# South Africa



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Population (000s)	52,776	Life expectancy at birth (years)	60
GNI per capita (PPP Int \$)	12,240	Total health expenditure (% GDP)	8.9
Physician density (per 10 000 population)	0.78	ICT Development Index rank	84
Nurse & midwife density (per 10 000 population)	5.11	Mobile-cellular subscriptions (% population)	130.56
Hospital bed density (per 10 000 population)	28	Internet users (% population)	41

# 1. eHealth foundations

National policies or strategies			
·	Country response	Global "yes" response§	Year adopted
National universal health coverage policy or strategy	Yes	75%	‡
National eHealth policy or strategy	Yes	58%	2012
National health information system (HIS) policy or strategy	Yes	66%	2011
National telehealth policy or strategy	No	22%	N/A
Funding sources for eHealth			
	Country response	Global "yes" response§	Funding source %**
Public funding	Yes	77%	50-75%
Private or commercial funding	No	40%	Zero
Donor/non-public funding	Yes	63%	25-50%
Public-private partnerships	Yes	42%	Zero
Multilingualism in eHealth			
	Country response	Global "yes" response§	Year adopted
Policy or strategy on multilingualism	No	28%	N/A
Government-supported Internet sites in multiple languages	No	48%	
eHealth capacity building			
	Country response	Global "yes" response§	Proportion**
Health sciences students – Pre-service training in eHealth	Yes	74%	<25%
Health professionals – In-service training in eHealth	No	77%	N/A

# 2. Legal frameworks for eHealth

Policy or legislation – purpose	Country response	Global "yes" response
Defines <b>medical jurisdiction</b> , <b>liability or reimbursement of eHealth services</b> such as telehealth	_	31%
Addresses <b>patient safety and quality of care</b> based on data quality, data transmission standards or clinical competency criteria	Yes	46%
Protects the <b>privacy of personally identifiable data</b> of individuals irrespective of whether it is in <b>paper or digital format</b>	Yes	78%
Protects the <b>privacy of individuals' health-related data</b> held in electronic format in an <b>EHR</b>	No	54%
Governs the sharing of digital data between health professionals in other health services in the same country through the use of an EHR	No	34%
Governs the <b>sharing of digital data between health professionals in health services</b> in other countries through the use of an <b>EHR</b>	No	22%
Governs the sharing of personal and health data between research entities	_	39%
Allows individuals electronic access to their own health-related data when held in an EHR	No	29%
Allows <b>individuals to demand their own health-related data be corrected</b> when held in an <b>EHR</b> if it is known to be inaccurate	‡	32%
Allows individuals to demand the deletion of health-related data from their EHR	No	18%
Allows individuals to specify which health-related data from their EHR can be shared with health professionals of their choice	‡	28%
Governs civil registration and vital statistics	Yes	76%
Governs national identification management systems	Yes	65%



# 3. Telehealth

Telehealth programmes country overview			
	Health system level**	Programme type**	
Teleradiology	‡	‡	
Teledermatology	‡	‡	
Telepathology	‡	‡	
Telepsychiatry	‡	‡	
Remote patient monitoring	‡	‡	

# 4. Electronic Health Records (EHRs)

EHR country overview		
	Country response	Year introduced
National EHR system	No	N/A
Legislation governing the use of the national EHR system	‡	
Health facilities with EHR	Use EHR	Facilities with EHR %**
Primary care facilities (e.g. clinics and health care centres)	N/A	‡
Secondary care facilities (e.g. hospitals, emergency care)	N/A	‡
Tertiary care facilities (e.g. specialized care, referral from primary/secondary care)	N/A	‡
Other electronic systems	Country response	Global "yes" response§
Laboratory information systems	N/A	35%
Pathology information systems	N/A	18%
Pharmacy information systems	N/A	33%
PACS	N/A	26%
Automatic vaccination alerting system	N/A	10%
ICT-assisted functions	Country response	Global "yes" response§
Electronic medical billing systems	‡	58%
Supply chain management information systems	‡	58%
Human resources for health information systems	†	69%

# 5. Use of eLearning in health sciences

eLearning programmes country overview		
Health sciences students – Pre-service	Country response	Global "yes" response§
Medicine	N/A	58%
Dentistry	N/A	39%
Public health	N/A	50%
Nursing & midwifery	N/A	47%
Pharmacy	N/A	38%
Biomedical/Life sciences	N/A	42%
Health professionals – In-service	Country response	Global "yes" response§
Medicine	N/A	58%
Dentistry	N/A	30%
Public health	N/A	47%
Nursing & midwifery	N/A	46%
Pharmacy	N/A	31%
Biomedical/Life sciences	N/A	34%

### 6. mHealth



mHealth programmes country overview		
Accessing/providing health services	Health system level**	Programme type**
Toll-free emergency	‡	‡
Health call centres	Regional	Established
Appointment reminders	Regional	Pilot
Mobile telehealth	Local	Pilot
Management of disasters and emergencies	‡	‡
Treatment adherence	Regional, National, Local	Pilot, Established
Accessing/providing health information	Health system level**	Programme type**
Community mobilization	National	Pilot
Access to information, databases and tools	Local	Pilot
Patient records	National, Local	Pilot
mLearning	‡	‡
Decision support systems	‡	‡
Collecting health information	Health system level**	Programme type**
Patient monitoring	National	Established
Health surveys	Regional	Established
Disease surveillance	National	Established

### 7. Social media

Social media and health	Country response	Global "yes" response§	Year adopted
National policy or strategy on the use of social media by government organizations	_	18%	N/A
Policy or strategy makes specific reference to its use in the health domain	‡	5%	
Health care organizations – use of social media		Country response	Global "yes" response§
Promote health messages as a part of health promotion car	Promote health messages as a part of health promotion campaigns		78%
Help manage patient appointments		No	24%
Seek feedback on services		_	56%
Make general health announcements		Yes	72%
Make emergency announcements		Yes	59%
Individuals and communities – use of social media		Country response	Global "yes" response§
Learn about health issues	earn about health issues		79%
Help decide what health services to use		No	56%
Provide feedback to health facilities or health professionals		No	62%
Run community-based health campaigns		No	62%
Participate in community-based health forums		No	59%

## 8. Big data

Policy or strategy – purpose	Country response	Global "yes" response§	Year adopted
Governing the use of big data in the health sector	No	17%	N/A
Governing the use of big data by private companies	No	8%	N/A

Regional level:

National level:

#### **LEGEND**

\* Country context indicators

ICT Development Index Rank. 2015 - https://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/idi/2015/ All other country indicators. Global Health Observatory. 2012-2014 http://www.who.int/gho

Glossary

Indicates the percentage of participating Member States responding "Yes"

N/A Not applicable

Indicates question was unanswered Question not asked

Zero No funding

Informal: Use of ICT for health purposes in the absence of formal processes and policies

International level: Health entities in different geographic regions

public, but also private)

Pilot: Testing and evaluating a programme

and health centres

Established: An ongoing programme that has been conducted for a

Local or peripheral level: Health posts, health centres providing basic level of care

Intermediate level: District or provincial facilities: public and private hospitals

minimum of 2 years and is planned to continue

Health entities in countries in the same geographic region

Referral hospitals, laboratories and health institutes (mainly