

# Global Pharmacy Workforce

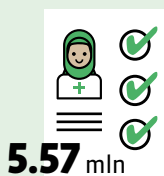
Key  
stats

FIP  
WORLD  
PHARMACISTS  
DAY 2025  
25 SEPTEMBER  
#WPD2025

## SECTION #1

### Pharmacy workforce in numbers

**5.57** million pharmacists  
licensed or registered worldwide  
based on data from 83 countries  
covering 71% of the global  
population (5.7 billion people).

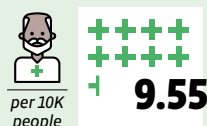


**2.07** million actively practicing\*  
pharmacists identified in  
submissions from 59 countries.

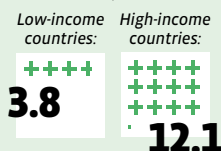
\*A pharmacist who is currently active in  
the provision of pharmacy services in  
the country.



Mean pharmacist density:  
**9.55** pharmacists per **10,000**  
people. High-income countries  
have **3.2 X** more pharmacists  
than low-income countries.



High-income countries: **12.1** per  
10k / Low-income countries:  
**3.8** per 10k. (Europe's pharmacist  
density is 7.8 times higher than  
Africa's).

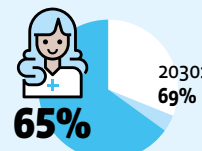


Of 157 countries invited to contribute to a survey on global pharmacy  
workforce, and 147 having FIP member organisations in their country.

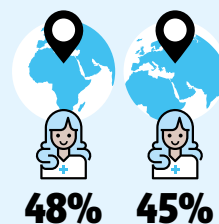
## SECTION #2

### Demographics of Pharmacists

Globally, **65%** of pharmacists  
are women — projected to reach  
69% of the profession by 2030.



Gender balance among pharma-  
cists shows significant  
regional variation for example:  
In the African and Eastern  
Mediterranean regions, male  
pharmacists predominate, with  
females comprising **48%** and  
**45%** of the pharmacist work-  
force in the respective regions.

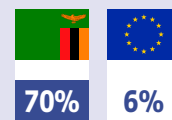
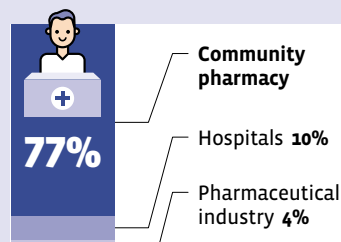


45 countries reported **30.8%**  
of pharmacists under the age of  
**35** years old.



## SECTION #3

### Where pharmacists work



Zambia leads with  
**70%** hospital pharmacists,  
while Europe averages  
just 6%.

## SECTION #4

### Schools of Pharmacy

**1,011**

**89%** accredited

**1,011** schools of pharmacy  
reported across 73 countries.  
Of 62 countries that provided  
accreditation data, **89%**  
of pharmacy schools are  
accredited\*\*.

**50%**

countries

**≤ 0.52**

per mln people

**50%** of countries have **0.52**  
or fewer pharmacy schools  
per million population, with a  
global range from 0.05 to 6.39  
(n=73).



**6.39**

per mln people



**3.71**

per mln people

Per million population,  
Cyprus (**6.39**) and Bosnia  
(**3.71**) have the highest  
number of pharmacy schools.



**0.8**

per mln people

**71%**

countries: ≤ 0.8

**71%** of countries surveyed  
have fewer than the global  
average of **0.80** pharmacy  
schools per million people.

\*\* Certified by an external organisation that has the authority to define  
and use agreed standards to evaluate and accredit the overall quality  
of schools providing education and training to pharmacists or pharmacy  
support workforce.

Reference FIP Workforce Surveillance Survey Findings (2023).

# Why this matters and next steps for FIP

FIP  
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## SECTION #5

### Key messages



Pharmacists ensure safe, effective use of medicines — from community care to advanced clinical roles.



Without fair distribution, quality education & modern practice rights, millions lack access to essential healthcare services.



A sufficient and skilled pharmacy workforce is critical to achieving universal health coverage (United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3).

## SECTION #6

### The risks of replacing pharmacists with untrained health workers

- ! Increased medicine errors and adverse drug events
- ! Poor patient education and medicine adherence
- ! Reduced inter-professional communication and care coordination
- ! Higher healthcare costs and economic inefficiencies
- ! Adverse impact on chronic disease and public health
- ! Diminished value-based care models

## Calls to action



## SECTION #7

### #1 Governments & health ministries

- Funding for retention packages to include competitive pay, career-path incentives, rural hardship allowances.
- Build real-time workforce information systems for effective deployment and migration management.

### #2 Regulatory bodies & policymakers

- Modernise legislation to allow pharmacists to vaccinate, prescribe under protocol and accredit pharmacy specialisations pathways, in line with FIP recommendations.
- Establish national competency frameworks and CPD requirements, based on the evidence and existing FIP resources.

### #3 Educational institutions & educators

- Align pharmacy curricula with the FIP Nanjing Statements and future workforce needs.
- Expand training capacity to meet national demand.

### #4 Professional associations & pharmacy leadership

- Support continuing professional development (CPD) and career advancement.
- Promote integration of pharmacy into interprofessional care models.

### #5 International partners & funders

- Invest in pharmacy workforce development, especially in low- and middle-income countries.
- Contribute to global workforce surveillance and research initiatives.

*“Think Health, Think Pharmacist’ is more than a campaign — it’s a call to action. Pharmacists are crucial to the safe use of medicines, chronic disease management, and public health delivery. Investing in them is investing in stronger health systems.”*

Paul Sinclair,  
President International  
Pharmaceutical Federation  
(FIP)

Forward  
with Pharmacy,  
Forward  
with FIP!

THINK HEALTH  
**Think Pharmacist**



fip WORLD 25 SEPTEMBER  
PHARMACISTS DAY

Reference:  
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