



# Traditional Medicine in Contemporary South African Healthcare Systems: Policy Implications

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**Published:** 28 March 2002 | **Received:** 21 December 2001 | **Accepted:** 24 February 2002

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**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18756313](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18756313)

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## Abstract

Traditional medicine plays a significant role in healthcare systems across Africa, including South Africa. In recent years, there has been a growing interest in integrating traditional practices into modern health care systems. The analysis will draw from existing literature and government reports to examine current policies regarding traditional medicine and their impact on public health. A key finding is that there is a significant proportion (60%) of the population seeking some form of traditional healthcare, highlighting its relevance in addressing specific health needs. The integration of traditional medicine into South African healthcare systems has the potential to improve access and utilization of health services among underserved populations. Policymakers should consider implementing incentives for integrating traditional medicine into public health programmes to enhance overall healthcare coverage.

**Keywords:** *African, Traditional Medicine, Integration, Anthropology, Public Health, Ethnobotany, Cultural Competence*

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