

# South Africa (ZA)

## Country background

GDP per capita (2014 – USD)	\$6,483.85
Healthcare expenditure per capita (2014 – USD)	\$570.21
Healthcare expenditure as a percentage of GDP	9%
Type of health system	Public <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Health Insurance (NHI) system designed to ensure that all South African citizens have access to essential healthcare</li><li>• NHI system expected to be funded through personal taxation and mandatory employer contributions</li><li>• System is two-pronged:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Public: large, under-resourced and overused</li><li>– Private: small, well-funded and well-equipped</li></ul></li></ul>
Average age of population	26
Average life expectancy	59 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Healthy life expectancy: 51</li></ul>
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000)	34
Top 10 causes of death	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. HIV/AIDS</li><li>2. Stroke</li><li>3. Diabetes mellitus</li><li>4. Ischemic heart disease</li><li>5. Lower respiratory infections</li><li>6. Tuberculosis</li><li>7. Hypertensive heart disease</li><li>8. Interpersonal violence</li><li>9. Diarrhoeal diseases</li><li>10. Road injury</li></ol>

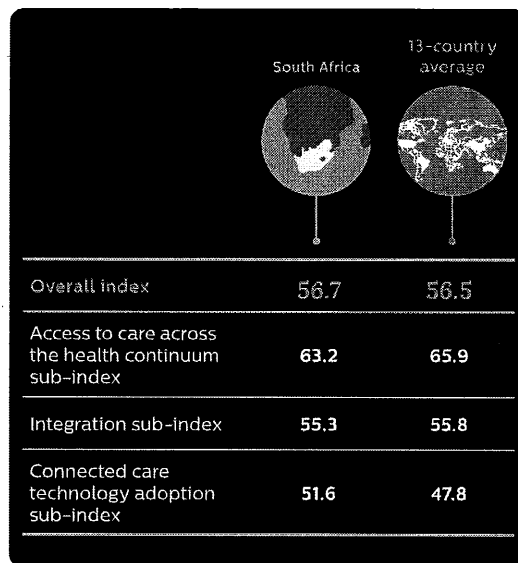
Sources include: World Bank (2014), World Bank (2015), Deloitte (2015), CIA World Factbook (2015), World Health Organization (2012)

## Other key findings

1. The overall health of the population is viewed as less of a challenge than other key issues affecting the country, particularly crime.
2. Healthcare professionals and patients differ on the effectiveness of the health system in meeting the needs of the population, particularly when comparing the public and private systems. South Africa's healthcare system is one of the lowest-rated by its citizens among the 13 countries surveyed.
3. Cost is a bigger barrier to healthcare overall than in any other country surveyed.
4. Although South Africa's health system is not considered very integrated at present, patients and healthcare professionals alike see clear value in future integration.
5. To realize a fully integrated health system, concerns regarding cost must be addressed. Both patients and healthcare professionals worry that integration of the health system could lead to healthcare becoming more expensive in the long term.

South Africa's Future Health Index (FHI) score of 56.7 (ranked 8th out of 13 countries) is based on low access to healthcare resources but a high adoption of connected care technology.

- While South Africa ranks highly in the adoption of connected care technology, low access to healthcare resources drags its overall score down. South Africans are conscious of some of the benefits of health system integration, but without basic access to healthcare, integration is difficult to achieve.



6. Openness to connected care technologies raises South Africa's connected care technology adoption index score above the average, with South African healthcare professionals and patients acknowledging the benefits of connected care across the health continuum.
7. As with integrated health, connected care technologies face concerns regarding cost.
8. Patients and healthcare professionals agree that individuals are fully responsible for managing their health. However, there is a disconnect on whether patients have the ability and knowledge to do so.