

Editorial Comments / Redaksionele Kommentaar

The current issue of Health SA Gesondheid will interest a wide audience of scientists and health professionals working in the areas of health care management, health care economics, policy making, nursing, psychology, sociology, ethics and education.

Oosthuizen and Ehlers report on an investigation into factors that influence South African nurses to emigrate. While there is an international shortage of qualified nurses and excellent opportunities elsewhere, they found that the local arena is perceived to be characterised by inadequate remuneration, poor working conditions, a lack of proper opportunities for career development and high personal safety risks. In the article by John, Lubbe and Serfontein the cost and usage-related perspectives of medicines at six clinics in the North-West Province of South Africa are analysed. While the authors were able to show that the current budget allocation is insufficient to meet the needs, they were also able to demonstrate that a therapeutic budget modelling system could assist policy makers with appropriate budgeting.

With the youth as the heart beat of society, Esterhuyse, Louw and Bach studied the exposure levels amongst Venda and Northern Sotho adolescents to violence, and consequences thereof. They found that Venda youth are exposed to more victimisation than Northern Sotho adolescents and that the degree of exposure was closely correlated to symptoms associated with post-traumatic stress disorder. Still on the topic of psychological health, Modiba and Nolte investigated the experiences and needs of woman at a public hospital in Gauteng, South Africa, following a miscarriage. The study focussed on emotional support needed from health care workers, as expressed by the mothers, and indicated that current support is inadequate.

Taylor, Dlamini, Sathiparsad, Jinabhai and De Vries report on virginity testing (a traditional Zulu custom) amongst rural secondary school students in KwaZulu-Natal, and in particular on its influence on sexual behaviour. They found that, while the custom is generally supported at community level, it does not seem to influence sexual behaviour and has a questionable impact on the prevention of HIV/AIDS. In her article, Harris reports on the implementation of mentoring in a learning programme for nurses, where this strategy has unique challenges in a multi-cultural society.

In conclusion, the current issue should provide the reader with valuable information regarding a wide range of issues concerning general health care and decision-making, enhancing both the science and practice of health care by health professionals.

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Hierdie uitgawe van Health SA Gesondheid sal 'n wye gehoor van wetenskaplikes en professionele gesondheidswerkers, wat werkzaam is in die veld van gesondheidsorgbestuur, gesondheidsorgekonomie, beleidmaking, verpleegkunde, sielkunde, sosiologie en opvoedkunde, interesseer.

Oosthuizen en Ehlers rapporteer oor 'n ondersoek na die faktore wat Suid-Afrikaanse verpleegkundiges beïnvloed om te emigreer. Terwyl daar 'n internasionale tekort is aan gekwalifiseerde verpleegkundiges en daar uitstekende geleenthede elders is, bevind hulle dat die persepsie bestaan dat die plaaslike front gekarakteriseer word deur onvoldoende vergoeding, swak werksomstandighede, 'n tekort aan toepaslike loopbaanontwikkelingsgeleenthede en hoë persoonlike veiligheidsrisiko's. In die artikel deur John, Lubbe en Serfontein analiseer hulle die koste en gebruiksverwante perspektiewe van medisyne by ses klinieke in die Noordwes Provincie van Suid-Afrika. Terwyl die outeurs kon toon dat die bestaande begrotingstoekenning onvoldoende is om die behoeftes aan te spreek, kon hulle ook aantoon dat 'n terapeutiese begrotingsmodel-sisteem besluitnemers kan help om toepaslik te begroot.

Met die jeug as die hartklop van 'n gemeenskap, bestudeer Esterhuyse, Louw en Bach die blootstelling van Venda- en Noord-Sotho-adolescente aan geweld, en die gevolge daarvan. Hulle bevind dat Venda-jeug blootgestel word aan meer viktimalisering as Noord-Sotho-adolescente en dat die graad van blootstelling goed korreleer met die simptome geassosieer met posttraumatische stressindroom. Steeds op die onderwerp van psigologiese gesondheid het Modiba en Nolte 'n ondersoek gedoen na die ervarings en behoeftes van vroue by 'n publieke hospitaal in Gauteng, Suid-Afrika, ná 'n miskraam. Die studie het veral gefokus op die emosionele ondersteuning wat vanaf gesondheidswerkers benodig was, soos vermeld deur die moeders, en dui daarop dat bestaande ondersteuning onvoldoende is.

Taylor, Dlamini, Sathiparsad, Jinabhai en De Vries rapporteer oor maagdelikhedstoetsing ('n tradisionele Zoeloe-gebruik) onder landelike sekondêre skoolleerders in KwaZulu-Natal, en in besonder oor die invloed daarvan op seksuele gedrag. Hulle bevind dat, terwyl die gebruik op gemeenskapsvlak ondersteun word, dit klaarblyklik geen invloed het op seksuele gedrag nie en dat die impak daarvan op die voorkoming van MIV/VIGS twyfelagtig is. In haar artikel rapporteer Harris oor die implementering van mentorskap in 'n leerprogram vir verpleegkundiges, waar hierdie strategie unieke uitdagings in 'n multikulturele gemeenskap bied.

Hierdie uitgawe behoort dus aan die leser waardevolle inligting te verskaf oor 'n wye verskeidenheid van sake rakende algemene gesondheidsorg en besluitneming, waardeur beide die wetenskap en die beoefening van gesondheidsorg deur professionele gesondheidswerkers bevorder word.

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