

RECENTLY PUBLISHED RESEARCH

- Barone MA, Li PS, Zulu R, Awori QD, Agot K, **Combes S**, Simba RO, Lee RK, **Hart C**, **Lai JJ**, **Zyambo Z**, Goldstein M, **Feldblum PJ**, **Sokal DC**

Men's understanding of and experiences during the postcircumcision abstinence period: Results from a field study of ShangRing circumcision during routine clinical services in Kenya and Zambia. J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr 2016 Jun; 72 (Suppl 1): S18-23. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.806]

Men's understanding of counseling messages after voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) plays a role in whether they follow them. In this study, most men reported awareness of and adherence to recommendations for post-VMMC abstinence, and a minority of men reported early resumption of intercourse with infrequent condom use. Results may be useful to improve counseling messages as scale-up of VMMC for HIV prevention continues in sub-Saharan Africa.

- **Braun R**, **Lasway C**, **Agarwal S**, L'Engle K, Layer E, Silas L, Mwakibete A, Kudrati M

An evaluation of a family planning mobile job aid for community health workers in Tanzania. Contraception 2016 Jul; 94 (1): 27-33. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.788]

Mobile job aids can uniquely enhance family planning service provision at the community level through adherence to standard protocols, real-time feedback and technical assistance, and provision of confidential care. The authors evaluated the acceptability and potential benefits to service quality of mobile job aids from the perspective of community health workers and their clients in Tanzania. This study can inform future efforts to support and expand the role of community health workers in increasing family planning access and informed contraceptive choice.

- Cao B, Gao H, Zhou B, Deng X, Hu C, Deng C, Lu H, Li Y, Gan J, Liu J, Li H, **Zhang Y**, Yang Y, Fang Q, Shen Y, Gu Q, Zhou X, Zhao W, Pu Z, Chen L, Sun B, Liu X, **Hamilton CD**, Li L

Adjuvant corticosteroid treatment in adults with influenza A (H7N9) viral pneumonia. Crit Care Med 2016 Jun; 44 (6): e318-28. [Journal Impact Factor: 6.312]

This retrospective study of 288 adults and adolescents determined the impact of adjuvant corticosteroids administered to patients hospitalized with severe influenza A (H7N9) viral pneumonia in mainland China. The authors found that, contrary to expectations, high-dose corticosteroids were associated with increased mortality and longer viral shedding in patients with influenza A (H7N9) viral pneumonia. The authors conclude that corticosteroids are not indicated for use with this type of severe influenza.

- Deuba K, Anderson S, Ekstrom AM, **Pandey SR**, Shrestha R, Karki DK, Marrone G

Micro-level social and structural factors act synergistically to increase HIV risk among Nepalese female sex workers. Int J Infect Dis 2016 Jun; 49: 100-6. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.229]

Sex workers face stigma, discrimination and violence across the globe and are almost 14 times more likely to be HIV-infected than other women in low- and middle-income countries. This study assessed the combinations of different micro-level social and structural factors of unprotected sex and the prevalence of HIV among female sex workers in Nepal. Interactions between two or more adverse conditions linked to physical, social and economic environments increased the risk of unprotected sex and need to be considered while devising future HIV prevention programs in Nepal.

- **Feldblum P**, Martinson N, Bvulani B, Tarubekera N, Mahomed M, Chintu N, Milovanovic M, **Hart C**, Billy S, Necochea E, Samona A, Mhazo M, Bossemeyer D, **Lai JJ**, Lebinai L, Ashengo TA, Macaringue L, **Veena V**, Hatzold K

Safety and efficacy of the PrePex male circumcision device: Results from pilot implementation studies in Mozambique, South Africa, and Zambia. J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr 2016 Jun; 72 (Suppl 1): S43-8. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.806]

Devices have the potential to accelerate voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) programs by making the procedure easier, quicker and more widely accessible. This noncomparative prospective study found that the PrePex device was safe and effective among adult men (and a small group of adolescents) seeking VMMC in Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia. Based on these and other results, scale-up of PrePex services within VMMC programs is underway.

- Fogel JM, Hudelson SE, Ou SS, Hart S, Wallis C, Morgado MG, Saravanan S, Tripathy S, Hovind L, Piwowar-Manning E, Sabin D, **McCauley M**, **Gamble T**, Zhang XC, Eron JJ, Gallant JE, Kumwenda J, Makhema J, Kumarasamy N, Chariyalertsak S, Hakim J, Badal-Faesen S, Akelo V, Hosseinipour MC, Santos BR, Godbole SV, Pilotto JH, Grinsztejn B, Panchia R, Mayer KH, Chen YQ, Cohen MS, Eshleman SH

HIV drug resistance in adults failing early antiretroviral treatment: Results from the HIV Prevention Trials Network O52 trial. J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr 2016 Jul; 72 (3): 304-9. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.806]

This paper describes the prevalence of HIV drug resistance at the time of antiretroviral treatment (ART) failure in study participants who initiated ART at CD4 values between 350-550 cells/mm³ and less than 250 cells/mm³. According to this study, early initiation of ART does not increase HIV drug resistance. Regardless of when ART is initiated, ongoing adherence counseling, frequent viral load monitoring and prompt cessation of ART at ART failure (with a switch to a new regimen when feasible and appropriate) are still needed to maximize the success of ART and reduce the risk of HIV drug resistance.

- **Gana C**, **Oladele E**, **Saleh M**, Makanjuola O, Gimba D, Magaji D, Odusote T, **Khamofu H**, **Torpey K**

Challenges faced by caregivers of vulnerable children in Cross River State and Abuja Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria. Vulnerable Child Youth Stud 2016 Jan; 11 (1): 24-32. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

This study describes the characteristics of caregivers, the relationships between caregivers and their children, and the experiences and challenges of caring for orphans and vulnerable children faced by caregivers in the community. Challenges included lack of access to education, barriers to good nutrition, inadequate clothing and shelter, and lack of psychosocial support. To meet the essential needs of orphans and vulnerable children, the authors recommend that government donor and civil society agencies prioritize economic empowerment of these caregivers.

- **Katz KR**, **McDowell M**, Johnson L, **Aziz S**

'I won't be able to go home being pregnant': Sex work and pregnancy in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Cult Health Sex 2016 Jul; 18 (7): 756-69. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.588]

In-depth interviews were conducted with female sex workers in Dhaka, Bangladesh, to understand their social environment. The authors found that the study participants were concerned that a pregnancy would reveal their occupation and would have negative sociocultural, economic and health implications. Understanding the context of sex workers' lives is an important step in informing stakeholders about the range of services needed to improve their sexual and reproductive health.

- Le TM, Lee PC, Stewart DE, Long TN, **Quoc CN**

What are the risk factors for HIV in men who have sex with men in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam? A cross-sectional study. BMC Public Health 2016 May; 16 (Article No.406): 10p. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.264]

There is a high HIV prevalence among men who have sex with men in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. This study indicates the need for a better understanding of this population's behavior patterns, risk practices and social networks as well as improved HIV prevention and control measures. Existing efforts should be supplemented with further work to identify locations and strategies where these high-risk individuals can be reached and to reduce social discrimination and stigma.

- **Lopez LM**, **Bernholc A**, **Chen M**, **Tolley EE**

School-based interventions for improving contraceptive use in adolescents (review). Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2016 Jun; (6): CD012249, 74p. [Journal Impact Factor: 6.103]

This paper is a systematic review of randomized controlled trials of school-based interventions intended to improve contraceptive use among adolescents. The authors found that effective interventions addressed both pregnancy and prevention of HIV and sexually transmitted infections and that successful strategies were generally multifaceted with multiple sessions. These findings suggest that interactive programs with varied activities are more likely than a didactic approach to engage adolescents and lead to behavior change.

- Mauck C, **Chen PL**, **Morrison CS**, Fichorova RN, **Kwok C**, Chipato T, Salata RA, Doncel GF

Biomarkers of cervical inflammation and immunity associated with cervical shedding of HIV-1. AIDS Res Hum Retroviruses 2016 May; 32 (5): 443-51. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.325]

Cervicovaginal HIV shedding is associated with increased female-to-male and mother-to-child transmission. The authors identified a specific immune mediator profile that is associated with the risk of cervical HIV shedding. This information could be used to develop antimicrobial agents or identify women at high risk of onward HIV transmission.

- **Nanda K**, **Callahan R**, **Taylor D**, **Wang M**, Agot K, **Jenkins D**, Van Damme L, **Dorflinger L**, **FEM-PrEP study group**

Medroxyprogesterone acetate levels among Kenyan women using depot medroxyprogesterone acetate in the FEM-PrEP trial. Contraception 2016 Jul; 94 (1): 40-7. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.788]

This study presents some of the few available data on contraceptive hormone (medroxyprogesterone acetate) levels among women using depot medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA) in Africa. The authors found lower than expected levels among DMPA users with documented injections. This finding highlights the need for more data confirming effectiveness of different DMPA products in different populations, including post-marketing surveillance and pharmacokinetic data and chemical/physical tests for product quality assurance.

- Ogbudebe CL, Izuogu S, **Abu CE**

Magnitude and treatment outcomes of pulmonary tuberculosis patients in a poor urban slum of Abia State, Nigeria. Int J Mycobacteriol 2016 Jun; 5 (2): 205-10. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

Tuberculosis (TB) remains one of the deadliest infectious diseases worldwide, with a disproportionate number of those affected living in slum areas. This study assessed the magnitude of pulmonary cases among TB patients in an urban slum in southeast Nigeria, including their demographic and clinical characteristics and any associations with treatment outcomes. The study revealed a high proportion of pulmonary TB, mostly smear-positive TB with HIV-associated outcomes. This underlines the need to ensure early TB diagnosis and improved access to HIV care for HIV co-infected patients in this setting.

- Page K, Stein ES, Carrico AW, Evans JL, **Sokunmy M**, **Nil E**, **Ngak S**, Sophal C, McCulloch C, Maher L

Protocol of a cluster randomised stepped-wedge trial of behavioural interventions targeting amphetamine-type stimulant use and sexual risk among female entertainment and sex workers in Cambodia. BMJ Open 2016 May; 6 (5): e010854. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.562]

HIV risk among female entertainment and sex workers remains high, and use of amphetamine-type stimulants significantly increases this risk. The authors designed a cluster randomized stepped-wedge trial (Cambodia Integrated HIV and Drug Prevention Implementation (CIPI) study) to test sequentially delivered behavioral interventions targeting amphetamine use. The study is the first trial of an intervention to reduce amphetamine use and HIV risk among female entertainment and sex workers in Cambodia and will inform both conditional cash transfer plus aftercare in low- and middle-income countries and programs designed to reach this group.

- Peto TJ, Kloprogge SE, Tripura R, Nguon C, **Sanann N**, Yok S, Heng C, Promnarate C, Chalk J, **Song N**, Lee SJ, Lubell Y, Dhorda M, Imwong M, White NJ, von Seidlein L, Dondorp A

History of malaria treatment as a predictor of subsequent subclinical parasitaemia: A cross-sectional survey and malaria case records from three villages in Pailin, western Cambodia. Malar J 2016 Apr; 15 (Article No.240): 8p. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.109]

This study describes and assesses the association between symptomatic malaria and subsequent sub-clinical levels of parasites in the blood (parasitaemia). The authors found that treatment of *Plasmodium vivax* malaria with artemisinin-based combination therapy without primaquine often resulted in recurrent episodes. This data could be an important component of elimination strategies. Therefore, treatment with the aim of interrupting transmission should target the entire community.

- **Rutherford DD**, **Burke HM**, **Cheung KK**, **Field SH**

Impact of an agricultural value chain project on smallholder farmers, households, and children in Liberia. World Dev 2016 Jul; 8370-83. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.965]

This paper explores the impact of an agricultural value chain project in Liberia on smallholder farmers, their households and children in order to better understand the link between household economic welfare and child well-being. Although the study suggests that the intervention contributed to positive outcomes, it also illustrates how economic-focused interventions alone are insufficient to produce sustained improvements in children's lives. Economic strengthening programs should benefit children as part of their effort to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty.

- **Sanghvi T**, Haque R, **Roy S**, Afsana K, **Seidel R**, **Islam S**, **Jimerson A**, **Baker J**

Achieving behaviour change at scale: Alive & Thrive's infant and young child feeding programme in Bangladesh. Matern Child Nutr 2016 May; 12 (Suppl 1): 141-54. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.083]

This review of the Alive & Thrive's scale-up program indicates that the strategic use of data during program development and throughout implementation led to rapid and significant improvements in key practices of breastfeeding and complementary feeding in Bangladesh. A range of diverse qualitative and quantitative data sources, including rapid trials of feeding practices and field tests of media strategies, helped address gaps in coverage and quality of interventions delivered to rural households. The authors state that use of data should be an explicit intervention in future nutrition programs.

- Schuler SR, **Lenzi R**, Hoang TA, Vu SH, Yount KM, Trang QT

Recourse seeking and intervention in the context of intimate partner violence in Vietnam: A qualitative study. J Fam Issues 2016 Jun; 37 (8): 1151-73. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.269]

Vietnam adopted a new domestic violence prevention law in 2007. This study examines the attitudes toward recourse seeking and intervention in cases of intimate partner violence against women in Vietnam. The authors found that many people hold contradictory beliefs and inconsistent attitudes about intimate partner violence and intervention. Policies to promote recourse seeking through formal channels should address gender norms undermining community support to women experiencing this kind of violence.

- **Stalter RM**, Moench TR, **MacQueen KM**, **Tolley EE**, **Owen DH**, **Consortium for Ring Adherence**

Biomarkers and biometric measures of adherence to use of ARV-based vaginal rings. J Int AIDS Soc 2016 May; 19 (1): 20746. [Journal Impact Factor: 5.090]

Poor adherence has been observed in trials of HIV prevention products containing antiretroviral-based oral and vaginal gel, resulting in an inability to determine product efficacy. This landscape analysis was conducted to identify potential technologies for objective product adherence measurement in antiretroviral-based HIV prevention trials to accurately determine efficacy. The authors recommend a strategy of using complementary biometric and behavioral approaches to best understand participants' adherence to antiretroviral-based vaginal rings in clinical trials.

- **Weissman A**, **Ngak S**, **Srean C**, Sansothy N, **Mills S**, **Ferradini L**

HIV prevalence and risks associated with HIV infection among transgender individuals in Cambodia. PLoS One 2016 Apr; 11 (4): e0152906. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.234]

This survey of HIV prevalence and risk behaviors was conducted among transgender individuals in Cambodia. The data confirm that transgender individuals are one of the highest risk groups for HIV infection. For this group, the authors suggest the need for programmatic strategies that mitigate identified associated risks and facilitate access to HIV care.