

RECENTLY PUBLISHED RESEARCH

- **Brady M, Tolley E**
Aligning product development and user perspectives: Social-behavioural dimensions of multipurpose prevention technologies. BJOG 2014 Oct; 121 (Suppl 5): 70-8. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.862]
User perspectives on new multipurpose prevention products may differ substantially from the perspectives of providers, policymakers and product developers, which can limit uptake and correct, sustained use, and thus effectiveness. This paper provides a framework for considering both product-specific characteristics and behavior early in the product development process.
- **Brunie A, Fumagalli L, Martin T, Field S, Rutherford D**
Can village savings and loan groups be a potential tool in the malnutrition fight? Mixed method findings from Mozambique. Child Youth Serv Rev 2014 Dec; 47 (Part 2): 113-20. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.046]
The findings of this study underscore the potential of economic-strengthening activities, such as village savings and loan groups, for improving seasonal and transitory food security. But, findings also highlight the need for additional supporting interventions to overcome chronic nutritional challenges.
- **Corneli A, Wang M, Agot K, Ahmed K, Lombaard J, Van Damme L, FEM-PrEP study group**
Perception of HIV risk and adherence to a daily, investigational pill for HIV prevention in FEM-PrEP. J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr 2014 Dec; 67 (5): 555-63. [Journal Impact Factor: 4.394]
This study was the first to provide empirical evidence on the positive association between perceiving oneself to be at risk of HIV and adherence to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) within the context of a placebo-controlled PrEP clinical trial. Programmatic implications of the research are that individuals who perceive they are at risk of HIV may be good candidates for taking PrEP to reduce their risk of acquiring HIV.
- **Denison JA, Koole O, Tsui S, Menten J, Torpey K, van Praag E, Mukadi YD, Colebunders R, Auld AF, Agolory S, Kaplan J, Mulenga M, Kwesigabo GP, Wabwire-Mangen F, Bangsberg DR**
Incomplete adherence among treatment-experienced adults on antiretroviral therapy in Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. AIDS 2015 Jan; 29 (3): 361-71. [Journal Impact Factor: 6.557]
This study shows that at least 48 consecutive hours of missed antiretroviral therapy (ART) is most strongly related to virological failure. Researchers recommend greater attention to neglected individual approaches within health and ART program service delivery, such as involving social science trained counselors.
- **Grant RM, Liegler T, Defechereux P, Kashuba AD, Taylor D, Abdel-Mohsen M, Deese J, Fransen K, De Baetselier I, Crucitti T, Bentley G, Agingu W, Ahmed K, Van Damme L**
Drug resistance and plasma viral RNA level after ineffective use of oral pre-exposure prophylaxis in women. AIDS 2015 Jan; 29 (3): 331-7. [Journal Impact Factor: 6.557]
Research of stored specimens from women who became infected with HIV during the FEM-PrEP study supports existing evidence that viral resistance to tenofovir/emtricitabine appears to be rare among persons using pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). The data demonstrate that the risk of viral resistance occurrence is highest in undiagnosed HIV-infected individuals initiating PrEP. The risk of viral resistance can be minimized by ensuring that patients initiating PrEP do not have HIV and by counseling patients to adhere to the daily PrEP regimen.
- **Headley J, Lemons A, Corneli A, Agot K, Ahmed K, Wang M, Odhiambo J, Skhosana J, Tharaldson J, Van Damme L, MacQueen K, FEM-PrEP study group**
The sexual risk context among the FEM-PrEP study population in Bondo, Kenya and Pretoria, South Africa. PLoS One 2014 Sep; 9 (9): e106410. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.534]
This paper describes the major themes related to participants' behavioral characteristics that emerged from quantitative, face-to-face interviews and qualitative, semi-structured interviews about participants' sexual relationships: Sexual concurrency, by both the participants and their sexual partners, was commonplace; transactional sex was uncommon; the HIV status of partners was often unknown; condom usage was generally low or infrequent; and risk perception was low.
- **L'Engle KL, Mwarogo P, Kingola N, Sinkele W, Weiner DH**
A randomized controlled trial of a brief intervention to reduce alcohol use among female sex workers in Mombasa, Kenya. J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr 2014 Dec; 67 (4): 446-53. [Journal Impact Factor: 4.394]
Interventions to reduce alcohol use are essential for targeting the nexus of alcohol, sex and HIV common among sex workers. This study is one of the first to demonstrate that providing a brief intervention can lead to significant reductions in alcohol use among a community-based, nontreatment-seeking sample of individuals. Results provide a framework for integrating a brief alcohol-reduction intervention into programs.
- **Lopez LM, Grey TW, Chen M, Hiller JE**
Strategies for improving postpartum contraceptive use: Evidence from non-randomized studies. Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2014 Nov; (11): CD011298, 33p. [Journal Impact Factor: 5.939]
This systematic review examines nonrandomized studies of counseling or other educational strategies for improving contraceptive use among postpartum women. The evidence adds to earlier work with randomized controlled trials. Findings might help in developing programs for postpartum women as well as identifying research needs.
- **Mannheimer SB, Wang L, Wilton L, Van Tieu H, del Rio C, Buchbinder S, Fields S, Glick S, Connor MB, Cummings V, Eshleman SH, Koblin B, Mayer KH, HPTN O61 study team**
Infrequent HIV testing and late HIV diagnosis are common among a cohort of black men who have sex with men in 6 US cities. J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr 2014 Dec; 67 (4): 438-45. [Journal Impact Factor: 4.394]
This analysis assesses the frequency and the correlates of infrequent HIV testing and late diagnosis among black men who have sex with men. Infrequent testing, undiagnosed infection and late diagnosis were common among participants. New HIV diagnoses were more common among infrequent testers, underscoring the need for additional HIV testing and prevention efforts among this group in the United States.
- **Mavedzenge SN, Muller EE, Lewis DA, Chipato T, Morrison CS, Weiss HA**
Mycoplasma genitalium is associated with increased genital HIV-1 RNA in Zimbabwean women. J Infect Dis 2014 Nov; epub ahead of print. [Journal Impact Factor: 5.778]
The growing evidence for an association of *Mycoplasma genitalium* with HIV genital shedding and the high prevalence and persistence of *M. genitalium* seen in the study population suggest that screening and treatment of *M. genitalium* among HIV-1 infected women might be warranted.
- **Mbah H, Negedu-Momoh OR, Adedokun O, Ikani PA, Balogun O, Sanwo O, Ochei K, Ekanem M, Torpey K**
Implementing and measuring the level of laboratory service integration in a program setting in Nigeria. PLoS One 2014 Sep; 9 (9): e107277. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.534]
This paper describes an approach to quantitatively measure and track integration of HIV-related laboratory services into the mainstream and highlight some key intervention steps taken to enhance service integration.
- **Mbah H, Ojo E, Ameh J, Musuluma H, Negedu-Momoh OR, Jegede F, Ojo O, Uwakwe N, Ochei K, Dada M, Udah D, Chiegil R, Torpey K**
Piloting laboratory quality system management in six health facilities in Nigeria. PLoS One 2014 Dec; 9 (12): e116185. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.534]
This paper reports on the effort and progress in piloting World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa (WHO-AFRO) recognition and accreditation preparedness in six health facility laboratories in five different states of Nigeria. The effort resulted in measurable and positive impact on the laboratories. Further improvement toward a formal international accreditation status and scale-up of WHO-AFRO Stepwise Laboratory (Quality) Improvement Process Towards Accreditation (SLIPTA) implementation in Nigeria is recommended.
- **Rangarajan S, Tram HN, Todd CS, Think T, Hung V, Hieu PT, Hanh TM, Chau KM, Lam ND, Hung PT, West G, Colby D**
Risk factors for delayed entrance into care after diagnosis among patients with late-stage HIV disease in Southern Vietnam. PLoS One 2014 Oct; 9 (10): e108939. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.534]
The survey findings identify key issues within the Vietnamese health system that HIV programs can use to improve early enrollment in care soon after diagnosis. Among patients surveyed, the most common reasons for delayed entry were feeling healthy, fear of stigma and discrimination in the community, time conflicts with work or school, and fear of lack of confidentiality. These findings highlight the need for HIV programs to emphasize the benefits of early treatment, assure confidentiality throughout the HIV counseling process, expand community-based referral systems to link people to testing sites and HIV clinics, and decentralize care closer to patients' homes.
- **Sokal DC, Li PS, Zulu R, Awori QD, Agot K, Simba RO, Combes S, Lee RK, Hart C, Lai JJ, Zyambo Z, Goldstein M, Feldblum PJ, Barone MA**
Field study of adult male circumcision using the ShangRing in routine clinical settings in Kenya and Zambia. J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr 2014 Dec; 67 (4): 430-7. [Journal Impact Factor: 4.394]
The study reviewed the safety profile of the ShangRing™ device, and the results will be an important piece of the dossier submitted to the World Health Organization in support of pre-qualification of the device. The data will also be vital for government decision making on the potential role of the ShangRing in their respective voluntary medical male circumcision programs.
- **Spielberg F, Levy V, Lensing S, Chattopadhyay I, Venkatasubramanian L, Acevedo N, Wolff P, Callabresi D, Philip S, Lopez TP, Padian N, Blake DR, Gaydos CA**
Fully integrated e-services for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted infections: Results of a 4-county study in California. Am J Public Health 2014 Dec; 104 (12): 2313-20. [Journal Impact Factor: 4.229]
The research demonstrates that a fully integrated online system has the potential both to increase diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted infections with higher patient satisfaction and to provide these services at a lower cost. But, a comparative effectiveness evaluation should be conducted to determine if the potential can be realized.
- **Succop SM, MacQueen KM, van Loggerenberg F, Majola N, Karim QA, Abdool Karim SS**
Trial participation disclosure and gel use behavior in the CAPRISA 004 tenofovir gel trial. AIDS Care 2014 Dec; 26 (12): 1521-5. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.194]
This study demonstrates that the dynamics of communication between partners about participation in a trial and use of a study product vary and can influence use behavior. Therefore, no single product adherence strategy can be applied to all HIV prevention trials or product introduction campaigns. Guidance is needed for developing adherence strategies that involve male partners of women who want to communicate their study participation and that support women who would like to use a study product without their partner's knowledge.
- **Todd CS, Deese J, Wang M, Hubacher D, Steiner MJ, Otunga S, Van Damme L, Fem-PrEP study group**
Sino-implant (II) continuation and effect of concomitant tenofovir disoproxil fumarate-emtricitabine use on plasma levonorgestrel concentrations among women in Bondo, Kenya. Contraception 2014 Oct; epub ahead of print. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.932]
As oral pre-exposure prophylaxis becomes more widely available, understanding the interaction of Truvada with other commonly used pharmaceuticals will become more important. In particular, reproductive-aged women at high risk of HIV are in need of highly effective methods both to protect themselves against HIV and to prevent pregnancy. This paper provides early data on the effect of Truvada on levonorgestrel levels among women using Truvada for HIV prevention and Sino-implant (II) for contraception.
- **Tuan NT, Nguyen PH, Hajeebhoy N, Frongillo EA**
Gaps between breastfeeding awareness and practices in Vietnamese mothers result from inadequate support in health facilities and social norms. J Nutr 2014 Nov; 144 (11): 1811-7. [Journal Impact Factor: 4.227]
Two approaches to reducing the gap between breastfeeding awareness and practice are strengthening support in health facilities and making desired practices normative. Increased early initiation of breastfeeding can be achieved through strengthening support by health staff, minimizing unnecessary Cesarean deliveries and ensuring infant-friendly health facilities. Programs can improve exclusive breastfeeding practices by addressing the sociocultural environment through counseling and support, mass media campaigns and highlighting of the negative effect of infant formula advertisements.
- **van der Straten A, Mayo A, Brown ER, Amico KR, Cheng H, Laborde N, MARRAZZO J, Torjesen K**
Perceptions and experiences with the VOICE adherence strengthening program (VASP) in the MTN-003 trial. AIDS Behav 2014 Nov; epub ahead of print. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.312]
The vaginal and oral interventions to control the epidemic (VOICE) adherence strengthening program (VASP) revealed challenges to mid-study changes in the adherence support approach in a large multisite clinical trial. The research recommended that future adherence support packages: 1) use an integrated, multidisciplinary approach from study start; 2) use multiple modalities for participant engagement to best fit the local culture; and 3) document the fidelity of implementation so the potential impact of adherence support interventions can be assessed.
- **Woldehanna S, Zimicki S**
An expanded One Health model: Integrating social science and One Health to inform study of the human-animal interface. Soc Sci Med 2014 Nov; epub ahead of print. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.558]
Policy discussions on zoonotic diseases like Ebola have increasingly been framed by a One Health model: Transmission occurs as a consequence of interactions between people and animals that are becoming more frequent because of environmental changes such as deforestation. Until recently, the discussion focused mainly on the biological and environmental aspects of the model. This paper presents an expanded model that explicitly includes social factors such as norms, community dynamics and settlement patterns and makes the case for increased attention on how these factors affect human-animal interaction in the context of both local and large-scale environmental changes.