

[HST Bulletin 19 July 2024](#)[View this email in your browser](#)

## 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

### **Medicine Toward a cure – Advancing HIV/AIDs treatment modalities beyond antiretroviral therapy A Review**

*ResearchGate | July 2024*

*Esther Alum, Daniel Uti, Paul-Chima Ugwu and Benedict Alum*

Antiretroviral therapy, also known as antiretroviral therapy (ART), has been at the forefront of the ongoing battle against human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDs). ART is effective, but it has drawbacks such as side effects, medication resistance, and difficulty getting access to treatment, which highlights the urgent need for novel treatment approaches. This review explores the complex field of HIV/AIDS treatment, covering both established alternative treatment modalities and orthodox antiretroviral therapy. Numerous reliable databases were reviewed, including PubMed, Web of Science, Scopus, and Google Scholar.

### **Importance of improved housing for reducing infectious diseases of children in sub-Saharan Africa**

*Durham University | 9 July 2024*

*Mmbando, Arnold and Sadikiel*

Since 2000, housing in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has markedly improved due to significant economic progress in the region. However, the majority of these improvements are concentrated in urban settings, leaving rural areas, primarily inhabited by impoverished communities, exposed to substandard housing and heightened risks of communicable diseases such as malaria, diarrhoea, and respiratory illnesses. Consequently, there is an imperative to devise healthier housing solutions to shield children in these communities from communicable diseases.

### **Single and combined serum proteins expressed in TB infection are candidates for point-of-care diagnostic testing of active TB patients in Lambaréné, Gabon**

*Oxford Academic Open Forum Infectious Diseases | 13 July 2024*

*Paulin N Essone, Fabrice Lotola-Mougeni, Bayode R Adegbite, Kossiwa Kokou, Otogo N'Nang, et al.*  
Point-of-care (PoC) testing using non-sputum samples like serum or plasma proteins can improve tuberculosis (TB) patients access to a definitive diagnosis, especially in resourceconstrained and remote areas. Recently, about four hundred proteins were identified as playing a role in the pathogenesis of TB, offering a translational clinical research repository for tuberculosis. In a previous manuscript, we proved the potential use of these proteins for PoC testing for active TB diagnosis. The present work aims to confirm the performance of single and combination proteins to select the best candidate biomarkers for further development as a diagnostic testing tool for active TB.

### **Willingness to receive mpox vaccine among men who have sex with men: a systematic review and meta-analysis**

*BMC Public Health | 15 July 2024*

*Jiajia Liu, Siying Liu, Simin Yu, Xiaoyu Du, Jiaqi Hao, et al.*

Since May 2022, mpox outbreaks have been occurring in non-mpox endemic areas, with the main population affected being men who have sex with men (MSM). Outbreak prevention and control depend not only on the effectiveness of vaccines but also on people's willingness to receive these vaccines. Currently, there is lack of synthesis on the overall rates and influence factors of MSMs' willingness to vaccinate against mpox. Therefore, we systematically reviewed studies that assessed the willingness of MSM to receive mpox vaccine.

### **The cost of adding rapid screening for diabetes, hypertension, and COVID-19 to COVID-19 vaccination queues in Johannesburg, South Africa**

*BMC Public Health | 16 July 2024*

*Sithabiso D. Masuku, Alana T Brennan, Beatrice Vetter, Francois Venter, Bukelwa Mtshazo, et al*

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are responsible for 51% of total mortality in South Africa, with a rising burden of hypertension (HTN) and diabetes mellitus (DM). Incorporating NCDs and COVID-19 screening into mass activities such as COVID-19 vaccination programs could offer significant long-term benefits for early detection interventions. However, there is limited knowledge of the associated costs and resources required. We evaluated the cost of integrating NCD screening and COVID-19 antigen rapid diagnostic testing (Ag-RDT) into a COVID-19 vaccination program.

### **Correlates of Intimate Partner Violence, Including Psychological Partner Violence, in a Multisite U.S. Cohort of People in HIV Care**

*AIDS and Behavior | 16 July 2024*

*R. J. Fredericksen, L. S. Mixson, L. N. Drumright, R. M. Nance, J. A. C. Delaney, et al.*

We examined past-year intimate partner violence (IPV), including psychological violence without physical/sexual violence, and health outcomes among people with HIV (PWH) in care in a multi-site U.S. cohort. Between 2016 and 2022, PWH reported 12-month psychological, physical, and sexual IPV in a routine assessment. We used linear and logistic regression models adjusted for age, race/ethnicity, and site to examine relationships with health outcomes. Among 9748 PWH (median age 50 years, 81% cisgender male/16% cisgender female/1% transgender female; 44% non-Hispanic white/36% non-Hispanic Black/15% Hispanic), 9.3% (n = 905) reported any IPV in the past 12 months; half reported psychological IPV without physical/sexual IPV (n = 453).

### **A Pilot Randomized Control Trial of the Striving Towards Empowerment and Medication Adherence (STEP-AD) Intervention for Black Women Living with HIV**

*AIDS and Behavior | 16 July 2024*

*Sannisha K. Dale, Ian A. Wright, Aarti Madhu, Rachelle Reid, Naysha N. Shahid, et al .*

Black women living with HIV (BWLWH) face adversities associated with lower HIV medication adherence, viral non-suppression, and mental health symptoms (e.g., post-traumatic stress disorder) such as trauma/violence, racism, HIV-related discrimination/stigma, and gender-related stressors. We developed the first intervention based in cognitive behavioral therapy and culturally congruent coping for BWLWH to increase medication adherence and decrease PTSD symptoms by enhancing resilience, self-care, engagement in care, and coping for trauma, racism, HIV-related discrimination/stigma, and gender-related stressors.

### **JAPAN: Questionnaire survey on cervical cancer screening and HPV awareness**

### **among patients at a local cancer center in Japan**

*BMC Womens Health* | 16 July 2024

*Kazuto Nakamura, Keiko Kigure, Toshio Nishimura & Soichi Yamashita*

The incidence of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia is increasing in Japan. Although human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination and cancer screening are crucial in preventing cancer-related mortality, the cervical cancer screening rate in Japan was only approximately 43.6% in 2022. This study aimed to conduct an epidemiological analysis of cervical cancer by collecting data from individual patients.

### **Economic evaluation of Maternal Depression Treatment in HIV (M-DEPTH) for perinatal depression among women living with HIV in Uganda: a cost-effectiveness analysis**

*BMJ Journal* | 17 July 2024

*Ryan McBain orcid logo email, Adeyemi Okunogbe, Violet Gwokyalya, Rhoda K Wanyenze, Glenn Wagner.*

In low and middle-income countries like Uganda, perinatal depression affects more than one in five women throughout the course of their pregnancy. Perinatal depression contributes to mother-to-child transmission of HIV by reducing adherence to antiretroviral therapy as well as adversely affecting maternal and newborn health and early child development.

### **Client experiences with “Dynamic Choice Prevention,” a model for flexible patient-centred HIV prevention delivery in rural Eastern Africa**

*PubMed* | 17 July 2026

Identifying the optimal approaches to offering HIV prevention to meet the needs of those at risk is a high priority, particularly given the expanding toolkit of biomedical HIV prevention options. An ongoing study in rural East African communities evaluated the uptake of choices in product, testing mode and location of care delivery through a structured patient-centred HIV prevention delivery model. In this qualitative study, we sought to understand clients' experiences of this “dynamic choice prevention model” (DCP) and highlight pathways of action to inform HIV prevention delivery models.

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

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## **RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS**

### **Vital for SA's HIV+ babies to be tested, as infections rise**

*Juta Medical Life Science* | 10 July 2024

The SA National Aids Council (Sanac) has reiterated the importance of at least 95% of children infected with HIV being tested and “linked to treatment and care” amid concerns over the rise in infection rates among infants. Tshwane health officials said that between January and June this year, 232 babies in Gauteng tested positive for HIV, with 39 of them being from Tshwane – and although this was a slight reduction from previously, it was still a concern. The marginal decline (for Tshwane) from 211 in the previous six months (July to December 2023) where Tshwane accounted for 43 cases, reflected the trend “of HIV-positive mothers defaulting on their ARV treatment during breastfeeding, pregnant mothers not having access or reporting late for antenatal care at clinics, and breastfeeding mothers who tested HIV-negative during pregnancy (later on) contracting HIV and transmitting it to the baby”, they said.

### **New period product offers progress in women's health**

*EurekAlert!* | 10 July 2024

Bryan Hsu is tackling an area of research that has long been neglected - menstrual products. “It's something that people don't feel comfortable talking about, and that's maybe an indication of why it hasn't gotten enough attention,” said Hsu, assistant professor of biological sciences. Matter, Hsu and his team, which includes postdoctoral associates Rogerio Bataglioli and Harsimran Kaur that led the project, have created an eco-friendly, blood absorbent biomaterial that improves the performance of menstrual products by minimizing blood leakage and spilling, while also helping prevent infection. Their work was published in the Cell Press journal.

## **South African workers overly stressed, global poll finds**

*Juta Medical Life Science | 10 July 2024*

A recent report by Gallup reveals South African employees are suffering from extremely high stress levels, with 36% of the workforce experiencing excessive stress daily, and more than 71% either disengaged or actively disengaged in their professional roles. But not only are employees reporting high levels of stress and workplace fatigue, they are also lonely. "Globally, one in five employees experiences loneliness frequently. This percentage is higher for employees under 35 and lower for those over 35. Fully remote employees report significantly higher levels of loneliness (25%) than those who work fully on-site (16%)," according to the report.

## **CVD among top three causes of death in SA**

*Juta Medical Life Science | 10 July 2024*

Cardiovascular or heart-related diseases have raced to the top three causes of death in the past two decades, say South African life insurers, who are starting to address the underlying causes. The increase, said Dr Marion Morkel, chief medical officer at Sanlam, is linked to lifestyle diseases and was magnified by the added mortality burden of the pandemic. And because of a failure to address the key causes of diseases of lifestyle, "sadly, we're likely to see these increase in the future". Obesity remains a major challenge in our country, with type 2 diabetes linked to this, she told Daily Maverick.

## **How 'NHI on wheels' is bringing life-changing healthcare to young people in rural Eastern Cape**

*Spotlight | 11 July 2024*

The Keready project uses mobile clinics to take healthcare services to rural areas. Sue Segar spent time with the project as they took eye, dental, and other healthcare services to communities in the Eastern Cape. In the small Eastern Cape town of Bizana, hundreds of children stream into a large hall at the Oliver and Adelaide Tambo Regional Hospital on a brisk Tuesday morning in May. There's a festive but orderly vibrancy in the air – the scene made all the more colourful by different school uniforms and young voices from tiny six-year-olds to learners in their late teens.

## **Women & Girls Find their Sexual & Reproductive Health on the Frontlines of a Battle they Didn't Start**

*Global Issues | 12 July 2024*

UNITED NATIONS, Jul 12 (IPS) - Droughts, cyclones, floods and extreme temperatures – these are the 'new abnormal' of a world in which weather-related events are becoming increasingly prolonged, intense and frequent. While Africa contributes only 2 to 3 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions and it is the least responsible for the global climate emergency, the continent has emerged as the epicentre of the global climate emergency.

## **Some Gauteng Pupils Left Without Meals Because Of Delayed Tender Process**

*Health-e News | 12 July 2024*

Pupils at some Gauteng schools returned to school this week to find that no lunch was being served. This comes after a former service provider contested the provinces' new National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) tender bid. The supplier's contract lapsed in May 2024. Now, a total of 47 bidders are still waiting to hear who will be responsible for feeding at least 1 million pupils in Gauteng. The Pretoria High Court ruling on the matter is expected on 29 July 2024.

## **Joint UN statement calling for sexual and reproductive health and rights for all**

*Unicef | 12 July 2024*

In April, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, governments renewed their commitment and determination to accelerate the implementation of the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the principles of which are embedded in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including commitments to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services and to advance reproductive rights.

## **New HIV Prevention Drug Offers Total Protection To Young Women: Study**

*Onlymyhealth | 14 July 2024*

In a groundbreaking development, a large clinical trial conducted in South Africa and Uganda has revealed that a new pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) drug, administered as a twice-yearly injection, provides total protection against HIV infection for young women. This promising advancement in HIV prevention is poised to revolutionize the way we approach the battle against this global health crisis.

## **New Unitaid report: World's leading HIV drug proven to have reduced global CO2 emissions by 26 million tons**

*Unitaid | 15 July 2024*

The transition from efavirenz to dolutegravir (DTG) in HIV treatment is estimated to reduce total carbon emissions by 26 million tons of CO2 equivalent by 2027 thanks to the shift to a treatment formulation that requires less active ingredient. The adoption of DTG reduced the health sector's overall carbon footprint in low- and middle-income countries by approximately 0.3-0.4%, a magnitude of reduction – from one single drug – that surpasses many hard-won climate mitigation achievements in both health and other sectors. The report also shows how the global health sector could reduce the carbon emissions of DTG even further at low or little additional cost – a blueprint for developing climate- smart medicines that could be followed for other health products.

## **Questions over new Limpopo health MEC Dieketseng Mashego, but stakeholders willing to give her a chance**

*Spotlight | 15 July 2024*

Limpopo's health MEC Dieketseng Mashego has clocked up her first 30 days in office. Some of those who will engage with her in the coming years are taking a wait and see approach to the little-known politician. But they caution that the job of fixing health service delivery in the country's second poorest province is urgent. Mashego comes to the key position in Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba's executive council with no previous experience in the provincial legislature and no health sector background.

## **The Gambia's decision to uphold ban on FGM critical win for girls' and women's rights**

*World Health Organization | 15 July 2024*

Joint statement by UNICEF Executive Director, Catherine Russell, UNFPA Executive Director, Natalia Kanem, WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, UN Women Executive Director, Sima Bahous, and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk

“Following the vote today by the National Assembly of The Gambia, we commend the country's decision to uphold the ban on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), reaffirming its commitments to human rights, gender equality, and protecting the health and well-being of girls and women.

## **Getting Comfortable With Long-Acting Injectables**

*Poz | 15 July 2024*

Lamar McMullen of Miami is positively evangelical about long-acting injectables for HIV treatment. Currently, only one such medication is approved for injection every other month; others in the pipeline are intended to last even longer. Since giving up his once-a-day pill for a long-acting injectable, McMullen has been pleased with the results. “My labs are spectacular,” he says without hesitation.

## **There's a new way to test kids for TB — but the NHLS cyberattack has delayed its roll-out**

*Bhekisisa | 15 July 2024*

The National Health Laboratory Service's plans to pilot a new way for finding tuberculosis (TB) in kids have been put on hold after a cyberattack shut down computer systems at the state labs. South Africa isn't doing well at finding children with TB, and just 60% of those with the disease are on treatment. That's because finding TB in young children is tricky in the first place, as they usually have so little of the germs in their lungs that sputum tests often come back negative.

## **Free State Toddler Dies During Tooth Extraction**

*Health-e News | 15 July 2024*

The Free State health department is investigating the death of a four-year-old girl during a tooth extraction at Botshabelo District Hospital on Wednesday. This is the second patient death reported in the province in the last week. According to the young mother who asked not to be named, 'the dentist wasted time even

when she realised the child was not responding to medication'. "She was due for her appointment to remove four of her teeth. The patient health procedure was followed because the dentist asked me about any medical condition of my daughter before she could help her.

### **Debunking myths about mpox: separating fact from fiction**

*IOL | 15 July 2024*

Mpox, previously known as monkeypox, is making headlines again as new cases emerge. The contagious disease, caused by the mpox virus, is similar to smallpox but usually milder. Mpox has been surrounded by myths and misconceptions, making it hard for people to get accurate information. The myths often spread through repeated storytelling and can cause unnecessary fear and confusion.

### **Africa: New Unitaid Report - World's Leading HIV Drug Proven to Have Reduced Global CO2 Emissions By 26 Million Tons**

*allAfrica | 15 July 2024*

The transition from efavirenz to dolutegravir (DTG) in HIV treatment is estimated to reduce total carbon emissions by 26 million tons of CO2 equivalent by 2027 thanks to the shift to a treatment formulation that requires less active ingredient. The adoption of DTG reduced the health sector's overall carbon footprint in low- and middle-income countries by approximately 3-0.4%, a magnitude of reduction - from one single drug - that surpasses many hard-won climate mitigation achievements in both health and other sectors.

### **Take charge of your sexual health: join the #ForeverWena movement**

*Sowetan Live | 16 July 2024*

SA has come a long way in the fight against HIV and Aids, yet the epidemic remains a particularly daunting challenge among the country's youth. According to research, 7.8-million South Africans are living with HIV, with adolescent girls and young women aged 15-24 being disproportionately affected, accounting for 25% of new infections. The high rates of infection among these groups are linked to high community HIV prevalence, gender inequality and age-discordant relationships.

### **Uganda to Introduce Long-Acting HIV Prevention Injections**

*allAfrica | 16 July 2024*

Uganda is set to receive its first shipment of long-acting HIV prevention injections, marking a significant stride in the country's efforts to combat the HIV/AIDS disease. Scheduled to arrive in October this year, these injections promise a novel approach to HIV prevention by providing protection for up to two months per dose. Uganda, a country long plagued by the impact of HIV, has implemented various strategies over the years to curb its spread, from behavioral interventions to biomedical advancements.

### **Mental health likely to be the next global pandemic**

*IT-ONLINE | 16 July 2024*

Mental health issues are likely to be the next global pandemic, with the World Health Organization (WHO) estimating that globally one in every four people will be impacted by mental illness at some point in their lives. An approximate 350-million people worldwide suffer from depression and the WHO estimates that each year an estimated 700 000 people take their own lives – compared to 619 000 people killed by malaria. The organisation defines mental health as "a state of mental well-being that enables people to cope with the stresses of life, realise their abilities, learn well and work well, and contribute to their community".

### **Gilead to Highlight Landmark Progress in Research Across HIV Prevention, Treatment and Cure Programs at AIDS 2024**

*Businesswire | 16 July 2024*

Gilead Sciences, Inc. (Nasdaq: GILD) today announced its program for the upcoming 25th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2024), taking place in Munich, Germany, and virtually, from July 22-26. As the leading innovator in HIV, Gilead will share new data from its research and development programs and Gilead-supported collaborations that unite leading scientific innovation and partnership aimed at ending the HIV epidemic.

### **How sex workers are taking charge of their health in Malawi**

*Doctors Without Borders | 16 July 2024*

In the eastern African country of Malawi, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) teams are working with community-based organizations to improve access to health care for sex workers, including through trained peers who provide advice, support, and help us respond as effectively as possible to their medical needs.

## **WATCH: MEDICAL MATTERS | DEPRESSION**

*eNCA | 17 July 2024*

Depression is more than just feeling sad or having a bad day. It is a serious mental health condition that involves a persistently low mood or loss of interest in activities you once enjoyed. This week Medical Matters, we discuss a common but often misunderstood mental disorder.

## **Early detection of specific microRNAs may help predict preeclampsia in pregnant women**

*News Medical Life Science | 16 July 2024*

Preeclampsia (PE) is a significant contributor to the increase in maternal morbidity and mortality worldwide, with particularly alarming numbers in the United States, where it affects about 2–8% of pregnancies, resulting in premature birth with associated morbidities for their infants as well. A new study by researchers at UCLA Health finds that early detection of specific microRNAs (miRNAs) packaged in vesicles may offer the opportunity to predict preeclampsia in pregnant people before clinical symptoms manifest.

## **Fire Extinguished At Another Free State Hospital**

*Health-e News | 17 July 2024*

Days after a fire at National Hospital in Bloemfontein, Free State, another broke out at Phuthuloha hospital in Ficksburg, east of the province on Tuesday. Thabo Selemakoro (39) from Mqheleng says he was visiting a family member who was a patient at the hospital, when he was told patients had been moved to safety. “My father is one of those who have been taken to other hospitals for safety. I’m told he is safe,” Selemakoro says.

## **No Water And Power Cuts At Manapo Hospital In The Free State Risks Patients' Lives**

*Health-e News | 17 July 2024*

Patients at Mofumahadi Manapo Mopeli Regional Hospital in the Free State have to bring in their own water. The facility has not had water for years, and is reliant on water tankers. Tsepiso Moloji (38) of Phuthaditjhaba who was recently hospitalised for a week has first-hand experience of the situation. “I was told to call home and ask them to bring me water to drink and bathe. When I first heard this I thought they were joking. I thought hospitals were exempt from water shortages. But it was true, there isn't water at Manapo,” she says. Moloji's mother brought her three water containers.

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

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# **TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

## **FORMER GOLD MINeworkERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ENCOURAGED 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](mailto: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.

### **Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust 60percent**

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

<https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Subscription.aspx>

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

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## **PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS**

### **56th regular session of the Human Rights Council: Resolutions, decisions and President's statements**

*United Nations Human Rights Council | 18 June to 12 July 2024*

Document links to the adopted texts in the first column below will work once the documents have been processed, translated and released in all six official languages of the United Nations on the Official Document System (ODS). To search for final adopted texts on ODS, enter the final number in the search field, preceded by A/HRC/RES for resolutions, A/HRC/DEC for decisions or A/HRC/PRST for President's statements.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/regular-sessions/session56/res-dec-stat>

### **UNAIDS to release new data showing end of AIDS is possible by 2030, but only if**



## leaders act now on resourcing and rights

UNAIDS | 22 July 2024

UNAIDS will launch a new report, *The Urgency of Now: AIDS at a Crossroads* just ahead of the 25th International AIDS Conference #AIDS2024 in Munich, Germany. The report will demonstrate that ending AIDS as a public health threat is achievable by 2030 but that success is being threatened by pushes to reduce funding and to restrict human rights. The HIV response is at a crossroads: success or failure will be determined by which path leaders take. The report will show that the decisions leaders make this year will determine whether AIDS is ended as a public health threat by 2030. Taking the wrong path, by limiting resourcing or clamping down on human rights, would lead the pandemic to continue to grow, costing millions more lives and undermining global health security.

<https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarchive/2024/july/2024-unaidsglobalaidsupdate-launch>

## Call for papers - HIV and TB co-infection – closing date 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.

<https://www.biomedcentral.com/collections/hivtbco>

## DISTRICT HEALTH BAROMETER 2022/2023

The 16th edition of the DHB provides information across a wide range of district health services, covers over 30 indicators and continues to provide policy-makers, health workers, planners, researchers, academics and stakeholders a unique overview of the performance of public health services in South Africa. By providing a detailed analysis of health indicators, trends, and challenges at the district level, the DHB equips district managers and other stakeholders with the data necessary to identify priorities, plan and implement targeted interventions, and monitor progress. This year's Barometer also includes a chapter on air quality and health as we introduce environmental drivers of health in the publication in response to the effects of climate change on health.

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

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

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

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# CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

## AIDS 2024, the 25th International AIDS Conference

AIDS 2024 will convene thousands of people living with, affected by and working on HIV to share knowledge, best practices and lessons learnt from the HIV response over the past 40 years, as well as from the responses to COVID-19, mpox and other public health threats. AIDS 2024 in Munich, Germany, and virtually will provide a powerful platform to strategically align around a unified and equitable response to the pandemic. It will signal to the world that the HIV response is united behind an evidence-based

approach that puts people first. In the lead up to the conference, we are mobilizing a groundswell of support to help champion this principle. Join the call to action on social media using #PutPeopleFirst!

When: 22 – 26 July 2024

Where: Munich and virtually

Register: [https://www.iasociety.org/conferences/aids2024?](https://www.iasociety.org/conferences/aids2024?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjw1920BhA3EiwAJT3ISZsof5w2pJEHcHQJDHx1q06vvHHjXI4OP6i2TjAKsR4Dn3doa7foMhoCLjYQAvD_BwE)

[gad\\_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjw1920BhA3EiwAJT3ISZsof5w2pJEHcHQJDHx1q06vvHHjXI4OP6i2TjAKsR4Dn3doa7foMhoCLjYQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.iasociety.org/conferences/aids2024?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjw1920BhA3EiwAJT3ISZsof5w2pJEHcHQJDHx1q06vvHHjXI4OP6i2TjAKsR4Dn3doa7foMhoCLjYQAvD_BwE)

### **Webinar: Monitoring DHS performance towards UHC: How can we find a pragmatic way forward?**

Health systems need to respond to changing priorities. They must be regularly adjusted to reflect the most important needs of the population. Therefore, regular assessments of health systems performance help to identify and adjust priorities and inform decisions and consequent actions that will ensure the most appropriate responses to these priorities. Assessing the performance of a health system effectively is the first step to improving it. Join us as we reflect on current M&E approaches in the DHS while exploring new ways of health systems performance.

When: 15 August 2024, 16:00

Where: Zoom

Register: <https://uwc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEldOigj0tEtUPjRlzIHXq5geTnr7ICp3G#/registration>

### **South African Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology**

When: 28 Aug - 1 Sep 2024

Where: Sun City Convention Centre

For more information: <https://sasog.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**

When: 24 – 27 September 2024

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

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

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

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## **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Clinical Laboratory Advisor**

**Closing Date for Application: 29 JULY 2024, AT 16H30.**

**Go to : [https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Sub-District-Co-Ordinator-\(eThekweni-District\).aspx](https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Sub-District-Co-Ordinator-(eThekweni-District).aspx)**

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

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