

THE SOUTH AFRICAN HEALTH REVIEW

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The South African Health Review (SAHR) is an annual publication of the Health Systems Trust (HST) which has been published since 1995. The SAHR seeks to provide a South African perspective on prevailing international public health issues and to stimulate debate and critical dialogue and provide a platform for assessing progress and areas for further attention. It is aimed at policy makers, planners, health managers, researchers, students and local and international health and development organisations.

Early editions of the SAHR focused primarily on the development and analysis of new health policies as part of the restructuring process in the health sector. Emphasis was placed on assessing and measuring the extent to which transformation was achieving a more equitable health system with respect to inputs and outputs in the health service. The millennium edition of the SAHR provided a combination of detailed information health status and health care coupled with in-dept analysis of policies and practices impacting on the provision of health services in South Africa. The health indicators chapter provides the most recent data on a range of health, socio-economic and health service indicators. Of late, the SAHR has been produced on a thematic basis with focus on human resources for health and maternal, child and women's health. This thematic focused approach has been adopted largely in response to national and international health priorities. The theme for the 2007 SAHR is "The role of the private health sector within the South African health system". Providing an informative, reliable and independent review of progress in the health sector year-by-year is a demanding task. The publication of the annual SAHR is a culmination of hard work by many individuals, a task that has significantly grown in complexity over the years.

The 2007 edition of the SAHR will focus on the following key areas with respect to the role of the private health sector i.e. oversight, pooling of resources, purchasing of health care and delivery of services. The main findings and recommendations from this 12th edition will be presented.