

HST Bulletin\_ 23 August 2024

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## 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

### **Material needs security and cardiovascular risk factors in rural South Africa**

*BMC Public Health* | 12 August 2024

*Rebekah J. Walker, Caitlin Magro, Rabia Amjad, Laura C. Hawks, Sandra Iregbu & Leonard E. Egede*

The prevalence of cardiovascular disease is burgeoning in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). In sub-Saharan Africa, the prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors is increasing, though rates of CVD diagnosis and management remain low. Awareness of the influence of social determinants of health (SDOH) on cardiovascular outcomes is growing, however, most work focuses on high-income countries. Material needs security is a measure of SDOH that may be particularly relevant for LMICs. This study investigated the relationship between material needs security and cardiovascular risk in older adults living in South Africa.

### **Sociocultural perceptions of physical activity and dietary habits for hypertension control: voices from adults in a rural sub-district of South Africa**

*BMC Public Health* | 14 August 2024

*Kganetso Sekome, Francesc Xavier Gómez-Olivé, Lauren B. Sherar, Dale W. Eslinger & Hellen Myezwa*

Over half of adults from rural South Africa are hypertensive. Apart from pharmaceutical treatment, lifestyle changes such as increasing physical activity and reducing dietary salt have been strongly advocated for the control of hypertension. However, the control rates of hypertension for adults in rural South Africa are low. In this paper we explore whether this is due to the recommended lifestyle intervention not aligning with the individual's socio-cultural determinants of behaviour change.

### **Patient and provider perceptions of the relationship between alcohol use and TB and readiness for treatment: a qualitative study in South Africa**

*BMC Public Health* | 14 August 2024

*Suchitra Kulkarni, Sarah E. Weber, Chané Buys, Tersius Lambrechts, Bronwyn Myers, et al*

Focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted with 34 participants who had previous or current drug-

susceptible TB and self-reported current alcohol use. Eight interviews were conducted with healthcare workers who provide TB services in Worcester, South Africa.

### **Prevalence and factors associated with anemia among HIV-infected women in sub-Saharan Africa: a multilevel analysis of 18 countries**

*BMC Public Health | 16 August 2024*

*Werkneh Melkie Tilahun, Zenebe Abebe Gebreegziabher, Habtamu Geremew & Mulat Belay Simegn*

Despite the intended 50% reduction in anemia in women of reproductive age, this tendency has only worsened. Even though iron deficiency is the most prevalent cause of anemia, anemia and chronic illnesses like HIV are closely associated; in fact, 48.6% of people living with HIV who were 15 years of age or older had anemia. However, the burden of anemia among HIV-positive women in sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries is not well documented. Therefore, the goal of our research was to investigate anemia and the factors that are linked to it in SSA women who had HIV infections.

### **MicroRNA levels in patients with chronic hepatitis B virus and HIV coinfection in a high-prevalence setting; KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa**

*BMC Infectious Diseases | 16 August 2024*

*Lulama Mthethwa, Raveen Parboosing & Nokukhanya Msomi*

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) co-infection are significant public health issues, despite the availability of an effective HBV vaccine for nearly three decades and the great progress that has been made in preventing and treating HIV. HBV and HIV both modulate micro-ribonucleic acids (microRNA) expression to support viral replication. The aim of this study was to describe the pattern of microRNA expression in patients coinfecting with chronic HBV and HIV with varying disease severity, as indicated by Hepatitis B e antigen (HBeAg) status, HBV viral load, alanine transaminase (ALT) levels, and HIV viral load.

### **Identifying pregnant and postpartum women's priorities for enhancing nutrition support through social needs programmes in a resource-constrained urban community in South Africa**

*BMC Public Health | 16 August 2024*

*Agnes Erzse, Chris Desmond, Karen Hofman, Mary Barker & Nicola Joan Christofides*

Malnutrition remains a pressing public health concern for mothers and children in South Africa. Despite the government's multisectoral response, unaddressed social needs prevent some mothers getting full benefit from interventions, spanning financial planning, income stability, housing, access to government services, social support, and provision of affordable, nutritious foods. Engaging with mothers and prioritising their concerns is important if we wish to overcome obstacles to women benefiting from government nutrition interventions. This study aimed to identify the programmes that women perceived as a priority in addressing the social needs of mothers of young infants and pregnant women to enhance nutrition in a resource-constrained urban township in South Africa.

### **Longitudinal assessment of the impact of COVID-19 infection on mask-wearing behaviors**

*BMC Public Health | 16 August 2024*

*Danielle Pham, Angel Lomeli, Nicole H. Goldhaber, Holly D. Valentine, Rob Knight, Christopher A. et al*

Wearing a mask was a crucial component in slowing the COVID-19 pandemic. However, little is known about the intersectionality between mask usage, risk perception, and infection. The purpose of this study was to investigate whether risk perceptions and masking behaviors are associated with contracting SARS-CoV-2 and how contracting SARS-CoV-2 subsequently changes masking behaviors in specific situations.

### **Meta-analysis of Pregnancy Events in Biomedical HIV Prevention Trials in Sub-Saharan Africa: Implications for Gender Transformative Trials**

*AIDS and Behavior | 17 August 2024*

*Lara Lorenzetti, Nhi Dinh, Cason Whitcomb, Andres Martinez, Manju Chatani, et al.*

Historically, pregnant and lactating populations (PLP) have been excluded or disenrolled from biomedical HIV prevention trials, despite being more likely to acquire HIV during pregnancy and the post-partum period. We conducted a meta-analysis of pregnancy events in biomedical HIV prevention trials in sub-Saharan Africa to support trialists moving toward more inclusive clinical and implementation studies. We

searched peer-reviewed literature reporting pregnancy events and contraceptive requirements in HIV prevention trials between 2001 and 2022.

### **The association between adherence to antiretroviral therapy and viral suppression under dolutegravir-based regimens: an observational cohort study from Uganda**

*Journal of the International AIDS Society* | 18 August 2024

*Zachary Wagner, Zetianyu Wang, Chad Stecher, Yvonne Karamagi, Mary Odiit, et al.*

Millions of people living with HIV (PLWH) take oral antiretroviral therapy (ART), which requires a lifetime of consistent medication adherence. The relationship between adherence and poor HIV outcomes is well documented. Newer ART regimens that include dolutegravir (DTG) could be more forgiving, but empirical evidence on the relationship between adherence and viral suppression under DTG is only emerging.

### **Occupational post-exposure prophylaxis among healthcare workers: a scoping review of factors affecting optimal utilization**

*Journal of the International AIDS Society* | 18 August 2024

Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is an efficacious prevention method when initiated promptly after an HIV exposure. Yet, PEP has been underutilized, even among healthcare workers (HCWs) with occupational exposure in sites with PEP policies and procedures and access to PEP medications. It is important to understand the dynamics of uneven PEP use in what appears to be an optimal context to better protect the health and wellbeing of HCWs.

### **High myoglobin level as an independent risk factor for death in elderly patients with critical COVID-19 infection: a retrospective case-control study**

*BMC Infectious Diseases* | 20 August 2024

*Xiaoxiao Sun, Hui Zhang, Meixian Zhang, Miaomiao Fei, Lize Xiong and Cheng Li*

This study aimed to discover risk factors for death in patients with critical COVID-19 infection in order to identify patients with a higher risk of death at an early stage. We retrospectively analyzed the clinical data of patients with critical COVID-19 infection from April 2022 to June 2022. Data were collected from the electronic medical records. Propensity matching scores were used to reduce the effect of confounding factors, such as patient baseline variables. Independent risk factors affecting patient prognosis were assessed using univariate logistic regression and multivariate logistic regression analysis. Restricted cubic spline curves were used to assess the relationship between independent and dependent variables.

### **Molecular characterisation of hepatitis A in the Western Cape province, South Africa in 2023**

*BMC Infectious Diseases* | 21 August 2024

*Kathleen Subramoney, Jack Manamela, Stephen Korsman, Janine Bezuidenhout, Charlene Lawrence, et al.*

In 2023, passive laboratory-based surveillance showed an increase in hepatitis A virus (HAV) infection. We investigated hepatitis A incidence using the notifiable medical condition surveillance system (NMCSS) data and molecularly characterised positive blood samples from the Western Cape province for 2023. All HAV IgM seropositive cases from the NMCSS from 1 January to 31 October 2023 in South Africa were investigated.

### **Use and non-adherence to antiretroviral therapy among Refugee HIV positive pregnant mothers aged 18–49 years in Kyangwali refugee camp, Western Uganda**

*AIDS Research and Therapy* | 22 August 2024

*Joan Tusabe, Joanita Nangendo, Michael Muhoozi & Herbert Muyinda*

Refugee HIV positive mothers experience significant obstacles in accessing, utilizing and adhering to antiretroviral therapy (ART). Identifying ART non-adherence can help in the development of interventions aimed at improving adherence and subsequently effectiveness of ART among the refugee mothers. We describe the use and the factors associated with non-adherence to ART among Refugee HIV positive pregnant mothers aged 18–49 years in Kyangwali Refugee Camp, Uganda.

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

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## RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

### **UNITED STATES: Study finds lack of testing for gonorrhea, chlamydia during pregnancy**

*Contemporary OB/GYN | 16 August 2024*

Adherence to guideline-based laboratory testing and treatment of chlamydia and gonorrhea in pregnant women has been found to be suboptimal in the United States, indicating the potential for negative effects on newborn and maternal health, according to a recently published study in the Journal of Lower Genital Tract Disease.

### **Condoms are still the only protection against STIs like syphilis**

*Health-E News | 16 August 2024*

Dr Mags Beksinska, a sexual and reproductive health researcher has worked in the field for almost 20 years. Her research has included clinical and operations studies in the broad area of reproductive health with a focus on barrier methods for dual protection. She has specialised in research on female condoms, also now known as internal/inner condoms and is a member of the UNFPA/WHO Female Condom Technical Review Committee. Beksinska is also involved in the development of international standards and specifications for condoms. She was an author of the WHO/UNFPA Female Condom Specifications. She is active in global female condom programming and advocacy. She also acts in an advisory role with UNFPA and the Universal Access to Female Condoms Joint Programme (UAFC).

### **Packing cervix in the vaginal fornix significantly reduces postpartum hemorrhage bleeding**

*Contemporary OB/GYN | 16 August 2024*

Pulling down the cervix and pack it in the vaginal fornix (PC-PVF) may be a safe and effective procedure to reduce blood loss among women who experience postpartum hemorrhage in the lower uterine segment (PPH-LUS) during a vaginal birth delivery, according to new data.<sup>1</sup> Findings from a pair of tertiary hospitals in China found that the addition of PC-PVF procedure to routine care of PPH in the lower uterine segment of women after vaginal deliveries resulted in a significantly reduced rate of blood loss versus lone standard treatment. The investigators also found that an earlier application of PC-PVF provided improved efficacy versus a later application.

### **Eye health services in the public sector are critically impaired – it is high time the health department responds**

*Spotlight | 16 August 2024*

Despite South Africa producing a substantial number of trained optometrists, the majority of them work in the private sector and in urban areas. This imbalance leaves rural communities underserved and exacerbates health inequities. Does it make sense for us to use public funds and institutions to train people predominantly for the private sector, ask Dr Haseena Majid and Rene Sparks. Avoidable blindness and vision impairment are major global health concerns. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that at least 1 billion people worldwide have a vision impairment that could have been prevented or treated. In 2020, there were an estimated 11 million people living with some degree of vision loss in South Africa, of which 370 000 were classified as blind.

### **Should South Africa force big drugmakers to let others make insulin pens too?**

*Financial Mail | 16 August 2024*

*Christina Pitt*

Last year, Danish pharmaceutical company Novo Nordisk announced a deal with local drug manufacturer Aspen to produce human insulin in vials on their behalf for Africa.

But, says human rights lawyer and founder of the Health Justice Initiative Fatima Hassan: “They’re trying to frame this licence as progressive, but Novo Nordisk’s restrictions are taking us to the dark ages.”

### **Mpox outbreak: Public health emergency declared but ‘no need to panic’**

*IOL | 19 August 2024*

The Mpox outbreak in Africa has escalated into a public health emergency, with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) issuing declarations of international concern. In a statement on Saturday, President Cyril Ramaphosa, as the African Union (AU) champion on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (PPPR), expressed full support for the Africa CDC's declaration of Mpox as a public health emergency of continental security.

## **18 August UPDATE: Clade 1 spreads to Sweden, but SA's mpox cases are all clade 2b**

*Bhekisisa | 19 August 2024*

This is a developing story. We update the copy, map, timeline and press releases each time the health department announces new cases. A day after the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared mpox a public health emergency of international concern, and two days after the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) announced it a public health emergency of continental security, Sweden recorded its first case of the new, deadlier strain of the monkeypox virus, known as clade 1b.

## **Genetically modified mosquitoes and malaria in Africa: top scientist shares latest advances**

*The Conversation | 19 August 2024*

Every year, mosquitoes kill more people than any other animal. According to the World Malaria Report (2023), the African continent bears the brunt of the most deadly mosquito-borne disease, malaria. Africa has 94% of the cases and 95% of the deaths. One tool that's being considered in the fight against malaria is genetic modification. Several research projects around the world are looking to use genetically modified mosquitoes to stop the spread of malaria in Africa. Abdoulaye Diabaté, a medical entomologist and leading malaria researcher, is at the forefront of some of this work. He shares insights into how the technology operates and the research he's working on.

## **Building a Virtual Model for Care After Cancer**

*AJMC | 19 August 2024*

A little over 5 years ago, Hil Moss, MBA, MPH, completed 15 months of treatment for breast cancer. After being actively involved with fellow patients during treatment, Moss was struck by what she was hearing as she and fellow cancer survivors wrapped up their final chemotherapy or radiation treatments, which left them "feeling completely thrown out to the universe."

## **South Africa's diabetes crisis: poor surveillance hampers effective response**

*Health –E News | 20 August 2024*

Around 4.2 million people in South Africa have diabetes. The International Diabetes Federation estimates that one in nine adults live with diabetes. But these numbers are just that. Estimates. The actual number of people with diabetes in the country – despite its increase – is not known. This is among the red flags raised in the recently released Diabetes Summit report. "There is a significant underestimation of the challenges posed by diabetes in South Africa. Currently, diabetes prevalence data for the country is primarily obtained from estimates released by the International Diabetes Federation. Despite the escalating prevalence of diabetes in the country, there is a lack of data to closely track the trends," the report states.

## **#InTheSpotlight | Poorly controlled diabetes is a top killer, time to take it more seriously**

*Spotlight | 20 August 2024*

The South African government has adopted a national target to bring the blood sugar levels of people with diabetes under control. But beyond the target, the country's response to diabetes is falling far short. In this Spotlight special briefing, Catherine Tomlinson looks at what the country needs to do to better manage this often fatal disease and how we can draw lessons from the response to HIV.

## **Emergent to donate 50,000 vaccine doses to address mpox outbreak in Africa**

*TimesLIVE | 20 August 2024*

*Christy Santhosh*

Emergent BioSolutions said on Monday it would donate 50,000 doses of its smallpox vaccine to the

Democratic Republic of the Congo and the other impacted countries Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda to address the mpox outbreak. The World Health Organization last week declared mpox a global public health emergency for the second time in two years as a new variant of the virus, known as clade Ib, spread rapidly in Africa. At least one person in Sweden has been confirmed with the infection, marking the first time the new variant has been seen outside Africa.

### **Popping into your pharmacy for anti-HIV pills or jabs could help slow new infections. So why isn't it allowed in SA?**

*Bhekisisa | 20 August 2024*

*Angela Tembo & Tsitsi Nyamuzihwa*

Since July last year, a small revolution has been taking place at Mays Chemist in Melville, Johannesburg — and one that could make a real difference to HIV prevention in South Africa. But the programme meant to allow pharmacists and nurses working at private pharmacies to prescribe HIV treatment or anti-HIV pills and jabs is on hold because of a drawn-out court case. Researchers say this squanders an opportunity to let people get medicine that can prevent someone from contracting HIV — and a wasted chance to slow down new infections.

### **Researchers find increased mental illnesses incidence following severe COVID-19, especially in unvaccinated people**

*Medical Xpress | 21 August 2024*

A new study that examined health data on 18 million people reveals higher incidence of mental illnesses for up to a year following severe COVID-19 in unvaccinated people. Vaccination appeared to mitigate the adverse effects of COVID-19 on mental illnesses.

### **Study determines most common long COVID symptoms in children and teens**

*Medical Xpress | 21 August 2024*

A research team led by the National Institutes of Health's RECOVER Initiative and supported by its Clinical Science Core (CSC) at NYU Langone Health, has designed a new way to identify which school-age children and adolescents most likely have long COVID.

### **COVID-19 vaccine safe to administer in first trimester of pregnancy, study says**

*MIMS | 21 August 2024*

Among pregnant women, exposure to mRNA COVID-19 vaccine in the first trimester does not appear to contribute to an increased risk of selected major structural birth defects, according to a retrospective study. Researchers used data from eight health systems in California, Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Minnesota, and Wisconsin in the Vaccine Safety Datalink. They looked at 42,156 eligible pregnancies (mean maternal age 30.9 years), of which 7,632 (18.1 percent) were exposed to an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine in the first trimester.

### **Vivacious sister Sandra Bryant has a disco ball in her lilac clinic in Cape Town**

*Spotlight | 21 August 2024*

Sister Sandra Bryant runs her clinic in a lilac painted room, where glitter cream and a disco ball does not seem out of place next to scissors, syringes, and needles. She tells Spotlight's Biënne Huisman about working with Professor Christiaan Barnard, the adrenaline of being in the operating theater, and why she has a tattoo of an anatomical heart.

### **The Presidential Health Compact will be 'meaningless' without buy-in from all of society**

*Health-E News | 22 August 2024*

Acting president Paul Mashatile, and over 10 bodies representing civil society, academia, and trade unions, pushed ahead with the signing of the health compact today. The event proceeded despite the stance taken by the South African Medical Association (SAMA) and Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) not to sign the second Presidential Health Compact. But Professor Alex van den Heever says the notable absence of these organisations negates the purpose of the pledge. Van den Heever, the Chair of Social Security Systems Administration and Management Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand, says it is not clear that the health compact can be regarded as a compact when major stakeholders withdraw.

## Medical aids are out under the NHI — even if it means the end of the GNU

*Bhekisisa | 23 August 2024*

Section 33 of the National Health Insurance (NHI) Act — the part that says medical aids in their current form will be scrapped, as they won't be allowed to cover the same services as the NHI — won't change. That's the case even if it means the end of the government of national unity, says Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi. But the Act could be adapted to allow everyone — including asylum seekers and undocumented migrants — to get HIV treatment.

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

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## TRAINING AND RESOURCES

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

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

To lodge a claim:

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

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

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

### Batho Pele Principles

Date: Online

Course Type: Short course  
Time commitment: 14 Hours  
Delivery method: Self-paced

The Batho Pele initiative, stemming from the White Paper on the Transformation of the Public Service in 1997, aimed to prioritise people's needs in the South African public sector, particularly in healthcare. This e-learning course targets workers in the healthcare industry and aims to enhance their understanding and implementation of Batho Pele principles and the Patients' Rights Charter. Through modules covering patient experience, attitude, behaviour, and the relationship between principles and rights, participants will develop skills to deliver quality care while considering patients' perspectives. By the end of the course, learners are expected to reflect on their roles in promoting patient-centered care within the framework of Batho Pele and the Patients' Rights Charter, thus contributing to improved healthcare services in South Africa.

<https://academy.emguidance.com/course/batho-pele-principles>

### **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**

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

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

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

### **Gender Equity in Reproduction Health Service Access**

*Reproductive Health* is calling for submissions to our Collection on Gender Equity in Reproductive Health Service Access. Healthcare access is important in ensuring the attainment of the Third Sustainable Goal (SDG3) by 2030. Access to reproductive healthcare services, which enables persons to live their lives to the fullest and enjoy safe and satisfying sex lives is a vital component of total health. However, access to these services differs by gender, with men and women across the globe having unequal access to the necessary information and services they require to enjoy total wellbeing, satisfactory sex lives, protection from sexually transmitted infections, prevention of unwanted pregnancies, and the treatment of infertility. The known reasons behind this unequal access range from social and cultural to economic reasons. For instance, lessened decision-making and financial autonomy for women may restrict their access to timely and effective reproductive healthcare services necessary for treatment and prevention of



adverse health outcomes. On the other hand, even men may have restricted access to services due to cultural and time constraints. This collection will provide an avenue to researchers with interest in the intersection between gender and reproductive health access, as well as reproductive health and rights to present their research for maximum visibility. The collection is welcoming contributions such as original research articles using quantitative, qualitative and mixed-method designs, scoping and systematic reviews, policy analyses, case studies, meta-analyses, and commentaries. Contributors are encouraged to present policy-relevant recommendations and points of action for program implementers.

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

### **DISTRICT HEALTH BAROMETER 2022/2023**

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

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

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

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

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## **CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

### **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/>

### **8th World One Health Congress (WOHC) 2024**

The Congress foresees four days of an outstanding, exceptional and forward-thinking agenda, which includes parallel tracks addressing one health science, antimicrobial agents and resistance, and science policy interface, amongst others. It will enable discussing major One Health challenges, as well as sharing research data and policy developments. Above all, it will provide a great opportunity to look at global One

Health science and policy through an African lens. Through an open call for abstracts, notable work from distinguished scientists and opinion leaders will be disseminated at the world's largest forum dedicated to advancing the One Health agenda and community.

When: 20 – 23 September 2024

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

For more information: <https://globalohc.org/8WOHC>

### **World Congress of Epidemiology**

When: 24 – 27 September 2024

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

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

### **Hacking healthcare: African solutions for a global stage**

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

When: 22 – 24 October 2024

Where: Cape Town International Convention Centre, South Africa

For more information: <https://www.africahealthexhibition.com/en/attend/congress-registration-website.html>

### **Call for Applications: 2024 Africa CDC Youth Pre-Conference (YPC2024)**

The Africa CDC Youth Pre-Conference (YPC) is an Africa CDC youth initiative held annually at the margins of the International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA). It brings together young African public health professionals from all over the continent and the diaspora, with the aim of providing a platform to network with young leading health experts, exchange with their peers on existing and emerging health issues on the continent and present their contribution to a continental audience.

The YPC 2024 will feature six tracks where youth are already leading the charge:

1. Youth and Digital Health Innovations
2. Empowering Youth: Workforce/Talent Development for Job Opportunities
3. Youth for the Advancement of Local Pharmaceutical Manufacturing
4. Youth Championing Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS
5. Youth Health Advocates supporting CHWs activities and Programmes
6. Youth and One Health for a Healthier Future

The 2024 Africa CDC Youth Pre-Conference will take place in-person from 23-24 November 2024 in Rabat, Morocco.

- **Age:** 18 to 35 years
- **Citizenship:** Applicants must be a citizen of an AU member State

For more information please go to -

<https://africacdc.org/news-item/call-for-applications-2024-africa-cdc-youth-pre-conference-ypc2024-on-the-margins-of-the-4th-annual-international-conference-on-public-health-in-africa-cphia-2024/>

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

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## **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Sub-district Co-ordinator**

**Closing Date for Application: 26 August 2024**

Go to: <https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Sub-district-Co-ordinator--.aspx>

### **Programme Manager**

Closing Date for Application: 26 August 2024

Go to : [https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Programme-Manager-South-Africa-Sustainable-Response-to-HIV,-AIDS-and-TB-\(SA-SURE-PRO\)--and-related-projects.aspx](https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Programme-Manager-South-Africa-Sustainable-Response-to-HIV,-AIDS-and-TB-(SA-SURE-PRO)--and-related-projects.aspx)

### **Director: Business Development and Communication**

Closing Date for Application: 30 August 2024

<https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Director-Business-Development-and-Communications.aspx>

### **Monitoring and Evaluation Officer**

Closing Date for Application: 3 September 2024, 16:30

[https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Monitoring-and-Evaluation-\(ME\)-Officer-.aspx](https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Monitoring-and-Evaluation-(ME)-Officer-.aspx)

### **Nurse Clinician**

Closing Date for Application: 3 September 2024

<https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Nurse-Clinician.aspx>

### **Helpdesk Supervisor**

Closing Date for Application: 4 September 2024

[https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Health-Systems-Strengthening-\(HSS\)-Unit-SyNCH-Helpdesk-Supervisor-.aspx](https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Health-Systems-Strengthening-(HSS)-Unit-SyNCH-Helpdesk-Supervisor-.aspx)

### **SharePoint Specialist**

Closing Date for Application: 4 September 2024

<https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/SHAREPOINT-SPECIALIST.aspx>

(Return to Top)



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