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CATEGORIES

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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Inequalities in cancer: a major public health concern

The Lancet Public Health | 15 February 2024

According to the International Agency for Research on Cancer's latest estimates, 2022 saw 20 million new cancer cases and 9.7 million deaths worldwide. Lung cancer was the most common cancer with 2.5 million new cases—12.4% of the total new cases, followed by breast cancer (2.3 million cases, 11.6%), colorectal cancer (1.9 million cases, 9.6%), and prostate cancer (1.5 million cases, 7.3%). With population ageing and growth, and changes in exposure to risk factors, projections predict 35 million new cancer cases in 2050.

Investigating the Associations between Drought, Poverty, High-Risk Sexual Behaviours, and HIV Incidence in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Cross-Sectional Study

Aids and Behavior | 17 February 2024

Adam Trickey, Leigh F. Johnson, Rogerio Bonifacio, Agnes Kiragga, Guy Howard, et al.

Climate change is increasing the likelihood of drought in sub-Saharan Africa, where HIV prevalence is high. Drought could increase HIV transmission through various mediating mechanisms; we investigated these associations. We used data on people aged 15–59 from Population-Based HIV Impact Assessment surveys from 2016 in Eswatini, Lesotho, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

Remote digital health technologies for improving the care of people with respiratory disorders

The Lancet Digital Health | 23 February 2024

Jessilyn Dunn, Andrea Coravos, Manuel Fanarjian, Geoffrey S Ginsburg, Steven R Steinhubl, et al.

Respiratory diseases are a leading cause of morbidity and mortality globally. However, existing systems of

care, built around scheduled appointments, are not well designed to support the needs of people with chronic and acute respiratory conditions that can change rapidly and unexpectedly. Home-based and personal digital health technologies (DHTs) allow implementation of new models of care catering to the unique needs of individuals.

A population based study on human papillomavirus infection and associated risk factors among women of the remote South Andaman Island, India

BMC Women's Health | 23 February 2024

Rehnuma Parvez, Paluru Vijayachari, Kannan Thiruvengadam, Avijit Roy, Mrinmoy Kumar Saha, et al.

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is associated with cervical cancer and cervical dysplasia worldwide. Data on HPV prevalence in a region is important because it serves as a predictor of the likelihood of the population in that particular region acquiring cervical cancer. Moreover, with the availability of effective vaccines, the public health system must be aware of the preponderance of HPV to implement the vaccine. The present study was designed to understand the prevalence of HPV and associated factors among the women of South Andaman Island.

Effect of BCG vaccination against Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection in adult Brazilian health-care workers: a nested clinical trial

The Lancet Infectious Diseases | 26 February 2024

Paulo Cesar Pereira dos Santos, Nicole Louise Messina, Prof Roberto Dias de Oliveira, Patricia Vieira da Silva, Marco Antonio Moreira Puga, et al.

The effectiveness of BCG vaccine for adult pulmonary tuberculosis remains uncertain. In this study, we aimed to evaluate the effect of vaccination with BCG-Denmark to prevent initial and sustained interferon- γ release assay conversion in Brazilian health-care workers.

Comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS and associated factors among reproductive age women in Liberia

BMC Public Health | 26 February 2024

Beminate Lemma Seifu, Gilbert Eshun, Getayeneh Antehunegn Tesema & Frank Kyei-Arthur

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) continues to be a deadly pandemic and a serious threat to public health. Globally, reproductive age women are more likely to be infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS is pivotal in the fight against AIDS. However, comprehensive HIV/AIDS knowledge is low in Sub-Saharan African (SSA) nations including Liberia, which contributes to the high incidence of HIV in these nations. This study assessed the level of comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS and its associated factors among reproductive age women in Liberia.

Social marketing and mass media interventions to increase sexually transmissible infections (STIs) testing among young people: social marketing and visual design component analysis

BMC Public Health | 26 February 2024

Julie Riddell, Anne Cleary, Judith A. Dean, Paul Flowers, Emma Heard, et al.

Globally, sexually transmissible infections (STIs) continue to disproportionately affect young people. Regular STI testing is an important public health strategy but remains low among this age group. Raising awareness of testing is an essential step and requires effective interventions designed for young people. To inform the development of effective interventions that promote STI testing among young people, we conducted a systematic literature review to describe the social marketing and visual design components commonly found in STI testing interventions and explore associations of these components with intervention effectiveness.

Organisation of testing services, structural barriers and facilitators of routine HIV self-testing during sexually transmitted infection consultations: a qualitative study

of patients and providers in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

BMC Infectious Diseases | 27 January 2024

Sokhna Boye, Alexis Kouadio, Amélie Florence Kouvahe, Anthony Vautier, Odette Ky-Zerbo, et al
Consultations for sexually transmitted infection (STI) provide an opportunity to offer HIV testing to both patients and their partners. This study describes the organisation of HIV self-testing (HIVST) distribution during STI consultations in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) and analyse the perceived barriers and facilitators associated with the use and redistribution of HIVST kits by STI patients.

Process evaluation of the 'Lafiyan Yara' project on enhancing access to HIV testing services using existing community structures in Nigeria

BMC Public Health | 27 February 2024

Olujide Arije, Rachel Titus, Idowu Omisile, Aisha Dadi, Danjuma Garba, et al.

The Lafiyan Yara Project aimed to increase demand for HIV counselling, testing, treatment, and prevention services among pregnant women and children in Taraba State, Nigeria. Implemented from 2019 to 2021, the project utilized existing community structures, including traditional birth attendants, village health workers, and patent and proprietary medicine vendors, for mobilization. This study assessed the project's activities, contributors, relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency.

Behavior Change Among HIV-Negative Men Who Have Sex with Men Not Using PrEP in the United States

Aids and Behavior | 27 February 2024

Steven M. Goodreau, Michael P. Barry, Deven T. Hamilton, Austin M. Williams, Li Yan Wang, et al

This study measures changes in condomless anal sex (CAS) among HIV-negative men who have sex with men (MSM) who are not taking pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). It considers the 2014–2019 cycles of the American Men's Internet Survey, a serial, cross-sectional web-based survey of US cisgender MSM aged ≥ 15 years, in which $\sim 10\%$ of each year's sample is drawn from the previous year. Among those surveyed for 2 years who remained HIV-negative and off PrEP, reports of having any CAS and of CAS partner number were compared across years.

Implementation of REDCap mobile app in an oral HIV clinical study

BMC Public Health | 28 February 2024

Ana Lucia Seminario, Ashley E. Karczewski, Sara Stanley, Javier Valencia Huamani, Juan José Montenegro, et al.

In Peru, HIV cases are highly concentrated among men who have sex with men (MSM). Despite the availability of anti-retroviral therapy, people living with HIV (PWH) have higher levels of oral diseases. Alcohol use disorder (AUD) is significantly present among PWH. Our overarching goal was to generate foundational evidence on the association of AUD and oral health in MSM with HIV and enhance research capacity for future intersectional research on AUD, oral health and HIV. Our specific aim was to implement an on-site electronic data collection system through the use of a REDCap Mobile App in a low-middle income country (LMIC) setting.

Peer-to-Peer Chain Recruitment for Enrolling Young South African Women into an HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Intervention Study: How Did It Perform?

Aids and Behavior | 28 February 2024

Judy Fordjuoh, Curtis Dolezal, Nonhlonipho Bhengu, Abigail D. Harrison, Theresa M. Exner, et al.

Peer-to-peer chain recruitment has been used for descriptive studies, but few intervention studies have employed it. We used this method to enroll sexually active women ages 18 to 25 into an online Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) information and motivation intervention pilot in eThekweni (Durban), South Africa. Seeds (N = 16) were recruited by study staff and randomized to Masibambane, Ladies Chat, a Gender-Enhanced group-based WhatsApp Workshop (GE), or Individual-Access (IA), a control condition that provided participants with online information/motivation materials only.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Child Immunisation Awareness: Measles

Health Systems Trust | 16 February 2024

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted health programmes and caused delays in surveillance and immunisation programmes across the globe. School health activities, routine check-ups and other programmes took a backseat as the scramble for a COVID-19 vaccine took centre stage. The global suspension of immunisation programmes, as well as decreases in immunisation rates and surveillance, have exposed millions of children to preventable diseases such as measles. Measles is a highly contagious disease caused by a virus. It spreads easily when an infected person breathes, coughs or sneezes, it can cause severe disease, complications, and even death.

Poor design makes it a battle to get young children with HIV to take their medicine

Aidsmap | 20 February 2024

Approximately half of all children receiving HIV care in Kenya have interruptions in their treatment lasting longer than 48 hours, and almost half are lost to follow-up care within five years. A study recently published in PLOS ONE linked these interruptions to the practical challenges of distributing paediatric medicines to small children. The authors argue that these interruptions, which they link to current paediatric ART formulations, contribute to ART ineffectiveness and poor outcomes for children living with HIV. They call for changes to paediatric medications that would make them much easier to administer and less unpleasant to take.

Best contender in decades in breast cancer fight – global study

Juta Medical Brief | 21 February 2024

For decades, hormonal treatment of breast cancer has had one aim – blocking oestrogen, but now a global study has discovered there may be another less toxic way to defeat the most common form of breast cancer, offering hope to millions of women in the future. The study found the drug enobosarm stimulates the androgen receptor (AR), making it effective against oestrogen receptor-positive (ER+) breast cancer, which constitutes up to 80% of all breast cancer cases.

No new funding for NHI in yesterday's Budget

Juta Medical Brief | 21 February 2024

Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana has made no new provisions for the National Health Insurance in yesterday's Budget speech, but he made it clear government was still committed to the policy, notes MedicalBrief. Major public sector reforms will be required to shift funds currently allocated to provincial Health Departments to NHI, said Treasury's chief director for health and social development, Mark Blecher, according to a BusinessLIVE report. Programmes designed to lay the groundwork for NHI are largely funded through the NHI indirect grant which has been allocated R6.9bn over the next three years.

More than half the world faces high measles risk – WHO

Juta Medical Brief | 21 February 2024

The World Health Organisation warned this week that more than half of the world's countries will be at high or very high risk of measles outbreaks by the end of 2024, unless urgent preventative measures are taken. Cases have been increasing across most regions mainly due to missed vaccinations during the Covid-19 years, when health systems were overwhelmed, reports Reuters.

More money to hire doctors but health sector still under pressure

Juta Medical Brief | 21 February 2024

The good news is that National Treasury has made good on Health Minister Joe Phaahla's promise that the government would find the money to hire more doctors, but not all unemployed doctors will be hired as provinces will have to prioritise posts, notes MedicalBrief. BusinessLIVE reports that but the health sector will remain under pressure as the health budget shrinks in real terms over the next three years. Under growing pressure to reverse the deep cuts announced in the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement in November, the Treasury has allocated an extra R11.6bn to help cover last year's higher-than-anticipated wage settlement, Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana announced in his Budget presentation yesterday.

New series highlights the importance of a positive postnatal experience for all women and newborns

WHO | 22 February 2024

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN's Special Programme on Human Reproduction (HRP) have launched a new series on maternal and newborn care for a positive postnatal care experience in BMJ Global Health with six articles presenting evidence on the importance of understanding women's, parents' and health workers' perspectives and a rights-based approach to strengthen quality postnatal care, for every woman and newborn, everywhere.

2-STEP METHOD FOR HIV TREATMENTS COULD BOOST QUALITY OF LIFE

Futurity | 22 February 2024

It could ultimately improve the quality of life for people undergoing treatment. To overcome quality-of-life altering side effects linked to combination antiretroviral therapy (cART) in people with HIV, the researchers used a two-step approach to personalizing optimal cART regimens to reduce the chances that patients will suffer comorbidities such as depression, chronic kidney disease, and cardiovascular issues.

"Personalizing cART treatment for people with HIV has the potential to yield more effective health outcomes, enhancing overall well-being and quality of life," says Yanxun Xu, associate professor in the Whiting School of Engineering's applied mathematics and statistics department at Johns Hopkins University.

SA doctors make up to 40 times more than those in Kenya and Nigeria

Bhekisisa | 23 February 2024

Unemployed doctors aren't the health department's only vice; those who do work in state clinics and hospitals are heavily underpaid, says the South African Medical Association (Sama). Yet, South African government doctors earn up to three times more in a month than what some make in a year in other middle-income countries in Africa, such as Kenya and Nigeria.

Study Shows Disparities in Psychosocial Outcomes Among Women With Ovarian Cancer in Rural vs Urban Areas

AJMC | 23 March 2024

Patients with ovarian cancer living in rural areas reported less psychological functioning improvements compared with patients living in urban areas in the year following ovarian cancer diagnosis, according to a prospective, longitudinal study published in Gynecologic Oncology. Rural residence is a known driver of health care disparities among patients with cancer, but there is a lack of research on the impacts of rural residency on mental health and quality of life (QOL) in patients with ovarian cancer. Authors of the current study aimed to determine the impacts of rural residency on psychosocial functioning and QOL through surveys conducted between the clinic visit and treatment initiation, at 6 months, and at a 1-year follow-up visit. Patients were recruited at the University of Iowa and Washington University.

Spike feared over HIV in women

IOL | 25 February 2026

Climate change could increase the spread of HIV among women facing food insecurity as a result of drought in rural parts of sub-Saharan Africa, although those in South Africa might be less affected. Researchers at the University of Bristol in the UK said that as droughts became increasingly common, women were likely to turn to transactional sex when faced with poverty and food insecurity.

Pregnant women in South Africa should be offered social grants – it'll save the state money in the long run

The Conversation | 25 February 2026

A baby's first 1,000 days, from the time of conception until their second birthday, is a crucial window of opportunity to optimise their potential – through healthy nutrition for the mother during pregnancy, and then for the child after birth. Undernutrition during this early period can cause stunting, which has major health and social effects later in life. Stunted children may never reach their full potential, and may suffer from obesity and related diseases for the rest of their lives.

AIDSWatch 2024: “We're in This Together”

Poz | 26 February 2026

The words March Madness probably conjure images of college basketball and fantasy brackets. But on Washington, DC's Capitol Hill, the phrase denotes something much different; instead of tallied points and tournaments, for staffers in the nation's capital it means a flurry of meetings that coincide with the coming of spring. In DC, March coincides with the time when Congress gets ready to pass the annual budget and lawmakers meet face to face with constituents to learn why they must back certain policy priorities and where they must fight to allot federal dollars.

East Africa: Leaving No One Behind - Reaching Every Child in Humanitarian Settings in the Horn of Africa

allAfrica | 27 February 2024

Even during difficult circumstances, we all want the best for our children no matter what age they are and what situation they are in. As a parent, the first thing I wish for my son is for him to be healthy and happy, and I can assure you that every parent feels the same way. Routine immunization is a crucial factor in enhancing child health and survival. It safeguards children and the whole community from devastating vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks. Yet children residing in humanitarian settings such as conflict-affected areas, remote regions, and cross-border communities still face significant barriers to accessing this fundamental health care service.

Vaccinating 3.1 million Children to control polio outbreak in South Sudan

Africa.com | 27 February 2024

Today, South Sudan launched a nationwide polio campaign aiming at vaccinating 3.1 million children using the novel oral polio vaccine type 2. The novel oral polio vaccine type 2 has been designed to provide safe and reliable protection against poliovirus and is genetically more stable than the previous oral polio vaccine types. This means that it has the potential to be a game-changer in preventing new outbreaks of type 2 circulating variant-polio viruses (cVDPV2).

The world has run out of oral cholera vaccine in the middle of a southern African outbreak

News24 | 27 February 2024

The world's oral cholera vaccine stockpile has run dry, while 16 countries, most of them in Africa, suffer outbreaks of the waterborne disease. Now public health experts are pushing manufacturers to urgently speed up production. The lack of vaccines "directly affects Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) teams as we are trying to respond to an extraordinary number of cholera outbreaks, including in Ethiopia, Sudan, Zambia, and Zimbabwe", said MSF's international medical coordinator, Dr Daniela Garone.

Greater weight gain in pregnancy reduces the risk of adverse outcomes for women with HIV

Aidsmap | 27 February 2024

Women with HIV who gained weight during pregnancy after starting dolutegravir-based treatment were less likely to experience birth outcomes such as premature birth, stillbirth or an infant that was small for gestational age, analysis of a large clinical trial has shown. Weight gained during pregnancy was more likely to be maintained in the year after giving birth by women taking dolutegravir than those taking efavirenz, especially if dolutegravir was taken with tenofovir alafenamide (TAF).

Gender differences explored: Cardiovascular health variances in women's lifespan

News Medical Life Science | 27 February 2024

Women's cardiovascular disease risks and outcomes differ throughout the lifespan from those of men, according to a collection of studies devoted to cardiovascular medicine research focused on women of all ages, published today in a special "spotlight" issue of the Journal of the American Heart Association, an open access, peer-reviewed journal of the American Heart Association. Cardiovascular disease kills more women than all forms of cancer combined. Among females 20 years and older, nearly 45% are living with some form of cardiovascular disease, and less than 50% of women entering pregnancy in the U.S. have good heart health.

The Global Women's Health Gap Is Costing Us In Lives And Productivity

Forbes | 27 February 2024

While it is well known that women live longer lives on average, it is much less known that they spend 25% more years in poor health. This is what we call the women's health gap, and it affects women, the children and parents and others they care for, and the economy. By addressing the root causes of the women's health gap – and it is addressable – we have the opportunity to unlock an average of 7 additional days of higher quality life annually for the 3.9 billion women worldwide.

Doxycycline Less Effective, Adhered to for STI Prevention in Women

Contemporary OBGYN | 27 February 2024

Post-exposure prophylaxis doxycycline hycate 200 mg (doxycycline PEP) was not associated with significantly lower incidence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) versus standard care among young, cisgender women in Kenya. Recent findings from the dPEP Kenya Study Team show that cisgender women aged 18 – 30 years old did not benefit from the tetracycline antibiotic in the prevention of STIs including *Chlamydia trachomatis*, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and *Treponema pallidum*—contradicting previous study findings observed among cisgender men and transgender women treated with the post-exposure prophylactic drug.

Pilot project in SA now offering HIV prevention injection

Spotlight | 27 February 2024

A new HIV prevention injection is now available to a select number of people in South Africa. That a single shot provides two months of protection is one of the injection's major selling points. In this story, Elri Voigt unpacks how much of the jab is available, who is choosing to get it and what other anti-HIV drugs are being rolled out. Earlier this month, a young person in Cape Town became one of the first people in the country to receive a new HIV prevention injection outside of a clinical trial. The injection contains a long-acting formulation of the antiretroviral drug cabotegravir (CAB-LA for short). It provides two months of protection against HIV infection per shot.

World Health Organization (WHO) updates its guidance for Ebola and Marburg disease

ZAWYA | 27 February 2024

Ten years on from the West African Ebola outbreak, the World Health Organization (WHO) updated its

infection prevention and control guidelines for Ebola and Marburg disease. The key recommendations are summarized in The BMJ today with an infographic and the full guideline is available on both the WHO website and the web-based MAGICapp platform. Case fatality rates for both Ebola and Marburg disease are high, averaging about 50% (and can range from 24% to 90%). Up to date, evidence based infection prevention and control (IPC) guidelines are thus critical to ensuring a safe, systematic, and standardised approach during outbreaks.

Doxycycline Less Effective, Adhered to for STI Prevention in Women

Contemporary OB/GYN | 27 February 2024

Post-exposure prophylaxis doxycycline hycate 200 mg (doxycycline PEP) was not associated with significantly lower incidence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) versus standard care among young, cisgender women in Kenya. Recent findings from the dPEP Kenya Study Team show that cisgender women aged 18 – 30 years old did not benefit from the tetracycline antibiotic in the prevention of STIs including *Chlamydia trachomatis*, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and *Treponema pallidum*—contradicting previous study findings observed among cisgender men and transgender women treated with the post-exposure prophylactic drug.

Young people living with HIV prefer to learn their status before 12 and from their caregivers

Aidsmap | 27 February 2024

A recent study explored the preferences of adolescent and young adults in Kenya regarding when and how disclosure should happen, along with their satisfaction with the process. Understanding adolescents' perspectives on disclosure is crucial for improving their experiences and for providing better support. Despite improvements in care, adolescents and young adults living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa face unique challenges and poorer health outcomes compared to adults.

Suspicion, stigma and systems: Africa's healthcare story

Bhekisisa | 28 February 2024

Towards the end of last year, stalwarts of public healthcare in Africa gathered just north of Pretoria to discuss “the past and present of public health and health systems in Africa”. From healthcare evolving after colonial rule to implementing universal health coverage, delegates talked about what's worked on the continent and what hasn't — and why this was so. Health policies should not be debated only by politicians, the delegates agreed, but also include the voices from those who deliver services on the ground, for a “collaboration that is uniquely African”.

SA urges Pefpar to buy more African HIV/Aids drugs

Juta Medical Brief | 28 February 2024

South African pharmaceutical companies have urged the US President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (Pepfar) to shift 2m patients to made-in-Africa HIV/Aids medicines by 2030. This will boost the continent's drugmaking capacity and provide protection against future health security threats, they argue. The world's biggest HIV/Aids donor, Pepfar is credited with saving more than 25m lives with the more than \$110bn it has dispensed over the past 20 years to countries pulverised by the disease, including SA.

Health Department considers six-month ARV supplies to meet targets

Juta Medical Brief | 28 February 2024

South Africa is behind target on efforts to ensure 95% of people with HIV are on sustained treatment, and in an attempt to remedy this, their supply of ARV medication might be upped to six months' worth instead of the current one to three months, Health Minister Joe Phaahla said last week. SA has the world's biggest HIV/Aids burden – 7.8bn people – yet while it is on track to meet the UN target of 95% of people with HIV knowing their status by 2025, it is slow in ensuring 95% of those diagnosed with the disease are on sustained treatment, and that 95% of people on treatment are virally suppressed.

Spit test could detect breast cancer – US-Taiwan study

Juta Medical Brief | 28 February 2024

Scientists have developed a saliva test that screens for breast cancer, which they say is showing promising results in experimental testing, and could revolutionise public health practices. The new hand-held device detects breast cancer biomarkers from a tiny sample of spit, said the researchers from the University of Florida and National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University in Taiwan, who published their findings in the *Journal of Vacuum Science & Technology B*.

Scientists find possible Covid 'brain fog' cause – Irish study

Juta Medical Brief | 28 February 2024

The mystery surrounding the “brain fog” suffered by people with long Covid may finally have been revealed – with researchers saying that leaky blood vessels, combined with a hyperactive immune system, could be the cause. The scientists said their discovery was important for understanding brain fog and the cognitive decline seen in some people with the condition, and it's hoped this would help with the development of future treatments.

Cannabis use linked to increase in heart attack and stroke risk

Science Daily | 28 February 2024

An analysis of 430,000 adults in the U.S. found that using cannabis, most commonly through smoking, eating or vaporizing it, was significantly associated with a higher risk of heart attack and stroke, even after controlling for tobacco use (combustible cigarettes and other tobacco products) and other cardiovascular risk factors, according to new research published today in the *Journal of the American Heart Association*, an open access, peer-reviewed journal of the American Heart Association.

Stop breaking women's hearts at work: 7 ways to make workplaces better for cardiovascular health

The Conversation | 29 February 2024

Prominent heart health messaging focuses on the role of lifestyle behaviours (such as physical activity and nutrition) in cardiovascular health. However, the role of social determinants of health (or SoDH) — which include sex, gender, poverty, environment — is also well established. SDoH not only directly impact risk and progression of heart disease, but also health outcomes. Certain types of heart disease are significantly more common in women, compared to men. Moreover, compared with their non-Black counterparts, heart health for Black women is differentiated by a heavier burden of traditional risk factors, earlier development of the disease and nearly 20 per cent higher rates of cardiovascular mortality.

Taking stock of HIV stigma among men

Health Systems Trust | 29 February 2024

South Africa has the largest national Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) epidemic globally, with an estimated 7.9 million persons living with the disease. New HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women are substantially higher than among males of the same age because of many factors, including gender inequality.

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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.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

District Health Barometer launch soon!

The District Health Barometer (DHB) will be launched on the 28th of February at 11am SAST! The latest District Health Barometer will unveil an online interactive dashboard. Join us for an engaging and insightful session where we will showcase the highlights of our publication and demonstrate the features and functionalities of our dynamic online dashboard.

Register here: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/48b4acef-255e-40c3-ba2a-8e8e4d850099@be642b6f-5682-4ab1-ba4a-77e9d2206005/registration>

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

HIMSS 2024 Global Health Conference & Exhibition

The 2024 HIMSS European Health Conference & Exhibition brings together over 30,000 healthcare industry professionals, innovators, and educators from around the world to connect, learn, and experience innovative tech products and solutions that support the transformation of the health ecosystem through information and technology.

When: March 11-15, 2024

Where: Orlando, FL | McCormick Place Convention Center

For more information: <https://healthcaretransformers.com/healthcare-business/healthcare-conferences/healthcare-conferences-2024/>

SAPHEX 2024 Exhibition and Conference

The SAPHEX 2024 exhibition and conference continues to grow year-on-year and has become the leading annual event for anyone working in the South African pharmaceutical manufacturing industry. The exhibition brings together all the key suppliers to the region's pharmaceutical manufacturing base, exhibitors presenting a full range of APIs, excipients, and drug formulations; pharmaceutical packaging solutions; processing machinery and equipment; laboratory equipment; and cleanroom technology.

When: 13-14 March 2024

Where: Sandton, Johannesburg South Africa

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

3rd Edition of International Public Health Conference

The theme for this year's conference is "Restraining Pandemics Through Exploration of Trends and Public Health Challenges." With over 40 scientific sessions, attendees are sure to gain insights across a wide range of topics including infectious diseases, preventative medicine, chronic diseases, clinical trials and research, global health, health economics, and more.

When: March 21 – 23, 2024

Where: Singapore

For more information: <https://healthcaretransformers.com/healthcare-business/healthcare-conferences/healthcare-conferences-2024/>

8th SA TB Conference 2024

In keeping with the conference theme, the 8th SA TB conference will focus on innovations that will move South Africa further towards ending TB. Look out for exciting plenary presentations, Round Table discussions and Skills Building Workshops. Be part of the conference and submit your abstract early! Your

abstract submission ahead of schedule will make a significant impact.

When: 4-7 June 2024

Where: Durban ICC

For more information: <https://tbconference.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 Congress

When: 24-27 September 2024

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

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

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

No current vacancies

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