

Ratio of Health Care Providers Employed in Direct Care to Supply, by Type of Provider

Name	Ratio of Health Care Providers Employed in Direct Care to Supply, by Type of Provider
Short/Other Names	Activity Ratio
Description	Ratio of health care providers employed in the profession and working in direct care divided by the number of registered health care providers, by type of provider
Interpretation	Measure of access to health care providers. A low or high ratio may be desirable; interpretations should be evaluated alongside other relevant data (e.g., population need, models of care, mix of health care providers).
HSP Framework Dimension	Health System Inputs and Characteristics: Health system resources
Areas of Need	Not applicable
Geographic Coverage	All provinces/territories
Reporting Level/Disaggregation	National, Province/Territory, Region, Provider; may be further aggregated by age, highest level of education, setting of employment, urban/rural/remote, etc.
Indicator Results	Web tool URL: https://www.cihi.ca/en/health-workforce

Identifying Information

Name Ratio of Health Care Providers Employed in Direct Care to Supply, by Type of Provider

Short/Other Names Activity Ratio

Indicator Description and Calculation

Description Ratio of health care providers employed in the profession and working in direct care divided by the number of registered health care providers, by type of provider

Calculated by dividing the number of health care providers employed in the profession and working in direct care by the total number of active registered health care providers.

Calculation: Description $\text{Number of health care providers employed in the profession and working in direct care} \div \text{Total number of active registered health care providers}$

Unit of Analysis: Service provider

Calculation: Geographic Assignment Place of service

Calculation: Type of Measurement Ratio

Calculation: Adjustment Applied None

Calculation: Method of Adjustment Not applicable

Description:
Total number of health care providers

Inclusions:

- Active registered health care providers

Denominator

Exclusions:

- Inactive registrants or health care providers who did not register in a province or territory.

Additional exclusion criteria vary by type of provider.

Description:

Number of health care providers employed in the profession and working in direct care

Inclusions:

- Active registered health care providers employed in the profession and working in direct care.

Numerator

Additional inclusion criteria vary by type of professional.

Exclusions:

- Health care providers not employed in the profession.

- Health care providers employed in education, research and administration.
- Inactive registrants or health care providers who did not register in a province or territory.

Additional exclusion criteria vary by type of provider.

Background, Interpretation and Benchmarks

Rationale Based on [World Health Organization \(WHO\) National Health Workforce Accounts](#) indicator 1-05: Ratio Between Active and Registered Health Workers, by Cadre, this indicator can reveal the potential versus actual workforce providing direct care to support labour force studies.

Interpretation Measure of access to health care providers. A low or high ratio may be desirable; interpretations should be evaluated alongside other relevant data (e.g., population need, models of care, mix of health care providers).

HSP Framework Dimension Health System Inputs and Characteristics: Health system resources

Areas of Need Not applicable

Targets/Benchmarks WHO: Ratio between active and registered health workers, by cadre

World Health Organization. *National Health Workforce Accounts: A Handbook*. 2016.

References

World Health Organization. *Global Strategy on Health Resources for Health: Workforce 2030*. 2016.

Availability of Data Sources and Results

Data Sources HWDB

Type of Year:

Available Data Years **First Available Year:**
2008

Last Available Year:
2017

Geographic Coverage All provinces/territories

Reporting Level/Disaggregation National, Province/Territory, Region, Provider; may be further aggregated by age, highest level of education, setting of employment, urban/rural/remote, etc.

Result Updates

Update Frequency Varies by type of provider.

Web Tool:

Indicator Results Health workforce data tables

URL:

Web tool URL: <https://www.cihi.ca/en/health-workforce>

Updates Not applicable

Quality Statement

Caveats and Limitations Statistics reported may differ from those reported by other organizations due to differences in data collection and reporting methodologies.

Issues of under- and/or over-coverage may vary by type of provider.

Trending Issues Vary by type of provider

Please note that the available data years, geographic coverage, reporting level/disaggregation and update frequency vary by type of provider.

Comments

“Available data year” can refer to **data year** (for nurses) or to **reporting year** (for occupational therapists, physiotherapists and pharmacists).