



Analysing information on the NSP indicators

The National Strategic Plan for HIV, STIs and TB (NSP) sets a number of targets for South Africa to reach by 2016. In this table we track our collective progress against a number of key targets or indicators. The table reveals that in many areas we have outdated statistics, or no statistics at all. This is partly unavoidable, since it often takes a year or two to analyse the available data and to produce with reliable estimates.

That said, there is significant room for improvement when it comes to the sharing of existing data by among others the National Department of Health (DoH) and the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC). We are hoping that this will improve.

We have pieced together the indicator table from a variety of sources. We wrote to both the DoH and SANAC to ask for their latest figures. The Department of Health did give some input.

After meeting SANAC CEO Dr Fared Abdulla we are pleased to report that SANAC together with among others the Health Systems Trust and University of Cape Town are preparing a report on NSP indicators, which is due for release during June 2014.

Our analysis and collation of information on existing indicators is intended to shed light on what is happening in our fight against HIV and TB. In this spirit, we welcome any corrections to the figures presented here or suggestions for alternative sources of data. This table will be updated in future NSP Review editions and as data becomes available on our website www.nspreview.org.

Table compiled by Thuthukile Mbatha

NSP indicator	What the indicator measures	Statistics 1	Statistics 2	Statistics 3	How often is it measured	NSP target by 2016	NSP Review comments
People between 15-49 counselled and tested for HIV	Reach of the HIV Counselling and Testing programme	Department of Health (DOH): 15-million <i>(Joint Review of HIV, TB & PMTCT Programmes in SA main report 2014)</i>	DOH: 20.2 million (by 2012) <i>(Annual Report 2011/2012)</i>	District Health Information System (DHIS): 8,978,177 (2012)	Quarterly	30 million; 80% of adults	Ideally most people who are not known to be HIV positive should test at least once per year. We appear to be some way from achieving this objective. We need to question how these numbers compare to previous years.
HIV prevalence among people aged 15-24	Monitor trends in HIV in young ages to assess progress in reducing new infections	Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC): 7.1% (2012) <i>South African National Prevalence, Incidence and Behaviour Survey 2012</i>	DOH: 8.7% (2012) <i>Joint Review of HIV, TB & PMTCT Programmes in SA April 2014</i>	Statistics SA- 8.5% (2013) <i>Mid-year population estimates 2013</i>	Every 3 years	4.35% (50% reduction)	Reaching it will be difficult as long as we fail to provide young people with proper sex education and easy access to condoms.
HIV prevalence in key populations: • Black African women 20-34 years • People living together, not married (cohabiting) 15-49 years • Black African men 25-49 years • Disabled 15 years and older • High risk drinkers 15 years and older • Recreational drug users 15 years and older	Monitor levels of infection in these groups over time	HSRC (2012): =31.6% =30.9% =25.7% =16.7% =14.3% =12.7% <i>(South African National HIV Prevalence, Incidence and Behaviour Survey 2012)</i>			Periodic	50 % reduction	
HIV incidence	Actual number of new HIV infections in the population	DOH: 0.87% <i>(Joint Review of HIV, TB & PMTCT Programmes in SA main report 2014)</i>	HSRC incidence rates by age: 2+: 1% 2-14: 0.25% 15-24: 1.49% 25+: 1.41% 15-49: 1.72% 469,000 new infections in 2012 <i>South African National HIV Prevalence, Incidence and Behaviour Survey 2012</i>	StatsSA: 0.85% (2013) <i>Mid-year Population Estimates 2013</i>	Periodic	0.47 %	Our prevention efforts need to be stepped up substantially.
HIV mortality	Success of HIV and TB programmes	Health Systems Trust (HST) 31.9% AIDS deaths (2013) <i>HST Health indicators</i>	DOH 43.6% AIDS deaths <i>Joint Review of HIV, TB & PMTCT Programmes in SA</i>	StatsSA: 31.9% AIDS deaths (2013) <i>Mid-year Population Estimates 2013</i>	Annually	21.8%	Here we quote the estimates from the 2013 Stats SA Mid-year report. We consider this figure to provide a more useful estimate than the more recent death report data from Stats SA
MTCT rate (6 weeks and 18 months)	Success of the Prevention of Mother to Children transmission programme, by determining the percentage of babies born HIV positive	DOH: 2.60% at 6 weeks <i>Joint Review of HIV, TB & PMTCT Programmes in SA main report- April 2014</i>		2.7% (6 weeks) <i>South African PMTCT Evaluation 2011</i>	Annually	2% (6 weeks) 5% (18 months)	The lack of 18 month data for this indicator is concerning – especially given that South Africa has switched to an exclusive breast-feeding policy. Failure to track this data will make it hard to measure the success of the programme.
Patients alive and on treatment	Retention In care	HSRC: 2,002,350 (2012) <i>South African National HIV Prevalence, Incidence and Behaviour Survey 2012</i>	UNAIDS: 2.15 million (2012) <i>UNAIDS report on the global AIDS epidemic 2013</i>	DOH: 1,735,690 (2011/2012) <i>Annual Health Statistics Publication 2012</i>	Quarterly	-12mo=94% -24 mo=88% -36mo=82% -48mo=76% -60mo=70%	As explained in previous issues of NSP Review, the number of patients started on treatment is likely a poor indicator of the number of patients who are still on treatment. Additional data like viral load suppression rates will tell us more about whether patients are still on treatment – but such data is not publically available.
Male condom distribution	Reach of condom distribution programme	DOH: 6.3 million (2012) Annual Health Statistics Publication 2012	District Health Barometer: 387 million (2012) <i>District Health Barometer 2012/13</i>		Quarterly	1 Billion	We are performing poorly.
Number of men circumcised, medically (MMC) and traditionally (TMC)	Reach of male circumcision (MC) programmes	HSRC: 3,301,196 Voluntary MMC (2002-2012) South African National HIV Prevalence, Incidence and Behaviour Survey 2012	DOH= 347,947 MMC Joint Review of HIV, TB & PMTCT Programmes in SA main report- April 2014	DHIS=422,262 MMC District Health Information System 2013/14	Quarterly	1,600,000	

NSP indicator	What the indicator measures	Statistics 1	Statistics 2	Statistics 3	How often is it measured	NSP target by 2016	NSP Review comments
% of people per year who becoming eligible and receive ART	Coverage of the ART programme	DOH=82% <i>Joint Review of HIV, TB & PMTCT Programmes in SA main report- April 2014</i>			Quarterly	80%	This figure should be treated with scepticism given the uncertainty around how many patients who have started treatment have stopped taking treatment. In addition, should treatment guidelines change to recommend treatment initiation at a CD4 count higher than the current 350 cells/mm3, then many more patients will become treatment eligible and the percentage covered will drop dramatically.
Number of people reached by prevention communication at least twice a year	Reach of communications	83% (2012) <i>National Communication Survey 2012</i>			Every 3 years (2012;2015)	99%	We need to interrogate the quality and relevance of the communication.
Stigma index	Trends of stigma and discrimination experienced by those with HIV or TB				Every 2 years	To be determined in 2012	Work on a stigma index has recently picked up, but it will be some time before reliable data becomes available.
TB Indicators							
Number of people screened for TB	Population coverage of TB screening	National Health Laboratory Services (NHLS): 2,969,812 <i>GeneXpert MTB/RIF Progress Report February 2014</i>			Annually	30 million	Fast and effective TB screening remains a problem, despite the introduction of the Gene Xpert.
TB case registration	Number of TB cases detected and started on treatment	No recent data			Annually	354/100,000	
TB case detection rate	An indication of the proportion of all incident TB cases that are diagnosed, reported and started on treatment	No recent data			Annually	>85%	While estimates will have a significant degree of uncertainty, it seems likely that a very large proportion of TB cases is not being diagnosed. This has direct implications for patients, but also for the onward transmission of TB.
% smear positive TB cases that are successfully treated	Successful smear positive TB treatment	World Bank= 79% <i>Country Profiles</i>			Quarterly	85%	
TB case fatality rate	The proportion of notified TB patients who die while on treatment				Annually	50% reduction	50% reduction
% of registered TB patients who tested for HIV	Uptake of HIV testing by TB patients	DOH=82.9% (2011/12) <i>Department of Health Annual Report 2011/2012</i>			Annually	90%	
Number of all newly registered TB cases who are HIV positive, expressed as all newly registered patients	Information about the epidemics of both TB and HIV. It gives an indication of the degree of overlap in the epidemics and the contribution that HIV is making to the TB epidemic in any given setting	No data			Annually	-	-
TB incidence	Number of new and relapse of TB (all forms) estimated to occur in a given year	World Health Organisation (WHO): 1003/100 000 people (2012) <i>Global TB report 2013</i>	District Health Barometer (DHB): 687.3/100 000 people (2012/13)		Annually	491/100,000 (50%)	Though some progress is being made against TB, it seems unlikely that this target will be reached. Much more aggressive steps must be taken to prevent the spread of TB in prisons and in public spaces and to ensure quick and effective contact tracing.
TB mortality	Success of HIV and TB programmes	WHO = 59/100 000 population (2012) <i>Global TB report 2013</i>			Annually	25/100,000	