

HST Bulletin



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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Availability and accessibility of HIV self-tests and self-sample kits at community pharmacies in the Netherlands

AIDS Research and Therapy | 22 June 2023

Chaima Kandil, Jacqueline Hugtenburg, Titia Heijman, Hanna Bos, Martina Teichert, et al.

In 2016 the WHO declared HIV self-testing and self-sampling an effective and safe test option that can reduce testing barriers. HIV self-tests and self-sampling kits (HIVST/HIVSS) are available for purchase at Dutch community pharmacies since 2019. We investigated the availability and accessibility of HIVST/HIVSS in community pharmacies, and factors associated with test availability.

Utilisation of traditional healers among older people living with HIV in South Africa: a WHO SAGE well-being of older people study

AIDS Research and Therapy | 24 June 2023

Joshua Okyere, Castro Ayebe, Bernard Afriyie Owusu, Wonder Agbemavi, Joseph Kwarteng Amoako, et al.

Within the African region, there are an estimated 8 million people living with HIV (PLHIV) in South Africa. Seeking healthcare services from traditional healers (TH) is one of the alternative and complementary approaches to HIV/AIDS treatment. Identifying the associated factors of TH utilisation among older PLHIV is crucial in developing healthcare interventions that cater to the unique needs of this vulnerable group. This study investigated the factors associated with TH utilisation among older PLHIV.

Lived experiences of diabetic outpatients attending clinics in rural areas of Limpopo province in South Africa

Health SA Gesondheid | 26 June 2023

Mabitsela H. Mphasha, Tebogo M. Mothiba, Linda Skaal

Prevalence of diabetes mellitus is increasing in South Africa (SA), with many people unknowingly living with undiagnosed diabetes. Living with a long-term illness like diabetes significantly impacts every aspect of one's life. It is essential to understand the lived experience of patients to ensure better management

and intervention.

Promoting STI self-testing through HIV self-testing

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 26 June 2023

Dongya Wang, Rayner Tan, Gifty Marley, Joseph D. Tucker, Weiming Tang

HIV self-testing (HIVST) refers to the process in which individuals collect their own specimens (e.g. blood, saliva and urine), perform the test and interpret the results at a convenient time and place [1]. HIVST has been recognized as an innovative and promising approach to increase testing uptake, expand the HIV testing rate and enhance HIV testing coverage [1, 2]. Moreover, a large body of HIVST programmes and research worldwide also proved the feasibility, acceptability and effectiveness of HIVST in HIV prevention [1, 3]. Hence, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended HIVST as the alternative and promising way to decentralize HIV testing and further increase the uptake of HIV testing, especially in low- and middle-income countries.

Promptness in seeking treatment from Village Health workers for children under five years with malaria, diarrhoea and pneumonia in rural southwestern Uganda

BMC Malaria Journal | 26 June 2023

Edgar Mulogo, Stephen Baguma, Moses Ntaro, Shem Bwambale, Michael Matte, et al.

Village Health Workers (VHWs) in Uganda provide treatment for the childhood illness of malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhoea through the integrated community case management (iCCM) strategy. Under the strategy children under five years receive treatment for these illnesses within 24 h of onset of illness. This study examined promptness in seeking treatment from VHWs by children under five years with malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhoea in rural southwestern Uganda.

Behaviors and practices of incarcerated women towards menstrual hygiene in a large urban prison in Uganda: a phenomenological qualitative study

BMC Women's Health | 27 June 2023

Margaret Nabiryo, Miriam Ondia and Jonathan Izudi

Deplorable and uncondusive conditions in prisons present serious challenges to menstrual hygiene management. However, little is known about menstrual hygiene among incarcerated women in Uganda. Our study explored the behaviors and practices of incarcerated women regarding menstrual hygiene management in a large government prison in Uganda. In addition, we explored the barriers to menstrual hygiene management in this population.

Uptake and barriers to cervical cancer screening among human immunodeficiency virus-positive women in Sub Saharan Africa: a systematic review and meta-analysis

BMC Women's Health | 27 June 2023

Meresa Berwo Mengesha, Tesfaye Temesgen Chekole and Hagos Degefa Hidru

Cervical cancer is the leading cause of disability and mortality among women in Africa. Despite a significant correlation between HIV/AIDS and cervical cancer, there is unacceptably low coverage of the uptake of cervical cancer screening among human immunodeficiency virus-positive women in Sub-Saharan Africa. Individual primary studies are limited in explaining the patterns of uptake of cervical cancer screening. This review therefore considers the uptake of cervical cancer screening and its barriers among human immunodeficiency virus-positive women in Sub-Saharan Africa.

School closures and well-being-related topic searches on Google during the COVID-19 pandemic in Sub-Saharan Africa

BMC Public Health | 27 July 2023

Uchechi Shirley Anaduaka & Ayomide Oluwaseyi Oladosu

Following the outbreak of the 2020 coronavirus, governments adopted non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) to save lives. The NPIs have been deemed to have unintended consequences on mental health and well-being. This study aimed to estimate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic-induced school closures on the relative search volumes (RSVs) of well-being-relevant topics in 30 low and lower- middle income countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Maternal anaemia and the risk of postpartum haemorrhage: a cohort analysis of data from the WOMAN-2 trial

The Lancet Global Health | 27 June 2023

The WOMAN-2 trial collaborators

Worldwide, more than half a billion women of reproductive age are anaemic. Each year, about 70 000 women who give birth die from postpartum haemorrhage. Almost all deaths are in low-income or middle-income countries. We examined the association between anaemia and the risk of postpartum haemorrhage.

Influence of depression and interpersonal support on adherence to antiretroviral therapy among people living with HIV

AIDS Research and Therapy | 29 June 2023

Jerry John Nutor, Akua O. Gyamerah, Robert Kaba Alhassan, Henry Ofori Duah, Rachel G.A. Thompson, et al.

Poor adherence and under-utilization of antiretroviral therapy (ART) services have been major setbacks to achieving 95-95-95 policy goals in Sub-Saharan Africa. Social support and mental health challenges may serve as barriers to accessing and adhering to ART but are under-studied in low-income countries. The purpose of this study was to examine the association of interpersonal support and depression scores with adherence to ART among persons living with HIV (PLWH) in the Volta region of Ghana.

Predictors of Treatment Adherence and Virological Failure Among People Living with HIV Receiving Antiretroviral Therapy in a South African Rural Community: A Sub-study of the ITREMA Randomised Clinical Trial

AIDS and Behavior | 29 June 2023

Siphamandla B. Gumede, Annemarie M. J. Wensing, Samanta T. Lalla-Edward, John B. F. de Wit, W. D. Francois Venter, et al.

A large proportion of people living with HIV (PLHIV) in sub-Saharan Africa reside in rural areas. Knowledge of enablers and barriers of adherence to antiretroviral treatment (ART) in these populations is limited. We conducted a cohort study of 501 adult PLHIV on ART at a rural South African treatment facility as a sub-study of a clinical trial (ClinicalTrials.gov NCT03357588). Socio-economic, psychosocial and behavioral characteristics were assessed as covariates of self-reported adherence difficulties, suboptimal pill count adherence and virological failure during 96 weeks of follow-up. Male gender was an independent risk factor for all outcomes. Food insecurity was associated with virological failure in males. Depressive symptoms were independently associated with virological failure in both males and females. Household income and task-oriented coping score were protective against suboptimal pill-count adherence. These results underscore the impact of low household income, food insecurity and depression on outcomes of ART in rural settings and confirm other previously described risk factors. Recognition of these factors and targeted adherence support strategies may improve patient health and treatment outcomes.

Description of the first global outbreak of mpox: an analysis of global surveillance data

The Lancet Global Health | July 2023

Henry Laurenson-Schafer, Nikola Sklenovská, Ana Hoxha, Steven M Kerr, Patricia Ndumbi, et al.

In May 2022, several countries with no history of sustained community transmission of mpox (formerly known as monkeypox) notified WHO of new mpox cases. These cases were soon followed by a large-scale outbreak, which unfolded across the world, driven by local, in-country transmission within previously unaffected countries. On July 23, 2022, WHO declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. Here, we aim to describe the main epidemiological features of this outbreak, the largest reported to date.

The way forward in decolonising global health

The Lancet Global Health | July 2023

Sudeep Adhikari, Irene Torres and Elizabeth Oele

The Lancet Global Health has taken steps towards listening to and platforming the voices of low-income and middle-income country (LMIC) authors, such as its 2021 call for papers on the topic of “what is wrong with global health?” In this issue—marking the journal’s tenth anniversary—the journal gave editorial responsibility to a panel of LMIC-based guest editors. We (the guest editors) selected content for this issue on “The future of global health research, publishing, and practice”, which was invited in the February issue editorial. We have also been interviewed for a podcast, attended editorial meetings, and chosen the

editors' picks. We are taking this editorial as an opportunity to contribute to the decolonisation debate, sharing our views on the way forward.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Research Roundup: HIV Treatment Concerns Specific to Cisgender Women

Be In The Know | 21 June 2023

Recently published research with adolescent girls in South Africa suggest they want to know how to deal with the pressure to have sex and would also like in-depth information about how HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are passed on. And they want to get this information anonymously online or from older peers or non-judgemental adults.

Overcoming Barriers to HIV Testing in Rural Cameroon

TheBodyPro | 21 June 2023

Vanessa Fozao, M.D., places snacks and insulin into her bag before every trip she takes into Cameroon's countryside. Not only because it's difficult to find cooked food on the road but because it's even harder to find insulin in remote villages.

What information do adolescent girls need to prevent HIV, STIs and unintended pregnancies?

Be In The Know | 21 June 2023

Recently published research with adolescent girls in South Africa suggest they want to know how to deal with the pressure to have sex and would also like in-depth information about how HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are passed on. And they want to get this information anonymously online or from older peers or non-judgemental adults.

ALCOHOL USE A POTENT THREAT TO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Health-e News | 22 June 2023

Youth Month calls us to reflect both on the historic debt we owe previous generations of young people who fought for our freedom and on the challenge of breathing hope and self-belief into the hearts of the current generation. The debate, quite rightly, centres on skills and jobs for young people in order to enable them to enjoy a better life than previous generations. But we cannot afford to neglect social ills that also erode the quality of life of our youth. Among these is the widespread use of alcohol by people under the age of 18, and a society that not only tolerates this but sometimes enables it.

Improving the civil registration of births and deaths in low-income countries

Pmnch | 22 June 2023

The civil registration of births and deaths represents the legal recognition of a person's existence, from the start of life until death. It also implies an acknowledgement of the responsibilities of the state towards the individual. The registration of a birth or death, including a stillbirth, within days of its occurrence enables individuals and their families to access essential resources and health care. Yet three in ten births under the age of one and almost half of the world's deaths go unregistered, and without this legal proof of identity, they are left uncounted and invisible.

Should the state hire SA's field health workers permanently? Unions and the health department disagree

Bhekisisa | 23 June 2023

The government is busy deciding whether community health workers should have a minimum wage and set working conditions specific to their roles. This is called a sectoral determination. But unions don't agree with this process. They say it will undermine the existing 2018 bargaining council agreement. This agreement, says the union, is a step in the right direction towards permanent government employment for these types of health workers.

Can You Take Plan B While On Birth Control? What You Should Consider

Health Digest | 23 June 2023

True to its name, Plan B can be thought of as a sort of backup plan. It's used in the event that one's birth control fails, a dosage may have been skipped, or a person engages in unprotected sex. The medication works by stopping the body's ovulation process in order to prevent pregnancy (via Cleveland Clinic). Also referred to as "the morning-after pill," this form of emergency contraception may also be used in cases of non-consensual sex.

Analysis: Taking a spoon to a knife fight – Is SA ready for rising obesity rates?

Spotlight | 23 June 2023

Experts describe rising obesity rates in South Africa as an "urgent crisis", "a tsunami" – even an "epidemic" – that is costing lives, not to mention billions of rands. Tackling the situation warrants an action plan that is as comprehensive and cogent as the problem is dire. But does South Africa's new national strategy fit the bill? On the one hand, obesity is a complex public health issue that many countries are grappling with. There are no easy answers. On the other hand, some experts are asking whether the new plan is really the best we can do.

New Model Risk Factors for HIV in Women Include Pregnancy, Hepatitis C, and Substance Use

AJMC | 24 June 2023

A version of article was originally published by Pharmacy Times. This version has been lightly edited. A new predictive model identified risk factors such as a recent pregnancy, recent diagnosis of hepatitis C virus (HCV), substance use, and STI diagnosis in women who are vulnerable to HIV, a new study published in BMC Women's Health shows.

South Africa: Update on Cholera outbreak in South Africa

allAfrica | 25 June 2023

The Department of Health is pleased with the progress made with regards to concerted efforts of interventions put in place to curb the transmission of cholera disease and mortality rate which have significantly declined in the past few weeks around country. The focus has been on preventing further person-to-person transmission of the disease which has contributed to the detection of laboratory-confirmed infections in most areas, especially where there is no reported cholera outbreak. The country has recorded a total cumulative number of 1045 suspected cases of cholera in 15 out of 52 districts across five provinces, of which 197 of them were laboratory-confirmed.

NICD: FLU CASES ON THE DECLINE

Health-e News | 26 June 2023

The National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) says that flu transmission is currently at a moderate level and that circulation is declining. Based on historical data over a number of years, the NICD has seasonal thresholds which show the number of cases ranging from low to moderate, high, and very high rates. Dr Sibongile Walaza, an epidemiologist at the NICD, explains that seasonal thresholds help to determine the rate at which influenza is moving.

South Africa: HIV Self-Testing is a Gamechanger for the Most Vulnerable Communities in SA

allAfrica | 26 June 2023

Self-testing kits for HIV/AIDS provide the most vulnerable and hardest-to-reach communities with the hope that they will see an end to the spread of HIV by 2030, according to the leaders of one of the world's largest HIV programmes. This includes transgender people, incarcerated people, sex workers, and people who inject drugs. Dhirisha Naidoo, a senior public health implementation leader in the BroadReach Health Development, and her colleague, Silinganiso Chatikobo, an HIV testing specialist, presented on the topic of HIV 'self-testing', also known as self-screening', at the SA AIDS Conference in Durban this week.

Study Hints at Tweaks That May Future-Proof COVID-19 Vaccines

Technology Networks | 27 June 2023

New research examining how frequently our bodies produce broadly neutralizing antibodies (bnAbs) capable of thwarting a range of SARS-CoV-2 variants offers clues on the strategy tweaks that could potentially future-proof COVID-19 vaccines. "Conventional COVID-19 vaccines are known to be less

effective against emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants due to the difficulty in producing bnAbs,” said study corresponding author Tomoharu Yasuda, professor at Hiroshima University’s (HU) Graduate School of Biomedical and Health Sciences. “In order to develop a vaccine with sustained efficacy, it is important to clarify the mechanisms of how bnAbs are generated after virus infection.”

Cyberviolence against people living with HIV and key populations: opportunities for prevention and response

Reliefweb | 27 June 2023

Recent data highlights that key populations and their sexual partners account for a significant number of new HIV infections worldwide. Violence is one of the critical drivers of the epidemic among these groups, and is increasingly taking place in virtual spaces, leading also to increased physical violence against women, young people, people living with HIV, and key populations.

Chronic HBV infection linked to increased risk for intracerebral hemorrhage

Healio | 27 June 2023

Chronic hepatitis B virus infection was significantly associated with an increased risk for intracerebral hemorrhage but not other types of stroke in Chinese adults, according to data presented at the EASL Congress.

Inequality didn’t rise from hell: It’s man-made — and there’s nothing like a pandemic to expose it

Bhekisisa | 27 June 2023

An epidemic such as Aids isn’t simply a disease gone viral. It’s a political, social, economic and human rights crisis, because the germ which caused the outbreak travels through a society comprising all these elements. Scientists have developed medicine that can control HIV in our bodies, turning it into a manageable, chronic disease. But inequality frequently prevents the drugs from reaching the people who need them most. Inequality is man-made, and exists because of government’s policy choices. It was a common theme at the SA Aids conference in Durban last week. We need to counter it with better policies, writes Mia Malan

HIV/AIDS: MILLIONS STILL NOT ON TREATMENT

Health-e News | 27 June 2023

Although South Africa has come a long way in treating HIV, considerable challenges remain in closing the gaps to reach the UN 95-95-95 target by 2030. The aim is to have 95% of all people living with HIV to know their HIV status, 95% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection to receive sustained antiretroviral therapy, and 95% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy to have viral suppression by 2025. South Africa is currently at 94-77-92. Speaking during the 11th SA AIDS Conference held last week in Durban, Dr Nkhensani Nkhwashu, Executive Manager: NSP Implementation at the SA National Aids Council (SANAC) says a major challenge is getting people on treatment.

Mpumalanga health department responds to latest clinic monitoring findings

Spotlight | 27 June 2023

According to the latest report from community-based clinic monitoring group Ritshidze, users of public sector health facilities in Mpumalanga are experiencing shorter waiting times, cleaner facilities and extended antiretroviral refills compared to previous years. But Ritshidze also reports ongoing staff shortages, problematic staff attitudes, and problems with infrastructure. These challenges were aired in community meetings held on 13 and 15 June in Kabokweni and Ermelo where Ritshidze presented the third edition of their Mpumalanga State of Health report.

Highlighting the role that faith communities are playing to end AIDS in children and adolescents

United Nations | 27 June 2023

Faith communities and faith-based organizations have a long history of caring for children and adolescents living with and affected by HIV. However, these efforts have not been well documented and hence their contributions have not been well understood nor resourced. Until now.

Europe on Alert After 22 Mpox Cases Recorded in May

Health Policy Watch | 27 July 2023

Europe reported 22 cases of Mpox in May, prompting the World Health Organization (WHO) to urge people in high risk communities to get vaccinated if possible. WHO Europe director Dr Hans Kluge said that the virus is still in circulation, particularly affecting men who have sex with men. He added that people in high risk groups can also protect themselves from getting infected by following preventative measures. "There are things you can do – get vaccinated against Mpox if vaccines are available, limit contact with others if you have symptoms, and avoid close physical contact including sexual contact with someone who has Mpox," Kluge told a WHO Europe briefing on Tuesday. In addition to the Mpox update, the Kluge addressed the health emergency situation in Ukraine after the Nova Kakhovka dam was destroyed three weeks ago, long COVID, and extreme heat in Europe.

[Watch] Health Beat #9 | Cancer and the NHI: Will patients see better treatment?

Bhekisisa | 27 June 2023

Almost 3 000 people with prostate, breast, cervical and colon cancer are waiting for radiation treatment at Charlotte Maxeke Academic Hospital in Johannesburg. The head of that hospital department says even if they had more radiation equipment, they wouldn't be able to use them, because there's not even enough staff to operate the current number of machines. That's why they can't get patients on radiation fast enough. In this episode of our monthly television show, Health Beat, we visit hospitals with two cancer patients – and compare the help that state and private facilities offer. Mia Malan asks an activist and the head of the National Health Insurance if the scheme can fix our broken health system.

Dolutegravir alone maintains HIV suppression in those treated early

Aidsmap | 28 June 2023

Dolutegravir-based single-drug therapy was an effective long-term maintenance regimen in people who had started treatment soon after acquiring HIV in a small study published in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*. Participants on dolutegravir alone experienced no treatment failure while their immunological and virological features remained stable throughout the four-year follow-up. These findings from the extended Early Simplified trial suggest the possibility of dolutegravir-based single-drug therapy for a select group of people with HIV, but there are caveats.

Rubber stamped: 'No shortage of condoms' and fewer teens getting pregnant, says Western Cape govt

News24 | 28 June 2023

Over the last three years, fewer teenagers have become pregnant in the Western Cape. Since January this year, 3 997 pregnancies - involving 10- to 19-year-olds - were recorded, says the provincial health department. In 2022, there were 10 686; in 2021, 11 157; and in 2020, 11 690.

CHOLERA: VACCINES CAN STOP THE SPREAD, BUT THE BIGGEST DETERRENT IS CLEAN WATER

Health-e News | 29 June 2023

South Africa has experienced outbreaks of cholera since January. The worst was in May in Hammanskraal, north of Pretoria, where nearly 30 people died. Cholera is a bacterial disease which spreads via the faecal-oral route mostly through ingestion of contaminated food and water. It causes severe diarrhoea and dehydration and in extreme cases death. The source of the outbreak in Hammanskraal is still not known. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations for responding to a cholera outbreak include ensuring that communities have access to safe drinking water and sanitation and treating sick people quickly. Oral cholera vaccines may be considered to contain ongoing outbreaks and to limit the spread. These vaccines have not been administered during the current outbreak in South Africa. The Conversation Africa spoke to vaccinologists Edina Amponsah-Dacosta and Julie Copelyn about the cholera vaccine and other ways to curb the outbreak.

Funding secured for massive TB vaccine trial

Spotlight | 29 June 2023

A massive and much-anticipated phase 3 trial of an experimental tuberculosis (TB) vaccine is set to proceed after funding for it has been secured from two large philanthropies. Wellcome and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) Wednesday announced they'd be investing a combined \$550 million into the trial – around \$150 million from Wellcome and the remaining from the Bill & Melinda Gates

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust Bulletin

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

Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust 60percent

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

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

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

As a member, you will:

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

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

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

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 30th June 2023

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

The Program is focussed on developing Executives (middle and senior health system managers or clinicians) for the unique environment and challenges of the South African health system; this 120 credit (1200 learning hours) postgraduate diploma covers modules in Leadership, Ethics, Strategic Planning,

Health sector Transformation, Decentralization & health service re-engineering; Complex Problem Solving, Financial Management, Human Resources For Health, Quality Improvement, Strategic Marketing and Communication and Monitoring and Evaluation. Innovative teaching and learning approaches include peer learning, case study methodology, reflective learning and mentorship. Each Fellow completes a research project and 12 core and elective modules. These are provided through a hybrid learning approach which includes pre-module online work, a 3-day contact class per module at the University of Pretoria and post module assignments. In all, there are approximately 35 contact class days in 6 blocks (Mon-Sat) over a calendar year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

South African Health Review 2021

Health Systems Trust | 2021

When it comes to service delivery and access in both the public and private health sectors, COVID-19 has put everything to the test. It has demonstrated how central public health security is to health and livelihoods, and how pandemic health emergencies expose the weaknesses and vulnerabilities of health systems, costing lives and causing immeasurable damage to economies. Few could have imagined the impact of COVID-19 when this pandemic reached our shores in March 2020.

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

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

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.

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

There are currently no vacancies at HST

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