Acharya A, Wiwookusumo A, Thapa B, Chen M


This study examined the relationship between intimate partner violence and current contraceptive use and method among married women of reproductive age in Nepal. The findings suggest that women’s lifetime experience of intimate partner violence is associated with tubal ligation. Although further research is needed to understand the causes and the decision-making power dynamics related to contraceptive use, the link between violence and contraceptive use should be considered when providing family planning options to women.

Anglemberg MB, Rai A, Bam K, Pandey SR


This study found that mortality rates were higher when patients began antiretroviral therapy (ART) and in patients with advanced stages of HIV or poor health. The authors also found higher mortality in remote health centers compared with district facilities with ART centers. To reduce early mortality, the authors recommend improving ART services and increasing coverage with decentralization of sites to lower levels, including community dispensary, differentiated and improved service delivery, and rapid initiation of ART.

Bunie A, Callahan RL, Mackenzie A, Hibbs SP, Wayback-Pambu M


Incorporating user preferences into the design of new contraceptive technologies is crucial for product success. The paper described desired method characteristics among women and provided influencial Kano and Uganda. These characteristics include duration, effectiveness, side effects and methods of administration.


This supportive study evaluating the contraceptive efficacy of Sino-implant (II) in women shows the product to be highly effective over five years. The World Health Organization-prequalified Sino-implant (II), now marketed globally as Levoplant, as a three-year contraceptive method in June 2017, resulting in the distribution of more than one million units in the following year.

Davis DA, Morales JG, Ridgeway K, Mendoza R, Enrique A, Santillan C, Evans E, Heeney J

The impact of family planning programs on social security and legal aid issues: women and men who live with HIV. J Fam Plann Reprod Health Care 2019 Mar;45(1) 51-57. [Journal Impact Factor: 0.832]

This study explores violence perpetrated against Salvadoran men who have sex with men or public security forces — police officers, soldiers and prison guards — and its impact on health. The authors recommend that programe provide mental health services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender and extend LGBTI-inclusive policies to all public security forces.


This study evaluates HIV antibody responses and their evolution during the course of HIV infection. The data are used to design optimal vaccine candidates to predict duration of HIV infection and can be used to identify recent HIV infections for the purpose of developing prevention interventions.

Evidence for Contraceptive Options and HIV Outcomes (ECHO) Trial Consortium [FHI 360 staff: Tim Mastro, Charlie Morrison, Kavita Nanda, Kathleen Shears, Doug Taylor, Julie Welch]


The ECHO trial, a randomized clinical trial, was developed to address a long-standing question about the evidence for contraceptive options and HIV incidence. The article presents the data from research sites in Eswatini, Kenya, South Africa and Zambia. The results indicate there were no substantial differences in HIV incidence associated with use of three licenced contraceptive methods and supports continued and expanded access to these methods.

Godwin CL, Wolff DA, Fischer WA 2nd, Singh K, Hawes DA, Devore EE, Brown J


This study found high rates of pregnancy failure and irregular menstruation among Liberian survivors of Ebola virus disease. These findings highlight the substantial long-term impact of Ebola among female survivors and identified multiple ways for strengthening resilience in these households.

Juszczak E, Altman DG, Hopewell S, Schulz K

What is that SMART trial? Cochrane reviews and Center workers with HIV prevention services. AIDS Behav 2019 Jun; epub ahead of print. [Journal Impact Factor: 3.017]

In Cambodia, SMART-TG is the national social marketing program for HIV prevention for women engaged in sex and entertainment work. The authors used the Behavior-Based Model of Population Variations to analyze women’s levels of engagement with SMART-TG programs. The data showed high risk behaviors with a decreased association with SMART-TG. The authors believe that delivery of HIV prevention services through the SMART-TG program is needed to reach this population.

Kack M, Crawford TJ, Gue H, Chen M, Grey TW, Feldblum PJ, Stockton LL, Gallo MF


This paper reviews that the evidence that both intensive counselling and reminders (provided with or without educational information) may improve continuation of short-term hormonal contraception, compared with usual family care planning.


This study used the Good Man (Male) Scale (GMS) to evaluate gender norms and sexual-reproductive health behaviors among adolescent girls and boys age 15 to 19 in Uganda. The findings indicate that adolescents were in agreement with the gender-eqaul normative expectations explored. The girls and boys were also in agreement in that girls are responding to study that test pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Findings indicate that programs should use a combination of recruitment approaches tailored to the needs of the community. Informants also suggested that communication strategies promote PrEP as a tool to empower women to protect themselves and that peer-led messages about disease and risk should be avoided.

Kavita Nanda, Lawrence Greiner A, de Gue J, Zanzonikou A, Hounyeu A


This paper assessed data on community-based and facility-based service collected during the first 15 months of a sub-licence of the World Health Organization prequalified Levoplant in Benin. The findings show that community-based SMARPT was popular, particularly among new users of contraceptive. The authors provide guidance for countries to introduce or expand SMARPT.


This descriptive qualitative study explored strategies used to reach at-risk women in clinical trials that test pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Findings indicate that programs should use a combination of recruitment approaches tailored to the needs of the community. Informants also suggested that communication strategies promote PrEP as a tool to empower women to protect themselves and that peer-led messages about disease and risk should be avoided.


Randomized trial to evaluate contraceptive efficacy, safety and acceptability of a two-rod contraceptive implant over 4 years in the Dominican Republic. Contraception 2019 X:110006. [Journal Impact Factor: n/a]

This Sino-implant (I) pivotal clinical trial in the Dominican Republic collected safety and efficacy data for WHO-prequalified Levoplant (WHO) prequalification, a quality standard allowing global donors to procure a pharmaceutical product. Based on data from this trial, WHO prequalified Sino-implant (II), marketed globally as Levoplant, as a three-year contraceptive method in June 2017, resulting in the distribution of more than one million units in the following year.

Thapa A, Bank P, Tseri P, Simha TK, Dahl S


Nepal is in the early stages of creating a three-level federal government system that can create challenges, especially in the health system. A major challenge is ensuring uninterrupted supplies of medical commodities and services, which can result in critical shortages or loss of access to health services. This paper documents the progress and challenges to date and potential ways forward.

Thompson GH, Moret W


This study generated a theory of change model for orphan care and vulnerable children program intervention in Mozambique that explains the community-level and household-level processes leading towards community-level resilience. This paper provides a framework for retroactively developing theories of change and identified multiple ways for strengthening resilience in these households.