

HST Bulletin



CATEGORIES

[Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles](#)

[Recent Public Health News](#)

[Training and Resources](#)

[Publications and Reports](#)

[Conferences and Events](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

What are the latest covid drugs and treatments?

The BMJ | 3 May 2023

Mun-Keat Looi

Vaccines have taken up much of the spotlight, but where have we got to with covid-19 treatments, asks Mun-Keat Looi—and is there a global standard of care?

What are the best treatments for covid-19?

Written in cooperation with the World Health Organization, The BMJ's living systematic review is a meta-analysis comparing the effects of treatments for covid-19, using data from more than 400 randomised clinical trials worldwide.

Mother's perceptions and concerns over sharing sexual and reproductive health information with their adolescent daughters- A qualitative study among mothers of adolescent girls aged 14–19 years in the developing world, Sri Lanka

BMC Women's Health | 3 May 2023

D Mataraarachchi, P.K. Buddhika Mahesh, T.E.A. Pathirana, Gayan Ariyadasa, Chamanthi Wijemanne, et al.

Studies across the world have shown that parent-adolescent SRH communication can prevent unhealthy sexual and reproductive health (SRH) practices among adolescents and promote their sexual and reproductive health. Parents have the ability to provide individualized sex education to suit the needs of their children, their families, and societal values. The fact that children have more opportunities in the family, makes parent-based sexuality education of children a better approach to Sri Lankan context.

Association between SARS-CoV-2 vaccination and healthcare contacts for menstrual disturbance and bleeding in women before and after menopause: nationwide, register based cohort study

The BMJ | 3 May 2023

Rickard Ljung, YiYi Xu, Anders Sundström, Susannah Leach, Ebba Hallberg, et al.

Menstrual disturbances such as excessive, frequent, and irregular menstruation or absent, scant, and rare menstruation have been reported in association with SARS-CoV-2 vaccines. The US Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System, the UK Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency's Yellow Card surveillance scheme, and the Swedish Medical Products Agency have received many reports of menstrual disturbance after SARS-CoV-2 vaccination via their respective pharmacovigilance systems.

Gender-based violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic: recommendations for future

BMC Women's Health | 3 May 2023

Abbas Ostadtaghizadeh, Mozhddeh Zarei, Nadia Saniee & Mohammad Aziz Rasouli

Gender-based violence (GBV) includes any physical, sexual, psychological, economic harms, and any suffering of women in the form of limiting their freedom in personal or social life. As a global crisis, COVID-19 has exposed women to more violence, which requires serious actions. This work aims to review the most critical dimensions of the GBV against women, effective factors on it, and strategies for combating it during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to provide recommendations for future pandemics.

U.S. Survey: PrEP Awareness Is High Among English-Speaking Latinx MSM, But Often Doesn't Lead to PrEP Use

TheBodyPro | 4 May 2023

While awareness of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) rose among Latinx men who have sex with men (MSM) from 2014 to 2020, further steps along the care continuum did not keep pace, according to results from a U.S. nationwide survey.

Post COVID-19 condition after delta infection and omicron reinfection in children and adolescents

eBioMedicine | 5 May 2023

Nina Urke Ertesvåg, Arild Iversen, Bjørn Blomberg, Türküler Özgümüş, Pramila Rijal, et al.

The burden of COVID-19 in children and adolescents has increased during the delta and omicron waves, necessitating studies of long-term symptoms such as fatigue, dyspnoea and cognitive problems. Furthermore, immune responses in relation to persisting symptoms in younger people have not been well characterised. In this cohort study, we investigated the role of antibodies, vaccination and omicron reinfection upon persisting and long-term symptoms up to 8 months post-delta infection.

Prevalence of depression, syndemic factors and their impact on viral suppression among female sex workers living with HIV in eThekweni, South Africa

BMC Women's Health | 5 May 2023

Anvita Bhardwaj, Carly A. Comins, Vijay Guddera, Mfezi Mcingana, Katherine Young,

Over half of female sex workers (FSW) in South Africa are living with HIV and clinical depression has been frequently documented among FSW. Data characterizing structural determinants of depression and the role of syndemic theory, synergistically interacting disease states, on viral suppression among FSW in South Africa are limited.

The Vital Role of Public Health Nurses in Perinatal HIV Prevention and Elimination

Cureus | 8 May 2023

Rajnandini Prasad, Arpita Jaiswal, Roshan Prasad, Mayur B. Wanjari and Ranjana Sharma

Perinatal HIV transmission remains a significant public health challenge, with an estimated 160,000 children newly infected with HIV each year. Public health nurses play a critical role in the prevention and elimination of perinatal HIV transmission through targeted interventions such as identification of pregnant women with HIV, referral and linkage to care, provision of antiretroviral therapy, and follow-up and retention in care for both mothers and infants. However, significant barriers to successful implementation exist, including stigma and discrimination, limited access to healthcare services, socioeconomic factors, and limited resources. Addressing these barriers will require a multifaceted approach that includes policy changes, community engagement, and targeted support and resources for affected families.

Understanding the effect of gender-based violence on uptake and utilisation of HIV prevention, treatment, and care services among transgender women: a qualitative study in the greater Kampala metropolitan area, Uganda

Naume Muyanga, John Bosco Isunju, Tonny Ssekamatte, Aisha Nalugya, Patience Oputan, et al.

Transwomen (also known as transgender women) are disproportionately affected by all forms of gender-based violence (GBV). The high prevalence of physical, sexual and emotional violence not only predisposes transwomen to HIV infection but also limits the uptake/access to HIV prevention, care, and treatment services. Despite the high prevalence of HIV infection and GBV among transwomen, there is limited evidence on how GBV affects the uptake and utilisation of HIV prevention, care, and treatment services. Therefore, this qualitative study explored how GBV affects uptake and utilisation of HIV prevention, treatment, and care services among transwomen in the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area (GKMA), Uganda.

Mycobacterium tuberculosis Intra-Host Evolution Among Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis Patients Failing Treatment

Dovepress | 9 May 2023

Perumal R, Khan A, Naidoo K, Ngema SL, Nandlal L, et al.

Understanding *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Mtb) intra-host evolution of drug resistance is important for successful drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB) treatment and control strategies. This study aimed to characterise the acquisition of genetic mutations and low-frequency variants associated with treatment-emergent Mtb drug resistance in longitudinally profiled clinical isolates from patients who experienced DR-TB treatment failure.

Psychosocial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic from a cross-sectional Survey of people living with HIV in Washington, DC

AIDS Research and Therapy | 9 May 2023

Anne K Monroe, Paige E Kulie, Morgan E Byrne, Brittany C Wilbourn, Shannon K Barth, et al.

COVID-19 has not only taken a staggering toll in terms of cases and lives lost, but also in its psychosocial effects. We assessed the psychosocial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in a large cohort of people with HIV (PWH) in Washington DC and evaluated the association of various demographic and clinical characteristics with psychosocial impacts.

Survival outcomes of HIV-positive adults on peritoneal dialysis at Helen Joseph renal unit

Southern African Journal of HIV Medicine | 10 May 2023

Kagisho L Thomas, Malcolm Davies

HIV is a risk factor for the development of chronic kidney disease. People with chronic kidney disease in the state sector are likely to be prescribed continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD). Previous studies have raised concern about the safety of CAPD in people living with HIV (PLWH) compared to HIV-negative patients. **Objectives:** To compare the risk of peritonitis, and modality and patient survival by HIV status in patients receiving CAPD at Helen Joseph Hospital.

Method: A retrospective study of patients receiving CAPD between 01 January 2007 and 31 December 2017 was undertaken. Five-year patient and modality survival were modelled for PLWH and HIV-negative subgroups and analysed using the log-rank test; the effect of CD4 count, HIV viral load, and duration of antiretroviral therapy on these parameters in PLWH were additionally modelled using the Cox Proportional Hazards technique.

Results: Eighty-four patients, comprising of 21 PLWH and 63 HIV-negative patients, were analysed. No difference was observed in the proportion of patients who had at least one episode of peritonitis between PLWH (61.2%) and HIV-negative patients (63.5%) ($P = 0.547$). A trend towards increased risk of peritonitis due to Gram-negative organisms in PLWH was noted (odds ratio: 3.20, 95% confidence interval: 0.86–11.9, $P = 0.083$). No difference was observed in 5-year patient or modality survival on CAPD between PLWH (log-rank $P = 0.161$) and HIV-negative patients (log-rank $P = 0.240$).

Conclusion: People living with HIV should not be excluded from CAPD as a mode of kidney replacement therapy (KRT).

RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Five Men Appear to Have Acquired Mpox Twice

The Body | 4 May 2023

One of my friends tested positive for mpox last summer during the peak of the outbreak. He had dozens of anal lesions that made going to the bathroom—and even sitting—excruciating. But overall, he described himself as lucky. The lesions were all on the outside of his body, he had few skin lesions, and his symptoms cleared in about six weeks. Where he seems to have been unlucky was in the timing of his first vaccine shot. At the time, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was recommending the Jynneos vaccine both to prevent viral transmissions and also to minimize symptoms after exposure. Just a few days after my friend's first dose, mpox lesions began to emerge.

Presidential Health Summit: The health department missed 60% of its 2018 goals

Bhekisisa | 4 May 2023

South Africa's second Presidential Health Summit is taking place in Boksburg on 4 and 5 May. Government officials and public health experts will discuss the proposed National Health Insurance scheme and they'll evaluate whether there's been progress on the goals set at the first summit, which was held in 2018.

US FDA Approves First-Ever RSV Vaccine

Health Policy Watch | 4 May 2023

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the first-ever vaccine for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). The single-shot vaccine intended for use in adults aged 60 or older represents the culmination of six decades of research to protect the world from RSV. With the green light from the FDA on Wednesday, GSK's Arexvy vaccine could be available as early as this fall, officials said. The speed of the vaccine's public rollout hinges on receiving the final stamp of approval from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, which will meet in June.

R8bn and counting: That's the cost of Covid-related corruption, says updated SIU report

Daily Maverick | 4 May 2023

The Presidency has released the 'Third Final Report' by the Special Investigating Unit of its investigations into Covid-related corruption which President Ramaphosa received on 15 December 2022. The report provides new information on investigations conducted between 1 July and 31 October 2022.

"That iron suitcase saved my life" – retired nurse reflects on 37 years of service

Spotlight | 4 May 2023

When Boitumelo Motsei became a nurse, she didn't expect that she would also have to learn to ride a bicycle or drive a donkey cart. "The bicycle was better – it was faster," says the 90-year-old with a laugh seated at the dinner table of her home in Kgomo Kgomo village in Makapanstad in her home in the North West. It's the house she married into in 1957 after saying yes to becoming the wife of Rantebo Motsei and qualifying as a nurse the year before.

U.S. Survey: PrEP Awareness Is High Among English-Speaking Latinx MSM, But Often Doesn't Lead to PrEP Use

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While awareness of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) rose among Latinx men who have sex with men (MSM) from 2014 to 2020, further steps along the care continuum did not keep pace, according to results from a U.S. nationwide survey.

UNAIDS calls for access to HIV prevention, treatment and care in prisons, including access to life saving harm reduction services

UNAIDS | 5 May 2023

Many prison systems are struggling to cope, with overcrowding, inadequate resources, limited access to healthcare and other support services, violence and drug use. In 2021, the estimated numbers of people in prisons increased by 24% since the previous year to an estimated 10.8 million people, increasing the strain on already overstretched prison systems. Drug use is prevalent in prisons. UNAIDS Cosponsor, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), estimates that in some countries up to 50% of people in prisons use or inject drugs. Unsafe drug injecting practices are a major risk factor for the transmission of HIV and hepatitis C due to limited access to harm reduction services, including condoms, clean needles and syringes, and a lack of comprehensive drug treatment programs, particularly opioid agonist therapy.

Analysis: 21 months later, what progress has Wagner made in the Eastern Cape?

Spotlight | 5 May 2023

For years, the Eastern Cape Department of Health has made the headlines, often for the wrong reasons. From rat-infested hospitals and newborn babies dying in overcrowded and understaffed wards to scooter ambulances that later proved to be unsafe and procured irregularly to a more recent public outcry over the lack of surgical consumables at Livingstone Hospital. Such challenges seem to have been on rinse and repeat for decades.

Covid: No longer an emergency, but not going anywhere

Medical Xpress | 5 May 2023

The World Health Organization may no longer consider COVID-19 a global health emergency, but the virus is not going anywhere. While the UN agency's lifting of its highest alert level on Friday marks a turning point in the pandemic, the virus is still circulating around the world and could still surprise us, experts warn.

Anxiety, depression may play a role in long COVID

UPI | 5 May 2023

In trying to untangle the mysteries of long COVID, researchers have found anxiety and depression may play a role for some of those with the lingering condition. In the study from researchers at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), patients who perceived that they had thinking difficulties during COVID-19 infection were also more likely to have lingering physical symptoms than those who did not report thinking issues.

MALARIA STRIDES UNDER THREAT

Health-e News | 7 May 2023

South Africa is edging closer to eradicating malaria but experts warn that drug resistance now poses a significant challenge to progress made in the last twenty years. The World Malaria Report 2022 confirms South Africa recorded 5,812 cases in 2021. But it's expected to miss its target to eliminate the disease by 2023.

Twenty-nine pregnant women evacuated from overwhelmed hospital in Nelson Mandela Bay

Daily Maverick | 7 May 2023

Twenty-nine pregnant women who were sleeping on the floor at Dora Nginza Hospital in Nelson Mandela Bay and were not given any food had to be evacuated to other hospitals on Friday after the maternity unit became overwhelmed with the number of patients seeking medical assistance. The unit, which delivers more than 8,000 babies a year, has only 75 beds. There have been desperate pleas from medical teams for more beds and more staff.

Is Covid really over? WHO's announcement sounds more like surrender than victory

The Guardian | 7 May 2023

The global public emergency caused by Covid-19 may be officially over but the pandemic will still be with us for many years. Nor is it clear that governments have learned sufficiently from the outbreak to be ready to fight off new emerging microbes that could trigger worse calamities. These are the stark conclusions of scientists reacting to last week's news that the World Health Organization (WHO) no longer considers Covid-19 – which has killed more than 7 million people over the past three years – to be a public health emergency of international concern.

Ramaphosa proclaims ‘health revolution’ at second presidential health summit

Spotlight | 8 May 2023

The Presidential Health Summit held on Thursday and Friday last week set out ten key areas targeted for intervention to meet the South African government’s objective of advancing the introduction of National Health Insurance (NHI). It’s the second iteration of the Summit, but at the start of this second five-year cycle, the backdrop remains one of multiple systemic crises in healthcare. There also remain unanswered questions about the overall inaction or slow progress from the first summit in 2018.

Gauteng measles update: Decline in confirmed cases

The Citizen | 8 May 2023

In the latest update on the measles outbreak in Tshwane, Gauteng health spokesperson Motalalale Modiba said the metro has 22 confirmed cases this month. The National Health Department first confirmed a measles outbreak after around 200 cases were recorded in the country in December 2022. In early April, the department declared measles outbreaks in all nine provinces. South Africa recorded 960 cases so up until the end of April.

CHILDHOOD IMMUNISATION: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

Health-e News | 8 May 2023

Vaccines have been one of the greatest medical achievements of our time, saving countless lives and preventing the spread of deadly diseases. However, despite the benefits of immunisation, many children around the world are still not being vaccinated, which can have serious health consequences. In fact, according to the UNICEF State of the World’s Children 2023 report, 67 million children missed out entirely or partially on routine immunisation between 2019 and 2021. While 48 million children missed vaccinations entirely.

Study in Africa a game changer for childbirth-related bleeding

News24 | 9 May 2023

According to a landmark study carried out in Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria and South Africa, a novel approach known as E-motive may significantly reduce mortality caused by childbirth-related bleeding. The research was released on Tuesday by researchers from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the University of Birmingham.

MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH: A DEATH EVERY 7 SECONDS

Health-e News | 9 May 2023

Decreasing investment in maternal and newborn health has stalled global progress in reducing deaths of pregnant women, mothers and babies since 2015. According to a new by the United Nations over 4.5 million women and babies die every year during pregnancy, childbirth or the first weeks after birth. This is equivalent to 1 death happening every 7 seconds. And the deaths are mostly from preventable or treatable causes.

The anti-HIV injection will be made in SA: Here are 4 benefits of the deal that made it happen

Bhekisisa | 9 May 2023

Although a start date hasn’t been announced, the South African arm of the Indian drug company Cipla has confirmed that a generic version of the two-monthly HIV prevention injection, CAB-LA (short for long-acting cabotegravir), will be made at its plants in Benoni and Durban. Cabotegravir is an antiretroviral drug that blocks HIV from entering someone’s cells. Studies have shown that it virtually eliminates someone’s chances to get infected through sex and works better than a daily HIV prevention pill that’s available for free in South Africa — most likely because it’s easier to take it regularly.

HIV controllers may be more susceptible to non-AIDS-defining events compared to people on HIV treatment

Aidsmap | 9 May 2023

A new study finds that HIV controllers – people who don’t need HIV treatment to maintain viral loads below 400 copies – are twice as likely to experience certain non-AIDS-related health conditions, particularly infections such as bronchitis. The results raise the questions of whether antiretroviral therapy

(ART) might benefit some controllers and under what conditions. Although people with HIV on ART live long, healthy lives, their immune systems often remain activated in a state of chronic inflammation. Beginning ART soon after acquiring the virus has been shown to reduce these effects, but not completely.

The Transition Beyond the Acute Phase of COVID-19 Pandemic in Africa

Africa CDC | 9 May 2023

On May 5, 2023, more than three (3) years since the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC), the status was lifted. The Emergency Committee on the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in a report recommended lifting the status due to increasing global vaccination rates and the reduced rates of deaths and severe illnesses requiring hospitalization. The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) welcomes this strategic shift recognizing the significance of transitioning to long-term control strategies.

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EDITORIAL: NHI not a cure for all SA's health problems

Business Day | 9 May 2023

South Africans don't need another talkshop about the dire state of the public health system. They need concrete action to fix it. Try telling that to President Cyril Ramaphosa and his advisers, who convened SA's second presidential health summit last week. The first, in October 2018, produced little more than a glossy booklet with a long to-do list, signed with much pomp and ceremony nine months later. It sat gathering dust as top government officials directed their energy towards the lofty promise of National Health Insurance (NHI). Meanwhile public hospitals and clinics continued their precipitous decline, and patients paid the price.

#HealthBudgetVote: Here's what the health department's kitty looks like this year

Bhekisisa | 9 May 2023

Health Minister Joe Paahla tabled his budget for the 2023/4 financial year in the National Assembly on Tuesday morning. It is currently being debated by the Assembly.

HEALTH BUDGET ALLOCATION DOWN R4.4-BILLION

Health-e News | 9 May 2023

The 2023/24 budget allocation for the National Department of Health has declined by R4,4bn from R64.5bn in 22/23 to R60.1 billion in 2023/24. Health Minister Joe Phaahla says this can be attributed to the discontinuation of conditional grants allocated for fighting Covid-19. Delivering the budget vote in the National Assembly in Parliament on Tuesday, the minister says both the pandemic and loadshedding have hurt the economy.

The anti-HIV injection will be made in SA: Here are 4 benefits of the deal that made it happen

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Pregnant immigrants say they have been turned away from Joburg clinics

GroundUp | 9 May 2023

Priscilla Tumira from Zimbabwe thinks she is eight months pregnant, but she has not had any prenatal health care. Without valid documents, Tumira says, staff at Jeppe and Hillbrow Clinics in Johannesburg

refused her registration for prenatal care. “Our people no longer have enough medical resources, you must go back and give birth in your countries,” she says she was told by a nurse at Jeppe clinic when she arrived without a residence permit or proof of residence.

Study finds HIV more common in mental health service users

Nursing Times | 9 May 2023

HIV is more than twice as common in people who have contact with mental health services than in the general population in South London, researchers have found. The finding supports calls for greater integrated care between HIV and mental health services. The retrospective cohort study included more than 181,000 adults who presented at mental health services at the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust between January 2007 and December 2018.

Courts to decide whether pharmacists can start HIV medicines without a doctor’s script

Spotlight | 9 May 2023

In August 2021, the South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC) published legislation in the Government Gazette to enable pharmacists to prescribe and dispense antiretroviral medicines (ART) for the treatment and prevention of HIV. The initiative, known as Pharmacist-Initiated Management of ART, or PIMART, aims to address the low rates of uptake of ART prophylactic treatment in South Africa and close the gap between the numbers of people diagnosed with HIV and those initiated onto treatment. (At the time Spotlight reported on PIMART [here](#).)

Uptake of PrEP lower than hoped: HSRC

SABC News | 9 May 2023

The Human Science Research Council (HSRC) says they are disappointed that the uptake of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) has been lower than they had hoped. PrEP protects those at risk of contracting HIV (human immunodeficiency virus). Introduced by the government seven years ago, it is a medication a person can take to reduce the risks of HIV if exposed. The medication is taken by those who are at risk of getting HIV such as teenagers, LGBTQI + community, sex workers and those who have partners who are HIV positive. Despite the drug being 99% effective if used as prescribed, many still don’t have adequate information about it.

Covid officials say new ‘Arcturus’ variant could be linked to conjunctivitis

The Guardian | 9 May 2023

A new Covid variant that some public health officials have suggested could be linked with conjunctivitis, or pink eye, has set off minor alarms about the virus despite a continual decrease in the number of cases and deaths. Infectious disease experts, however, say it is part of a normal trajectory for such a virus. In late April, the Los Angeles county public health department issued an alert stating that people infected with the XBB.1.16 strain, nicknamed “Arcturus” on social media, “could be more likely to experience conjunctivitis as a symptom of their Covid infection”.

Lifesaving solution dramatically reduces severe bleeding after childbirth

Reliefweb | 9 May 2023

A trial of a set of interventions to manage postpartum haemorrhage, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, found a 60% reduction in heavy bleeding. A new solution, known as E-MOTIVE, could provide a major breakthrough in reducing deaths from childbirth-related bleeding, according to a landmark study published today by researchers from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the University of Birmingham. Postpartum haemorrhage (PPH) - defined as the loss of more than 500 mL of blood within 24 hours after birth - is the leading cause of maternal mortality worldwide. It affects an estimated 14 million women each year and results in around 70 000 deaths -- mostly in low and middle-income countries - equivalent to 1 death every 6 minutes.

SA healthcare system: more preventative approach encouraged

Health-e News | 10 May 2023

The ongoing struggles in South Africa’s public healthcare system, including staff shortages, poor infrastructure and surgery backlogs, came under the spotlight on Tuesday when parliamentarians raised their concerns with Health Minister Joe Phaahla. The minister was delivering his department’s budget

vote. Prioritising primary healthcare, mental health facilities and having a more preventative approach to healthcare were the main subjects of discussion. Phaaahla hit back saying the healthcare system is not crumbling pointing out that healthcare workers were saving lives every day around the country.

Spike in Malaria cases

Health-e News | 11 May 2023

South Africa is experiencing a rise in malaria cases in the endemic provinces and Gauteng. The National Institute of Communicable Diseases says there have been a number of severe cases due to late detection. “Undiagnosed and untreated malaria rapidly progresses to severe illness, with a potentially fatal outcome,” the NICD says in a statement. It says anyone with fever and flu-like illness, who has travelled to **malaria**-risk areas of Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga in the last six weeks, must test for malaria.

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

TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust Bulletin

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

Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust 60percent

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

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

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

As a member, you will:

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

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

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

Deadline: 11 May 2023

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

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2024: ALBERTINA SISULU EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

PROGRAM IN HEALTH (ASELPH) FELLOWSHIP A UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT IN EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 30th June 2023

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

South African Health Review 2021

Health Systems Trust | 2021

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

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

The State of the World's Children 2023

Unicef

We want to introduce you to three children: Marwan, Hind and Iman. Their stories are powerful examples of one of humanity's greatest public health achievements: vaccination, for every child. A health centre. An immunization campaign. A camp for internally displaced people. These are the settings where children like Marwan, Hind and Iman have been immunized for decades. Protected from disease, they're far more likely to have the opportunity to thrive, the chance to learn and the ability to live healthy lives. As you'll discover in this State of the World's Children report, it's essential that we act now to make sure that other children just like Marwan, Hind and Iman aren't left behind.

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

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Time:

Apr 18, 2023 04:00 PM

May 4, 2023 04:00 PM

May 23, 2023 04:00 PM

Time shows in Zurich

South African Nursing Council Indaba

Date: 18–19 May 2023

The South African Nursing Council (SANC) is pleased to welcome you to this key event where we will focus on The Future of Nursing. The SANC is a statutory body entrusted to set and maintain standards of Nursing Education and Practice in the Republic of South Africa, to protect the public. It is an autonomous, financially independent, statutory body operating under the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act No. 33 of 2005). The Council of the SANC is constituted in terms of the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act No. 33 of 2005). The tenure of

the current and 16th Council of the SANC is from 2018 – 2023 and will end in August 2023. The Indaba program thus contains a focus on the milestones achieved by the 16th Council, and in addition, provides a wide variety of topics that affect Nursing as a whole.

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

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Facility Team Leader

Closing Date:

2023-05-19 16:30:00

Facilitator (FRESH)

Closing Date:

2023-05-22 04:30:00

Research / Professional Nurse (FRESH)

Closing Date:

2023-05-22 04:30:00

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



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