



SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL SURVEY OF RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTAL DEVELOPMENT

HEALTH R&D at a glance **2017/18**



Achieving better health and health care has long been one of South Africa's most pressing national developmental priorities, and this is intensified by the coronavirus pandemic. Research and experimental development (R&D) within domains of health related to the burden of disease in South Africa is more vital than ever before. Both public and private sector players, as well as civil society actors, generate the health R&D outputs that the country needs for its present and future needs.

This Fact Sheet explores South Africa's health R&D expenditure with one clear message for policy makers: Even though expenditure has been increasing since the end of apartheid, much more health R&D investment will be needed if South Africa is to address its myriad health challenges in innovative ways that protect the well-being of citizens.

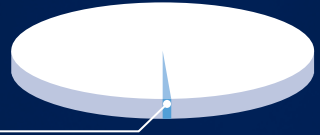
FACT SHEET NO. 24

THE SIZE OF
SOUTH AFRICA'S
GDP IN 2017/18



R 4 653.579
BILLION

IN 2017/18 SOUTH AFRICA SPENT
R 38.725 BILLION ON R&D,
EQUAL TO 0.83% OF GDP

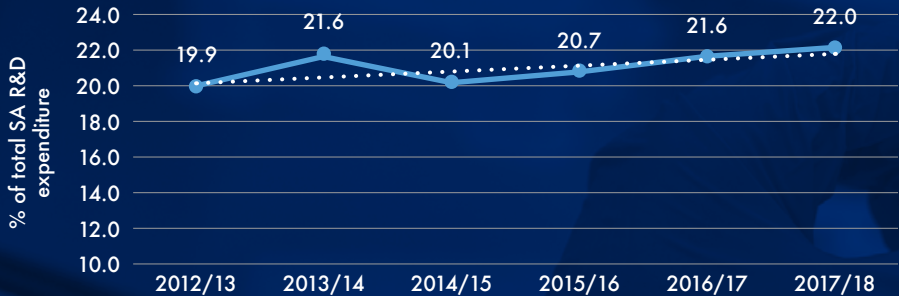


22%

MORE THAN ONE FIFTH (R 8.503 BILLION)
OF THE COUNTRY'S TOTAL R&D SPEND IN
2017/18 WAS ON HEALTH R&D.



R&D EXPENDITURE ON HEALTH IN 2017/18 CONTINUED AN UPWARD TREND.



HEALTH R&D
RESEARCH FIELDS
ARE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY,
INCLUDING:



- ENGINEERING SCIENCES
- BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
- MEDICAL & HEALTH SCIENCES
- SOCIAL SCIENCES

THE LARGEST SHARE OF HEALTH R&D EXPENDITURE (86.3%) BY
RESEARCH FIELD WAS WITHIN THE MEDICAL & HEALTH SCIENCES
WITH A STRONG FOCUS ON:



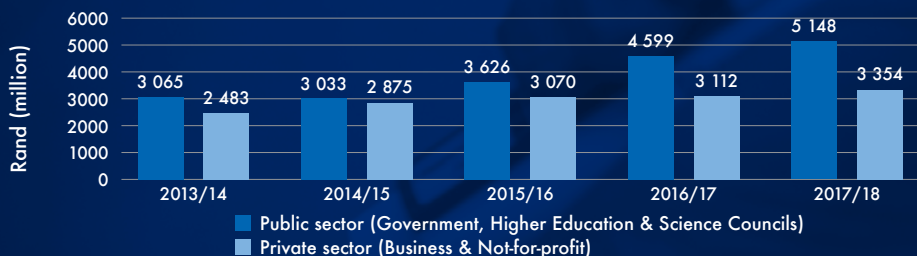
CLINICAL SCIENCES | PUBLIC HEALTH | ENVIRONMENT,
OCCUPATIONAL & SAFETY RESEARCH | GENETICS |
MOLECULAR, MEDICAL & MICROBIOLOGY |
PHARMACOLOGY & THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY



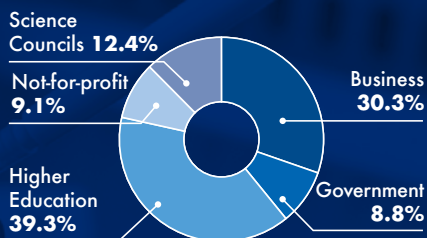
THE LARGEST SHARE OF HEALTH R&D EXPENDITURE WAS IN THE HIGHER
EDUCATION (R 3.346 BILLION) & BUSINESS (R 2.580 BILLION) SECTORS,
FOLLOWED BY THE SCIENCE COUNCILS (R 1.052 BILLION), NOT-FOR-PROFIT
(R 0.775 BILLION) & GOVERNMENT (R 0.751 BILLION) SECTORS.

IN 2017/18 THE **PUBLIC SECTOR (GOVERNMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION & SCIENCE COUNCILS)** ACCOUNTED FOR **52.2%** OF ALL HEALTH R&D EXPENDITURE WHILE THE **PRIVATE SECTOR (BUSINESS & NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS)** ACCOUNTED FOR THE REMAINING **47.8%**.

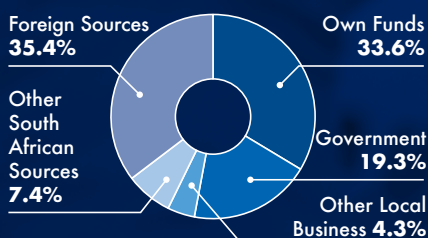
THE **PUBLIC SECTOR IS THE BIGGEST INVESTOR IN HEALTH R&D IN SOUTH AFRICA.**



R&D IN HEALTH FIELDS BY SECTOR 2017/18



R&D IN HEALTH FIELDS BY SOURCES OF FUNDS 2017/18



R&D IN HEALTH FIELDS BY PROVINCE 2017/18



AMOUNT SPENT BY SELECTED SOCIO-ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES (SEO) FOR HEALTH R&D IN 2017/18

SEO > SECTOR	SUB-SECTOR	R'000	PERCENTAGE
Economic Development > Manufacturing	Human pharmaceutical products	350 878	6.4
Society > Health	Clinical (organs, diseases & conditions)	2 091 900	38.1
	Public health	1 324 244	24.1
	Health & support services	524 337	9.5
	Other health not elsewhere classified	246 682	4.5
Advancement of Knowledge > Natural Sciences, Technologies & Engineering	Medical & health sciences	959 159	17.4
Total		5 497 200	100

BEHIND THE NUMBERS

The annual South African National Survey of Research and Experimental Development is conducted by the Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (CeSTII) at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), on behalf of the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI). R&D statistics are collected in terms of the Statistics Act No. 6 of 1999, and are quality assured by Statistics South Africa.

Data collected through the survey, and its historic data series, help to inform decision-makers on investment planning, policy making, advocacy, and research in South Africa. Data streams also add to benchmarking and performance comparisons with our international counterparts.

Access previous survey reports:

<http://www.hsrc.ac.za/en/departments/CeSTii/reports-cestii>

This Fact Sheet was produced by CeSTII in July 2020.

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