

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	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
Description	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	Number of health care providers employed in the profession and working in direct care ÷ Total number of active registered health care providers
Calculation: Geographic Assignment	Unit of Analysis: Service provider
Calculation: Type of Measurement	Place of service
Calculation: Adjustment Applied	Ratio
Calculation: Method of Adjustment	None
	Not applicable
	Description: Total number of health care providers
	Inclusions:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active registered health care providers
Denominator	Exclusions:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
Not applicable

Areas of Need

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:

Health workforce data tables

URL:

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

Updates

Quality Statement

Not applicable

Caveats and Limitations

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

Trending Issues

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

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).