

Is South African healthcare in ICU?

One of the major recent developments in South African healthcare is the passing of the National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill. This bill has been passed by the National Assembly and will now go to the National Council of Provinces for further deliberation.

The aim of this bill is to make healthcare in South Africa more equal by effectively nationalising private healthcare.

This edition of *FreeFACTS* looks at the numbers around South African healthcare. When we look at total healthcare spending South Africa spends about 10% of GDP on healthcare. In some ways, South Africans get relatively decent bang for their buck, with some basic health indicators – such as the proportion of people living with HIV or figures around infant and maternal mortality – having improved over the past few years.

This edition also looks private expenditure on healthcare compared to public expenditure.

It shows that the proportion of healthcare spending which is private is actually declining. The proportion of people that are covered by medical schemes is also on the decline, although the total number of people covered has remained relatively steady. And while private expenditure on healthcare comes to about 40% of total expenditure, this is the after-tax money of South Africans and is not available to the government for it to put into a general funding pot.

Furthermore, the shrinkage in the proportion of people who have medical aids could be an indicator of how a declining economy is starting to affect people's pockets. It could be that as the economy continues to stutter fewer people can afford medical aid premiums.

And herein lies the rub. NHI will be an extremely expensive exercise with estimates varying of how much the final cost of it will be with the only consensus (outside of the ideologues with the government and the ANC) agreed that the amount will be eye wateringly eye and simply unaffordable.

The government must forget about trying to centralise all healthcare and rather fixing that which it does control.

— Marius Roodt

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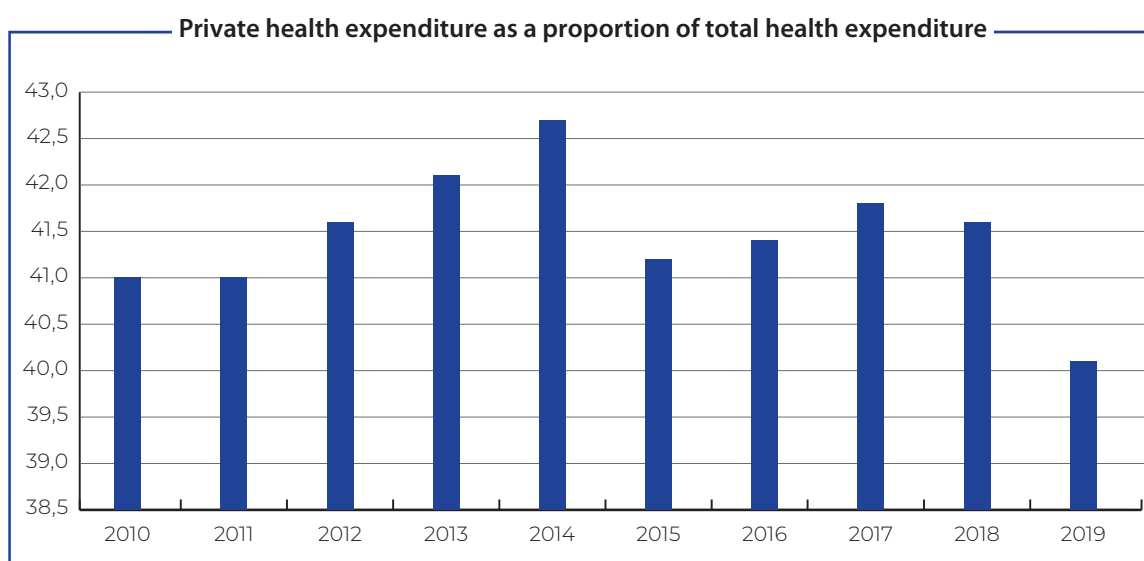
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Health

Health expenditure, 2000-19						
Year	Public health expenditure as a proportion of GDP	Total health expenditure as a proportion of GDP	Public health expenditure as a proportion of total government expenditure	Public health expenditure as a proportion of total health expenditure	Private health expenditure as a proportion of total health expenditure	Out-of-pocket ^a health expenditure as a proportion of total health expenditure
2000	3,0%	8,2%	11,9%	36,6%	62,8%	14,5%
2001	2,7%	7,9%	10,6%	33,7%	65,6%	14,1%
2002	2,6%	7,5%	10,4%	34,5%	64,8%	13,6%
2003	3,1%	7,9%	12,3%	39,6%	54,8%	12,3%
2004	3,1%	7,8%	12,0%	39,4%	55,2%	11,8%
2005	3,1%	7,7%	10,9%	40,0%	48,2%	11,3%
2006	3,6%	7,7%	13,1%	47,0%	46,6%	10,6%
2007	3,7%	7,7%	13,5%	47,8%	44,9%	9,7%
2008	3,7%	7,9%	13,0%	47,4%	44,6%	8,8%
2009	4,2%	8,5%	13,4%	49,7%	42,2%	8,1%
2010	4,4%	8,7%	14,1%	51,3%	41,0%	8,0%
2011	4,5%	8,7%	14,7%	51,9%	41,0%	7,8%
2012	4,5%	8,8%	14,5%	51,7%	41,6%	7,7%
2013	4,5%	8,9%	14,3%	51,2%	42,1%	7,6%
2014	4,8%	8,6%	14,9%	55,6%	42,7%	5,7%
2015	5,0%	8,8%	15,2%	57,1%	41,2%	5,7%
2016	5,0%	8,8%	15,3%	56,6%	41,4%	5,8%
2017	5,0%	8,7%	15,3%	57,1%	41,8%	5,8%
2018	5,1%	8,9%	15,3%	57,3%	41,6%	5,8%
2019	5,4%	9,1%	15,3%	58,8%	40,1%	5,7%

Source: World Bank, www.data.worldbank.org, *World Development Indicators*, accessed 14 April 2022

^a As part of private healthcare, out-of-pocket health expenditure is the payment by private households to health practitioners or the suppliers of pharmaceuticals, therapeutic appliances, and other goods and services whose primary intent is to contribute to the restoration or enhancement of the health status of individuals. It is, therefore, distinct from private expenditure on health through medical insurance.



Health

Health expenditure, selected countries, 2019

Country	Public health expenditure as a proportion of total health expenditure	Public health expenditure as a proportion of total government expenditure	Out-of-pocket ^a health expenditure as a proportion of total health expenditure	Total health expenditure as a proportion of GDP	Per capita expenditure (PPP\$) ^b
Australia	71,7%	16,3%	16,0%	9,9%	5 294
Botswana	78,5%	14,3%	3,1%	6,0%	1 122
Brazil	40,7%	10,5%	24,9%	9,6%	1 498
Chile	50,9%	18,1%	32,8%	9,3%	2 424
China	56,0%	8,8%	35,2%	5,4%	880
Denmark	83,3%	16,8%	14,2%	10,0%	6 015
Egypt	27,8%	4,7%	62,7%	4,7%	582
France	75,3%	15,1%	9,3%	11,1%	5 493
Germany	77,7%	20,1%	12,8%	11,7%	6 739
Ghana	40,2%	6,5%	36,2%	3,4%	193
Greece	48,1%	7,9%	35,2%	7,8%	2 419
India	32,8%	3,4%	54,8%	3,0%	211
Indonesia	48,9%	8,7%	34,8%	2,9%	358
Ireland	74,6%	20,3%	11,7%	6,7%	6 010
Israel	64,8%	12,1%	21,0%	7,5%	3 326
Italy	73,9%	13,2%	23,3%	8,7%	3 998
Japan	83,9%	24,2%	12,9%	10,7%	4 587
Kazakhstan	59,9%	8,3%	33,9%	2,8%	765
Lithuania	65,1%	13,2%	32,3%	7,0%	2 797
Mexico	49,3%	10,3%	42,1%	5,4%	1 111
Mozambique	21,3%	5,6%	10,0%	7,8%	105
Nigeria	15,9%	3,8%	70,5%	3,0%	162
Pakistan	32,0%	4,9%	53,8%	3,4%	166
Philippines	40,6%	7,6%	48,6%	4,1%	379
Poland	71,4%	11,0%	20,4%	6,4%	2 207
Russia	61,2%	10,2%	36,6%	5,6%	1 704
Saudi Arabia	69,2%	11,0%	16,5%	5,7%	2 790
South Africa	58,8%	15,3%	5,7%	9,1%	1 187
Spain	70,6%	15,3%	21,8%	9,1%	3 984
Switzerland	32,1%	11,1%	25,3%	11,3%	8 532
Turkey	77,9%	9,5%	16,9%	4,3%	1 187
Uganda	15,1%	3,1%	38,3%	3,8%	92
United Kingdom	79,5%	19,7%	17,1%	10,2%	5 087
United States	50,8%	22,3%	11,3%	16,8%	10 921
Venezuela	46,0%	11,6%	18,5%	5,4%	385

Source: World Bank, www.worldbank.org, *World Development Indicators*, accessed 16 April 2022

^a As part of private healthcare, out-of-pocket health expenditure is the payment by private households to health practitioners or the suppliers of pharmaceuticals, therapeutic appliances, and other goods and services whose primary intent is to contribute to the restoration or enhancement of the health status of individuals. It is therefore distinct from private expenditure on health through medical insurance.

Health

Registered medical schemes, 2005-21		
Year	Open schemes ^a	Restricted schemes ^b
2005	47	84
2006	41	83
2007	41	81
2008	37	82
2009	33	77
2010	27	73
2011	26	71
2012	25	68
2013	24	63
2014	23	60
2015	22	60
2016	22	60
2017	21	60
2018 ^c	22	58
2019 ^d	20	58
2020 ^e	18	58
2021 ^f	18	55
2005-21	-61,7%	-34,5%

Source: Council for Medical Schemes (CMS), www.medicalschemes.com, *Council for Medical Schemes Annual Report 2015/16*, March 2016, pp19-20; *CMS Annual Report 2016/17*, March 2017, p16; *CMS Annual Report 2017/18*, March 2018, p16; *CMS Annual Report 2018/19*, October 2019, p20; *CMS Annual Report 2019/20*, December 2020, p21; *CMS Annual Report 2020/21*, March 2021, pp20-21

^a Can be joined by any person.

^b For specific employer groups.

^c As at March 2018.

^d As at March 2019.

^e As at March 2020.

^f As at March 2021.

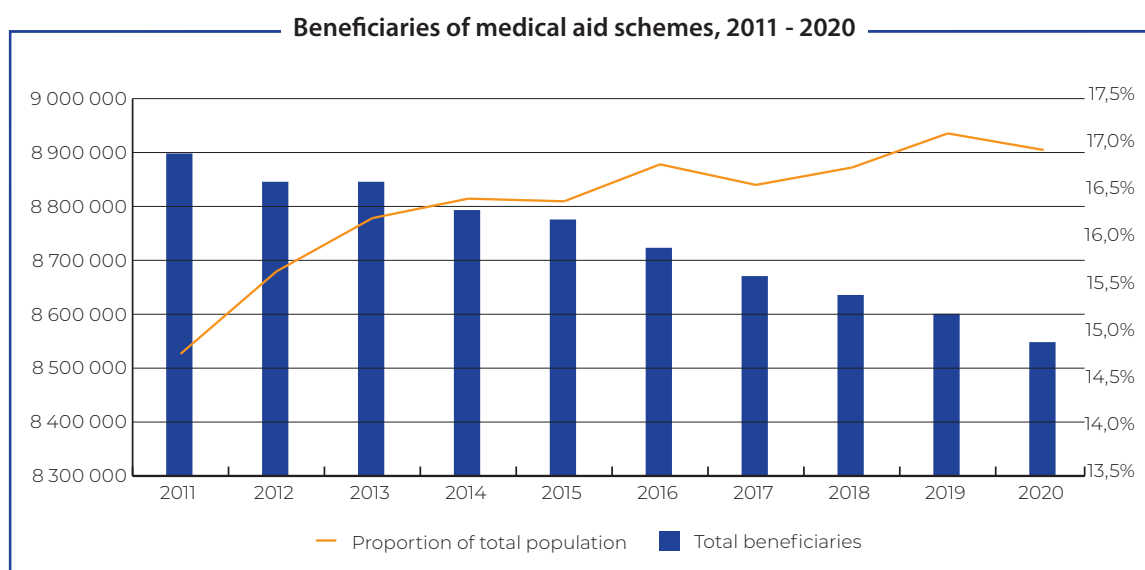
Top ten medical aid schemes, 2010 and 2020			
—2010—		—2020—	
Name of scheme	Average number of beneficiaries	Name of scheme	Average number of beneficiaries
Discovery Health Medical Scheme	2 171 742	Discovery Health Medical Scheme	2 764 994
Government Employees Medical Schemes (GEMS)	1 335 772	Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS)	1 924 569
Bonitas Medical Fund	628 542	Bonitas Medical Fund	714 989
SA Police Service Medical Scheme (POLMED)	475 882	South African Police Service Medical Scheme (POLMED)	504 758
Medihelp	237 282	Momentum Health	293 884
Bankmed	201 250	Bankmed	219 807
Medshield Medical Scheme	193 636	LA-Health Medical Scheme	219 725
Fedhealth Medical Scheme	172 030	Bestmed Medical Scheme	202 386
Liberty Medical Scheme	170 008	Medihelp	197 621
Momentum Health	168 060	Medshield Medical Scheme	154 459
Total	5 754 204	Total	7 197 192

Source: CMS, www.medicalschemes.com, Annual Report 2015/16, March 2016, pp45-47; www.medicalschemes.com, accessed 12 August 2016; CMS Annual Report 2017/18, October 2018, Annexure ac; CMS Annual Report 2018/19, October 2019, Annexure FSU18; CMS Annual report 2019/20, December 2020, Annexure Q; CMS Annual report 2020/21, March 2021, Annexure Q

Health

Beneficiaries of medical aid schemes, 1997-2020		
Year	Total beneficiaries	Proportion of total population ^a
1997	6 965 000	17,0%
1998	6 992 000	16,6%
1999	6 989 000	16,2%
2000	6 729 551	15,4%
2001	6 764 409	15,2%
2002	6 713 870	14,8%
2003	6 671 801	14,4%
2004	6 662 563	14,3%
2005	6 835 621	14,6%
2006	7 127 343	15,0%
2007	7 478 040	15,6%
2008	7 874 826	16,2%
2009	8 068 505	16,4%
2010	8 315 718	16,6%
2011	8 526 409	16,9%
2012	8 679 473	16,6%
2013	8 778 308	16,6%
2014	8 814 458	16,3%
2015	8 809 523	16,2%
2016	8 878 081	15,9%
2017	8 839 892	15,6%
2018	8 872 149	15,4%
2019	8 935 496	15,2%
2020	8 904 679	14,9%

Source: CMS, e-mail communication, 22 October 2012; CMS, www.medicalschemes.com, *CMS Annual Report 2012-2013*, September 2013, p8; *CMS Annual Report 2014-15*, September 2015, p2; *CMS Report 2015-16*, March 2016, p2; Quarterly Reports for the period ending 30 September 2016, January 2017, p4; CMS, Press release 14 of 2017: *CMS release annual report 2016/17*, October 2017, p1; CMS Annual Report 2017/18, October 2018, Table 2, p127; *CMS Annual Report 2018/19*, October 2019, Annexure FSU16; *Annual report 2019/20*, December 2020, Annexure Q; *CMS Annual report 2020/21*, March 2021, Annexure Q; Stats SA, Mid-year population estimates data ^a IRR calculations.



Health

Medical aid beneficiaries by province and race ^a , 2021					
Province	—Covered—				Total
	Black	Coloured	Indian/ Asian	White	
Eastern Cape	4,9%	17,3%	68,6%	74,1%	10,6%
Free State	10,7%	53,6%	N/A	80,5%	16,2%
Gauteng	15,0%	29,6%	58,3%	86,4%	24,0%
KwaZulu-Natal	5,8%	25,4%	44,8%	60,8%	10,4%
Limpopo	7,1%	N/A	N/A	67,0%	8,1%
Mpumalanga	6,8%	N/A	N/A	69,7%	9,1%
North West	10,7%	N/A	N/A	77,0%	15,3%
Northern Cape	14,4%	17,1%	N/A	75,0%	19,5%
Western Cape	6,4%	18,6%	24,0%	71,5%	23,6%
South Africa	9,3%	19,9%	45,1%	77,7%	16,0%
Province	—Not covered ^b —				Total
	Black	Coloured	Indian/ Asian	White	
Eastern Cape	95,1%	82,7%	N/A	25,9%	89,4%
Free State	89,3%	46,4%	N/A	19,5%	83,8%
Gauteng	85,0%	70,4%	41,7%	13,6%	76,0%
KwaZulu-Natal	94,2%	74,6%	55,2%	39,2%	89,6%
Limpopo	92,9%	N/A	N/A	33,0%	91,9%
Mpumalanga	93,2%	N/A	N/A	30,3%	90,9%
North West	89,3%	N/A	N/A	23,0%	84,7%
Northern Cape	85,6%	82,9%	N/A	25,0%	80,5%
Western Cape	93,6%	81,4%	76,0%	28,5%	76,4%
South Africa	90,7%	80,1%	54,9%	22,3%	84,0%

Source: Stats SA, General Household Survey 2021, Statistical release P0318, 23 June 2022, Table 4.1, p1
^a IRR calculations.

^b Figures include those who are not covered, do not know and unspecified.
 N/A — Not available since the sample size was too small for reliable estimates.

Public and private hospitals by province, 2020					
Province	Publica	Private	Total	Public as a proportion of total ^b	Private as a proportion of total ^b
Eastern Cape	74	18	92	80,4%	19,6%
Free State	32	20	52	61,5%	38,5%
Gauteng	30	71	101	29,7%	70,3%
KwaZulu-Natal	56	28	84	66,7%	33,3%
Limpopo	37	8	45	82,2%	17,8%
Mpumalanga	28	18	46	60,9%	39,1%
North West	19	7	26	73,1%	26,9%
Northern Cape	13	2	15	86,7%	13,3%
Western Cape	42	45	87	48,3%	51,7%
South Africa	331	217	548	60,4%	39,6%

Source: HST, www.hst.org.za, District Health Barometer 2020 Data file, accessed 1 December 2020

^a Excludes Community Health Centres.
^b IRR calculations.

Health

Institutional maternal mortality ratio ^a by province, 2011/12-2020/21									
Province	2011/12	2013/14	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Change 2011/12-2020/21
Eastern Cape	114,9	156,2	128,0	127,6	128,3	106,1	108,2	146,2	27,2%
Free State	199,1	143,4	122,1	148,4	132,9	168,3	116,2	178,8	-10,2%
Gauteng	123,3	104,5	103,8	114,7	108,5	122,8	102,9	118,7	-3,7%
KwaZulu-Natal	192,2	148,4	121,9	100,2	101,9	88,4	76,9	123,9	-35,5%
Limpopo	184,6	152,0	139,4	125,9	109,2	111,6	97,8	120,1	-34,9%
Mpumalanga	135,0	149,1	119,1	123,0	120,0	92,4	67,1	108,3	-19,8%
North West	147,7	184,9	141,7	130,1	117,5	137,4	88,0	124,6	-15,6%
Northern Cape	189,7	118,9	103,8	87,5	65,9	71,3	109,9	80,6	-57,5%
Western Cape	28,6	68,6	66,9	57,7	55,1	66,8	43,6	83,9	193,4%
South Africa	144,9	133,3	115,6	111,5	105,7	105,9	88,0	120,9	-16,6%

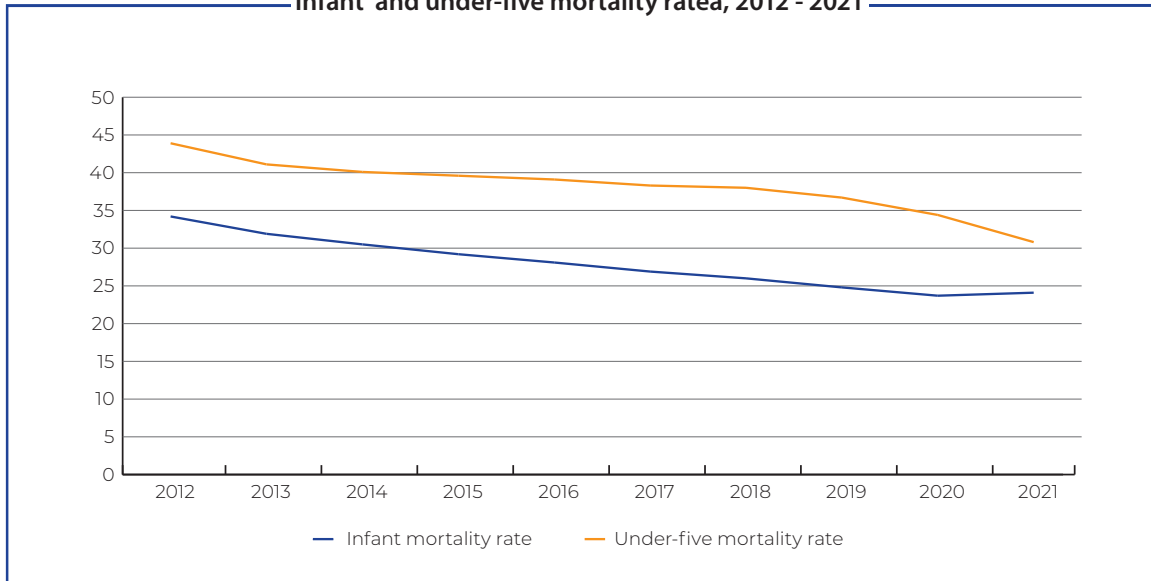
Source: HST, www.hst.org.za, *DHB 2015/16*, October 2016, Table 3, p69; *DHB 2016/17*, November 2017, Figure 4, p56; *DHB 2017/18*, January 2018, Table 4, p68; *DHB 2018/19*, February 2020, Table 5, p19; *DHB 2019/20*, December 2020, Figure 2, p23; SAHR 2021, April 2022, Table 7, p323
^a Number of maternal deaths per 100 000 live births in public and private health facilities or institutions.

Infant and under-five mortality rate ^a , 2002-21		
Year	Infant mortality rate	Under-five mortality rate
2002	55,3	74,9
2003	57,0	76,5
2004	55,6	76,2
2005	55,5	74,9
2006	53,8	72,2
2007	49,5	68,0
2008	47,4	64,0
2009	44,1	57,2
2010	38,0	53,4
2011	36,2	48,3
2012	34,2	43,9
2013	31,9	41,1
2014	30,5	40,1
2015	29,2	39,6
2016	28,1	39,1
2017	26,9	38,3
2018	26,0	38,0
2019	24,8	36,7
2020	23,7	34,4
2021	24,1	30,8
2002-21	-56,4%	-58,9%

Source: Stats SA, *Mid-year population estimates 2021*, Statistical release P0302, 19 July 2021, Appendix 2, p35
^a The number of children under one year who die, per 1 000 live births, in a particular year.

Health

Infant and under-five mortality ratea, 2012 - 2021



Health

Under-five mortality rate, selected African countries, 1990 and 2020

Country	1990	2020	Change
Algeria	49,5	22,7	-54,1%
Angola	223,4	71,5	-68,0%
Botswana	51,2	44,8	-12,5%
Burundi	174,2	54,4	-68,8%
Cameroon	137,1	72,2	-47,3%
Central African Republic	179,6	103	-42,7%
Congo (DRC)	185,8	81,2	-56,3%
Congo (Republic)	90,2	44,6	-50,6%
Egypt	85,8	19,5	-77,3%
Eritrea	152,5	39,3	-74,2%
Eswatini	70,9	46,6	-34,3%
Ethiopia	201,8	48,7	-75,9%
Ghana	127,4	44,7	-64,9%
Ivory Coast	154,6	77,9	-49,6%
Kenya	106,6	41,9	-60,7%
Lesotho	90,1	89,5	-0,7%
Liberia	261,9	78,3	-70,1%
Libya	41,6	11,1	-73,3%
Madagascar	159,5	50,2	-68,5%
Malawi	238,7	38,6	-83,8%
Mauritius	23,1	16,5	-28,6%
Morocco	79,1	18,7	-76,4%
Mozambique	241,3	70,6	-70,7%
Namibia	73,7	40,2	-45,5%
Nigeria	210,9	113,8	-46,0%
Rwanda	153,6	40,5	-73,6%
Senegal	139,0	38,1	-72,6%
Somalia	179,2	114,6	-36,0%
South Africa	59,2	32,2	-45,6%
Sudan	131,6	56,6	-57,0%
Tanzania	166,1	48,9	-70,6%
Tunisia	55,5	16,6	-70,1%
Uganda	184,7	43,3	-76,6%
Zambia	185,8	61,4	-67,0%
Zimbabwe	80,5	53,9	-33,0%

Source: World Bank, databank.worldbank.org, *World Development Indicators*, accessed 11 April 2022
 a The number of children who die by the age of five in a year, per 1 000 live births, during that year.

Health

AIDS-related deaths among children^a, 1991-2020

Year	Number
1991	2 800
1992	4 700
1993	7 300
1994	10 000
1995	14 000
1996	18 000
1997	22 000
1998	26 000
1999	30 000
2000	34 000
2001	37 000
2002	41 000
2003	44 000
2004	48 000
2005	51 000
2006	54 000
2007	51 000
2008	45 000
2009	35 000
2010	24 000
2011	16 000
2012	11 000
2013	9 100
2014	7 600
2015	6 400
2016	5 500
2017	5 000
2018	4 500
2019	4 100
2020	3 900
1991-2020	39,3%

Source: United Nations AIDS (UNAIDS), www.unaids.org, *HIV estimates from 1990 to present*, accessed 12 April 2022
^a People aged 0-14. Estimates.