

2ND ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM BEYOND ACCESS:

INNOVATIONS IN ADOLESCENT AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S HEALTH IN SOUTH AFRICA

We are delighted to invite you to the 2nd Annual Adolescent and Youth Health Research Symposium co-hosted by the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC)'s Health Systems Research Unit, the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), the Centre for Social Science Research, and the Desmond Tutu Health Foundation (DTHF).



This year's research symposium will centre around the following 3 thematic areas:

1

Health systems, service delivery and adolescent health:

How can services reach young people in ways that are usable, connected and responsive to their lives?

2

Mental health, wellbeing, and resilience:

How do the wider systems around young people shape their health, choices and opportunities?

3

Social, digital and structural aspects/determinants of adolescent health:

What helps young people thrive, cope and receive meaningful support when they need it?

This symposium will showcase emerging research, practice and policy innovations shaping adolescent and young people's health in South Africa. It will bring together perspectives on adolescent- and youth-friendly health systems, SRHR and HIV/TB service delivery, mental health, wellbeing and resilience, and the social, digital and structural forces that shape young people's health opportunities and outcomes. The symposium aims to foster cross-sector dialogue, strengthen collaboration, and generate practical solutions that improve equity, access and wellbeing for adolescents and young people.

Event Details

- ▶ Researchers and academics working in adolescent health, SRH, or mental health.
- ▶ Health programme implementers and service providers.
- ▶ Policymakers
- ▶ Students and young people with lived experience
- ▶ Anyone passionate about youth well-being.

How do I participate?

[REGISTER HERE](#)

- 1 There is a registration fee of R250 to be paid by delegates and presenters, which is to be paid upon online registration
- 2 To submit an abstract to be considered for oral presentation: click on this [link](#)
- 3 To apply for a registration fee waiver and/or to apply to be a youth co-chair for the sessions, click on this [link](#)

For further information please contact: zoe.duby@mrc.ac.za

Event Details

DATE Monday, 2 November 2026

TIME 9:00am to 4:00pm

VENUE SAMRC Conference Centre,
Francie van Zyl Drive, Parow, Cape Town

Why attend?

Join us to share evidence, learn from emerging research, and connect with researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and young people working to improve adolescent and young people's health in South Africa. The symposium offers a space for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and practical discussion on what works, what still needs attention, and how we can strengthen equitable, youth-responsive health systems and interventions. Meaningful youth and stakeholder engagement is widely recognised as essential for better research, policy, and programme impact.

CO-HOSTED BY



HEALTH SYSTEMS
RESEARCH UNIT

