

SOUTH AFRICA

The pilot survey in South Africa was conducted in September of 2001 and was limited to the province of KwaZulu Natal. The sub-regions surveyed were Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Newcastle, and Empangeni. Four sectors were originally surveyed. South African data on this website labeled “private for-profit sector” are from 18 retail pharmacies and 2 for-profit hospitals. The “other sector” data consist of prices at the offices of 9 dispensing doctors. Procurement prices were obtained from KwaZulu Natal’s provincial depot. These prices are what local public facilities pay for pharmaceuticals – including the base price (which is negotiated with manufacturers on a national level) plus a value-added tax and a distribution levy. No data were gathered on public patient prices because patients attending public clinics and hospitals receive medicines free of charge or for a flat fee based on income. Data were also collected from a single charitable hospital, but these data have not been posted on this website because the charitable sector is very small and we wanted to display separately the data from the more substantial dispensing doctor sector.

In the private for-profit sector, the South African survey used an earlier WHO/HAI methodology for collecting data on the “lowest priced generic” that has since been abandoned. Therefore, South African data on retail “lowest priced generic” medicines have not been included on this website. Only data on “innovator brand” and region-wide “most sold generic” medicines have been posted for the private for-profit sector. By contrast, in the public sector, most procurement prices have been recorded as “lowest priced generics”. However, for several cases where innovator brand products won the competitive public tender, price results appear under the “brand” heading.