

South Africa

South Africa had an estimated population of some 48.3 million people in 2008⁵⁷. Most of the population were dependant on the public health sector and in 2007 only 14.3%⁵⁸ of people belonged to a medical aid, and 88.7% of households had access to piped water. The national averages for most indicators conceal vast differences between provinces, districts and sub-districts.

The real⁵⁹ non-hospital expenditure on primary health care has grown at an average annual compound growth rate of 7.9% since 2005/06 to R367 per person in 2008/09, whilst the total expenditure for primary health care⁶⁰ has grown at an average annual compound growth rate of 9.2% since 2005/06 to R794 per capita in 2008/09, R50 per person more than in 2007/08. Among the provinces, the highest non-hospital per capita expenditure on PHC, R482, was seen in Western Cape Province which, is still lower than what was spent by the province in 2001/02 (R499). Mpumalanga had the lowest non-hospital per capita expenditure on PHC in 2008/09 at R281 per person.

The PHC (*non-hospital*) expenditure per patient visit in South Africa for 2008/09, in real terms⁶¹, was R128, the same amount as was spent in 2007/08 and R16 more than what was spent per person in 2005/06. This expenditure varied from a high of R223 per visit in Metsweding (GP) to a low of R70 per visit in Siyanda (NC). The proportion of total district expenditure spent on district management nationally was 5.6%, and ranged from a high of 9.6% in Gauteng to a low of 1.9% in KwaZulu-Natal. Some of this difference may be due to differing practices in how the expenditure is recorded.

On average, district hospitals received 41.8% of total PHC expenditure in 2008/09. This proportion decreased annually from 44.9% in 2005/06 and is partly due to the corresponding rise in the proportion spent on district management teams, but is more likely due to increased expenditure on HIV/AIDS via conditional grants, which has increased its share of total PHC expenditure by 2.7% over the same time period. Two thirds (66.9%) of available district hospital beds were utilised nationally, while the average length of stay in a district hospital was 4.3 days, with a cost per patient day equivalent of R1096. The cost per patient day equivalent has decreased nationally for the first time in four years by R44, with six out of the nine provinces reflecting a lower cost over the previous year. North West had the highest cost per patient day equivalent of R1364 and KwaZulu-Natal, which had the lowest value among the provinces at R990, surprisingly had the highest average length of stay of patients in a district hospital of 5.6 days.

The average nurse clinical workload in 2008/09 was 23.3 patients per nurse clinical work day. This indicator has shown an annual decline from 28.0 patients in 2004/05, probably due in part to increasing precision in recording of the denominator, nurse clinical work days. The Western Cape had the highest workload of 30.0 patients per nurse per day, in contrast to the low of 17.8 patients per day in Limpopo Province.

The primary health care utilisation rate rose from 2.2 visits per patient per year in 2007/08 to 2.4 visits in 2008/09 and the clinic supervision rate improved by 13.2 percentage points to 61.4%, leaving close to one third of clinics in the country unsupervised. The highest supervision rate was in Gauteng province at 73.9% of clinics supervised, followed closely by the Eastern Cape at 73.7%, whilst the lowest was in the Northern Cape at 23.2%.

The average number of condoms distributed per male 15 years and older per year has almost doubled from a low of just over six in 2003/04, to more than 12 condoms per man per year in 2008/09. This conceals wide differences, with the Western Cape being a strong leader for the sixth year in a row distributing over 36 condoms per man per year, whilst more than half of the provinces distributed less than ten condoms per man in 2008/09. The incidence of new STIs treated has risen slightly since 2007/08 from 4.4% to 4.6%, with the largest increases seen in Gauteng and Northern Cape, although the overall trend since 2000/01 shows a gradual decline.

57 Population estimates as per 2006 DHIS. ZA_PopEst_July2006_SubDis.xls

58 More recent information from Medical Schemes and from the 2008 General Household Survey (not yet available at district level) confirm that medical scheme coverage is 2-3 percentage points higher than this estimate.

59 Expenditure for previous years (2001/02 – 2007/08) has been adjusted for inflation. All figures are thus presented in real 2008/09 prices.

60 Total and non-hospital PHC expenditure per capita are explained in Sections 1.1 and 1.2 of this 2008/09 District Health Barometer.

61 Although there has been an increase in expenditure **per capita**, the amount spent **per visit** has stagnated. Further research needs to be done to enquire if this is an optimal amount, taking into consideration the increasing disease burden and increasing complexity and type of treatments required in primary health care.

The proportion of ANC clients tested for HIV has risen significantly from 41.3% achieved in 2004/05 to 86.7% in 2008/09. The 2008 national sero-prevalence survey findings⁶² showed that 29.3% of ANC clients tested were HIV positive, with the highest prevalence rates in KwaZulu-Natal (38.7%) and Mpumalanga (35.5%) and the lowest in Western Cape (16.1%) and Northern Cape (16.2%).

The two nevirapine indicators previously reported on have been left out of this barometer because of data quality concerns and because the regimen changed during 2008/09 to include AZT, making the nevirapine-only indicator less relevant. Two new indicators, the CD4 testing rate among HIV positive antenatal clients (NOT on HAART) and the six week infant PCR testing rate, have been included. Unfortunately these indicators are not recorded in many districts making it impossible to accurately calculate a national average or draw valid conclusions from the data. It is hoped that in the near future all districts will report on this indicator and that the quality of data will improve during the 2009/10 reporting period.

The incidence of new smear positive cases of pulmonary TB (PTB) in South Africa was 287.5 cases per 100 000 in 2008, slightly up from 283.4 in 2007. Of these new PTB cases 41.3% were found to be smear positive. The TB cure rate increased to 64.0% in 2007, up from 62.7% in 2006 and ranged between provinces from a low of 54.1% in the North West to a high of 77.7% in the Western Cape. The country's smear conversion rate improved between 2007 and 2008 by 2.0 percentage points to 62.5%. This programme needs continuous managerial attention at all levels and it is hoped that these results will continue to improve.

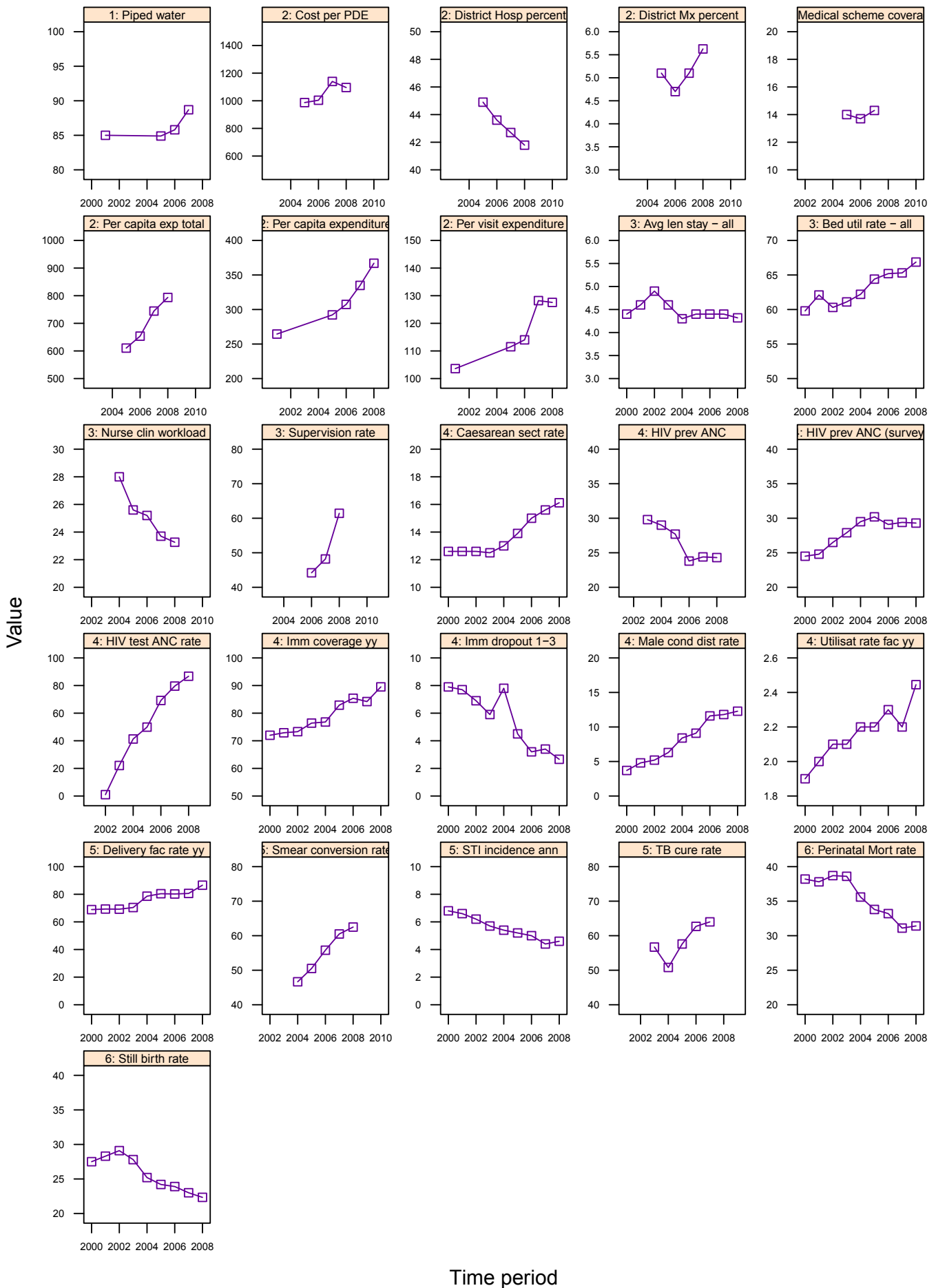
The percentage of deliveries taking place in health facilities under supervision of trained personnel in 2008/09 stood at 86.6% and has shown a steady increase annually from 70.4% in 2003/04. The Caesarean section rate in district hospitals has also increased over the same time period by 3.6 percentage points to an average of 16.1% of all births in 2008/09, ranging from 22.5% in KwaZulu-Natal to 9.7% in the Northern Cape.

Close on ninety percent (89.5%) of children under one year were immunised country wide, with two provinces, Western Cape and Gauteng, recording over 100% coverage, suggesting that DHIS is overestimating the coverage. This indicator is, however, dependent on a population based denominator and the figures are likely to change once the revised population data are applied. The national immunisation drop-out rate between DTP1 and DTP3 vaccinations has declined from 4.5% in 2005/06 to 2.7% in 2008/09.

The stillbirth rate in 2008/09 was 22.3 per 1000 births, showing a downward trend at a national level since 2002/03. The perinatal mortality rate was 31.4 per 1000 births in 2008/09, a similar rate to the previous year.

62 National Department of Health. National HIV and Syphilis Antenatal Sero-prevalence Survey 2008. <http://www.doh.gov.za/docs/reports/2009/nassps/index.html>

Annual indicators for South Africa



Annual indicators for South Africa

ZA	South Africa	Year								District Rank (1=best)	National value
		2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09		
Demographic and socio-economic	Population total					46 169 242	47 391 057	47 844 347	48 272 353		48 272 353
	Population Density					-	-	-	40		40
	Medical aid coverage (%)					14.0	13.7	14.3	-	-	14.3
	Access to piped water (%) - (2005-06 GHS, 2007 Comm. Survey)					84.9	85.8	88.7	-	-	88.7
	Deprivation index - (high value = most deprived)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Socio-economic quintile - (1=poor, 5=best)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Input	Total PHC expenditure per capita - (real 2008/09 prices)	-	-	-	-	610	654	744	794	-	794
	Non-hospital PHC expenditure per capita - (real 2008/09 prices)	264	-	-	-	292	307	335	367	-	367
	% District health services expenditure on District Management	-	-	-	-	5.1	4.7	5.1	5.6	-	5.6
	% District health services expenditure on District Hospitals	-	-	-	-	44.9	43.6	42.7	41.8	-	41.8
	PHC (Non-Hospital) Expenditure per Patient Visit - (real 2008/09 prices)	104	-	-	-	112	114	128	128	-	128
	Cost per PDE - (real 2008/09 prices)	-	-	-	-	987	1 004	1 140	1 096	-	1096
Process	Nurse clinical workload	-	-	-	28.0	25.6	25.2	23.7	23.3	-	23.3
	Average length of stay (ALOS)	-	-	4.6	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3	-	4.3
	Bed utilisation rate (BUR)	-	-	61.1	62.2	64.4	65.2	65.3	66.9	-	66.9
	Clinic supervision rate	-	-	-	-	-	44.2	48.2	61.4	-	61.4
Output	Male condom distribution rate	-	-	6.3	8.4	9.1	11.6	11.8	12.3	-	12.3
	Immunisation coverage < 1 year	-	-	76.4	76.8	82.9	85.4	84.2	89.5	-	89.5
	Immunisation drop-out rate (DTP1-3)	-	-	5.9	7.8	4.5	3.2	3.4	2.7	-	2.7
	Measles Coverage						92.4	86.6	91.8	-	91.8
	Measles drop-out rate						16.5	19.3	16.3	-	16.3
	Caesarean section rate	-	-	12.5	13.0	13.9	15.0	15.6	16.1	-	16.1
	Proportion ANC clients tested for HIV	-	-	22.1	41.3	49.9	69.2	79.6	86.7	-	86.7
	HIV prevalence among ANC clients tested (DHIS)	-	-	29.8	29.0	27.7	23.8	24.4	24.3	-	24.3
	HIV prevalence among ANC clients tested (survey)	-	-	-	-	-	29.1 (28.3-29.9)	29.4 (28.5-30.1)	29.3 (28.5-30.1)	-	29.3
	Baby PCR test around 6 weeks uptake								-	-	
Antenatal client CD4 1st test rate								-	-		
Outcome	Utilisation rate	-	-	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.4	-	2.4
	Incidence of STI treated - new	-	-	5.7	5.4	5.2	5.0	4.4	4.6	-	4.6
	TB cure rate (2003 - 2007)	-	-	56.7	50.8	57.6	62.7	64.0		-	64.0
	TB smear conversion rate (2004 - 2008)	-	-		46.6	50.5	55.8	60.5	62.5	-	62.5
	TB case load (new Sm+)	-	-	-	-	-	-	135 604	138 803		138 803
Impact	Delivery rate in facility	-	-	70.4	78.6	80.4	80.2	80.6	86.6	-	86.6
	Stillbirth rate	-	-	27.8	25.2	24.2	23.9	23.0	22.3	-	22.3
	Perinatal mortality rate in facility	-	-	38.6	35.6	33.8	33.2	31.1	31.4	-	31.4

Number of health facilities and beds	Clinic	CHCs	Mobile Service	District Hospital	Regional Hospital	Provincial Tertiary Hospital	Central Hospital	Specialised Hospital	Private hospitals	Beds
Number of public sector facilities (2009) and beds (2009)	3 174	296	927	258	53	14	9	85		83 626
Number of private sector facilities and beds (2008)									212	28 980