

[HST Bulletin 28 July 2023](#)[View this email in your browser](#)

CATEGORIES

[Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles](#)[Recent Public Health News](#)[Training and Resources](#)[Publications and Reports](#)[Conferences and Events](#)[Job Opportunities](#)

ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

A multiplicative effect of Education and Wealth associated with HIV-related knowledge and attitudes among Ghanaian women

BMC Public Health | 20 July 2023

Jonathan Aseye Nutakor, Lulin Zhou, Ebenezer Larnyo, Stephen Addai-Dansoh, Yupeng Cui, et al.

Knowledge and attitudes regarding HIV play a crucial role in prevention and control efforts. Understanding the factors influencing HIV-related knowledge and attitudes is essential for formulating effective interventions and policies. This study aims to investigate the possibility of an interaction between education and wealth in influencing HIV-related knowledge and attitudes among women in Ghana.

Assessing very advanced HIV disease in adolescent girls and young women

Southern African Journal of HIV Medicine | 20 July 2023

Naseem Cassim, Lindi-Marie Coetzee, Manuel P. da Silva, Deborah K. Glencross, Wendy S. Stevens

South Africa has the largest HIV epidemic globally, with ~7.5 million people living with HIV in 2021.

Adolescent girls (AG) and young women (YW), aged 15–19 years and 20–24 years, are twice as likely to be living with HIV as their male counterparts. The national HIV prevalence for young women was 9.1% (2021), with limited data on disease severity.

Temporal trend analysis of the HIV/AIDS burden before and after the implementation of antiretroviral therapy at the population level from 1990 to 2020 in Ghana

BMC Public Health | 20 July 2023

Michael Boah, Daudi Yeboah, Mary Rachael Kpordoxah, Abdul-Nasir Issah & Martin Nyaaba Adokiya

Antiretroviral therapy (ART) has helped reduce the burden of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) in the majority of countries. Its contribution to the HIV/AIDS burden in Ghana is still understudied. This study examined HIV/AIDS trends in Ghana before (1990–2004) and after (2004–2020) the implementation and expansion of ART.

CDC-Funded HIV Testing Services Outcomes and Social Determinants of Health in Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. Jurisdictions

AIDS and Behavior | 21 July 2023

Deesha Patel, Hollie A. Clark, Weston O. Williams, Nicole Taylor-Aidoo & Carolyn Wright

We performed an ecological analysis to examine associations between CDC-funded HIV testing services outcomes and social determinants of health (SDOH) among Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. jurisdictions. Using National HIV Prevention Program Monitoring & Evaluation (2020) and American Community Survey (2016–2020) data, we ran robust Poisson models (adjusted for race/ethnicity).

Identifying HIV PrEP Attributes to Increase PrEP Use Among Different Groups of Gay, Bisexual, and Other Men Who Have Sex with Men: A Latent Class Analysis of a Discrete Choice Experiment

Aids and Behavior | 21 July 2023

Rahel Dawit, Zachary Predmore, Julia Raifman, Philip A. Chan, Alexandra Skinner, et al.

Daily pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is highly effective at preventing HIV among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM), although uptake remains suboptimal. By identifying the features of PrEP that appeal to various subgroups of GBMSM, this study aimed to improve PrEP uptake by examining preferences for PrEP use. Adults ≥ 18 years old in six New England states completed an online discrete choice experiment survey. A latent class analysis (LCA) was conducted to identify groups of GBMSM based on four attributes of choices for PrEP (cost, time, side effects, and mode of administration). Multinomial logistic regression was conducted to compare the association between sociodemographic and behavioral characteristics and class memberships. Data from 675 GBMSM were analyzed. A 3-Class model was selected as the best fit model. Class 1 (47.7% of individuals) was identified as having “no specific preferences”.

Applying the HIV Prevention Cascade to an Evaluation of a Large-Scale Combination HIV Prevention Programme for Adolescent Girls and Young Women in South Africa

Aids and Behavior | 21 July 2023

Kate Bergh, Elona Toska, Zoe Duby, Darshini Govindasamy, Catherine Mathews, et al.

Adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in South Africa are at a three times higher risk of acquiring HIV than their male counterparts. The HIV prevention cascade is a tool which can be used to measure coverage of HIV prevention services, although there is limited empirical evidence to demonstrate its application in low-resourced settings. The unifying framework is a conceptualisation of the HIV prevention cascade which theorises that both motivation and access are required for an individual to effectively use an HIV prevention method. We applied this framework to data from a random sample of 127,951 beneficiaries of a combination HIV prevention programme for AGYW aged 15–24 in South Africa to measure the steps to, and identify key barriers to, effective use of male condoms and oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) among this vulnerable population. Barriers to each step were analysed using univariate and multivariable logistic regression. Among self-reported HIV-negative AGYW who had sex in the past 6 months, effective use of condoms (15.2%), access to PrEP (39.1%) and use of PrEP (3.8%) were low.

Factors contributing to the high prevalence of intimate partner violence among south Sudanese refugee women in Ethiopia

BMC Public Health | 24 July 2023

Filmawit Hadush, Dereje Tsegaye, Sherif Abdulwehab Legass, Endegen Abebe & Sabit Zenu

Intimate partner violence is a universally occurring form of violence against women which is perpetrated by a husband or other intimate partner. It is a common public health problem during humanitarian crisis. Despite this, little is known about the problem among South Sudanese refugee women in Ethiopia.

Factors influencing the prevalence of cervical cancer screening in Malaysia: a nationwide survey

BMC Women's Health | 25 July 2023

Yee Mang Chan, Muhd Zulfadli Hafiz Ismail & Wan-Fei Khaw

In 2020, cervical cancer ranked fourth in terms of both frequency of diagnosis and the leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women globally. Among Malaysian women, it was the third most prevalent form of cancer. Published data on nationally representative cervical cancer screening in Malaysia have been limited. Therefore, this study aimed to determine the prevalence of receiving a Pap smear test in the past three years, its relationship with socio-demographic factors and physical activity.

Intimate partner violence against HIV-Positive women on ART follow-up and associated factors in public health facilities of western Ethiopia

Aids Research and Therapy | 25 July 2023

Shibiru Biranu, Motuma Getachew, Gemechu Kejela & Chaltu Kifilu

Intimate partner violence is the most pervasive but less recognized problem which affects millions of women world. It is more common among marginalized individuals including women affected by HIV. However, there is limited information regarding this problem among HIV-Positive Women in Ethiopia. Thus, the study was aimed to assess the magnitude and factors associated with intimate partner violence among HIV positive women in western Ethiopia.

Brief cognitive behavior therapy for stigmatization, depression, quality of life, social support and adherence to treatment among patients with HIV/AIDS: a randomized control trial

BMC Psychiatry | 25 July 2023

Qasir Abbas, Mehru Nisa, Muhammad Umar Khan, Nida Anwar, Sumayah Aljhani, et al.

Individuals living with HIV/AIDS are at a high risk of many problems like depression, stigma, quality of life, decreased adherence to treatment, and lack of social support. The present study aimed to investigate the impact of brief-cognitive behavior therapy (B-CBT) on reducing depression and stigma and improving treatment adherence, quality of life, and social support among patients with HIV/AIDS attending antiretroviral therapy (ART).

Determinants of term premature rupture of membrane: case-control study in Saint Paul's Millennium Medical College Hospital, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

BMC Women's Health | 25 July 2023

Zelee daniel, Temesgen Tantu, Dereje Zewdu, Thomas Mekuria, Tsion Yehualashet, et al.

The term premature rupture of the membranes is the rupture of the membranes before the onset of labor beyond 37 weeks of gestation. Several factors, including obstetric, gynecologic, socioeconomic, and medical, are identified as potential risk factors. This clinical event has detrimental maternal and neonatal complications.

Prescription patterns and compliance with World Health Organization recommendations for the management of uncomplicated and severe malaria: A prospective, real-world study in sub-Saharan Africa

Malaria Journal | 25 July 2023

This study aimed to evaluate the gap between guidelines and local clinical practice for diagnosis and treatment of uncomplicated and severe malaria, the patient characteristics, diagnostic approach, treatment, and compliance to standard guideline recommendations.

Migration and health research: past, present, and future

BMC Public Health | 25 July 2023

Shira Goldenberg and Florian Fischer

Global migration continues to rise at unprecedented rates. Migrants are an extremely heterogeneous group and face diverse health needs related to infectious diseases, sexual and reproductive health, non-communicable diseases, and healthcare access across the whole lifespan. In this editorial, we set the

context and invite contributions for a collection on 'Migration and health' at BMC Public Health.

The new normal for children's physical activity and screen viewing: a multi-perspective qualitative analysis of behaviours a year after the COVID-19 lockdowns in the UK

BMC Public Health | 27 July 2023

Robert Walker, Danielle House, Ruth Salway, Lydia Emm-Collison, Lara E. Hollander, et al.

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted children's physical activity. Recent evidence indicated children's accelerometer-measured physical activity levels have, on average, returned to near pre-pandemic levels in 2022, though sedentary behaviour remains higher. However, insufficient physical activity levels among children continues to be a critical public health issue in the UK, with only 41% meeting physical activity guidelines.

Post COVID-19 condition and health-related quality of life: a longitudinal cohort study in the Belgian adult population

BMC Public Health | 27 July 2023

Pierre Smith, Robby De Pauw, Dieter Van Cauteren, Stefaan Demarest, Sabine Drieskens

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, most research has focused on the acute phase of COVID-19, yet some people experience symptoms beyond, referred to as post COVID-19 conditions (PCC). However, evidence on PCC and its impacts on health-related quality of life (HRQoL) is still scarce. This study aimed to assess the impact of COVID-19 and PCC on HRQoL.

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

RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Malnutrition in South Africa: how one community wants resources to be spent

The Conversation | 18 July 2023

South Africa has persistently high rates of hunger and malnutrition among mothers and children. More than a quarter – 27% – of children under five are stunted and 61% of children are iron-deficient. Sixty-nine percent of women of reproductive age are overweight or obese, and 31% are iron-deficient. These figures paint a worrying picture. They suggest gaps in the country's evidence-based nutrition policies and services.

Empowered girls voice their concerns, call for action on gender equality, health, rights, & wellbeing

Africa Science News | 19 July 2023

Girls from Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda, DRC and Niger shared their concerns and calls for action at a Women Deliver side event hosted by World Vision in Kigali, Rwanda today. The girls shared their experiences, catalyzed collective action, and held leaders accountable for ending violence against girls. Issues discussed included harmful practices such as child marriage, sexual violence, and the challenge of teen pregnancy. Each of the young advocates is champion on ending violence against children and change-makers in their own countries.

Global health awards recognize outstanding women in health

Africa Science News | 19 July 2023

Twelve women on the frontlines of health systems across the African continent including Ethiopia, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Malawi, Uganda, Nigeria, Togo and Ghana are the winners of the

2023 Women in Global Health Heroines of Health Awards. Award winners have been recognized for their outstanding contribution to advance safe maternity and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in the context of a global campaign to roll-back decades of progress for the rights of women and girls.

NORTH WEST: HIGH REPORTS OF MEDICINE STOCKOUTS AND UNFRIENDLY CLINICS

Health-e News | 21 July 2023

Critical stockouts and shortages of essential medications are among the leading issues faced by the North West Department of Health. Long waiting times, staff shortages and hostile services for key populations are other key challenges. Ritshidze, a community monitoring organisation, revealed the findings of its third NW State of Health report in Mahikeng yesterday. Data collected by the Stop Stockouts Project, the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC), and Ritshidze from across 72 sites revealed 404 reports of different medicines, contraceptives, and vaccines being out of stock in the preceding three months.

Is ending AIDS by 2030 possible?

Be In the Know | 21 July 2023

UNAIDS's newly released 2023 Global AIDS Update sets out a clear path to ending AIDS this decade. But warns that failure to act could prolong the pandemic "indefinitely". In its latest global update, UNAIDS describes ending AIDS as a political and financial choice – but will countries take the action necessary to finally bring the HIV pandemic to a close?

Rapid screening becomes ever more important in South Africa due to the rising prevalence of HIV among MSM

IOL | 21 July 2023

Men who have sex with men (MSM) are disproportionately affected by HIV worldwide, finds a study titled "Examining Preferences for Key Attributes for Long-Acting HIV Prevention Methods Among South African Youth" that was published in the RTI International journal. The alarming estimate of 26.9% HIV prevalence among MSM in South Africa highlights the significance of preventative initiatives for this community.

'Geneva patient' the latest in long-term remission from HIV

IOL | 21 July 2023

A man dubbed the "Geneva patient" is the latest person with HIV to be declared in long-term remission. However, he did not receive a transplant with a virus-blocking gene mutation like previous cases, researchers said on Thursday. But they stopped short of saying the man was "cured" of HIV, warning there was still a chance the virus could still return. Five people have previously been declared cured of HIV: the Berlin, London, Duesseldorf, New York and City of Hope, California patients.

HIV Transmission Virtually Eliminated in Inner Sydney, Australia

Poz | 24 July 2023

Inner Sydney has reduced new HIV acquisitions by 88%, meaning it may be the first locality in the world to reach the UN target to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030, according to data released today at IAS 2023, the 12th IAS Conference on HIV Science. Andrew Grulich of the Kirby Institute at the University of New South Wales and member of the Governing Council of IAS – the International AIDS Society – presented the findings, citing progress in Inner Sydney, where HIV was once most prevalent in Australia, as evidence that stopping new HIV acquisitions is possible.

HIV treatment in the womb helped five South African baby boys to stay undetectable off therapy

Aidsmap | 24 July 2023

Antiretrovirals taken by pregnant women to prevent mother-to-child transmission are highly effective. But what of the minority of infants who still acquire HIV? A study from South Africa presented today at the 12th

International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2023) in Brisbane, Australia shows that antiretrovirals can start to work as treatment for HIV-positive children even in the womb. The result can be, in some cases, young post-treatment controllers: children who will go on to maintain undetectable viral loads without taking antiretroviral therapy (ART).

In-depth: Thuthuzela centres working well – experts say we need more of them

Spotlight | 24 July 2023

It's a rare sunny winter morning on the Cape Flats. We are standing inside a small building on the premises of the Heideveld Community Health Centre. This is a Thuthuzela Care Centre (TCC), one of the country's 63 one-stop facilities which provide comprehensive support for victims of rape and other forms of gender-based violence (GBV). The well-secured centre is located in an area dominated by low-cost housing blocks, grey and littered, with washing strung up in rows between buildings; signs of a struggling community.

CASH STRAPPED LIMPOPO HEALTH DEPARTMENT IS FACED WITH A DIRE SHORTAGE OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS

Health-e News | 24 July 2023

"I regret being a nurse in Limpopo. We are under-staffed and working under constant pressure. We are working with 'skeleton' teams and we have to do double the work, no matter how tired and fatigued we are," says Shirly Sithole*. 33-year-old Sithole, a nurse stationed at Nkhensani Hospital in Giyani, is concerned about the shortage of healthcare workers, especially nurses, within public health facilities.

South Africa: dropping out of HIV care is deadly

Aidsmap | 24 July 2023

In an era when immediate treatment for all who are diagnosed with HIV is the norm, the focus of treatment studies is now turning to people who drop out of care, sometimes for long periods. In May, a study found there were more people with HIV in England who had dropped out of care than remained undiagnosed; soon afterwards a study from several African countries found evidence that up to half of all patients coming forward for treatment as new patients had in fact taken antiretroviral therapy (ART) before.

Mpox: Characterization of post-infectious immune response

Medical Xpress | 25 July 2023

an outbreak of monkeypox, now known as mpox (caused by the monkeypox virus or MPXV) led to 87,000 human cases in 170 countries. Most cases were reported outside the usual areas in which the virus circulates. Since the outbreak began, surveillance of the virus has been stepped up in Europe, with nearly 5,000 cases being reported in France. Scientists and clinicians from the Institut Pasteur, the CNRS, Inserm, the VRI and the Paris Public Hospital Network (AP-HP) studied 470 sera from vaccinated or MPXV-infected individuals to elucidate the mechanisms involved and determine correlates of protection against infection or disease severity.

Very high HIV incidence among people who inject drugs in South Africa

Aidsmap | 25 July 2023

Nearly 14% of people who inject drugs in South Africa went on to acquire HIV in a national sample of people seeking harm reduction services, according to research presented to the 12th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2023) in Brisbane, Australia by Dr Adeline Artenie from the University of Bristol. However, Artenie pointed out that services such as needle and syringe programmes and opioid substitution therapy have the potential to reduce this incidence rate. This research underscores the urgent need for increased funding for these services in the country.

M72: Three things you need to know about a TB jab that might work

Bhekisisa | 25 July 2023

Phumeza Tisile, now 33, lost her hearing because of the drugs she had to take to cure her of tuberculosis (TB). But had an adult vaccine against TB been available, chances are she might not have fallen ill in the first place. A cash injection of just over R10-billion could bring us one step closer. In late June, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Wellcome Trust announced that they will, together, contribute this money for the next phase of a clinical trial to test how well a new vaccine, called M72/AS01E, works to stop people from getting sick with TB.

Advancing new antibiotics through the later stages of clinical testing

News Medical Life Science | 25 July 2023

A report by University of Queensland researchers has warned a global crisis of antibiotic resistance is inevitable, despite promising developments in new antibiotics. The Center for Superbug Solutions at UQ's Institute for Molecular Bioscience has monitored the clinical pipeline for more than a decade, with its latest snapshot showing 62 new antibiotics in development. Professor Mark Blaskovich said it was encouraging that 34 of those were based on structures not previously used as an antibiotic.

Opinion: HIV investments remain no-brainers, but some things need to change

Spotlight | 25 July 2023

Making the case for governments and donors to pump money into the HIV response has become more difficult over the last decade. This is partly a result of the notable successes we've had – for example, in 2022, HIV-related deaths in South Africa were down to less than a fifth of what it was in 2005. There is clearly some justification for the point of view that HIV simply isn't the crisis it used to be.

A DOUBLE SENTENCE: PRISONERS AT SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER RISK FOR TB

Health-e News | 25 July 2023

Karabo Rafube (41), a former inmate who contracted tuberculosis (TB) in prison says it's concerning that the fight against the infectious disease continues to be neglected within South African prisons. He was speaking after the recent launch of a new global study that found a significantly higher incidence of TB among the prison population. Researchers found that 125,000 of 11 million incarcerated people worldwide developed TB in 2019. This incidence rate of 1,148 cases per 100,000 people per year compared to the global incidence rate of 127 cases per 100,000 people per year.

Ignoring the huge labour disruption NHI will cause will come back to bite Health Department

Daily Maverick | 25 July 2023

Many concerns have been raised about the National Health Insurance (NHI), with some of it dismissively labelled as fearmongering. However, some of the concerns are valid and with so much at stake, they should be treated with the necessary circumspection. Much to its credit the Department of Health attempted to address some of the concerns in a recently published fact sheet on the NHI. Disappointingly, and perhaps due to the fact that the issue has not been raised, the fact sheet does not deal with the labour relations implications of the scheme for administrative staff stationed in the provinces.

New female contraceptive under development: end-user preferences revealed in web-based survey

News Medical Life science | 26 July 2023

In a recent study in *Frontiers in Global Women's Health*, researchers investigated prospective end-user preferences for an on-demand, non-hormonal female contraception that is presently under development. Contraceptive methods are essential for reproductive health; however, 30% of women in the United States who do not desire pregnancy were not using contraception at their last sexual encounter. On-demand contraception methods, such as condoms, cervical caps, and spermicides, lack the attributes women value, such as efficacy, affordability, accessibility, female controllability, and fewer side effects.

Drug-resistant Gonorrhoea on the Rise, WHO Warns

Health Policy Watch | 26 July 2023

The cases of drug-resistant gonorrhoea, a sexually transmitted disease, are on the rise in many parts of the world, the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned. The agency added that it considers *Neisseria gonorrhoea* a “priority microorganism” to be monitored for antimicrobial resistance. The new WHO guidance on sexually transmitted infections (STIs) requires countries to work towards improving access to better testing and diagnostic services.

OPINION | We can end AIDS if we follow the proven path of progress

News24 | 26 July 2023

The path to end AIDS exists. The latest UNAIDS Global AIDS Update Report shows that the path to ending AIDS is not just a concept or idea but a reality. It is a political and financial choice, and the countries and leaders who are already following the path are achieving extraordinary results. Encouragingly, Botswana, Eswatini, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe have all met the UNAIDS “95-95-95” targets. It refers to 95% of the people who are living with HIV who know their HIV status; 95% of the people who know that they are living with HIV are on lifesaving antiretroviral treatment and 95% of people who are on treatment being virally suppressed. South Africa's treatment cascade is currently at 94-77-92 for the total population serviced through the public and private sector, according to the National Department of Health.

HEALTH DEPT BEGINS CONTACT TRACING AFTER DETECTING 3RD IMPORTED CHOLERA CASE

EWN | 26 July 2023

The Department of Health has begun contact tracing efforts after a third positive imported cholera case was identified in Durban. The first two imported cases were from two individuals who had travelled to Malawi. The department said a 24-year-old man landed at the King Shaka International Airport just over a week ago, showing severe symptoms of cholera.

International trial shows that interferon could help reduce the spread of COVID-19

Medical Xpress | 26 July 2023

Results of an innovative clinical trial led by Perth researchers have shown that the drug interferon could help reduce the spread of COVID-19 from a positive person to their household contacts, with the study helping to inform treatment options for a future pandemic. The trial—CONCORD-19—tracked 1,172 participants in 341 households in Santiago, Chile where there was a positive COVID-19 case between December 2020 and June 2021.

MIGRANT WOMAN TOLD TO PAY R100 000 OR NOT SEEK HEALTHCARE FOR HER OR HER TODDLER

Health-e News | 26 July 2023

In 2020, Grace Kasongo*, originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo, gave birth at Steve Biko Academic Hospital. Following a stay of four days, she was billed R110 028, an amount she could not afford to pay. After informing the hospital that both she and her husband were unemployed, Kasongo was told to pay R300 to be discharged. “I was ordered to never seek any form of health services, either for me or my son at any public health facility anywhere in Gauteng until the outstanding amount has been settled”, Kasongo tells Health-e.

HIV Vaccines, bNAbs and an Update from NIH's Office of AIDS Research

Poz | 26 July 2023

On Tuesday at the International AIDS Society's 12th Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2023), HIV.gov continued our conversations about research highlights, including a focus on the latest about HIV vaccines. We also heard an update from the NIH Office of AIDS Research. NIH's Carl Dieffenbach, PhD, Director of the Division of AIDS at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), spoke with Louis

Shackelford, MPH, about HIV vaccine studies being discussed at IAS 2023 and potential roles for broadly neutralizing antibodies (or bNAbs). Louis is the Acting Director for External Relations at the NIH-supported HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN) and COVID-19 Prevention Network.

Diagnosis and treatment for high blood pressure need to be funded as part of HIV treatment programmes

Aidsmap | 26 July 2023

The development of high blood pressure (hypertension) after starting antiretroviral treatment in sub-Saharan Africa is common but can be managed with monitoring and low-cost generic drugs, Professor Francois Venter of the University of the Witwatersrand told the 12th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2023) in Brisbane, Australia, on Tuesday. "Mass HIV treatment programmes need to include support and funding for diagnosis and treatment for hypertension," Professor Venter told the conference. In two large studies, between a third and half of participants had high or borderline high blood pressure after four years on treatment.

Health Justice Initiative challenges State to disclose records concerning procurement of Covid-19 vaccines

IOL | 26 July 2023

The Health Justice Initiative yesterday asked the Gauteng High Court, Pretoria, for an order instructing the Minister of Health and the Department of Health to disclose records concerning the procurement of Covid-19 vaccines by the National Department of Health. The organisation in particular wants access to the vaccine procurement contracts concluded with vaccine manufacturers and suppliers, and the records of negotiations with those parties. Judge Anthony Millar was told that by June this year, more than 38 million Covid-19 vaccine doses had been administered in South Africa. Several million vaccine doses were received by directly buying from pharmaceutical companies, through the Covax facility, and by donations. However, the content of these agreements, including the complete details of the contracting parties is unknown and remains a secret, advocate Isabel Goodman said.

Social network intervention increases HIV-self testing among African fishermen by 50%

Aidsmap | 27 July 2023

An approach relying on the social connections between men is a promising approach to engaging hard-to-reach populations of men in testing, prevention, and treatment. The randomised control study, presented at the 12th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science (IAS 2023) in Brisbane, Australia, this week showed a 50% increase in HIV testing among fishermen in Kenya and a 53% increase in linkage to health facilities. In Africa, men have a higher likelihood of being unaware of their HIV status compared to women. This trend is particularly evident among highly-mobile men, such as fishermen, who tend to have low rates of HIV testing and linkage to treatment or pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

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

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.

THE OLIVER TAMBO FELLOWSHIP (OTFP) PROGRAMME: A POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN HEALTH LEADERSHIP

An Opportunity to Grow

- To HR components - This value-for-money health leadership programme directly relates to the manager's workplace within the health system. Acquired skills and competencies have been well-researched. Nominating people from the same team offers the possibility of greater impact, including across successive cohorts.
- To Line managers - Students develop capabilities to lead and to bring improvements in their workplaces. Nominate teams.
- To Health Care Workers and Health System Influencers - Invest in yourself to show up as a leader who lead with confidence.

Why the OTFP?

- Affiliated to the internationally renowned University of Cape Town.
- Proudly bears the name of an exceptional African Leader.
- Nearly 30 years' experience of growing health leaders.
- Offers a unique perspective on leadership, rooted in systems thinking & policy analysis, tailored to the complex challenges of our health system.

What Does the Programme Entail?

- Four sequenced and interrelated 6-day learning blocks, covering:
 - The complex nature of health systems and their challenges.
 - Leading everyday health system strengthening.
 - Engaging health system hard- and software resources for implementing improvement.

- Sustaining workplace-based interventions for system improvement.
- Mentorship during and after the course.
- Direct engagement with senior health leaders, other experts with national and international insights, as well as peer leaders.

What Will You Learn?

- Personal, relational, and technical competencies to lead across the system complexities.
- How to show up as a leader for your team and the wider system.

Who Should Attend?

- Mid- and senior level leaders (managers and clinicians) in the public health sector.
- Mid- and senior level leaders in NGOs and the private sector with public value goals.
- Teams of leaders from the same setting.

Fees and Registration

- The fees for 2024/25 intake is approximately R65 505, thus an average cost of R32 500 per year.
- Students arrange own travel and accommodation.
- Registration open until 9 December 2023.
- The course commences in February 2024.
- How to register? Apply online by clicking on [Application Link](#)

Contact

- Contact Fahiemata.titus@uct.ac.za or the Program Convener at Maylene.shungking@uct.ac.za or visit us at <https://health.uct.ac.za/school-public-health>

The University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) is committed to meeting the objectives of Employment Equity to improve representativity within the Institution. Preference will be given to applicants from the designated groups in accordance with Employment Equity.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES Doctoral Scholarship (3-year appointment) Centre for Rural Health SCHOOL OF NURSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH HOWARD COLLEGE

Mental Health Integration for Recovery (MhINT Recovery) is an ongoing study that aims to develop, adapt and test a systems intervention to support people living with severe mental illness (SMI) in community settings. More specifically, the study aims to generate an integrated psychosocial support programme following acute psychiatric hospitalization and community discharge. This investigation will be undertaken in Town Hill Hospital and the **uMgungundlovu District**, KwaZulu-Natal, and consists of formative qualitative research with a range of stakeholders, participatory development of an integrated programme, and a pilot trial of the feasibility of the programme. MhINT Recovery is led by a multidisciplinary team of researchers and policymakers, from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, University of Cape Town, University of Antwerp, Columbia University, and the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health.

Scholarship	Location	Duration of Full-Time Study
Doctoral Scholarship	Pietermaritzburg	3 years

Eligibility criteria:

- A master's degree obtained within the past five years from an accredited tertiary institution, in a health-related field, including (but not limited to) psychology, psychiatry, social work, occupational health, sociology, or anthropology, with a final mark of 70% or more.
- Demonstrated experience in research in South Africa.
- Moderate to advanced skills in qualitative research, and preferably basic skills in quantitative research.
- Fluency in isiZulu.

- A South African driver's license, and willingness to travel in the uMgungundlovu District, as well as between Pietermaritzburg and Durban.
- Preference will be given to South African nationals.

NB: Doctoral scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis, considering the applicant's academic achievements, experience, as well as the quality of the proposed programme and its potential for enhancing general research activity in the host School, College of Health Sciences and the University.

Desirable attributes:

- An interest in severe mental illness and community-based care.
- Experience in health systems or public mental health research and/or practice.
- Willingness and skill to undertake qualitative fieldwork with people living with SMI and their caregivers in community settings.
- Co-authorship of peer-reviewed journal papers.
- Capabilities in research project and/ or data management.

Comprehensive applications are invited, comprising of:

- A 1-page letter of motivation, including the earliest possible starting date;
- A full curriculum vitae, including a detailed description of research experience, a list of publications and all qualification certificates (certified);
- A brief 1-page concept note for a doctoral study in the development of psychosocial support for people living with SMI and their caregivers;
- Copies of South African ID and driver's license.

Required Outputs:

The successful applicant will be expected to:

- be involved in the planning, data collection, analysis and dissemination processes of the project;
- conduct a doctoral research study under the supervision of Dr A J van Rensburg, Prof I Petersen and Prof A Bhana;
- participate in all related planning workshops and activities of the Centre for Rural Health.

NB: Applicants are required to submit a CV and letter outlining their suitability which must be emailed to Dr André J van Rensburg at jansevanrensburga@ukzn.ac.za with the subject line "Doctoral Scholarship" and advert reference number in the subject line.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 11 August 2023. The University reserves the right not to make any appointment.

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

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.

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

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

The Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) hosts an annual conference, with the aim of engaging public health practitioners from around the country, region and world to share their experiences and research, discuss topical public health issues, and mentor public health students and young researchers.

This year it will be from 10 – 13 September in Qheberha, Eastern Cape. The theme is, **Transforming Research Translation, Reimagining Public Health Evidence, Policies and Practice**.

The 2023 Public Health Association of South Africa's conference will provide an opportune setting for engaging with the most recent public health research and evidence, for rethinking current models of research translation, for identifying barriers and opportunities for change, and for exploring new strategies for knowledge exchange and dissemination.

Join fellow public health experts, academics, researchers, students, non-governmental organisations, and civil society members at this year's annual PHASA Conference; as we transform the ways we think about and approach priority areas of public health research, policy, and practice, to ultimately improve health outcomes for all.

World Congress of Epidemiology – WCE 2024 – 24 to 27 September 2024

WCE is well-known for bringing epidemiologists and public health experts working in different sectors together in an atmosphere designed to promote dialogue, the interchange of ideas, and state-of-the-art scientific research. The theme of WCE2024 is “**Epidemiology and complexity: challenges and responses**” which will engage the full depth and breadth of methods and practice in contemporary epidemiology. The meeting will feature top-calibre invited speakers presenting plenary lectures, workshops and interactive sessions. The abstract-driven programme will include oral and poster presentations including theory and application from every sub-discipline of epidemiology. With more than 1000 delegates expected, WCE2024 promises to be a unique opportunity to share experiences and expertise – the opportunities to learn, grow and network within the field will be phenomenal.

This is the first time the congress will be hosted on the African continent and the Cape Town International Convention Centre provides a world-class venue for this meeting.

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

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Clinical Research Assistant: Females Rising Through Education Support and Health (FRESH)

Closing date: 3 August 2023, @ 16:30

[https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Clinical-Research-Assistant-\(FRESH\).aspx](https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Clinical-Research-Assistant-(FRESH).aspx)

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



Copyright © 2019 HEALTH SYSTEMS TRUST, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

hst@hst.org.za

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)