

South African Health Review

May 2021

Overview of the South African Health Review (SAHR)

Now in its 24th edition, the South African Health Review (SAHR) is a widely read, quoted and authoritative reference work used in South Africa and abroad. The Review is compiled and edited by an expert team of health systems professionals and is accredited as a peer-reviewed publication. It is referenced by national, provincial and local departments of health, politicians, the private sector, donors, academics and students.

The purpose of the SAHR is to highlight progress in key areas of the health system, to identify blocks to policy implementation and to make recommendations.

The publication aims to provide a combination of detailed information on health status and health care coupled with in-depth analysis of policies and practices affecting the provision of health services, as well as insight to the degree of success that has been achieved in policy implementation.

Collectively the SAHR constitutes a key monitoring tool as well as a detailed historical record of the transformation of the health system of a middle-income country. They provide a repository of comprehensive information brought together in one place.

The aims of the South African Health Review are to:

- advance the sharing of knowledge;
- feature critical commentary on policy implementation;
- offer empirical understandings for improving South Africa's health system;
- track trends within the health sector and the health system, and monitor progress in transformation and the move to health equity.

Target audiences

The primary audience includes health service managers, policymakers and public health specialists.

The secondary audience includes media practitioners, parliamentarians, councillors, academics (researchers, lecturers and students), and health-related local and international institutions and organisations.

The 2021 Edition

The theme for the 2021 edition of the SAHR is:

Health sector responses to COVID-19 – what have we learnt?

The editors invited abstracts that considered:

- the impact of COVID-19 on existing health services and programmes;
- the impact of socio-economic disparities on prevention and treatment;
- the rationing of healthcare services and implications for equity of access;
- strengthening of the country's social compact, and emergence of innovative collaborations and partnerships;
- impact of measures taken to balance saving lives with saving livelihoods; and/or
- emerging lessons for the future management and prevention of pandemics and other public health emergencies.

Editorial Team

The editors for the 2021 edition are Ashnie Padarath, Themba Moeti, Kaymarlin Govender and Gavin George.