

HST Bulletin_ 13 September 2024

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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Exploring Global Demands for Integrating Social Aspects into Community Healthcare: A Literature Review

Health | September 2024

Aging and crises like pandemics and climate change are global concerns that affect community environments. These social and natural changes influence people's health worldwide. Aging impacts human health, including physical and mental aspects, and increases the need for care. Recent crises have affected not only the elderly but also younger populations, necessitating further efforts to develop a systematic community strategy. The goal of such a strategy is to maintain or enhance people's well-being. As we face aging and crises like pandemics and climate change, it becomes essential to consider health holistically and globally, taking into account the community environment and social determinants without boundaries. The present study aimed to explore the necessary aspects of incorporating social determinants into clinical practice, enabling healthcare providers to view health from a holistic and planetary perspective. This approach facilitates the development of integrated community strategies.

Balancing risk and reward: exploring women's transactional sexual relationships with Blessers in South Africa

ResearchGate | September 2024

Gavin George, Leena Maqsood and Courtenay Sprague

Transactional sexual relationships (TSRs) take varied forms, with research emphasizing TSRs' inherent risks, primarily to women. In South Africa, Blessed relationships have emerged as a prominent type of TSR. Blessers have become coveted male partners due to their relative wealth and willingness to 'bless' female partners with financial and material gifts, as well as the improved social status that accompanies such partnerships. Given the limited literature on Blesser partnerships, we investigated women's implicit and explicit negotiated rewards and their perceived risk and ability to employ risk mitigation strategies, utilizing risk as a sociological concept to enhance understanding of risks women assume, and subsequent gendered implications.

Breast cancer and cervical cancer: a comparison of the period before and during the COVID-19 pandemic

BMC Women's Health | 3 September 2024

Kely Paviani Stevanato, Lander dos Santos, Fernando Castillo Pelloso, Deise Helena Pelloso Borghesan, Marcia Edilaine Lopes Consolaro, et al.

The coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic impacted cancer health care in several countries, with delays in the detection and treatment of breast and cervical cancer. The objective of this study is to analyze and compare the screening, diagnosis and treatment of breast and cervical cancer in the pre-COVID period and during the COVID-19 period.

A Comprehensive Review of HIV-Associated Tuberculosis: Clinical Challenges and Advances in Management

Cureus | 6 September 2024

Aniket Patel, Aditya Pundkar, Anshu Agarwal, Charuta Gadkari, Anmol K. Nagpal, et al.

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and tuberculosis (TB) are two of the most pressing global health issues, each contributing significantly to morbidity and mortality worldwide. This review provides a comprehensive analysis of HIV-associated TB (HIV-TB), focusing on the clinical challenges and advancements in its management. HIV-positive individuals are at a heightened risk of developing active TB due to the immunosuppressive effects of the virus, which complicates both diagnosis and treatment.

Factors associated with age at first screening for cervical cancer among adult Cape Verdean women: a cross-sectional study

BMC Public Health | 9 September 2024

Joshua Okyere, Castro Ayebe & Kwamena Sekyi Dickson

Cervical cancer ranks third in terms of cancer incidence and mortality in Cape Verde. Understanding the factors associated with the age of cervical cancer screening (CCS) is essential because it helps identify populations at risk of delayed screening, enabling targeted interventions to ensure timely detection and treatment, ultimately reducing the burden of cervical cancer. We examined the factors associated with age at first screening for cervical cancer among adult Cape Verdean women.

Prevalence and associated factors related to sarcopenia in people living with HIV/AIDS

BMC Infectious Diseases | 9 September 2024

Luciana Cardoso Martins, Marcelo Palmares Oliveira e Silva, Ana Célia Oliveira dos Santos, Vera Magalhães da Silveira & Paulo Sérgio Ramos de Araújo

The use of antiretrovirals has increased the survival of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), resulting in an aging population and a rise in the incidence of sarcopenia. The lack of uniformity among the prevalences found in studies may be associated with the use of different diagnostic criteria, highlighting the need for local studies to determine the prevalence of sarcopenia.

Subclinical atherosclerosis burden in carotid and femoral territories in HIV subjects: relationships with HIV and non-HIV related factors

BMC Infectious Diseases | 9 September 2024

Pedro Ferrer, Laura López, Juncal Pérez, Noemi Cabello, María José Núñez, Iñigo Sagastagoitia, Manuel Cotarelo, Leopoldo Pérez de Isla & Vicente Estrada

Cardiovascular disease is a major cause of morbidity in an aging HIV population. However, risk estimation with the most frequent equations usually classifies HIV patients as having a low or moderate risk. Several studies have described a very high prevalence of subclinical atherosclerosis in a middle-aged, non-HIV population. There is insufficient body of knowledge to understand if this is the case in people living with HIV (PLWH). We aim to calculate the proportion of patients with subclinical atherosclerosis in a single site cohort of HIV-infected subjects.

Analyzing the usage of theories of change for routine immunization programs -- a review of impact evaluations from LMICs

Journal of Health, Population and Nutrition | 9 September 2024

Lalitha Vadrevu, Monica Jain & Shradha S. Parsekar

In this article we analyzed the extent of the usage of Theories of Change (TOCs) and causal pathways in the evaluation of immunization programs to identify the challenges to generating evidence on how interventions improve immunization.

<https://jhp.n.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s41043-024-00615-2>

A comparative systematic review of risk factors, prevalence, and challenges contributing to non-communicable diseases in South Asia, Africa, and Caribbeans

Journal of Health, Population and Nutrition | 9 September 2024

Miraj Ahmed Bhuiyan, Nicole Galdes, Sarah Cuschieri & Ping Hu

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are a global epidemic challenging global public health authorities while imposing a heavy burden on healthcare systems and economies.

The effects of positive psychology and physical activity on depression, anxiety, and stress among students with premenstrual syndrome: a single-blind, randomized controlled trial

BMC Women's Health | 10 September 2024

Farzane Shavaisi, Sousan Heydarpour, Nasrin Jalilian, Amir Jalali & Mansour Rezaei

Premenstrual syndrome affects many women in their reproductive years and often disrupts their social connections and work. This study aimed to compare the effects of positive psychology and physical activity on depression, anxiety, and stress among students with premenstrual syndrome. In this four-group parallel clinical trial with blinded data analysis, 120 eligible students who experienced premenstrual syndrome were recruited based on inclusion/exclusion criteria and randomly allocated to four groups (n = 30) including three experiment groups as positive psychology, physical activity, and positive psychology, physical activity, and control group, using a simple randomization method.

Effect of a Male-Targeted Digital Decision Support Application Aimed at Increasing Linkage to HIV Care Among Men: Findings from the HITS Cluster Randomized Clinical Trial in Rural South Africa

AIDS and Behavior | 11 September 2024

Hae-Young Kim, Maxime Inghels, Thulile Mathenjwa, Maryam Shahmanesh, Janet Seeley, Phillippa Matthews, Sally Wyke, Nuala McGrath, Oluwafemi Adeagbo, Dickman Gareta, H. Manisha Yapa, Thembelihle Zuma, Adrian Dobra, Ann Blandford, Till Bärnighausen & Frank Tanser

Linkage to HIV care remains suboptimal among men. We investigated the effectiveness of a male-targeted HIV-specific decision support app, Empowering People through Informed Choices for HIV (EPIC-HIV), on increasing linkage to HIV care among men in rural South Africa. Home-Based Intervention to Test and Start (HITS) was a multi-component cluster-randomized controlled trial conducted among 45 communities in uMkhanyakude, KwaZulu-Natal. The development of EPIC-HIV was guided by self-determination theory and human-computer interaction design to increase intrinsic motivation to seek HIV testing and care among men.

Invitation strategy of vaginal HPV self-sampling to improve participation in cervical cancer screening: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized trials

BMC Public Health | 10 September 2024

Ho Yan Wong & Eliza Lai-yi Wong

Human papillomavirus (HPV) self-sampling is recognized as a feasible option for enhancing screening for cervical cancer, particularly among hard-to-reach women. The magnitude of the effectiveness of screening participation under different invitation strategies was reported. This review seeks to compare the effectiveness of invitation strategies in increasing screening participation of HPV self-sampling across diverse study settings.

Barriers to Childhood Immunisation and Local Strategies in Four Districts in South Africa: A Qualitative Study

MDPI | 10 September 2024

James Michael Burnett, Nqobile Myende, Algernon Africa, Mercy Kamupira, Alyssa Sharkey, et al.

In South Africa over the past 20 years, immunisation has saved countless lives as well as prevented illnesses and disabilities. Despite this, vaccine-preventable illnesses remain a danger. The demand for and uptake of immunisation services are shaped by a variety of factors that can either act as barriers or

facilitators to immunisation uptake. The aim of this project was to identify the supply and demand barriers and develop local strategies to improve childhood immunisation in four zero-dose districts in South Africa.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Discussion | Calls for African pharmacists to drive vaccine production

eNCA | 6 September 2024

The first ever Pharmacists International Federation Congress was held in the country this week and vaccines are in focus. The South African government urged pharmacists gathered in Cape Town to lead the way in producing affordable vaccines and medicines for the continent. It comes as African drugmaker Aspen Pharmacare is in talks around manufacturing Mpox vaccines at its facilities.

Heart Awareness Month: SA still faces a crisis of cardiovascular-disease

News24 | 6 September 2024

The Heart and Stroke Foundation South Africa (HSFSA) is well-known locally, regionally and internationally for dedicating the entire month of September to heart awareness. Given that Heart Awareness Month is one of the foundation's key campaign events it aims to make a significant impact on heart disease awareness and, through the campaign strategy, also aims to reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease (CVD).

Extreme Heat Taxes Africa's Women and Reproduction

Think Global Health | 6 September 2024

A woman lies on a hospital bed in Niamey, Niger, motionless, hooked up to an IV working overtime to rehydrate her body after searing heat had drained nearly all its water. Her body fights desperately to soak up fluids and survive the 104°F days. The city's suffocating heat is becoming less of a silent killer and more of a blaring concern.

Access to contraception and mental healthcare services are critical to empowering women in rural areas

Spotlight | 6 September 2024

The lack of access to essential healthcare services in rural areas worsens the challenges women face, particularly when it comes to early pregnancy and gender-based violence. Celene Coleman and Hanifa Mahlangu argue for strategies that prioritise the empowerment of rural women through improved access to contraception and mental health services.

3 tricks Big Tobacco uses to stop SA's anti-smoking Bill from becoming law

Bhekisisa | 6 September 2024

On Wednesday, Parliament's newly appointed portfolio committee on health sat to discuss South Africa's proposed new Tobacco Bill for the first time since the government of national unity was formed. Some committee members raised concerns about the "potential social and economic impacts" of the Bill. Public health experts warn this could extend the approval process "by years". The Bill says the same rules should apply to vaping and traditional cigarette smoking and that both should be sold in plain-looking packaging and banned in all public spaces. We break down three tactics Big Tobacco uses to stall Bill's approval.

Women engage on mental health

African Reporter | 6 September 2024

Nonkululeko Chete founded Daily Inspiration by Nkully Chete, an entity that aims to ignite and uplift families, communities and society. It functions by engaging with experts from various departments to restore hope, dignity, and faith in people. Chete organised a Women's Talk at Vida Lounge in Duduza on August 30. Women from all walks of life – single, divorced, widowed and married – gathered for an impactful session under the theme 'Called to transform.' "Through observations of the status quo of our

families, communities and individuals, I felt the need to create a platform where we would engage in psychosocial matters.

‘Drug resistance rising on ART users, having HIV’

IPP Media | 6 September 2024

A SIGNIFICANT section of people infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and using anti-HIV drugs show characteristics of antimicrobial resistance to the drugs they use. Dr Doreen Kamori, a microbiology and immunology researcher at the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) says that a study conducted there shows that 5.8 percent of the covered sample showed antimicrobial drug resistance. In a presentation at the 11th MUHAS research dissemination symposium fielding local and foreign experts in Dar es Salaam yesterday, she said that the study was conducted in 22 regions in 2020, with Njombe, Iringa and Mbeya showing high HIV prevalence and concomitant drug resistance.

The structural roots of violence against female health workers

The Lancet | 7 September 2024

Editorial

On the night of Aug 8, 2024, a 31-year-old female trainee doctor was raped and murdered towards the end of a 36-h shift at a hospital in Kolkata, India. A male civic volunteer has been arrested for the crime, the shocking nature of which motivated the Indian Medical Association (IMA) to call for a national strike. Much of the coverage has focused on the incident as an example of attacks on health workers. Globally, health workers experience high rates of workplace violence, with up to 62% of health workers suffering physical violence or non-physical violence at some point.

No silver bullet for bridging SA’s healthcare divide, say delegates at hospital conference

Spotlight | 9 September 2024

With South Africa’s healthcare system facing a myriad challenges, experts at a health conference have put forward a range of practical solutions to address some of the country’s pressing issues. Ufrieda Ho rounds up some of the proposed solutions to improve patient care, including the use of public-private partnerships.

Interactive health and HIV game app reaches more than 300 000 young people in Côte d’Ivoire

UNAIDS | 9 September 2024

Four weeks before the African Cup of Nations football tournament kicked off it was down to the wire. José Fardon, a Côte d’Ivoire web designer and digital developer, had his whole team frantically working on a special edition of an interactive health and HIV game app, called "A l'Assaut du Sida", ‘Tackling AIDS’ (AADS) to coincide with the tournament. The UNAIDS team had secured funds for the latest rendition of the online game and had rallied UNICEF and the Global Fund to chip in. “We had launched various versions of the game in the past, but this required a different look and feel to gel with the sporting event,” said Mr Fardon, founder of SYL.

Miracle prostate drug hits KZN cost snag; is no longer available

IOL | 9 September 2024

There’s hope for men with advanced prostate cancer who have run out of treatment options. Actinium-225 is a drug that has been administered to about 40 patients at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Hospital since last year, and it has made a huge difference in their lives without the side effects that come with other forms of treatment like chemotherapy.

CDC: SA’s HIV strategy needs to focus on treatment

Jacaranda | 9 September 2024

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says people who are infected with HIV need to be encouraged to stay on treatment to prevent further spread of the virus. According to Statistics South Africa, an estimated 7.8 million people were living with HIV in South Africa in 2023. Just under 5.9 million people were estimated to be on treatment. On Monday, the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) released the key findings of the Sixth South African HIV Prevalence, Incidence, and Behaviour Survey for

the North West province.

Western Cape man, second person in the province to test positive for Mpox

IOL | 9 September 2024

A 38-year-old Western Cape man is the second person in the province to ... test positive for Monkeypox or Mpox. The National Department of Health said the patient has no recent international travel history. National health spokesperson Foster Mohale said the patient sought medical treatment at a private medical practice in Cape Town after experience “typical” symptoms associated with the disease.

No mpox jabs for SA yet — but WHO and Africa CDC will help us fund the fight against the outbreak

Bhekisisa | 10 September 2024

This is a developing story. We update the copy, map, timeline and press releases each time the health department announces new cases. South Africa is one of 14 countries that will be financially supported by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and World Health Organisation (WHO) from this month until February 2025 to draw up and roll out plans, including vaccination strategies, to fight mpox. The budget for the “Mpox continental preparedness and response plan for Africa” is about \$600-million of which just over half of the money — 53% — will go towards the mpox responses of 14 of the 55 Africa Union Member States in which cases have escalated, and human-to-human transmission of the monkeypox virus has become relatively common.

Mpox and Cholera Outbreaks Underscore Importance of Gavi’s African Vaccine Initiative – But Can it Ensure Equity?

Health Policy Watch | 10 September 2024

While COVID exposed the urgency of ensuring that Africa can manufacture vaccines, the current mpox and cholera outbreaks have painfully underscored the continent’s vulnerability. African countries affected by mpox are dependent on vaccine donations from wealthy countries, while a dire global shortage of cholera vaccines has forced the World Health Organization (WHO) to advise countries to give people one dose instead of the optimal two. Back in June, the vaccine platform, Gavi, launched the African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator (AVMA), together with the African Union and Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).

Stories from the ground: EC nurse fears for her life as clinics come under siege from criminals

Health-e News | 10 September 2024

I am a professional nurse working at Joe Slovo Clinic in Gqeberha, Eastern Cape. I was transferred to this clinic two years back. Before then I used to work at a clinic in town. Over the past year, things have changed around this area and, as healthcare workers, we fear for our lives. It first started with thugs seeking refuge in our clinic (Joe Slovo), which serves a community of 60,000 people, whenever there was a gun shooting in the area.

2024 Influenza Surveillance Report: Tracking Seasonal Flu Activity in South Africa

NICD | 10 September 2024

Influenza remains a significant public health concern globally, causing seasonal outbreaks that can strain healthcare systems and lead to increased hospitalizations and mortality. Each year, the flu virus undergoes changes, requiring vigilant monitoring to track its spread and evolution. In 2024, flu surveillance has continued to play a crucial role in guiding public health interventions and vaccine formulations, particularly in regions like South Africa, where influenza activity follows a predictable seasonal pattern. The following is a comprehensive report on flu surveillance in South Africa for 2024.

Bacterial STIs in Men Living With HIV Associated With Drug Use in Sexual Context

AJMC | 10 September 2024

Sexually minority men (SMM) living with HIV (LWH) in the US who contracted bacterial sexually transmitted infections (BSTIs) were more likely to participate in sexual activity with multiple partners, participate in exchange sex, have drug use in a sexual context (chemsex), or have depressive symptoms, according to a study published in *AIDS and Behavior*.

What can SA do to prepare for snake antivenom shortages?

Spotlight | 11 September 2024

Some researchers argue that South Africa should look into using “expired” doses of antivenom if the country once again struggles to make enough of the treatment – something which happened in 2023. In part 2 of a Spotlight special series on snake antivenom, Jesse Copelyn outlines the case for extending the shelf-life and goes over some exciting, but very early, research on a new form of antivenom.

The reality of FAS: a mother’s love and a lifetime of care for Tisha

Health-e News | 11 September 2024

At the age of 28 Tisha cannot remember things she has to do. Unlike her peers, she cannot read or write – and thinks everything costs R5. She was born prematurely in 1996 in Cape Town and abandoned by her mother who was assumingly overwhelmed by the prospect of caring for a child diagnosed with Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS). FAS is the most severe condition on the Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) spectrum, which are a range of permanent disabilities that occur in children born to women who consumed alcohol during pregnancy.

The Gauteng Department of Health is prioritising Public Relations (as usual) instead of making a genuine effort to fix public healthcare facilities

Health-e News | 11 September 2024

In response to the viral video by former 702 broadcaster, Tom London, about the conditions at Helen Joseph Hospital, two health unions have issued statements which we’ve published as is.

Press Statement by the Health and Allied Workers Indaba Trade Union (HAITU)

The Health and Allied Workers Indaba Trade Union (HAITU) has noted the video that went viral, which was recorded by former 702 broadcaster, Tom London where he relates his shocking experience as a patient at Helen Joseph Hospital. If Mr. London had been admitted to Chris Hani Baragwaneth, Charlotte Maxeke or Rahima Moosa hospitals, he would have had the very same experience.

Mpox Emergency: Addressing critical needs of forcibly displaced people in Africa, August - December 2024

Reliefweb | 11 September 2024

On 14 August, WHO declared a surge in mpox cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and its spread to neighbouring countries as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern under the International Health Regulations (2005). Although mpox has been endemic in parts of West and Central Africa since the 1970s, the dramatic increase in reported cases in 2024 has led to multiple national outbreaks across the continent. In 2024, over 20,000 suspected mpox cases were reported from 15 African countries as of 1 September, including over 3,910 confirmed cases and 32 deaths according to WHO.

Bilharzia outbreak hits Limpopo’s Mopani district

Health E-News | 12 September 2024

The Limpopo health department is working closely with provincial water authorities to find the source of the outbreak of bilharzia in the Greater Tzaneen local municipality. This comes after an increase in the number of positive cases to 155, from the initial 142 confirmed cases at Malwandle primary school in Petanenge on August 28. Bilharzia is a parasitic disease caused by flatworms that live in freshwater sources such as rivers and dams. People become infected when they come into contact with contaminated water. The disease can lead to serious complications if left untreated.

1 in 7 moms in SA are teens. We dive into the numbers

Bhekisisa | 13 September 2024

Nearly 365 teenage girls give birth in South Africa every day, with 10 of those daily births to moms younger than 15. High teen pregnancy rates hinder development as many girls drop out of school, later struggle to find a job and stay poor — a difficult cycle to break. Can better sex education, easier access to contraceptives and training health workers to help teens before they get pregnant, turn the trend?

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

FORMER GOLD MINeworkERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ENCOURGED TO LODGE COMPENSATION CLAIMS FOR SILICOSIS AND TB

The Tshiamiso Trust is on a drive to ensure that all potentially eligible former gold mineworkers and their families, know about their right to lodge a claim for compensation, and are given the opportunity to do so. The Tshiamiso Trust was established in 2020 to give effect to the settlement agreement reached between six mining companies and claimant attorneys in the historic silicosis and TB class action. The companies are African Rainbow Minerals, Anglo American South Africa, AngloGold Ashanti, Harmony Gold, Sibanye Stillwater and Gold Fields. To date, the Trust has compensated over 18,000 beneficiaries, to the value of R1.67 billion. The Trust is committed to ensuring that all eligible ex-mineworkers and their families get the compensation they deserve, and appeals for your assistance in reaching potential claimants.

To lodge a claim:

- Mineworkers must have carried out risk work at one of the qualifying gold mines during the qualifying periods between 12 March 1965 and 10 December 2019, as indicated in schedule F of the Trust Deed.
- Living mineworkers must have permanent lung impairment from silicosis or TB that they contracted while doing risk work at these mines.
- For deceased mineworkers, there must either be evidence that they DIED FROM work-related TB within a year of leaving the mine if it's a TB claim, OR evidence that they had silicosis or died from silicosis if it's a silicosis claim.

For more information and to check eligibility, contact the Trust in one of the following ways:

- Phone the call centre - 080 100 0240
- Send a "Please call me" to 072 557 8077
- Chat on WhatsApp - 00 27 78 504 9004 (select option 12 from the menu)
- Send us a message on Facebook (@silicosissettlement)
- Email info@tshiamisotrust.com

Claimants can also self-check to see if they are eligible to lodge a claim using an online tool found at <https://www.tshiamisotrust.com/information/status-check/>.

Claimants are reminded to be careful of people impersonating the Trust or promising to help speed up their claims. Only the Tshiamiso Trust can process claims, and this is a FREE service. Claimants must only share their documents with the officials at the lodgement offices and should not pay anyone to help them with their claims.

Clinical Management of Mental Health

Enhance your expertise in mental health with our comprehensive 30-hour course on the Clinical Management of Mental Health. Mental health is a leading cause of ill health and disability globally, affecting over 450 million people, according to the World Health Organization. In South Africa, mental healthcare services have been neglected and under-resourced, as highlighted by the Human Rights Commission Report on the state of mental healthcare (2019). This issue was tragically underscored by the Life Esidimeni disaster, where over 144 people died during de-institutionalization.

This course covers essential topics including the psychiatric interview, history taking, and the mini-mental state examination. You'll delve into anxiety, depression, self-harm, adolescent and child psychiatric disorders, substance abuse, psychiatric emergencies, and psychotic disorders. Learn about current therapies, pharmaceutical approaches, and psychiatric disorders in other conditions like HIV, TB, and non-communicable diseases. The course also includes laboratory investigations, interpretations, and an overview of regulations, required forms, and referrals.

Participants are assessed through multiple-choice questions across five detailed modules. Accredited for 30 CPD points with the HPCSA, this course equips healthcare professionals with the skills to significantly improve mental healthcare outcomes. Enroll today to advance your practice and make a meaningful impact on mental health care.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

PHAKAMA DIGEST August 2024: Teenage and childhood pregnancy

Phakama Digest | August 2024

With early childbearing and adolescent birth rates in South Africa increasing every year, the media announced last week that KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) has the highest numbers of childhood and teenage pregnancies in the country.

According to the National Department of Health, in just 12 months (from 2023 to 2024), 30 478 of the almost 120 000 15- to 19-year-old girls who gave birth in public health facilities were in KZN. Among younger girls (aged 10 to 14 years), 610 of the 2 700 girls across South Africa who became mothers were in KZN. These sobering figures show that teenage and childhood pregnancy is devastating our society, by “trapping young girls in a vicious circle of poverty, lack of educational prospects, and dependency on government for survival”, and offering a bleak future for their children.

Refugee and migrant health system review: challenges and opportunities for long-term health system strengthening in Uganda

WHO | 10 September 2024

Uganda is Africa's largest refugee-hosting country and ranks fifth globally. Over the decades, Uganda has hosted refugees from nations including South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, Burundi, and Rwanda. As of early 2024, it hosts 1 600 000 refugees, primarily in refugee settlements in northern and southwestern Uganda, and in Kampala City. Thirteen districts accommodate 94% of these refugees.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and Uganda's Ministry of Health conducted a joint review mission to provide a comprehensive overview of the health system's response. The aim was to understand service delivery challenges and identify opportunities to further support Uganda in strengthening health system capacity and ensuring continued access to health services for refugees, migrants and host communities.

Capitation-based funding for primary care: learning lessons from the ground-up to strengthen the NHI reform

UWC | 2 October 2024

In a capitation-based health financing model, resources are allocated to geographic areas – such as districts - based on their population size, adjusted for health care needs. The implementation of such a model would move public sector resourcing from historical budgeting to an approach that more fully considers equity and efficiency. The Western Cape province has begun trialling such a model at DHS level, whilst primary care capitation is an element of NHI plans. This webinar aims to provide insights and understandings about capitation-based financing through engagement with those working in the DHS across provinces, and working in the public and private sectors.

Call for the paper -HIV and TB co-infection - Submission Deadline: 20 December 2024

BMC Infectious Diseases is calling for submissions to our Collection on HIV and TB co-infection. This collection seeks to explore the complex relationship between tuberculosis (TB) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), two prominent pathogens within the domain of infectious diseases. We invite submissions on co-infection research, interventions, and perspectives from various stakeholders aiming to advance understanding and improve outcomes in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and control of HIV and TB co-infection, covering topics such as epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical management, drug interactions, public health approaches, socioeconomic determinants, therapeutics

innovation, community engagement, and health systems strengthening.

Call for papers - Sexually transmitted infections- Submission Deadline: 3 February 2025

BMC Infectious Diseases is calling for submissions to our Collection on Sexually transmitted infections. Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) remain a major global health issue, causing significant harm. Effective management of STIs requires a multidisciplinary approach encompassing epidemiology, prevention, diagnosis, and control strategies. The topics of interest include diverse aspects of STIs but are not limited to: prevalence trends of various STIs, diagnostic approaches including molecular techniques and point-of-care testing, prevention strategies at different levels, HIV/STI co-infections, disparities in STI burden and access to services, and emerging challenges in the field

Call for papers - Mental health of adolescents – closing date 7 March 2025

BMC Public Health is calling for submissions to our Collection on mental health of adolescents. Adolescence is a critical developmental stage marked by significant physical and emotional changes, with mental health being heavily influenced by societal pressures, academic demands, and technology. Rising rates of anxiety, depression, and other mental health disorders among adolescents pose a global concern, affecting both immediate quality of life and long-term well-being. Addressing these issues is essential for fostering healthy development and preventing future psychosocial challenges. This Collection seeks submissions that explore factors influencing adolescent mental health, such as trends in mental health disorders, risk and protective factors, the impact of digital platforms, school environments, family relationships, barriers to accessing mental health services, and effective intervention strategies.

Gender Equity in Reproduction Health Service Access

Reproductive Health is calling for submissions to our Collection on Gender Equity in Reproductive Health Service Access. Healthcare access is important in ensuring the attainment of the Third Sustainable Goal (SDG3) by 2030. Access to reproductive healthcare services, which enables persons to live their lives to the fullest and enjoy safe and satisfying sex lives is a vital component of total health. However, access to these services differs by gender, with men and women across the globe having unequal access to the necessary information and services they require to enjoy total wellbeing, satisfactory sex lives, protection from sexually transmitted infections, prevention of unwanted pregnancies, and the treatment of infertility. The known reasons behind this unequal access range from social and cultural to economic reasons. For instance, lessened decision-making and financial autonomy for women may restrict their access to timely and effective reproductive healthcare services necessary for treatment and prevention of adverse health outcomes. On the other hand, even men may have restricted access to services due to cultural and time constraints. This collection will provide an avenue to researchers with interest in the intersection between gender and reproductive health access, as well as reproductive health and rights to present their research for maximum visibility. The collection is welcoming contributions such as original research articles using quantitative, qualitative and mixed-method designs, scoping and systematic reviews, policy analyses, case studies, meta-analyses, and commentaries. Contributors are encouraged to present policy-relevant recommendations and points of action for program implementers.

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.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

8th World One Health Congress (WOHC) 2024

The Congress foresees four days of an outstanding, exceptional and forward-thinking agenda, which includes parallel tracks addressing one health science, antimicrobial agents and resistance, and science policy interface, amongst others. It will enable discussing major One Health challenges, as well as sharing research data and policy developments. Above all, it will provide a great opportunity to look at global One Health science and policy through an African lens. Through an open call for abstracts, notable work from distinguished scientists and opinion leaders will be disseminated at the world's largest forum dedicated to advancing the One Health agenda and community.

When: 20 – 23 September 2024

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

World Congress of Epidemiology

When: 24 – 27 September 2024

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

Hacking healthcare: African solutions for a global stage

For the first time, we are curating our content to bring you more flexibility, ample learning opportunities and real value for your time and money. The new deconstructed congress schedule offers a dynamic mix of both CPD-accredited and non-CPD content covering a wider range of topics over 3 days.

When: 22 – 24 October 2024

Where: Cape Town International Convention Centre, South Africa

7th Public Health Conference

Theme: Population Health and Preventive Medicine

Discover the latest insights and advancements in public health at the 7th Public Health in Africa Conference. Join experts and professionals as we delve into critical topics such as non-communicable diseases, maternal women and child health, communicable diseases, and public health medicine discourse. Explore innovative strategies to tackle diseases like cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases while focusing on improving maternal and child health outcomes.

Learn about successful interventions for infectious diseases while engaging in stimulating discussions on health policy, systems strengthening, promotion, and shaping a healthier future for African communities. Don't miss this opportunity to network, gain knowledge, and contribute to advancing public health initiatives across the continent.

When: 17 October 2024

Where: Gallagher Convention Centre

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Senior Lecturer - The Health Policy and Systems Division in the School of Public Health

Closing date for Application: 30 September 2024

Go to: <https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Senior-Lecturer.aspx>

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