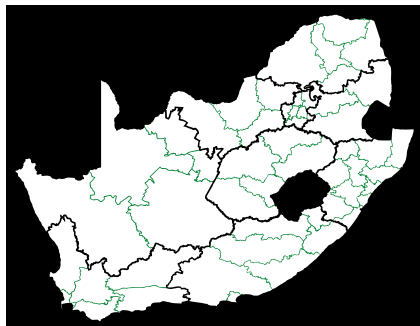


South Africa Profile

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South Africa has a population of some 47.8 million people, of which 84.9% of households had access to piped water and just under half of households (47.2%) lived on an income of less than R800 per month in 2005. Most of the population were dependant on the public health sector and only 13.7% of people belonged to a medical aid in 2006.

The average non-hospital expenditure per capita on primary health care in 2006/07 was R256, which in real terms was a R12 increase over the 2005/06 figure. The highest expenditures per capita were seen in the North West (R308) and Western Cape (R354) provinces, whilst Mpumalanga province had the lowest at R189. The proportion of total district expenditure spent on district management nationally was 4.7%, which ranged from a high of 9% in North West to a low of 2.1% in KwaZulu-Natal.

On average, district hospitals received 43.6% of total expenditure in 2006/07. Nearly two thirds (65.4%) of available beds were utilised while the average length of stay in a district hospital was 4.4 days, with a cost per patient day equivalent of R954. The Northern Cape had the highest cost per patient day equivalent of R1205, with a low average length of stay of 3.1 days, whilst the Eastern Cape had the longest average length of stay of 6.1 days, with an average cost per patient day equivalent of R839.

The average nurse clinical workload in 2006/07 was 26.9 patients per nurse per year, down from 31.6 per nurse in 2005/06. The Western Cape had the highest workload of 43.3 patients per nurse per day, in contrast to the low of 18.7 patients per day in Limpopo province.

The primary health care utilisation rate has been slowly but steadily increasing from 2.09 visits per patient per year in 2003/04 to around 2.25 visits per patient per year in 2006/07. Of concern is that less than half (44.2%) of all clinics nationally were supervised in 2006/07, bringing in to question the quality of care received by patients.

In 2006/07, on average 11.1 condoms were distributed per male aged 15 years and older. However, this conceals wide

differences with the Western Cape having a high rate of 33.9 with five provinces with distribution rates below 8 condoms per male per year. The incidence of new STIs treated was 4.9%, which is an improvement on the STI incidence of 5.4% in 2003/04.

The proportion of ANC clients tested for HIV ranged from a high of 93.7% in the Western Cape to a low of 58.2% in Mpumalanga, with a national average of 67.9%.

The national sero-prevalence survey findings showed that 29.1% of ANC clients were HIV +ve, with the highest prevalence rates in KwaZulu-Natal.

Overall the data collected on the nevirapine uptake of HIV +ve mothers and their newborn babies has been poor and has fluctuated over the last four years.

The TB cure rate in SA in 2005 was 57.6% and ranged from a low of 45.2% in KwaZulu-Natal to a high of 71.9% in the Western Cape. This programme needs urgent managerial attention at all levels and it is hoped that with the 2007-2011 National TB Plan* that these results will improve. The smear conversion rate for 2006 was 55.8%, up from 50.5% in 2005.

The highest incidence of diarrhoea in 2006/07 was in KwaZulu-Natal with 427.4 cases per 1000 children under five. The national average was 218.8 cases per 1000. The stillbirth rate in SA in 2006/07 was 24.0 per 1000 births and the peri-natal mortality rate was 33.8 per 1000.

Just fewer than eighty five percent (84.7%) of children under one year were immunised country wide, with the Western Cape, Northern Cape and Gauteng provinces achieving over 90% coverage. The national immunisation drop out rate was low at 3%.

*The 2007-2011 National TB Plan has targets for both TB cure rate and smear conversion rate set at 85%. <http://www.info.gov.za/otherdocs/2007/tbstratplan.pdf>