

RECENTLY PUBLISHED RESEARCH



● **Brunie A, Wamala-Mucheri P, Akol A, Mercer S, Chen M**

Expanding HIV testing and counselling into communities: Feasibility, acceptability, and effects of an integrated family planning/HTC service delivery model by village health teams in Uganda. Health Policy Plan 2016 Oct; 31(8): 1050-7. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.513]

This experience from Uganda extends evidence on the use of lay health workers in HIV testing and counseling (HTC) through an integrated family planning/HTC model with community health workers. Findings indicate that integrating HTC into pre-existing family planning services is feasible and acceptable and potentially fills a gap in HTC service provision, including more frequent testing.

● Cohen MS, Chen YQ, **McCauley M, Gamble T**, Hosseinipour MC, Kumarasamy N, Hakim JG, Kumwenda J, Grinsztajn B, Pilotto JH, Godbole SV, Chariyalertsak S, Santos BR, Mayer KH, Hoffman IF, Eshleman SH, Piwowar-Manning E, Cottle L, Zhang XC, Makhema J, Mills LA, Panchia R, Faesen S, Eron J, Gallant J, Havlir D, Swindells S, Elharrar V, Burns D, Taha TE, Nielsen-Saines K, Celentano DD, Essex M, Hudelson SE, Redd AD, Fleming TR, **HPTN O52 study team**

Antiretroviral therapy for the prevention of HIV-1 transmission. N Engl J Med 2016 Sep; 375(9): 830-9. [Journal Impact Factor: 59.558]

This report presents the final results of HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) O52. The results demonstrate that antiretroviral therapy (ART) for HIV infection provides durable and reliable protection against sexual transmission of HIV from infected men and women to their HIV-uninfected sexual partners. This finding has galvanized a worldwide commitment to universal "treatment as prevention" for combating the HIV epidemic, with ART recommended for all people with HIV, regardless of CD4 cell count.

● Dragoman MV, Jatlaoui T, **Nanda K**, Curtis KM, Gaffield ME

Research gaps identified during the 2014 update of the WHO medical eligibility criteria for contraceptive use and selected practice recommendations for contraceptive use. Contraception 2016 Sep; 94(3): 195-201. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.788]

This review identifies knowledge gaps and research to strengthen the 2014 updated guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO) *Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use* and the WHO *Selected Practice Recommendations for Contraceptive Use*. The authors present three global topics in detail: intrauterine device initiation among women at high risk for sexually transmitted infections; bidirectional drug-drug interactions with use of hormonal contraception and antiretroviral therapy; and initiation of progestogen-containing contraception following use of ulipristal acetate emergency contraception.

● **Lopez LM, Bernholz A, Chen M, Grey TW**, Otterness C, Westhoff C, Edelman A, Helmerhorst FM

Hormonal contraceptives for contraception in overweight or obese women (review). Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2016 Aug; (8): CDO08452, 68p. [Journal Impact Factor: 6.103]

Any relationship between contraceptive efficacy and being overweight or obese could have a substantial public health impact, given the worldwide epidemic of obesity. The authors systematically reviewed the effectiveness of hormonal contraceptives among overweight or obese women. The evidence generally did not indicate an association between higher body mass index or weight and the effectiveness of hormonal contraceptives.

● **MacQueen KM, Eley NT**, Frick M, Mingote LR, Chou A, Seidel SS, Hannah S, **Hamilton C**

Developing a framework for evaluating ethical outcomes of good participatory practices in TB clinical drug trials. J Empir Res Hum Res Ethics 2016 Jul; 11(3): 203-13. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.146]

With the growing acceptance of community engagement and participatory strategies in clinical research, evaluation of the benefits and burdens are needed. Working with global tuberculosis (TB) stakeholders, the authors developed a theory of change evaluation framework for the *Good Participatory Practice Guidelines for TB Drug Trials*. The framework is a first step in systematically evaluating participatory research in clinical trials.

● **Namey E, Guest G, McKenna K, Chen M**

Evaluating bang for the buck: A cost-effectiveness comparison between individual interviews and focus groups based on thematic saturation levels. Am J Eval 2016 Sep; 37(3): 425-40. [Journal Impact Factor: 0.808]

Individual interviews and focus group discussions form the foundation of most qualitative research and evaluation activities. The authors provide an empirical comparison of cost and time required to reach data saturation using the two methods, based on actual expenditures from parallel interview and focus group datasets generated through random allocation of participants. Interviews were more cost-effective in most contexts.

● **Nguyen TT**, Nguyen PH, **Hajeebhoy N**, Nguyen HV, Frongillo EA

Infant and young child feeding practices differ by ethnicity of Vietnamese mothers. BMC Pregnancy Childbirth 2016 Aug; 16(Article No.214): 9p. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.180]

This is one of the few studies worldwide that investigates ethnic variation in feeding practices in mothers with children 0–23 months old. Findings indicate that breastfeeding practices in Vietnam are suboptimal and differ by ethnicity, which suggests a need for tailored interventions at multiple levels to address ethnic-specific challenges and norms. In addition, complementary feeding practices are less optimal among ethnic minorities compared with Kinh, the ethnic majority. This suggests a need for broad intervention, including improved food availability, accessibility and security.

● **Nguyen TT**, Withers M, **Hajeebhoy N**, Frongillo EA

Infant formula feeding at birth is common and inversely associated with subsequent breastfeeding behavior in Vietnam. J Nutr 2016 Oct; 146(10): 2102-8. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.740]

This study is among the first to investigate the effect of early introduction of infant formula on subsequent feeding practices with a large sample size and innovative approaches. Findings suggest that in Vietnam, infant formula feeding during the first three days after birth was associated with increased subsequent infant formula feeding and the early cessation of breastfeeding. This underscores the need to make early, exclusive breastfeeding normative and to create environments that support it.

● **Omoeva C, Gale C**

Universal, but not free: Household schooling costs and equity effects of Uganda's universal secondary education policy. Int J Educ Dev 2016 Sep; 5041-50. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.067]

This paper analyzes the effects of Uganda's universal secondary education policy on households and schools. The policy provides schools with a per-pupil capitation grant. The authors found that receipt of the capitation grants has increased substantially for most students and is associated with a 60 percent reduction in household spending on education per child. In addition, no evidence was found that the policy boosted school attendance or retention.

● Onwujekwe O, Chikezie I, Mbachu C, **Chiegil R, Torpey K**, Uzoichukwu B

Investigating client perception and attitude to decentralization of HIV/AIDS treatment services to primary health centres in three Nigerian states. Health Expect 2016 Oct; 19(5): 1111-20. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.207]

The study examined client perception and attitude toward decentralization of antiretroviral treatment services from central hospitals to primary health centers. The findings imply that scale-up of treatment services to primary health centers would be widely accepted and probably would result in increased uptake. But, this must be accompanied by targeted behavior change interventions for clients who, for the fear of disclosure and stigma, would still not access care from proximate facilities.

● Pettifor A, MacPhail C, Selin A, Gomez-Olive FX, Rosenberg M, Wagner RG, Mabuza W, Hughes JP, Suchindran C, Piwowar-Manning E, Wang J, Twine R, Daniel T, **Andrew P**, Laeyendecker O, Agyei Y, Tollman S, Kahn K, **HPTN O68 protocol team**

HPTN O68: A randomized control trial of a conditional cash transfer to reduce HIV infection in young women in South Africa — study design and baseline results. AIDS Behav 2016 Sep; 20(9): 1863-82. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.063]

Young women in South Africa are at high risk for HIV infection. The authors present the design and baseline results from HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) O68, a Phase III trial to assess the effect of a conditional cash transfer on HIV acquisition among young South African women. Interventions, like cash transfers, that address structural factors such as schooling and poverty have the potential to reduce HIV risk in young women in South Africa.

● **Rademacher KH, Solomon M, Brett T, Bratt JH**, Pascual C, Njurguru J, **Steiner MJ**

Expanding access to a new, more affordable levonorgestrel intrauterine system in Kenya: Service delivery costs compared with other contraceptive methods and perspectives of key opinion leaders. Glob Health Sci Pract 2016 Aug; 4(Suppl 2): S83-93. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

The levonorgestrel intrauterine system (LNG-IUS) is one of the most effective forms of contraception. In this study, the authors calculated the direct service delivery costs per couple-years of protection of various family planning methods and interviewed key opinion leaders. The costs of a new LNG-IUS compares favorably with other contraceptive methods common in Kenya. These results indicate that introducing a new, more affordable LNG-IUS product could help expand choice for women in Kenya and increase use of long-acting reversible contraception.

● **Rangarajan S**, Colby DJ, Truong GL, Duong BD, Huu HN, **Broh TP, Tri DT, Chau TN**, Anh ND, Tram HN, Nga DV, Quang NN, Phuoc PV, **Giang DD, Chen M, Zeng Y**, Van TT, Hanh TM, Hoa LT, Chien HX, **West G**

Factors associated with HIV viral load suppression on antiretroviral therapy in Vietnam. J Virus Erad 2016 Apr; 2(2): 94-101. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

The authors conducted a survey of adult patients, across four provinces in Vietnam, who have been on antiretroviral treatment (ART) for at least one year. The survey assessed the effectiveness of the national HIV treatment program and showed that the program can maintain and potentially improve treatment outcomes by improving access to viral load testing, including a routine test for all patients following one year on ART, streamlining adherence monitoring and counseling, proactively switching patients to the available single-tablet regimen, and mobilizing interventions to address issues of social isolation and high stigma among people living with HIV.

● **Rangarajan S**, Colby DJ, Truong GL, Huu HN, Thu VT, Quoc BL, **Broh TP, Tri DT, Giang DD, Chen M, Zeng Y, West G**

Factors associated with HIV RNA viral loads in ART-naïve patients: Implications for treatment as prevention in concentrated epidemics. J Virus Erad 2016 Jan; 2(1): 36-42. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

The authors conducted a survey of adults with HIV who are not on antiretroviral treatment (ART) in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. These data support expanded eligibility of ART to all HIV patients with the goal of treatment as prevention. This study is among the first to demonstrate that men who have sex with men have a higher viral load than women and heterosexual men. This highlights the need for improved outreach and linkages to HIV care for this population.

● Riddler SA, Husnik M, Gorbach PM, **Levy L**, Parikh U, Livant E, Pather A, Makanani B, Muhlenga F, Kasaro M, Martinson F, Elharrar V, Balkus JE, **MTN-O15 protocol team for the Microbicide Trials Network**

Long-term follow-up of HIV seroconverters in microbicide trials — rationale, study design, and challenges in MTN-O15. HIV Clin Trials 2016 Sep; 17(5): 204-11. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.951]

This study demonstrates the feasibility and benefits of the Microbicide Trials Network (MTN) longitudinal study (MTN-O15) to monitor virologic, immunological and clinical outcomes, as well as behavioral changes and counseling among women who acquire HIV during MTN trials. The study highlights challenges that resulted in delays of study activation and enrollment. The lessons learned from these challenges have been addressed for women in subsequent cohorts of MTN-O15.

● Simwina M, Bond V, Makola N, Hoddinott G, Belemu S, **White R**, Shanaube K, Seeley J, **Moore A**, behalf of the **HPTN O71 (PopART) study team**

Implementing community engagement for combination prevention: Lessons learnt from the first year of the HPTN O71 (PopART) community-randomized study. Curr HIV/AIDS Rep 2016 Aug; 13(4): 194-201. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.387]

The success of an HIV combination prevention strategy depends on the involvement and buy-in of the intended populations. This paper describes lessons learned from the first year of one of the largest-ever community-randomized, HIV-prevention studies: HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) O71 (PopART). Key lessons include that all communities require continuous community engagement and that engagement needs to be adapted to diverse local contexts.

● **Todd CS**, Mansoor GF, Buhler C, Rahimi H, Zekria R, Fernandez S, Mikhail AF, Scott PT, Yingst SL

Prevalence of zoonotic and vector-borne infections among Afghan National Army recruits in Afghanistan. Vector Borne Zoonotic Dis 2016 Aug; 16(8): 501-6. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.956]

Vector-borne and zoonotic pathogens result in substantial morbidity and loss of productivity in developing settings. This paper describes the prevalence among Afghan National Army recruits of markers of exposure to key pathogens, including *Plasmodium vivax* and *falciparum*, *Brucella* species, and the Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever and dengue viruses. The authors provide insights into screening for exposure and geographic distribution for these pathogens.

● Tran AH, Best BM, Stek A, Wang J, Capparelli EV, Burchett SK, Kreitchmann R, Rungruenthanakit K, **George K**, Cressey TR, Chakhtoura N, Smith E, Shapiro DE, Mirochnick M, **IMPAACT P1026s protocol team**

Pharmacokinetics of rilpivirine in HIV-infected pregnant women. J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr 2016 Jul; 72(3): 289-96. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.806]

Pregnancy can affect the characteristics of rilpivirine pharmacokinetics: absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion. This study evaluated antiretroviral pharmacokinetics in pregnant women with HIV, including a cohort receiving rilpivirine as part of their combination antiretrovirals for clinical care. Findings suggest rilpivirine exposure is highly variable as well as lower during pregnancy, compared with the postpartum stage.

● Turner AN, Reese PC, **Chen PL, Kwok C**, Jackson RD, Klebanoff MA, Fichorova RN, Chipato T, **Morrison CS**

Serum vitamin D status and bacterial vaginosis prevalence and incidence in Zimbabwean women. Am J Obstet Gynecol 2016 Sep; 215(3): 332.e1-10. [Journal Impact Factor: 4.681]

Bacterial vaginosis, a highly prevalent vaginal condition, is correlated with many adverse reproductive outcomes. The authors examined the association between vitamin D status and prevalence of bacterial vaginosis, separately for pregnant and nonpregnant women. Among reproductive-age Zimbabwean women, insufficient vitamin D was not associated with increased bacterial vaginosis prevalence or incidence. Identification of factors leading to high bacterial vaginosis prevalence is urgently needed.

● **Yacobson I, Malkin M, Lebetkin E**

Increasing access and adherence to the PMTCT cascade: Is there a role for economic strengthening interventions? Int J Popul Res 2016; 2016(Article ID 4039012): 8 p. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

This review examines the evidence of the effects that economic strengthening interventions have on the use of and adherence to prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) and other health services relevant to the PMTCT cascade. It also identifies evidence gaps and formulates research questions, which, if answered, may better guide policymakers and program implementers as they work to improve service utilization.