

HST Bulletin_24 November 2023

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CATEGORIES

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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Impact of vaccination and variants of concern on long COVID clinical phenotypes

BMC Infectious Diseases | 17 November 2023

Grace Kenny, Kathleen McCann, Conor O'Brien, Cathal O'Broin, Willard Tinago, et al.

Defining patterns of symptoms in long COVID is necessary to advance therapies for this heterogeneous condition. Here we aimed to describe clusters of symptoms in individuals with long COVID and explore the impact of the emergence of variants of concern (VOCs) and vaccination on these clusters.

SARS-CoV-2 seroprevalence and associated factors, based on HIV serostatus, in young people in Sofala province, Mozambique

BMC Infectious Diseases | 17 November 2023

Roberto Benoni, Virginia Casigliani, Annachiara Zin, Dara Giannini, Niccolò Ronzoni, et al.

In Sofala province (Mozambique), young people living with HIV (YPLHIV) are estimated at 7% among people aged 15–24 years. Even though the COVID-19 pandemic threatened HIV health services, data on the impact of COVID-19 on YPLHIV people are lacking. This study aimed at exploring the seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 and associated factors among young people based on their HIV status.

Binge drinking and condom negotiation behaviours among adolescent girls and young women living in Cape Town, South Africa: sexual control and perceived personal power

BMC Public Health | 18 November 2023

Suzanne E. Singer, Wendee M. Wechsberg, Tracy Kline, Felicia A. Browne, Brittini N. Howard, et al.

Condom use among young people in South Africa has declined in recent years and adolescent girls and young women continue to bear the highest incidence of HIV in the country. Young women who have dropped out of school may be more at risk because of traditional gender norms that create substantial power imbalances and a lack of power to negotiate condom use with their male partners, especially when using alcohol and other drugs.

PrEP to Party: Exploring MSM's PrEP Use and Interest in the Context of Sexually Themed Events

AIDS and Behavior | 13 November 2023

Elliott R. Weinstein, Marc Puccinelli, Nicolas Cardenas, Steven A. Safren & Audrey Harkness

Sexually themed events present a unique opportunity for scaling up pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to men who have sex with men (MSM). This study descriptively explored PrEP uptake among MSM who anticipated attending a week-long major South Florida sexually themed event and examined potential facilitators and barriers to PrEP engagement among potential attendees. Of the participating HIV-negative MSM (n = 96), 66.7% were currently taking PrEP. Prior attendance at sexually themed events was significantly associated with current PrEP engagement and almost 75% of HIV-negative MSM not on PrEP reported high interest in taking PrEP if offered for free at future events.

Associated organs and system with COVID-19 death with information of organ support: a multicenter observational study

BMC Infectious Diseases | 20 November 2023

Ryuichi Nakayama, Naofumi Bunya, Takashi Tagami, Mineji Hayakawa, Kazuma Yamakawa, et al.

The organ dysfunction that is associated with death in COVID-19 patients has not been determined in multicenter epidemiologic studies. In this study, we evaluated the major association with death, concomitant organ dysfunction, and proportion of multiple organ failure in deaths in patients with COVID-19, along with information on organ support.

Integration of point-of-care screening for type 2 diabetes mellitus and hypertension into the COVID-19 vaccine programme in Johannesburg, South Africa

BMC Public Health | 20 November 2023

Alana T Brennan, Beatrice Vetter, Sithabiso D Masuku, Bukelwa Mtshazo, Nkuli Mashabane, et al.

South Africa grapples with a substantial burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), particularly type 2 diabetes (diabetes) and hypertension. However, these conditions are often underdiagnosed and poorly managed, further exacerbated by the strained primary healthcare (PHC) system and the disruptive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Integrating NCD screening with large-scale healthcare initiatives, such as COVID-19 vaccination campaigns, offers a potential solution, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). We investigated the feasibility and effectiveness of this integration.

Getting back on track to ending AIDS in children: it could just be easier than you think

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 20 November 2023

Shaffiq Essajee and Anurita Bains

The UNAIDS Global AIDS Strategy released in 2021 places ending inequity as the top priority to end AIDS. It recognizes the importance of a rights-based approach to address the needs of populations that have long been neglected in the global AIDS response. Among all people living with HIV, children and adolescents have faced perhaps the greatest inequities in terms of access to treatment and care. By the end of 2022, only 57% of children living with HIV worldwide were accessing antiretroviral therapy (ART). For adolescents, treatment coverage was below 60% in every region except for Eastern and Southern Africa.

Diabetes mellitus affects the treatment outcomes of drug-resistant tuberculosis: a systematic review and meta-analysis

BMC Infectious Diseases | 20 November 2023

Guisheng Xu, Xiaojiang Hu, Yanshu Lian and Xiuting Li

Both tuberculosis (TB) and diabetes mellitus (DM) are major public health problems threatening global health. TB patients with DM have a higher bacterial burden and affect the absorption and metabolism for anti-TB drugs. Drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) with DM make control TB more difficult.

Risk profiles for smoke behavior in COVID-19: a classification and regression tree analysis approach

BMC Public Health | 21 November 2023

Jiangyun Chen, Jiao Yang, Siyuan Liu, Haozheng Zhou, Xuanhao Yin, et al.

COVID-19 pandemic emerged worldwide at the end of 2019, causing a severe global public health threat, and smoking is closely related to COVID-19. Previous studies have reported changes in smoking behavior and influencing factors during the COVID-19 period, but none of them explored the main influencing factor and high-risk populations for smoking behavior during this period.

Prevalence and risk factors associated with malaria infection in children under two years of age in southern Togo prior to perennial malaria chemoprevention implementation

Malaria Journal | 21 November 2023

Shino Arikawa, Martin Kouame Tchankoni, Fifonsi A. Gbeasor-Komlanvi, Somiabalo P. Atekpe, Tinah Atcha-Oubou, et al.

Malaria remains the leading cause of mortality and morbidity in young children in sub-Saharan Africa. To prevent malaria in children living in moderate-to-high malaria transmission areas, the World Health Organization has recommended perennial malaria chemoprevention (PMC). Prior to piloting PMC implementation in southern Togo, a household survey was conducted to estimate malaria infection prevalence in children under 2 years of age (U2).

Examining gender and sexual orientation differences in physical intimate partner violence experienced and perpetrated by youth living in eThekweni district South Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic

BMC Public Health | 21 November 2023

Kalysha Closson, Bongwiwe Zulu, Julie Jesson, Janan J. Dietrich, Tatiana Pakhomova, et al.

Young women and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Non-binary/no gender, or Questioning (LGBTQ+) youth in South Africa face some of the highest global levels of intimate partner violence (IPV). Given limited evidence in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has fuelled IPV globally, we aimed to describe and compare experiences and perpetration of IPV of youth aged 16–24 by sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI).

Prevalence of obsessive-compulsive disorders (OCD) symptoms among health care workers in COVID-19 pandemic: a systematic review and meta-analysis

BMC Psychiatry | 21 November 2023

Neda SoleimanvandiAzar, Ali Amirkafi, Mohammadreza Shalbafan, Seyyed Amir Yasin Ahmadi, Shadi Asadzandi et al.

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) symptoms, are among the serious mental health challenges that Health Care Workers (HCWs) faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. As these symptoms reduce the mental well-being and effectiveness of HCWs which are followed by poor health outcomes for patients, the aim of this systematic review and meta-analysis was to determine the prevalence of OCD symptoms among HCWs worldwide.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Experts step up efforts to tackle diabetes trends in the African region

WHO Africa | 15 November 2023

Brazzaville – In June 2021, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Emmanuella Selasi Hormenoo, an 18-year-old Ghanaian university student, was teetering on the brink of death. “The doctors initially thought that I might have COVID-19, but when they did the tests, they were always negative. During one of the blood transfusions I had to have, I went into cardiac arrest, and slipped into yet another coma.”

Can we stop TB from killing people? The world's largest gathering kicks off

Bhekisisa | 16 November 2023

Fighting it, treating it, preventing it. In Paris today, policymakers, researchers and activists have come together for the start of The Union's annual World Conference on Lung Health, of which a large part focuses on tuberculosis (TB).

Nivolumab Safe in Patients With HIV, Cancer Using ART

AJMC | 15 November 2023

Cancer treatment with nivolumab was found to not have an adverse effect (AE) on people living with HIV (PLWH) using antiretroviral therapy (ART) who had cancer, according to a study published in *Cancer*. This result indicates that immune function will continue as normal for PLWH.

Slash the price by three-quarters — government on anti-HIV jab

Bhekisisa | 16 November 2023

The health department says ViiV Healthcare's newly announced non-profit price — between R540 and R570 per shot — for a two-monthly anti-HIV jab is more than four times what it can afford to pay. ViiV confirmed the price to Bhekisisa via email; it was also shared with activists and donors earlier this month.

TRIAL RESULTS SHOWS THAT NEW TREATMENT FOR A COMMON STI IS ON THE HORIZON

Health e News | 16 November 2023

A global clinical trial for a new gonorrhoea treatment has shown promising results. The trial found that the oral antibiotic drug, zoliflodacin, is effective in treating gonorrhoea, a common bacterial sexually transmitted infection (STI) that spreads through unprotected vaginal, oral, or anal sex. “This is an exciting result. It certainly places the spotlight on the much-needed field of STIs; and the need for new diagnostics, therapies and preventive interventions to reduce the burden of STIs in our community,” says Professor Sinead Delany-Moretlwe the director of research at the Reproductive Health and HIV Institute at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits RHI).

HIV Program Turns Hair Salons Into Educational Hot Spots [VIDEO]

Poz | 16 November 2023

A pilot program is transforming hair salon banter into an opportunity to educate Black women about HIV and the use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent HIV, according to a *Medscape* article. The program is run by the HEEAT Research Lab at the Duke University School of Nursing. HEEAT, which addresses disparities through engagement, equity, advocacy and trust, recognized that beauty salons and stylists in the Black community play significant a role in the lives of Black women of all ages. Stylists typically converse with clients about topics spanning intimate relationships, home life, health and more.

Catch-up HPV test offers high predictability for cervical cancer risk in older women

Contemporary OB/GYN | 16 November 2023

This is part 2 of our 3 part series on cervical cancer. Click here for part 1. Check back in December for part 3. A catch-up human papillomavirus (HPV) test may improve cervical cancer prediction in older

women, according to a recent study published in PLoS Medicine. A “catch-up” HPV test may be effective at detecting disease among women aged 65 years and older who have never undergone an HPV test. It is vital for clinicians to reach these women, as UK data has indicated the risk of cervical cancer development at age 65 is 6 times greater in women who have not been screened since age 50 than those sufficiently screened.

PrEP4Teens Brings HIV Prevention Artwork and Engagement to Chicago Youth

Poz | 17 November 2023

More Chicago youth are going to be learning about PrEP to prevent HIV, thanks to PrEP4Teens, a new social awareness and mobilization campaign that's creating artwork in public spaces. The initiative, which is directed toward LGBTQ and minority adolescents, launched this week with the unveiling of its first mural. The artwork hangs at the TaskForce Prevention and Community Services in Austin, a neighborhood on Chicago's West Side. Local artist and advocate David Gauna designed the mural with input from area youth during workshops at TaskForce, which serves gender and sexual minorities.

Uganda: majority of hospital admissions for AIDS or TB are in people already on HIV treatment

Aidsmap | 20 November 2023

A study in Uganda has found that admission to hospital due to advanced HIV is predominantly attributable to treatment failure and lack of TB preventative treatment, not late HIV diagnosis. Three-quarters of those admitted to hospital with AIDS-defining illnesses had already been diagnosed with HIV and two-thirds of those diagnosed with HIV had started antiretroviral treatment. The majority had been on treatment for more than two years. The findings, published in the journal PLoS Global Health, are reported by Dr Lillian Tugume and colleagues at Makerere University, Kampala.

To end AIDS, Let Communities Lead!

UNAIDS | 20 November 2023

Media are invited to attend the launch of a new report by UNAIDS which shows that the world can end AIDS if communities are included, funded and supported to lead the way. Much of the progress made against the HIV pandemic over the last 40 years is thanks to the efforts of community-based organizations. However, the new UNAIDS World AIDS Day report - Let Communities Lead - reveals how communities working to end AIDS are too often unrecognized, under-resourced and in some places even under attack. It outlines how, by removing these obstacles, the full potential of community leadership will be unleashed, allowing the world to end AIDS by 2030.

New AI tool detects up to 13% more breast cancers than human clinicians can

Medical Xpress | 20 November 2023

A new AI tool from Kheiron Medical Technologies and Imperial College London can detect up to 13% more breast cancers than humans in breast screenings. The prospective evidence, published under the title "Prospective implementation of AI-assisted screen reading to improve early detection of breast cancer" in Nature Medicine, found that the tool, called Mia, could significantly increase the early detection of breast cancers in a European health care setting by up to 13%.

Urban environmental quality linked to breast cancer incidence

News Medical Life Science | 20 November 2023

A Duke Health analysis of breast cancer in North Carolina showed that the state's urban counties had higher overall incidences of disease than rural counties, especially at early stages upon diagnosis.

Study shows mother's milk proteins and carbs crucial for infant growth, fat less so

News Medical Life Science | 20 November 2023

Human breast milk (HM) is considered the best nutrient source for infants, especially during their first two

years of life. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months, followed by a combination of HM and other nutrient sources for two years or longer. HM is a complex nutrient source comprising predominantly water (87%) and macronutrients (13%).

Despite decades of promises, health research still overlooks women

The Guardian | 20 November 2023

Women are underrepresented in clinical trials, and even lab mice are predominantly male – and the effects show up in almost every aspect of human health. When a nonsmoker dies of lung cancer, it's twice as likely to be a woman as a man. And women suffer more than men from Alzheimer's and autoimmune disease. Yet research into these conditions, and many more, generally fails to examine women separately. It's even less likely to look at disparities affecting women of color – why, for instance, Black women are nearly three times more likely to die in pregnancy than white women are.

In-depth: SA's remarkable TB clinical trial capacity

Spotlight | 20 November 2023

Several of the world's most important tuberculosis (TB) clinical trials of the last two decades were done in part or entirely in South Africa. These include several trials that helped establish the safety and efficacy of the medicines the World Health Organization (WHO) now recommends for the treatment of drug-resistant forms of TB.

Offering PrEP to all pregnant women just as effective as focusing on those at higher risk of HIV

Aidsmap | 21 November 2023

A study comparing two models for delivering pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) among pregnant women seeking routine antenatal services at public clinics in Kenya found similar PrEP uptake in the targeted (risk-guided) and universal arms. Additionally, both arms had high PrEP continuation rates, and HIV incidence was also similar. Since the risk-guided approach was not superior and did not improve PrEP decision-making, the researchers recommend universal PrEP counselling – which is easier and simpler to provide. "We found that a risk-guided PrEP offer (Targeted) was not superior to a Universal PrEP offer, based on appropriate PrEP decision and HIV incidence. Universal PrEP offer following simple standard counselling resulted in a comparable proportion of women making appropriate PrEP decisions as the risk-guided approach," wrote the authors. "Our findings suggest that universal PrEP counselling is optimal for integrating PrEP in maternal and child health systems."

NO END IN SIGHT FOR CONSTRUCTION AT FS 'IDEAL HOSPITAL' IN KROONSTAD

Health-e News | 21 November 2023

Poor maintenance and water shortages are causing further delays in finishing the construction of the theatre unit at the Boitumelo Hospital in the Free State according to Montseng Tsiu, chairperson of the provincial legislature committee on education, health and social service.

Protect our children under 5 during Paediatric Surge Season

Western Cape Government | 21 November 2023

As the Paediatric Surge Season (PSS) gets underway, the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness urges parents and caregivers to take the necessary precautions to protect all children against preventable and treatable diarrhoeal disease over the next months. Our healthcare facilities are able to diagnose and treat diarrhoea and a host of other ailments affecting children. Our staff are also able to provide advice and guidance on nutrition, the lack of which plays a role in diarrhoea. Paediatric Surge Season starts in November until May every year, with healthcare facilities seeing an increase in diarrhoeal and pneumonia cases among children, particularly children under the age of five, during this time.

Entomologist takes on mosquitoes, malaria, wins award

University of Witwatersrand | 21 November 2023

Professor Lizette Koekemoer has won the Women in Vector Control (WiVC) Excellence Award in the Senior Career category. Koekemoer is a Research Professor and the co-Director of the Wits Research Institute for Malaria (WRIM) at Wits. She received the award from the Pan-African Mosquito Control Association (PAMCA) at the 9th PAMCA Annual Conference and Exhibition held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 21 September 2023. As an entomologist, Koekemoer studies insects – specifically mosquitoes that are vectors of malaria. Vectors are living organisms that can transmit infectious pathogens between humans, or from animals to humans. The Anopheles mosquito is the vector of a parasite that causes malaria.

More deaths than malaria and HIV/AIDS: What Africa is doing to fight the silent epidemic of antibiotic resistance

Medical Xpress | 21 November 2023

Each year antimicrobial resistance—the ability of microbes to survive agents designed to kill them—claims more lives than malaria and HIV/Aids combined. Africa bears the brunt of this development, which thrives on inequality and poverty. Nadine Dreyer asked Tom Nyirenda, a research scientist with over 27 years' experience in infectious diseases, what health organizations on the continent are doing to fight this threat to medical progress.

Early births—between 34 and 37 weeks—for moms with pre-eclampsia can reduce baby and mother deaths

Medical Xpress | 21 November 2023

About a half-million babies die each year as a result of pre-eclampsia, an aggressive and potentially life-threatening problem in pregnancy. Approximately 46,000 women also die each year due to the disorder.

Statins may reduce breast cancer mortality rates

News Medical Life Science | 21 November 2023

Breast cancer is the most prevalent cancer in women across the world, with satisfactory survival rates but poor post-metastasis survival. Statin usage may enhance survival rates in breast cancer patients, according to research; however, most trials do not take underlying blood cholesterol levels into account.

How AI supports women's health

Contemporary OB/GYN | 21 November 2023

I think there's a huge amount of potential with artificial intelligence to improve the care that we provide to our patients and women's health. Specifically, I've been involved in an automatic text messaging program, to provide ongoing support to patients after their birth, so, for postpartum specifically. But I think outside of my own clinical program, which we'll talk about a little bit going forward, the ability for artificial or augmented intelligence to help providers provide care more equitably, and more effectively, and allow them to focus on the you know, more problematic patient care at hand is really sort of untapped, and in many ways unknown. To this point, I think there's only good things that can come out of our ability to work with AI.

Climate change is an urgent threat to pregnant women and children

WHO | 21 November 2023

Pregnant women, babies and children face extreme health risks from climate catastrophes that warrant urgent attention, according to a Call for Action released today by United Nations (UN) agencies ahead of the global Conference of the Parties (COP28) negotiations on climate change in Dubai. According to the document— Protecting maternal, newborn and child health from the impacts of climate change – the effects of climate events on maternal and child health have been neglected, underreported and underestimated. It highlights that very few countries' climate change response plans mention maternal or child health, describing this as “a glaring omission and emblematic of the inadequate attention to the needs of women, newborns, and children in the climate change discourse”.

Lack of menstrual health support at work impacting two-thirds of women

Euronews | 21 November 2023

A new survey by the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) has highlighted the inequality women in the workplace face due to menstruation with over two-thirds of UK women having bad experiences at work. In a survey conducted by the CIPD, 69% of women in the UK have encountered negative experiences at work directly linked to their menstrual symptoms. The study, involving over 2,000 participants, highlights the pervasive nature of the issue, with more than half of the respondents admitting to missing work due to period-related symptoms.

WHO releases new learning resources to help health workers provide better care and support for women subjected to violence

WHO | 22 November 2023

Health workers are often the first, sometimes only, point of contact for the millions of women and girls who experience violence. When equipped with the skills they need, health workers are an essential source of life-saving care and support. Ahead of 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls, the World Health Organization (WHO) is launching a new e-learning programme designed to boost health workers' capacity to identify and support survivors. This free to access, online course builds knowledge and skills to care for and support women experiencing intimate partner violence or sexual violence.

Less than 1% in US emergency departments are tested for HIV

Aidsmap | 22 November 2023

Despite recommendations for universal screening, less than 1% of people attending emergency departments in the United States are tested for HIV, with no improvement in recent years, according to a report published in the journal AIDS. In the US, about 13% of people living with HIV don't know they have it. Emergency departments are key settings for increasing HIV testing and reducing undiagnosed HIV. In the US, they often serve as a safety net for people who are uninsured or have barriers to using other health services, and may be disproportionately affected by HIV. Blood samples are routinely taken, so HIV can easily be included in a battery of tests.

Interview: "Someone had to do it", says SA TB activist on Time 100 list

Spotlight | 22 November 2023

Phumeza Tisile from Khayelitsha was 19 years old when she contracted multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB). She battled the disease for nearly four years, then lost her hearing as a side effect from the cocktail of drugs used to treat the TB. At one stage, a doctor told her to visit a priest and prepare her soul for death. This year, Tisile (now 33) features in TIME magazine's 2023 TIME100 Next list, as one of 100 emerging leaders round the world who are "shaping the future and defining the next generation of leadership". She is recognised by TIME, (along with Indian health activist, journalist and TB survivor Nandita Venkatesan) for their relentless pursuit of justice for people living with TB on different continents.

PATIENTS ARE BEING TURNED AWAY FROM GP PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES, REPORT SHOWS

Health-e News | 22 November 2023

Patients using public healthcare facilities in Gauteng report being refused access to healthcare services, shortage of healthcare workers, hostile services and punitive action for people on antiretroviral therapy (ART) who miss appointments to collect treatment. These are some of the findings which have been outlined in a new report by Ritshidze, a coalition of non-profit HIV advocacy organisations, released this week.

HIV-positive mothers' refusal to give prophylaxes to babies worrying – TMHD

Joy Online | 22 November 2023

The Tema Metro Tuberculosis and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (TB/HIV) Coordinator, Ms. Joanna Anorkor Lartey, has described as worrying the trend of some HIV-positive mothers refusing to give the prophylaxis medication to their babies. Ms. Lartey, in an interview with the Ghana News Agency in Tema ahead of World AIDS Day, said such an act could lead to uninfected babies contracting the virus from their positive mothers.

World AIDS Day: How Far We've Come and Where We Still Need to Go

News Wise | 22 November 2023

The United Nations' World Health Organization declared December 1 as World AIDS Day, an international day of awareness and education about the challenges that remain to achieve the goals of ending HIV/AIDS by 2030. This year's theme is "Let communities lead." Jeffrey Kwong, a professor at the Rutgers School of Nursing and co-medical director of the American Academy of HIV Medicine's HIV and Aging Initiative, was appointed in October as a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Clinical Ambassador for the "Let's Stop HIV Together" campaign.

COVID-19 vaccination before first infection may reduce risk of developing long COVID

News Medical Life Science | 22 November 2023

Receiving at least one dose of a covid-19 vaccine before the first infection is strongly associated with a reduced risk of developing post-covid-19 condition, commonly known as long covid, finds a study published by The BMJ today. The findings, based on data for more than half a million Swedish adults, show that unvaccinated individuals were almost four times as likely to be diagnosed with long covid than those who were vaccinated before first infection. The researchers stress that causality cannot be directly inferred from this observational evidence, but say their results "highlight the importance of primary vaccination against covid-19 to reduce the burden of post-covid-19 condition in the population."

SA's Health Crisis | Gauteng clinics flagged for bullying and discriminating patients

eNCA | 23 November 2023

Gauteng clinics have been flagged for the unwelcoming behaviour of their staff, and long delays in attending to patients. According to a report by Ritshidze, a community led monitoring system, patients are being shouted at and people are now scared to visit some of the clinics. The report has also found that people living with HIV are mostly targeted and often sent to the back of the queue, if they are late for an appointment. The report is calling for an urgent action and reform as this failings in the health system contribute to slow progress towards getting patients on treatment.

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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

The 2022 South African Health Review is available!

We are pleased to release the 25th edition of the South African Health Review (SAHR). Entitled 'health systems strengthening after COVID-19', the journal provides valuable insights and recommendations on how to improve the response to the pandemic and build more resilient health systems.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the world, and the health sector has been at the forefront of the response. Curated as a supplement to the 2021 edition, which addressed the response of government and the broader health sector to COVID-19, the 2022 South African Health Review provides a platform for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to share their experiences and insights on how they navigated this crisis and build more robust health systems for the future.

The journal encompasses a diverse array of subjects, including reflections on the work of the Ministerial Advisory Committee during COVID-19 and the knowledge gained and lessons learned from these processes. Additionally, it explores the ramifications of COVID-19 on maternal, women, and child health and highlights the gendered implications of the pandemic, revealing that women experienced more pronounced effects of stress, fear, and depression during the lockdown period compared to men.

Commenting on its release, CEO and co-editor of the Review Dr Themba Moeti said that "This edition of the South African Health Review offers promising examples of COVID-19 response, mitigation and recovery strategies for us to use the emerging lessons to enhance our health system resilience and better

prepare for future pandemics.”

Strong messages emerging from this edition emphasise that in order to effectively promote national vaccination programmes, it is imperative to equip healthcare workers (HCWs) with comprehensive, relevant, and current information. This will enable them to enhance patient communication and increase vaccine acceptance. Subsequent chapters delineate an inventive collaboration between the public and private sectors aimed at mitigating the accumulated volume of elective surgical procedures at Groote Schuur Hospital and reflect on the importance of consulting, involving and deploying community based organisations such as clinic committees in public health emergencies from the outset.

The crucial importance of inter-country collaboration is emphasised in mitigating disease transmission and impact, with authors advocating for a more coordinated approach to managing cross-border health measures.

Additionally, the Review highlights the intersection between climate change and health systems and reinforces the imperative to prioritise health within the framework of a 'just transition' and to enhance the capabilities of healthcare systems to be low-carbon and climate-resilient as crucial focal points for improving pandemic preparedness.

For more information on the journal and to access the latest edition, visit <https://www.hst.org.za/publications/Pages/SAHR2022.aspx>

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

18th International Congress of Immunology

When: 27 November - 2 December 2023

Where: Cape Town

For more information go to: <https://iuis2023.org/south-africa/>

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Cross-Site Facilitator: Epidemiologist

Closing date: 27 November 2023

[https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Health-Systems-Strengthening-\(HSS\)-Unit--Cross-Site-Facilitator-Epidemiologist.aspx](https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Health-Systems-Strengthening-(HSS)-Unit--Cross-Site-Facilitator-Epidemiologist.aspx)

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