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## CATEGORIES

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## ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

### **The distribution of hrHPV genotypes among cervical cancer cases diagnosed across Ghana: a cross-sectional study**

*BMC Infectious Diseases* | 27 March 2024

*Patrick Kafui Akakpo, Emmanuel Gustav Imbeah, Kofi Ulzen-Appiah, Afua Darkwa-Abrahams, Ernest Adjei, et al.*

The burden of cervical cancer in Ghana is high due to a lack of a national screening and vaccination program. Geographical variations in high-risk Human Papilloma Virus incidence and type should be considered for vaccine improvement and screening in LMICs.

### **Predictors of antiretroviral treatment failure to the first line therapy: a cross-sectional study among Iranian HIV-positive adults**

*BMC Infectious Diseases* | 28 March 2024

*Ava Hashempour, Nastaran Khodadad, Reza Ziaei, Behzad Rezaei, Farzaneh Ghasabi, et al.*

HIV virological failure is one of the main problems in HIV-infected patients, and identifying the main predictors of such treatment failure may help in combating HIV/AIDS.

### **Making sense of COVID-19: manifestations of health capital during the pandemic**

*BMC Public Health* | 1 April 2024

*Ş. Erhan Bağcı, Şengül Erden & Begüm Yengel*

Grounded in Bourdieu's theory of human practice, this study aims to examine how individuals as social agents made sense of and acted upon their COVID-19 experiences. A recent conceptualization of health capital is utilized to explain the practices of patients in the pandemic, in relation to their biographical background.

## **The clinical profile and outcomes of drug resistant tuberculosis in Central Province of Zambia**

*BMC Infectious Diseases* | 1 April 2024

*Evaristo Chanda*

The emergence of Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (DR-TB) is one of the main public health and economic problems facing the world today. DR-TB affects mostly those in economically productive years and prevents them from being part of the workforce needed for economic growth. The aim of this study was to determine the Clinical Profile and Outcomes of DR-TB in Central Province of Zambia.

## **Accuracy of and preferences for blood-based versus oral-fluid-based HIV self-testing in Malawi: a cross-sectional study**

*BMC Infectious Diseases* | 2 April 2024

*Ailva O'Reilly, Webster Mavhu, Melissa Neuman, Moses K. Kumwenda, Cheryl C. Johnson, et al.*

HIV self-testing (HIVST) can use either oral-fluid or blood-based tests. Studies have shown strong preferences for self-testing compared to facility-based services. Despite availability of low-cost blood-based HIVST options, to date, HIVST implementation in sub-Saharan Africa has largely been oral-fluid-based. We investigated whether users preferred blood-based (i.e. using blood sample derived from a finger prick) or oral fluid-based HIVST in rural and urban Malawi.

## **An evaluation of the cost of human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine delivery in Zambia**

*BMC Infectious Diseases* | 2 April 2024

*Moses C Simuyemba, Chitalu M Chama-Chiliba, Abson Chompolola, Aaron Sinyangwe, Abdallah Bchir, et al.*

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a common sexually transmitted infection and the leading cause of cervical cancer. The HPV vaccine is a safe and effective way to prevent HPV infection. In Zambia, the vaccine is given during Child Health Week to girls aged 14 years who are in and out of school in two doses over two years. The focus of this evaluation was to establish the cost to administer a single dose of the vaccine as well as for full immunisation of two doses.

## **Improving Delivery and Use of HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis in the US: A Systematic Review of Implementation Strategies and Adjunctive Interventions**

*Aids and Behavior* | 2 April 2024

*James L. Merle, Nanette Benbow, Dennis H. Li, Juan P. Zapata, Artur Queiroz, et al.*

Implementation of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent HIV transmission is suboptimal in the United States. To date, the literature has focused on identifying determinants of PrEP use, with a lesser focus on developing and testing change methods to improve PrEP implementation. Moreover, the change methods available for improving the uptake and sustained use of PrEP have not been systematically categorized.

## **Concordance between SARS-CoV-2 index individuals and their household contacts on index individual COVID-19 transmission cofactors: a comparison of self-reported and contact-reported information**

*BMC Public Health* | 2 April 2024

*Angela M. Dahl, Clare E. Brown, Elizabeth R. Brown, Meagan P. O'Brien & Ruanne V. Barnabas*

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, several clinical trials have evaluated postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) among close contacts of an index individual with a confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection. Because index individuals do not directly inform the efficacy of prevention interventions, they are seldom enrolled in COVID-19 PEP studies. However, adjusting for prognostic covariates such as an index individual's COVID-19 illness and risk behaviors can increase precision in PEP efficacy estimates, so approaches to accurately collecting this information about the index individual are needed.

## **Health related quality of life and its predictive factors on cervical cancer patients in two teaching hospitals, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

*BMC Women's Health | 2 April 2024*

*Daniel Terefe Seyfu, Shiferaw Negash Abebe, Sofanit Haile & Birhanu Abera Ayana*

Cervical cancer is the second most prevalent and the leading cause of cancer related deaths among Ethiopian women; and about three fourth are diagnosed at advanced stages. Cervical cancer can affect the health-related quality of life (HRQOL) in multiple ways. The main aim of this study was to describe the HRQOL of cervical cancer patients and the predictive factors using validated tools.

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## **RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS**

### **How much stress is too much? A psychiatrist explains the links between toxic stress and poor health – and how to get help**

*Daily Maverick | 26 March 2024*

Covid-19 taught most people that the line between tolerable and toxic stress – defined as persistent demands that lead to disease – varies widely. But some people will age faster and die younger from toxic stressors than others. So how much stress is too much, and what can you do about it? I'm a psychiatrist specializing in psychosomatic medicine, which is the study and treatment of people who have physical and mental illnesses. My research is focused on people who have psychological conditions and medical illnesses as well as those whose stress exacerbates their health issues.

### **Haiti's crisis exacerbates vulnerability of people living with and affected by HIV. UNAIDS committed to continuing to provide support to people in need.**

*UNAIDS | 27 March 2024*

The humanitarian crisis in Haiti is exacerbating the vulnerability of people living with or affected by HIV, particularly women, girls, and key populations. The situation has deepened existing inequalities, and multiplied the risks faced by marginalised communities. In the face of this adversity, UNAIDS continues to work with partners to ensure that people living with or affected by HIV have access to life-saving HIV services, including treatment and prevention services. For example, in the West Department, over 50,000 people are receiving antiretroviral treatment and are at high risk of disruption. HIV prevention and health care services also face disruption. The recent violence continues to leave thousands of families traumatized. Thousands of people now find themselves unsafe and exposed to all types of risks. Displaced people and vulnerable populations need emergency aid and safe, protected spaces.

### **Adolescents prefer long-acting injectables to daily oral HIV treatment, study finds**

*Aidsmap | 27 March 2024*

How young people feel about long-acting injectable treatment remains largely unexplored. The More Options for Children and Adolescents (MOCHA) study provides some insight into the experiences of young people aged 12-18 who have switched to long-acting cabotegravir / rilpivirine based treatment. It is the first to examine use of long-acting injectable antiretrovirals in virally suppressed adolescents. Understanding what makes them a good option for young people is vital to the success of their rollout. Whilst data shows they are safe, we have little knowledge of their acceptance in adolescent populations.

## **'Staggering' rise in women with reproductive health issues near DRC cobalt mines – study**

*The Guardian | 28 March 2024*

Women and girls living in cobalt-mining communities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are reporting a “staggering” rise in serious reproductive health issues, including miscarriages and birth defects, according to a new report. An investigation published by the UK-based human rights group Rights & Accountability in Development (Raid) and the Kinshasa-based NGO Afreewatch said that women and girls living around cobalt mines reported experiencing irregular menstruations, urogenital infections, vaginal mycoses and warts.

## **Weight gain on HIV treatment: more than a 'return to health' phenomenon?**

*Aidsmap | 28 March 2024*

Weight gain on antiretroviral treatment is not solely a 'return to health' effect, research presented earlier this month at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2024) suggests. Since the introduction of integrase inhibitor-based antiretroviral treatment, clinical trials and cohorts around the world have reported weight gain in people with HIV after starting treatment. In most people the weight gain is modest, but in a substantial minority, weight gain can approach 5-6kg within two years, and some people develop obesity. Scientists studying weight gain on antiretroviral treatment have tended to favour one of two explanations. One is that weight gain is caused by antiretroviral drugs – the original assumption.

## **Why is the roll-out of injectable PrEP taking so long?**

*Aidsmap | 29 March 2024*

A symposium at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2024) earlier this month included presentations advocating changes in practice on what might be called opposite ends of the menu of PrEP options now on offer. Dr Rupa Patel, who works for the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and is also PrEP Medical Advisor for Washington DC's Whitman Walker Clinic, questioned why the rollout of long-acting cabotegravir (CAB-LA) for injectable PrEP has been so slow, not only in the lower-income world, where programmes are only just starting, but in the USA, where multiple cost and bureaucratic issues are still only allowing a few of those who might want it to have it.

## **End the HIV/AIDS scourge in women**

*Punch | 31 March 2024*

THE revelation by the new Director-General of the National Agency for the Control of AIDS, Gambo Aliyu, that six out of 10 persons living with HIV in Nigeria are females, must not be handled with levity. It is startling and shows the heavy burden faced by women living with the HIV/AIDS scourge in Nigeria. All the three tiers of government, non-for-profits and the multilateral organisations should redouble their efforts to eliminate the scourge.

## **New report on HIV drug resistance: Challenges and recommendations**

*News Medical Life Science | 1 April 2024*

The World Health Organization's (WHO) latest HIV Drug Resistance (HIVDR) Report tells us where drug resistance is growing and offers recommendations for countries to monitor and respond to the potential challenges. The report shares some good news and some concerning news. It highlights high levels of HIV viral load suppression (>90%) in populations receiving dolutegravir (DTG)-containing antiretroviral therapy (ART). However, observational and country-generated survey data indicate that levels of HIVDR to DTG are exceeding levels observed in clinical trials.

## **Supporting Breast Cancer Survivors Through Psychosocial Challenges**

*Poz | 1 April 2024*

Patients that survived breast cancer should prepare to face psychosocial challenges such as the ongoing impact, uncertainty, identity, isolation, posttraumatic growth, return to work, quality of care, and supportive

coping strategies to proactively overcome these. A meta-review of 25 previously English-published studies from 1998 up to 2020 were further analyzed. Out of the 25 total studies, 8 were qualitative and 17 had mixed methods. Observations revealed a significant burden of ongoing symptoms such as pain, fatigue, and cognitive issues in breast cancer survivors. Despite being considered healthy, this lingering physical and cognitive impact created a sense of unease. Studies suggested survivors adjust their daily routines to accommodate these limitations, while prioritizing social connections over the disease itself.

### **Nigerian analysis defines what makes a youth-friendly HIV service work**

*Aidsmap | 1 April 2024*

A recent study identifies the factors which contribute to the effective delivery of youth-friendly services, so as to achieve better outcomes for adolescents. Globally, around five million adolescents (aged 15-24) are living with HIV. There is consensus that youth-friendly approaches to delivering care do support better health outcomes. However, there are gaps in knowledge about how they work in practice. This analysis explored whether specific mechanisms could influence outcomes. HIV prevalence in Nigeria is at its lowest since 1999, at 1.4%. However, only 31% of young people aged 15-24 are aware of their status; the average in the general population is 47%. Around 90% of young people who are living with HIV are accessing treatment, but only 31% of young people aged 20-24 are virally suppressed. The average amongst those aged 15-64 is 43%. In this context, youth-friendly services are being scaled up to improve such outcomes.

### **Immunologic Nonresponse in HIV After ART Initiation Tied to Male Sex, Older Age**

*Infectious Disease Advisor | 1 April 2024*

Among patients with HIV infection, factors associated with immunologic nonresponse following antiretroviral therapy (ART) initiation include male sex, older age, hepatitis B virus (HBV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV) coinfection, low CD4+ T-cell count, and low CD4/CD8 ratio. These findings were published in BMC Infectious Diseases.

### **Ministers of Health commit to accelerated action against malaria in Africa**

*News Medical Life Science | 1 April 2024*

Ministers of Health from African countries with the highest burden of malaria committed today to accelerated action to end deaths from the disease. They pledged to sustainably and equitably address the threat of malaria in the African region, which accounts for 95% of malaria deaths globally. The Ministers, gathering in Yaoundé, Cameroon, signed a declaration committing to provide stronger leadership and increased domestic funding for malaria control programmes; to ensure further investment in data technology; to apply the latest technical guidance in malaria control and elimination; and to enhance malaria control efforts at the national and sub-national levels.

### **Mosquito detectives track malaria's history**

*EurekAlert | 1 April 2024*

A group of researchers is calling on colleagues around the world to join them in what they call "pathogen prospecting" by tracking down archival specimens of mosquitoes in museums and other collections to examine them for pathogens that would have infected people with malaria while feeding on their blood.

### **Doctors on front line of tackling childhood obesity need more training and resources, say researchers**

*Medical Xpress | 1 April 2024*

Doctors are feeling unable to tackle the growing problem of childhood obesity due to a lack of training and capacity according to new research. In a paper published in the British Journal of General Practice, researchers from the University of Birmingham conducted in-depth interviews with health care professionals (HCPs) to understand their experiences of supporting families to tackle childhood obesity.

## **Endometriosis: condition with no cure or known cause affects millions of women globally**

*News24 | 2 April 2024*

It is estimated that one in every 10 South African women will be diagnosed with endometriosis. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), this condition affects roughly 10% (190 million) of reproductive-age women and girls globally. March was Endometriosis Awareness Month, celebrated globally, to create awareness of chronic disease associated with severe, life-impacting pain during periods, sexual intercourse, bowel movements and/or urination, chronic pelvic pain, abdominal bloating, nausea, fatigue and sometimes depression, anxiety, and infertility.

## **Malaria vaccine rollout shines light on value of renewable power**

*Reuters | 2 April 2024*

Over the course of this year, in cities, towns and villages across the tropical belt that cuts through sub-Saharan Africa, medics will begin administering doses of vaccines against malaria to millions of people. This promises to be one of the greatest public health efforts ever undertaken, helping to mitigate the vast toll that the mosquito-borne disease has claimed for millennia. Malaria causes 608,000 deaths each year, opens new tab, 95% of them in Africa. One of the two approved vaccines, labelled RTS,S, has been piloted, opens new tab on a large scale in Ghana, Kenya and Malawi, and Cameroon will be the first of 12 African countries that will begin administering doses this year.

## **Global Leaders Offer Support to Gambia to Uphold Ban on Female Genital Mutilation**

*Health Policy Watch | 2 April 2024*

Global health and parliamentary leaders have offered to support The Gambia to maintain its ban on female genital mutilation (FGM), expressing "profound concern" over a recent attempt to reverse the ban. The business committee of Gambia's parliament is currently contemplating whether to allow the passage of a Private Members Bill which aims to reverse the landmark Women's (Amendment) Act of 2015, which outlawed FGM.

## **A Closer Look at the New Statin Therapy Guidelines for Patients With HIV**

*MedPage Today | 2 April 2024*

Ms. C\*, a 53-year-old African American woman living with HIV for almost a decade, inquired about the recently released recommendations opens in a new tab or window for cardiovascular disease prevention among people with HIV (PWH). Her predicted 10-year atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) risk score is not significantly increased at 5.3%, her LDL is only 100 mg/dL, but she smokes cigarettes and has a family history of early heart attack. Should she start a statin?

## **Big falls in HIV deaths in high-income countries – except for injecting drug users**

*Aidsmap | 2 April 2024*

While there have been reductions in the rates of most major causes of death among people with HIV in North America and Europe since 1996, people who inject drugs – particularly women – remain vulnerable to early death.

## **HIV prevention: which countries are still on track?**

*Be in the know | 2 April 2024*

HIV infections are falling faster in countries that are part of the Global HIV Prevention Coalition than in the rest of the world, according to new UNAIDS data.

What is the report about?

The impact of the Global HIV Prevention Coalition (GPC) on the HIV epidemic. This is a coalition of 38 countries working together to speed up declines in HIV infections.



## **Dramatic decline in condom distribution in SA, new figures show**

*Spotlight | 2 April 2024*

The South African government distributed 45% fewer male condoms in 2022 than it did in 2018. The total number of male condoms distributed dropped by over 300 million from 728 million in the financial year from March 2018 to February 2019 to 403 million in 2022/2023. Female condom supply also declined over this period, but not as sharply.

## **Understanding the impact of STIs on young adults**

*Contemporary OB/GYN | 2 April 2024*

In a recent interview, Jill S. Blumenthal, MD, associate professor of medicine at UC San Diego Health, discussed how young adults are impacted by sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Over 25 million STI cases are reported annually, with the number of cases rising over time. Of these infections, approximately half are in patients aged 15 to 24 years. Adolescents are less likely to be aware about the impact of STIs, increasing vulnerability among this population. The risk of STIs is increased among young, cisgender patients because of hormonal changes that occur during this period. Additionally, young patients don't always receive the recommended STI tests that adults receive because of a lack of knowledge.

## **World Autism Awareness Day: Health department calls on communities to support those on the spectrum**

*IOL | 2 April 2024*

The World Health Organization revealed that one in every 100 children globally has autism. In South Africa, local studies have found the prevalence of autism to be between 0.08% to 2%. This condition is mainly found to be more prevalent in males than females.

## **#SliceOfLife: I get R7 for every ARV parcel I deliver to patients on my bike**

*Bhekisisa | 3 April 2024*

In Komani in the Eastern Cape, Siphelo Lose delivers medicine parcels by bike to people who can't get to a clinic or private pharmacy to collect their antiretrovirals or chronic medication. His service, paid for by the health department and the online store Pharmacy Direct, is a lifeline. If patients don't take their HIV medication every day like they should, the virus can start replicating in their body, which can make them infectious again and weaken their immune system.

## **Mitchells Plain Transitional Care Facility alleviating service pressure on hospital**

*IOL | 3 April 2024*

A new Mitchells Plain Transitional Care Facility in Cape Town is alleviating the pressure on the acute hospital platform. The facility, which has 148 beds provides intermediate care to patients who are medically stable but are unable to be discharged but do not require acute care and would be able to fully recuperate without congesting the hospital platform.

## **Bridging the gap in mental health services for pregnant women with serious mental illness**

*News Medical Life Science | 3 April 2024*

Women with serious mental illness (SMI) who are pregnant or planning a pregnancy face gaps in information, support and resources in mental health services, new research suggests. The findings, published April 1 in the peer-reviewed journal *Health Affairs*, highlight the need to integrate pregnancy and parenting interventions, education, and other resources for women with SMI into mental health services.

## **'The great imitator': Scientists describe spike in global syphilis rates a public health crisis**

*News24 | 3 April 2024*

Scientists worldwide are sounding the alarm at the return of syphilis. A South African epidemiologist describes the comeback of the easily preventable infection as a huge public health failing. Penicillin or doxycycline is used to treat syphilis, but an effective vaccine remains elusive.

### **New TB framework for improved diagnosis and care**

*Juta Medical Brief | 4 April 2024*

A new framework may better characterise the early stages of tuberculosis (TB) and improve research and clinical care, an international team of researchers has said. Turning against the current “active” or “latent” classification of TB, the International Consensus for Early TB (ICE-TB) group released a five-state system that distinguishes disease from infection, clinical versus subclinical states, and the degree of likely infectiousness. Medpage Today reports that the framework includes four disease states, including clinical TB (with symptoms) and subclinical TB (without symptoms), each categorised as either infectious or non-infectious. The fifth state is TB infection that has not progressed to disease.

### **SA Child Vaccination Differs In Public Vs Private Sector: What This Means**

*Health-e News | 4 April 2024*

Childhood vaccines are free in South Africa's public clinics. But new parents might get an unpleasant surprise when they learn that vaccines against some childhood infections aren't available in the public sector. South Africa's childhood immunisation schedule includes vaccines against 11 different diseases for children aged 0 to 15 years. At the moment, this schedule does not include vaccines against four infectious diseases: chickenpox; hepatitis A, rubella (German measles) and meningococcal meningitis.

### **Swedish researchers warn of over-use of antibiotics with newborns**

*Juta Medical Brief | 4 April 2024*

Low exposure to antibiotics in newborns treated in neonatal units over a nine-year period was not associated with an increased risk of early-onset sepsis (EOS), found Swedish researchers, but they warned of higher-than-recommended antibiotic use for these infants. They said there was a low prevalence of EOS and low mortality associated with the condition, and called for a reduction in unnecessary antibiotic use.

### **More than 100 epidemic emergencies in Africa since January**

*Juta Medical Brief | 4 April 2024*

Since the start of this year, Africa has recorded 44 disease outbreaks, contributing to 104 active epidemic emergencies on the continent, according to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC). The headline diseases were cholera, measles, dengue fever, Lassa fever, meningitis, chikungunya, monkeypox, diphtheria and the West Nile virus, reports News24.

### **'Better Lives' programme provides critical health services to women and children**

*Unicef | 4 April 2024*

Eighteen-month-old Satham Hassan is among dozens of children being attended to at the Central Maternal and Child Health Centre in Borama town. According to his mother, Hamda Farah, Satham was brought to the centre to have his health checked. “The reason I brought him here is for us to know how his health is faring, like his weight. We think he is underweight, but I hope he is okay. If he is not healthy, he will receive the treatment and nutritional support he needs,” she says.



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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.

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## PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

### DISTRICT HEALTH BAROMETER 2022/2023

The 16th edition of the DHB provides information across a wide range of district health services, covers over 30 indicators and continues to provide policy-makers, health workers, planners, researchers, academics and stakeholders a unique overview of the performance of public health services in South Africa. By providing a detailed analysis of health indicators, trends, and challenges at the district level, the DHB equips district managers and other stakeholders with the data necessary to identify priorities, plan

and implement targeted interventions, and monitor progress. This year's Barometer also includes a chapter on air quality and health as we introduce environmental drivers of health in the publication in response to the effects of climate change on health.

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

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

## Improving Maternal Nutrition Acceleration Plan

*Unicef | March 2024*

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

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## CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

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

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

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

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

professionals and members of NGOs or civil society.

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

Register:

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

## 8<sup>th</sup> SA TB Conference 2024

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

When: 4-7 June 2024

Where: Durban ICC

For more information: <https://tbconference.co.za/>

## International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Conference

FIP holds the World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, which takes place in a different country each year. In addition to this annual congress, FIP hosts the Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress every three to four years. At the annual congress thousands of pharmacists meet, learn, share and exchange views. Our varied programme, offering something for everyone, makes this congress the premier international event in pharmacy each year. The theme for this year's congress is "Innovating for the Future of Health Care".

When: 1-4 September 2024

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

For more information: <https://capetown2024.fip.org/>

## World Congress of Epidemiology Congress

When: 24-27 September 2024

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

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

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## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### SUB-DISTRICT CO-ORDINATORS

Closing date: 10 April 2024

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

### OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR – Durban

Closing date: 10 April 2024

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

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**

Closing date: 10 April 2024

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

**SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER: SA SURE PRO Project  
– eThekweni District**

Closing date: 10 April 2024

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

**Differentiated Models of Care (DMoC) Co-ordinator – eThekweni District**

Closing Date: 11 April 2024

[https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Differentiated-Models-of-Care-\(DMoC\)-Co-ordinator-%E2%80%93-eThekweni-District.aspx](https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Differentiated-Models-of-Care-(DMoC)-Co-ordinator-%E2%80%93-eThekweni-District.aspx)

**CLINICAL ADVISORS X4**

Closing Date: 15 April 2024

<https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/CLINICAL-ADVISORS-X4.aspx>

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