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## ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

### **Determinants of viral load suppression failure among HIV adults on ARV attending health care facilities: a retrospective study in Tanga region, Tanzania**

*BMC Infectious Diseases* | 14 March 2024

*Eric Mboggo, Expeditho Mtisi, Stella E. Mushy, Simon Mkawe, Frida Ngalesoni, et al.*

Availability and accessibility of Antiretroviral drugs (ARV's) improve the lives of People living with HIV (PLHIV) by improving client's immune system to overcome infections and prevent the development of AIDS and other HIV complications. Combination therapy, early initiation of ART, newer ART drugs, single dosage and drug affordability significantly contribute in the reduction of viral multiplication and suppression of HIV to undetectable plasma levels.

### **Dyadic Moderators of the Minority Stress-HIV Risk Association in Male Couples**

*Aids and Behavior* | 15 March 2024

*Madison Shea Smith, Elissa L. Sarno, Cole Price, Afiya Sajwani, Brian Mustanski, et al.*

Minority stressors have been linked to HIV risk behaviors among gay, bisexual, queer, and other men who have sex with men (MSM). Committed partnerships are a key context for new HIV infections and coping with minority stress among MSM, but very little work has tested the minority stress-HIV risk link among male couples, and little is known about how processes within one's relationship may exacerbate or buffer this association.

### **Intersectional Stigma, Fear of Negative Evaluation, Depression, and ART Adherence Among Women Living with HIV Who Engage in Substance Use: A Latent Class Serial Mediation Analysis**

*Aids and Behavior* | 15 March 2024

*Kristi Lynn Stringer, Andrea Norcini Pala, Robert L. Cook, Mirjam-Colette Kempf, Deborah Konkle-Parker,*

*et al*

Women Living with HIV (WLHIV) who use substances face stigma related to HIV and substance use (SU). The relationship between the intersection of these stigmas and adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART), as well as the underlying mechanisms, remains poorly understood. This study aimed to examine the association between intersectional HIV and SU stigma and ART adherence, while also exploring the potential role of depression and fear of negative evaluation (FNE) by other people in explaining this association.

### **The HIV Empowering Adults' Decisions to Share: UK/Uganda (HEADS-UP) Study—A Randomised Feasibility Trial of an HIV Disclosure Intervention for Young Adults with Perinatally Acquired HIV**

*Aids and Behavior* | 15 March 2024

*Michael Evangeli, Georgina Gnan, Victor Musiime, Sarah Fidler, Janet Seeley, et al.*

Young adults with perinatally acquired HIV (PAH) face numerous challenges, including antiretroviral therapy (ART) adherence, managing onward HIV transmission risks and maintaining wellbeing. Sharing one's HIV status with others (onward HIV disclosure) may assist with these challenges but this is difficult. We developed and tested the feasibility of an intervention to help HIV status sharing decision-making for young adults with PAH. The study used a randomised parallel group feasibility design with 18–25-year-olds in Uganda and 18–29 year-olds in the UK.

### **HIV Services Uptake Among People Living with HIV in Jiangsu Province, China: A Cross-Sectional Study**

*Aids and Behavior* | 16 March 2024

*Wei Ai, Lingen Shi, Rayner K. J. Tan, Dan Wu, Jason J. Ong, et al.*

Healthcare disparities are common among people living with HIV (PLWH) in China and likely impact access to HIV services. This study aimed to assess the current status of access to HIV services among PLWH and explore the correlates of service uptake using baseline data from a prospective cohort study among PLWH in Jiangsu Province. Guided by Andersen's behavioral model, univariable and multivariable logistic regressions were conducted to identify factors associated with access to HIV services.

### **Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction for Symptom Management in Older Individuals with HIV-Associated Neurocognitive Disorder**

*Aids and Behavior* | 16 March 2024

*Judith T. Moskowitz, Brijesh Sharma, Shireen Javandel, Patricia Moran, Robert Paul, et al.*

The growing number of people aging with HIV represents a group vulnerable to the symptom burdens of HIV-associated neurocognitive disorder (HAND). Among younger groups, Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) has been shown to help people living with HIV manage HIV-related and other life stress, and although there is some theoretical and empirical evidence that it may be effective among those with cognitive deficits, the approach has not been studied in older populations with HAND.

### **Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Persons Living with HIV in Western Washington: Examining Lived Experiences of Social Distancing Stress, Personal Buffers, and Mental Health**

*Aids and Behavior* | 16 March 2024

*Sarah Smith, Kristin Beima-Sofie, Asad Naveed, Nikki Bhatia, Murugi Micheni, et al*

Pandemic-related stressors may disproportionately affect the mental health of people with HIV (PWH). Stratified, purposive sampling was used to recruit 24 PWH who participated in a quantitative survey on COVID-19 experiences for in-depth interviews (IDIs). IDIs were conducted by Zoom, audio recorded and transcribed. Thematic analysis was used to develop an adapted stress-coping model. Participants experienced acute stress following exposure events and symptoms compatible with COVID-19.

### **Does HIV index testing bring patients into treatment at earlier stages of HIV**

### **disease? Results from a retrospective study in Ukraine**

*BMC Public Health | 18 March 2024*

*Andrew M. Secor, Alyona Ihnatiuk, Anna Shapoval, Misti McDowell, Larisa Hetman, et al.*

Over one-third of people living with HIV (PLH) in Ukraine are not on treatment. Index testing services, which link potentially exposed partners (named partners) of known PLH (index patients) with testing and treatment services, are being scaled in Ukraine and could potentially close this gap.

### **Common predictors of cervical cancer related mortality in Ethiopia. A systematic review and meta-analysis**

*BMC Public Health | 19 March 2024*

*Hunduma Dina Hambisa, Berhane Teklay Asfaha, Biniam Ambisa & Abebech Gudeta Beyisho, et al.*

Cervical cancer accounts for 7.5% of all female cancer related deaths worldwide; peaking between the ages of 35 and 65, and not only kills young women but also destroys families with young children.

### **Diabetes mellitus and associated risk factors among HIV infected patients on HAART**

*BMC Public Health | 19 March 2024*

*Lucy Kanyara, Rency Lel, Sheila Kageha, Joyceline Kinyua, Sophie Matu, et al.*

Understanding the impact of disease associations is becoming a priority in Kenya and other countries bearing the load of infectious diseases. With the increased incidences of non-communicable diseases and the endemicity of infectious diseases in Sub-Saharan Africa, their co-existence poses significant challenges to patients, health workers and an overwhelmed health sector. Classical risk factors for diabetes such as physical inactivity and unhealthy diet may not solely explain the current trends, suggesting the role of novel risk factors including infections/inflammation.

### **Coping with breast cancer during medical and occupational rehabilitation: a qualitative study of strategies and contextual factors**

*BMC Women's Health | 19 March 2024*

*Paula Heidkamp, Kati Hiltrop, Clara Breidenbach, Christoph Kowalski, Holger Pfaff, et al.*

This study aimed to gain a deeper understanding of the coping processes of breast cancer survivors (BCSs) during medical and occupational rehabilitation after acute treatment.

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## **RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS**

### **Few women know of booze and breast cancer link – WHO**

*Juta Medical Brief | 6 March 2024*

Only one in five women in Europe – just 21% – know that alcohol is a risk factor for developing breast cancer, the World Health Organisation says, calling for more stringent drinking policies and product warnings. The European branch of the WHO said that awareness was even lower among men, with just 10% of those surveyed knowing about the risk, reports MedicalXpress. The WHO did not provide its own

data on how many cases were alcohol-related, but cited 2020 data from the International Agency for Research on Cancer, which showed that of 575 917 new breast cancer cases, 39 248 were alcohol-attributable: about 7%.

### **SA's maternal mortality rate declines, health barometer shows**

*Juta Medical Brief | 6 March 2024*

The Western Cape is the only province that meets the UN Sustainable Development Goal target of reducing maternal mortality to below 70 maternal deaths per 100 000 live births by 2030, shows the latest edition of the District Health Barometer. However, women in the Eastern Cape, it showed, were twice as likely to die during pregnancy or childbirth.

### **Reductions in new HIV infections in several Global HIV Prevention Coalition countries, but global progress needs to be accelerated**

*UN AIDS | 13 March 2024*

13 March 2024—A new report, HIV Prevention: From Crisis to Opportunity shows that HIV infections continue to decline in countries that are part of the Global HIV Prevention Coalition (GPC) faster than in the rest of the world. Eleven GPC focus countries have reduced their annual number of new HIV infections by at least 66% since 2010. By comparison, the average reduction in new HIV infections since 2010 globally is 38%. The GPC is a coalition of 38 countries working together to accelerate declines in new HIV infections to achieve the target of having 95% of the people who are at risk of HIV accessing effective combination prevention options.

### **Semaglutide improves fatty liver disease and inflammation in people with HIV**

*Aidsmap | 13 March 2024*

Semaglutide, best known as a weight-loss medication, reduced liver fat build-up and appears to lower inflammation in people with HIV and metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD), according to study results presented last week at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2024). Findings from the SLIM LIVER study showed that semaglutide taken for six months reduced liver fat by 31%. "What we saw were really great, clinically significant reductions in liver fat even over that short period of time," Dr Jordan Lake of the University of Texas in Houston said at a media briefing.

### **Unravelling the link between salt, hypertension and chronic kidney disease**

*Daily Maverick | 13 March 2024*

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is currently the 10th leading cause of death globally, with an estimated 850 million people affected, or one in 10 persons having some form of kidney disease, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). There are many causes of CKD, but one of the most common is hypertension (high blood pressure). World Kidney Day is observed annually on the second Thursday in March (on 14 March in 2024) to raise awareness about the importance of our kidneys to our overall health. The theme for this year is "Kidney Health for All – Advancing equitable access to care and optimal medication practice".

### **Obesity and HIV: Semaglutide should be rolled out in SA, says Dr Nomathemba Chandiwana**

*Spotlight | 13 March 2024*

Obesity is a public health crisis in South Africa, similar to HIV in the late 1990s, Dr Nomathemba Chandiwana tells Spotlight on the sidelines of the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) in Denver, Colorado. She also presented research that found lifestyle behaviour changes had a limited effect on reversing weight gain in people living with HIV. In a sun-swept corner of the Colorado Convention Centre, Johannesburg clinician-scientist Dr Nomathemba Chandiwana is relaying how she's been up since 5am doing interviews with media back in South Africa for World Obesity Day – on March 4. Outside the convention centre on the horizon, the snow-capped Rocky Mountains

sprawl.

## **Global child mortality drops, but preventable deaths still high**

*Juta Medical brief | 13 March 2024*

Although the number of children globally who died before their fifth birthday dropped to a record low of 4.9m in 2022, that still represents one death every six seconds, according to a newly released United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME) report.

## **Dapivirine Vaginal Ring Safe, Effective at Preventing HIV During Pregnancy**

*Health Day | 14 March 2024*

Adverse pregnancy outcomes related to use of the dapivirine vaginal ring (DVR) or daily oral tenofovir disoproxil fumarate/emtricitabine (TDF/FTC) during the second trimester are uncommon, according to a study presented at the annual Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, held from March 3 to 6 in Denver. Felix Mhlanga, M.B.Ch.B., from the University of Zimbabwe in Harare, and colleagues presented results from the third cohort of women initiating the DVR product during the second trimester of pregnancy as part of a phase 3b study.

## **This overlooked corner of women's health could be a \$350 billion market opportunity**

*CNBC | 15 March 2024*

After years of being ignored, menopause has entered the public conversation. Celebrities from Drew Barrymore to Naomi Watts have opened up about symptoms and promoted products. Yet despite the increased chatter, there is a long way to go when it comes to treating symptoms — and a lot of opportunities for companies to step in to fill the gap. In fact, menopause is among the female health conditions with the highest unmet need and has “enormous potential for innovative treatments,” according to a recent McKinsey report.

## **New Report Documents Increase in HIV Drug Resistance to Dolutegravir**

*Poz | 15 March 2024*

The World Health Organization's (WHO) latest HIV Drug Resistance (HIVDR) Report tells us where drug resistance is growing and offers recommendations for countries to monitor and respond to the potential challenges. The report shares some good news and some concerning news. It highlights high levels of HIV viral load suppression (>90%) in populations receiving dolutegravir (DTG)-containing antiretroviral therapy (ART). However, observational and country-generated survey data indicate that levels of HIVDR to DTG are exceeding levels observed in clinical trials.

## **Guayaquil joins the worldwide group of cities committed to ending the HIV epidemic**

*UNAIDS | 15 March 2024*

Mayor Aquiles Alvarez Henriques of Guayaquil, Ecuador's largest city and the nation's main port, signed the Paris and Sevilla Declarations on February 28, placing the city among the almost 500 municipalities around the world that are committed to fast-tracking action at local level to improve the quality of life of people living with and affected by HIV. Through this commitment, the city pledges to contribute to the country's goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. Guayaquil is the capital of the province of Guayas, Ecuador's most populated province and the most affected by HIV, with over a third of all new HIV infection notifications in the country, according to the Ministry of Public Health of Ecuador. It has a concentrated epidemic among key populations, with an HIV prevalence of 7.3% among gay men and other men who have sex with men (MSM), for example.

## **Almost 50% of adult South Africans are overweight or obese. Poverty and poor**

## **nutrition are largely to blame**

*The Conversation | 17 March 2024*

Malnutrition, in all its forms, includes undernutrition (wasting, stunting, underweight), inadequate vitamins or minerals, overweight and obesity. South Africa has undergone a nutritional transition over the past 30 years characterised by the triple burden of malnutrition: households are simultaneously experiencing undernutrition, hidden hunger, and overweight or obesity due to nutrient-poor diets.

## **OPINION | To end TB, we need to provide vulnerable people with food**

*News24 | 18 March 2024*

This World TB Day, the South African government should take a huge stride towards addressing TB, and immediately prioritise nutritional support to people who have TB and their families, noting the huge benefits in new research out of India, and decades of data demonstrating the strong association between poverty, hunger and poor TB outcomes. That a middle-income country like South Africa still has TB as its number 1 killer, despite freely available TB treatment in the public sector and a successful antiretroviral programme, is testament to a failure to address underlying drivers of TB disease.

## **Women With HIV Need More Patient-Centered Counseling Regarding Contraception**

*Infectious Disease Advisor | 18 March 2024*

Women living with HIV need more frequent and patient-centered counseling on contraception to make informed decisions about their personal reproductive health and protect their access to reproductive health services. Although women with HIV infection report using various contraceptive options, only half of those surveyed remember having a conversation with their health care provider (HCP) about contraception. These study results were published in *Open Forum Infectious Diseases*.

## **Should event-driven PrEP be an option for women?**

*Aidsmap | 18 March 2024*

HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) could in theory stop the majority of HIV transmissions that still happen, and in some places, including England, is doing so. Yet worldwide, it is still only being used only by a minority of those who could benefit from it. A symposium during the recent Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2024) saw presentations advocating changes in practice on what might be called opposite ends of the menu of PrEP options now on offer.

## **Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) faces probe over pregnancy, HIV tests for recruits**

*BBC News | 18 March 2024*

Kenyan MPs are investigating the recent recruitment of tax revenue workers after it emerged that some applicants were rejected after doing HIV and pregnancy tests. The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) said it had disqualified 133 job applicants after they did the tests last year. They were set to undergo paramilitary training to prepare them for their roles as tax collection enforcers. Kenyan law prohibits discrimination in hiring based on health status. The news that recruits had been subjected to medical tests visibly shocked and angered MPs when it was revealed in a parliamentary session on Thursday. "There is no doubt that gross violation of rights has been committed in the recruitment," said Manderu West MP Adan Haji, who chairs the National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity committee.

## **First OTC contraceptive now available**

*Contemporary OB/GYN | 19 March 2024*

The first over-the-counter contraceptive (OTC), Opill (norgestrel; Perrigo), has begun rollout, with online sales of the contraceptive starting on Monday at Opill.com and Amazon. According to Perrigo, the suggested retail price for Opill is \$19.99 for a 1-month supply, \$49.99 for a 3-month supply, and \$89.99 for a 6-month supply.

## **Nearly two million people in sub-Saharan Africa may have advanced HIV disease**

*Aidsmap | 19 March 2024*

Men in sub-Saharan Africa are much more likely to have advanced HIV disease –including large numbers who have a low CD4 count despite taking treatment and being virally suppressed. It remains crucial to monitor CD4 count, according to a World Health Organization (WHO) study of 12 countries presented to the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2024) by Dr Dominik Stelzle in Denver earlier this month.

### **HIV in cell culture can be completely eliminated using CRISPR-Cas gene editing technology, increasing hopes of cure**

*Medical Express | 19 March 2024*

New research presented early ahead of this year's European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ECCMID 2024, Barcelona, 27-30 April) from a team of researchers in the Netherlands shows how the latest CRISPR-Cas gene editing technology can be used to eliminate all traces of the HIV virus from infected cells in the laboratory, raising hopes of a cure.

### **Should event-driven PrEP be an option for women?**

*Aidsmap | 19 March 2024*

HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) could in theory stop the majority of HIV transmissions that still happen, and in some places, including England, is doing so. Yet worldwide, it is still only being used only by a minority of those who could benefit from it. A symposium during the recent Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2024) saw presentations advocating changes in practice on what might be called opposite ends of the menu of PrEP options now on offer. Dr Rupa Patel of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) asked why the rollout of long-acting injectable PrEP had been so slow.

### **WATCH: KZN health department warns of an outbreak of pink eye: Dr Ndivhuwo Khwashaba**

*SABC | 19 March 2024*

The KwaZulu-Natal health department has warned of an outbreak of pink eye, particularly in eThekweni. Provincial health officials say the cumulative number of cases jumped from 161 to 1,044 between February 29 and March 3, with most cases reported in the eThekweni district. They have urged the public to avoid pink eye by practicing good personal hygiene including regular handwashing and avoiding the sharing of face cloths, eye cosmetics and pillows. Dr Ndivhuwo Khwashaba, Specialist Physician joins us for more.

### **Africa: Bill & Melinda Gates Medical Research Institute Initiates Phase Three Clinical Trial of Tuberculosis Vaccine Candidate**

*allAfrica | 19 March 2024*

The Bill & Melinda Gates Medical Research Institute (Gates MRI) today announced that a Phase 3 clinical trial to assess the efficacy of the M72/AS01E tuberculosis (TB) vaccine candidate is now underway, with first doses given in South Africa, where TB takes a heavy toll. If shown to be well-tolerated and effective, M72/AS01E could potentially become the first vaccine to help prevent pulmonary TB in adolescents and adults, the most common form of the disease, and the first new TB vaccine in over a century.

### **Students develop award-winning games to raise awareness about testicular cancer**

*Media Update | 19 March 2024*

IIE-Vega has announced that second-year IIE game design and development students at the university have embarked on a mission to educate and empower the next generation while raising awareness about this often-overlooked cancer. The students partnered with the non-profit foundation Love Your Nuts (LYN) for the initiative.

## **Innovative Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine for Adults Approaches Approval**

*Precision Vaccinations | 19 March 2024*

Since its discovery by Louis Pasteur in the 1880s, *S. pneumoniae* has become the leading global cause of morbidity and mortality across all age groups, with seniors being particularly vulnerable. Over the years, vaccines have prevented significant diseases, with innovative pneumococcal vaccines on the horizon. At the 13th Meeting of the International Society of Pneumonia and Pneumococcal Diseases (ISPPD) in Cape Town, South Africa, Merck announced positive data from multiple Phase 3 studies evaluating V116, the company's investigational, adult-specific 21-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine.

## **Depression, anxiety take toll on Western Cape adolescents, new study finds**

*IOL | 19 March 2024*

A new study has found that 33% of young adolescents in the Western Cape reported experiencing symptoms of depression, while 21% reported symptoms of anxiety. The groundbreaking study by the Alan J. Flisher Centre for Public Mental Health at UCT has shed light on the mental health landscape faced by adolescents aged 10 to 14 in the province.

## **HEALTH CARE AS A HUMAN RIGHT**

*Health Systems Trust | 20 March 2024*

South Africans celebrate Human Rights Day yearly on 21 March. This date is historically linked to 21 March 1960, the day that 69 people died and 180 were wounded at Sharpsville, when police fired on a crowd that gathered peacefully in protest against the Pass laws. This year's theme for Human Rights Month is "Three Decades of Respect for and Promotion of Human Rights". As set out in our constitution, human rights in South Africa include the rights to equality, human dignity, freedom of movement and residence, language and culture, and life.

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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.

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## PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

### District Health Barometer launch soon!

After a two-year hiatus, it is with great pleasure that I introduce the eagerly anticipated 2022/23 edition of the District Health Barometer (DHB), a vital statistical and analytical resource that provides an overall view of district health performance on key health systems indicators.

This 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.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the HST team and the various contributors and collaborators who have dedicated their time, expertise and passion to the development of this invaluable resource.

We trust that the DHB will continue to serve as a catalyst for evidence-informed decision-making and action, propelling us toward a future where every district is able to make a meaningful impact towards a long and healthy life for all South Africans. As always, we welcome commentary and feedback on the DHB's usefulness and suggestions for improvement of future editions.

Dr Themba L. Moeti  
Chief Executive Officer

## HIV Prevention: From Crisis to Opportunity - Key findings from the 2023 Global HIV Prevention Coalition scorecards

Reliefweb | 13 March 2024

A new report, HIV Prevention: From Crisis to Opportunity shows that HIV infections continue to decline in countries that are part of the Global HIV Prevention Coalition (GPC) faster than in the rest of the world.

Eleven GPC focus countries have reduced their annual number of new HIV infections by at least 66% since 2010. By comparison, the average reduction in new HIV infections since 2010 globally is 38%. The GPC is a coalition of 38 countries working together to accelerate declines in new HIV infections to achieve the target of having 95% of the people who are at risk of HIV accessing effective combination prevention options.

The GPC countries that have prioritised primary prevention and treatment and that have focused on reaching people most at risk have secured the strongest consistent declines in new HIV infections.

Globally, progress in HIV prevention has been highly uneven and a majority of the world's countries are not currently on track to achieve the 2025 targets. Indeed, several countries are experiencing prevention crises with low access to services and face record rising new HIV infections.

"The findings of this report offer crucial lessons for action," said Angeli Achrekar, Deputy Executive Director Programme, UNAIDS. "The report shows that sustained political leadership, investment in effective HIV prevention programmes, and an enabling policy environment are crucial to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030."

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## CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

### 3rd Edition of International Public Health Conference

The theme for this year's conference is "Restraining Pandemics Through Exploration of Trends and Public Health Challenges." With over 40 scientific sessions, attendees are sure to gain insights across a wide range of topics including infectious diseases, preventative medicine, chronic diseases, clinical trials and research, global health, health economics, and more.

When: March 21 – 23, 2024

Where: Singapore

For more information: <https://healthcaretransformers.com/healthcare-business/healthcare-conferences/healthcare-conferences-2024/>

## 8<sup>th</sup> SA TB Conference 2024

In keeping with the conference theme, the 8th SA TB conference will focus on innovations that will move South Africa further towards ending TB. Look out for exciting plenary presentations, Round Table discussions and Skills Building Workshops. Be part of the conference and submit your abstract early! Your abstract submission ahead of schedule will make a significant impact.

When: 4-7 June 2024

Where: Durban ICC

For more information: <https://tbconference.co.za/>

## International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Conference

FIP holds the World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, which takes place in a different country each year. In addition to this annual congress, FIP hosts the Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress every three to four years. At the annual congress thousands of pharmacists meet, learn, share and exchange views. Our varied programme, offering something for everyone, makes this congress the premier international event in pharmacy each year. The theme for this year's congress is "Innovating for the Future of Health Care".

When: 1-4 September 2024

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

For more information: <https://capetown2024.fip.org/>

## World Congress of Epidemiology Congress

When: 24-27 September 2024

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

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

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## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**No current vacancies**

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