

Global Healthcare and Nursing Fact Sheet

- There are 57 countries with critical healthcare shortages (threshold defined as having less than 80% coverage) equivalent to a global deficit of 4 million doctors, nurses, midwives, and other healthcare professionals.
- Africa has 24% of the global disease burden with only 3% of the global healthcare workforce while spending less than 1% of world health expenditure.
- Africa's health professional deficit is approximately 1.5 million.
- According to the International Organization of Migration, Africa is reported to have lost one-third of its human capital. Since 1990, it is estimated that on average Africa loses 20,000 skilled professionals annually
- Nurses from the baby boom era dominate the healthcare workforce in many countries and are expected to retire within the next 10 years, greatly exacerbating the healthcare workforce shortage.
- The US must recruit 1 million nurses into active practice to meet its healthcare needs by 2010.
- In the US, since 1998, foreign-trained nurse entrants have increased at a faster rate than that of US educated new nurses.
- In the US, the nurse to population ratio is 773:100,000. In Uganda, the same ratio is an abysmal 6:100,000.
- In the United Kingdom, direct patient care declines at a rate of approximately 1% every year, whereas nurses once spent 70% of their time providing direct patient care, the number now is approximately 48%.

(World Health Report 2006 and "Nursing on the Move.")