

TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	Comparative analysis of susceptibility to Covid-19: An external risk to socio- economic development projects in South Africa
Туре	Oral Presentation
	Intersectoral Collaborations and the Social Determinants of Health
Presenting Author	Bernard Moeketsi Hlalele
Co-Authors	Godwin Aja
Country	South Africa
Abstract No	TUFH299

Content

Coronavirus (COVID-19) infection rate is exponentially increasing around the globe, with over 1.3 million reported cases to date. This pandemic that brought the world to halt has created a shock and domino-effects in every sector and sphere of life. It also has a potential to ignite grievances, mistrust, sense of injustice over the access of health system services and thereby creating disproportionate impacts on most vulnerable segments of our populations hence worsening inequality. Given the shocking exponential growth of infections in the two major legislative cities of South Africa, the current study aimed at uncovering the populations' internal contributors to socio-economic susceptibility to infectious diseases, Covid-19 in particular. The lyengar-Sudarshan quantitative methodology to vulnerability analysis was deployed to the development of both dimensional and overall susceptibility index of populations in the Western Cape (Cape Town), Gauteng and North West (as control) Provinces guided by the BBC vulnerability framework model. The overarching results pointed at significantly high variability in the socio-cultural and economic attributes where Cape Town is the lead followed by Gauteng and North West respectively. The study, therefore, recommends not only for during the corona era but post corona, that socio-economic development projects be directed at these dimensions for resilience building to mitigate the increasing prevalence of socio-economic health determinants against adverse effects of all forms of catastrophes.