A physician can also be called a medical doctor. Physicians may be general practitioners or may specialise. The Caribbean island of Cuba has the most physicians per person working there; the fewest physicians per person are in the Southeastern African territory of Malawi.

In 2004 there were 9.6 million physicians working around the world. The largest number were in China, which is the largest territory on the map. If physicians were distributed according to population, there would be 153 physicians to every 100,000 people. The most physicians (45%) live in territories with less than a third of the world population.

Territory size shows the proportion of all physicians (doctors) that work in that territory.

“Hundreds of thousands of African doctors need to be trained ... Nobody worries about it. There’s a rich part of the world that only cares about oil, diamonds, minerals, forests, gas, cheap labour ...”

Fidel Castro, 2001