

# RECENTLY PUBLISHED RESEARCH



- Adamson B, El-Sadr W, Dimitrov D, **Gamble T**, Beauchamp G, Carlson JJ, Garrison L Jr, Donnell D  
*The cost-effectiveness of financial incentives for viral suppression: HPTN O65 study.* Value Health 2018 Nov; epub ahead of print. [Journal Impact Factor: 5.494]

Using data collected in the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN) O65 study, the authors evaluated the costs and benefits of offering financial incentives to HIV-infected individuals who took their HIV medication and maintained viral suppression. The researchers found that this type of financial incentive has the potential to improve the health of those who have HIV, reduce HIV transmission in the community and save money from a societal perspective.

- **Burke HM, Chen M, Brown AN**  
*Applying factorial designs to disentangle the effects of integrated development.* IDS Bull 2018 Sep; 49(4): 115-28. [Journal Impact Factor: 0.319]

The authors discuss the lessons learned from the design and implementation of a study assessing the effects of integrating an economic strengthening intervention with an HIV-prevention intervention among South African youth. They discuss the design of a full-factorial, randomized controlled study and how intervention features and their implementation context determine the methods for testing the effectiveness of integrated programming.

- **Deese J, Pradhan S, Goetz H, Morrison C**  
*Contraceptive use and the risk of sexually transmitted infection: Systematic review and current perspectives.* Open Access J Contracept 2018 Nov; 991-112. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

The authors reviewed the evidence on the association between contraceptive use and sexually transmitted infections and bacterial vaginosis published over the last 10 years. Few data are available from prospective studies. But, new evidence suggests a significantly increased risk of herpes simplex virus type 2 infection among depot medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA) users. DMPA users should be counseled on this possible increased risk, and new research is warranted to better understand the association.

- **Dunbar M**, Kripke K, Haberer J, Castor D, Dalal S, Mukoma W, Mullick S, Patel P, Reed J, Subedar H, Were D, Warren M, **Torjesen K**  
*Understanding and measuring uptake and coverage of oral pre-exposure prophylaxis delivery among adolescent girls and young women in sub-Saharan Africa.* Sex Health 2018 Nov; 15(6): 513-21. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.246]

The current understanding of oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) uptake is limited, in part due to a lack of common definitions and varying interpretations of uptake and coverage measures. This paper discusses the inherent challenges in measuring oral PrEP uptake and coverage among adolescent girls and young women. The authors propose potential indicators to address these challenges and to work to better understand how the scientific and program communities could reframe “low” uptake for this population.

- Heffron R, Stalter R, Pyra M, **Nanda K**, Erikson DW, Hladik F, Blue SW, Davis NL, Mugo N, Kourtis AP, Lingappa JR, Baeten JM, Partners PrEP study and Partners in Prevention HSV/HIV Transmission study teams  
*HIV risk associated with serum medroxyprogesterone acetate (MPA) levels among women in east and southern Africa: A case-control study.* AIDS 2018 Dec; epub ahead of print. [Journal Impact Factor: 4.914]

Some studies have found increased HIV risk associated with self-reported injectable depot medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA) use. This study used samples from women enrolled in previous HIV prevention trials to evaluate the association between serum MPA — the progestin in DMPA — levels and HIV acquisition. The authors found that detection of low levels of MPA close to the estimated time of HIV infection was significantly more frequent among women who acquired HIV. These results should be used to generate new hypotheses about potential mechanisms related to DMPA and HIV susceptibility.

- Hemsworth J, **Arimond M**, Kumwenda C, Rehman AM, Maleta K, Ashorn U, Keogh R, Ferguson EL  
*Comparison of an interactive 24-h recall and weighed food record for measuring energy and nutrient intakes from complementary foods among 9–10-month-old Malawian infants consuming lipid-based nutrient supplements.* Br J Nutr 2018 Dec; 120(11): 1262-71. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.657]

This paper assessed the relative validity of maternal 24-hour recalls compared to a weighed record of nutrition intake. The study shows there can be recall bias, with mothers reporting more supplement consumption than observed in a weighed record. The findings have implications for understanding and evaluating impacts of such interventions.

- Jin Tan RK, **Wong CM**, Chen MI, Chan YY, Bin Ibrahim MA, Lim OZ, Chio MT, Wong CS, Wah Chan RK, Chua LJ, Hong Choong BC  
*Chemsex among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men in Singapore and the challenges ahead: A qualitative study.* Int J Drug Policy 2018 Nov; 6131-7. [Journal Impact Factor: 4.244]

This study reports on the perceptions, engagement and barriers for participating in sexualized substance use, or chemsex, within the communities of gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men in Singapore. The authors provide a framework to guide future interventions that address chemsex and the risk of acquiring HIV or sexually transmitted infections among these populations.

- **Lenzi R, Packer C, Ridgeway K**, Moon TD, Green AF, Gonzalez-Calvo L, **Burke HM**  
*Exploring intersections of localised gender norms and unanticipated effects of a sexual and reproductive health intervention: Implications of respect and being a “good girl” in Zambezia Province, Mozambique.* Cult Health Sex 2018 Oct; epub ahead of print. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.742]

The authors conducted a longitudinal, qualitative evaluation of girls ages 13 to 17 in Mozambique who had participated in a combined economic strengthening and sexual and reproductive health intervention. Thematic analysis found that intervention participants and other household and community members idealize girls who appear to be submissive, subservient and sexually chaste. Respondents believed the intervention reinforced these behaviors, although they were not generally aligned with the formal intervention content and were sometimes contrary to the intervention's goals.

- **MacQueen KM, Eley NT**, Frick M, **Hamilton C**  
*Using theory of change frameworks to develop evaluation strategies for research engagement: Results of a pre-pilot study.* J Int AIDS Soc 2018 Oct; 21(Suppl 7): e25181. [Journal Impact Factor: 5.131]

Community and stakeholder engagement support ethical implementation of clinical trials. However, systematic efforts are lacking to evaluate how different engagement strategies work, for whom and under what conditions. This study used a theory-of-change framework and a minimally burdensome online survey in multiple languages to pilot data collection on engagement strategies and outcomes for tuberculosis clinical trials.

- Meribole EC, Makinde OA, Oyemakinde A, Oyediran KA, Atobatele A, Fadeyibi FA, Azeez A, Ogbokor D, **Adebayo O**, Adebayo W, Abatta E, Adoghe A, Adebayo SB, Mahmoud Z, Ashefor G, Adebayo SB, Yisa IO, Balogun A, Chukwujekwu O, Dalhatu I, Jahun I, Bamidele S, Johnson DO, Ibrahim M, Akpan F, **Aiyenigba B**, Omaha OI, Terpase A, Ottih C, Adelakin O, Mullen S, Orobaton N  
*The Nigerian health information system policy review of 2014: The need, content, expectations and progress.* Health Info Libr J 2018 Dec; 35(4): 285-97. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.190]

This paper shares insights from Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Health and the Health Information System Stakeholders' collaborative review of the 2006 National Health Management Information System policy. The review highlighted the need for strong governance and leadership from the government to reduce fragmentation of national health information systems. The authors also discussed the revisions and implementation of the 2014 Health Management Information System policy.

- **Namey E, Laumann LC, Brown AN**  
*Learning about integrated development using longitudinal mixed methods programme evaluation.* IDS Bull 2018 Sep; 49(4): 97-114. [Journal Impact Factor: 0.319]

This paper discusses how practical realities of integrated development programming influence evaluation design options. The authors detail the attempts to mitigate potential limitations of a nonexperimental design with the use of a mixed methods approach, using as an example an evaluation in Uganda of combined economic- and family-strengthening programming.

- Noguchi LM, Hoesley C, Kelly C, **Scheckter R**, Bunge K, Nel A, Marzinke MA, Hendrix CW, Dezzutti CS, Hillier SL, Bogen DL, Piper JM, Beigi RH  
*Pharmacokinetics of dapivirine transfer into blood plasma, breast milk, and cervicovaginal fluid of lactating women using dapivirine vaginal ring.* Antimicrob Agents Chemother 2019 Jan; epub ahead of print. [Journal Impact Factor: 4.255]

This study assessed the pharmacokinetics, safety, tolerability and adherence of the dapivirine vaginal ring used for 14 consecutive days by lactating women who were not breastfeeding. The research showed low concentrations of dapivirine in breast milk, indicating that daily infant exposure would also be low. Given this favorable safety profile, additional research is in development to assess the safety and drug detection of the dapivirine ring in breastfeeding mother-infant pairs in regions with higher incidence of sexually transmitted HIV infection.

- **Olsen PS, Plourde KF**, Lasway C, van Praag E  
*Insights from a text messaging-based sexual and reproductive health information program in Tanzania (m4RH): Retrospective analysis.* JMIR Mhealth Uhealth 2018 Nov; 6(11): e10190. [Journal Impact Factor: 4.541]

This study aimed to better understand how users engaged with a mobile health program in Tanzania from 2013 to 2016. Using system-generated data, the analysis shows a useful framework to measure user engagement. The data also provides information on how users engage with text messaging-based health interventions and how user interaction data could inform effective improvements to the intervention.

- **Omoeva C, Moussa W, Gale C**  
*The economic costs of educational inequality in developing countries.* In: BenDavid-Hadar, I, editor. Education Finance, Equality, and Equity. Springer; 2018. pp. 181-217. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

In this book chapter, the authors discuss economic inequality with inequality in educational opportunity across a number of developing countries from Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa, Central Europe and Asia. The findings show that educational inequalities by gender and identity groups are responsible for substantially low economic output. The research sheds light on the importance of equitable educational opportunity on economic growth.

- **Peterson J, Brunie A**, Diop I, Diop S, **Stanback J, Chin-Quee D**  
*Over the counter: The potential for easing pharmacy provision of family planning in Senegal.* [version 2; referees: 2 approved with reservations] Gates Open Res 2018 Dec; 2(29): (https://doi.org/10.12688/gatesopenres.12825.2). [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

Current prescription requirements in Senegal prohibit pharmacies from providing oral contraceptive pills or injectables without a prescription. This research assessed the potential for expanding access to family planning through pharmacies. Results showed that with proper training, pharmacy staff could provide effective counseling and provision of oral contraceptive pills and injectables. Lifting the prescription requirement could help support gains in contraceptive prevalence.

- **Rademacher KH, Sergison J**, Glish L, **Maldonado LY, Mackenzie A, Nanda G, Yacobson I**  
*Menstrual bleeding changes are NORMAL: Proposed counseling tool to address common reasons for non-use and discontinuation of contraception.* Glob Health Sci Pract 2018 Oct; 6(3): 603-10. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

The authors reviewed commonly used family planning counseling, training and reference materials and found that menstrual bleeding changes were insufficiently addressed. The authors suggest using a new counseling mnemonic tool, “NORMAL,” that provides messages about changes associated with the use of hormonal contraception and the copper IUD.

- **Schwartz K**, Ferrigno B, Vining S, Gomez A, Briedenhann E, Gardiner E, Jeckonia P, **Torjesen K**  
*PrEP Communications Accelerator: A digital demand creation tool for sub-Saharan Africa.* Sex Health 2018 Nov; 15(6): 570-7. [Journal Impact Factor: 1.246]

This paper outlines the methodology of developing the *PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) Communications Accelerator*, a digital tool that provides communication strategies, market research and recommendations for generating demand for PrEP across sub-Saharan Africa. The authors review the custom-built plans generated by the tool, including suggested media channels and communication tactics based on available evidence about the population and setting.

- **Sergison JE, Maldonado LY, Gao X, Hubacher D**  
*Levonorgestrel Intrauterine System associated amenorrhea: A systematic review and meta-analysis.* Am J Obstet Gynecol 2018 Dec; epub ahead of print. [Journal Impact Factor: 5.732]

Amenorrhea, the absence of menstruation, is a potential effect of the levonorgestrel intrauterine system (LNG-IUS). This systematic review and meta-analysis provided point estimates of amenorrhea in women using LNG-IUS during the first year of use. The authors provide additional measures to guide accurate contraceptive counseling and method selection.

- Wood BD, Muller R, **Brown AN**  
*Push button replication: Is impact evaluation evidence for international development verifiable?* PLoS One 2018 Dec; 13(12): e0209416. [Journal Impact Factor: 2.766]

The first requirement for research findings to be credible is that they are push-button replicable, meaning a third party can access the original data and authors' programming code and use them to reproduce the findings. This study finds that only 27 of 109 sampled development impact evaluations from both the health sciences and social sciences published in 2014 meet this requirement. In many cases, authors are noncompliant with journal policies regarding replication files.

- **Schulz, Kenneth F**, Grimes, David A  
*Essential concepts in clinical research: Randomized controlled trials and observational epidemiology.* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Elsevier Health Sciences; 2019. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

This book helps guide clinicians to read the medical literature more critically. It gives clinical researchers a methodological background that enhances the quality of their research. This second edition features six new chapters and updates the original 16 chapters to incorporate additional topics and recent references.