



Great strides have been made in improving the healthcare system over the past 20 years

Free healthcare policy at primary level for **pregnant women** and **children** under the age of six years

Termination of Pregnancy Act of 1996 introduction resulted in a reduction in abortion-related mortality from 1994 **90% reduction**

Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) and Essential Drugs List (EDL) published for mandatory use by healthcare facilities; most provinces complied with the guidelines, **resulting in the more efficient and rational use of drugs**

Infant mortality decreased by 2.54%

Condom use increased from **22%** to **92%** (15-to-59-year-olds)

A one-year community service programme for health professionals was introduced. The programme had its first intake of **doctors, dentists and pharmacists in 2001**. A programme for all other healthcare categories was introduced in 2004. *The intake has been increasing steadily.*

Initiation of the National Healthcare Insurance policy, potential universal access effective health café promotion programmes (still in pilot phase)

The Life Expectancy improved from **54 to 60 in 2009**

The **cost per month to the Department, to provide ARVs to patients** decreased from **R313.99 to R33** per patient

The number of people receiving ARV treatment increased **from 923 000 to 2.4 million**

1994

Revised immune schedule in April 1995 aligned South Africa with internationally accepted immunisation practice

In 1996 and 1997, a nationwide vaccination campaign was launched. The deviation of the vaccination rates across the provinces decreased. **South Africa reported 70% vaccinations across all provinces**

The Clinic Upgrading Programme and Building Programme oversaw 400 new clinics and 810 clinic residential units to be built

Access to healthcare for marginalised communities increased as a result of this programme

2000

Free-healthcare policy at primary level was extended to all users from 1 April 2006

The published **Essential Drug Guidelines** was supplemented with **STG/EDLs for adult and paediatric care in 2003**

The supplementation also resulted in the more efficient and rational use of drugs in healthcare facilities

2009

Improved HIV treatment programme
Providing healthcare to **more than 2 million infected people**

In February 2014, government made a subdermal **contraceptive** (effects takes 12 months to wear off) device available for **free** to women at public hospitals around the country

2014

South Africa's Healthcare System can be strengthened through six building blocks:

