

HST Bulletin



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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Survival and predictors of mortality after completion of TB treatment among people living with HIV: a 5-year analytical cohort

BMC Infectious Diseases | 18 April 2023

Ivan Lumu, Joseph Musaazi, Aggrey Semeere, Ian Handel and Barbara Castelnovo

After completion of TB treatment patients may remain at risk of co-morbidity and mortality. We determined the survival and predictors of all-cause mortality after completing TB treatment among ART-experienced patients.

Strategies to increase HIV testing among men who have sex with men and transgender women: an integrative review

BMC Infectious Diseases | 18 April 2023

Gustavo Machado Rocha, Raissa Carolina Fonseca Cândido, Nathália Pacífico de Carvalho, Emily Gabrielly Araujo Carvalho, Alícia Amanda Moreira Costa, et al.

Men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women (TGW) are disproportionately affected by HIV, with much higher incidence and prevalence rates than in the general population in different countries. There are several barriers to testing among MSM and TGW, such as low risk perception, anticipation of HIV-related stigma, discrimination of sexual orientation, in addition to difficulties related to care and access to health services. Therefore, analyzing the available evidence of the effectiveness of strategies for scaling up HIV testing among key populations is essential to point out potential knowledge gaps which may need to be addressed and develop public health policies to promote testing and early diagnosis of HIV infection.

Trends and factors associated with declining lifetime fertility among married women in Kenya between 2003 and 2014: an analysis of Kenya demographic health surveys

BMC Public Health | 20 April 2023

James Orwa, Samwel Maina Gatimu, Paulino Ariho, Marleen Temmerman and Stanley Luchters

Globally, fertility has declined in the last three decades. In sub-Saharan Africa including Kenya, this

decline started more recent and at a slower pace compared to other regions. Despite a significant fertility decline in Kenya, there are disparities in intra- and interregional fertility. Reduction in lifetime fertility has health benefits for both the mother and child, thus it is important to improve women and children health outcomes associated with high fertility. The study, therefore evaluated the factors associated with change in lifetime fertility among married women of reproductive age in Kenya between 2003 and 2014.

Simulation-based estimates and projections of global, regional and country-level maternal mortality by cause, 1990–2050

Nature Medicine | 20 April 2023

Zachary Ward, Rifat Atun, Gary King, Brenda Sequeira Dmello and Sue Goldie

Maternal mortality is a major global health challenge. Although progress has been made globally in reducing maternal deaths, measurement remains challenging given the many causes and frequent underreporting of maternal deaths. We developed the Global Maternal Health microsimulation model for women in 200 countries and territories, accounting for individual fertility preferences and clinical histories. Demographic, epidemiologic, clinical and health system data were synthesized from multiple sources, including the medical literature, Civil Registration Vital Statistics systems and Demographic and Health Survey data. We calibrated the model to empirical data from 1990 to 2015 and assessed the predictive accuracy of our model using indicators from 2016 to 2020.

An overview of tuberculosis outbreaks reported in the years 2011–2020

BMC Infectious Diseases | 20 April 2023

Lidia Żukowska, Daria Zygała-Pytlos, Katarzyna Struś, Anna Zabost, Monika Kozirńska, et al.

In many countries tuberculosis (TB) remains a highly prevalent disease and a major contributor to infectious disease mortality. The fight against TB requires surveillance of the population of strains circulating worldwide and the analysis of the prevalence of certain strains in populations. Nowadays, whole genome sequencing (WGS) allows for accurate tracking of TB transmission. Currently, there is a lack of a comprehensive summary of the characteristics of TB outbreaks.

How do women comply with cancer screenings? A study in four regions of France

BCM women's Health | 21 April 2023

Nathalie Duchange, Marie Poiseuil, Quentin Rollet, Christine Piette, Mathilde Cosson,

This article looks at the behaviour of women facing different cancer screening options available to them from the age of 50 onward. The study was conducted in 2019 in four departments of the French territory with the objective of identifying the factors that influence acceptance of a population-based screening proposal.

A cross-sectional analysis of psychosocial and structural barriers and facilitators associated with PrEP use among a sample of transgender women in Chicago, IL

AIDS Research and Therapy | 21 April 2023

Lisa M Kuhns, Judy Perloff, Amy K Johnson, Josie Lynne Paul, Kevin Pleasant, et al.

Expanding pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) among transgender women in the United States is an important strategy to meet national HIV prevention goals, however self-reported use of PrEP is low in this group.

Spillover effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on attitudes to influenza and childhood vaccines

BMC Public Health | 25 April 2023

Anna Soveri, Linda C Karlsson, Jan Antfolk, Otto Mäki, Linnea Karlsson, et al.

The current study sought to determine whether public perceptions of other vaccines and diseases than COVID-19 have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We longitudinally examined whether there had been a change from before the COVID-19 pandemic to during the pandemic in: (a) influenza vaccination behaviour and intentions; (b) the perceived benefit of childhood vaccines and influenza vaccines; (c) the perceived safety of childhood vaccines and influenza vaccines; (d) the perceived severity of measles and influenza; and (e) trust in healthcare professionals in two samples of Finnish adults ($N=205$ in Study 1 and $N=197$ in Study 2). The findings showed that during the pandemic, more people than before had received or wanted to receive the influenza vaccine. The respondents also believed that influenza was more dangerous during the pandemic and that vaccinations were safer and more beneficial.

On the other hand, for childhood vaccines only perceived safety increased. Finally, in one of the studies, people had more confidence in medical professionals during the pandemic than they had before. Together, these findings imply a spillover of the COVID-19 pandemic on how people view other vaccines and illnesses.

The prevalence and correlates of depression among older adults in greater kumasi of the ashanti region

BMC Public Health | 25 April 2023

Emmanuel K Nakua, John Amissah, Phyllis Tawiah, Bernard Barnie, Peter Donkor, et al.

Approximately two million Ghanaians suffer from mental disorders including depression. The WHO defines it as an illness characterized by constant sadness and loss of interest in activities that a person usually enjoys doing and this condition is the leading cause of mental disorders; however, the burden of depression on the aged population is fairly unknown. A better appreciation of depression and its predictors is necessary to design appropriate policy interventions. Therefore, this study aims to assess the prevalence and correlates of depression among older people in the Greater Kumasi of the Ashanti region.

Use of point-of-care C-reactive protein testing for screening of tuberculosis in the community in high-burden settings: a prospective, cross-sectional study in Zambia and South Africa

The Lancet Global Health (Science Direct) | May 2023

Maria Ruperez, Kwame Shanaube, Linda Mureithi, Chali Wapamesa, Michael J Burnett, et al.

WHO recommends community-wide, systematic tuberculosis screening in high-prevalence settings. C-reactive protein has been proposed as a tuberculosis screening tool for people living with HIV. We aimed to assess the performance of a point-of-care C-reactive protein test for tuberculosis screening in the community in two countries with a high tuberculosis burden.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

PrEP during pregnancy: why universal delivery may be more effective

Aidsmap | 19 Aidsmaap

Research in Kenya suggests that screening pregnant women for HIV risk in order to offer them PrEP is no more effective than providing general counselling and trusting women to identify their own risk. What is the research about? How antenatal care services should provide PrEP to pregnant women. Researchers did a randomized control trial with 4,500 women without HIV in Siaya and Homa Bay counties, where HIV prevalence is high. Around half of the women had standard PrEP counselling. This outlined HIV risk factors and things to consider about using PrEP, then women decided whether or not to take PrEP. This is called universal delivery.

As few as two PrEP pills a week protect during anal sex – but vaginal sex may need daily dosing

Aidsmap | 19 April

A comparison between the people allocated to oral PrEP in the two pivotal studies that compared it to injectable PrEP, HPTN 083 and HPTN 084, has found that the pills provided 99% protection against HIV infection to the gay and bisexual men and transgender women in HPTN 083 as long as they consistently took two or more pills a week. But the cisgender African women in HPTN 084 had to maintain daily PrEP – all seven pills a week – to receive the same efficacy. The study also found that adherence to oral PrEP in the women taking part in HPTN 084 was considerably lower than in the participants in HPTN 083, thus reducing its efficacy even further. This contributed to the fact that while injectable cabotegravir was 66% more effective than oral PrEP in the latter study, it was 91% more effective in the former.

Sleep Problems Are Common Among People With HIV

Poz | 19 April 2023

People living with HIV are more likely to experience sleep disorders compared with their HIV-negative

peers, according to study results published in the journal AIDS. Sleep problems were associated with anxiety and depression, cardiovascular risk factors and the use of various medications that can affect sleep, but not with specific antiretroviral drugs. “In our cohort of people with HIV on stable antiretroviral therapy, despite the alarmingly higher prevalence, sleep disorders were associated with the same determinants (cardiovascular risk factors and mood disorders) observed in the general population,” Maria Mazzitelli, MD, PhD, of Padua University Hospital in Italy, and colleagues concluded.

Do Private Grants Boost Goals of the “Ending the HIV Epidemic” Initiative?

Poz | 20 April 2023

How has philanthropic AIDS funding—the grants awarded by businesses and organizations—influenced the federal Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) in the U.S. initiative? Who has provided most of the funding to fight HIV? Where has the money gone? Has it hurt or hindered the U.S. initiative? A collaborative effort between AIDSvu and Funders Concerned About AIDS (FCAA) takes a deep dive at the data to find answers. But first, about the EHE. Launched by President Trump, the plan aims to reduce new HIV infections by 75% by 2025 and by at least 90% by 2030 by increasing HIV prevention and treatment strategies. Specifically, it targets federal efforts to the 57 key states, counties and cities (referred to as jurisdictions) that together account for 50% of new HIV cases. These include 48 counties nationwide plus Washington, DC; San Juan, Puerto Rico; and seven rural states with high HIV burdens (Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma and South Carolina).

HPV Vaccine for Incoming College Students

Poz | 20 April 2023

When she was a college freshman, Joslyn Chairprasert-Paguio was told by a doctor she had a common sexually transmitted infection called the human papillomavirus but not to worry. Four years later, a few days before her wedding, she was diagnosed with cervical cancer, which caused complications when she became pregnant. She had a hysterectomy eight years later, after the disease returned in 2021. The 38-year-old medical journal editor of Menifee in Riverside County, California, hadn't been immunized as a teenager because there wasn't yet a vaccine for HPV, which causes nearly all cervical cancers and a handful of other potentially lethal forms of the disease in men and women. Now, her 10-year-old daughter, Samantha, is scheduled to get her first shot this month.

Cancer specialists not making decisions based on HIV status, but also not discussing HIV with patients

Aidsmap | 20 April 2023

A qualitative study explored factors that influenced how oncologists approached cancer treatment among people living with HIV in the US. The providers rarely discussed the intersection of HIV and cancer with their patients, often for confidentiality reasons. None had received specific training on HIV, and most reported treating HIV like any other chronic health condition. They did report routine communication with their patient's HIV providers. Compared to the general population, people living with HIV have an increased risk of getting and dying from cancer, which is the leading cause of non-HIV related death among people living with HIV in the US.

EDITORIAL: Maybe penny wise, but very pound foolish

Business Day | 21 April 2023

If the business case for investing in African vaccine production was ever hazy, the novel coronavirus pandemic made it crystal clear. The continent was importing 99% of its vaccines and, without any manufacturing capacity of its own, African nations were last in line when Covid-19 shots were in short supply. High-income countries had already vaccinated 60% of their populations when SA began administering jabs to the elderly in May 2021. Those delays cost lives.

COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen Update – Third Fatal Case Of Guillain-Barré Syndrome

SAHPRA | 21 April 2023

The South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) issued media statements on 4 August 2022 and 12 September 2022, relating to two fatal cases of Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) following vaccination with COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen. SAHPRA has been informed of a third fatal case of GBS following vaccination with the same vaccine.

MRNA VACCINE TECH HUB TO IMPROVE HEALTHCARE IN LMICS

Health-e News | 21 April 2023

In a move to address the challenges poor nations face accessing life-saving medication, the World Health Organisation (WHO) launched the mRNA vaccine technology hub in Cape Town on Thursday. Established during the COVID-19 pandemic, this facility seeks to make essential healthcare more accessible to those in need. The mRNA Technology Transfer Programme aims to contribute to solving this problem by increasing the distribution of sustainable manufacturing capacity across low-middle-income countries (LMICs).

OPINION: Struggle for migrant health rights still far from over after landmark judgment

Spotlight | 21 April 2023

On 14 April 2023, the High Court in Gauteng confirmed the rights of all pregnant and lactating women and children under age six to access services for free at all levels of care, including hospitals. This landmark order comes eleven months after SECTION27 and three affected people launched court proceedings against the Gauteng Department of Health, the National Health Department, and Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital for excluding asylum seekers, undocumented persons, and people affected by statelessness from receiving free health care.

The maternal mortality sustainable development goals are unlikely to be met by 2050, study suggests

News Medical Life Science | 21 April 2023

A recent study published in the Nature Medicine Journal developed a Global Maternal Health microsimulation model to measure global maternal death incidence between 1990 and 2050. Maternal mortality is a major healthcare crisis worldwide, especially in low-and middle-income countries (LMICs). Despite many cost-effective interventions to manage pregnancy-related complications, maternal mortality significantly varies globally, primarily due to improper adaptation and implementation of these interventions due to global health disparities. Compared to the frequency of pregnancy, maternal death is considered a rare event. Thus, a large sample size is required to estimate the pregnancy-related mortality rate accurately.

Is there a vaccine to prevent cancer?

Poz | 21 April 2023

You can take several steps to lower your risk for cancer, including smoking cessation, limiting alcohol and eating a healthy diet. But for some cancers, vaccines are the best prevention. Human papillomavirus (HPV) causes cervical, anal, penile, mouth, throat and other cancers, but many people are unaware of this link. HPV is among the most common sexually transmitted infections, and most people acquire one or types soon after they become sexually active. The Gardasil 9 vaccine protects against nine types of HPV that cause cancer or genital warts. Studies show that HPV vaccines are safe and effective, and they lower infection rates and prevent precancerous cell changes and invasive cancer.

Prevention Is The Best Protection For Healthcare Workers

Africa.com | 22 April 2023

For the third year in a row, Marburg virus has appeared in Africa, with Equatorial Guinea reporting cases and Tanzania confirming its first-ever outbreak. The reoccurrence of Marburg is not isolated. In fact, outbreaks of deadly filoviruses that cause fatal hemorrhagic fevers are increasing. Marburg is related to the more common Ebola virus, and specifically the Zaire ebolavirus, which has appeared nearly annually since 2000 and is responsible for the deadliest filovirus outbreaks on record: the 2014-2016 crisis in West Africa and the 2018-2020 outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). More than 32,000 people acquired Ebola during these outbreaks, crippling entire communities and causing more than 13,000 deaths. Ebola outbreaks can be devastating. And too often, it's the frontline health workers who are consistently at the greatest risk for exposure, sickness and death, with significant implications for the resilience of entire health systems.

Nearly 104 000 unvaccinated children in SA

IOL | 22 April 2023

The current drop in child vaccinations is the largest South Africa has seen since the early 2000s. This is

according to the UN Children's Fund's (Unicef) "State of the World's Children 2023: For Every Child, Vaccination" report. The report found that there was general reluctance for vaccination in Africa. There are currently 103 433 unvaccinated children in South Africa and a 30% decline in confidence in childhood vaccines in South Africa due to Covid-19.

Study reveals 30% decline in childhood vaccines in SA

SABC | 22 April 2023

Recent statistics on the state of children vaccinations by the United Nations Children's Fund have revealed that the confidence among South Africans regarding vaccines given to children declined by 30% after the start of the pandemic in early 2020. According to UNICEF, the decline was fuelled by the COVID-19 pandemic disturbances on the health system as well as the continued lack of trust in the health system itself. UNICEF South Africa Manager, Mercy Kamupira, urged all stakeholders to play their part in tackling vaccines hesitancy.

ChatGPT threat makes health-care jobs more promising than finance, tech

Moneyweb | 23 April 2023

Parents of today's kindergarteners should think about prodding them toward a career in the medical field. Those are the findings of the latest MLIV Pulse survey with 678 respondents. Nearly 40% said that children currently in elementary school will be best off with a job in health care if they want to avoid being displaced by artificial intelligence. Jobs in the medical fields often involve much more human-to-human interaction, which for now seem hard to replace with generative AI programs like ChatGPT.

Examining the long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health services utilization

MEDICAL express | 24 April 2023

The COVID-19 pandemic has a tremendous impact on health, daily life and the economy of the world on a global scale. It poses a great challenge to equity and accessibility of health services and the resilience of health care systems, especially in low and middle level developing countries. It has been shown that the COVID-19 pandemic had different short-term impact on health status and health services; however, there has been few reports on the long-term impact.

Trans women in the US have high rates of HIV and premature death

Aidsmap | 24 April 2023

In the first US cohort study to study both new cases of HIV and mortality exclusively in transgender women, researchers found that each year 0.33% of women died and 0.55% contracted HIV. Rates of death were higher in Latinx women and HIV incidence was higher in Black women. Women living in southern states, who used stimulant drugs or were in sexual relationships with cisgender male partners were at higher risk of both HIV and death. None of the participants died of HIV-related illnesses but the findings do suggest that more needs to be done to address societal factors leading to the high rates of death amongst these women. It has previously been estimated that about 14% of trans women are living with HIV in the US and they are a priority population in the US National HIV/AIDS Strategy. Despite this, there remains a lack of information about trans women specifically, having often been grouped with other populations in studies.

Black women more likely to die of breast cancer at younger ages

UPI | 24 April 2023

Experts recommend that women at least consider starting breast cancer screening once they turn 40. Now a new study suggests that is especially critical for Black women. Looking at data on U.S. breast cancer deaths, researchers found -- as other studies have -- that Black women in their 40s were substantially more likely to die of the disease than other women their age. The disparity was seen between Black women and women of all other races and ethnicities studied.

Can digital adherence technologies help with adherence to HIV medicines?

Spotlight | 24 April 2023

Around 7.8 million people were living with HIV in South Africa in 2022, of which 5.7 million were taking antiretroviral treatment. People living with HIV who take antiretroviral treatment typically have a normal life expectancy, provided they keep taking the treatment. But for some taking an antiretroviral pill or pills every

day is difficult. One study from the Western Cape indicates that there are many reasons why patients may not take their medication as prescribed. These include forgetfulness, denial, pill fatigue, poor insight, depression, alcohol use, possible medication side effects, difficulty with the medication regimen, and concerns about stigma or disclosure.

Malaria vaccine plays critical role in turning the tide on malaria in Ghana

WHO Ghana | 24 April 2023

While Ghanaian mother Charity Kesewaa Damoah has nursed her eight-year-old son through several debilitating bouts of malaria, his 14-month-old brother, John, is living proof of the benefits of the first malaria vaccine recommended to prevent the disease in children, she believes. Not once, since he was first inoculated at six months of age, has John fallen ill with the potentially fatal disease, which poses a significant health burden and carries a heightened risk for pregnant women and under-5 children. Kesewaa recalls feeling fearful when health workers in the Sunyani East Municipality first encouraged her to vaccinate John against malaria.

Telemedicine, mobile apps, wearables can reduce maternal and neonatal mortality rates in Africa

Techpoint.Africa | 24 April 2023

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a child is most vulnerable in its first month of life, with 2.4 million newborns dying worldwide in 2020. Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest neonatal mortality rate in the world (27 deaths per 1,000 live births), which accounts for 43% of all newborn deaths globally. The most common causes of neonatal deaths are preterm birth, complications related to childbirth (such as birth asphyxia or the inability to breathe at birth), infections, and birth defects. Per the World Health Organization (WHO), 830 women die each day from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth, implying that one woman dies every two minutes.

Is There A Link Between COVID Vaccines And Tinnitus?

Health Digest | 24 April 2023

In 2021, a potential link between COVID-19 vaccines and the development of tinnitus was brought to the public's attention via the World Health Organization (WHO) Pharmaceutical Newsletter after 164 case safety reports involving hearing loss were identified across ten countries. As of last week, that number has since climbed in the U.S. to more than 16,000 claims reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding the development of tinnitus following vaccination, reports NBC News. First created in March 2021, a Facebook group that has now grown to include more than 4,000 members is dedicated to those who have experienced the onset of tinnitus or worsening of the condition after receiving the shot. Addressing these claims, a CDC representative told NBC News that they have found no proof of a connection between tinnitus and the vaccines. However, some experts feel these reports warrant further investigation and should not be dismissed.

Rwanda: Nyagatare - Youth Urged to Proactively Combat the Spread of HIV/Aids, Safeguard Their Futures

allAfrica | 24 April 2023

Nyagatare, like many other districts in Rwanda, has made significant strides in combatting the spread of HIV/AIDS. However, despite progress, young people remain one of the most vulnerable groups, thus, a need for continued efforts to educate and empower them to prevent the disease's transmission. According to the Rwanda Biomedical Center, the prevalence of new HIV infections decreased from 0.27 per cent of the population in 2010 to 0.08 per cent in 2019. However, young people account for over 65 per cent of these new infections, with girls between the ages of 25 and 29 being infected three times more frequently than their male peers.

Collaborating towards a malaria-free Southern Africa: A look at the region's milestones and achievements

Mail & Guardian | 25 April 2023

Africa continues to bear the highest malaria burden. According to the WHO's World Malaria Report 2022, 96% of all malaria cases (238 million cases) and 98% of all malaria deaths (603,877 deaths) occurred in Africa in 2021. Children under the age of five are particularly vulnerable, with 77% of malaria deaths reported in this age group. In sub-Saharan Africa, 17% of deaths in children under five are due to malaria,

compared to 8% globally. The impact of malaria on the Southern African Development Community (SADC) is significant, with approximately 83% of the population living in malaria risk areas; thereby affecting livelihoods, education and employment, and stalling economic growth and development. SADC member states in 2021 reported 63 million malaria cases and 42 871 deaths.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust Bulletin

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

Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust 60percent

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

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

PHASA is a voluntary organisation of individuals passionate about population health improvements and the reduction of health inequities, and whose work focuses on the prevention of disease, the promotion of health, and the improved functioning of the country's health care system. Are you passionate about improving the health and wellbeing of communities? Do you want to expand your professional network and stay current in the field of public health? Do you want to be part of the movement to improve Public Health? Then join the Public Health Association of South Africa today to make a difference and enhance your career!

As a member, you will:

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

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

Call for Application: Africa CDC – Pathogen Genomics and Bioinformatics Fellowship Program

The Africa CDC – Pathogen Genomics and Bioinformatics Fellowship Program is a continental workforce development program targeting national public health institutions and laboratories in the African Union Member States to improve the use of pathogen genomic data for outbreak detection and disease surveillance. The fellowship program is implemented in partnership with the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM), and regional centers of excellence.

Who should apply:

The program is open to National public health institutes (NPHIs) and National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) personnel who wish to gain experience in NGS sequencing or analyzing pathogen genomic sequence data. Applicants should have a minimum of BSc degree and be a citizen of the African Union Member States.

Fellowship Program:

- The fellowship has two tracks – i) a wet-lab track focusing of end-to-end protocols for next-generation sequencing of pathogens; and ii) a dry-lab track with a focus on public health bioinformatics data analytics, interpretation, and reporting.
- The fellowship program aims to support technical experts and future leaders in public health pathogen genomics and bioinformatics in Africa.
- Training led by continent-based educational and professional subject matter experts
- Training at State-of-the-art facilities across the continent
- Multilingual fellowship program

The fellowship program has the following objectives:

- To train pathogen genomics and bioinformatics workforce to improve outbreak detection, investigation & disease surveillance in Africa
- To contribute to strengthening the prevention, preparedness, surveillance, and control of infectious diseases while supporting the implementation of Africa's New Public Health Order
- To contribute to knowledge and technology transfers and capacity building within and between African Union Member States

Potential candidates and host institutions:

- We are anticipating at least 25 fellows for the 2023 cohort
- 15 host institutions across Africa. Applicants should provide evidence of the host institution's agreement to accept the fellow for the duration of the fellowship period. Africa CDC and ASLM will support fellows to identify host institutions.
- Only complete applications shall be evaluated by an independent selection committee and the outcome communicated to the applicants

Before applying read the documents below:

More details on the fellowship program

- **Information Booklet – Arabic**
- **Information Booklet – English**
- **Information Booklet – French**
- **Information Booklet – Portuguese**

How to apply:

- All interested participants should fill in the online application form based on the selected languages:
- Application form – English – <https://bit.ly/3KrHk9P>
- Application form – French – <https://bit.ly/3Mi6sRJ>

Application deadline: Friday, April 28, 2023, 5:00 PM (EAT)

Start of the fellowship: June 2023

Contact Information: For all inquiries, please contact: **Africa CDC – Africa PGI Help Desk**

USAID High Potential Grants for NGO-led Development Projects in 2023

Deadline: 11 May 2023

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has launched new grant opportunities to support organizations, individuals, and communities worldwide. Check out the list below and start applying!

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2024: ALBERTINA SISULU EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM IN HEALTH (ASELPH) FELLOWSHIP A UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT IN EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 30th June 2023

The Albertina Sisulu Executive Leadership Program in Health (ASELPH) is a unique collaborative

program through the University of Pretoria that was jointly developed and initially implemented with contributions from the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health, and the National and Provincial Departments of Health in South Africa. A key aim is to improve the South African health system through the training of health workers to become exceptional executive leaders, who are better able to drive local health system strengthening and performance.

The Program is focussed on developing Executives (middle and senior health system managers or clinicians) for the unique environment and challenges of the South African health system; this 120 credit (1200 learning hours) postgraduate diploma covers modules in Leadership, Ethics, Strategic Planning, Health sector Transformation, Decentralization & health service re-engineering; Complex Problem Solving, Financial Management, Human Resources For Health, Quality Improvement, Strategic Marketing and Communication and Monitoring and Evaluation. Innovative teaching and learning approaches include peer learning, case study methodology, reflective learning and mentorship. Each Fellow completes a research project and 12 core and elective modules. These are provided through a hybrid learning approach which includes pre-module online work, a 3-day contact class per module at the University of Pretoria and post module assignments. In all, there are approximately 35 contact class days in 6 blocks (Mon-Sat) over a calendar year.

This is a call for applications for the 6th cohort of the Albertina Sisulu Executive Leadership Program in Health starting in January 2024 at the University of Pretoria. This is a part-time Postgraduate Diploma in Health Systems Management in Executive Leadership.

Target Group: Those in middle and senior management and leadership positions, including clinicians, in the health system are encouraged to apply. Applicants from NGOs, technical agencies and the private health sector are also welcome to apply for the training programme. Preference is for current public health sector employees.

Minimum Requirements for Admission are a three-year University Bachelor's Degree (NQF 7 or above) and a minimum of four years management experience in the health sector.

Partial or Full Tuition Bursaries may be available for public health sector employees, while it is anticipated that relevant Departments of Health will cover travel and accommodation costs. This includes applicants from provincial health services as well as municipal health services.

Preference is for current South African public health sector employees and will be for those who have not had any previous post graduate training in public health, management or leadership programs and/or those who have not benefited from any prior health sector financial support for any form of training.

Application and Selection Process: All SA public health sector officials eligible for consideration will be subjected to a joint Provincial DOH / ASELPH Recruitment, Interview and Selection process. Applications, together with supporting documents (ID, CV, motivation letter and copy of qualifications labelled with prospective applicant's student number) must be submitted online at: https://upnet.up.ac.za/psc/upapply/EMPLOYEE/SA/c/UP_OAP_MENU.UP_OAP_LOGIN.GBL

For further information contact Mr Lesiba Mpati at lesiba.mpati@up.ac.za

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

South African Health Review 2021

Health Systems Trust | 2021

When it comes to service delivery and access in both the public and private health sectors, COVID-19 has put everything to the test. It has demonstrated how central public health security is to health and livelihoods, and how pandemic health emergencies expose the weaknesses and vulnerabilities of health systems, costing lives and causing immeasurable damage to economies. Few could have imagined the

impact of COVID-19 when this pandemic reached our shores in March 2020.

This edition considers the government's and broader health sector's response to COVID-19, explores the current challenges facing the health system at this unprecedented time, and reflects on lessons learnt for future for public health emergencies. The chapters offer information on, inter alia, the challenges of balancing lives with livelihoods, and the impact of COVID-19 on different cadres of healthcare workers, especially Community Health Workers who found themselves at the forefront of our COVID-19 response. Other areas covered include the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations like children, persons with disabilities, farmworkers, migrants, and the poorest in our society.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Reaching the 95-95-95 targets: How can industry contribute?

Learning from both the success and failures towards reaching the 2020 targets is essential to increase the chance of ending AIDS as a global public health threat by 2030. Success will require commitment from all stakeholders in the HIV response. The Industry Liaison Forum at IAS – the International AIDS Society – is organizing a series of online roundtables to explore important gaps and how the biomedical industry can actively contribute to achieving the 95-95-95 target by 2025.

The series will have three events, each focusing on one of the specific 95-95-95 targets:

Session 1: "HIV testing strategies to reach key populations"

Session 2: "Ensuring linkage to and retention in care"

Session 3: "Overcoming global challenges: Achieving and sustaining viral suppression"

Time:

Apr 18, 2023 04:00 PM

May 4, 2023 04:00 PM

May 23, 2023 04:00 PM

Time shows in Zurich

The 5th Paediatric and Adolescent HIV Learning Collaborative for Africa (PAHLCA) Meeting in Maputo Mozambique

Dates: 7 - 8 May 2023

Time: 9:00pm - 5:00pm

The Paediatric and Adolescent HIV Learning Collaborative for Africa (PAHLCA) is hosting its first face-to-face event in Maputo from 7-8 May 2023. With the theme "Prevention of Vertical Transmission of HIV: A Key Pivot in Ending Paediatric HIV and AIDS," PAHLCA aims to:

1. Fostering learning, innovation, and collaboration among MOH programming teams and partners in African countries.
2. Providing a platform for sharing guidelines, implementation frameworks, curricula, toolkits, job aids, and client/caregiver information/education/communication materials that can be used to improve paediatric and adolescent HIV programs.
3. Maintaining an updated directory of Ministry of Health paediatric and adolescent HIV focal persons to facilitate communication, coordination, and sharing across countries.
4. Facilitating networking among country teams to form research collaborations for multi-country studies to improve pediatric and adolescent HIV services.

South African Nursing Council Indaba

Date: 18–19 May 2023

The South African Nursing Council (SANC) is pleased to welcome you to this key event where we will focus on The Future of Nursing. The SANC is a statutory body entrusted to set and maintain standards of Nursing Education and Practice in the Republic of South Africa, to protect the public. It is an autonomous,

financially independent, statutory body operating under the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act No. 33 of 2005). The Council of the SANC is constituted in terms of the Nursing Act, 2005 (Act No. 33 of 2005). The tenure of the current and 16th Council of the SANC is from 2018 – 2023 and will end in August 2023. The Indaba program thus contains a focus on the milestones achieved by the 16th Council, and in addition, provides a wide variety of topics that affect Nursing as a whole.

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

CALLING ON COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT COMMUNITY MOBILISATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMMES FOR THE PREVENTION, ACTION AND CONTROL OF CERVICAL CANCER IN ZULULAND

Closing Date: 28 April 2023 @ 16: 30

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING (HSS) UNIT: DISTRICT MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E) OFFICER

Closing date: 2 May 2023 @ 16: 30

HEALTH SYSTEMS RESEARCH UNIT: RESEARCHER

Closing date: 5 May 2023 @ 16: 30

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