



# NAMIBIA

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## Snapshot of the Strength of the Health Information System as a Source of HIV Data

Health information systems (HIS) are important tools in combatting the HIV epidemic, from the individual to the population level. Electronic health records contain individual patient information that helps clinicians provide high-quality care and can improve continuity of care across services and institutions. Laboratory information systems improve the submission of lab tests and the receipt of results. Logistic information systems can help forecast the need for medications and other commodities and reduce stockouts of antiretroviral drugs and other medications. Routine health information systems are used to compile this information for reports from facilities to the national level. Data use at all levels of the health system is necessary to monitor coverage of HIV interventions and progress toward targets. And finally, population-level surveys provide information on changes in behavior and HIV prevalence every few years; these data are needed to assess the impact of HIV programs over time.

### HIV IN NAMIBIA

- Adult HIV prevalence rate: 12.1<sup>1</sup>
- Prevalence rate for women: 14.5<sup>1</sup>
- Prevalence rate for men: 9.5<sup>1</sup>
- Number of adults living with HIV: 230,000<sup>2</sup>
- Number of new HIV infections in 2016: 9,600<sup>2</sup>
- Number of AIDS-related deaths in 2016: 4,300<sup>2</sup>
- People living with HIV who know their status: 77%<sup>2</sup>
- People who know their status and are on antiretroviral therapy (ART): 84%<sup>2</sup>
- People on ART who have achieved viral suppression: N/A<sup>2</sup>

1 UNAIDS. (2017). AIDSinfo. <http://aidsinfo.unaids.org>

2 United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. (2018). Country Specific Information: Namibia. Retrieved from <https://www.pepfar.gov/countries/index.htm>

3 World Health Organization. (2018). Global Health Observatory: Namibia Summary Statistics. Retrieved from <http://apps.who.int/gho/data>

4 United Nations Statistics Division. (2016). 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme. Retrieved from <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/censusdates.htm>

5 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). (2018) Human Development Indices and Indicators: 2018 Statistical Update. Retrieved from <http://hdr.undp.org/en/2018-update>

6 International Telecommunications Union. (2017). ICT Development Index 2017. Retrieved from <https://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/idi/2017/index.html>



#### Population

2,480,000+<sup>3</sup>

#### Year of last census

2011<sup>4</sup>

#### Life expectancy at birth

61.8/66.1 years (m/f)<sup>3,5</sup>

#### Total expenditure on health

8.9% GDP<sup>3</sup>

#### Physician density

0.372 per 10,000<sup>3</sup>

#### Nurse & midwife density

2.76 per 10,000<sup>3</sup>

#### Hospital bed density

27 per 10,000<sup>3</sup>

#### Internet users

31.03% of the population<sup>6</sup>

## HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM FACTS

Indicator name	Status	Global* status	Title and details
Health strategy	yes	72%	<a href="#">National Health Policy Framework 2010-2020</a>
Health sector monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan	yes	42%	
Health information system (HIS) policy	yes	19%	
HIS strategic plan	yes	33%	
Core health indicators	no	49%	
HIS coordinating body	yes	26%	
Master health facility list	no	28%	Master Facility List 2015
Completed Health Metrics Network assessment	yes	56%	<a href="#">Assessment of the Health Information System in Namibia 2005</a>
Population census within the past 10 years	yes	49%	<a href="#">2011 Census</a>
Availability of national health surveys	yes	100%	<a href="#">2013 Demographic and Health Survey</a>
Completeness of vital registration (births and deaths)	no	7%	10.7% complete for deaths; 29.1% complete for live births
Electronic system for routine site-level data	yes	91%	<a href="https://www.dhis2.org/inaction">https://www.dhis2.org/inaction</a>
Health statistics office	yes	98%	<a href="http://nsa.org.na">http://nsa.org.na</a>
Annual health statistics report	no	9%	2015 HIS Annual Report
Health statistics website with latest data available	no	49%	<a href="http://www.mhss.gov.na">http://www.mhss.gov.na</a>
Data quality assessment aligned with health sector strategy	yes	67%	

Indicator name	Status	Global* status	Title and details
Performance of Routine Information System Management (PRISM) assessment conducted in any region or district	no	47%	
Percentage of facilities represented in health management information system reports is available	yes	74%	
Proportion of government offices using data to manage health programs (set and monitor targets) is available	no	40%	
Measles coverage reported to the World Health Organization (WHO)/UNICEF	yes	98%	<a href="#">WHO/UNICEF estimates of immunization coverage: 2017 revision</a> ; page 8
Data on the number of institutional deliveries available by district and published within a year	no	28%	
Policies, laws, and regulations mandating public and private health facilities to report indicators determined by the national HIS	no	33%	
Standards or guidelines for routine health information system data collection, reporting, and analysis	no	51%	
Procedures to verify the data quality	no	47%	
Routine health information system forms allow for gender disaggregation	no	60%	
At least one national health account completed in the past 5 years	no	35%	<a href="#">Namibia 2012/13 Health Accounts Report</a>
Database of healthcare workers by district and main cadres updated in the past 2 years	no	26%	
Annual data on tracer medicines and commodities in public and private health facilities available	no	21%	
eHealth strategy	no	58%	
Completeness of disease surveillance reporting is available	no	28%	

\* "Global status" is the percentage of the 43 countries tracked by the [HIS Strengthening Resource Center](#) that have a positive result (yes/no) for the indicator. A positive result (yes) indicates that the indicator is available and current; a negative result (no) indicates that the indicator is unknown, not available, or not current.

According to the 2006/2007 and 2013 Namibia Demographic and Health Survey reports, the proportion of reproductive age women who were tested for HIV in the past 12 months and received the results of the test rose from 28.6 percent in 2006/2007 to 49.1 percent in 2013.<sup>7,8</sup> The proportion of men 15–49 years of age rose from 17.6 percent to 38.1 percent for the same years, respectively.<sup>7,8</sup> In addition, in 2013, 81.6 percent of pregnant women attending antenatal care received counseling on HIV, an HIV test, and the results of that test.<sup>7</sup>

According to UNAIDS estimates for 2017, 64 percent of all people living with HIV are on treatment with ART.<sup>9</sup> According to the 2017 Namibia Population-Based HIV Impact Survey, among those 15–64 years of age who knew they were HIV-positive, 96.4 percent (97.1% of women and 94.9% of men) were using ART.<sup>10</sup> Of those 15–64 years on ART, 91.3 percent (92.2% of women and 89.5% of men) were virally suppressed.<sup>10</sup>

The HIS policy and strategy documents are under development. The most recent HIS document available online—a 2012 assessment of Namibia’s HIS—outlined an urgent need for a more unified, integrated, and effective HIS.<sup>11</sup> To move toward the creation of such a system, the assessment team identified three overarching recommendations: (1) identify a single, high-level national champion; (2) ensure the HIS directorate has sufficient influence, resources, and technical expertise; and (3) “Immediately establish a formal and inclusive MOHSS wide Systems and IT’ Coordination Body for HIS (SITHIS) with clearly defined terms of reference for all systems/ICT review and selection, development, integration, coordination, and deployment.”<sup>12</sup>

7 Ministry of Health and Social Services (MOHSS)/Namibia & ICF International. (2014). Namibia Demographic and Health Survey 2013. Windhoek, Namibia: MOHSS/Namibia and ICF International. Retrieved from <http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR298/FR298.pdf>

8 Ministry of Health and Social Services (MOHSS)/Namibia & Macro International. (2008). Namibia Demographic and Health Survey 2006–07. Windhoek, Namibia: MOHSS/Namibia and Macro International. Retrieved from <https://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-FR204-DHS-Final-Reports.cfm>

9 UNAIDS. (2017). UNAIDS Data 2017. Retrieved from [http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media\\_asset/20170720\\_Data\\_book\\_2017\\_en.pdf](http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/20170720_Data_book_2017_en.pdf)

10 Namibia Ministry of Health and Social Services. (2018). Namibia Population-Based HIV Impact Assessment: NAMPHIA 2017, Preliminary Findings Summary Sheet. Retrieved from [https://phia.icap.columbia.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/33462•NAMPHIA-SS\\_A4\\_B.v41.pdf](https://phia.icap.columbia.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/33462•NAMPHIA-SS_A4_B.v41.pdf)

11 Namibia Ministry of Health and Social Services. (2012). Assessment of National Health Information Systems. Retrieved from [http://ghpro.dexionline.com/sites/default/files/B015%20Namibia%20HIS\\_7\\_30\\_12.pdf](http://ghpro.dexionline.com/sites/default/files/B015%20Namibia%20HIS_7_30_12.pdf)

12 Namibia Ministry of Health and Social Services. (2012). Assessment of National Health Information Systems. Retrieved from [http://ghpro.dexionline.com/sites/default/files/B015%20Namibia%20HIS\\_7\\_30\\_12.pdf](http://ghpro.dexionline.com/sites/default/files/B015%20Namibia%20HIS_7_30_12.pdf)