



Abbreviated name	Health worker density and distribution
Indicator name	Health worker density and distribution (per 1000 population)
Domain	Health systems
Subdomain	HSS
Associated terms	Health workforce
Definition	Number of health workers per 1000 population.
Numerator	Number of health workers by cadre.
Denominator	Total population.
Disaggregation/ additional dimension	By cadre, including generalist medical practitioners, specialist medical practitioners (surgeons, anaesthetists, obstetricians, emergency medicine specialists, cardiologists, paediatricians, psychiatrists, ophthalmologists, gynaecologists, etc.), nursing and midwifery professionals, traditional and complementary medicine professionals, among others. Distribution: place of employment (urban/rural), subnational (district)
Method of measurement	National database or registry of health workers, preferably at individual level.
Method of estimation	If there is a national database or registry, there should be regular assessment of completeness using census data, professional association registers, facility censuses, etc. Health worker concentration: percentage of all health workers working in urban areas divided by percentage of total population in urban areas.
Measurement frequency	Annual
Monitoring and evaluation framework	Input
Preferred data sources	Health worker registry
Other possible data sources	National health workforce database (aggregate)
Further information and related links	Framework of actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014. Report of the Secretary-General. New York (NY): United Nations; 2014 (https://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/documents/ICPD/Framework%20of%20action%20for%20the%20follow-up%20to%20the%20PoA%20of%20the%20ICPD.pdf , accessed 19 August 2014). Handbook on monitoring and evaluation of human resources for health with special focus on low- and middle-income countries. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2009. Monitoring the building blocks of health systems: a handbook of indicators and their measurement strategies. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2010 (http://www.who.int/healthinfo/systems/WHO_MBHSS_2010_full_web.pdf?ua=1 , accessed 29 March 2015). World health statistics 2014. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2014 (http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/112738/1/9789240692671_eng.pdf?ua=1 , accessed 29 March 2015).