

THE DISTRICT HEALTH BAROMETER 2005/06 (Poster)

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The achievement of South Africa's underlying policy goal of equity in access to and quality of health care is challenged by variations within and between the 53 health districts and compromised in various ways by the absence of objective comparative information. Managers at all levels need appropriate information to analyse the health situation, set relevant objectives and develop plans susceptible to monitoring.

In order to meet this need, HST successfully piloted the *District Health Barometer* (DHB) report in 2005, in collaboration with the National Department of Health and other stakeholders. The DHB provides a snapshot of the overall performance of the health sector by district and province. The report features a selection of indicators, drawn from a variety of information sources, which include:

- the District Health Information System (DHIS), from which around 70% of indicators are drawn,
- the National TB register,
- population & socioeconomic indicators drawn from Census 2001 data
- financial data (health expenditure) from the National Treasury.

The composition of the report provides:

- comparisons of all districts across a number of key indicators represented as graphic league tables
- comparisons among rural and metro districts for each indicator
- maps demonstrating district performance across South Africa by indicator,
- change in performance, and
- district and province profiles.

The DHB supports and improves M & E and data quality within the health system and is therefore a useful management tool which is utilised by managers at all levels in the health sector, and those in other sectors such as the national treasury, academy and policy. The publication is freely downloadable from <http://www.hst.org.za/publications>