

RECENTLY PUBLISHED RESEARCH

- **Abdeen Z, Ramlawi A, Qaswari R, Alrub AA, Dary O, Rambeloson Z, Shahab-Ferdows S, Dror D, Allen LH, Carriquiry A, Salman R, Dkeidek S**
Predicted efficacy of the Palestinian wheat flour fortification programme: Complementary analysis of biochemical and dietary data. Public Health Nutr 2015 Jun; 18 (8): 1358-68. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.679]

This analysis reviews nutrition data collected from Palestinian women and children in vulnerable communities, before the initiation of national flour fortification, and assesses the suitability of the current wheat flour fortification. The article will serve as an important resource for policymakers, program managers and researchers to use complementary biochemical and dietary data for improving design and predicting impact of food fortification programs.

- **Andrade RG, Iriart JA**
Stigma and discrimination: The experiences of HIV-positive women in poor neighborhoods of Maputo, Mozambique. Cad Saude Publica 2015 Mar; 31 (3): 565-74. [Journal Impact Factor: 0.976]

The AIDS epidemic is a serious public health problem in Mozambique. This socio-anthropological study analyzed the experiences of HIV-positive women in poor neighborhoods of Maputo. The results showed how gender inequalities increase women's vulnerability to HIV and contribute to their stigmatization and discrimination. Public policies should focus on women's empowerment and the reduction of HIV/AIDS-related stigma.

- **Brown M, Nga TT, Hoang MA, Maalouf-Manasseh Z, Hammond W, Thuc TM, Minh TH, Hop TL, Berger J, Wieringa FT**
Acceptability of two ready-to-use therapeutic foods by HIV-positive patients in Vietnam. Food Nutr Bull 2015 Jun; 36 (2): 102-10. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.148]

Ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) has been found effective in the treatment of severe acute malnutrition and low-cost, locally produced RUTF alternatives are sought. This study found that the acceptability of locally produced RUTF was greater than that of imported RUTF in HIV-positive adults and children in Vietnam.

- **Corneli A, Field S, Namey E, Agot K, Ahmed K, Odhiambo J, Skhosana J, Guest G**
Preparing for the rollout of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP): A vignette survey to identify intended sexual behaviors among women in Kenya and South Africa if using PrEP. PLoS One 2015 Jun; 10 (6): e0129177. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.234]

The findings suggest that women may choose to reduce or stop using other risk reduction practices, such as condoms, when they start taking pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV. Given the high efficacy of PrEP, their risk of acquiring HIV will be significantly reduced. However, women using PrEP alone or with inconsistent condom use may be at risk for other sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy. It is recommended that women taking PrEP receive enhanced counseling to promote informed decision making about their overall sexual health.

- **Ebener S, Guerra-Arias M, Campbell J, Tatem AJ, Moran AC, Johnson FA, Fogstad H, Stenberg K, Neal S, Bailey P, Porter R, Matthews Z**
The geography of maternal and newborn health: The state of the art. Int J Health Geogr 2015 May; 14 (Article No.19): 10p. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.447]

Mapping is a powerful way to tell a story about a health problem such as high maternal or newborn mortality, but its potential has been underutilized. The advanced models and analytical tools embedded in geographical information systems allow a more in-depth analysis of causes and barriers to maternal and newborn health services. This paper presents a framework for methodological approaches to inform improved decision making.

- **Fujita M, Poudel KC, Green K, Wi T, Abeyewickreme I, Ghidinelli M, Kato M, Vun MC, Sopheap S, San KO, Bollen P, Rai KK, Dahal A, Bhandari D, Boas P, Yaipupu J, Sirinirund P, Saonuam P, Duong BD, Nhan DT, Thu NT, Jimba M**
HIV service delivery models towards 'Zero AIDS-related Deaths': A collaborative case study of six Asia and Pacific countries. BMC Health Serv Res 2015 Apr; 15 (Article No.176): 14p. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.712]

This study assessed HIV service delivery in six Asia and Pacific countries from the perspective of service availability, linking approaches, and performance monitoring for maximizing HIV case detection and retention. The study findings would help each country critically adapt and adopt global recommendations on HIV service decentralization, linkages and integration.

- **Halpern V, Stalter RM, Owen DH, Dorflinger LJ, Lendvay A, Rademacher KH**
Towards the development of a longer-acting injectable contraceptive: Past research and current trends. Contraception 2015 Jul; 92 (1): 3-9. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.335]

A longer-acting injectable contraceptive that lasts for six months would be a valuable addition to the contraceptive method mix and ideal for women who are interested in spacing births or uncertain about their future reproductive plans. This paper reviews past applications of drug delivery technologies to injectable contraceptives and recent advancements in sustained drug delivery technologies that hold promise for the development of a new longer-acting injectable contraceptive product. It also makes recommendations for the most promising approaches.

- **Koni P, Chishinga N, Nyirenda L, Kasonde P, Nsakanya R, Welsh M**
Health facility graduation from donor-supported intensive technical assistance and associated factors in Zambia. PLoS One 2015 Jun; 10 (6): e0131084. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.234]

Sustained improvements of health systems is a key outcome of many donor-supported programs. This paper shows that quality assessment and quality improvement tools help document health system improvements at a district level and offer a pathway for possible decreases in donor support over time. The researchers highlight human resources management as a key factor in health system strengthening in Zambia.

- **Lopez LM, Bernholc A, Hubacher D, Stuart G, Van Vliet HA**
Immediate postpartum insertion of intrauterine device for contraception (review). Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2015 Jun; (6): CD003036, 70p. [Journal Impact Factor: 6.032]

Of 15 trials in this systematic review, seven examined immediate versus later insertion of intrauterine contraception. Insertion immediately (within 10 minutes) after a placenta delivery reduces the risk of a subsequent pregnancy and eliminates the need for a return visit to start contraception. The benefit of effective contraception immediately after delivery may outweigh increased expulsion risk.

- **Mack N, Wong C, McKenna K, Lemons A, Odhiambo J, Agot K**
Human resource challenges to integrating HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) into the public health system in Kenya: A qualitative study. Afr J Reprod Health 2015 Mar; 19 (1): 54-62. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

Human resource challenges related to the rollout in Kenya of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV included increased workload, insufficient personnel, the need for task shifting or sharing, training needs, infrastructural requirements, staff discrimination and stigma toward at-risk clients and providers' personal priorities about offering PrEP. These challenges paralleled challenges to the integration of antiretroviral therapy and could be partially addressed prior to PrEP rollout.

- **MacQueen KM, Chen M, Jolly D, Mueller MP, Okumu E, Eley NT, Laws M, Isler MR, Kalloo A, Rogers RC**
HIV testing experience and risk behavior among sexually active black young adults: A CBPR-based study using respondent-driven sampling in Durham, North Carolina. Am J Community Psychol 2015 Jun; 55 (3-4): 433-43. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.145]

HIV testing outreach is an important opportunity to connect at-risk black young adults with services to protect their health through prevention for those testing negative and treatment for those infected. Barriers to testing were the same for men and women, but men were less likely to be tested for HIV than women mainly because a primary facilitator of testing, routine screening in clinical settings, was more effective at reaching women.

- **McClelland RS, Balkus JE, Lee J, Anzala O, Kimani J, Schwebke J, Bragg V, Lensing S, Kavak L**
Randomized trial of periodic presumptive treatment with high-dose intravaginal metronidazole and miconazole to prevent vaginal infections in HIV-negative women. J Infect Dis 2015 Jun; 211 (12): 1875-82. [Journal Impact Factor: 5.997]

This study tested the efficacy of a novel regimen to prevent recurrent vaginal infections. Monthly treatment with intravaginal metronidazole plus miconazole reduced the proportion of visits with bacterial vaginosis during 12 months of follow-up. Further study will be important to determine whether this intervention can reduce women's risk of sexually transmitted infections.

- **McDowell M, Hossain M, Rahman N, Tegenfeldt K, Yasmin N, Johnson MG, Hamilton CD**
Expanding tuberculosis case notification among marginalized groups in Bangladesh through peer sputum collection. Public Health Action 2015 Jun; 5 (2): 119-21. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

Case notification rates of tuberculosis (TB) in Bangladesh remain poor despite a high burden of disease. Broadening TB services at HIV drop-in centers, using peer sputum collection to target high-risk populations for TB, may be an effective way to increase TB case notification among key populations.

- **Nguyen VT, Nguyen HT, Nguyen QC, Duong PT, West G**
Expenditure analysis of HIV testing and counseling services using the cascade framework in Vietnam. PLoS One 2015 May; 10 (5): e0126659. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.234]

Currently, HIV testing and counseling services in Vietnam are primarily funded by international sources. The paper analyzes existing financial data to reveal the resources expended for bringing one person living with HIV from testing to care and treatment services. It also illustrates how the efficiency and sustainability of services can be monitored to achieve efficiencies likely to result in more affordable and sustainable services after international donors withdraw.

- **Ryan E, Bockh E, Tolley EE, Pack AP, Mackenzie C, Olawo A, Githuka G**
Positioning microbicides for HIV prevention in Kenya: A case study. Soc Mar Q 2015 Jun; 21 (2): 100-14. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

This case study describes the experience of developing communication messages and materials to position microbicide gel — a product still in clinical trials — for HIV prevention in Kenya. The project confirmed that marketing microbicides to women in a wide variety of sexual contexts — and gaining the support of male partners — will be critical for avoiding stigmatization of the product. It also confirmed that the positioning of the product can impact interest in using microbicides and that in-depth counseling will be critical for ensuring correct use.

- **Safren SA, Mayer KH, Ou SS, McCauley M, Grinsztejn B, Hosseinipour MC, Kumarasamy N, Gamble T, Hoffman I, Celentano D, Chen YQ, Cohen MS, HPTN O52 study team**
Adherence to early antiretroviral therapy: Results from HPTN O52, a phase III, multinational randomized trial of ART to prevent HIV-1 sexual transmission in serodiscordant couples. J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr 2015 Jun; 69 (2): 234-40. [Journal Impact Factor: 4.556]

Combination antiretroviral therapy (ART) for HIV-1-infected individuals prevents sexual transmission if viral load is suppressed. In this study, adherence was high among individuals in stable relationships taking ART for prevention, though mental health and adherence co-varied. Assessing and intervening on mental health in the context of promoting adherence to ART as prevention should be explored.

- **Schwartz JL, Weiner DH, Lai JJ, Freziers RG, Creinin MD, Archer DF, Bradley L, Barnhart KT, Poindexter A, Kilbourne-Brook M, Callahan MM, Mauck CK**
Contraceptive efficacy, safety, fit and acceptability of a single-size diaphragm developed with end-user input. Obstet Gynecol 2015 Apr; 125 (4): 895-903. [Journal Impact Factor: 5.175]

A newly developed diaphragm is as effective as the standard diaphragm in preventing pregnancy. This non-latex, one-size-fits-most diaphragm, designed for comfort and easy use, has a good safety profile and was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in September 2014. Based on this study, the new device expands women's options for safe, effective, nonhormonal contraception.

- **Thyda L, Sineng S, Delvaux T, Srean C, Mary S, Vuochnea P, Chettana P, Nirada N, Sarim C, Chanthap P, Theoun Y, Ferradini L**
Integration of family planning services in a peer-managed HIV care clinic serving most-at-risk populations in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr 2015 Aug; 69 (4): e120-6. [Journal Impact Factor: 4.556]

These findings show that the family planning practices of women living with HIV attending an HIV care clinic for most-at-risk populations did not significantly change after integrating on-site provision of a wide range of family planning methods. Innovative strategies and further research are needed to better understand how to promote the use of non-condom family planning methods and prevent unwanted pregnancies and abortions among most-at-risk women and women living with HIV.

- **Trang NT, Thuan DT, Tuan NT, Hoang TN, Hajeebhoy N**
Nutrition counseling social franchise model helps to improve infant and young child feeding practices and nutrition status of children in Ca Mau. Vietnam J Pract Med 2015; 4 (959): 12-7. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

In Ca Mau, 30 Mat Troi Be Tho franchises provide information on infant and young child feeding to mothers and caregivers of children under two years old. After three years, survey results showed that the franchises helped to increase the early initiation of breastfeeding rates and the prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months, increase the proportion of children meeting the minimum acceptable diet, and reduce stunting rates. The nutrition counseling social franchise model should be sustained and expanded.

- **Wondergem P, Green K, Wambugu S, Asamoah-Adu C, Clement NF, Amenyah R, Atuahene K, Szpir M**
A short history of HIV prevention programs for female sex workers in Ghana: Lessons learned over three decades. J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr 2015 Mar; 68 (Suppl 2): S138-45. [Journal Impact Factor: 4.556]

This paper describes the history of HIV prevention interventions among female sex workers in Ghana between 1987 and 2013. Ghana offers an important historical example of an evolving HIV prevention program that, despite periods of inactivity, grew in breadth and coverage over time. The prevention of HIV infections among female sex workers has gained momentum in recent years through the efforts of the national government and its partners, a trend that is critically important to Ghana's future.