

## How to put some key health indicators in perspective?

- Public health expenditure as percentage of GDP  
At the African Summit on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other related infectious diseases, held in Abuja, Nigeria, in April 2001, the Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) pledged “to set a target of allocating at least **15%** of their annual budget to the improvement of the health sector”.

“Abuja declaration on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other related infectious diseases”, [www.un.org/ga/aids/pdf/abuja\\_declaration.pdf](http://www.un.org/ga/aids/pdf/abuja_declaration.pdf)

- Per capita total expenditure on health  
Total health expenditure per capita is the per capita amount of the sum of Public Health Expenditure and Private Expenditure on Health.

A key finding of WHO Commission on Macroeconomics and Health:  
“The level of spending on health in low-income countries is insufficient to address the health challenges they face. A **minimum level of financing needed to cover essential interventions**, including HIV/AIDS, of **between US\$ 30 to US\$ 40** per capita contrasts with actual levels of spending in the order of US\$ 13 per person in the least developed countries and US\$ 24 in other low-income States.”

[http://www.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/WHA55/ea555.pdf](http://www.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA55/ea555.pdf)

For a country list of ‘per capita total expenditure on health’:  
[http://www.who.int/whosis/whostat2006\\_healthsystems.xls](http://www.who.int/whosis/whostat2006_healthsystems.xls)

- Density of doctors, nurses and midwives  
Countries confronting **critical health workforce shortages**, “**meaning they have fewer than 2.3 doctors, nurses and midwives per 1000 people**, are unable to provide basic, life-saving services in a consistent manner”.

<http://www.who.int/features/qa/37/en/index.html>

Global distribution of health workers in WHO Member States:  
[http://www.who.int/whr/2006/annex/06\\_annex4\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/whr/2006/annex/06_annex4_en.pdf)