

# RECENTLY PUBLISHED RESEARCH

- **Agarwal A, Hamdallah M, Swain SN, Mukherjee S, Singh N, Mahapatra S, King EJ, Pulerwitz J, Thior I** *Implementation of a confidential helpline for men having sex with men in India.* JMIR Mhealth Uhealth 2015 Feb; 3 (1): e17. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

Facing significant stigma and discrimination, men who have sex with men in India often remain hidden and do not seek needed services. The dedicated helpline received over 100,000 calls in nine months and delivered counseling on HIV and sexually transmitted infection prevention and treatment, and psychosocial issues. This intervention could be a useful national strategy for reaching hard-to-reach men who have sex with men in India.

- **Beksinska ME, Smit J, Greener R, Todd CS, Lee MT, Maphumulo V, Hoffmann V** *Acceptability and performance of the menstrual cup in South Africa: A randomized crossover trial comparing the menstrual cup to tampons or sanitary pads.* J Womens Health 2015 Feb; 24 (2): 151-8. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.896]

Though the need for convenient, environmentally sound menstrual management products has been identified in many countries, there are few data regarding the acceptability and performance of the menstrual cup among women in developing settings. This randomized, crossover trial concludes that the menstrual cup is an acceptable product that does not interfere with daily activities. Further research is needed regarding cost and long-term use.

- **Blake DR, Spielberg F, Levy V, Lensing S, Wolff PA, Venkatasubramanian L, Acevedo N, Padian N, Chattopadhyay I, Gaydos CA** *Could home sexually transmitted infection specimen collection with e-prescription be a cost-effective strategy for clinical trials and clinical care?* Sex Transm Dis 2015 Jan; 42 (1): 13-9. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.748]

The results indicate that electronic systems for testing sexually transmitted infections (eSTI) will likely be more cost-effective (a lower cost per STI detected) than clinic-based STI screening, in the context of clinical trials and routine clinical care. The results are promising; a comparative effectiveness trial is needed to determine actual cost and impact of an eSTI on identification, treatment and prevention of infections.

- **Callahan R, Nanda K, Kapiga S, Malahleha M, Mandala J, Ogada T, Van Damme L, Taylor D, FEM-PrEP study group** *Pregnancy and contraceptive use among women participating in the FEM-PrEP trial.* J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr 2015 Feb; 68 (2): 196-203. [Journal Impact Factor: 4.394]

Pregnancy among participants in HIV prevention clinical trials continues to present a challenge. This study found that women who adopted an injectable contraceptive at the beginning of the trial were more likely to adhere to study product than women using combined oral contraceptives. HIV prevention trials should consider requiring long-acting methods, including injectables, for study participation.

- **Closson EF, Mimiaga MJ, Sherman SG, Tangmunkongvorakul A, Friedman RK, Limbada M, Moore AT, Srithanaviboonchai K, Alves CA, Roberts S, Oldenburg CE, Elharrar V, Mayer KH, Safren SA, IPTN063 study team** *Intimacy versus isolation: A qualitative study of sexual practices among sexually active HIV-infected patients in HIV care in Brazil, Thailand and Zambia.* PLoS One 2015 Mar; 10 (3): e0120957. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.534]

Understanding the psychosocial context of condomless sex among people living with HIV or AIDS could shed light on effective intervention strategies. The study considers the perceived impact of HIV on the sexual practices and relationships of in-care HIV-infected men who have sex with men, heterosexual men and women in Brazil, Thailand and Zambia who engaged in high-risk sexual practices.

- **Corneli AL, McKenna K, Perry B, Ahmed K, Agot K, Malamatsfo F, Skhosana J, Odhiambo J, Van Damme L** *The science of being a study participant: FEM-PrEP participants' explanations for overreporting adherence to the study pills and for the whereabouts of unused pills.* J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr 2015 Apr; 68 (5): 578-84. [Journal Impact Factor: 4.394]

Self-reported adherence in the FEM-PrEP study was high, yet in blood tests, drug concentrations revealed limited pill use. Participants primarily overreported adherence out of concern they would be terminated from FEM-PrEP for nonadherence and lose the study's health care benefits. Findings suggest women want access to better health care. Efforts to improve self-reporting should identify alternative methods for creating supportive environments for reporting actual adherence.

- **de Baetselier I, Menten J, Cuylaerts V, Ahmed K, Deese J, Van Damme L, Crucitti T** *Prevalence and incidence estimation of HSV-2 by two IgG ELISA methods among South African women at high risk of HIV.* PLoS One 2015 Mar; 10 (3): e0120207. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.534]

The sensitivity and specificity of the Kalon and HerpeSelect IgG serological assays for HSV-2 diagnosis have been found to vary when using specimens from sub-Saharan Africa. The performance of both assays was compared and researchers determined that the sensitivity of the Kalon assay could be improved by lowering the index cut-off optical density value while maintaining high specificity.

- **Denison JA, Banda H, Dennis AC, Packer C, Nyambe N, Stalter RM, Mwansa JK, Katayamoyo P, McCarraher DR** *"The sky is the limit": Adhering to antiretroviral therapy and HIV self-management from the perspectives of adolescents living with HIV and their adult caregivers.* J Int AIDS Soc 2015 Jan; 18 (1): 19358. [Journal Impact Factor: 4.207]

This study highlights the importance of families and home environments in supporting adherence to antiretroviral therapy among adolescents living with HIV. Skill-building and family-based interventions are of paramount importance to prepare these adolescents and their adult caregivers for HIV self-management and HIV status disclosure. Future research and programs will need to address the fears adolescents and families have regarding HIV-related stigma that shape young peoples' adherence behaviors.

- **Fleming PJ, Mulawa M, Burke H, Shattuck D, Mndeme E, Attafuah J, Mbwambo J, Guest G** *The role of relationship types on condom use among urban men with concurrent partners in Ghana and Tanzania.* AIDS Care 2015; 27 (4): 466-72. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.194]

Multiple concurrent partnerships are hypothesized to be important drivers of HIV transmission. Despite the demonstrated importance of relationship type on condom use, research on concurrency has not examined how different combinations of relationship types might affect condom use. Study findings underscore the importance of considering relationship type when designing HIV prevention strategies in these settings.

- **Hladik F, Burgener A, Ballweber L, Gottardo R, Vojtech L, Fourati S, Dai JY, Cameron MJ, Strobl J, Hughes SM, Hoesley C, Andrew P, Johnson S, Piper J, Friend DR, Ball TB, Cranston RD, Mayer KH, McElrath MJ, McGowan I** *Mucosal effects of tenofovir 1% gel.* eLife 2015 Feb; 4 e04525. [Journal Impact Factor: 8.519]

Given that topical microbicides can achieve high drug concentrations in mucosal tissue, it was imperative to further assess changes that occur at the molecular level should tenofovir 1% gel become used for HIV prevention. This exploration into the potential adverse effects and various mucosal changes induced by tenofovir 1% gel, when used for seven days, highlighted concerns regarding its safety over long-term use.

- **Hoke TH, Mackenzie C, Vance G, Boyer B, Canoutas E, Bratt J, Mbulo A, Waceke N** *Integrating family planning promotion into the work of environmental volunteers: A population, health and environment initiative in Kenya.* Int Perspect Sex Reprod Health 2015 Mar; 41 (1): 43-50. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.938]

The study demonstrated that environmental volunteers in Kenya could feasibly incorporate family planning promotion into their work. Study results contribute to the sparse body of evidence illustrating how the integration of family planning into environmental conservation programs holds promise for increasing family planning use in poor, rural communities. This model of integrated service delivery is recommended for comparable environmental initiatives.

- **Hubacher D, Masaba R, Manduku CK, Chen M, Veena V** *The levonorgestrel intrauterine system: Cohort study to assess satisfaction in a postpartum population in Kenya.* Contraception 2015 Apr; 91 (4): 295-300. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.932]

The levonorgestrel intrauterine system may soon be purchased by international donor agencies for use in public-sector programs in sub-Saharan Africa and resource-limited countries in other regions. The results of this study suggest that the product will be successful in future introduction activities.

- **Isler MR, Brown AL, Eley N, Mathews A, Batten K, Rogers R, Powell N, White C, Underwood R, MacQueen KM** *Curriculum development to increase minority research literacy for HIV prevention research: A CBPR approach.* Prog Community Health Partnersh 2014 Winter; 8 (4): 511-21. [Journal Impact Factor: 0.793]

The HIV Prevention Technologies Research Literacy Curriculum was developed to increase familiarity with clinical research, HIV prevention technologies and community roles in research among blacks, ages 18-30, living in Durham County, North Carolina. The collaborative development process involving local community members and researchers has implications for how to better engage and document the contributions of various stakeholders throughout a product's development.

- **Jegede FE, Mbah HA, Aminu M, Yakubu TN, Torpey K** *Evaluation of laboratory performance with quality indicators in Infectious Disease Hospital, Kano, Nigeria.* Open J Clin Diagn 2015 Mar; 5 (1): 1-9. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

This retrospective study evaluated the performance of the laboratory through a set of quality indicators. The study highlights the need to continually evaluate quality indicators. It also calls for more effort to improve on proficiency testing performance and focuses on understanding and improving on clients concerns.

- **L'Engle KL, Green K, Succop SM, Laar A, Wambugu S** *Scaled-up mobile phone intervention for HIV care and treatment: Protocol for a facility randomized controlled trial.* JMIR Res Protoc 2015 Jan; 4 (1): e11. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

Mobile phones offer a promising means to improve HIV medication adherence and health outcomes. There is limited evidence on program impact particularly in large, public-sector, HIV service delivery programs and among key populations such as men who have sex with men and female sex workers. The proposed cluster-randomized controlled trial would provide insights into the health effects, motivational qualities and cost-effectiveness of mHealth interventions for people living with HIV in public-sector settings.

- **Marrazzo JM, Ramjee G, Richardson BA, Gomez K, Mgodhi N, Nair G, Palanee T, Nakabiito C, van der Straten A, Noguchi L, Hendrix CW, Dai JY, Ganesh S, Mkhize B, Taljaard M, Parikh UM, Piper J, Masse B, Grossman C, Rooney J, Schwartz JL, Watts H, Marzinke MA, Hillier SL, McGowan IM, Chirenje ZM, VOICE study team** *Tenofovir-based preexposure prophylaxis for HIV infection among African women.* N Engl J Med 2015 Feb; 372 (6): 509-18. [Journal Impact Factor: 54.420]

Study findings indicate that daily oral tenofovir, oral Truvada and vaginal tenofovir gel did not reduce HIV-1 acquisition among sub-Saharan Africa women. However, adherence to study drugs was low. These results have contributed to a greater appreciation of how social-behavioral context influences product use and have fostered changes in HIV prevention trial designs, including greater focus on adherence measurement.

- **Morrison CS, Chen PL, Kwok C, Baeten JM, Brown J, Crook AM, Van Damme L, Delany-Moretlwe S, Francis SC, Friedland BA, Hayes RJ, Heffron R, Kapiga S, Karim QA, Karpoff S, Kaul R, McClelland RS, McCormack S, McGrath N, Myer L, Rees H, van der Straten A, Watson-Jones D, van de Wijgert JH, Stalter R, Low N** *Hormonal contraception and the risk of HIV acquisition: An individual participant data meta-analysis.* PLoS Med 2015 Jan; 12 (1): e1001778. [Journal Impact Factor: 14.000]

This individual participant data meta-analysis found no evidence that combined oral contraceptives or norethisterone enanthate use increases women's risk of HIV, but the analysis adds to the evidence that depot-medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA) may increase HIV risk. The finding underscores the need for additional safe and effective contraceptive options for women at high risk for HIV. A randomized controlled trial would provide more definitive evidence about the effects of hormonal contraception, particularly DMPA, on HIV risk.

- **Parker C, Corneli A, Agot K, Odhiambo J, Asewe J, Ahmed K, Skhosana J, Rathagana M, Lanham M, Wong C, Deese J, Manongi R, Van Damme L, FEM-PrEP recruitment group** *Lessons learnt from implementing an empirically informed recruitment approach for FEM-PrEP, a large HIV prevention clinical trial.* Open Access J Clin Trials 2015; 7: 1-9. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

This paper describes the entire recruitment approach used in the FEM-PrEP clinical trial, starting with data collected during the preparedness phase, how those data were used to inform the recruitment strategies, changes incorporated throughout the clinical trial and lessons learned.

- **Rosenbaum J, Derby E, Dutta K** *Understanding consumer preference and willingness to pay for improved cookstoves in Bangladesh.* J Health Commun 2015 Mar; 20 (Suppl 1): 20-7. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.869]

Emerging data show that almost 100 percent replacement of three-stone fire and other traditional stoves is required for families to reap the health benefits of improved cookstoves (ICS). Consumer perspectives on ICS differ substantially from those of product designers and health programmers, often leading to suboptimal uptake and adoption, and thus limiting health benefits. Study findings led to design changes in cookstove features that better reflect consumer preferences and highlighted consumer education priorities related to clean cooking behaviors.

- **Tuan NT, Alayon S, Do TT, Ngan TT, Hajeerhoy N** *Integrating a project monitoring system into a public health network: Experiences from Alive & Thrive in Vietnam.* Glob Public Health 2015; 10 (Suppl 1): S40-55. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.205]

Little information is available about how to build a monitoring system to measure the output of preventive nutrition interventions. This paper describes the successful experience in nesting a large-scale project monitoring system into the existing health information system. With careful attention to the needs of stakeholders at multiple levels, clear data quality assurance measures and strategic feedback mechanisms, it is feasible to monitor the scale-up of nutrition programs through the existing routine health information system.