Number of hospital beds per 10 000 population

Rationale for use

Service delivery is an important component of health systems. To capture availability, access and distribution of health services delivery a range of indicators or a composite indicator is needed. Currently, there is no such data for the majority of countries. In-patient beds density is one of the few available indicators on a component of level of health service delivery.

Definition

Number of in-patient beds per 100 000 population.

Associated terms

Hospital beds include in-patient and maternity beds. Maternity beds are included while cots and delivery beds are excluded.

Data sources

Administrative records, based on reported data by in-patient facilities; censuses of health facilities.

Methods of estimation

Empirical data only with possible adjustment for underreporting (e.g. missing private facilities).

Disaggregation

By location (urban/rural) though limited availability.

References


Database

- Human Resources for Health Information: (http://who.int/globalatlas/autologin/hrh_login.asp)

- Regional Core Health Data Initiative: (http://www.paho.org/English/SHA/coredata/tabulator/newTabulator.htm)

Comments

There is a need for further work to better capture the level and distribution of health services in a country. This would be the first step towards assessing inequity in access to health services.