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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Rates in Patients Living With Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

Cureus | 3 April 2024

Nicholas Boivin and Samit Desai

Introduction: Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and human papillomavirus (HPV) have a strong association with one another, including the development of HPV-related neoplasms. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends routine HPV vaccination in persons aged 9-26, and consideration can be made to vaccinate up to age 45 based on provider discretion. This study aimed to look at the rate of HPV vaccination in adult HIV-positive patients.

WHO's end of TB targets: unachievable by 2035 without addressing under nutrition, forced displacement, and homelessness: trend analysis from 2015 to 2022

BMC Public Health | 4 April 2024

Birhanu Ayenew, Dawit Misganaw Belay, Yegoraw Gashaw, Wondimu Gimja & Yimenu Gardie

Tuberculosis (TB) remains a significant global health challenge, despite the World Health Organization (WHO) actively working towards its eradication through various initiatives and programs. Undernutrition, forced displacement, and homelessness worsen TB's burden and challenge control efforts; however, there is still no adequate research that shows the trend of these underlying factors to attain the WHO's ambitious TB targets. So, this study aims to analyze the trend analysis of these underlying factors worldwide from 2015 to 2022 and their impact on the feasibility and implications of reaching the End TB targets by 2035.

Interventions for Integrating Behavioral Health into HIV Settings for US Adults: A Narrative Review of Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses, 2010–2020

Aids and Behavior | 5 April 2024

Karen McKinnon, Cody Lentz, Daria Boccher-Lattimore, Francine Cournos, Ariana Pather, et al. Mental health and substance use disorders can negatively affect physical health, illness management, care access, and quality of life. These behavioral health conditions are prevalent and undertreated among people with HIV and may worsen outcomes along the entire HIV Care Continuum. This narrative review of tested interventions for integrating care for HIV and behavioral health disorders summarizes and contextualizes findings from systematic reviews and meta-analyses conducted in the past decade.

Exploring barriers of health literacy on non-communicable disease prevention and care among patients in north wollo zone public hospitals; Northeast, Ethiopia, 2023: application of socio-ecological model

BMC Public Health | 6 April 2024

Eneyew Talie Fenta, Ategeb Abera kidie, Misganaw Guadie Tiruneh, Tadele Fentabel Anagaw, Eyob ketema Bogale, et al.

Health literacy is important for the prevention of non-communicable disease to make informed health decisions, and practice healthy and protective behaviours. Therefore, application of a socioecological model to this study aimed to identify multilevel factors on health literacy among patients and develop scientific health communication interventional strategies to improve health literacy on non-communicable disease prevention and care.

Clinical outcomes of liver transplantation in human immunodeficiency virus/hepatitis B virus coinfecting patients in China

BMC Infectious Diseases | 8 April 2024

Jianxin Tang, Ruihui Weng, Taishi Fang, Kangjun Zhang, Xu Yan, Xin Jin, Linjie Xie & Dong Zhao, et al.

Highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) has been able to improve the immune system function and survival of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) patients. However, Patients coinfecting with HIV and hepatitis B virus (HBV) are more likely to develop end-stage liver disease (ESLD) than those infected with HBV alone. Consequently, liver transplantation is often required for these patients. This study evaluates the outcomes of orthotopic liver transplantation (OLT) of HIV-HBV coinfecting patients in China.

What may encourage or deter health services utilization by people living with or at the risk of HIV/AIDS in special health centers? Qualitative evidence from a stigmatized community

BMC Public Health | 8 April 2024

Mohammad Bazyar, Samaneh Tahmasebi Ghorabi, Jamil Sadeghifar, Mohammad Ranjbar, Reza Pakzad, et al.

Behavioral Diseases Counseling Centers (BDCCs) and Vulnerable Women's Counseling Centers (VWCCs) in Iran are the main peripheral centers that offer educational, counseling, diagnostic, preventive, curative and protective services to individuals living with or at high risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and female sex workers respectively. Due to the social stigma surrounding HIV in Iran, this study aims to identify the factors that may hinder or encourage HIV/AIDS patients and women with risky sexual behaviors from visiting these centers.

Association between the COVID-19 pandemic and childhood development aged 30 to 36 months in South Korea, based on the National health screening program for infants and children database

BMC Public Health | 9 April 2024

Kyung-Shin Lee, Youn Young Choi, You Sun Kim, Yeonjae Kim, Myoung-Hee Kim et al.

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has had a significant impact on the neurodevelopment of children. However, the precise effects of the virus and the social consequences of the pandemic on pediatric neurodevelopment are not yet fully understood. We aimed to compare the neurodevelopment of children between before and during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as examine the impact of socioeconomic status (SES) and regional differences on the development.

Factors affecting hand hygiene practice during the COVID-19 pandemic in the Zimbabwean population: a qualitative study

BMC Infectious Diseases | 9 April 2024

Nicholas Midzi, Masceline Jenipher Mutsaka-Makuvaza, Lincoln Sunganai Charimari, Priscilla Mangwi, et al.

Practicing hand hygiene is recommended as one of the key preventive measures for reducing the transmission of COVID-19 and other infectious agents. However, it is often not practiced frequently enough or correctly by the public. We aimed to identify barriers to and facilitators of hand hygiene in the Zimbabwean population during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Survival among children under-five in India: a parametric multilevel survival approach

BMC Public Health | 9 April 2024

Ajit Kumar Jaiswal, Manoj Alagarajan & Wahengbam Bigyananda Meitei, et al.

Many studies have been conducted on under-five mortality in India and most of them focused on the associations between individual-level factors and under-five mortality risks. On the contrary, only a scarce number of literatures talked about contextual level effect on under-five mortality. Hence, it is very important to have thorough study of under-five mortality at various levels. This can be done by applying multilevel analysis, a method that assesses both fixed and random effects in a single model. The multilevel analysis allows extracting the influence of individual and community characteristics on under-five mortality. Hence, this study would contribute substantially in understanding the under-five mortality from a different perspective.

A systematic review of the association between history of sexually transmitted infections and subsequent condom use in adolescents

BMC Public Health | 10 April 2024

Frédérique Tremblay, Yohann Courtemanche, Richard E. Bélanger & Anne-Marie Turcotte-Tremblay

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are common among adolescents. According to the Health Belief Model, cues to action influence preventive behaviors. Cues to action can include health experiences such as being diagnosed with an STI. The impact of a history of STIs on subsequent condom use among adolescents remains largely unexamined, despite high rates of recurrence and their health impacts. This project aimed to systematically review the literature on the association between curable STIs and subsequent condom use among adolescents.

Trends and predictors of unmet need for family planning among women living with HIV in Zambia: implications for elimination of vertical transmission of HIV

BMC Public Health | 11 April 2024

Edgar Arnold Lungu & Mwimba Chewe

Prevention of vertical (mother to child) transmission of HIV is one of the key strategies towards HIV epidemic control. Despite considerable progress over the past decade in Zambia, the country is yet to reach global and national target for elimination of vertical transmission of HIV. Avoidance of unintended pregnancy among women living with HIV is one of the cost-effective interventions in a comprehensive approach to prevent vertical transmission of HIV. Therefore, this study aimed at ascertaining trends in and predictors of unmet need for family planning among women living with HIV in Zambia.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Understanding the impact of STIs on young adults

Contemporary OB/GYN | 2 April 2024

In a recent interview, Jill S. Blumenthal, MD, associate professor of medicine at UC San Diego Health, discussed how young adults are impacted by sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Over 25 million STI cases are reported annually, with the number of cases rising over time. Of these infections, approximately half are in patients aged 15 to 24 years. Adolescents are less likely to be aware about the impact of STIs, increasing vulnerability among this population. The risk of STIs is increased among young, cisgender patients because of hormonal changes that occur during this period. Additionally, young patients don't always receive the recommended STI tests that adults receive because of a lack of knowledge.

Contaminated water linked to soaring KZN pink eye cases

Juta Medical Brief | 3 April 2024

The National Eye Health Advocacy Project believes there could be a link between an outbreak of 'pink eye' – conjunctivitis – in KwaZulu-Natal and contaminated water, and says there should be greater alarm about the escalating number of cases. What started as a small outbreak at the Mangosuthu University of Technology in Umlazi, has ballooned to more than 13 000 cases, with concerned health practitioners calling on the provincial Health Department to find the pathogen causing the spreading infection.

Syphilis rates are spiking around the world — a 'huge public health failing'

Daily Maverick | 3 April 2024

Syphilis, one of the oldest known diseases, is making a resurgence worldwide. Top global scientists described this as a public health crisis and failure, given that the sexually transmitted infection (STI) – which can have dire and fatal consequences, especially for newborn babies – is curable with early treatment. The return of syphilis was under discussion at the 2024 Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) where scientists, clinicians and public health advocates gathered in Denver in March.

Bridging the gap in mental health services for pregnant women with serious mental illness

News Medical Life Science | 3 April 2024

Women with serious mental illness (SMI) who are pregnant or planning a pregnancy face gaps in information, support and resources in mental health services, new research suggests. The findings, published April 1 in the peer-reviewed journal *Health Affairs*, highlight the need to integrate pregnancy and parenting interventions, education, and other resources for women with SMI into mental health services.

Children born of rape: the devastating legacy of sexual violence in post-genocide Rwanda

The Conversation | 3 April 2024

Trigger warning: this article contains accounts of sexual violence. The 1994 Rwandan genocide against the Tutsi led to the murder of more than 800,000 people, an estimated 70% of the country's Tutsi population. The unprecedented violence and mass killings of Tutsi and non-extremist Hutu were carried out over 100 days between April and July 1994. An estimated 250,000–500,000 women and girls were raped during the genocide by the Hutu-led militia group Interahamwe, local police officers and individual men. Hutu women were also abused by soldiers from the Rwandan Patriotic Front.

Enhancing cervical cancer management with dual stain

Contemporary OB/GYN | 3 April 2024

In a recent interview, Carolyn Kay, MD, medical affairs lead at Roche Diagnostics, discussed new ASCCP guidelines about cervical cancer management. Patients will often feel anxiety when HPV is detected in their system. This anxiety often relates to having to wait a year before coming back and getting retested. Kay expressed feeling a similar anxiety at times because of not always knowing if the patient would come back for additional testing. Often, Kay would have patients who did not have precancerous lesions needing intervention for multiple years in a row. She noticed the repeated testing led to anxiety and frustration in some patients.

One in four people with HIV not on treatment, according to new estimates

Spotlight | 4 April 2024

Despite South Africa's impressive HIV testing figures, a subset of people started taking antiretroviral therapy far later than is ideal for their health, shows new data from the leading mathematical model of HIV in the country. These new estimates present a synthesis of the best sources of data of HIV in the country as it factors in numbers from multiple sources. Around 50 000 people died of HIV-related causes and around 7.8 million were living with HIV in South Africa in 2023. This is according to new estimates from Thembeisa, the leading mathematical model of HIV in South Africa.

Tanzania Merges HIV and Diabetes Care to Tackle NCD Crisis

Health Policy Watch | 4 April 2024

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania – Lying on a neatly made bed at Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), Zaituni Kashozi is recovering from surgery to amputate her gnarled toes that were infected by diabetic ulcers. Wrapped in iodine-stained bandage, her left foot dangles on a string attached to an aluminium bar that helps to propel her feeble blood circulation. The 74-year-old, who has grappled with diabetes for three decades, woke up to a grim reality a year ago when insidious infections took root, forcing her to go under the surgeon's scalpel.

Resources for National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day 2024

Poz | 4 April 2024

Wednesday, April 10, marks National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day (NYHAAD). It has been commemorated annually since 2013 and is directed by Advocates for Youth, an organization that partners with young people and their adult allies to promote effective adolescent reproductive and sexual health programs and policies. NYHAAD is a day to educate and urge policymakers and the public to act regarding the impact of HIV on young people, as well as highlight the HIV prevention, treatment, and care campaigns for this community.

For Us, By Us – ODP's New Initiative Will Address Unique Needs of Black Women in the HIV Response

HIV.gov | 5 April 2024

In solidarity with the theme of the 2023 US Conference on HIV/AIDS, "A Love Letter to Black Women," the HHS Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy (ODP), led by its Director, Kaye Hayes, MPA, is creating a nationally coordinated, community-driven initiative to improve the lives and well-being of Black women of both cis and trans experience in America and further explore ending the scourge of the HIV epidemic among the community.

Protect, Pay and Promote Women Health Workers

Health Policy Watch | 5 April 2024

Each woman in the health workforce is powerful, capable of transforming individual lives, communities, and nations when supported in her role. Women health workers deliver care to approximately five billion

people, mostly as nurses, midwives, and community health workers. They contribute \$3 trillion to global health annually, half in unpaid work.

Breast Cancer Risk Not Linked to SSRIs; Prolactin Levels Warrant Careful Prescribing

AJMC | 6 April 2024

Although a minor association was found between prolactin levels and risk of developing estrogen receptor (ER)-positive or ER-negative breast cancers, use of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) were not associated with breast cancer risk, according to a recent study. Researchers applied a 2 sample Mendelian randomization (MR) study that focused on genetic variants assigned randomly at conception. Patients with depression are usually prescribed SSRIs as first line treatment because they increase synaptic 5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT) concentrations that in turn elevate prolactin concentrations, often related to the proliferation and differentiation of breast cancer cells.

Health sector needs more women leaders to tackle backlash against sexual and reproductive rights — experts

Daily Maverick | 7 April 2024

Amid an escalating anti-rights backlash, health experts have stressed the need for a policy initiative to promote gender equity in health leadership. 'I think the backlash is great, it means we're doing something right. It means we are scaring people a little bit, they are a little lost, they don't know what to do with us, and so they're acting out. That is the idealist part of my brain, but I think what is scary is that [the] backlash everywhere is becoming more and more organised, it is becoming more funded, and it is increasingly using the language that most of us in this room use".

Africa: World Health Day - WHO Says HIV Still Prevalent in Africa

allAfrica | 7 April 2024

WHO said Africa's HIV-positive population increased from 15.6 million in 2005 to 24.3 million in 2021, accounting for 3.4 per cent of the total population. The World Health Organisation (WHO) says though the HIV epidemic in Africa isn't raging as fiercely as before, transmission is still prevalent. According to the global body, the continent's HIV-positive population increased from 15.6 million in 2005 to 24.3 million in 2021, accounting for 3.4 per cent of the total population.

Challenges, Adaption Needed in Conducting Research for Homeless Youth Living With HIV

AJMC | 8 April 2024

Conducting a nurse-led community-based HIV prevention trial in youth experiencing homelessness (YEH) came with challenges in participant access, engagement, and retention, according to a study published in Public Health Nursing. Recommendations for how to address these challenges are needed for future studies on this population. More than 500,000 people in the United States experienced homelessness as of 2022, with youth among the demographics disproportionately affected. People 25 years and younger made up 5% of those who experienced homelessness, although this could be an underestimation of the total of YEH. In Houston specifically, YEH make up 20% of all homeless individuals. The Come As You Are (CAYA) randomized trial was conducted to test HIV prevention strategies in YEH but encountered several challenges.

FDA approves dolutegravir/lamivudine to treat HIV infection in adolescents

Contemporary Pediatrics | 8 April 2024

Dolutegravir/lamivudine (Dovato; ViiV Healthcare [majority owned by GSK]) has been approved by the FDA for the treatment of HIV-1 infection in adolescents aged 12 years and older who weigh at least 55.11 lbs (25 kg), ViiV announced in a press release. The indication is approved for those with no antiretroviral (ARV) treatment history or to replace current ARV regimen in those, "are virologically suppressed (HIV-1 RNA less than 50 copies/mL) on a stable ARV regimen with no history of treatment failure and no known substitutions associated with resistance to the individual components of [dolutegravir/lamivudine]," ViiV

stated.

Health-care workers in the spotlight

IOL | 8 April 2024

The World Health Organization (WHO) has highlighted the focus of this year's theme that health is a basic human right. According to WHO, the right to health of millions of people across the world is increasingly under threat. "Diseases and disasters loom large as causes of death and disability. Conflicts are devastating lives, causing death, pain, hunger and psychological distress. The burning of fossil fuels is simultaneously driving the climate crisis and taking away our right to breathe clean air, with indoor and outdoor air pollution claiming a life every five seconds."

WHO alerts world leaders to risk of mass pathogen threat

IOL | 8 April 2024

The term "Disease X" refers to a hypothetical infectious condition that could emerge in the future, posing a significant risk of causing either an epidemic or a pandemic on a global scale. Disease X represents a novel infection or mutation of an existing pathogen that enhances its virulence. Despite not currently existing, the concept serves as a warning from the World Health Organization (WHO) regarding potential future health threats.

Opinion: 'I'm a smoker — and I want stricter tobacco control'

Bhekisisa | 8 April 2024

As a smoker — for over two decades now — I'm well aware of the entitlement people like me feel we have to public spaces. I remember a time, just over 20 years ago, when I sat on a small wall outside a public library. A woman who also wanted to sit there asked if I could move away, to which I responded with a snarky "but we're outside and you found me smoking". Because of my arrogance, the woman had to choose between breathing in second-hand smoke or sitting down in the only available area.

Measles is a humanitarian issue, and its unwelcome reappearance in Canada is a reminder of its importance

The Conversation | 8 April 2024

As a medical organization, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is no stranger to measles, which has long been a serious and ongoing concern in many places where MSF operates. However, new challenges, such as the disruption of health systems caused by COVID-19, have underscored the importance of measles as a public health concern. A recent surge in cases in countries such as Canada from which it had largely disappeared has helped draw new attention to this old disease.

To breastfeed or not: mothers living with HIV in African countries still unclear on what to do

Aidsmap | 8 April 2024

New mothers living with HIV are often unsure about whether or not to breastfeed their children, and for how long, the African Workshop on HIV & Women held in Nairobi, Kenya in February heard. This is because their infant feeding practices are influenced by the people around them, which makes the decision-making process even more difficult. "I was very taken aback by the treatment I received from a medical practitioner who is very much aware of what our guidelines are," Nozibele Qamngana-Mayaba from South Africa shared during a plenary session. "I was told that because I am HIV positive, I could not breastfeed. So although I knew I have the right to say otherwise, that I could breastfeed, I was very scared, and I agreed that I would not breastfeed."

Women and children hit hardest by climate change, global health conference told

Daily Maverick | 9 April 2024

'Climate change is very real. It's not something about the future. It's also not ... about a few polar bears that are not going to have ice any more to live on,' former chief scientist of the World Health Organization

(WHO) Dr Soumya Swaminathan said. "It's actually about the now, and the impact that it's having on people, particularly the people who are already the most vulnerable, the most marginalised, the poorest in the world, and of course, women and children are disproportionately affected."

Major grant boosts HIV-related cancer research

Stellenbosch University | 9 April 2024

Cancer is the leading cause of death among people living with HIV in both high and low resource countries. And the treatment outcome for those patients is often less successful. With more than 20 years' experience in his field, Professor Hennie Botha, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Stellenbosch University, and his team is at the forefront of research into cancers that affect people living with HIV.

The rise of Ozempic: how surprise discoveries and lizard venom led to a new class of weight-loss drugs

Daily Maverick | 9 April 2024

Hundreds of thousands of people worldwide are taking drugs like Ozempic to lose weight. But what do we actually know about them? This month, The Conversation's experts explore their rise, impact and potential consequences. Every now and then, scientists develop treatments that end up being even more popular for another condition entirely. Think of Viagra, originally for high blood pressure, now used for erectile dysfunction. Or thalidomide, a dangerous morning sickness treatment that is now a valuable cancer treatment.

WHO announces forthcoming updates on co-administration of treatment for drug-resistant tuberculosis and hepatitis C

WHO | 9 April 2024

In a Rapid Communication issued today, the World Health Organization (WHO) is announcing updates on co-administration of treatment for drug-resistant tuberculosis and hepatitis C (HCV). The evidence suggests that concomitant treatment for HCV and multi-drug resistant or rifampicin resistant TB (MDR/RR-TB) is feasible, with potential benefits outweighing the harms. Co-administration may increase MDR/RR-TB treatment success and reduce failures, losses to follow-up, and deaths. Adherence support for HCV treatment during MDR/RR-TB treatment is also acknowledged.

National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day 2024

Poz | 9 April 2024

Wednesday, April 10, marks National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day (#NYHAAD) 2024. "Addressing the impact of HIV on young people requires they have access to affirming, culturally competent and medically accurate resources and tools," according to Advocates for Youth, the national nonprofit that leads NYHAAD and works to empower young people to protect themselves against HIV, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unintended pregnancy.

Zimbabwe: Bill expands list of STIs with criminal offense for willful transmission to include HIV

HIV Justice Network | 9 April 2024

THE Government has listed HIV/AIDS as one of the sexually-transmitted infections (STIs), whose deliberate transmission to another partner will now be punishable under law. The Criminal Laws Amendment (Protection of Children and Young Persons) currently before Parliament has a clause that includes HIV/AIDS as one of the STIs, whose willful transmission can be charged as a criminal offence.

Maternal diabetes linked to a slight increase in ADHD risk in children

News Medical Life Science | 9 April 2024

In the present study, researchers assessed the association between MDM and ADHD risk in the offspring. This population-based cohort study used healthcare data from New Zealand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Nordic countries (Iceland, Sweden, Norway, and Finland). The study included children from live births within site-specific periods. Mother-child pairs were linked using exact deterministic linkage.

Researchers call for focus on higher stroke risk in women

Medical Xpress | 9 April 2024

Someone's risk of stroke increases as they age, and since women continue to live longer than men, they have more strokes over their lifetimes. However, a review article in the Journal of Stroke and Cerebrovascular Diseases has found that the risk is more complex than what can be explained only by an increased lifespan.

Uganda's anti-LGBT+ laws: putting lives and efforts to eliminate HIV at risk

Be in the know | 9 April 2024

Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Act (AHA) signed by President Museveni in May 2023 has been upheld by the Constitutional Court. The court rejected appeals against the AHA despite acknowledging that sections of the act were incompatible with universally recognised human rights, including the right to health.

Winter is coming: Experts encourage South Africans to get flu vaccine

IOL | 9 April 2024

Given that influenza season is coming up, this year's flu vaccine is now available in South Africa. There are several types of flu caused by distinct viral strains, and the influenza virus mutates every year. Each year, a new vaccination is produced and released in order to keep people safe. This is according to family physician and medical director of Netcare's Primary Care division, Dr Cathelijn Zeijlemaker.

Want to Enroll in a Long COVID Clinical Trial? This New Project Helps Track Them

Poz | 10 April 2024

A new long COVID project makes information about clinical trials more accessible to people who may want to participate in research while showing gaps in the current search for meaningful treatments. Patient-researcher Ezra Spier developed the new project, called Long COVID Studies. As of its launch on March 26, the site includes details of about 550 trials in the U.S. and 54 other countries. "Clinical trials are the currency in research that pushes things forward. Trials are how consensus is built within medicine," Spier said. He was inspired to develop Long COVID Studies after participating in a long COVID trial at Stanford University and seeing discussions from people with long COVID who wanted to learn about new trials, he told The Sick Times.

UTI vaccine shows efficacy, safety in men and women

Urology Times | 10 April 2024

Treatment with an investigational urinary tract infection (UTI) vaccine resulted in 54% of study participants being UTI-free for 9 years after the vaccine regimen. The vaccine, administered to both men and women with recurrent UTIs, showed efficacy and a favorable safety profile. The vaccine, MV140, developed for recurrent UTIs was administered with 2 sprays of a pineapple-flavored suspension under the tongue every day for 3 months. Although investigators have previously studied MV140's short-term safety and effectiveness, this is the first long-term follow-up study.

Youth HIV Awareness Day: Understanding and Addressing Youth HIV

Contagion Live | 10 April 2024

In the US, a significant portion of new HIV diagnoses involves young individuals between the ages of 13 and 24, highlighting the need for awareness and testing. Despite the urgency, a minimal percentage of high school students have undergone HIV testing, underscoring a gap in prevention efforts. The lack of awareness is particularly concerning, with several young people unaware of their HIV status. This unawareness impedes their access to preventive resources or necessary medical treatment to manage

the virus effectively.

Pig kidney transplant patient discharged from hospital

Juta Medical Brief | 10 April 2024

The recipient of the world's first pig kidney transplant was discharged from Massachusetts General Hospital last week, nearly two weeks after the surgery, to continue his recovery at home. "Leaving the hospital today with one of the cleanest bills of health I've had in a long time is one I wished would come for many years," said Rick Slayman (62). "It's one of the happiest moments of my life," he added, thanking the staff for their care.

UK team finds new cause of asthma airways damage

Juta Medical Brief | 10 April 2024

A team of British scientists has found a new cause behind much of the damage caused by asthma, offering a faint glimmer of hope for future sufferers of this potentially deadly condition. Cells lining the airways are squeezed to destruction during an attack, and medication to prevent this, rather than manage its aftermath, might break the cycle of harm, the King's College London researchers told the journal *Science*.

Adolescent pregnancy

WHO | 10 April 2024

Adolescent pregnancy is a global phenomenon with clearly known causes and serious health, social and economic consequences. Globally, the adolescent birth rate (ABR) has decreased, but rates of change have been uneven across regions. There are also enormous variations in levels between and within countries. Adolescent pregnancy tends to be higher among those with less education or of low economic status. Further, there is slower progress in reducing adolescent first births amongst these and other vulnerable groups, leading to increasing inequity. Child marriage and child sexual abuse place girls at increased risk of pregnancy, often unintended.

Why doxycycline PEP lacks clinical data for STI prevention in women

Contemporary OB/GYN | 10 April 2024

Data from a Kenya-based trial earlier this year showed post-exposure prophylaxis doxycycline hycate 200 mg (doxycycline PEP) was not associated with a clinically significantly reduced incidence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) versus standard care in cisgender women. In fact, the findings from the multinational dPEP Kenya Study Team showed the antibiotic was poorly adhered to among younger, cisgender women who were considered at risk of *Chlamydia trachomatis*, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* or *Treponema pallidum* infections after sexual encounters.

Eastern Cape gets SA's first contraception and HIV kit vending machine

The Citizen | 10 April 2024

The Health Department will be handing over a self-care wellness vending machine in the Eastern Cape at Mthatha Ultra City on Wednesday. The handover and launch will be conducted by the Deputy Minister of Health, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, together with the Eastern Cape MEC for Health, Nomakhosazana Meth. Dhlomo and Meth will also oversee the actual demonstration to the public of how these vending machines work.

[VIDEO] When politicians steal, patients suffer

Bhekisisa | 11 April 2024

What's the cost of uncovering corruption? Former Gauteng health department whistle-blower Babita Deokaran, who was an accountant, paid with her life. Corruption at Tembisa Hospital on the East Rand has deprived the community of the healthcare that is their human and constitutional right. Speedier arrests and prosecutions could prevent further embezzlement of public funds — so why isn't it happening?

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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:

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- 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 2022/2023

The 16th edition of the DHB provides information across a wide range of district health services, covers over 30 indicators and continues to provide policy-makers, health workers, planners, researchers,

academics and stakeholders a unique overview of the performance of public health services in South Africa. By providing a detailed analysis of health indicators, trends, and challenges at the district level, the DHB equips district managers and other stakeholders with the data necessary to identify priorities, plan and implement targeted interventions, and monitor progress. This year's Barometer also includes a chapter on air quality and health as we introduce environmental drivers of health in the publication in response to the effects of climate change on health.

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

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

Improving Maternal Nutrition Acceleration Plan

Unicef | March 2024

Inequitable access to nutritious diets, nutrition services and positive nutrition and care practices has compounded global gender inequality, undermining women's and girls' ability to live healthy and productive lives. It also has devastating impacts on the survival and future health of their children. Good nutrition is fundamental for the health and wellbeing of women and girls. Well-nourished women have better health, safer pregnancies, and are more likely to access equal opportunities and participate fully in society.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Webinar: What is the District Health System and how has it evolved in SA?

Hosted by PHASA and the South African Learning Alliance for District Health Systems (SALAD)

What is the DHS and how has it evolved in SA?

Established in 1995, the District Health System (DHS) is the cornerstone of the public health system in South Africa. It serves as a functional unit of the larger health system and the vehicle for primary health care. Recent health policy reforms in the form of the National Health Insurance (NHI) and the development of the new District Health Strategy 2024-2029 has turned attention to the DHS as a core governance structure of the health system. This webinar offers a historical account of the DHS in South Africa, highlighting key milestones since its formation, challenges and opportunities and concludes with a discussion on the DHS' importance in light of the country's ongoing health reforms. Oral inputs will be

provided by district and provincial health managers and health academics. The webinar is open to all; however, it will be most beneficial to health district and sub-district managers, provincial and national health directors, academics and researchers in the field, emerging public health practitioners, health professionals and members of NGOs or civil society.

When: 10 April 2024 16:00-17:30

Register:

<https://uwc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEoceGtqD4sGNHCPeYRcHTogqx0FmqUQTr1#/registration>

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

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CONTROLLER

Closing Date: 14 April 2024

<https://jobs.hst.org.za/careers/>

CLINICAL ADVISORS X4

Closing Date: 15 April 2024

<https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/CLINICAL-ADVISORS-X4.aspx>

CLINICAL ADVISORS

Closing Date: 24 April 2024

<https://careers.hst.org.za/>

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