

Summary of Health Issues in South Africa

Thursday, 5th May 2016

The North West Province has the lowest ratio of doctors and dentists in South Africa. Only 1100 dentists practise in South Africa, in the North West having only one dentist for every 50 000 people. There are 21.3 doctors per 100 000 people in the North West. The Western Cape is the only Province keeping ahead of things, the Free State losing a huge 177 doctors in a single year. Medical specialists are the lowest in Limpopo, Mpumalanga having the least amount of psychologists.

The Eastern Cape has the highest form of mortality rates now 43 deaths per 1000 babies. The Northern Cape has a very high mortality rate of 254 deaths per 100 000 babies. Blame has been placed on incompetent staff. Excessive funds in the region of R24 billion have been spent, but it is difficult to ascertain where this spending is going. An accepted lack of accountability has been cited.

Amidst all this, the citizens of South Africa are battling to cope with an increase in illness, namely TB, HIV, hypertension, strokes and heart attacks.

RESEARCH: KERRY CULLINAN: HEALTH-E NEWS SERVICE, 5TH MAY 2016

South Africa has the largest HIV problem in the world and funding this is tough as it burdens the budget of other necessary health care services. A more progressive, earlier intervention approach will have to be adopted to lower this ever increasing cost.

RESEARCH: TAMAR KAHN: BUSINESS DAY, 5TH MAY 2016

Professor Sarkin, head of Steve Biko's cardiology department commented that the Constitution's diction that health care is a basic Constitutional right is shrouded in ambiguity as to what is indeed this entitles patients too. Emergency services being one example.

He opinions patients are unaware of their rights.

The criteria is based on what the patient earns instead of what is in the best interest of the patient. Mention in a previous writing has been made to the cost of heart surgery going well beyond many private medical aid

patients who now have to rely on the State sector for this type of treatment, burdening the already battling State resources. For the sake of brevity we will not go into this extensively as it has been dealt with before.

RESEARCH: HEALTH-E NEWS, 5TH MAY 2016

A 63% increase in the number of woman bleeding to death after a Caesarean section has become what amounts to a national crisis. Lack of skill of surgeons as well as anaesthetists have been cited as the reason. Patients with ongoing bleeding were often discharged prematurely. It is not the volume of Caesarean sections been done, but rather the lack of care that is the cause.

RESEARCH: AARTI J NARSEE: THE TIMES, 5TH MAY 2016

Superbug infections, a largely difficult area to understand and control. It is found that proactive monitoring does indeed assist with the reduction of infection rates. This has also been recently addressed an once again for the sake of brevity, we will not go into further detail.

RESEARCH:-CLAIRE KEETON: BDLIVE, 5^{TT} MAY 2016

In addition to having the world's greatest HIV rate, South Africa boasts in addition one of the highest TB rates in the world.

Health care workers are not taking the necessary steps to prevent transmission of this disease, themselves being at great risk of developing such, believing , falsely that being a healthy healthcare giver would assure them of not being at risk. And indeed "TB proof"

RESEARCH: TAMAR KAHN: BUSINESS DAY, 5TH MAY 2016