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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

COVID-19-related stigma within a rural South African community: A mixed methods analysis

Plos One | 18 July 2024

Duduzile P. Mashinini, Nicole K. Kelly, Palesa Mataboge, Frantasia Hill, Harish Nair, et al.

Infectious disease-related stigma is a pervasive global issue that impedes disease control efforts by increasing reluctance to seek treatment or engagement in prevention behaviors for fear of ostracism. Despite this, there is limited research on COVID-19 stigma in Africa, specifically rural South Africa, which has faced infectious disease-related stigma throughout the HIV epidemic.

The vaginal microbiome of South African pregnant women living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) with and without Chlamydia trachomatis infection

BMC Women's Health | 18 July 2024

Nonkululeko G. Mabaso, Bongekile Ngobese, Hamilton Ganesan, Donald van der Westhuizen, Wail M. Hassan

Chlamydia genital infections continue to be a serious health concern globally. Previous studies have reported that Chlamydia trachomatis infection alters the vaginal microbiota of infected women. This study investigated differences in the vaginal microbiome of South African pregnant women living with HIV with and without C. trachomatis infection.

Physical and psychological status of emergency assistance personnel at major public health events: a qualitative descriptive study

BMC Public Health | 18 July 2024

Chen Qiu, Linyue Zhang, Peiyao Qi, Yu Miao, Hao Han, et al.

Many personnel respond to natural disasters like earthquakes and tsunamis and frequent public health events like Ebola and COVID-19. However, research on emergency assistance personnel remains limited. This study aims to describe the perceived well-being among responders deployed in isolated or

emergency international missions while providing practical references to intervene in developing similar missions.

Quality of TB diagnostic services at primary healthcare clinics in eThekweni district, South Africa

Plos One | 18 July 2024

Thobeka Dlangalala, Alfred Musekiwa and Tivani Mashamba-Thompson

Overcoming the TB epidemic requires moving past expanding the coverage of healthcare services and looking to improve the quality of TB services. During COVID-19, the suboptimal state of TB services has further deteriorated, and little is known about how these services have fared after the pandemic. The study aims to assess the quality TB diagnostic services in primary health care (PHC) clinics in the eThekweni district, South Africa. Twenty-one clinics with the lowest and highest headcounts from each region of eThekweni were purposively selected. An audit tool adapted from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the national TB guidelines was used to collect data on six different audit components. To assess quality, a 3-point scale was used where clinics could get a rating of either excellent, moderate, or poor performance.

School Dropout, Absenteeism and Coverage of Sexual and Reproductive Health Services in South Africa: Are Those Most at Risk Reached?

AIDS and Behavior | 19 July 2024

Tracy McClinton Appollis, Catherine Mathews, Carl Lombard & Kim Jonas

School attendance or completion is important for adolescents' development. Adolescents who drop out or are regularly absent from school are at higher risk of adverse sexual and reproductive health (SRH) outcomes. However, there is little evidence evaluating SRH service coverage among adolescents in and out of school. In the context of a large-scale combination HIV and pregnancy prevention intervention funded by the Global Fund, we compared the SRH intervention coverage and SRH risks among adolescent girls who dropped out of school with those who were still in school or who had completed grade 12 in South Africa.

Resilience and social support as protective factors against suicidal ideation among tertiary students during COVID-19: a cross-sectional study

BMC Public Health | 19 July 2024

Spela Selak, Nusa Crnkovic, Andrej Sorgo, Branko Gabrovec, Katarina Cesar

Suicidal ideation is a depression symptom which represents a key (cognitive) component of suicidality and plays an important role in suicide risk detection, intervention, and prevention. Despite existing research showing the importance of certain factors of depression symptoms and suicidal ideation, less is known about the interaction between the various risk and protective factors. The aim of the study was to examine whether living conditions characteristics and personal circumstances during the COVID-19 pandemic predicted the presence of depression symptoms and suicidal ideation among tertiary students and whether resilience and social support can mitigate the detrimental effects of difficult life circumstances.

Clinical-epidemiological profile and factors associated with viral non-suppression in patients living with HIV/AIDS assisted at the Integrated Treatment Center at the Maputo Military Hospital (CITRA/MMH), 2019 to 2020

BMC Infectious Diseases | 20 July 2024

Eduardo Manguê Chicanequisso, Cynthia Sema Baltazar & Jahit Sacarlal

HIV remains a critical global public health challenge. In 2022, it was estimated that approximately 39.0 million people worldwide were living with HIV, and of these, around 29.8 million were receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART). The objective was to evaluate the clinical and epidemiological profile and factors associated with viral load (VL) non-suppression in people living with HIV/AIDS at the Maputo Military Hospital (CITRA/MMH).

Safety and pharmacokinetics of subcutaneous administration of broadly neutralizing anti-HIV-1 monoclonal antibodies (bNAbs), given to HIV-1 exposed, uninfected neonates and infants: study protocol for a phase I trial

BMC Infectious Diseases | 20 July 2024

Ameena Goga, Trisha Ramraj, Logashvari Naidoo, Brodie Daniels, Masefetsane Matlou, et al.

The ambitious goal to eliminate new pediatric HIV infections by 2030 requires accelerated prevention strategies in high-risk settings such as South Africa. One approach could be pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) with broadly neutralizing anti-HIV-1 monoclonal antibodies (bNAbs). The aim of our study is to define the optimal dose(s), the ideal combination(s) of bNAbs in terms of potency and breadth, and timing of subcutaneous (SC) administration(s) to prevent breast milk transmission of HIV.

Evaluating the delivery of care by telemedicine for incarcerated people living with HIV: a cohort study

BMC Infectious Diseases | 22 July 2024

Ruth C. Dunn, Cassidy J. Stegall, Colten Creel, Christian J. Fuchs, Barbara E. Menzies, et al.

The use of telemedicine has grown significantly since the COVID-19 pandemic and has the potential to improve access to specialized care for otherwise underserved populations. Incarcerated people living with HIV (PLWH) could potentially benefit from expanded access to HIV care through telemedicine.

Measuring HIV outcomes for adolescent girls and young women programs in Africa: Using the polling booth survey technique

Plos One | 22 July 2024

Faran Emmanuel, Lize Aloo, Amna Mahfooz, Mathato Nkuatsana, Nametsego Tswetla, et al.

Adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) remain highly vulnerable to the risk of acquiring HIV (Human immunodeficiency virus). This study was conducted to measure behavioral, biomedical and structural outcomes for the Global Fund funded AGYW programmes in five African countries with high burden of HIV including Botswana, Cameroon, Lesotho, Malawi and Namibia.

The evaluation of risk factors for prolonged viral shedding during anti-SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibodies and long-term administration of antivirals in COVID-19 patients with B-cell lymphoma treated by anti-CD20 antibody

BMC Infectious Diseases | 22 July 2024

Shuhei Maruyama, Daiki Wada, Shuji Kanayama, Haruka Shimazu, Yumiko Miyano, et al.

The global impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has resulted in significant morbidity and mortality. Immunocompromised patients, particularly those treated for B-cell lymphoma, have shown an increased risk of persistent infection with SARS-CoV-2 and severe outcomes and mortality. Multi-mutational SARS-CoV-2 variants can arise during the course of such persistent cases of COVID-19. No optimal, decisive strategy is currently available for patients with persistent infection that allows clinicians to sustain viral clearance, determine optimal timing to stop treatment, and prevent virus reactivation. We introduced a novel treatment combining antivirals, neutralizing antibodies, and genomic analysis with frequent monitoring of spike-specific antibody and viral load for immunocompromised patients with persistent COVID-19 infection. The aim of this retrospective study was to report and evaluate the efficacy of our novel treatment for immunocompromised B-cell lymphoma patients with persistent COVID-19 infection.

A life marked by early school leaving: gendered working life paths linked to health and well-being over 40 years

BMC Public Health | 23 July 2024

Anneli Silvén Hagström & Anne Hammarström

There is increasing awareness of the need to analyse symptoms of mental ill-health among early school leavers. Dropping out of compulsory education limits access to the labour market and education and could be related to deteriorating mental health over the course of a lifetime. The aim of this longitudinal study is to explore how early school leavers not in education, employment or training (NEET) narrate their working life trajectories linked to health, agency and gender relations.

Knowledge, and utilization of HIV self-testing, and its associated factors among women in sub-Saharan Africa: evidence from 21 countries demographic and health survey

BMC Public Health | 23 July 2024

Bewuketu Terefe, Mahlet Moges Jembere, Gashachew Bayleyegn Reda, Dejen Kahsay Asgedom, Solomon Keflie Assefa

HIV Self-Testing (HIVST) holds great significance in the fight against the HIV epidemic in Sub-Saharan

Africa (SSA). It offers a convenient and confidential option for individuals to know their HIV status and seek appropriate care and support. For women in this region, where stigma, discrimination, and lack of access to healthcare services are prevalent, HIVST can empower them to take control of their health and make informed decisions. However, no study in the region has been conducted on this topic. Hence, this study aimed to fill the evidence, and population gaps by identifying women's HIVST knowledge, and utilization, and its associated factors in SSA.

Oral health inequalities in immigrant populations worldwide: a scoping review of dental caries and periodontal disease prevalence

BMC Public Health | 23 July 2024

Seyed Ahmad Banihashem Rad, Marcella Esteves-Oliveira, Anastasia Maklennan, Gail V. A. Douglas, Paolo Castiglia

Inequalities in immigrants' oral health are often masked in population-level data. Therefore, this paper was planned to assess the prevalence data on oral health diseases, namely dental caries, and periodontitis, among immigrants worldwide.

The contribution of intimate partner violence to vertical HIV transmission: a modelling analysis of 46 African countries – Summary

The Lancet HIV | 23 July 2024

Salome Kuchukhidze, Magdalene K Walters, Dimitra Panagiotoglou, Prof Marie-Claude Boily, Souleymane Diabaté, et al.

Addressing gender inequities could be key to the elimination of vertical transmission of HIV. Women experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV) might be at an increased risk of vertical transmission due to their vulnerability to HIV acquisition and barriers to access to and retention in care. Sub-Saharan Africa, where IPV burden is among the highest globally, accounts for most new paediatric HIV infections. We aimed to examine the proportion of excess vertical transmission attributable to IPV in this region.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Pregnant Women And Infants At High Risk Of Severe Mpox Disease

Health-e News | 18 July 2024

South Africa has recorded 22 cases of mpox since an outbreak of the disease started in May. Mpox is a viral infectious disease that's spread between people through close physical contact such as direct skin-to-skin contact. All of the cases reported have been among men who have sex with men. But anyone can get the disease. Other population groups such as pregnant people and children are at risk of complications from mpox. Speaking at an earlier World Health Organisation webinar, public health medicine registrar at Steve Biko Academic Hospital, Dr Shanal Nair, unpacks key things to know.

There's a new way to test kids for TB — but the NHLS cyberattack has delayed its roll-out

Bhekisisa | 22 July 2024

The National Health Laboratory Service's plans to pilot a new way for finding tuberculosis (TB) in kids have been put on hold after a cyberattack shut down computer systems at the state labs. South Africa isn't doing well at finding children with TB, and just 60% of those with the disease are on treatment. That's because finding TB in young children is tricky in the first place, as they usually have so little of the germs in their lungs that sputum tests often come back negative. In 2021, the World Health Organisation recommended using stool samples to test for TB, and now South Africa's new childhood TB guidelines will include this method.

Africa: TB - Gene Editing Could Add New Power to a 100-Year-Old Vaccine

allAfrica | 22 July 2024

Tuberculosis dates back more than 9,000 years. It is the most infectious bacterial disease and in

2022 10.6 million people fell ill with it. Of these 23% occurred in Africa.

The only vaccine against tuberculosis, the Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine, is more than 100 years old and is primarily effective for infants and young children.

Researchers at the University of the Witwatersrand School of Pathology have made a significant breakthrough in vaccine development by gene-editing the BCG to make it more effective.

#Aids2024: SA has taken up US donations of CAB-LA — and will roll out the anti-HIV jab before the end of the year

Bhekisisa | 22 July 2024

Before the end of the year, 867 government health facilities will start to roll out the two-monthly HIV prevention injection, CAB-LA. CAB-LA virtually eliminates someone's chances of contracting HIV, and can stop about a third of South Africa's infections — but it costs about four times more than what the government can afford to pay. The US government's Aids fund, PEPFAR, has donated 231 000 doses over two years to South Africa — 96 000 of the doses will arrive between October and December, enough for 13 728 people to use to protect themselves against HIV infection for one year.

#Aids2024: SA has 4 sets of numbers that track how we're doing with getting people onto ARVs. Which set does the health department use?

Bhekisisa | 23 July 2024

The world has 18 months left — until the end of 2025 — to reach targets United Nations (UN) member countries like South Africa signed up to in 2021. The goals are there to keep countries on track to get new HIV infections down low enough by 2030 so that Aids is ended as a public health threat. So where is South Africa at? That's tricky to answer, because the country uses four different ways to track this — and the numbers are not the same. We break down which set of data the health department uses to report to UNAids and what the other sets are for.

HIV: Still an Epidemic

MSF Africa | 23 July 2024

It has been one of these weeks. We admitted three children as inpatients at the same time. The youngest is just one year old and is severely malnourished. Of the other two (6 and 7 years old), one is seriously ill with malaria, and the other suffers from anaemia. The grandmothers who brought the children to our hospital in La Palma in the north of Mozambique report that they have lost their mothers. When we tested them for HIV, it turned out that all three were HIV-positive.

Collaborative research project explores links between placental events and adverse birth outcomes

Daily Maverick | 23 July 2024

The socio-economic benefits of finding such a blood test and developing ways of preventing premature birth are incalculable. The adverse effects that often come with premature birth are difficult for parents, and countries, to deal with – children born prematurely often suffer stunted growth, are more susceptible to viral and bacterial infections and often have long-term learning difficulties. The more we can prevent premature birth the stronger, physically and mentally, societies can be. Wherever this is achieved, the need for government spending on disability grants will diminish, freeing state funds for other social goods. The effect, in South Africa specifically and sub-Saharan Africa more broadly, will be immense. South Africa and sub-Saharan Africa already carry a heavy burden of disease in terms of HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria – all conditions that are linked to pregnant women delivering preterm.

South Africa will roll out anti-HIV jab before the end of the year

Business Live | 23 July 2024

Before the end of the year, 867 government health facilities will start to roll out the two-monthly HIV prevention injection CAB-LA, using 96,000 doses donated by the US government. Studies show that CAB-LA — which, after being injected into someone's buttocks, gradually releases the antiretroviral drug cabotegravir over a period of two months into someone's blood — can virtually eliminate a person's chances of contracting HIV through sex.

Scientists Are A Step Closer To Understanding How Elite Controllers Suppress HIV In Their Bodies

Health-e News | 23 July 2024

South Africa is the epicentre of the HIV epidemic. The country has the highest number of people living with HIV globally. Around 7.8 million people live with HIV in South Africa. About 5.8 million people are on ARVs, of which have an undetectable viral load. This means that the amount of virus in their bodies is so low that it can't be detected by tests. However, there is a group of people who have HIV, are not on treatment, yet the virus in their bodies is undetectable. This population is known as elite controllers. It's estimated that for every 200 people living with HIV, around one may be an elite controller. This works out to around 0.5% of the global population of people living with HIV.

Africa's HIV-Aids alliance (mostly) achieved solid results, but too many children still infected

News24 | 23 July 2024

Nine African countries, which form part of the Global Alliance, are on course to eradicate mother-to-child transmission of HIV. However, the majority of HIV cases among children globally are in sub-Saharan Africa. Just 57% of children living with HIV receive lifesaving treatment, compared to 77% of adults.

Voices for positive change: South African women tell their stories

IDRC | 23 July 2024

How can women in vulnerable circumstances move beyond hopelessness, extreme poverty, and the health and livelihood challenges of a global pandemic? What are the best research approaches to make their experiences count in post-pandemic recovery efforts and future preparedness? Ask them. Two research projects in the provinces of Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, are using experiential methodologies to reveal women's stories, ideas and solutions to their post-pandemic recovery.

Kenya's plan to end Aids in children gets positive rating

The Star | 23 July 2024

Aids is the final, most severe stage of mostly-untreated HIV, and often ends in death. Kenya plans to stop Aids by preventing HIV infection in newborns and promptly treating all infected children. Experts on Tuesday commended Kenya's efforts, saying 87 per cent of all infants born to women living with HIV receive a timely diagnosis. A report on Africa's 12 top HIV burden countries shows only South Africa has higher levels of diagnosis for infants at 90 per cent. The situation is worse in some African countries such as Angola (14 per cent) and Nigeria where only 18 per cent of infants receive diagnosis.

Getting people onto ARVs — tracking SA's progress is tricky, so we broke down the data

Daily Maverick | 23 July 2024

The world has 18 months left – until the end of 2025 – to reach targets countries like South Africa signed up to in 2021. So where is South Africa at? That's tricky to answer, because the country uses four different ways to track this – and the numbers are not the same. We break down which set of data the Health Department uses to report to UNAids and what the other sets are for.

South African women playing their part in efforts to stop the spread of HIV and AIDS

Brand South Africa | 23 July 2024

Since the outbreak of the HIV and AIDS epidemic many years ago, the South African government has been pulling all the stops in efforts to prevent the scourge of infections across the country. Our government has relied on scientific intervention from leading companies such as Gilead Sciences and other reputable pharmaceutical entities that have demonstrated scientific leadership throughout the years. What we find amazing is that South Africa, a country that has been historically deemed as one of the epicenters of the virus, is now a key player at the forefront of solving the scourge of infections.

Gauteng Department of Health hosts summit to reconfigure primary healthcare service

IOL | 23 July 2024

The Gauteng Department of Health recently held a two-day District Health System (DHS) strategy and service delivery model reconfiguration summit on July 16-17. This summit aimed to improve access to primary healthcare services and ensure their optimisation at both primary and district levels, aligning with the objective of achieving universal health care coverage.

WHO sees 'high risk' of polio virus spreading across Gaza, assessment underway

Daily Maverick | 23 July 2024

The World Health Organization said on Tuesday there was a high risk of the polio virus spreading across the Gaza Strip and beyond its borders due to the dire health and sanitation situation in the war-ravaged Palestinian enclave. Ayadil Saparbekov, team lead for health emergencies at WHO in Gaza and the West Bank, said circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 had been isolated from environmental samples from sewage in Gaza.

Women living with HIV continue to face violations of their sexual and reproductive rights—including coercion into sterilization

UNAIDS | 24 July 2024

Women living with HIV including women from key populations continue to suffer widespread reproductive coercion, mistreatment, and neglect when seeking reproductive health services and rights around the world, a new report by the International Community of Women Living with HIV (ICW) has revealed today. The report was launched at a joint ICW/UNAIDS event at the 25th International AIDS Conference taking place in Munich, Germany

Deputy Minister Phaahla to lead SA delegation at Aids conference in Germany

IOL | 24 July 2024

Friday's 25th International Aids Conference, in Munich, Germany, is arguably one of those most critical ones and a time for countries to reflect on what they are doing to reduce Aids-related deaths to below 250 000 by December 2025.

SA has 18 months left to meet UN targets for ARV distribution - but will we make it?

News24 | 24 July 2024

The world has 18 months left to reach targets United Nations member countries like South Africa signed up to in 2021. The goals are there to keep countries on track to get new HIV infections down low enough by 2030 so that Aids is no longer regarded as a public health threat. So where is South Africa at? That's tricky to answer, because the country uses four different ways to track this — and the numbers are not the same.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

WHO global research priorities for sexually transmitted infections

WHO | 21 July 2024

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are widespread globally and negatively affect sexual and reproductive health. Gaps in evidence and in available tools have hindered STI prevention, control, and management, particularly in resource-limited settings.

WHO has undertaken a global research prioritization exercise to identify the most important STI research areas to address the public health need. This document summarizes the resulting STI research priorities and provides a call to action for focus, investment and innovation to reduce the global toll of STIs.

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-UHL-SRH-2024.1>

The United States and AWIEF launch the 2024 Academy for Women Entrepreneurs Lesotho, Eswatini and South Africa (AWE LESA)

The U.S. Mission to South Africa and the Africa Women Innovation and Entrepreneurship Forum (AWIEF) proudly announce the launch of the 2024 Academy for Women Entrepreneurs program in Lesotho, Eswatini and South Africa.

The Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) is an initiative of the U.S. Department of State and Arizona State University's Thunderbird School of Global Management. It supports the U.S. National Strategy on Gender, Equity and Equality and reflects the United States' commitment to advancing gender equity and economic prosperity in Southern Africa

The Academy for Women Entrepreneurs LESA (Lesotho, Eswatini and South Africa) program is centred on the Francis and Dionne Najafi 100 Million Learners Global Initiative, an accredited online global management and entrepreneurship certificate consisting of five world-class courses and available to learners across the globe.

The overall goal of the program is to promote economic prosperity, including equitable economic development opportunities for historically disadvantaged groups and individuals. AWE LESA provides a resource for women entrepreneurs to engage in online education with guided facilitation and localization; fosters networks that support participants' access to peer-to-peer mentorship, business partners, and scaling opportunities with businesses in the region and in the United States; as well as provides access to a range of educational programs tailored to women's economic empowerment to expand the impact on the participant.

AWE LESA 2024 will empower 100 young women entrepreneurs in seven cities – five in South Africa and one each in Lesotho and Eswatini. The program will host cohorts in Bloemfontein (10 participants), Cape Town (10 participants), Johannesburg (15 participants), Polokwane (15 participants), Manzini (20 participants), Maseru (20 participants), and Pietermaritzburg (10 participants). The participants will attend in-person training sessions and events at designated American Corners and partner spaces in each location.

AWE LESA 2024 activities will take place between August 2024 and January 2025, and this edition will bring the total number of women entrepreneurs trained through the U.S. Mission to South Africa and AWIEF partnership to more than 700.

What do you gain from participating in the AWE LESA program?

- Free entry to the program;
- Enrolment in the Francis and Dionne Najafi 100 Million Learners platform for online learning;
- Expert-facilitated in-person business management training and mentorship sessions at American Spaces;
- Networking and peer-learning opportunities with like-minded entrepreneurs;
- A collaboratively developed and refined draft of your business plan;
- A 100 Million Learners certificate after completing the program;
- Access to the U.S. alumni network's robust network of support, including business opportunities, potential seed funding and a vast, global network of like-minded and highly regarded entrepreneurs;
- Membership to the AWIEF Community which provides ongoing peer learning and support; and
- Free delegate pass to AWIEF2024 Conference, Exhibition and Awards scheduled to take place at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), Cape Town on November 28 and 29, 2024.

What are the criteria to apply?

- Young women (aged 21 – 35);
- Early-stage entrepreneurs (with businesses in operation for 1-3 years);
- Citizens/legal residents of South Africa, Lesotho and Eswatini;
- Read, write, speak and listen to the program in English;
- Reside within 40km of one of the seven program cities: Bloemfontein, Cape Town, Johannesburg, Polokwane, Maseru, Manzini, and Pietermaritzburg;
- Commit to weekly in-person training sessions at a designated American Space of the U.S. Missions to Lesotho, Eswatini and South Africa;
- Commit to up to 5 hours of weekly programmatic assignments; and
- Basic computer skills, access to a computer with a data plan to access program content and activities.

Applications Open Now!

Academy for Women Entrepreneurs applications are officially open for highly motivated and self-driven young women entrepreneurs from Lesotho, Eswatini and South Africa. THERE IS NO COST TO APPLICANTS AT ANY STAGE.

To submit your application, please follow this link: <https://awieforum.typeform.com/awelesa24>

The deadline for submission is August 4, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. South Africa Standard Time (SAST).

For more information, email: info@awieforum.org

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

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.

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>

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Call for papers - HIV and TB co-infection – closing date 20 December 2024

BMC Infectious Diseases is calling for submissions to their Collection on HIV and TB co-infection. This collection seeks to explore the complex relationship between tuberculosis (TB) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), two prominent pathogens within the domain of infectious diseases. They invite submissions on co-infection research, interventions, and perspectives from various stakeholders aiming to advance understanding and improve outcomes in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and control of HIV and TB co-infection, covering topics such as epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical management, drug interactions, public health approaches, socioeconomic determinants, therapeutics innovation, community engagement, and health systems strengthening.

<https://bmcinfectdis.biomedcentral.com/>

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>

Confronting Coercion: A global scan of coercion, mistreatment and abuse experienced by women living with HIV in reproductive and sexual health services

ICW | July 2024

The report, *Confronting Coercion: A global scan of coercion, mistreatment and abuse experienced by women living with HIV in reproductive and sexual health services*, shows that women living with HIV face practices that undermine their bodily autonomy. Reproductive choices are monitored, and women are subjected to various coercive practices.

https://www.wlhiv.org/files/ugd/682db7_2fe9a24ef9454c6691e1cc06bee58165.pdf

UNAIDS to release new data showing end of AIDS is possible by 2030, but only if leaders act now on resourcing and rights

UNAIDS | 22 July 2024

UNAIDS will launch a new report, *The Urgency of Now: AIDS at a Crossroads* just ahead of the 25th International AIDS Conference #AIDS2024 in Munich, Germany. The report will demonstrate that ending AIDS as a public health threat is achievable by 2030 but that success is being threatened by pushes to reduce funding and to restrict human rights. The HIV response is at a crossroads: success or failure will be determined by which path leaders take. The report will show that the decisions leaders make this year will determine whether AIDS is ended as a public health threat by 2030. Taking the wrong path, by limiting resourcing or clamping down on human rights, would lead the pandemic to continue to grow, costing millions more lives and undermining global health security.

<https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarchive/2024/july/2024-unaids-global-aids-update-launch>

Call for papers - HIV and TB co-infection – closing date 20 December 2024

BMC Infectious Diseases is calling for submissions to our Collection on HIV and TB co-infection. This collection seeks to explore the complex relationship between tuberculosis (TB) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), two prominent pathogens within the domain of infectious diseases. We invite submissions on co-infection research, interventions, and perspectives from various stakeholders aiming to advance understanding and improve outcomes in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and control of HIV and TB co-infection, covering topics such as epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical management, drug interactions, public health approaches, socioeconomic determinants, therapeutics innovation, community engagement, and health systems strengthening.

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

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>

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Webinar: Monitoring DHS performance towards UHC: How can we find a pragmatic way forward?

Health systems need to respond to changing priorities. They must be regularly adjusted to reflect the most important needs of the population. Therefore, regular assessments of health systems performance help to identify and adjust priorities and inform decisions and consequent actions that will ensure the most appropriate responses to these priorities. Assessing the performance of a health system effectively is the first step to improving it. Join us as we reflect on current M&E approaches in the DHS while exploring new ways of health systems performance.

When: 15 August 2024, 16:00

Where: Zoom

Register: <https://uwc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEldOigqj0tEtUPjRlZlHXq5geTnr7lCp3G#/registration>

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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/>

World Congress of Epidemiology

When: 24 – 27 September 2024

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

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

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Clinical Laboratory Advisor

Closing Date for Application: 29 JULY 2024, AT 16H30.

Go to : [https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Sub-District-Co-Ordinator-\(eThekwini-District\).aspx](https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Sub-District-Co-Ordinator-(eThekwini-District).aspx)

District Human Resources Co-Ordinator

Closing Date for Application: 31 July 2024, AT 16H30

Go to: <https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/District-Human-Resources-Co-ordinator-eThekwini-District.aspx>

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