacco Day. How do South Africa's tobacco laws stack up against international guidelines — and are they strict enough to keep young people safe?

Civil society statement on the proposed re-criminalisation of HIV in Zimbabwe

HIV Justice Network | 31 May 2024

In 2022, the Government of Zimbabwe was celebrated nationally and internationally for repealing the country's HIV-specific criminal law, Section 79 of the Criminal Code. When announcing the repeal in Parliament, Minister Ziyambi Ziyambi, Zimbabwe's Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs noted: "...the global thinking now is that that law stigmatises people living with HIV and studies have shown that it does not produce the intended results. What the ministry is going to do is to repeal that section of the law and ensure that we keep up to speed with modern trends in the world."

HIV-positive moms with healthy babies; how it happens

Pulse.ng | 2 June 2024

The idea of an HIV-positive woman giving birth to an HIV-negative baby might seem surprising. But thanks to incredible medical advancements, this is a reality for many families today. Let's dive into the science behind this success story! HIV, or Human Immunodeficiency Virus, attacks the body's immune system, making it harder to fight off infections. It can be transmitted through bodily fluids like blood, semen, and breast milk. This raises a concern for pregnant women with HIV, as the virus could potentially pass to their babies during pregnancy, childbirth, or breastfeeding.

Zambia is the first country in Africa to roll out long-acting, injectable HIV prevention

VaccinesWork | 3 June 2024

In February 2024, the Zambia Ministry of Health launched a PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) injectable – also known as long-acting cabotegravir (CAB-LA) – which provides about two months of HIV protection for its users. Zambia is the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to offer the injectable outside of a study setting. VaccinesWork caught up with Tabo Lukato-Hadunka, a 28-year-old clinician, psychotherapeutic counsellor, self-described behavioural science enthusiast and HIV activist, who has been closely following the roll-out, to learn more.

A lack of food adds to challenges for people living with HIV and TB in South Sudan

Médecins Sans Frontières | 3 June 2024

In South Sudan, over seven million people are expected to face acute food insecurity or worse between now and July. Among them, patients who are living with tuberculosis (TB) and/or HIV are particularly impacted, since the intensity of treatment can be hard for people to bear on an empty stomach. Some people endure severe pain, while others decide to reduce or even stop taking treatment, putting their lives at risk.

Dr Chat GPT: Can AI Improve Healthcare In Africa?

Health-e News | 3 June 2024

When Salma Said experienced persistent fatigue and weight loss in her village in Morogoro, Tanzania, she hesitated to seek help, fearing the cost and time required to get care. Her livelihood dwindled as she became unable to work. I only met Salma on admission to the hospital, confused and unable to walk. Her diagnosis was a stroke that was secondary to Type Two diabetes, a condition that can be simple to manage and prevent.

At the heart of the NHI lies fairness: Outgoing chair of parliament's health committee defends record

Spotlight | 3 June 2024

The chairperson of the National Assembly's Portfolio Committee on Health Dr Kenneth Jacobs played a pivotal role in deliberations on the National Health Insurance Bill. Spotlight's Biënne Huisman asked Jacobs about some criticisms of NHI and about his plans for life after Parliament. A week before South Africa's sixth democratic Parliament drew to a close on May 21, chairperson of its Portfolio Committee on Health, Dr Kenneth Jacobs, observed President Cyril Ramaphosa sign the National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill into law at the Union Buildings in Pretoria.

A Conversation About HIV Health Care

Poz | 3 June 2024

Daniel Downer, 35, is thriving as the executive director of Bros in Convo, a self-described “Black, queer-led grassroots org-building community” dedicated to “educating and empowering gay and queer individuals of color living in Central Florida.” Downer speaks with excitement about the many services his group offers, which will soon include a harm reduction education workshop for people who use drugs during sex, also known as chemsex. “We want to share tools with folks on how they can have safer fun, rather than say ‘You need to stop,’” Downer explains.

NIH launches 2 clinical trials testing HIV drug on women, other minority groups

UPI | 4 June 2024

The National Institutes of Health on Tuesday said they are seeking to now include underrepresented population groups for HIV studies. The two new clinical trials launched by NIH will collect data on a twice-yearly HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis drug, known as PrEP and which seeks to prevent HIV, in underrepresented U.S. population groups in clinical research such as women and drug users.

Zimbabwe: Retrogressive bill listing wilful HIV transmission as a criminal offence set to be withdrawn

HIV Justice Network | 4 June 2024

The Bill sought to re-criminalise deliberate HIV/AIDS transmission despite the fact that the Marriages Act had decriminalised wilful HIV/AIDS transmission. Contributing to debate on the Bill in the National Assembly last week, Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Ziyambi Ziyambi, said prosecution under the Criminal Laws Amendment (Protection of Children and Young Persons) Bill should only apply when deliberate transmission of HIV/AIDS is done in aggravating circumstances such as rape and other sexual offences involving young persons.

US health officials advise using antibiotic as a 'morning-after pill' against STDs

Medical Xpress | 4 May 2024

Some people should consider taking an antibiotic as a morning-after pill to try to prevent certain sexually transmitted diseases, U.S. health officials recommended Tuesday. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention finalized its endorsement of taking doxycycline after unprotected sex as a way to prevent chlamydia, gonorrhea or syphilis infections. CDC officials called it the first new prevention tool against sexually transmitted infections in decades, and said innovation is badly needed. Rates of syphilis, chlamydia and gonorrhea have been rising for years, most notably in gay and bisexual men, although the latest data suggested chlamydia and gonorrhea cases stopped rising in 2022.

Who will be SA's Minister of Health in the new cabinet?

Spotlight | 4 June 2024

After the ANC received less than 41% of the votes in last week's national elections, negotiations are now underway that will determine how and by who South Africa is governed. Ministerial posts, including the country's top health job, might be on the negotiating table. Spotlight considers the candidates for the post of South Africa's Minister of Health. For most of the last 30 years, it went almost without saying that the country's Minister of Health would be drawn from the ranks of the ANC. But given the dramatic decline in the party's electoral fortunes and the consequent pressure to enter into coalitions or other deals, the pool of realistic candidates for the post of health minister might this year be larger than before.

How Groote Schuur — and a bit of tango — primed Ntobeko Ntusi to head up the SAMRC

Bhekisisa | 4 June 2024

To get to Groote Schuur Hospital, one must at least travel some way on Cape Town's Main Road, which runs between the two original enclaves of European settlement at the Cape — the Castle of Good Hope, built by the East India Company to defend its stake at the tip of the continent, and the naval base at Simon's Town, which gave Britain's Royal Navy supremacy in southern waters for a very long time.

CDC suggests doxycycline postexposure prophylaxis for STI prevention

Contemporary | OB/GYN | 4 June 2024

Doxycycline postexposure prophylaxis (doxy PEP) should be used in a comprehensive sexual health approach when offered, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). An increase in sexually transmitted infection (STI) incidence has been observed over time in the United States, indicating a need for novel approaches to STI management. PEP, described as administration of a medication to prevent infection following exposure, is often used to prevent HIV and other infections. Historically, doxycycline has been used to prevent infections such as malaria and Lyme disease, but recent recommendations from the CDC suggest using doxy PEP for STI prevention. Following 2021 recommendations, studies evaluating 200 mg doxycycline STI PEP found significant reductions in bacterial STI acquisition, leading to these updated guidelines.

Anal self-examinations may help people identify pre-cancerous lesions and tumours

Aidsmap | 5 June 2024

Anal self-examination has the potential to identify lesions that might be cancerous and should be promoted as a community-led tool to raise awareness of the need for anal cancer screening, the investigators of a prospective study in sexual minority men and transgender women report.

Faster tests, shorter treatments: How new tech could help slow down drug-resistant TB

Bhekisisa | 5 June 2024

The health department is looking to start using DNA technology from early next year to check for changes in the genetic make-up of the tuberculosis (TB) germ which could make it resistant to antibiotics, a presentation by Norbert Ndjeka, the department's chief TB director, showed on Wednesday at the 8th South African TB Conference in Durban. Scientists, activists and policymakers from across the world, including from South Africa, are attending the event.

HIV risk rises as climate disasters push African women to ssexell

Times Live | 6 June 2024

In Nairobi's informal settlement of Kawangware, Kenyan vegetable seller Beverly confronts a grim reality — her one-room corrugated iron home and everything she owned has been destroyed in the worst floods in years. Since March, torrential rains linked to climate change have inundated parts of East Africa, destroying homes and livelihoods and displacing hundreds of thousands of people.

The Malnutrition Crisis: Prioritising The Health And Well-Being Of Future Generations

Health-e News | 6 June 2024

As the dust settles on the recent elections, it is time for the new administration to confront a silent catastrophe that has plagued our nation for far too long – the malnutrition crisis. The haunting statistics reveal a grim reality: over 1.5 million children in South Africa suffer from stunted growth, a reflection of the chronic lack of proper nutrition and care during their crucial early years.

Slow progress after decision to make TB prevention pills more widely available

Spotlight | 6 June 2024

Besides preventing illness and death, tuberculosis prevention therapy is estimated to be highly cost effective. Yet, uptake of the medication is not what it could be in South Africa. Tiyese Jeranji asks how much has changed since the Department of Health last year decided to make TB prevention therapy much more widely available. Many people who have the TB bug in their lungs are not ill with TB disease. Having the bug in your body, does mean however that you are at risk of falling ill, should the TB bacteria get the overhand in its battle with your immune system.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Call for Applications, Albertina Sisulu Executive Leadership Program in Health (ASELPH) Fellowship, A University of Pretoria Postgraduate Diploma in Health Systems Management in Executive Leadership, Application Deadline, 30 June 2024

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 7th cohort of the Albertina Sisulu Executive Leadership Program in Health starting in January 2025 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.

While university funding support is not provided, **Partial or Full Tuition Bursaries** may be available for public health sector employees through respective provincial or HWSETA bursaries, 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

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

WMO Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update (2024-2028)

World Meteorological Association | 5 June 2024

The Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update is issued annually by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). It provides a synthesis of the global annual to decadal predictions produced by the WMO-designated Global Producing Centres and other contributing centres for 2024-2028. According to the latest report, there is an 80 percent likelihood that the annual average global temperature will temporarily exceed 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels for at least one of the next five years.

The global mean near-surface temperature for each year between 2024 and 2028 is predicted to be between 1.1°C and 1.9°C higher than the 1850-1900 baseline. It says that it is likely (86%) that at least one of these years will set a new temperature record, beating 2023 which is currently the warmest year.

<https://wmo.int/publication-series/wmo-global-annual-decadal-climate-update-2024-2028>

Call for Abstracts – The *Journal of the International AIDS Society* (JIAS) invites abstracts for the below supplements: "**Person-centred HIV prevention: Supporting people vulnerable to HIV acquisition through tailored programming, service delivery and prevention products**" to be launched in September 2025.

Guest Editors: Iskandar Azwa, Marie-Claude Lavoie, Andrew Mujugira

Deadline for abstract submissions: 14 June 2024

More information [here](#).

"**Differentiated service delivery – beyond HIV treatment for integration and other health needs**" to be launched in July 2025 in conjunction with IAS 2025, the 13th IAS Conference on HIV Science.

Guest Editors: Anna Grimsrud, Charles B. Holmes, Linda Sande

Deadline for abstract submissions: 28 June 2024

More information [here](#).

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://bmcinfctdis.biomedcentral.com/>

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 user-led 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

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/>

Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) 2024 conference

This year's theme: 'Partnerships for Public Health: Sculpting a Healthier Future Together'

The Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) hosts an annual conference, with the aim of engaging public health practitioners from around the country, region and world to share their experiences and research, discuss topical public health issues, and mentor public health students and young researchers.

The 2024 PHASA Conference provides an opportune setting for engaging with the most recent public health research and evidence, for rethinking current models of research translation, for identifying barriers and opportunities for change, and for exploring new strategies for knowledge exchange and dissemination.

Join fellow public health experts, academics, researchers, students, non-governmental organisations, and civil society members at this year's annual PHASA Conference; as we transform the ways we think about and approach priority areas of public health research, policy, and practice, to ultimately improve health outcomes for all.

For more information please visit the conference website: <https://phasa.samrc.ac.za/>

Become a member of the Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA)

The Public Health Association of South Africa (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.

<https://phasa.org.za/index.php/get-involved/membership>

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

No vacancies available

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