

HST Bulletin\_ 30 August 2024

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## CATEGORIES

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## ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

### **“Killing two birds with one stone” – a qualitative study on women’s perspectives on the dual prevention pill in Johannesburg, South Africa**

*BMC Women’s Health* | 22 August 2024

*Siyanda Tenza, Lydia Mampuru, Mpho Moji, Sihle Zulu, Lorna Begg, et al.*

HIV incidence remains high in South Africa, with ~ 60% of all new HIV infections among adolescent girls and women (Country factsheets HIV and AIDS Estimates, 2022). Oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), approved for HIV prevention in South Africa since 2015, is hampered by low uptake and adherence, particularly among adolescent girls and young women (AGYW). Combining oral PrEP with oral contraceptives could increase PrEP uptake, persistence and address unmet needs for contraception. We investigated the acceptability of a dual prevention pill (DPP), combining oral PrEP and a combined oral contraceptive (COC) for HIV and pregnancy prevention among women in Johannesburg, South Africa.

### **The health of migrants at the intersection of mpox and HIV**

*The Lancet* | 23 August 2024

*Archibong Edem Bassey*

In August, 2024, WHO and the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention declared mpox a public health emergency of international concern in a bid to coordinate urgent responses and fast-track resource mobilisation across affected countries. Mpox presents a global public health crisis, with over 99 000 cases and over 200 deaths to date since January, 2022. It is recognised that mpox poses a credible threat, especially as it intersects with HIV, with both diseases disproportionately affecting vulnerable groups such as men who have sex with men and sex workers. However, it can be contended that migrant populations, such as those fleeing conflict, refugees, asylum seekers, people who are internally displaced, and undocumented migrants face critical, yet unique risks, and might be overlooked in the global response.

### **Changes in bodyweight after initiating antiretroviral therapy close to HIV-1 seroconversion: an international cohort collaboration**

*The Lancet HIV* | 23 August 2024

Understanding the reasons for and consequences of bodyweight change in people living with HIV initiating antiretroviral therapy (ART) is crucial to optimising long-term health and wellbeing. We aimed to examine bodyweight trends and associated factors among individuals with well estimated dates of HIV-1 seroconversion.

### **Impact of mass media campaigns on knowledge of malaria prevention measures among pregnant mothers in Uganda: a propensity score-matched analysis**

*Malaria Journal* | 24 August 2024

*Edson Mwebesa, Susan Awor, Charles Natuhanya, Ratib Dricile, Ismail D. Legason, et al.*

Uganda grapples with a considerable malaria burden, reporting prevalence rates of over 33% in some regions. To address this, the Uganda Ministry of Health employs audiovisual platforms for disseminating malaria prevention messages. However, the impact of these messages on pregnant women's knowledge of malaria prevention remains insufficiently explored. This paper therefore emphasizes the influence of audiovisual messages on the knowledge of malaria prevention measures among pregnant women in Uganda.

### **Prevalence and genotype distribution of potential high-risk and high-risk human papillomavirus among women attending selected reproductive health clinics in Lake Victoria basin-Kenya: a cross-sectional study**

*BMC Women's Health* | 24 August 2024

*Ivy Akinyi, Shehu Shagari Awandu, Davy Vanden Broeck, Ana Rita Pereira, Nina Redzic & Johannes Bogers*

Persistent human papillomavirus (HPV) infection is considered the primary etiological factor for invasive cervical cancer. Understanding the epidemiology of circulating potential high-risk (HR) and HR HPV strains is essential in updating epidemiological knowledge and recommendations on genotype-specific vaccination development. This study determined the prevalence and factors associated with Potential HR/HR HPV among women attending selected reproductive health clinics in Lake Victoria Basin.

### **HPV infection and vaccination: a cross-sectional study of knowledge, perception, and attitude to vaccine uptake among university students in Qatar**

*BMC Public Health* | 26 August 2024

*Sohaila Cheema, Amit Abraham, Patrick Maisonneuve, Anupama Jithesh, Karima Chaabna, Reem al Janahi, Shaunak Sarker, Athba Hussain, Shrinidhi Rao, Albert B. Lowenfels & Ravinder Mamtani*

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) infection is a significant public health concern in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, being widely prevalent and the main risk factor for cervical cancer. We aimed to assess knowledge and perception towards HPV, acceptability of the HPV vaccine, and HPV vaccination rates among university students in Education City, Doha, Qatar.

### **Long-Term Prognosis of Patients With Myocarditis Attributed to COVID-19 mRNA Vaccination, SARS-CoV-2 Infection, or Conventional Etiologies**

*JAMA Network* | 26 August 2024

What is the long-term prognosis of myocarditis after COVID-19 mRNA vaccination and do clinical outcomes and medical management differ from myocarditis of other origins? In this nationwide cohort study including 4635 patients hospitalized for myocarditis in France during the first 1.5 years after COVID-19 vaccination, the 558 individuals with postvaccine myocarditis had less severe cardiovascular events than those with myocarditis of other origins at 18 months of follow-up. However, affected patients, mainly healthy young men, may require medical management up to several months after hospital discharge. These elements should be taken into account for ongoing and future mRNA vaccine recommendations.

### **On characterizing gender and locational composition of adult PLHIV in Nigeria: Implications for HIV programming**

*Plos Global Public Health* | 26 August 2024

*Temitayo V. Lawal, Oyewole K. Oyedele and Nifarta P. Andrew*

Globally, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) remains a public health menace which has infected 85.6 million [64.8 million–113.0 million] people since the start of the epidemic in 1981. Nearly two thirds of the world's new HIV infections originate in the African Region, with 25.7 million individuals living with HIV in

sub-Saharan Africa; though it reduces by 33% yet the most afflicted continent, resulting in 1.1 million persons infected in 2018. Nigeria is the fourth most affected country with HIV prevalence of 1.4% in individuals 15–49 years—an approximate of 1.9 million people living with HIV (PLHIV) in 2019.

### **Development of a clinical prediction score for Ebola virus disease screening at triage centers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

*Plos Global Public Health | 26 August 2024*

*Jepsy Yango, Antoine Oloma Tshomba, Papy Kwete, Joule Madinga, Sabue Mulangu, et al.*

Ebola virus disease (EVD) is a severe illness with an average case fatality rate of approximately 50%, ranging from 25% to 90% depending on the Ebola species, circumstances, and responses. Symptoms appear after an incubation period of 2 to 21 days. EVD manifests as a severe systemic illness characterized by fever, fatigue, myalgia, headache, pharyngitis, vomiting, diarrhea, and rash, among others [1]. Ebola virus disease (EVD) is caused by the Ebola virus (EBOV), which is now classified under the species *Orthoebolavirus zairense*, a member of the *Filoviridae* family in the genus *Orthoebolavirus*. Different species within this genus exist, but the most virulent and commonly associated with human outbreaks are *Orthoebolavirus zairense*, *Orthoebolavirus sudan* and *Bundibugyo*.

### **Assessing the experiences of teenage mothers in accessing healthcare in Rwanda**

*BMC Public Health | 26 August 2024*

*Delphine Mizero, Marie Immaculee Dusingize, Axel Shimwa, Alima Uwimana, Tsion Yohannes Waka et al.*

Teen mothers are more susceptible to the negative consequences of pregnancy, due to system-wide and socio-cultural barriers to accessing needed services, posing higher pregnancy complications and health risks to the babies and mothers. Understanding their lived experience can inform context-specific health programs and interventions that address their needs and improve the health outcomes. Twenty-three women who had delivered her first child before the age of 18 years were interviewed using semi-structured interview guide.

### **Time for health change: promoting community-based diabetes screening and prevention with video vignettes and social marketing**

*BMC Public Health | 27 August 2024*

*Feras Jirjees, Sanah Hasan, Ines Krass, Ward Saidawi, Mohammed Khalid Al-Juboori et al.*

Meaningful communication between health service users and providers is essential. However, when stakeholders are unfamiliar with new health services, innovative communication methods are necessary to engage them. The aim of the study was to create, validate, and evaluate a video-vignette to enhance stakeholders' (physicians, pharmacists, and laypeople) engagement and understanding of an innovative pharmacy-based diabetes screening and prevention program. Also, to assess the video-vignette's capacity to measure appetite and appeal for such preventive programs. This mixed-methods study consisted of two phases.

### **Exploring perceived learning effectiveness in virtual reality health communication through the lens of construal level theory**

*BMC Public Health | 29 August 2024*

*Chi-Hong Liao*

Virtual reality is increasingly being used for health communication. This study aimed to propose and test an integrated model of the determinants of perceived learning effectiveness in virtual reality (VR) within health communication. It proposes that psychological distance negatively affects immersion, flow, and presence, positively affecting perceived learning effectiveness.

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## **RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS**

## **Doctors now among targets for extortion racket thugs**

*Juta Medical Brief | 21 August 2024*

Healthcare facilities and professionals are the latest to be targeted by extortion racketeers, with one East London doctor forced to close his practice and go into hiding after being terrorised by a criminal syndicate. The thugs are not only demanding protection money from businesses but have expanded their activities to target schools as well as medical practices and facilities, reports the Daily Dispatch.

## **Common lab tests unable to diagnose long Covid – US study**

*Juta Medical Brief | 21 August 2024*

Almost four and a half years after the pandemic began, one of the biggest challenges still facing physicians is understanding, diagnosing and treating long Covid, with a recent study of more than 10 000 adults in America bearing this out. The doctors involved in the research found that more than two dozen commonly available lab tests still couldn't help diagnose long Covid, leaving them having to rule out other health conditions to confirm whether someone has the condition.

## **Kenyan women to get free vaginal rings that prevent HIV**

*The Star | 22 August 2024*

Women in Kenya will benefit from a donation of rings worn to prevent HIV infection for one month. The ring is placed inside the vagina for 28 days, where it slowly releases the antiretroviral drug dapivirine over that period. The drug prevents HIV infection. The ring was approved for use in Kenya last year.

## **Raising South African voices for menstrual health awareness**

*Bizcommunity | 22 August 2024*

In light of issues such as period poverty and the pressing need to destigmatise menstrual health, a united and collective effort is needed to create spaces and places in which the women of South Africa can live and thrive. Kotex, known for its hygiene products has always been at the forefront of promoting positive change. The brand has partnered with experts, thought leaders, South Africa's Department of Basic Education, and some of the country's most popular influencers to spread a message of hope, empowerment, and upliftment.

## **The COVID-19 Vaccine Does Not Cause Breast Cancer But May Change Your Mammogram**

*Health | 23 August 2024*

The COVID-19 vaccine doesn't cause breast cancer, but swollen lymph nodes can prompt you to conduct a breast self-exam and detect it early. A woman in Iowa said she experienced an unexpected benefit of the COVID vaccine: Being vaccinated resulted in a stage 2 breast cancer diagnosis.

## **New Covid shots are coming available. Here's what experts say about when to get yours**

*CNN Health | 23 August 2024*

Newly updated vaccines against Covid-19 will be in pharmacies soon, just as the US is experiencing a surge of infections. But is it a good idea to get in line for a new shot pronto, or should you wait a few weeks to get optimal protection against a possible winter wave?

Experts say it depends on your health, whether you've recently had Covid-19, which vaccine you plan to get and when it's convenient for you.

## **'They give me hope': Beating HIV stigma with community support in Zimbabwe**

*Aljazeera | 23 August 2024*

When Wonder Mwatamawenyu tested positive for HIV as a young man more than two decades ago, he thought he had signed his death warrant. His society told him that HIV and AIDS, which were spreading rapidly in Zimbabwe in the 1980s and 1990s, had no treatment. Mwatamawenyu tested HIV-positive in 2003 after going to donate blood at a health facility near his house in Matika village, just outside Mutare in eastern Zimbabwe. "I was shocked. I did not believe it," the 51-year-old father of six told Al Jazeera.

## **65th Thuthuzela Care Centre opens in Mitchells Plain amidst South Africa's ongoing battle against GBV**

*Health-e News | 23 August 2024*



Gender-based violence is a widespread problem in South Africa. The country has among the highest cases of rape in the world. In May 2024 President Cyril Ramaphos signed the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Bill into law, but there's a lot to be done to address the scourge. According to the non-profit organisation, Rape Crisis many rape survivors never see the inside of a courtroom, often because they do not have access to the first step in the criminal justice system – post rape care. Thuthuzela Care Centres (TCCs) are a cornerstone of the country's anti-rape strategy. TCCs are one-stop facilities aimed at providing psychosocial, medical and legal services for victims of gender-based violence (GBV) under one roof. GBV includes rape, sexual assault, and domestic violence.

### **Men infected with high-risk types of HPV could struggle with fertility**

*Medical Xpress | 23 August 2024*

Cervical cancer, the fourth most common cancer type in women, causes approximately 350,000 deaths each year, mainly in middle- and low-income countries. Human papillomavirus (HPV) infection is known to cause 95% of these cases. Public health authorities in 37 countries currently vaccinate girls between nine and 14 years of age, before they typically start sexual activity.

### **Health department confirms outbreak of Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease in Bloemfontein**

*Health-e News | 23 August 2024*

Parents have stopped their children from attending a pre-school in Bloemfontein after it was found on Thursday, August 22 that some of the children have hand, foot and mouth disease. One of the parents, Neo Lemaoana, says she got worried when her four-year-old told her there were many children suffering from itching at her school. According to the World Health Organisation, the disease mainly affects children, but adults can also get infected. "My daughter told me her friends were sick and their parents fetched them from school.

### **Beating stigma: How project gives women with HIV hope, builds their business resilience**

*Nation | 26 August 2024*

Living with HIV and struggling to provide for their children, members often worried about where their next meal would come from. Today, their lives have been transformed by the Gender and Entrepreneurship Together (Get) Ahead Programme.

### **Key discovery advances fight to reduce breast cancer recurrence**

*Medical Xpress | 26 August 2024*

In looking for new ways to fight breast cancer, scientists from Duke-NUS Medical School have unmasked a surprising role of a protein generally associated with cancer growth. They have discovered that in estrogen receptor-positive (ER+) breast cancer, this protein acts as a tumor suppressor instead.

### **Health Beat #22 | Aaron the Outspoken: Do all roads lead to NHI?**

*Bhekisisa | 26 August 2024*

Three months into his second term as health minister, Aaron Motsoaledi shares his plans for rolling out National Health Insurance (NHI). Undaunted by legal challenges and political opposition, he says the government won't continue subsidising private medical care to the tune of "R100-billion a year". People who say the current healthcare system should be "fixed first" are a "joke", because NHI is the solution, he says. But he admits that the NHI Act isn't set in stone. Any supposed mistakes, like asylum seekers and undocumented migrants being unable to access HIV treatment, must be "corrected".

### **Snake antivenom mired by shortages and side-effects – could a new treatment boost our options?**

*Spotlight | 26 August 2024*

Every day, somewhere between 220 and 380 people die from snakebite around the world, yet according to Doctors Without Borders (MSF) the problem remains "chronically underfunded and neglected". MSF's senior advisor on neglected tropical diseases, Koert Ritmeijer, tells Spotlight that in 2019 the World Health Organization (WHO) committed to halve the number of snakebite deaths by 2030. But this hasn't been followed by any significant support from donor countries or philanthropic foundations, he says, with programmes that aim to "increase patients' access to antivenoms [remaining] very underfunded".

## **Why mpox vaccines are only just arriving in Africa after two years**

*IOL | 26 August 2024*

The first 10 000 mpox vaccines are finally due to arrive next week in Africa, where a dangerous new strain of the virus – which has afflicted people there for decades – has caused global alarm. The slow arrival of the shots – which have already been made available in more than 70 countries outside Africa – showed that lessons learnt from the Covid-19 pandemic about global healthcare inequities have been slow to bring change, half a dozen public health officials and scientists said.

## **Mozambique: Health Authorities Detect Suspected Case of Mpox**

*allAfrica | 26 August 2024*

The Mozambican health authorities have detected, over the weekend, the first suspected case in the country of mpox, following the declaration of a public health emergency by the World Health Organization (WHO). According to Monday's issue of the Maputo daily 'Notícias', the suspected case is a 35-year-old male patient, who presented symptoms of the disease. The man lives in Bagamoyo neighbourhood, on the outskirts of Maputo city. The health authorities explained that they have already collected samples to determine whether it is, in fact, the disease.

## **WHO Africa chief on mpox and the continent's health crises**

*Aljazeera | 26 August 2024*

Matshidiso Moeti discusses Africa's battle with mpox, vaccine inequity, and the need for stronger global health support. Mpox, once confined to Central Africa, has become a global threat, with the continent facing a new wave affecting mostly children. Despite the urgency, the international response has been slow, echoing the inequities seen during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Genetically modified mosquitoes and malaria in Africa: top scientist shares latest advances**

*GAVI | 27 August 2024*

Every year, mosquitoes kill more people than any other animal. According to the World Malaria Report (2023), the African continent bears the brunt of the most deadly mosquito-borne disease, malaria. Africa has 94% of the cases and 95% of the deaths. One tool that's being considered in the fight against malaria is genetic modification. Several research projects around the world are looking to use genetically modified mosquitoes to stop the spread of malaria in Africa.

## **Vaccinating A Child Is An Act Of Love: Combatting Measles In Democratic Republic Of Congo (DRC)**

*Africa.com | 27 August 2024*

In the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) teams vaccinated 70,000 children against measles during a 37-day campaign in one of the most neglected areas of the country, using planes and motorcycles to reach people. In just the first half of this year, 10,000 measles cases were recorded in Maniema, along with 500 measles-related deaths. However, the exact number of children in the province affected by the disease is unknown because some children are never taken to a health facility due to the long distances and cost involved. Most local health facilities receive very little external support.

## **Prof Lynn Hendricks champions creative solutions to advance women's health**

*Stellenbosch University | 27 August 2024*

In celebration of Women's Month, Stellenbosch University (SU) is shining a spotlight on extraordinary staff and students on our campuses who champion women's rights and gender equality. Through their dedication and leadership, they inspire and drive positive change within our community. Prof Lynn Hendricks from the Division of Health Systems and Public Health is an award-winning academic known for her transdisciplinary approach, blending creative methodologies, multidisciplinary theories and community engagement to drive meaningful impact.

## **WHO says mpox outbreaks can be stopped**

*ENCA News | 27 August 2024*

Outbreaks of mpox in Central Africa "can be stopped", the World Health Organization said, but \$135-

million of funding may be needed to tackle the disease's spread. Earlier in August, the WHO declared an international health emergency after a surge in cases linked to a new mpox strain in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which has since spread beyond its borders. "The mpox outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and neighbouring countries can be controlled, and can be stopped," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is quoted as saying in the statement.

### **Eswatini to roll out first women-controlled HIV prevention product**

*Windhoek Observer | 27 August 2024*

IPPF's Member Association in Eswatini, the Family Life Association of Eswatini (FLAS), is soon to roll out the first women-controlled HIV prevention product, the dapivirine vaginal ring (DVR). FLAS will be among the first organisations to offer the DVR outside implementation or pilot studies anywhere in the world. Made of flexible silicone, the ring is inserted into the vagina by a woman and slowly releases the antiretroviral drug dapivirine in the vagina over a one-month period, helping to reduce a woman's risk of acquiring HIV.

### **Dengue increases risk of heart and neurological complications compared to COVID-19**

*News Medical Life Science | 27 August 2024*

People who caught dengue and recovered are more likely to face long-term health complications about a year later compared to those who contracted COVID-19, according to the findings of a nationwide study led by Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore). Specifically, those who caught dengue have a 55 per cent higher risk of heart complications, such as irregular heartbeats, heart disease, and blood clots, compared with those who fell sick with COVID-19 and recovered.

### **ANALYSIS | New mpox strain is changing fast; African scientists are 'working blindly' to respond**

*TimesLIVE | 27 August 2024*

Scientists studying the new mpox strain that has spread out of Democratic Republic of Congo say the virus is changing faster than expected and often in areas where experts lack the funding and equipment to properly track it. That means there are multiple unknowns about the virus itself, its severity and how it is transmitting, complicating the response, half a dozen scientists in Africa, Europe and the United States told Reuters.

### **FDA clears tubeless automated insulin delivery system for adults with type 2 diabetes**

*Healio | 27 August 2024*

The FDA has cleared an automated insulin delivery system for adults aged 18 years and older with type 2 diabetes, Insulet Corp. announced. As Healio previously reported, the Omnipod 5 (Insulet) was the first tubeless automated insulin delivery system available for people with type 1 diabetes in the U.S. The FDA originally cleared the system for people aged 6 years and older with type 1 diabetes in January 2022. The FDA expanded its clearance to young children aged 2 to 5 years with type 2 diabetes in August 2022. The FDA has again expanded the Omnipod 5's clearance to include adults aged 18 year and older with type 2 diabetes. According to a press release from the company, the new indication makes the Omnipod 5 the first automated insulin delivery system available for both type 1 and type 2 diabetes in the U.S.

### **New CDC influenza vaccine recommendations: Key updates and changes**

*Contemporary OB/GYN | 27 August 2024*

Since 2010, routine, annual influenza vaccination for all people aged 6 months and older who do not have contraindications has been recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). In an *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* from the CDC, the 2023-2024 recommendations have been updated for the 2024-2025 influenza season, which most commonly circulates from late fall through the early spring.

### **Child Safety Month: Children need your help to prevent burn injuries**

*Western Cape Government | 27 August 2024*

In August, Child Safety Month, the Western Cape Government Department of Health and Wellness and its partners appeal to adults to take precautions to reduce the risk of burn injuries. Being watchful and

proactive in your home can be lifesaving – especially in colder months when even more babies and young children are affected by burn injuries at home.

## **Limpopo sees a decline in HIV prevalence, but gaps remain in treatment and prevention**

*HSRC | 27 August 2024*

The Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) released the key findings of the Sixth South African HIV Prevalence, Incidence, and Behaviour Survey (SABSSM VI) for Limpopo Province on Tuesday, 27 August 2024 at a provincial dialogue held at Meropa Hotel, Polokwane. The survey found that Limpopo had one of the lowest HIV prevalence levels among all provinces in 2022, at 8.9%, down from 10.1% in 2017. This translates to an estimated 570,000 people living with HIV (PLHIV) in Limpopo, a 2.0% decrease from the 580,000 reported in 2017.

## **SGLT2 Inhibitors, GLP-1 Agonists Similarly Reduce Dementia Risk for Patients With Diabetes**

*AJMC | 27 August 2024*

New research suggests that sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors do not reduce the risk of dementia for patients with diabetes significantly more than the glucagon-like peptide 1 (GLP-1) receptor agonist dulaglutide (Trulicity).<sup>1</sup> These findings were published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* and add to the ongoing research about the possible neuroprotective effects of SGLT2 inhibitors and GLP-1s and how well they can lower the risk of dementia in patients with type 2 diabetes.

## **Discovery of a rare genotype causing primary ovarian insufficiency**

*EurekaAlert | 27 August 2024*

Scientists at deCODE genetics and collaborators, have identified a sequence variant in the CCDC201 gene that when inherited from both parents homozygous causes menopause on average nine years earlier. deCODE genetics, a subsidiary of Amgen, and collaborators from Iceland, Denmark, the UK, and Norway published a study in *Nature Genetics* today revealing a rare genotype with a significant impact on women's health.

## **New test detects cancer risk in type 2 diabetes patients**

*News Medical Life Science | 28 August 2024*

Individuals with type 2 diabetes who are at higher risk of certain cancers could be identified by a simple blood test, this year's Annual Meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) (Madrid, 9-13 September) will hear. People with type 2 diabetes are known to be at higher risk of developing cancers associated with obesity (OR cancers), including breast, kidney, womb, thyroid, and ovarian cancer, as well as gastrointestinal cancers, including colorectal and pancreatic cancer, and multiple myeloma. It is thought that chronic low-grade inflammation, which is prevalent in both obesity and type 2 diabetes, plays a significant role in cancer development in both conditions.

## **Spain to donate 500,000 mpox vaccine doses to combat outbreak in Africa**

*TimesLive | 28 August 2024*

Spain will donate 500,000 doses of the mpox vaccine, or 20% of its stockpile, to combat an outbreak of the disease in Africa, the Health Ministry said in a statement on Tuesday. It added that the country had urged the European Commission to propose that all EU member states donate 20% of their respective stock of the vaccine.

## **Communicate risks of not getting Covid vaccine to boost uptake, study suggests**

*The Guardian | 28 August 2024*

Policymakers who want to encourage the uptake of Covid vaccines should focus on communicating the risks of not having such jabs, research suggests. Researchers in China say they have found the approach, known as a loss frame strategy, is more persuasive in boosting people's willingness to get vaccinated than focusing on the benefits either to the individual themselves or to others. That, the team say, could be because focusing on gains tends to be beneficial when people think a certain behaviour is safe.

## **'I wasn't sure I'd make it': how a new mother's brush with TB could mean better**



## treatment for pregnant women

*The Guardian | 28 August 2024*

When she was pregnant with her second child, Busisiwe Beko was living with HIV, but that didn't worry her. She had been taking antiretrovirals for years and as an experienced Aids activist in South Africa she knew that as long as she continued to take her pills every day, her second baby would be born free of infection, just like her first. But another illness was lurking in Beko's lungs: tuberculosis (TB) had been hiding behind the common signs of pregnancy. The illness turned her pregnancy into a nightmare.

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## TRAINING AND RESOURCES

### 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](mailto: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.

### Contraceptive and Fertility Planning Short Course

Date: 2 – 6 September 2024

Course Type: Short course

Time commitment: 5 days, interactive workshop

The course consists of 12 Modules which includes all modern contraceptive methods available in South Africa including:

- Contraception Policy, Guidelines & Protocols
- Professional & Ethical conduct
- Patient rights, values & culture
- Principles of counselling
- Drug interaction
- Signs & symptoms of STI's
- Effective monitoring & evaluation
- Family planning methods
- Implantation Insertion
- Pap Smears
- IUCD Insertion

<https://www.foundation.co.za/course/359>

### **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**

### **PHAKAMA DIGEST August 2024: Teenage and childhood pregnancy**

*Phakama Digest | August 2024*

With early childbearing and adolescent birth rates in South Africa increasing every year, the media announced last week that KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) has the highest numbers of childhood and teenage pregnancies in the country.

According to the National Department of Health, in just 12 months (from 2023 to 2024), 30 478 of the almost 120 000 15- to 19-year-old girls who gave birth in public health facilities were in KZN. Among younger girls (aged 10 to 14 years), 610 of the 2 700 girls across South Africa who became mothers were in KZN. These sobering figures show that teenage and childhood pregnancy is devastating our society, by "trapping young girls in a vicious circle of poverty, lack of educational prospects, and dependency on government for survival", and offering a bleak future for their children.

### **Call for the paper -HIV and TB co-infection - Submission Deadline: 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>

### **Call for papers - Sexually transmitted infections- Submission Deadline: 3 February 2025**

**BMC Infectious Diseases** is calling for submissions to our Collection on Sexually transmitted infections. Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) remain a major global health issue, causing significant harm. Effective management of STIs requires a multidisciplinary approach encompassing epidemiology, prevention, diagnosis, and control strategies. The topics of interest include diverse aspects of STIs but are not limited to: prevalence trends of various STIs, diagnostic approaches including molecular techniques and point-of-care testing, prevention strategies at different levels, HIV/STI co-infections, disparities in STI burden and access to services, and emerging challenges in the field

<https://www.biomedcentral.com/collections/bmcstis#:~:text=Submission%20Status%3A%20Open%20%7C%20Submission%20Deadline,health%20issue%2C%20causing%20significant%20harm.>

### **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>

### **Gender Equity in Reproduction Health Service Access**

**Reproductive Health** is calling for submissions to our Collection on Gender Equity in Reproductive Health Service Access. Healthcare access is important in ensuring the attainment of the Third Sustainable Goal (SDG3) by 2030. Access to reproductive healthcare services, which enables persons to live their lives to the fullest and enjoy safe and satisfying sex lives is a vital component of total health. However, access to these services differs by gender, with men and women across the globe having unequal access to the necessary information and services they require to enjoy total wellbeing, satisfactory sex lives, protection from sexually transmitted infections, prevention of unwanted pregnancies, and the treatment of infertility. The known reasons behind this unequal access range from social and cultural to economic reasons. For instance, lessened decision-making and financial autonomy for women may restrict their access to timely and effective reproductive healthcare services necessary for treatment and prevention of adverse health outcomes. On the other hand, even men may have restricted access to services due to cultural and time constraints. This collection will provide an avenue to researchers with interest in the intersection between gender and reproductive health access, as well as reproductive health and rights to present their research for maximum visibility. The collection is welcoming contributions such as original research articles using quantitative, qualitative and mixed-method designs, scoping and systematic reviews, policy analyses, case studies, meta-analyses, and commentaries. Contributors are encouraged to present policy-relevant recommendations and points of action for program implementers.

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

### **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 user-led 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

### 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/>

### 8th World One Health Congress (WOHC) 2024

The Congress foresees four days of an outstanding, exceptional and forward-thinking agenda, which includes parallel tracks addressing one health science, antimicrobial agents and resistance, and science policy interface, amongst others. It will enable discussing major One Health challenges, as well as sharing research data and policy developments. Above all, it will provide a great opportunity to look at global One Health science and policy through an African lens. Through an open call for abstracts, notable work from distinguished scientists and opinion leaders will be disseminated at the world's largest forum dedicated to advancing the One Health agenda and community.

When: 20 – 23 September 2024

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

For more information: <https://globalohc.org/8WOHC>

### World Congress of Epidemiology

When: 24 – 27 September 2024

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

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

### Hacking healthcare: African solutions for a global stage

For the first time, we are curating our content to bring you more flexibility, ample learning opportunities and real value for your time and money. The new deconstructed congress schedule offers a dynamic mix of both CPD-accredited and non-CPD content covering a wider range of topics over 3 days.

When: 22 – 24 October 2024

Where: Cape Town International Convention Centre, South Africa

For more information: <https://www.africahealthexhibition.com/en/attend/congress-registration-website.html>



## Call for Applications: 2024 Africa CDC Youth Pre-Conference (YPC2024)

The Africa CDC Youth Pre-Conference (YPC) is an Africa CDC youth initiative held annually at the margins of the International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA). It brings together young African public health professionals from all over the continent and the diaspora, with the aim of providing a platform to network with young leading health experts, exchange with their peers on existing and emerging health issues on the continent and present their contribution to a continental audience.

The YPC 2024 will feature six tracks where youth are already leading the charge:

1. Youth and Digital Health Innovations
2. Empowering Youth: Workforce/Talent Development for Job Opportunities
3. Youth for the Advancement of Local Pharmaceutical Manufacturing
4. Youth Championing Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS
5. Youth Health Advocates supporting CHWs activities and Programmes
6. Youth and One Health for a Healthier Future

The 2024 Africa CDC Youth Pre-Conference will take place in-person from 23-24 November 2024 in Rabat, Morocco.

- **Age:** 18 to 35 years
- **Citizenship:** Applicants must be a citizen of an AU member State

For more information please go to -

<https://africacdc.org/news-item/call-for-applications-2024-africa-cdc-youth-pre-conference-ypc2024-on-the-margins-of-the-4th-annual-international-conference-on-public-health-in-africa-cphia-2024/>

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## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### Director: Business Development and Communication

**Closing Date for Application: 30 August 2024**

<https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Director-Business-Development-and-Communications.aspx>

### Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

**Closing Date for Application: 3 September 2024, 16:30**

[https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Monitoring-and-Evaluation-\(ME\)-Officer-.aspx](https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Monitoring-and-Evaluation-(ME)-Officer-.aspx)

### Nurse Clinician

**Closing Date for Application: 3 September 2024**

<https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Nurse-Clinician.aspx>

## Helpdesk Supervisor

**Closing Date for Application: 4 September 2024**

[https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Health-Systems-Strengthening-\(HSS\)-Unit-SyNCH-Helpdesk-Supervisor-.aspx](https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Health-Systems-Strengthening-(HSS)-Unit-SyNCH-Helpdesk-Supervisor-.aspx)

## SharePoint Specialist

**Closing Date for Application: 4 September 2024**

<https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/SHAREPOINT-SPECIALIST.aspx>

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