

HST Bulletin 8 March 2024

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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Strategies to Close the PrEP Uptake Gap Among Transgender People and Men Who Have Sex with Men in Tshwane, South Africa: Perspectives from the Community

Aids and Behavior | 1 March 2024

India Perez-Urbano, Athmanundh Dilraj, Annah Pitsi, Naomi Hlongwane, Nada Abdelatif, et al.

HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) uptake among transgender (TG) people and gay men and other men who have sex with men (MSM) remains low, despite South Africa being the first African country to approve PrEP. This mixed-methods study used a two-phase explanatory sequential design: (1) quantitative analysis of cross-sectional surveys followed by (2) qualitative in-depth interviews.

“What we mostly focus on preventing is pregnancy, we don't really focus on preventing HIV...”: Young people's perceptions and priorities when preventing unplanned pregnancy and HIV

African Journal of AIDS Research | 1 March 2024

Jewelle JS Methazia, Tshogofatso P Bessenaar & Sarah E Baum

In South Africa, the high rate of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection among young people and unplanned pregnancies remains a concern. Using a qualitative approach, this study aimed to explore how young people between 18 and 24 years old perceive the risk of unplanned pregnancy and HIV, and how they give priority to and act to prevent both concerns. Fifty-four young people were recruited from three provinces in South Africa: KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, and Gauteng.

PrEP Uptake and Methamphetamine Use Patterns in a 4-Year U.S. National Prospective Cohort Study of Sexual and Gender Minority People, 2017–2022

Aids and Behavior | 4 March 2024

Yan Guo, Drew A. Westmoreland, Alexa B. D'Angelo, Chloe Mirzayi, Michelle Dearolf, et al

Methamphetamine use is on the rise among sexual and gender minority people who have sex with men (SGMSM), escalating their HIV risk. Despite pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) being an effective biomedical HIV prevention tool, its uptake in relation to methamphetamine use patterns in SGMSM has not been studied. In a U.S. cohort study from 2017 to 2022, 6,253 HIV-negative SGMSM indicated for but not using PrEP were followed for four years. Methamphetamine use was categorized (i.e., newly initiated, persistently used, never used, used but quit), and PrEP uptake assessed using generalized estimating equation (GEE), adjusted for attrition.

Partner notification service utilization and associated factors among clients attending anti-retroviral therapy clinics of public health facilities in Gimbi Town, West Ethiopia, 2023: a facility-based mixed-method cross-sectional study

BMC Public Health | 4 March 2024

Habtamu Oljira, Abiriham Rata, Befirdu Mulatu & Tesfaye Abera

Partner Notification Service is among the strategies used to conduct targeted Human Immunodeficiency Virus Testing Service by obtaining information about sexual contacts of index clients to refer for testing. But most people living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus are still unaware of their status, including Ethiopia. Limited studies are available on the magnitude of partner notification service utilization and associated factors in Ethiopia.

COVID 19 vaccination as a trigger of acute genital ulcers in an immunocompromised adolescent—case study and literature review

BMC Women's Health | 5 March 2024

Karolina Pokora, Karolina Kowalczyk, Robert Peterrek, Marlena Cwynar, Rafał Stojko

Acute genital ulcers can affect females of all ages. In children, they often appear as an emergency and remain a diagnostic challenge for pediatricians, gynecologists and dermatologists. Prompt diagnosis and identification of disease-related factors help to implement appropriate treatment. Firstly, it is crucial to properly compile the past medical history of the patient. Past infectious, autoimmune, malignant or traumatic conditions, as well as vaccinations may contribute to the occurrence of acute genital ulcers.

Prevalence of perceived discrimination, determinants and associations with self-rated general and sexual health, healthcare utilization and self-perceived integration: a cross-sectional survey of migrants in Sweden

BMC Public Health | 5 March 2024

Faustine Kyungu Nkulu Kalengayi, Mazen Baroudi & Anna-Karin Hurtig

Sweden has welcomed migrants, but attitudes have shifted, becoming hostile due to populism and the growing number of migrants. This has left migrants feeling unwelcome and marginalized. Few studies have examined the extent to which migrants perceive discrimination, who, why, where and its relationships with different outcomes. This study has two aims: to assess the prevalence, reasons, and determinants of perceived discrimination among migrants and its associations with self-rated health, sexual health, healthcare use, and integration.

Factors associated with burnout among frontline nurses in the post-COVID-19 epidemic era: a multicenter cross-sectional study

BMC Public Health | 5 March 2024

Shitao Wang, Guoshuai Luo, XiangQian Ding, Xuelu Ma, Fei Yang, et al.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly increased the risk of burnout among frontline nurses. However, the prevalence of burnout and its associated factors in the post-pandemic era remain unclear. This research aims to investigate burnout prevalence among frontline nurses in the post-pandemic period and pinpoint associated determinants in China.

Lessons learned from implementation of four HIV self-testing (HIVST) distribution models in Zambia: applying the Consolidated Framework for Implementation

Research to understand impact of contextual factors on implementation

BMC Infectious Diseases | 6 March 2024

Musonda Simwinga, Lwiindi Gwanu, Bernadette Hensen, Lucheka Sigande, Mwami Mainga, et al
Although Zambia has integrated HIV-self-testing (HIVST) into its Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) regulatory frameworks, few best practices to optimize the use of HIV self-testing to increase testing coverage have been documented. We conducted a prospective case study to understand contextual factors guiding implementation of four HIVST distribution models to inform scale-up in Zambia.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

6 Strategies to Improve Antenatal HIV, HBV, Syphilis Screening

Contemporary OB/GYN | 28 February 2024

Rates of maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality among women and children in low- and middle-income countries continue to be burdened by the transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV, hepatitis B, and syphilis. In fact, it is currently estimated that approximately 1.2 million pregnant women were positive for HIV in 2022—with an estimated 18% (range, 2 – 36) not receiving antiretroviral therapy to help prevent transmission to their children.¹

Breast cancer screening from 40-74 – best US modelling study

Juta Medical brief | 28 February 2024

A recent study – comparing various scenarios – has suggested that annual breast cancer screening from 40 to 79 shows the greatest reduction in mortality, reports Medpage Today. Using Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modelling Network (CISNET) estimates of breast cancer screening outcomes published in 2009, 2016 and 2023, mortality was reduced by 41.7% with annual screening starting at 40 and continuing up to 79, reported Debra Monticciolo, MD, of Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Centre in New Hampshire, and colleagues. This was in comparison with biennial screening at 50-74, which reduced mortality by 25.4%; biennial screening at 40-74, which reduced mortality by 30%; and annual screening at 40-74, which reduced mortality by 37%, they noted in the journal *Radiology*.

Taking stock of HIV Stigma among men

Health Systems Trust blog article | 29 February 2024

South Africa has the largest national Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) epidemic globally, with an estimated 7.9 million persons living with the disease. New HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women are substantially higher than among males of the same age because of many factors, including gender inequality.

Over \$12M in Grants to Improve HIV Prevention and Care Among Black Women and Girls

Poz | 29 February 2024

A group of organizations dedicated to improving HIV prevention and care for Black girls and women was awarded \$12.6 million in grants through a new initiative by pharma giant Gilead Sciences. Setting the P.A.C.E. (Prevention, Arts and Advocacy, Community, Education), a three-year initiative, will support 19

organizations in their efforts to increase HIV prevention, anti-stigma and health equity for Black cisgender and transgender women and girls impacted by the HIV epidemic, according to a Gilead Sciences news release.

District Health Barometer lays bare disparities in SA healthcare

Business Day | 29 February 2024

Women in Eastern Cape are twice as likely to die during pregnancy or childbirth than women in Western Cape, according to the latest edition of the District Health Barometer. Western Cape recorded 62 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2022/23 and is the only province that has met the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of reducing maternal mortality to below 70 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030. The figure was 124.3 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in Eastern Cape and 101.0 for SA overall in 2022/23.

Ten safer breastfeeding rules when you're living with HIV

Aidsmap | March 2024

Guidelines from the British HIV Association (BHIVA) state that in the UK and other high-income settings, the safest way to feed your child when you have HIV is with formula milk, as this means there's zero risk of ongoing HIV exposure after birth. In the UK, BHIVA recommends that you feed your infant with formula if you're living with HIV. Nonetheless, some people living with HIV do decide to breastfeed, for a variety of reasons.

Addressing the world's obesity epidemic

Health Systems Trust blog article | 1 March 2024

World Obesity Day was established by the **World Obesity Federation** with assistance from the **World Health Organisation** and collaboration with the **Lancet Commission on Obesity**. It was observed for the first time in 2015. There has never been a greater need to take action than now, as obesity rates have risen to frightening levels throughout the world. On this occasion we are using awareness and activism to address the complex challenges surrounding obesity. It is a day of reflection, action, and solidarity as we unite to address this pressing public health concern. There is a growing global obesity crisis that needs attention now more than ever.

One in eight people are now living with obesity

WHO | 1 March 2024

New study released by the Lancet shows that, in 2022, more than 1 billion people in the world are now living with obesity. Worldwide, obesity among adults has more than doubled since 1990, and has quadrupled among children and adolescents (5 to 19 years of age). The data also show that 43% of adults were overweight in 2022.

National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Resources for 2024

HIV.gov | 1 March 2024

Every year, National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NWGHAAD) is observed on March 10. The HHS Office on Women's Health (OWH) leads this awareness day, partnering with the HIV community to spread the word about HIV prevention, care, and treatment for women and girls. This year's NWGHAAD theme is "Prevention and Testing at Every Age. Care and Treatment at Every Stage." This is a continuation of last year's theme and highlights that more efforts are needed to increase the prevention and diagnosis of HIV among women and girls.

The gender health gap: It's more than a women's issue. Here's why

GAVI | 1 March 2024

The gender health gap affects everyone: our families, communities, workplaces, societies. Yet around the world, millions of women at all stages of life are unable to access the healthcare, treatment and support

they need. Resolving this issue was the focus of our discussions at the World Economic Forum in Davos, where we joined a session called Closing the Gender Health Gap.

New HIV prevention injection now accessible to some South Africans

SABC News | 1 March 2024

A new HIV prevention injection is now accessible to some South Africans as part of a pilot project. It provides protection for two months. The injection contains a long-acting formulation of the antiretroviral drug, cabotegravir. This drug was shown to be effective almost three years ago, and it was initially shown to be 66% effective in preventing HIV infections in gay men in the US and other countries.

Young people want research to focus on a cure for HIV, sharing their status and U=U

Aidsmap | 1 March 2024

Young people living with HIV in South Africa recently identified their priority research questions as part of an approach which moves away from biomedical research being led by researchers to communities taking the lead. Their priorities were published in PLOS Global Public Health. Priority setting workshops allow communities to collectively identify and rank research priorities. While previous international workshops have highlighted global trends, understanding local needs, especially in regions where the burden of HIV is particularly high, is vital.

Toward a Deeper Understanding of Effective Oral HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Use in Cisgender Women

Poz | 1 March 2024

What do we know about oral pre-exposure prophylaxis in cisgender women? Pivotal studies supported by NIAID demonstrated that oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) reduces an individual's likelihood of acquiring HIV through sex by up to 99% when taken as prescribed. Since the release of those findings, 69 countries have approved HIV PrEP products, and an estimated 5.6 million people have initiated PrEP worldwide. In addition to demonstrating oral PrEP's high efficacy, research has revealed important differences in individual and population-group preferences in oral PrEP use, particularly that cisgender women participating in studies often did not take oral PrEP as prescribed—and the intervention's effectiveness declined when doses were taken less frequently.

Can South Africa stop cervical cancer in the next 40 years?

Bhekisisa | 2 March 2024

The human papillomavirus (HPV) causes an infection that can lead to cervical cancer. Cervical cancer kills more than 5 000 women in South Africa every year. But a vaccine given to teen girls and young women can prevent them from getting infected in the first place. South Africa wants to stop cervical cancer by 2063 — like Australia is on track to do by 2030.

Full analysis of French STI study dashes hopes for a gonorrhoea vaccine

Aidsmap | 4 March 2024

A year ago, the DoxyVAC study's interim results raised hopes that by combining post-exposure prophylaxis using the antibiotic doxycycline ('doxyPEP') with a candidate vaccine against gonorrhoea, cases of all three of the most important bacterial sexually transmitted infections could be substantially reduced in gay and bisexual men. The final analysis of the study, however, presented at this year's Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2024) today by Professor Jean-Michel Molina of the Hôpital St Louis in Paris, found lower efficacy against gonorrhoea in both doxyPEP and vaccine recipients, and a rise in doxycycline resistance among PEP users who did catch gonorrhoea.

Stigma, inaction and cost: Will SA treat obesity with lessons learned from HIV?

Bhekisisa | 4 March 2024

About two-thirds of women and almost a third of men in South Africa are overweight or have obesity. It's a new public health threat, which, if not acted on now, will have serious consequences for the wellbeing of the country — similar to how the HIV epidemic of the late 1990s played out. Obesity should not be a game of blame and shame; instead the country's focus should be on both preventing and treating people. Here are two things that can be done now.

Gene-edited lymphocytes and the path toward 'off-the-shelf' therapy against cervical cancer

Medical Xpress | 4 March 2024

Cervical cancer is among the most common malignancies affecting women worldwide. In 2020 alone, approximately 600,000 women were diagnosed with this disease, and over 314,000 died from it. In 99% of the cases, cervical cancer cells harbor human papillomavirus (HPV), and thus, HPV vaccines are an effective way to mitigate the risk of developing this disease. Unfortunately, such preventive measures are useless against established cancers, which are generally incurable once they become metastatic or relapsing.

World Obesity Day: How obesity affects women in South Africa

IOL | 4 March 2024

While overweight and obesity are on the rise in general in South Africa, including among children and youth, the worst affected segment of our population is women. The World Obesity Atlas 2022 predicts that 50% of South African women will be not just overweight, but obese by 2030. This is the highest predicted obesity rate in all of Africa, and a major concern when it comes to women's health.

WE ARE SATURATED, WEIGHED DOWN, AND MADE ILL BY JUNK FOOD AND DRINKS – THIS WORLD OBESITY DAY, LET'S TALK ABOUT THE COMMERCIAL DRIVERS OF OBESITY

Health Systems Trust | 4 March 2024

Convened every year by the World Obesity Federation¹ in collaboration with its global members, World Obesity Day is observed on 4 March as an opportunity for focused conversations and unified action in a cross-sectoral response to the public health threat posed by obesity. Diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs) include diabetes, hypertension, heart and lung disease, and cancer. Being overweight or obese are also major risk factors for serious illness and death from infectious diseases like COVID-19, because they cause a chronic inflammatory state that affects immunity, heart and lung capacity, and blood flow, and are often coupled with diabetes and/or asthma and/or cardiovascular disease.

PROTECTING FUTURES: CITY OF JOBURG EXTENDS HPV VACCINE DRIVE

Joburg Newsroom | 4 March 2024

Health workers from the City of Joburg's Health Department are continuing a mission to safeguard the health of female learners across public primary and special schools with the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine. The annual campaign, initiated in 2014, is a collaborative effort between the City of Johannesburg, the Gauteng Department of Health, and the Basic Education Department. With a goal of vaccinating 90% of girls, the Department of Health aims to curb cervical cancer incidence.

Foundation brings dialogue about HIV/Aids and other diseases to local youth

Citizen | 4 March 2024

The Nelson Mandela Children's Fund hosted a dialogue about HIV/AIDS and other sexual reproductive health diseases at the hospital on February 23. These conversations were filtered around young people, creating a space where they are able to freely ask questions around these topics.

South African company set to manufacture HIV prevention ring

Daily Maverick | 4 March 2024

A company headquartered in Johannesburg will start making flexible silicone rings to protect women from HIV. The move signals a strong vote of confidence in an African firm to supply the ring at adequate scale and affordable prices, and a crucial step towards making the continent self-reliant.

Zimbabwe Strives to Eliminate Cervical Cancer

allAfrica | 4 March 2024

Growing up in the dusty streets of Hurungwe, Juliet Chimedza was her father's trusted sidekick. The father was a well-known traditional healer, famous for 'treating' even the most serious diseases like cancer. Of course, Juliet learnt all the tools of the trade and she would be sent to dig up some of the roots they used in treating their patients from in and around their village of Kanyati. Many years later, at 42-years, Juliet had taken over from her father to become a traditional healer herself. Not once did she think that she would be affected by the very disease she used to 'treat' others of.

How long-term commitment to health is transforming the lives of women, children and adolescents

World Bank Blogs | 4 March 2024

Despite intertwined crises – including debt, conflict, surging food and energy costs and climate change – many countries partnering with the Global Financing Facility (GFF) are making progress to improve the health of women, children and adolescents. This year's annual report highlights four key takeaways: Long term commitment is key The link between better health outcomes and a country's long-term commitment to improving the lives of women and youth is clear: 96 percent of GFF partner countries have reduced maternal mortality and 94 percent have reduced under-five mortality, while the adolescent birth and under-five stunting rates have reduced in 76 and 75 percent of countries, respectively.

Injectable treatment just as effective as standard HIV combination in Africa

Aidsmap | 4 March 2024

Injectable treatment with cabotegravir and rilpivirine proved just as effective in maintaining viral suppression as standard oral antiretroviral treatment in a large trial in Africa, despite less intensive viral load monitoring than previous studies, Professor Nicholas Paton of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine reported at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections in Denver on Monday.

KZN leads efforts to end TB infections in children

The Witness | 4 March 2024

KwaZulu-Natal is leading efforts to end tuberculosis (TB) infections in children. TB is one of the major causes of death in South Africa, and KZN has the highest rate of TB in the country. This week, the Health Systems Trust Health (HST) released the district health barometer which revealed that KZN was the province with the highest number of children under five screened for TB in the year 2022/2023. The district health barometer plays an important role in providing information for district managers to benchmark their districts against others in the country and in strengthening the use of data for priority-setting and decision-making.

Study finds no safety concerns when the dapivirine vaginal ring is used during the second and third trimesters

Medical Xpress | 5 March 2024

Results of the third and final cohort of the DELIVER (MTN-042) Phase Ib study found no safety concerns with use of the monthly dapivirine vaginal ring beginning during the second trimester of pregnancy and up to the time of delivery, researchers reported today at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2024) in Denver.

HIV among older South Africans in rural areas: big study shows there's a problem

that's being neglected

BizCommunity | 5 March 2024

South Africa continues to have a high prevalence of HIV among all age groups. About 8.2 million people or 13.7% of the population live with HIV, one of the highest rates in the world. The country also has one of the world's most impressive antiretroviral therapy programmes. Over 5 million people living with HIV are currently on chronic treatment. Widespread access to antiretroviral therapies since 2008 has led to millions of people ageing with chronic HIV infection. Consequently, people with HIV are older on average than they were just a decade ago.

Ekurhuleni joins the world to mark Tuberculosis Awareness Month

Citizen | 5 March 2024

The CoE joins the world in intensifying awareness about TB treatment and care to mark March as Tuberculosis (TB) Awareness Month. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), SA is on the three global lists of high-burden countries for TB, HIV-associated TB, and drug-resistant TB.

People need pathways from PEP to PrEP – and back again

Aidsmap | 5 March 2024

Services providing post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) need to build stronger connections between these two ways of preventing HIV infection, so as to help people who've used one method to access the other, according to experts at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2024).

Clinical trial aims to reduce HIV deaths in Africa

IT-Online | 5 March 2024

A new trial will test a low-cost antibiotic in reducing deaths among 8 000 patients with advanced HIV who are starting or restarting anti-retroviral therapy (ART), a combination of drugs to treat HIV. The study, called REVIVE, is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and involves a pan-African network of investigators, co-led by researchers at the University of Cape Town (UCT) and the Population Health Research Institute (PHRI), a joint institute of McMaster University and Hamilton Health Sciences, in Canada. This trial aims to determine whether the antibiotic azithromycin, when taken once daily over four weeks, can reduce death in adults with advanced HIV.

Annual Breast Cancer Screening Should Begin at Age 40 Years, Study Finds

AJMC | 5 March 2024

Modeling estimates published by the Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modeling Network (CISNET), which informed the most recent US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) draft recommendation, indicated that annual breast cancer screenings beginning at age 40 years and continuing to at least 79 years, improved breast cancer mortality reduction with minimal risks.

Blood Pressure, Cholesterol Lowered in People Living With HIV Using Nurse-Led Strategy

AJMC | 5 March 2024

A nurse-led strategy, EXTRA-CVD, was shown to be effective in reducing both blood pressure (BP) and cholesterol in people living with HIV (PWH) in a period of 12 months, according to a study published in JAMA Network Open. Prevention programs for PWH could be influenced by this result.

Study finds AI tool MySTIRisk effectively identifies high-risk STI subgroups

Contemporary OB/GYN | 5 March 2024

The artificial intelligence (AI) tool MySTIRisk is effective at identifying subgroups at high risk of HIV or other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), according to a recent study published in Open Forum

Infectious Diseases. Approximately 376 million new cases of curable STIs are reported among sexually active individuals per year, leading to adverse health outcomes and significant economic costs. A lack of knowledge about personal STI risk, lack of testing accessibility, and social stigma prevent many patients from seeking testing and treatment.

KZN health dept warns of pink eye outbreak as cases surge past 1,000

Times Live | 5 March 2024

The KwaZulu-Natal health department warned of an outbreak of pink eye, particularly in eThekweni. Provincial health MEC Nomagugu Simelane said the cumulative number of cases jumped from 161 to 1,044 between February 29 and March 3 with most cases reported in the eThekweni district.

If one antibody won't work, how about three? Or three in one?

Aidsmap | 6 March 2024

This week's Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI 2024) heard the latest data from research involving giving people a cocktail of three broadly neutralising antibodies (bnAbs), which aidsmap last reported on two years ago. In the latest study, Dr Boris Juelg and colleagues from the Ragon Institute in Massachusetts worked with 12 people with HIV, who stopped their antiretrovirals (ARVs) and instead received the triple bnAb combination. Of these, four and possibly five people (one was lost to follow-up) maintained undetectable viral loads off any HIV therapy to the end of the study period, more than six months after their last bnAb injection. Another five study participants did experience viral rebound, but not till 4 to 6 months after their last bnAb injection. Only two people had early viral failure.

Large increase in drug use over last two decades in SA, study finds

Spotlight | 6 March 2025

The proportion of South Africans consuming marijuana, cocaine and heroin has increased substantially since the early 2000s, research shows. Jesse Copelyn breaks down the reasons for these trends and potential solutions to the problem. In 2002, fewer than 2% of people surveyed in South Africa said they had taken illicit drugs, such as marijuana, cocaine, amphetamine, inhalants, sedatives, hallucinogens and opioids, in the last three months. By 2017, this figure had climbed to 10%. This is according to a new study published in the International Journal of Drug Policy, which also finds that people who had recently used drugs were less likely to have tested for HIV.

UCT and McMaster lead a new clinical trial to reduce HIV-related deaths in Africa

UCT | 6 March 2025

A new trial will test a low-cost antibiotic aimed at reducing deaths among 8 000 patients with advanced HIV who are starting or restarting anti-retroviral therapy (ART), a combination of drugs to treat HIV. The study, called REVIVE, is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and involves a pan-African network of investigators, co-led by researchers at the University of Cape Town (UCT) and the Population Health Research Institute (PHRI), a joint institute of McMaster University and Hamilton Health Sciences in Canada. This trial aims to determine whether the antibiotic azithromycin, when taken once daily over four weeks, can reduce death rates in adults with advanced HIV.

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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 launch soon!

After a two-year hiatus, it is with great pleasure that I introduce the eagerly anticipated 2022/23 edition of the District Health Barometer (DHB), a vital statistical and analytical resource that provides an overall view of district health performance on key health systems indicators.

This 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.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the HST team and the various contributors and collaborators who have dedicated their time, expertise and passion to the development of this invaluable resource.

We trust that the DHB will continue to serve as a catalyst for evidence-informed decision-making and action, propelling us toward a future where every district is able to make a meaningful impact towards a long and healthy life for all South Africans. As always, we welcome commentary and feedback on the DHB's usefulness and suggestions for improvement of future editions.

Dr Themba L. Moeti
Chief Executive Officer

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

HIMSS 2024 Global Health Conference & Exhibition

The 2024 HIMSS European Health Conference & Exhibition brings together over 30,000 healthcare industry professionals, innovators, and educators from around the world to connect, learn, and experience innovative tech products and solutions that support the transformation of the health ecosystem through information and technology.

When: March 11-15, 2024

Where: Orlando, FL | McCormick Place Convention Center

For more information: <https://healthcaretransformers.com/healthcare-business/healthcare-conferences/healthcare-conferences-2024/>

SAPHEX 2024 Exhibition and Conference

The SAPHEX 2024 exhibition and conference continues to grow year-on-year and has become the leading annual event for anyone working in the South African pharmaceutical manufacturing industry. The exhibition brings together all the key suppliers to the region's pharmaceutical manufacturing base, exhibitors presenting a full range of APIs, excipients, and drug formulations; pharmaceutical packaging solutions; processing machinery and equipment; laboratory equipment; and cleanroom technology.

When: 13-14 March 2024

Where: Sandton, Johannesburg South Africa

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

3rd Edition of International Public Health Conference

The theme for this year's conference is "Restraining Pandemics Through Exploration of Trends and Public Health Challenges." With over 40 scientific sessions, attendees are sure to gain insights across a wide range of topics including infectious diseases, preventative medicine, chronic diseases, clinical trials and research, global health, health economics, and more.

When: March 21 – 23, 2024

Where: Singapore

For more information: <https://healthcaretransformers.com/healthcare-business/healthcare-conferences/healthcare-conferences-2024/>

8th SA TB Conference 2024

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

When: 4-7 June 2024

Where: Durban ICC

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

International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Conference

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

When: 1-4 September 2024

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

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

World Congress of Epidemiology Congress

When: 24-27 September 2024

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

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

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Health Systems Strengthening Unit SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER: SA SURE PRO Project – eThekwini District

Closing Date 14 March 2024

Health Systems Strengthening Unit PROJECT MANAGERS: SA SURE PRO Project – uMgungundlovu and eThekwini Districts

Closing Date 14 March 2024

Sub-District Co-Ordinators (HSS)

Closing Date: 14 March 2024

Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) Unit PROJECT MANAGER: DIGITAL HEALTH

Closing Date: 15 March 2024

Clinical Advisors X2 (HSS)

Closing Date 20 March 2024

Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officers

Closing Date: 2024-03-20 16:30:00

Differentiated Models of Care (DMoC) Co-Ordinator – eThekwini District

Closing Date:

2024-03-20 16:30:00

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