

reported to have 182,000 and Sri Lanka 5,800 in the low income group and the four industrialised countries have 24,547. Perhaps in a subsequent study, this data can be collected on a more sustained basis.

6. Consumption and Production of Pharmaceuticals

6.1 This study deals with consumption and production in terms of monetary values only, based on local currencies converted into US dollars at approximate rates of exchange in the particular year. No attempt has been made in this study to evaluate the disease patterns as reference can be made to other Commonwealth documents on health. In the present restricted study, it was also not possible to go into details of consumption of pharmaceuticals by therapeutic groups or actual product items, except in a broad and general manner in a reference to production units in the inventory of pharmaceutical manufacturers in Annex 4. The figures for consumption are derived from imports, budgetary provisions and expenditure and such other resources which were available. They should therefore not be taken as absolute values, but as a fair approximation of the total demand and/or market size. Similarly, the production figures, as far as possible, have been obtained and/or estimated in terms of wholesale prices.

6.2 The analysis of consumption and production is briefly related to economic and health-related indicators on the basis of income groups of countries. The detailed analysis is presented by dividing the countries into six groups, five of them on a geographical basis i.e. Asia, Africa, Caribbean, Pacific and Europe, and the sixth group consists of industrialised countries taken together irrespective of geographical placement. To put the industrialised countries together with developing countries in their geographical groups would have created anomalies in the statistical evaluation of the data.

6.3 The total drug consumption was reported and/or obtained from 44 countries and it amounted to about US\$8,651 million. Thus, the overall per head consumption in the Commonwealth is US\$7.65. The developing countries consumed US\$2.66 per head on an average, distributed as follows:

Low Income	US\$ 2.36
Lower Middle Income	US\$ 3.55
Upper Middle Income	US\$10.25

In developing countries, production met 67 per cent of consumption, while in the industrialised countries, production was 113 per cent of the demand. The overall Commonwealth figures showed production meeting 98.5 per cent of the demand.