

HST Bulletin



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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Recovering from COVID lockdowns: Routine public sector PHC services in South Africa, 2019 – 2021

SAMJ | May 2023 edition

Y Pillay, H Museriri, P Barron and T Zondi

In a previous article on the impact of COVID-19, the authors compared access to routine health services between 2019 and 2020. While differential by province, a number of services provided, as reflected in the District Health Information System (DHIS), were significantly affected by the pandemic. In this article we explore the extent to which the third and fourth waves affected routine services.

Exploring a community's understanding of HIV vaccine-induced seropositivity in a South African research setting

SAMJ | May 2023 edition

M Malahleha, A Dilraj, J Jean, NS Morar, JJ Dietrich, et al.

The high HIV prevalence and incidence in South Africa makes it suitable for recruitment of participants for large-scale HIV preventive vaccine trials. However, fear of vaccine-induced seropositivity (VISP) may be a barrier for community acceptability of the trial, for volunteers to participate in HIV preventive vaccine trials and for uptake of an efficacious vaccine. Prior to 2015, when the first phase 1 safety HIV vaccine trial was undertaken at Setshaba Research Centre, Soshanguve, the local community stakeholders and healthcare workers were naive about HIV vaccine research and HIV preventive vaccines.

The association between HIV diagnosis disclosure and adherence to anti-retroviral therapy among adolescents living with HIV in Sub-Saharan Africa: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Plos One | 11 May 2023

Melkamu Mengesh, Awugchew Teshome, Dessalegn Ajema, Abera Kenay Tura, Inger Hallström, et al.

Nine in ten of the world's 1.74 million adolescents living with human immunodeficiency virus (ALHIV) live in Sub-Saharan Africa. Suboptimal adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART) and poor viral suppression

are important problems among adolescents. To guide intervention efforts in this regard, this review presented pooled estimates on the prevalence of adherence and how it is affected by disclosure of HIV status among ALHIV in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Effect of HPV self-collection kits on cervical cancer screening uptake among under-screened women from low-income US backgrounds (MBMT-3): a phase 3, open-label, randomised controlled trial

The Lancet Public Health | 11 May 2023

Peyton K Pretsch, Lisa P Spees, Noel T Brewer, Michael G Hudgens, Busola Sanusi, et al.

Most cervical cancer in the USA occurs in under-screened women. The My Body, My Test-3 (MBMT-3) trial sought to assess the efficacy of mailed human papillomavirus (HPV) self-collection kits with appointment-scheduling assistance to increase uptake of cervical cancer screening among under-screened women from low-income backgrounds compared with scheduling assistance alone.

Dual trajectories of antiretroviral therapy adherence and polypharmacy in women with HIV in the United States

AIDS Research and Therapy | 13 May 2023

Abubaker Ibrahim Elbur, Musie Ghebremichael, Deborah Konkle-Parker, Deborah L Jones, Shelby Collins, et al.

Polypharmacy, using five or more medications, may increase the risk of nonadherence to prescribed treatment. We aimed to identify the interrelationship between trajectories of adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART) and polypharmacy.

High risk injection drug use and uptake of HIV prevention and treatment services among people who inject drugs in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Plos One | 12 May 2023

Brian Zanoni, Cecilia Milford, Kedibone Sithole, Nzwakie Mosery, Michael Wilson, et al.

We conducted a mixed-methods study to understand current drug use practices and access to healthcare services for people who use injection drugs in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. We used respondent-driven sampling to recruit 45 people who used injection drugs within the past 6 months from KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. We found high rates of practices that increase HIV/viral hepatitis risk including the use of shared needles (43%) and direct blood injections (bluetoothing) (18%). Despite 35% living with HIV, only 40% accessed antiretroviral therapy within the past year, and one accessed PrEP. None of the participants ever tested for Hepatitis C.

An observational study on factors associated with ICU mortality in Covid-19 patients and critical review of the literature

Scientific Reports | 13 May 2023

Athina Lavrentieva, Evangelos Kaimakamis, Vassileios Voutsas and Militsa Bitzani

The novel pandemic caused by SARS-CoV-2 has been associated with increased burden on healthcare system. Recognizing the variables that independently predict death in COVID-19 is of great importance. The study was carried out prospectively in a single ICU in northern Greece. It was based on the collection of data during clinical practice in 375 adult patients who were tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 between April 2020 and February 2022. All patients were intubated due to acute respiratory insufficiency and received Invasive Mechanical Ventilation. The primary outcome was ICU mortality. Secondary outcomes were 28-day mortality and independent predictors of mortality at 28 days and during ICU hospitalization. For continuous variables with normal distribution, t-test was used for means comparison between two groups and one-way ANOVA for multiple comparisons. When the distribution was not normal, comparisons were performed using the Mann–Whitney test.

At-home HPV kits increase cervical cancer screenings

Contemporary OB/GYN | 15 May 2023

Celeste Krewson, Assistant Editor.

Rates of cervical cancer screening in under-screened women of low-income backgrounds are improved by at-home high-risk human papillomavirus (hrHPV) sampling kits, according to a recent clinical trial published in *The Lancet Public Health*. Persistent hrHPV infection is the leading cause of cervical cancer, increasing the risk of precancerous cervical lesions incidence. Black and Hispanic women are especially

at risk, with Hispanic women experiencing higher rates of infection and Black women experiencing higher rates of mortality.

The assessment of risk factors and risk perception status of breast cancer in Northern Iran

BMC Women's Health | 16 May 2023

Reza Faryabi, Salman Daneshi, Esmat Rezabeigi Davarani, Ali Reza Yusefi, Mahdiah Arabpour, et al.

Breast cancer (BC) is the most common malignancy in women. Identifying and avoiding the preventable risk factors of BC reduces its occurrence effectively. So, this study aimed to assess BC's risk factors and risk perception status in Babol, Northern Iran.

Understanding the spatial heterogeneity of COVID-19 vaccination uptake in England

BMC Public Health | 16 May 2023

Huanfa Chen, Yanjia Cao, Lingru Feng, Qunshan Zhao & José Rafael Verduzco Torres

Mass vaccination has been a key strategy in effectively containing global COVID-19 pandemic that posed unprecedented social and economic challenges to many countries. However, vaccination rates vary across space and socio-economic factors, and are likely to depend on the accessibility to vaccination services, which is under-researched in literature. This study aims to empirically identify the spatially heterogeneous relationship between COVID-19 vaccination rates and socio-economic factors in England.

COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy and Its Associated Factors Among Adolescents

Dovepress | 16 May 2023

Alemu D, Diribsa T and Debelew GT

Currently, COVID-19 disease is a major public health issue that affects a large number of people worldwide. The COVID-19 vaccine is one of the best preventative measures. Adolescents between the ages of 12 and 17 are eligible to get the COVID-19 vaccine. The COVID-19 pandemic cannot be stopped if people are reluctant to use this vaccine. However, the extent of COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy and related variables among adolescents are not well understood.

Antibodies for HIV prevention: the path forward

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 17 May 2023

Shelly Malhotra, Rachel Baggaley, Sharonann Lynch, Carmen Pérez-Casas, Yvette Raphael, et al.

The lack of accountability in defining a timely pathway for equitable access to and scale-up of medical innovations has led to scepticism among key constituencies about the value of investing and participating in HIV prevention research. Communities are tired of promises of improved prevention options that do not materialize for those most in need. It takes 8–10 years on average for US FDA-approved HIV medicines to become accessible in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The disconnect between scientific innovation and equitable impact was highlighted recently with promising data from HIV prevention trials juxtaposed against familiar delays in access in highly affected regions.

Iterative hypothesis testing in HIV vaccine research: moving towards success

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 17 May 2023

Pervin Anklesaria, Nina D Russell

The development of an HIV vaccine remains a critical goal for global health. New and emerging prevention methods, such as long-acting pre-exposure prophylaxis, may help reduce the risk of HIV acquisition, but it is widely accepted that a highly efficacious, durable and cost-effective vaccine could accelerate the decline of HIV incidence in high-burden countries. Twenty years ago, leaders in the field introduced the concept of a global HIV vaccine enterprise and called for a new collaborative approach to HIV vaccine research. The resulting significant increase in funding, and structured collaborative networks, led to important advancements in the understanding of HIV envelope (Env) structural biology, novel approaches to immunogen design, the nature of protective immune responses and innovative delivery methods. Thus, the current imperative for the field is to synthesize the cumulative knowledge gained and use it to define specific critical hypotheses that can be methodically and rigorously tested through small, early-phase, carefully designed experimental studies that can inform the selection of product candidates for efficacy evaluation.

RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

WHO Declares End to Mpox Global Health Emergency

Health Policy Watch | 11 May 2023

The World Health Organization (WHO) has ended the global health emergency for mpox, marking the end of a 10-month juggling act by the UN health agency as it scrambled to deal with concurrent global pandemics. The announcement arrives just days after WHO declared the end of the global health emergency for COVID-19 last Friday, three years and 6.9 million lives after the virus was elevated to a global pandemic in January 2020. At a press briefing at WHO's Geneva headquarters on Thursday, Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that despite the change in designation, both viruses still pose "significant health challenges".

Important Lessons From the African Vaccine Manufacturer That Could Not Sell a Single Dose

Health Policy Watch | 11 May 2023

Regional vaccine production features in the draft pandemic accord, but there is still a long road before this becomes a reality. Aspen Pharmacare invested millions of dollars in scaling up its South African production plant to make COVID-19 vaccines – yet it never sold a single vial. Meanwhile, in a "demoralising blow", Bangladesh's government rejected a vaccine developed by Professor Peter Hotez that was being made by a local company because it wasn't an mRNA vaccine. While the pandemic accord currently being negotiated is almost certain to support regional vaccine production, setting this up is complex and the COVID-era failures offer a number of sobering and cautionary lessons.

WATCH: Observing International Nurses Day with Dr Themba Moeti

SABC | 12 May 2023

The nursing profession has taken centre stage as the world commemorates International Nurses Day. The day is commemorated on the birthday of Florence Nightingale who is the founder of modern-day nursing. Health Systems Trust CEO, Dr Themba Moeti joins us for more.

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY: LITTLE TO CELEBRATE

Health-e News | 12 May 2023

This International Nurses Day is bittersweet for many nurses working in South Africa's public healthcare system. With the devastating shortage of nurses, ongoing wage battles, unsafe working conditions, and lack of resources, nurses say there is very little to celebrate. International Nurses Day celebrates and honours nurses for their role in saving millions of lives, the theme for this year is "Our Nurses, Our Future." The National Department of Health says this is a call by the International Council of Nurses to countries to address global health challenges.

Confirmation Of Mumps Outbreak, South Africa, 2023

SA Coronavirus | 12 May 2023

Mumps is an acute viral infection caused by the rubulavirus, also known as mumps virus. It is sometimes called 'infectious parotitis', as it causes painful swelling of the parotid and or salivary glands. Mumps is generally a mild childhood disease, mostly affecting children between 5-9 years of age. However, younger and older children as well as adults, can become infected with mumps. People who have had mumps are usually protected for life against another mumps infection. However, second occurrences of mumps do rarely occur.

Gonorrhoea

Poz | 15 May 2023

Gonorrhoea is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) caused by *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* bacteria. It can be treated with antibiotics, but drug resistance is a growing concern. If left untreated, gonorrhoea can lead to serious complications, including chronic pain and infertility. Gonorrhoea is the second most common bacterial STI in the United States, after chlamydia, and case numbers have doubled over the past decade. Gonorrhoea rates are rising for both men and women and for most racial and ethnic groups. Young people

ages 15 to 24 account for more than half of reported cases, and gay and bisexual men account for around one third. HIV-positive people with gonorrhoea are more likely to transmit HIV, and HIV-negative people are more likely to acquire the virus.

SAHPRA Perspectives On Coronavirus SARS-COV-2

SAHPRA | 15 May 2023

The South Africa Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) acknowledges and aligns itself to the statement issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General, declaring an end to the Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) for the disease caused by the Coronavirus SARS-COV-2. This is a welcome statement after three years of battling a pandemic of mammoth proportions that caused widespread illness and multiple fatalities.

5 steps, fast: This plastic sheet and pouch can stop thousands of women from dying after giving birth

Bhekisisa | 15 May 2023

Scientists have found that a plastic sheet with a funnel-like pouch attached to the bottom edge can, along with a few other steps, cut life-threatening bleeding after vaginal births in hospitals by 60%. This is according to a study presented at the International Maternal Newborn Health Conference held in Cape Town last week. The research was also published in the *New England Medical Journal*. The piece of plastic, which researchers call a “drape”, is slid in underneath the patient and tied around her waist after she’s given birth. It collects blood in a pouch that hangs off the bottom end of the hospital bed — and it costs less than R30.

90-60-50: Can SA reach its hypertension targets?

Spotlight | 15 May 2023

While HIV and tuberculosis (TB) rates in South Africa are slowly declining, indications are that rates of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like hypertension and diabetes are on the rise. One response to this shift is to bring some of the strategies used in combatting HIV to NCDs. Hypertension, more commonly known as high blood pressure, has been described as a “silent killer” because there are often no symptoms associated with having it. Hypertension is when someone’s blood pressure is consistently higher than normal, which can lead to a host of complications, including stroke, heart attack, and kidney disease.

Brain-based treatment for menopausal hot flashes approved by FDA

Nature | 15 May 2023

US regulators have approved a first-of-its-kind drug to treat hot flashes — a symptom that affects as many as 80% of people going through menopause — by targeting the neural pathways that give rise to them. The approval of fezolinetant (Veozah), announced on 12 May by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), provides a way to treat hot flashes without relying on hormone therapy. “A lot of us who work in women’s health are really excited,” says JoAnn Pinkerton, a gynaecologist at the University of Virginia Health System in Charlottesville. “Breakthroughs in women’s health are so uncommon.”

Ventilators may have ‘fuelled’ Covid-19 deaths, a new study finds

IOL | 15 May 2023

A new analysis-based study by the Northwestern University of Illinois has found that the majority of Covid-19 patients put on ventilators may have suffered secondary bacterial pneumonia. The study seems to suggest that a high percentage of people who required help from a ventilator due to a Covid-19 infection also developed secondary bacterial pneumonia. It has been reported that this pneumonia was responsible for a higher mortality rate than the Covid-19 infection.

HEALTHCARE WORKERS: “WE ARE HUMANS”

Health-e News | 15 May 2023

Healthcare workers (HCWs) say targeted programmes to destigmatise mental illnesses and support mental health among HCWs after the COVID-19 pandemic is needed more than ever. They stress the need to debunk the stereotype that HCWs are strong heroes who don’t need mental health support. Under #Healthcareheroes, the South African Department of Health in 2020 and 2021 posted videos honouring HCWs who fought on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Covid-19 infection could lead to diabetes, new research reveals

The Standard | 15 May 2023

About one in 20 new type 1 and type 2 diabetes cases could be linked to a previous or an ongoing Covid infection, according to a new study. Overall, people who had tested positive for Covid-19 were 17 per cent more likely to develop diabetes within 12 months of a coronavirus infection.

Over 40% prevalence of precancerous cervical lesions among female sex workers with HIV in South Africa, but most unaware of the disease

Aidsmap | 15 May 2023

Despite low screening rates, 42% of South African female sex workers with HIV were found to have high-risk pap tests – meaning they showed signs of developing cervical cancer, the INTEREST 2023 conference in Maputo, Mozambique heard this week. "The prevalence of cervical cancer precursor lesions in this cohort of mostly HIV-positive sex workers was higher than the range reported for African women at 5-30%, with low screening uptake," said Dr Avania Bangalee from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

Study finds how COVID-19 disrupted lives of families with kids who have ADHD

Medical Xpress | 15 May 2023

While the COVID-19 pandemic was disruptive for all families, new research finds that families raising children who have attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) were especially vulnerable. Barbara Fenesi, assistant professor with the Faculty of Education at Western, was senior author for the study alongside co-authors Alexis Winfield and Carly Sugar, both graduates of the faculty's Masters in Counseling Psychology program.

China's complicated role in malaria control in Africa

Stat News | 15 May 2023

Ghana has taken a remarkable step in the fight against malaria by becoming the first country in the world to approve the R21/Matrix-M vaccine. It's poised to be highly effective in young children from 5 months to 36 months, the age group with the highest risk. The approval highlights the continued urgency required to combat this disease, which remains a significant threat to human health and a considerable social and economic burden. Low- and middle-income countries like Ghana record hundreds of thousands of malaria deaths each year. According to the World Health Organization, roughly 619,000 people globally died from malaria in 2021, 96% of them from vulnerable populations in Africa, where the disease is both endemic and perennial.

PrEP4All Urges U.S. Government to Appeal Court's HIV Patent Ruling for Gilead

Poz | 15 May 2023

A federal jury ruled May 9 in favor of HIV drugmaker Gilead Sciences in a lawsuit brought by the federal government regarding patents over Truvada and Descovy used as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent HIV. In short, the jury ruled that Gilead has not infringed on patents of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and that the patents were invalid. For more about the case, see "Gilead 'Won on All Counts' in Billion-Dollar HIV PrEP Lawsuit." On May 10, HIV activists with PrEP4All joined the Public Interest Patent Law Institute to release the below statement.

Does Your Vaccine Type Matter in the Battle Against COVID?

Poz | 16 May 2023

COVID vaccines offered varying degrees of protection in the six months after patients receive them, with levels climbing and plunging in two cases and climbing and climbing in another. Age, sex, body mass index (BMI) and smoking status also play roles, according to new UC San Francisco research. In the BOOST study (Building Optimal antiBOdies STudy), researchers tracked the response to the Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines in blood samples of 498 healthy volunteers, ages 18 to 88. They measured levels of neutralizing antibodies – the proteins secreted by plasma cells that block pathogens, like the COVID virus, thus preventing infection.

Limpopo health department concerned as malaria cases rocket and two die

Times Live | 16 May 2023

The Limpopo health department has advised its residents to take precautions amid a malaria outbreak that has claimed the lives of two people in the province. In a statement, the department said there were 1,423 cases over the past two weeks. This, the department said, was relatively high. In the 2022/2023 financial year, there were 1,745 cases.

Stricter rules: Why better food regulations will help us fight obesity

Bhekisisa | 16 May 2023

About one in four South African adults are obese, and almost as many are overweight. Someone is considered heavily overweight when their body mass index is 25 or higher, and obese when this number reaches 30 or more. Body mass index is a number that tells you how your weight (in kilograms) relates to your height (in metres). But the problem with weighing much more than you should is about more than just what the scale says. Obesity is a massive public health problem — affecting more than 650-million people worldwide — because it also leads to other health problems, such as diabetes, high blood pressure (also called hypertension) and heart disease.

MUMPS OUTBREAK: SCHOOLS IN FREE STATE AFFECTED

Health-e News | 16 May 2023

The mumps outbreak is affecting schooling in Botshabelo in the Free State, with at least 100 children testing positive. The Limpopo Health Department is urging parents to monitor symptoms. “Symptoms include headache, fever, malaise and loss of appetite. The glands near the ears swell resulting in puffy cheeks and swollen jaw. It causes severe pain. Such swelling usually lasts 2-3 days. We call on parents to seek medical attention if they notice these symptoms,” says department spokesperson Mondli Mvambi.

Elderly women picket outside Nyanga clinic demanding better service

GroundUp | 17 May April 2023

Dozens of mostly elderly women with walking sticks picketed at the gates of Nyanga Community Health Centre on Tuesday. They want the provincial health department to improve services and hire more doctors. Patients have been complaining about poor services at the clinic. They say that there are stock-outs on certain medications, there are long queues, and folders go missing. Last week, the Western Cape health department said officials are working to improve services “while trying to accommodate a growing community”. The communications officer said that “corrective measures to improve the quality of care to patients” would be put in place when complaints were reported.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust Bulletin

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

Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust 60percent

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

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

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

Health? Then join the Public Health Association of South Africa today to make a difference and enhance your career!

As a member, you will:

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

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

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

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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.

Multi-country outbreak of cholera, External situation report #2 - 15 May 2023

WHO | 15 May 2023

Since the last situation report on the multi-country outbreak of cholera was published on 28 March 2023, one new country reported a cholera outbreak: Eswatini reported a first case in April, related to cross-border transmission from Mozambique and a second case without travel history. In total, 24 countries have reported cases since the beginning of 2023. Since the beginning of 2023, outbreaks have spread further across African regions. The overall capacity to respond to the multiple and simultaneous outbreaks continues to be strained due to the global lack of resources, including shortages of the oral cholera vaccine, as well as overstretched public health and medical personnel, who are dealing with multiple disease outbreaks and other health emergencies at the same time. Based on the current situation, WHO assesses the risk at the global level as very high.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Webinar on the UNAIDS Triple Dividend Report and its implications for South Africa's plan of action with regards to the prevention and treatment of HIV.

Fully financing the HIV response to accelerate achievement of the 2030 goals for epidemic control will lead to a 40% to 90% reduction in new infections, and produce substantial health, social and economic gains in African countries.

These findings are highlighted in a new report issued by the Joint United Nations Programme on

HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), entitled 'A Triple Dividend: The health, social and economic gains from financing the HIV response in Africa'.

In this webinar, key speakers will introduce the report, clarify its findings, and lead a reflective session on measures to adequately resource the HIV response and save millions of lives.

When: Friday, 26 May from 14h00 – 15h30 SAST (GMT+2)

Moderated by:

Dr Yogan Pillay is currently the Director: HIV & TB Delivery, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Dr Liesl Page-Shipp is the TB & HIV Senior Programme Officer, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Ms Eva Kiwango is the UNAIDS Representative and Country Director for South Africa

Other speakers include:

- Dr Thembisile Xulu, the CEO of the South African National AIDS Council and the Chairperson of the SA Global Fund CCM
- Mr Jaime Atienza Azcona, UNAIDS Director of Equitable Financing Practice
- Prof Gesine Meyer-Rath, Associate Professor, Boston University School of Public Health, and Economics and Epidemiology Research Office (HE2RO), University of the Witwatersrand
- Dr Mark Blecher, Chief Director: Health and Social Development, National Treasury
- Ms Anne Githuku-Shongwe, the Regional Director, UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Eastern and Southern Africa

TO REGISTER CLICK HERE: <https://www.hst.org.za/media/Pages/TRIPLE-DIVIDEND-WEBINAR.aspx>

South African Health Review 2023 Call for Abstracts: STRENGTHENING CANCER SERVICES

The National Cancer Strategic Framework 2017 – 2022 reflects the country's commitment to reduce the burden of cancer amongst all its citizens. South Africa has struggled to provide services for effective cancer prevention, treatment, and care. Children and adults alike often present at advanced stages of disease. Hence, increasing cancer incidence, high mortality rates, severe morbidity among cancer survivors, and unequal access to cancer prevention, treatment, and care remain critical challenges in South Africa. This burden is exacerbated among communities who are also faced with poverty, disadvantage and inequitable access to health services more generally. The COVID-19 pandemic has also exacerbated pre-existing inequities in cancer care.

The editors of the 2023 South African Health Review (SAHR) invite the submission of abstracts that investigate the successes, challenges and gaps in cancer treatment and care within the South African healthcare system.

This first issue devoted exclusively to cancer will focus on acquiring a deeper understanding of the systemic cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment challenges in South Africa. It seeks to also enable the sharing of innovations, strategies and lessons that may increase community engagement, health literacy, timely presentation, and improve treatment completion and wellness.

Abstracts that focus on cancer prevention, screening, and early diagnosis at community level, access to quality surgery and oncology therapies, and rehabilitation, community re-integration, and palliative care systems are encouraged.

Preference will be given to abstracts that:

- examine the successes, challenges, and shortfalls of the 2017-2022 National Cancer Strategic Framework;
- examine innovations and learnings emerging from the current management of cancer services within the public and private health sector that will improve access and lead to better outcomes;
- explore lessons learned and recommendations on how to integrate cancer interventions with other key public health programmes;

- share patient-relevant measures, approaches and innovations in cancer care that strengthen community level services that lead to increased patient satisfaction, reduced inequalities and better treatment completion.

Please take note of the following:

- The body of the abstract may not exceed 300 words.
- To submit an abstract, please use our **online template** (<https://forms.gle/9tVKZtHYdaoFxnj26>)
- Submission of an abstract for the SAHR does not guarantee acceptance. All abstracts will undergo a systematic selection process.

Closing Date: Monday, 19 June 2023

For more information visit: www.hst.org.za or contact sahr@hst.org.za

Final call for TUFH Africa Regional Virtual Conference 2023 abstract submissions

The 2023 TUFH Virtual Regional Conference for Africa is co-hosted by The Network: TUFH & the University of the Western Cape (South Africa), partnered with the Student Network Organization (International), Association for Public, Health Teaching, Research and Service (Nigeria), David Umahi Federal University of Medical Sciences(Nigeria), Women and Health Together for the Future (WHTF - International), African Center for Global Health and Social Transformation (Uganda), AFREHealth (Rwanda), University of Cape Town (South Africa), Jhpiego Corporation(Ethiopia), University of Kwazulu-Natal (South Africa), Oasis Community Health Foundation (International), Makerere University College of Health (Uganda), University of Global Health Equity (Rwanda), Busitema University (Uganda), and, Stellenbosch University (South Africa).

During this conference, theme of Universal Health Coverage: Opportunities and Challenges for the Next Century will be explored. Please keep in mind the following deadlines:

Abstract submission 📄 May 20th

Registration 📅 May 28th

Submit abstract here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScxnokvV4TK5s9bO6K0h8UQ62bcuY9BqIEVqThWv3-f8wqlag/viewform>

Program at-a-glance: https://mcusercontent.com/742357d7350b0bf9f9591c8ab/images/ca276c9f-2206-0387-e855-4dc073ab152a.png?mc_cid=af8cd45ce5&mc_eid=557ba95cb6

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

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING (HSS) UNIT: FACILITY TEAM LEADER

Closing date: 19 May 2023

FEMALES RISING THROUGH EDUCATION SUPPORT AND HEALTH (FRESH) FACILITATOR

Closing date: 22 May 2023

RESEARCH / PROFESSIONAL NURSE FEMALES RISING THROUGH EDUCATION SUPPORT AND HEALTH (FRESH)

Closing date: 22 May 2023 [https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Facilitator---\(FRESH\)-.aspx](https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Facilitator---(FRESH)-.aspx)

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING (HSS) UNIT: CERVICAL CANCER PREVENTION, ACCESS AND CONTROL (CCPAC) PROJECT CLINICAL ADVISOR – ZULULAND DISTRICT

Closing date: 26 May 2023

CORPORATE SERVICES UNIT: HR OFFICER – REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

Closing date: 26 May 2023

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING (HSS) UNIT: INFORMATION SYSTEM SUPPORT MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E) SPECIALIST

Closing date: 26 May 2023

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING (HSS) UNIT: INFORMATION SYSTEM SUPPORT MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E) SPECIALIST

Closing date: 26 May 2023

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