

HST Bulletin 28 March 2024[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

Generative artificial intelligence and medical disinformation

*BMJ | 20 March 2024**Kacper T Gradon*

Urgent measures must be taken to protect the public and hold developers to account

The notion of generative artificial intelligence (AI) has recently dominated public discourse. Generative AI uses machine learning to create new data (typically text, image, audio, and video). Its models are trained on vast datasets, and unsupervised learning allows these models to identify patterns and associations within the data, enabling output generation when prompted with natural language descriptions of a user's desired outcome. The implications of generative AI (both positive and negative) occupy a prominent place in academic debate and have become a key topic of cross disciplinary reflection, linking areas seemingly distant from information technologies such as medicine, security sciences, fine arts, psychology, engineering, cybersecurity, ethics, linguistics, and philosophy. It is difficult to find a specialty that ignores the potential impact of generative AI on the functioning of individuals and social groups, or humanity in general.

A Global Tuberculosis Dictionary: unified terms and definitions for the field of tuberculosis

*The Lancet Global Health | 22 March 2024**Alberto L Garcia-Basteiro, Joanna Ehrlich, Maryline Bonnet, Marianne Calnan, Stephen M Graham Sabine Hermans, et al.*

Tuberculosis is one of the oldest foes of humankind, with a reach spanning every nation. Tuberculosis has claimed the most lives of any infectious disease in history.¹ In 2022 alone, there were around 10.6 million disease episodes, and 1.3 million tuberculosis-attributable deaths.² Tuberculosis research holds a prominent position in the scientific landscape, and has one of the most extensive bodies of publications.

Scientific outputs in the field of tuberculosis have shown exponential growth since the 1990s, propelled by renewed investments and unprecedented advances in research, including the development of molecular diagnostics, improved treatment regimens, and a quest for new vaccine candidates.

Promoting gender equity in the scientific and health workforce is essential to improve women's health

Nature Medicine | 22 March 2024

Cristiani Vieira Machado, Cristina Araripe Ferreira and Maria Auxiliadora de Souza Mendes Gomes

Gender equality in health may be defined as diverse groups of women and men having equal preconditions for achieving their full health potential because there are no avoidable, unfair or unjust impediments based on gender norms and power relations. Despite many efforts, global gender inequalities are persistent and can be harmful to women's health in many ways. Although women, on average, live longer than men, they spend 25% more of their lives in precarious health. A recent report highlighted that the health gender gap is not only due to health conditions that affect women uniquely, such as gynecological problems and maternal complications, but also expressed in conditions that affect them differently (such as colon cancer) or disproportionately (such as depression and headaches).

HIV and hepatitis B, C co-infection and correlates of HIV infection among men who have sex with men in Rwanda, 2021: a respondent-driven sampling, cross-sectional study

BMC Infectious Diseases | 23 March 2024

Eric Remera, Elysee Tuyishime, Catherine Kayitesi, Samuel S. Malamba, Beata Sangwayire, et al.

Men who have sex with men (MSM) are a key population group disproportionately affected by HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) worldwide. In Rwanda, the HIV epidemic remains a significant public health concern, and understanding the burden of HIV and hepatitis B and C coinfections among MSM is crucial for designing effective prevention and control strategies. This study aims to determine the prevalence of HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C infections among MSM in Rwanda and identify correlates associated with HIV infection within this population.

Do we Still Need Eligibility Criteria to Recommend PrEP? Impact of National Prescribing Requirements on Retention in Care and Sexually Transmitted Infections Acquisition

Aids and Behavior | 25 March 2024

Roberto Rossotti, Alessandro Tavelli, Daniele Calzavara, Anna De Bona, Camilla Muccini, et al.

Italian guidelines recommend HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) only upon satisfying strict eligibility criteria. The objective of this study is to evaluate if PrEP candidates attending a community-based service comply with these criteria and whether these prescribing conditions affect retention in care and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) acquisition. A retrospective analysis was performed on PrEP candidates evaluated from January 2019 to June 2022.

Targeted HIV Self-Testing Identifies Persons with Undiagnosed HIV and Active Engagement Links them to Care: The GetaKit Study

Aids and Behavior | 25 March 2024

Patrick O'Byrne, Abigail Kroch, Lauren Orser, Nikki Ho, Alexandra Musten, et al.

Current international HIV testing guidelines recommend that HIV negative persons from HIV priority groups complete repeat screening every 3–6 months; local guidelines in our jurisdiction recommend that such retesting should occur every 3 months. Such an approach allows for timely HIV diagnosis and linkage to care – and aligns with the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets to have 95% of undiagnosed persons be aware of their HIV status.

Neighborhood-level factors associated with COVID-19 vaccination rates: a case

study in Chicago

BMC Public Health | 25 March 2024

Grace Keegan, Mengqi Zhu, Maria Paz, Hyojung Kang, Ajanta Patel, et al.

Chicago's deeply-rooted racial and socioeconomic residential segregation is a pattern mirrored in other major cities, making it a prototype for studying the uptake of public health interventions across the US. Residential segregation is related to availability of primary care, sense of community, and trust in the healthcare system, components which are essential in the response to crises like Covid-19 in which vaccine rollout was primarily community-based. We aimed to evaluate the association between rates of access to primary care and community-belonging with Covid-19 vaccination within Chicago's neighborhoods.

Evolution of COVID-19 infection in Punjab; trends during five waves of infection in the province of Punjab

BMC Infectious Diseases | 25 March 2024

Hasnain Javed, Aasia Khaliq, Shaper Mirza, Rimsha Khan & Warda Fatima, et al.

Pakistan witnessed five waves of COVID-19 infections during the pandemic. Punjab, the largest province of Pakistan, remained the epicentre due to a high infection rate. Administrative data for five waves of the pandemic was analyzed to determine the rate of infections and the significance of pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions on the severity and duration of infection.

HIV-related Shame among Women Giving Birth in Tanzania: A Mixed Methods Study

Aids and Behavior | 25 March 2024

Olivia R. Hanson, Anya J. Weglarz, Mariam L. Barabara, Susanna R. Cohen, Linda M. Minja, et al.

Women living with HIV (WLHIV) commonly experience HIV-related shame which can interfere with HIV care-seeking behavior and lead to poor clinical outcomes. HIV-related shame may be particularly heightened during the pregnancy and postpartum periods. This study aimed to describe HIV-related shame among WLHIV giving birth, identify associated factors, and qualitatively examine the impacts of HIV-related shame on the childbirth experience. Postpartum WLHIV (n = 103) were enrolled in the study between March and July 2022 at six clinics in the Kilimanjaro Region, Tanzania. Participants completed a survey within 48 h after birth, prior to being discharged.

Factors associated with antenatal depression among women attending antenatal care at Mubende Regional Referral Hospital: a cross-sectional study

BMC Women's Health | 25 March 2024

Musa Kasujja, Samuel Omara, Nasifu Senkungu, Shamim Ndibuza, Joseph Kirabira, et al.

This study aimed to investigate the prevalence, severity, and factors associated with antenatal depression among women receiving antenatal care at Mubende Regional Referral Hospital (MRRH) in Uganda. Antenatal depression is a critical concern for maternal and child well-being, as it is associated with adverse outcomes such as preterm birth, abortion, low birth weight, and impaired maternal-infant bonding. Despite several international guidelines recommending routine screening for antenatal depression, local Ugandan guidelines often overlook this essential aspect of maternal care.

Utilization of sexual and reproductive health services among construction worker women in southern Ethiopia

BMC Women's Health | 19 March 2024

Tadele Dana Darebo, Zewudu Birhanu, Mihretu Alemayehu, Behailu Balcha, Adisu Worku, et al

In Ethiopia, the utilization of sexual and reproductive health services (SRH) is alarmingly inadequate, leading to higher rates of maternal and newborn mortality. Disparities in accessing sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services exist among different population groups, with construction worker women at a higher risk of experiencing such issues. We investigated the utilization of sexual and reproductive health services and associated factors among construction worker women in Southern Ethiopia.

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

RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Should event-driven PrEP be an option for women?

Aidsmap | 19 March 2024

HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) could in theory stop the majority of HIV transmissions that still happen, and in some places, including England, is doing so. Yet worldwide, it is still only being used only by a minority of those who could benefit from it. A symposium during the recent Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2024) saw presentations advocating changes in practice on what might be called opposite ends of the menu of PrEP options now on offer. Dr Rupa Patel of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) asked why the rollout of long-acting injectable PrEP had been so slow.

First-hand: The mentor mother keeping babies HIV negative

Be in The Know | 20 March 2024

I tell them I have HIV but my husband doesn't

Often mothers only learn about their HIV status when they are pregnant and come to me for a check-up. As a mentor mother, I advise them that it will be possible to protect their baby from HIV, but it will be important to disclose their status to their spouse. There is still so much stigma around HIV and many women are very afraid to even discuss it with their spouse. So to get over this issue we encourage women to bring their spouse to the clinic for their next check-up and explain that we won't reveal their status, but we will talk them through the plan to test them for HIV as a couple.

Top 5 stories on co-morbidities affecting people with HIV from CROI 2024.

Aidsmap | 20 March 2024

Co-morbidities – other health issues affecting people with HIV – continue to be an important focus of research in the HIV field. Here are some of the top stories on co-morbidities research presented at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2024). Three studies presented at the conference showed that innovative service models can successfully deliver treatment for high blood pressure to people with HIV through HIV clinics or community health workers, and reduce blood pressure. A study in the US compared nurse-led care including home blood pressure monitoring with standard care and found blood pressure and non-HDL cholesterol were lower in the nurse-led care group after a year. A study in Kenya and Uganda compared management through home visits by community health workers and telehealth consultation with clinicians, with management in a clinic.

Long-acting injectables can be a good option for people with adherence challenges

Aidsmap | 20 March 2024

Antiretroviral therapy (ART) using cabotegravir and rilpivirine injections monthly or every other month can be an effective HIV treatment option for people who have difficulty maintaining viral suppression on daily pills due to suboptimal adherence, according to studies presented at the Conference on Retroviruses and

Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2024). The LATITUDE trial gave people intensive support to achieve viral suppression on a daily oral regimen before switching to cabotegravir and rilpivirine injections, in accordance with the current label indication. Another study started the injections directly for people who had difficulty taking pills consistently. In addition, a case series suggests that injectable cabotegravir plus lenacapavir (Sunlenca) may also be a feasible option.

WHO elaborates on resistance to ARV medicine

Juta Medical Brief | 20 March 2024

Although the WHO recently reported that drug resistance to the gold-standard antiretroviral medicine, dolutegravir, “exceeded levels observed in clinical trials”, it has since elaborated, saying this was mainly linked to patients not adhering to treatment properly – rather than growing resistance to the medicine.

Study finds adding ribociclib to hormone therapy reduces the risk of breast cancer recurrence

Medical Xpress | 21 March 2024

A new treatment approach that combines a targeted therapy drug with hormone therapy significantly increased the amount of time a person with stage 2 or 3 HR-positive, HER2-negative early breast cancer lives without the cancer returning, according to a new study co-led by UCLA Health Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center investigators. The team found adding ribociclib, a drug that belongs to a class of CDK4/6 inhibitors, to standard hormone therapy not only improved invasive-free survival in women with this type of early-stage breast cancer, but also improves distant disease-free survival and recurrence-free survival.

Top 5 HIV PrEP stories from CROI 2024

Aidsmap | 21 March 2024

One of the most important HIV conferences of the year, the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2024), took place earlier this month. Here are some highlights from research on PrEP (regular medication to prevent HIV) presented at CROI. A 79% reduction in HIV incidence was seen between two directly comparable groups in a whole-population analysis of people using PrEP in Australia. While we know that PrEP is highly effective at preventing HIV at an individual level, its effectiveness as an intervention is harder to measure at a population level. Researchers used dispensing data to estimate the number of new HIV diagnoses among people who regularly took PrEP between 2018 and 2023, compared to those who only had one PrEP prescription filled during the same period. Compared to people who only received PrEP once, incidence was 79% lower in the group that was more adherent (with PrEP coverage over 60% of the time).

UN Women welcomes the adoption of robust blueprint to end women's poverty

UN Women | 22 March 2024

The 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) delivered today robust commitments by UN Member States to strengthen financing and institutions to eradicate women's and girls' poverty. Globally, 10.3 per cent of women live in extreme poverty today, according to the report presented by the UN Secretary-General to the Commission, and progress towards ending poverty needs to be 26 times faster to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Top 5 stories on HIV and women from CROI 2024

Aidsmap | 22 March 2024

The Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2024) was held in Denver, US, in March. Here is a roundup of some of the HIV treatment and prevention research focused on women that was presented at the conference. New insights from a large study raised the profile of the risk of cardiovascular disease for women. Results from the REPRIEVE study have been influential, as they

showed that the use of a statin reduced the risk of heart attacks, strokes and other cardiovascular events when given to people with HIV who are at low to moderate risk for cardiovascular disease. Risk was lowered by around 35%.

Remembering Actress and AIDS Activist Elizabeth Taylor

Poz | 23 March 2024

In the mid-2000s, legendary actress and AIDS activist Elizabeth Taylor began hanging out at the elegant West Hollywood gay bar The Abbey, often with her dog, Daisy, in her lap. Staffers and fans wheeled Taylor about in her wheelchair, eager to dote over the woman who almost single-handedly galvanized Hollywood's response to HIV and AIDS in the mid-1980s. At the time, many stars would have nothing to do with the disease. But Taylor was not just any star. In 1985, she hosted the first celebrity AIDS benefit, the Commitment to Life dinner, which raised \$1.3 million for AIDS Project Los Angeles.

Menopause support must tread a fine line between awareness and stigma

The Financial Times | 24 March 2024

Should the menopause be classed as a disability or natural life stage? The argument arose last month when Britain's Equality and Human Rights Commission warned employers to make "reasonable adjustments" for menopausal employees experiencing serious symptoms or risk being sued for disability discrimination. The Lancet medical journal fanned the flames by suggesting "it is time for a sensible conversation about menopause" — words that could be viewed as tantamount to telling women to calm down.

Englishman in New Jersey

Poz | 25 March 2024

When Peter Oates graduated from nursing school in 1975 in his native England, the AIDS crisis was on the distant horizon. Oates's first years as a nurse were largely spent caring for older adults, first in the Netherlands and then in England. His patients included Lord John Spencer, Princess Diana's father. "I started doing private-duty nursing until I could find a job that I really liked," Oates says. "It was during that period that I got a call from the agency to say, 'Go take care of this guy.' I didn't know who he was." Lord Spencer had had a stroke, and Oates remained with him full time until his recovery.

Medical science has made great strides in fighting TB, but reducing poverty is the best way to end this disease

The Conversation | 25 March 2024

Tuberculosis is a disease of poverty. It thrives in poor living conditions and overcrowding. It's a respiratory disease and spreads through the air when people cough, sneeze or spit. Victims need only to inhale a few germs to become infected. In 1882, when the eminent German scientist Robert Koch discovered Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the microbe that causes tuberculosis, the disease sent shock waves throughout the world as it killed rich and poor alike.

Active Tuberculosis (TB) case-finding in Lesotho: Health facilities stepping up to the challenge

Zawya | 25 March 2024

When mother-of-three Mamfe Motloheloa tested positive for tuberculosis (TB), the diagnosis not only saved her life, but also those of her children. "My condition was critical. I was rushed from the clinic to the hospital, where my treatment journey started," recalls Motloheloa. After she was discharged from hospital following a week of treatment to stabilize her condition, an active case-finding team was dispatched to her home.

UNAIDS welcomes governments' commitment to end AIDS, tackle gender-based

violence, discrimination and inequalities

UN AIDS | 25 March 2024

On 22 March, governments attending the 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) adopted, by consensus, a resolution focused on advancing the rights and empowerment of women and girls as part of efforts to end AIDS. The updated resolution 60/2, Women, the Girl Child and HIV and AIDS, underscores the urgent need to prioritize the health and rights of adolescent girls and young women in the context of the ongoing global AIDS pandemic. It recognizes that adolescent girls and young women are still disproportionately affected by HIV due to various socio-economic factors, including gender inequalities, poverty, and lack of access to education and healthcare.

Blood Test Could Detect Tuberculosis in Silent Spreaders

Technology Networks Diagnostics | 25 March 2024

Scientists have taken a major step towards developing a blood test that could identify millions of people who spread tuberculosis unknowingly. A breakthrough study has discovered a group of biological markers that are found in high levels among infectious patients. The researchers hope the findings will pave the way for a simple test that can diagnose and stop the spread of the estimated 10 million cases annually.

Why is TB called the 'disease of paper' in Eastern Cape villages?

Bhekisisa | 25 March 2024

World TB Day is on 24 March (it was commemorated this past Sunday), the date in 1882 when Robert Koch described as tubercles the small round lumps he saw under the microscope when looking at culture samples of the germ that causes the disease. In isiXhosa, TB is called isifo sephapha, which translates to “disease of paper”. Trying to understand where the term comes from, taught this TB researcher about the importance of listening to what people say about their illness — and what it means for helping them.

Stigma, lack of awareness holding back use of HIV prevention pills, experts say

Spotlight | 25 March 2024

HIV prevention pills, also referred to as oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), contain a combination of two antiretroviral medicines. They are highly effective at preventing HIV infection when taken as prescribed by someone not living with HIV. But while the pills are now available through most public sector clinics in the country, not as many people are using them as one might have expected.

Compassionate and comprehensive: How SA is approaching TB

Spotlight | 26 March 2024

South Africa has made significant progress in the fight against tuberculosis (TB), especially among HIV co-infected TB patients. There has been a 65% decline in TB incidence in South Africa between 2007 and 2021. During the same period, the country recorded an 80% decline in TB mortality among people living with HIV.

Alarming rise in early onset cancer among millennials

IOL | 26 March 2024

In a startling shift that's catching the attention of medical professionals worldwide, cancer is no longer a condition predominantly affecting those over fifty. Millennials, brace yourselves, the big C is increasingly knocking on the doors of the young, with 20-somethings now facing a faster rise in cancer rates than any other age group.

Action needed to stem multi-year upsurge in cholera cases worldwide

Devdiscourse | 26 March 2024

Immediate action is needed to stem an unprecedented multi-year upsurge in cholera cases worldwide, according to the International Coordinating Group (ICG) on Vaccine Provision. Actions include investing in access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene, testing and detecting outbreaks quickly, improving quality of

and access to healthcare, and fast-tracking additional production of affordable oral cholera vaccine (OCV) doses to better prevent cases.

Zulu culture and sexual orientation: South African study reveals the health costs of stigma

The Conversation | 26 March 2024

Same-sex relationships are legal in South Africa and protected by the constitution. Unfair discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is against the law. But in practice many cultures don't necessarily see this as a right. Traditional Zulu culture, for example, perceives same-sex relationships and sexual intercourse as taboo and unAfrican. Statements like "real men are not gay" indicate some people's ideas about masculinity and sexuality.

Almost two-thirds of new HIV cases occur outside southern and eastern Africa

Aidsmap | 26 March 2024

Almost two-thirds of new cases of HIV now occur outside countries with high HIV prevalence in southern and eastern Africa, according to an analysis of UNAIDS country-level data presented earlier this month at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2024) in Denver. Just over half (19.4 million, 53%) of the global population of people living with HIV resided in southern or eastern Africa in 2022, in 15 countries where national HIV prevalence is above 3.5%. But 62% of new HIV infections that year (770,000) were estimated to have occurred in countries with lower HIV prevalence (below 3.5%) in Africa, Asia, Latin America and eastern Europe and central Asia.

Top 5 stories on HIV in the US from CROI 2024

Aidsmap | 26 March 2024

The Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2024), took place earlier this month with research from around the world. Here is a roundup of research focused on the US. Researchers from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) presented data showing that the lifetime risk of acquiring HIV for Black gay and bisexual men in the US has decreased, from 1 in 2 in the period 2010 to 2014 to 1 in 3 from 2017 to 2021. There are still significant disparities between White and Black men, despite decreases in the numbers of new diagnoses for both groups.

Blinded by negligence: hospital responsible for child losing her vision

IOL | 26 March 2024

Gauteng health authorities are facing a multi-million rand damages claim after a little girl is now blind after she did not receive the proper care at a state hospital after birth. The child will turn nine later this year and her mother turned to the Gauteng High Court, Pretoria, as she felt that her child's condition is due to the alleged negligence of medical staff at the Thelle Mogoerane Hospital in Vosloorus.

Looking through the lens of missed vaccination opportunities

University of Cape Town News | 26 March 2024

Medical doctor and PhD graduand at the University of Cape Town (UCT) Dr Chukwudi Nnaji aimed to answer three critical questions in his thesis titled, "Assessing and addressing missed opportunities for vaccination in Cape Town through a collaborative quality improvement approach". "A missed opportunity for vaccination refers to any contact with clinics, hospitals or any other health service delivery point by an individual (child or person of any age) who is unvaccinated or partially vaccinated (and is free of contraindications to vaccination), which does not result in that person receiving the vaccine(s) for which they are eligible," he explained.

Next phase of TB vaccine clinical trial sparks hope of game-changing results – top

SA scientist

Daily Maverick | 26 March 2024

The next phase of a clinical trial to assess the efficacy of the first tuberculosis (TB) vaccine for adults started in South Africa this month and the head of global health at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Dr Trevor Mundel, said he was hopeful that the vaccine would be a game-changer. Mundel was born and raised in South Africa, and obtained his medical and other degrees at Wits University. He studied mathematics, logic and philosophy as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, and earned a PhD in mathematics at the University of Chicago.

Almost two-thirds of new HIV cases occur outside southern and eastern Africa

Aidsmap | 26 March 2024

Almost two-thirds of new cases of HIV now occur outside countries with high HIV prevalence in southern and eastern Africa, according to an analysis of UNAIDS country-level data presented earlier this month at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2024) in Denver. Just over half (19.4 million, 53%) of the global population of people living with HIV resided in southern or eastern Africa in 2022, in 15 countries where national HIV prevalence is above 3.5%.

Integrating Cervical Cancer Services into HIV Treatment and Care Activities in Zambia

JSI | 26 March 2024

While contributing to HIV epidemic control in Zambia, the USAID DISCOVER-Health Project identified a need for cervical cancer services in communities. The project works closely with the Ministry of Health's outreach clinics and sites to provide not only HIV treatment and care but also integrated reproductive, family planning, maternal, and child health services and products.

Intimate Violence and Women's Health

Psychology Today | 26 March 2024

Earlier this month, President Biden issued an Executive Order that focused on advancing women's health and closing health disparities. Just in time for Women's History Month, the Order brought attention to the not-so-distant history of excluding women from health research and the consequences of such policies for health disparities. Going forward, working to improve women's health will have to include strategies to prevent and respond effectively to violence against women. Here's why.

Overcoming stigma around gynaecological health is key to gender health equity

Open Access Government | 26 March 2024

Women face unique health challenges throughout their life course, from menstruation to menopause and beyond; women are managing complex and 'messy' bodies: blood, discharge, breastmilk, sweat, urine – the list goes on, which doesn't begin to cover the profound psychological changes that can occur with hormone fluctuations. On paper, it's ludicrous to think this would come with any shame. Yet, reproductive and gynaecological health is deeply stigmatised and shrouded in silence.

ANALYSIS | Does SA's biggest killer show up in your party's manifesto?

News24 | 26 March 2024

Public health is political. We learnt that during the early days of the HIV epidemic when civil society stood up to Aids denialism. As a result, South Africa today has the world's biggest antiretroviral therapy programme, with just over 6 million of the country's estimated 7.8 million people with HIV on treatment. New infections in children dropped by 84% in six years since 2009 and people with HIV now live almost as long as people without, provided they get on treatment early enough.

What's 95% safer than tobacco? Not vapes, say experts

Bhekisisa | 27 March 2024

Last week, the Australian government tabled a Bill in Parliament to ban e-cigarettes from being sold in public shops, and allow you to get a vape only on prescription from a health worker to help you quit tobacco. And in a sudden about-turn from its 2015 stance, the United Kingdom (UK) has now made it illegal for shops to sell e-cigarettes that come prefilled with a vaping liquid and can be used only once, mostly because they want to stop children from picking up the habit.

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

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.

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

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

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>

Improving Maternal Nutrition Acceleration Plan

Unicef | March 2024

Inequitable access to nutritious diets, nutrition services and positive nutrition and care practices has compounded global gender inequality, undermining women's and girls' ability to live healthy and productive lives. It also has devastating impacts on the survival and future health of their children. Good nutrition is fundamental for the health and wellbeing of women and girls. Well-nourished women have better health, safer pregnancies, and are more likely to access equal opportunities and participate fully in society.

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

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Webinar: What is the District Health System and how has it evolved in SA?

Hosted by PHASA and the South African Learning Alliance for District Health Systems (SALAD)

What is the DHS and how has it evolved in SA?

Established in 1995, the District Health System (DHS) is the cornerstone of the public health system in South Africa. It serves as a functional unit of the larger health system and the vehicle for primary health care. Recent health policy reforms in the form of the National Health Insurance (NHI) and the development of the new District Health Strategy 2024-2029 has turned attention to the DHS as a core governance structure of the health system. This webinar offers a historical account of the DHS in South Africa, highlighting key milestones since its formation, challenges and opportunities and concludes with a discussion on the DHS' importance in light of the country's ongoing health reforms. Oral inputs will be provided by district and provincial health managers and health academics. The webinar is open to all; however, it will be most beneficial to health district and sub-district managers, provincial and national health directors, academics and researchers in the field, emerging public health practitioners, health professionals and members of NGOs or civil society.

When: 10 April 2024 16:00-17:30

Register:

<https://uwc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEoceGtqD4sGNHCPeYRcHTogqx0FmqUQTr1#/registration>

8th SA TB Conference 2024

In keeping with the conference theme, the 8th SA TB conference will focus on innovations that will move South Africa further towards ending TB. Look out for exciting plenary presentations, Round Table discussions and Skills Building Workshops. Be part of the conference and submit your abstract early! Your abstract submission ahead of schedule will make a significant impact.

When: 4-7 June 2024

Where: Durban ICC

For more information: <https://tbconference.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 Congress

When: 24-27 September 2024

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

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

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

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

SUB-DISTRICT CO-ORDINATORS

Closing date: 10 April 2024

<https://careers.hst.org.za/careers/3262/view>

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR – Durban

Closing date: 10 April 2024

<https://careers.hst.org.za/careers/3259/view>

BUSSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Closing date: 10 April 2024

<https://careers.hst.org.za/careers/3260/view>

SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER: SA SURE PRO Project – eThekweni District

Closing date: 10 April 2024

<https://careers.hst.org.za/careers/3261/view>

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



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](#)