

PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY

FRIDAY, 7 MARCH 2025

17. Mr M Booysen to ask Ms M M Wenger, Minister of Health and Wellness:

(a) How many people were medically treated at provincial facilities in the province in the 2024/25 financial year per district and (b) what are the major factors affecting patients' waiting times for treatment?

(78)

RESPONSE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS

(a) Note that the data below excludes March 2025 data - i.e. only 11 months data.

Inpatient days and day patients listed below are a count of the number of days these patients were in hospital.

Element	Definition	Cape Winelands District	Central Karoo District	City of Cape Town District	Garden Route District	Overberg District	West Coast District	Grand Total
Separations	This is a count of patients that were inpatients and separated from the hospital either by discharge, death or transfer out to another hospital.	68,296	7,893	339,248	54,825	18,502	34,242	523,006
Day patient	These are patients who were admitted and discharged on the same day.	12,548	1,389	74,254	10,740	4,168	4,879	107,978
Inpatient days	This is a count of patients who were admitted - it is a count of every midnight that they were in hospital.	255,675	45,129	2,229,618	186,130	48,301	129,364	2,894,217
Emergency (EC) headcount	This is a count of patients that attended an emergency centre - counted once a day.	160,367	25,603	421,468	143,425	58,706	102,703	912,272
Outpatient (OPD) headcount	This is a count of patients that attended an Outpatient clinic - counted once a day.	109,100	7,432	1,169,451	103,989	23,864	49,003	1,462,839
Chronic dispensing unit (CDU) headcount	This is a count of the number of patients that received a pharmaceutical parcel.	204,592	30,097	1,432,371	256,154	90,485	124,507	2,138,206
School health headcount	This is a count of the number of learners seen by healthcare workers at schools.	37,808	1,031	117,788	11,080	5,923	3,846	177,476

Home and Community Based Care (HCBC) headcount	This is a count of the number of clients seen by community health workers in the community.	546,290	144,761	3,711,837	538,925	553,071	740,350	6,235,234
Primary Health Care (PHC) headcount	This is a count of the number of clients seen in a primary health care facility - counted once per day irrespective of the number of contacts.	1,410,826	175,688	6,651,590	1,179,785	654,485	698,696	10,771,070
Total headcount	Sum of PHC, HCBC, School health, Chronic Distribution Unit, OPD, EC, Inpatient days, Day patients.	2,737,206	431,130	15,808,377	2,430,228	1,439,003	1,853,348	<u>24,699,292</u>

Please note: To avoid double counting, separations are not included in the total headcount because they have been counted in the day patient and inpatient days.

(b) Major factors that contribute to patients' waiting times include:

- growing population numbers, which put pressure on healthcare facilities, that were already dealing with the high burden of disease;
- higher trauma pressures, including severity and acuity of cases, which result in longer waits for lower-triaged patients.
- an expanding population often comes with a real decrease in budget allocations per capita, placing further strain on resources and extending waiting periods.

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS

DATE