

RECENTLY PUBLISHED RESEARCH



- **Agyepong IA, Sewankambo N, Binagwaho A, Coll-Seck AM, Corrah T, Ezeh A, Fekadu A, Kilonzo N, Lamptey P, Masiye F, Mayosi B, Mboup S, Muyembe JJ, Pate M, Sidibe M, Simons B, Tlou S, Gheorghe A, Legido-Quigley H, McManus J, Ng E, O'Leary M, Enoch J, Kassebaum N, Piot P**
The path to longer and healthier lives for all Africans by 2030: The Lancet Commission on the future of health in sub-Saharan Africa. Lancet 2017 Dec; 390(10114): 2803-59. [Journal Impact Factor: 47.831]
The report analyzes the challenges and opportunities for health in sub-Saharan Africa based on rigorous appraisal of new evidence and past experiences. The authors present key opportunities, messages and recommendation to improve the health of Africans by 2030. One of the greatest historic public health opportunities highlighted by the Commission is the prevention of a looming tobacco epidemic to mitigate the continent's growing threat of noncommunicable diseases.
- **Ahner-McHaffie T, Guest G, Petruney T, Eterno A, Dooley B**
Evaluating integrated development: Are we asking the right questions? A systematic review. [version 1; referees: 3 approved with reservations] Gates Open Res 2017 Nov; 1(6): (doi: 10.12688/gatesopenres.12755.1). [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]
Integrated development is gaining popularity in global interventions. But, the evaluation of integrated programming has not received much attention. This systematic review indicates that few programs between 2006 and 2016 were intentionally designed to assess the impact of linking two or more development sectors. The review and recommendations will be useful to develop more promising programs.
- **Aiyenigba B, Ojo A, Aisiri A, Uzim J, Adeusi O, Mwenesi H**
Immediate assessment of performance of medical laboratory scientists following a 10-day malaria microscopy training programme in Nigeria. Glob Health Res Policy 2017 Nov; 232. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]
This assessment documents the training of medical laboratory scientists across Nigeria to improve malaria diagnosis. The findings indicate better diagnostic performance following the World Health Organization's standard 10-day malaria microscopy training. The authors note the need to evaluate using low-cost technologies for visual imaging, as well as upgrading pre-service training.
- **Bekker LG, Roux S, Sebastien E, Yola N, Amico KR, Hughes JP, Marzinke MA, Hendrix CW, Anderson PL, Elharrar V, Stirratt M, Rooney JF, Piwowar-Manning E, Eshleman SH, McKinsty L, Li M, Dye BJ, Grant RM, HPTN 067 (ADAPT) study team**
Daily and non-daily pre-exposure prophylaxis in African women (HPTN 067/ADAPT Cape Town Trial): A randomised, open-label, Phase 2 trial. Lancet HIV 2017 Oct; epub ahead of print. [Journal Impact Factor: 9.842]
The HIV Prevention Trails Network (HPTN) 067 trial, is a Phase 2, randomized, open-label oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) behavioral study to evaluate the feasibility of non-daily regimens in adult women. The majority of women in this study took oral PrEP when made available in an open label study. Daily dosing resulted in better coverage during sex events, reported adherence and higher drug levels.
- **Brunie A, Rutherford D, Keyes EB, Field S**
Economic benefits of savings groups in rural Mozambique. Int J Soc Econ 2017; 44(12): 1988-2001. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]
Savings groups are a popular way to increase the economic well-being of vulnerable families because they are relatively easy and inexpensive, yet their limitations are not well understood. This paper examines the impact of a savings group program in rural Mozambique. Results show that participating in the group had a positive impact on income and asset ownership and participants could partially bridge seasonal gaps and meet needs to a greater extent during a crisis.
- **Chhim S, Macom J, Pav C, Nim N, Yun P, Seng S, Chhim K, Tuot S, Yi S**
Using risk-tracing snowball approach to increase HIV case detection among high-risk populations in Cambodia: An intervention study. BMC Infect Dis 2017 Oct; 17(1): 689. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.768]
This study evaluated the effectiveness of risk-tracing snowball approach (RTSA), versus the walk-in testing approach, in increasing the rate of newly identified HIV cases among high-risk populations. The authors found that the RTSA approach identified fewer new HIV cases than the walk-in group. The results did show that the RTSA group had higher mean CD4 counts and may reveal that this approach can detect HIV cases earlier than the walk-in approach. Further research is needed to understand the cost-effectiveness of this intervention.
- **Costenbader E, Lenzi R, Hershow RB, Ashburn K, McCarraher DR**
Measurement of social norms affecting modern contraceptive use: A literature review. Stud Fam Plann 2017 Dec; 48(4): 377-89. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.358]
This literature review identifies and evaluates social norm measures related to modern contraceptive use. The results show that no single measure was used in more than one study; failure to specify the boundaries of who was engaging in and influencing the behaviors of interest contributed to the variation. The authors make several recommendations to bring greater consistency and comparability to social norm measures.
- **Fine PC, Petruney T**
Urban, rural, and everything in between: Smarter planning for the 2030 agenda. In: Savoy, Conor M.; Rice, Charles F. editors. Global Development Monitor 2017: A report of the CSIS project on U.S. leadership in development. Rowman & Littlefield; 2017. p.23-5. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]
At a time when data is driving development solutions more than ever before, weaknesses in the way countries and international organizations collect and report data on population distribution present challenges to the stated commitments of the Sustainable Development Goals. This paper explores the current challenges and proposes practical solutions to ensure smart planning and resource allocation to maximize development investments.
- **Guest G, Namey E, Taylor J, Eley N, McKenna K**
Comparing focus groups and individual interviews: Findings from a randomized study. Int J Soc Res Methodol 2017; 20(6): 693-708. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.396]
Researchers often question using focus groups or individual interviews for their studies. The findings in this article are based on a randomized study in which data from focus groups and individual interviews were compared. The authors found that sensitive and personal disclosures were more likely in a focus group and some sensitive themes only occurred in a focus group. The authors suggest these findings can help researchers align qualitative data collections methods with study objectives.
- **Khan MS, Hutchison C, Coker RJ, Yoong J, Hane KM, Innes AL, Khaing TM, Aung S**
Preventing emergence of drug resistant tuberculosis in Myanmar's transitioning health system. Health Policy Plan 2017 Oct; 32(Suppl 2): i43-50. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.368]
Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis is a threat to the populations of resource-limited countries. Although inadequate treatment of TB is identified as a major underlying cause of drug resistance, essential information to inform changes in health service and policy is missing. This study examines the practices of patients and health care organizations and identifies high-risk TB patient groups that can be prioritized for treatment support.

- **Morrison CS, Homan R, Mack N, Seepolmuang P, Averill M, Taylor J, Osborn J, Dailey P, Parkin N, Ongarello S, Mastro TD**
Assays for estimating HIV incidence: Updated global market assessment and estimated economic value. J Int AIDS Soc 2017 Nov; 20(3): e25018. [Journal Impact Factor: 6.296]
HIV incidence assays are cost-effective laboratory assays that provide incidence estimates from cross-sectional surveys. The authors conducted a global market assessment of HIV incidence assay under three market scenarios and estimated the cost of conducting national and key population surveys using an HIV incidence assay with improved performance. The research finds that improved HIV incidence assays could substantially reduce HIV incidence estimation costs. The authors state that continued development of HIV incidence assays with improved performance is required to realize these cost benefits.
- **Nguyen TT, Hoang MV**
Non-communicable diseases, food and nutrition in Vietnam from 1975 to 2015: The burden and national response. Asia Pac J Clin Nutr 2018; 27(1): 19-28. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.816]
This review shows that noncommunicable diseases, their risk factors and unhealthy lifestyles are emerging problems in Vietnam. The authors suggest that although policies for prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases were available, their implementation needs to be combined with strengthened law enforcement and increased program coverage.
- **O'Regan A, Thompson G**
Indicators of young women's modern contraceptive use in Burkina Faso and Mali from Demographic and Health Survey data. Contracept Reprod Med 2017 Nov; 226. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]
This paper presents an exploratory analysis of modern contraceptive use in Burkina Faso and Mali using recent Demographic and Health Survey data. Based on these findings, local governments and development organizations should focus on women's empowerment and include male partners to increase modern contraceptive use and curb fertility rates.
- **Park S, Kim JK, Stukel D**
A measurement error model approach to survey data integration: Combining information from two surveys. Metron 2017 Dec; 75(3): 345-57. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]
Combining information from two surveys is a challenge in survey sampling, particularly when there are overlapping geographies. In such cases, dual frame estimation methods are employed to derive overall estimates while avoiding double contributions coming from the overlap area. In this paper, measurement error models were layered onto the dual frame approach, to appropriately account for potential measurement errors. The approach can be generalized to combine more than two sources of information.
- **Plotzker R, Seekaew P, Jantarapakde J, Pengnonyang S, Trachunthong D, Linjongrat D, Janyam S, Nakpor T, Charoenying S, Mills S, Vannakit R, Cassell M, Phanuphak P, Lertpiriyasuwat C, Phanuphak N**
Importance of risk perception: Predictors of PrEP acceptance among Thai MSM and TG women at a community-based health service. J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr 2017 Dec; 76(5): 473-81. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.935]
HIV risk perception is an important factor in pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). This paper presents how self-risk perception plays an important role in whether men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women (TG) initiate PrEP. The authors state the need to assess a patient's risk perception and provide HIV education and counseling that will improve the accuracy of perceived HIV risk.
- **Quinn SC, Hilyard KM, Jamison AM, An J, Hancock GR, Musa D, Freimuth VS**
The influence of social norms on flu vaccination among African-American and white adults. Health Educ Res 2017 Dec; 32(6): 473-86. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.816]
Although influenza vaccination is a low-cost preventive measure, most American adults, particularly African-Americans, do not get vaccinated. This article highlights the findings of racial disparities on social norms in influenza vaccination. The authors identify a greater association between subjective norms and vaccination behavior, which suggests that health promotion efforts, particularly those targeting African-Americans, may benefit from focusing on subjective norms and encouraging friends and family members to talk about the benefits of influenza vaccination.
- **Sanghvi T, Seidel R, Baker J, Jimerson A**
Using behavior change approaches to improve complementary feeding practices. Matern Child Nutr 2017 Oct; 13(Suppl 2): e12406. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.528]
Improving complementary feeding of children 6 to 24 months of age requires an understanding of what drives feeding behaviors in specific cultural and economic contexts and which systematic approaches best facilitate beneficial and feasible changes. This paper analyzes social and behavior change approaches and use of program delivery platforms at scale that resulted in documented improvements in Bangladesh, Malawi, Peru and Zambia. The authors conclude that complementary feeding practices, particularly dietary diversity, can be improved rapidly in a variety of settings through available program platforms if interventions focus on specific constraints and strategies encourage caregivers to prepare and feed appropriate foods.
- **Schuler SR, Lenzi R, Badal SH, Nazneen S**
Men's perspectives on women's empowerment and intimate partner violence in rural Bangladesh. Cult Health Sex 2018 Jan; 20(1): 113-27. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.951]
Intimate partner violence may increase as women in patriarchal societies become empowered and challenge prevailing gender norms. This study explored men's evolving views of women, gender norms and justifications for partner violence in the context of transitioning gender norms. The findings suggest that men's growing acceptance of egalitarian gender norms and their self-reported decreased engagement in intimate partner violence are driven largely by their desire to improve their economic status and their fear of negative consequences to partner violence.
- **Thomas CN, Inokuchi D, Lehman T, Ledsky R, Weldy A**
Overweight and obesity in local media: An analysis of media coverage in CDC-funded communities. Prev Chronic Dis 2017 Dec; 14E126. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.802]
Earned media can be part of addressing overweight and obesity by emphasizing prevention and both environmental and individual causes and solutions. This paper examines almost 3,000 news stories related to overweight and obesity in newspaper and television channels in multiple locations across the United States. The authors suggest future research could explore if public perception or news coverage on overweight and obesity changes.
- **Tolley EE, Taylor J, Pack A, Greene E, Stanton J, Shelus V, Dunner R, Hodge T, Branson B, El-Sadr WM, Gamble T**
The role of financial incentives along the antiretroviral therapy adherence continuum: A qualitative sub-study of the HPTN 065 (TLC-Plus) study. AIDS Behav 2018 Jan; 22(1): 245-57. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.916]
Offering financial incentives is one strategy to motivate adherence behaviors. This qualitative sub-study examines adherence barriers and the role of financial incentives to increase viral suppression among HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) 065 study participants. The authors suggest that financial incentives may be insufficient to overcome strong social or structural barriers and unnecessary for those committed to remaining adherent.