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CATEGORIES

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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Community perceived barriers to uptake of health services among men at Sedibeng district in South Africa

Ndumiso Tshuma, Daniel N. Elakpa, Clinton Moyo, Tshupo M. Ndhlovu, Mathildah M. Mokgatle, Sangiwe Moyo, et al.

Health SA Gesondheid | 22 May 2024

This qualitative study aimed to investigate the barriers that hinder men's utilisation of healthcare services in the Sedibeng district of South Africa.

The study was conducted using flyers with questions posted on the Best Health Solutions' Facebook page for two weeks. A convenience sampling method was used and a total of 104 comments were collected from 64 respondents. The authors analysed the participants' self-reported data thematically on demographics, geographic area, and reasons for men not using healthcare services.

Targeted next-generation sequencing to diagnose drug-resistant tuberculosis: a systematic review and meta-analysis

The Lancet Infectious Diseases | 22 May 2024

Tiana Carina Schwab, Lisa Perrig, Pauline Carlotta Goller, Freddy Fernando Guebely De la Hoz, Adrien Philippe Lahousse, et al.

Targeted next-generation sequencing (NGS) can rapidly and simultaneously detect mutations associated with resistance to tuberculosis drugs across multiple gene targets. The use of targeted NGS to diagnose drug-resistant tuberculosis, as described in publicly available data, has not been comprehensively reviewed. We aimed to identify targeted NGS assays that diagnose drug-resistant tuberculosis, determine how widely this technology has been used, and assess the diagnostic accuracy of these assays.

HPTN 083-02: factors influencing adherence to injectable PrEP and retention in an injectable PrEP study

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 23 May 2024

Christina Psaros, Georgia R. Goodman, Jasper S. Lee, Whitney Rice, Colleen F. Kelley, et al.
HPTN 083 demonstrated the superiority of long-acting cabotegravir (CAB-LA) versus daily oral emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (TDF/FTC) as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) among cisgender men and transgender women who have sex with men (MSM/TGW). HPTN 083 provided the first opportunity to understand experiences with injectable PrEP in a clinical trial.

Inflammatory mechanisms contributing to retinal alterations in HIV infection and long-term ART

Lungile M. Buthlezi, Alvin J. Munsamy, Khathutshelo P. Mashige
South African Journal of HIV and Medicine | 26 May 2024

People living with HIV (PLWH) may face an increased risk of eye complications associated with ageing, chronic inflammation, and the toxicity arising from long-term antiretroviral therapy (ART). This review aims to understand how inflammatory pathways contribute to retinal alterations observed in PLWH on long-term ART. This review was conducted using four electronic database searches, namely Scopus, Hinari, Google Scholar, and PubMed; from 1996 (when ART became available) until January 2022, without language restriction.

Traditional healers' knowledge and infection control practices related to HIV in Bukavu City, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Célestin Kyambikwa Bisangamo, Nessrin Ahmed El-Nimr, Patrick Milabyo Kyamusugulwa, Iman Mohamed Helmy Wahdan & Zahira Metwally Gad
BMC Public Health | 27 May 2024

Patients with HIV consult traditional healers (THs). These THs can both delay care for people living with HIV (PLHIV) and transmit HIV through poor infection control practices. The main objective of this study was to evaluate knowledge and practices of THs regarding HIV in Bukavu.

Optimizing Individual HIV Testing and Counseling for Emerging Adult Sexual Minority Men (Aged 18 to 24) in Relationships: A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial of Adjunct Communication Components

Tyrel J. Starks, Gabriel Robles, Trey V. Dellucci, Demetria Cain, Kory D. Kyre, et al.
Aids and Behavior | 27 May 2024

The majority of new HIV infections in the US occur among sexual minority men (SMM) with older adolescent and emerging adult SMM at the highest risk. Those in relationships face unique HIV prevention challenges. Existing sexual HIV transmission risk interventions for male couples often encounter implementation challenges and engaging younger SMM early in relationships may be particularly difficult.

Comparative evaluation of baseline characteristics of HIV mono infected and HIV/HBV co infected cohort in eastern India

BMC | 27 May 2024

India has the third largest estimated number of HIV infected people and 40 million individuals in India are estimated to be Hepatitis B virus infected. In comparison to HBV mono-infection, the course of chronic HBV infection is more accelerated in HIV/HBV co-infected subjects. We analyzed the baseline characteristics of the HIV/HBV co-infected and HIV mono-infected patients.

Lessons from the field: understanding the use of a youth tailored U = U tool by peer educators in Lesotho with adolescents and youth living with HIV

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 27 May 2024

Cosima Lenz

Adolescence is defined by significant socio-emotional changes and vulnerability. Adolescents and youth living with HIV (AYLHIV) experience worse clinical HIV outcomes—adherence, retention and viral load suppression—compared to adults. Novel approaches to implement evidence-based interventions to address their unique needs and life-stage are needed.

Cost-Effectiveness and Budget Impact Analysis of the Implementation of Differentiated Service Delivery Models for HIV Treatment in Mozambique: a Modelling Study

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 27 May 2024

Dorlim Antonio Moiana Uetela, Marita Zimmermann, Sérgio Chicumbe, Eduardo Samo Gudo, Ruanne Barnabas, et al.

In 2018, the Mozambique Ministry of Health launched guidelines for implementing differentiated service delivery models (DSDMs) to optimize HIV service delivery, improve retention in care, and ultimately reduce HIV-associated mortality. The models were fast-track, 3-month antiretrovirals dispensing, community antiretroviral therapy groups, adherence clubs, family approach and three one-stop shop models: adolescent-friendly health services, maternal and child health, and tuberculosis. We conducted a cost-effectiveness analysis and budget impact analysis to compare these models to conventional services.

HIV Activist Identity, Commitment, and Orientation Scale (HAICOS): Psychometric Evaluation to Assess Clinician's Propensity Towards HIV Activism in Malaysia

Norman Chong, Iskandar Azwa, Asfarina Amir Hassan, Mohammad Ebrahimzadeh Mousavi, Pui Li Wong, et al

Aids and Behavior | 28 May 2024

HIV activism has a long history of advancing HIV treatment and is critical in dismantling HIV-related stigma. This study evaluated the psychometric quality of the HIV Activist Identity, Commitment, and Orientation Scale (HAICOS) to assess clinicians' propensity towards HIV activism in Malaysia. From November 2022 to March 2023, 74 general practitioners and primary care physicians in Malaysia participated in the study.

Ending HIV Transmission in Australia: Expanding PrEP to Cisgender Women: A Scoping Review

Catherine MacPhail, Kate Manlik, Hannah Dews, Limin Mao & Alison Rutherford

Aids and Behavior | 28 May 2024

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) availability through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme provides real potential for the elimination of HIV transmission in Australia, as evidenced by a rapid decline in HIV incidence among gay and bisexual men (GBM). However, HIV elimination will not be possible without also extending PrEP to other populations, including cisgender women. We conducted a scoping review to examine the extent to which PrEP access for cisgender women has been considered in Australia.

“That's My Girl; I love her”: The Promise of Compassionate, Inclusive Healthcare for Black Transgender Women to Support PrEP Use

Katherine G. Quinn, Liam Randall, Andrew E. Petroll, Steven A. John, Linda Wesp, Yuri Amirkhanian & Jeffrey A. Kelly

Aids and Behavior | 29 May 2024

There are significant disparities in HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) use that disproportionately impact Black transgender women. Medical mistrust and discriminatory experiences in healthcare settings have been identified as critical barriers to equitable PrEP implementation. This qualitative study examines Black transgender women's experiences in healthcare to better understand how patient-provider relationships can help overcome the challenges brought on by medical mistrust.

Factors associated with depressive symptoms among cancer patients: a nationwide cross-sectional study

BMC Public Health | 29 May 2024

Xiaoqing Chen, Chaoyan Ye, Li Liu & Xiuyang Li

Research on factors contributing to depressive symptoms in cancer patients at a national level, encompassing a comprehensive set of variables was limited. This study aimed to address this gap by identifying the factors associated with depressive symptoms among cancer patients through a nationwide cross-sectional analysis.

Two-drug regimens for the treatment of HIV in Africa

Ivan Mambule, Claire Norcross, Loice Achieng Ombajo, Simiso Sokhela, Eva Agnes Laker Odongpiny, Noela Owarwo, et al.

The Lancet HIV | 29 May 2024

Two-drug regimens for the treatment of HIV are increasingly available. The oral regimen of dolutegravir

plus lamivudine is recommended as a preferred option in multiple national guidelines but is not currently included in WHO HIV treatment guidelines nor widely used in Africa. Long-acting injectable cabotegravir and rilpivirine is being rolled out in the USA, Europe, and Australia but its use in sub-Saharan Africa is currently restricted to clinical trials. Given the increasing life expectancy, rising prevalence of non-communicable diseases, and resulting polypharmacy among people living with HIV, there are potential advantages to the use of two-drug regimens, particularly in African women, adolescents, and older adults.

Lived experience of people with cryptococcal meningitis: A qualitative study

Southern African Journal of HIV Medicine | 29 May 2024

Neo A. Legare, Vanessa C. Quan, Nelesh P. Govender, Jane W. Muchiri

The high burden of cryptococcal meningitis (CM) among people living with HIV persists despite widespread access to antiretroviral therapy. Efforts to prevent CM among people living with HIV could be hindered by a limited understanding of their lived experiences of CM and its diagnosis.

The interrelationship between obesity and race in breast cancer prognosis: a prospective cohort study

Emma A. Schindler, Cristiane Takita, Fernando Collado-Mesa, Isildinha M. Reis, Wei Zhao

BMC Women's Health | 30 May 2024

Obesity is associated with an increased breast cancer risk in postmenopausal women and may contribute to worse outcomes. Black women experience higher obesity and breast cancer mortality rates than non-Black women. We examined associations between race, obesity, and clinical tumor stage with breast cancer prognosis.

Critical illness due to infection in people living with HIV

Prof Guy A Richards, Jarrod Zamparini, Prof Ismail Kalla, Abdullah Laher, Lyle W Murray, Erica J

Shaddock, et al

The Lancet HIV | 30 May 2024

People living with HIV comprise a substantial number of the patients admitted to intensive care. This number varies according to geography, but all areas of the world are affected. In lower-income and middle-income countries, the majority of intensive care unit (ICU) admissions relate to infections, whereas in high-income countries, they often involve HIV-associated non-communicable diseases diagnoses. Management of infections potentially resulting in admission to the ICU in people living with HIV include sepsis, respiratory infections, COVID-19, cytomegalovirus infection, and CNS infections, both opportunistic and non-opportunistic.

State of mental health, sleep status, and the interaction with health-related quality of life in HIV-infected Chinese patients during the COVID-19 pandemic

Juan Du, Jin Li, Han Liang, Fuxiang Wang, Yuanlong Lin et al.

BMC Public Health | 30 May 2024

To describe how mental health and sleep status influence the health-related quality of life (HRQOL) of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) during the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, and to apply targeted interventions to improve the HRQOL.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Raising life expectancy for youth with HIV requires more than just adherence to care regimens, researchers say

Medical Xpress | 22 May 2024

Life expectancy of youth with HIV is projected to be 10.4 years less in males and 11.8 years less in females compared to individuals without HIV, a study by researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), a founding member of the Mass General Brigham health care system, has found. The research,

published in JAMA Health Forum, also reported that careful adherence to HIV care throughout the individual's lifespan can lead to important gains in life expectancy, and that for some adolescents with HIV, interventions focused on structural and social factors such as poverty and housing could also result in improvements.

New Options to Screen for HPV, Which Causes Cervical Cancer

Poz | 22 May 2024

Women will soon have easier—and more private—options to screen for human papillomavirus (HPV), the virus that causes almost all cases of cervical cancer, as well as anal cancer, some oral cancers and other malignancies. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved two self-collection methods that allow women to use vaginal swabs to gather samples in a health care setting, such as their primary care doctor's office, a pharmacy or an urgent care facility. The self-collected samples are then sent to a lab for evaluation.

Regimens With Dolutegravir Base Led to Less Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission

AJMC | 22 May 2024

Transmission of HIV from a mother to her infant could be affected by the type of medicine that the mother is taking, according to a study published in *HIV/AIDS*. Less frequent transmission from mother to child was observed when mothers took a regimen based in dolutegravir (DTG) compared with mother who took a regimen based in efavirenz (EFV).

Escalating STI rates undermine global health progress towards 2030 targets

Contemporary | 23 May 2024

These diseases collectively contribute to approximately 2.5 million deaths annually, revealing the need for efforts in disease prevention and control. Despite the target set by WHO Member States in 2022 to reduce annual adult syphilis infections by ten-fold by 2030, from 7.1 million to 0.71 million, new cases have surged, surpassing 8 million in 2022.

Biggest single reason for people with HIV dropping out of care is stigma, doctors report

Aidsmap | 24 May 2024

A major issue at last year's British HIV Association (BHIVA) conference in Gateshead was loss to care. Several presentations alerted the conference to the fact that there could be more people in the UK who were diagnosed with HIV but were currently not in care, and therefore were not virally suppressed, than there were people who remained undiagnosed. Loss to care remained as one of the themes at last month's conference in Birmingham. However, a more detailed analysis of the figures revealed that the idea that as many as a third of people diagnosed with HIV could be out of care was an overestimate, and also found that some people 'lost to care' may have in fact been receiving it elsewhere.

New Report Flags Major Increase in STIs, Amidst Challenges in HIV and Hepatitis

Poz | 24 May 2024

Global HIV, viral hepatitis epidemics and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) continue to pose significant public health challenges, causing 2.5 million deaths each year, according to a new World Health Organization (WHO) report - Implementing the global health sector strategies on HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections, 2022–2030. New data show that STIs are increasing in many regions. In 2022, WHO Member States set out an ambitious target of reducing the annual number of adult syphilis infections by ten-fold by 2030, from 7.1 million to 0.71 million. Yet, new syphilis cases among adults aged 15-49 years increased by over 1 million in 2022 reaching 8 million. The highest increases occurred in the Region for the Americas and the African Region.

HPV vaccines prevent cancer in men as well as women, new research suggests

Medical Xpress | 24 May 2024

New research suggests the HPV vaccine is preventing cancer in men, as well as in women, but fewer boys than girls are getting the shots in the United States. The HPV vaccine was developed to prevent cervical cancer in women and experts give it credit, along with screening, for lowering cervical cancer rates. Evidence that the shots are preventing HPV-related cancers in men has been slower to emerge, but the new research suggests vaccinated men have fewer cancers of the mouth and throat compared to

those who didn't get the shots. These cancers are more than twice as common in men than in women.

Shipment of newest malaria vaccine, R21, to Central African Republic marks latest milestone for child survival

World Health Organisation | 24 May 2024

UNICEF delivered over 43 000 doses of the R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine by air to Bangui, Central African Republic, today, with more than 120 000 doses to follow in the next days. It is the first country to receive the R21 malaria vaccine for use in routine childhood immunization, marking another step forward in preventing the disease and saving children's lives.

Bariatric surgery cuts breast cancer risk in women with obesity

MIMS | 25 May 2024

Bariatric surgery appears to have a protective effect on the risk of breast cancer in women with obesity, especially those with hyperinsulinemia, according to data from the Swedish Obese Subjects (SOS) study. SOS included 2,867 women between 37 and 60 years of age (mean 48.0 years) with a body mass index of at least 38 kg/m². Of these, 1,420 women underwent bariatric surgery, specifically gastric banding in 260, vertical banded gastroplasty in 970, and gastric bypass in 190.

Men More Likely To Suffer From Diabetes Related Diseases Than Women

Forbes | 26 May 2024

A recent study revealed that men with diabetes (type 1 and 2) are far more likely to suffer from co-morbidities like cardiovascular disease (CVD), kidney complications, and foot or leg complications than women with diabetes. "Although the prevalence of diabetes is similar in men and women (worldwide prevalence of 8.9% and 8.4%, respectively), the incidence and progression of diabetes-related complications appear to be more sex-specific," the authors wrote in their study that was published in the *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*.

Children's Day: No Child Should Be Born With HIV NACA

Leadership | 26 May 2024

In commemoration of this year's Children's Day, the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) has said that no child deserves to be born with HIV, especially in an era marked by advanced technology and innovation. The director-general of NACA, Dr Temitope Illori, emphasised that Children's Day, celebrated May 27 of every year, serves as a reminder of the invaluable treasure children represent and the immense responsibility everyone bear to ensure their health, happiness, and well-being.

A knock on the door saved my life: Woman narrates her fears after HIV diagnosis

Standardmedia | 27 May 2024

For Janet (not her real name), one sunny day in January 2018, was just like any other. With Form One admissions underway, the rush to beat time was on. She had the sun in her eyes as days drew closer to her school opening, as she looked forward to being a Form Four candidate and conquering the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education exams, and be the toss of the day.

Meet Azima: Frontline hero of the HIV response in Uzbekistan

UNAIDS | 27 May 2024

Azima has lived with HIV since childhood; she was abandoned by her parents and raised by her grandmother. Today she is recognized as an inspirational community leader in the HIV response, including for the vital role she has played in tackling stigma as the first young woman in Uzbekistan to disclose her HIV-positive status. "I am strong. I have a bright future ahead. And I will achieve my goals," says Azima. She has faced both positive and negative reactions since her disclosure. Throughout, Azima has remained a committed activist. She is especially thankful to her community of peer support, a group of children and young people living with HIV supported by UNICEF.

Durban man tests positive for Monkeypox

IOL | 27 May 2024

A Durban man has tested positive for Monkeypox, the country's second laboratory-confirmed case in just

a few weeks. "The new patient is the 39-year-old male who was admitted at Addington Hospital in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal without travel history to countries and regions currently experiencing the outbreak of the disease," the national Department of Health said.

South Africa Could Face A Critical Diabetes Drug Stock-Outs

Health-e News | 27 May 2024

Doctors are sounding the alarm over a predicted stock-out of insulin pen devices used by people living with diabetes. This comes after the pharmaceutical company Novo Nordisk, the previous supplier in South Africa, and other manufacturers failed to meet the demand to supply insulin pen devices. Instead, these manufacturers offer insulin in vials. Novo Nordisk has supplied over 14 million human insulin pens to South Africa over the last three years.

“You don't fit into any of the boxes”: trans men's experiences with PrEP

Aidsmap | 27 May 2024

While not often acknowledged as being at a higher risk for getting HIV, transgender men – people assigned female at birth who identify and live as men – have a seven times higher risk of HIV than the general population. Still, it is rare to see public health campaigns directed towards trans men about HIV or protective measures, such as PrEP.

Major adverse pregnancy outcomes linked to long-term risk of kidney disease

Contemporary OB/GYN | 28 May 2024

There is an association between adverse pregnancy outcomes such as small for gestational age, preterm delivery, gestational diabetes, preeclampsia, and other hypertensive disorders of pregnancy with increased renal complication risks. Additionally, up to 1 in 3 pregnancies are impacted by 1 or more adverse pregnancy outcome.

HIV treatment for kids has improved and there is more to come, says Dr Moherndran Archary

Spotlight | 28 May 2024

Dr Moherndran Archary's research has helped shape South African health policy, most notably the rollout of better HIV treatments for children and babies. Spotlight's Biënne Huisman chatted to him about the state of HIV treatment for kids and some exciting prospects on the horizon. “There would be multiple deaths every night,” says Dr Moherndran Archary, referring to Durban's former King Edward VIII Hospital. “We had multiple children in the ward who were wasting away. And there was no treatment, nothing to make their lives better,” he recalls, with emotion.

Elections: How Politics Impacts Women's Health

Health-e News | 28 May 2024

Women's health and well-being are influenced by a multitude of factors, ranging from access to healthcare to social, economic, and political determinants. The most pressing issue is often access to healthcare: is it safe and timely for all women? Equally important is the acceptability of these services — how women are treated within the healthcare sector, the respect and information they receive, and the education provided about common diseases and screenings.

Drug resistance discovery could 'move the field forward' for breast cancer treatment

Medical Xpress | 29 May 2024

Research recently published in Drug Resistance Updates has revealed a previously unknown biological process through which breast tumor cells develop resistance to standard treatment, which could open the door for cancer scientists around the world to further target this vulnerability in hopes of creating more effective therapies for disease.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Call for Applications, Albertina Sisulu Executive Leadership Program in Health (ASELPH) Fellowship, A University of Pretoria Postgraduate Diploma in Health Systems Management in Executive Leadership, Application Deadline, 30 June 2024

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 7th cohort of the Albertina Sisulu Executive Leadership Program in Health starting in January 2025 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.

While university funding support is not provided, **Partial or Full Tuition Bursaries** may be available for public health sector employees through respective provincial or HWSETA bursaries, 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

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

Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in schools 2015-2023: Special focus on menstrual health, WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
May 27, 2024

The WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) produces internationally comparable estimates of progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and is responsible for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets related to WASH. This data update presents national, regional and global estimates for WASH in schools up to the year 2023, with a special focus on menstrual health.

https://data.unicef.org/resources/jmp-wash-in-schools-2024/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_id=WASH+in+schools+2024&utm_campaign=WASH%20in%20schools&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Mailjet

Implementing the Primary Health Care Approach: a Primer

Primary health care (PHC) has values – around treating people close to home, continuity and coordination. It stands as the principal interface between the health system and communities – the locus where the formalized system meshes with people's lives. More than that, primary health care can shape and reshape health systems to make them more accessible, more integrated and more sustainable. Dozens of experts have come together to support policy-makers in addressing the challenges. It consolidates the global evidence on implementation and is a guide on the “how” of PHC, combining, as it does, best practices, and the tacit knowledge that countries have generated, with more formal research and analysis.

<https://eurohealthobservatory.who.int/publications/i/implementing-the-primary-health-care-approach-a-primer>

Call for Abstracts – The *Journal of the International AIDS Society* (JIAS) invites abstracts for the below supplements:

"Person-centred HIV prevention: Supporting people vulnerable to HIV acquisition through tailored programming, service delivery and prevention products" to be launched in September 2025.

Guest Editors: Iskandar Azwa, Marie-Claude Lavoie, Andrew Mujugira

Deadline for abstract submissions: 14 June 2024

More information [here](#).

"Differentiated service delivery – beyond HIV treatment for integration and other health needs" to be launched in July 2025 in conjunction with IAS 2025, the 13th IAS Conference on HIV Science.

Guest Editors: Anna Grimsrud, Charles B. Holmes, Linda Sande

Deadline for abstract submissions: 28 June 2024

More information [here](#).

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

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

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

DISTRICT HEALTH BAROMETER 2022/2023

The 16th edition of the DHB provides information across a wide range of district health services, covers over 30 indicators and continues to provide policy-makers, health workers, planners, researchers, academics and stakeholders a unique overview of the performance of public health services in South Africa. By providing a detailed analysis of health indicators, trends, and challenges at the district level, the DHB equips district managers and other stakeholders with the data necessary to identify priorities, plan and implement targeted interventions, and monitor progress. This year's Barometer also includes a chapter on air quality and health as we introduce environmental drivers of health in the publication in response to the effects of climate change on health.

As an innovation for the publication, an online interactive dashboard has been developed. This dashboard will include all the indicators that have been compiled in the publication along with accompanying narratives on the key findings for the most recent year of data. It provides userled navigation, with the ability to drill down geographically from provincial to district level. Users will be able to decide what indicators to focus on, over what time window, and at the level of aggregation they choose. There are also timesliders available to navigate the most recent 5 years of data.

<https://www.hst.org.za/publications/Pages/-District-Health-Barometer-2022-2023.aspx>

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

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

When: 24 – 27 September 2024

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

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

Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) 2024 conference

This year's theme: 'Partnerships for Public Health: Sculpting a Healthier Future Together'

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.

The 2024 PHASA Conference provides 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.

For more information please visit the conference website: <https://phasa.samrc.ac.za/>

Become a member of the Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA)

The Public Health Association of South Africa (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.

<https://phasa.org.za/index.php/get-involved/membership>

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

No vacancies available

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