

# RECENTLY PUBLISHED RESEARCH

- **Bailey PE, Keyes E, Moran AC, Singh K, Chavane L, Chilundo B**

*The triple threat of pregnancy, HIV infection and malaria: Reported causes of maternal mortality in two nationwide health facility assessments in Mozambique, 2007 and 2012.* BMC Pregnancy Childbirth 2015 Nov; 15 (Article No.293): 13 p. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.190]

In health facilities with childbirth services, maternal mortality due to direct obstetric causes appears to have declined significantly between 2007 and 2012. Despite an increased availability of antiretrovirals and antimalarials, especially at the lower levels of health care, HIV, malaria and anemia continue to exact a heavy toll on child-bearing women. Efforts to end preventable maternal and newborn deaths must maximize the use of antenatal care that includes integrated preventive and treatment options for HIV infection, malaria and anemia.

- **Callahan R, Yacobson I, Halpern V, Nanda K**

*Ectopic pregnancy with use of progestin-only injectables and contraceptive implants: A systematic review.* Contraception 2015 Dec; 92 (6): 514-22. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.335]

Progestin-only contraceptive implants and injectables protect against ectopic pregnancy by being highly effective in preventing pregnancy overall. However, in the case of method failure, levonorgestrel (LNG)-containing contraceptive implants may be more likely to result in ectopic pregnancies than other methods, such as combined hormonal and barrier contraceptives. Women using LNG-containing implants, such as Jadelle or Sino-implant (II), and their providers should be aware of potential signs of ectopic pregnancy on the small chance the method should fail.

- **Chin-Quee D, Mugeni C, Nkunda D, Uwizeye MR, Stockton LL, Wesson J**

*Balancing workload, motivation and job satisfaction in Rwanda: Assessing the effect of adding family planning service provision to community health worker duties.* Reprod Health 2016 Jan; 13 (Article No.2): 7p. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.883]

Human resource shortages, particularly in rural areas, have prompted developing country governments to turn to community health workers (CHWs), a group that normally provides a range of health care services. This paper describes the findings of a pilot project that found no adverse effects on workloads by adding family planning services to CHW duties. The findings will pave the way to scale up community-based family planning services to all health districts in Rwanda.

- **Dixon TC, Ngak S, Stein E, Carrico A, Page K, Maher L**

*Pharmacology, physiology and performance: Occupational drug use and HIV risk among female entertainment and sex workers in Cambodia.* Harm Reduct J 2015 Oct; 12 (Article No.33): 9p. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.641]

The findings indicate that female entertainment sex workers in Cambodia use amphetamine-type stimulants to meet the physiological demands of sex work in a context of limited economic opportunities. Use of amphetamine-type stimulants has been associated with an increased risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections in key populations. In addition to health education, provisions are needed to both provide options for income generation that do not risk health and to better regulate safer working conditions.

- **Doggett EG, Lanham M, Wilcher R, Gafos M, Karim QA, Heise L**

*Optimizing HIV prevention for women: A review of evidence from microbicide studies and considerations for gender-sensitive microbicide introduction.* J Int AIDS Soc 2015 Dec; 18 (1): 20536. [Journal Impact Factor: 5.090]

Gender-related norms and inequalities that place women and girls at risk of acquiring HIV are also likely to affect their ability to use microbicides. Published vaginal microbicide studies were reviewed to identify gender-related factors that are likely to affect microbicide acceptability, access and adherence. This paper makes recommendations on product design, trial implementation, positioning, marketing and delivery of microbicides in a way that takes into account the gender-related norms and inequalities identified in the review.

- **Geisler WM, Uniyal A, Lee JY, Lensing SY, Johnson S, Perry RC, Kadrnka CM, Kerndt PR**

*Azithromycin versus doxycycline for urogenital Chlamydia trachomatis infection.* N Engl J Med 2015 Dec; 373 (26): 2512-21. [Journal Impact Factor: 55.873]

This urogenital chlamydia treatment trial observed that, although infrequent, more treatment failures occurred with a single dose of azithromycin than with a seven-day doxycycline regimen. The findings support azithromycin as still an effective urogenital chlamydia treatment, which is important in part because of the convenience of a single-dose treatment.

- **Ginsburg M, Arrington B**

*Diverse partnerships: Designing and implementing the Liberia teacher training program.* In: Talbot C, Taylor A, editors. Partnership paradox: The post-conflict reconstruction of Liberia's education system. New York, NY: Open Society Foundations; 2015. p. 165-80. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

The chapter analyzes, in the post-civil war context, the processes of designing and implementing the Liberia Teacher Training Program (LTTP) during the period 2006–2010. The authors examine LTTP I, the transition to LTTP II and the relationships between different sets of partners and between the same partners over time. Creating and sustaining various partnerships provided opportunities to enhance the efforts to promote educational reconstruction and development in Liberia.

- **Herold BC, Chen BA, Salata RA, Marzinke MA, Kelly CW, Dezzutti CS, McGowan I, Galaska B, Levy L, Piper JM, Hillier S, Hendrix CW, MTN-011 study team**

*Impact of sex on the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of 1% tenofovir gel.* Clin Infect Dis 2016 Feb; 62 (3): 375-82. [Journal Impact Factor: 8.886]

These data indicate that sex affects tenofovir gel pharmacokinetics and has implications for other microbicides and delivery methods. As research on microbicide gels, rings and other delivery platforms move forward, it will be important to conduct post-coital pharmacokinetics studies to optimize the timing and dosing of the prevention agent.

- **Hubacher D**

*The levonorgestrel intrauterine system: Reasons to expand access to the public sector of Africa.* Glob Health Sci Pract 2015 Dec; 3 (4): 532-7. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

This paper provides a summary of the obstacles to interest in the levonorgestrel intrauterine system and six main reasons why donor agencies should purchase the levonorgestrel intrauterine system and why family planning programs should incorporate the method into their services. Women in resource-poor countries will benefit tremendously from the levonorgestrel intrauterine system, a successful and effective contraceptive.

- **Kaale E, Hope SM, Jenkins D, Layloff T**

*Implementation of 350-2500 nm diffuse reflectance spectroscopy and high-performance thin-layer chromatography to rapidly assess manufacturing consistency and quality of cotrimoxazole tablets in Tanzania.* Trop Med Int Health 2016 Jan; 21 (1): 61-9. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.329]

In a resource-limited environment, a newly instituted rapid assessment quality assurance program was used to assess the quality of cotrimoxazole tablets. This cost-effective approach provides a model to assure product quality and make significant improvements to the continual product quality from the manufacturer. With proper validation, this approach could be applied in other countries and on other product formulations.

- **Katz KR, McDowell M, Green M, Jahan S, Johnson L, Chen M**

*Understanding the broader sexual and reproductive health needs of female sex workers in Dhaka, Bangladesh.* Int Perspect Sex Reprod Health 2015 Dec; 41 (4): 182-90. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.000]

Survey data were collected from female sex workers in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on the use of condoms and other contraceptive methods, experiences with gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health service needs and preferences on where to receive services. The results found condom use was inconsistent, contraceptive methods were not used effectively and gender-based violence was common. Sex workers would prefer that reproductive health services integrate into drop-in centers where they go for sexually transmitted infections and HIV-related care.

- **Landovitz RJ, Kofron R, McCauley M**

*The promise and pitfalls of long-acting injectable agents for HIV prevention.* Curr Opin HIV AIDS 2016 Jan; 11 (1): 122-8. [Journal Impact Factor: 4.680]

Long-acting injectable agents for HIV prevention may offer adherence advantages over daily oral agents if proven safe, acceptable and efficacious. This paper describes the possible benefits and unique complexities associated with these novel agents.

- **LeGrand S, Reif S, Sullivan K, Murray K, Barlow ML, Whetten K**

*A review of recent literature on trauma among individuals living with HIV.* Curr HIV/AIDS Rep 2015 Dec; 12 (4): 397-405. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.795]

Persons living with HIV report disproportionately high levels of exposure to traumatic events in childhood and adulthood. This review summarizes the recent literature on trauma among this key population; its association with health outcomes, HIV disclosure, and sexual risk behaviors; and interventions to address trauma in this population. Recommendations include implementing trauma-informed care as part of the standard of care for persons living with HIV.

- **Malkin MA, Stanback J**

*Community-based provision of family planning in the developing world: Recent developments.* Curr Opin Obstet Gynecol 2015 Dec; 27 (6): 482-6. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.067]

This paper reviews important contributions to the peer-reviewed literature on community-based family planning in developing countries from 2012 to the present. Areas of focus included pilot studies, drug shops and new contraceptive technology, while key studies focused largely on the provision of injectable contraception at the community level. Research utilization efforts continue to successfully use this evidence to change local policies and practice.

- **Nanda K, Callahan R, Dorflinger L**

*Addressing gaps in the contraceptive method mix: Methods in development.* Womens Health 2015 Nov; 11 (6): 729-35. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

Many of the most common causes of unmet needs for contraception and unintended pregnancy could be addressed with new and improved contraceptive technologies. Several mid- to long-acting methods currently under development, including new intrauterine devices, implants, vaginal rings and injectable methods, may help fill gaps in the current contraceptive method mix by offering improved or more affordable options.

- **Ramakrishnan L, Ramanathan S, Chakrapani V, Goswami P, Deshpande S, Yadav D, Sen S, George B, Paranjape R**

*Comparison of sexual risk, HIV/STI prevalence and intervention exposure among men who have sex with men and women (MSMW) and men who have sex with men only (MSMO) in India: Implications for HIV prevention.* AIDS Behav 2015 Dec; 19 (12): 2255-69. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.728]

The research examined HIV-related sexual risk, HIV and sexually transmitted infection prevalence and intervention exposures between men who have sex with men and women and men who have sex with men only. The findings indicate that concurrent sexual partnerships with men and women pose a risk of HIV transmission or acquisition for men who have sex with men and their male and female partners. All subgroups of this key population require tailored information and skills to consistently use condoms with different types of partners of either gender.

- **Rattray C, Wiener J, Legardy-Williams J, Costenbader E, Pazol K, Medley-Singh N, Snead MC, Steiner MJ, Jamieson DJ, Warner L, Gallo MF, Hylton-Kong T, Kourtis AP**

*Effects of initiating a contraceptive implant on subsequent condom use: A randomized controlled trial.* Contraception 2015 Dec; 92 (6): 560-6. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.335]

In a randomized controlled trial in which 414 Jamaican women at high risk for sexually transmitted infections received an implant immediately or at the end of a three-month study period, results showed that condom use was not higher in women receiving the implant immediately. These results support promotion of implants in high-risk populations and can help refine counseling for condom use among implant users.

- **Sundenga SL, Torres BN, Botha MH, Zeier M, Abrahamsen ME, Glashoff RH, Engelbrecht S, Schim Van der Loeff MF, Van der Laan LE, Kipping S, Taylor D, Giuliano AR**

*Cervical HPV natural history among young Western Cape, South African women: The randomized control EVRI Trial.* J Infect 2016 Jan; 72 (1): 60-9. [Journal Impact Factor: 4.441]

The efficacy of HPV vaccine to reduce HIV infection (EVRI) trial in the Western Cape, South Africa, enrolled and randomized women 16–24 years to receive human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination or placebo (with an option for the vaccine in seven months). The extraordinary prevalence of any and high-risk HPV types, and the persistence of high-risk types in both groups, stresses the importance of still earlier vaccination in populations with a large burden of HPV and associated morbidities.

- **Todd CS, Nasir A, Stanekzai MR, Fiekert K, Sipsma HL, Vlahov D, Strathdee SA**

*Hepatitis C and HIV incidence and harm reduction program use in a conflict setting: An observational cohort of injecting drug users in Kabul, Afghanistan.* Harm Reduct J 2015 Oct; 12 (Article No.22): 9p. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.641]

This study measured incidence and potential predictors of hepatitis C virus and HIV in conflict settings, including environmental events and needle and syringe distribution and collection program use, among people who inject drugs in Kabul, Afghanistan. Key findings were high rates of hepatitis C infection with no change during peak violence periods and fairly high rates of harm reduction service use. Harm reduction and drug dependence treatment programming should emphasize hepatitis C and overdose prevention programming and develop and test service models during times of displacement or conflict to prevent service interruption.

- **Vellozo J, L'Engle K, Mwarogo P, Chokwe J, Magaria L, Sinkele W, Kingola N**

*Stages and processes of change utilized by female sex workers participating in an alcohol-reduction intervention in Mombasa, Kenya.* Subst Use Misuse 2015; 50 (13): 1728-37. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.234]

Alcohol use is increasingly recognized as an important determinant of HIV acquisition and transmission and a potential factor that may undermine the impact of HIV prevention and treatment efforts. This paper describes and characterizes the stages and processes of change employed by female sex workers in Mombasa, Kenya. Results may be used to develop future alcohol interventions for female sex workers in resource-limited settings by tailoring materials to their appropriate stages of change and HIV status.