

2004 Edition

## International Drug Price Indicator Guide

Guía Internacional de Indicadores de Precios de Medicamentos  
Indicateur de Prix Internationaux des Médicaments



# Use of International Pharmaceutical Price Comparison Information

The *International Drug Price Indicator Guide*, produced annually in collaboration with the World Health Organization, provides an indication of pharmaceutical prices on the international market. The explanatory text is in English, French, and Spanish, and contains links to other price sources.

The *Guide* can be used for—

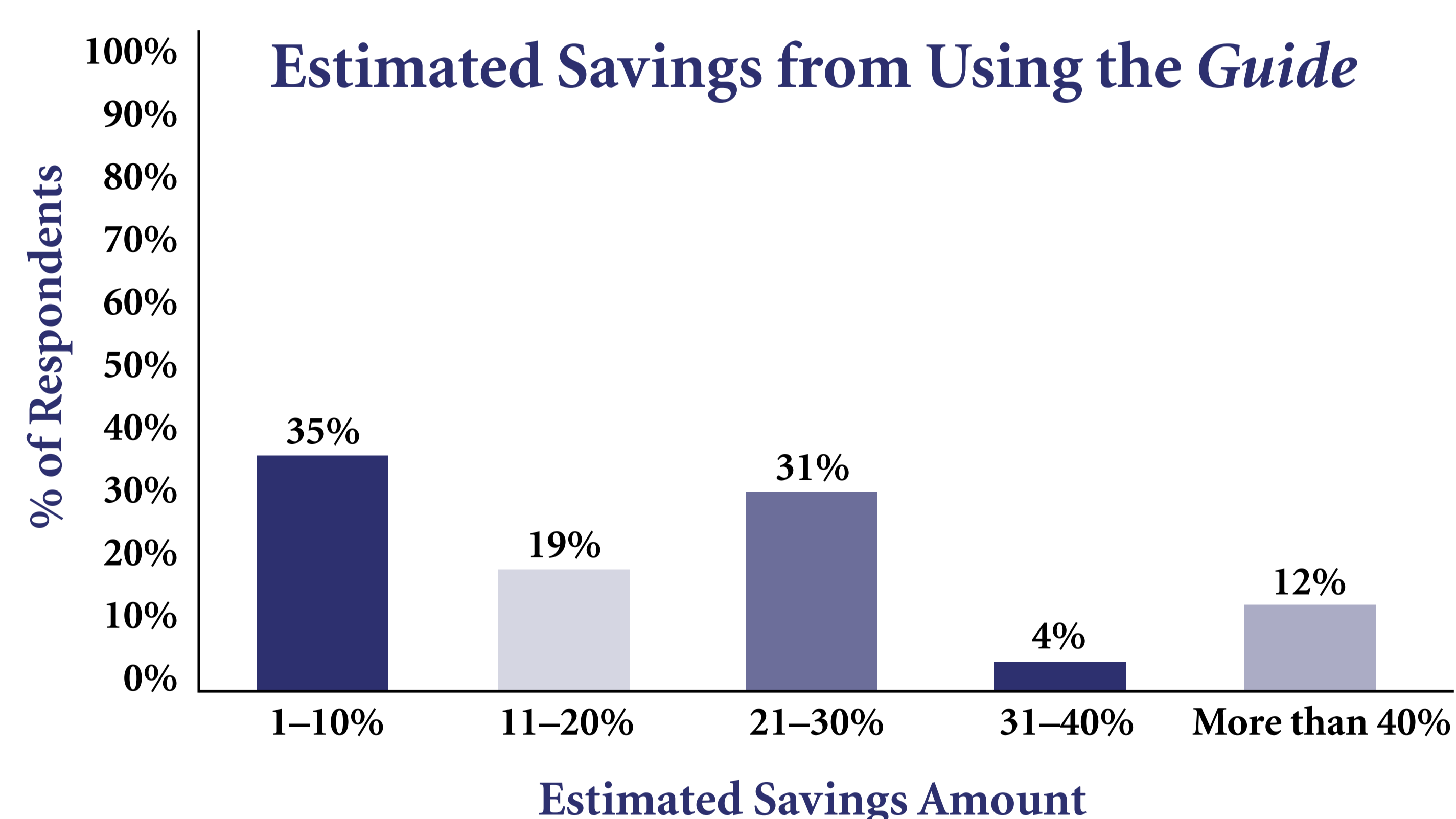
- Making pharmaceutical price information more widely available for research and action
- Planning budgets and programs
- Determining the probable cost of pharmaceutical products
- Comparing current prices paid to prices available on the international market
- Assessing the potential financial impact of changes to a current drug list
- Supporting rational drug use education

## Using the *Guide*:

A 2004 survey of more than 50 users of the *International Drug Price Indicator Guide* found that—

- 65% of the survey respondents stated that they do not have access to any other source of comparative international price information.
- 40% of respondents use the *Guide* an average of at least monthly.
- How respondents use the *Guide*:
  - 67% compare prices recently obtained from suppliers
  - 56% conduct price research
  - 42% plan a budget or tender
  - 42% assess cost implications of different therapies

- 46% of the survey respondents said that using the *Guide* has contributed to better acquisition prices or other savings for them.



## A sample from the *Guide*:

**List I** is intended for procurement reference and has drugs in alphabetical order by generic name to allow a quick search for a particular item.

The *Guide* has prices from more than 20 sources—actual prices paid by government agencies, as well as prices from pharmaceutical suppliers and international development organizations, which are included in a separate listing.

The *Guide* includes prices for more than 900 pharmaceuticals, contraceptives, and vaccines, focusing on essential medicines.

The unit price is calculated by dividing the package price by the package size. This facilitates comparison of different pack sizes. The unit used to compare prices varies with the type of pharmaceutical preparation.

List I: Products Sorted Alphabetically (Agency Prices Only)

ITEM DESCRIPTION	ORGANIZATION	PACKAGE	PACKAGE PRICE (US\$)	UNIT PRICE (US\$)	DEFINED DAILY DOSE	WHO EML	ATC CODE
<b>PRAZQUANTEL 600 MG TAB-CAP (PO)</b>							
				Price/Tab-Cap	3 GM	E	P02BA01
	GHANA	1000 TAB-CAP	38.00	0.0380 TABLETS			
	SENEGAL	1 TAB-CAP	0.08	0.0845 TABLETS			
	YEMEN	500 TAB-CAP	46.39	0.0928 TABLETS			
	NAMIBIA	100 TAB-CAP	12.99	0.1299 TABLETS			
	SUDAN	1000 TAB-CAP	189.03	0.1890 TABLETS			
				Median Price/Tab-Cap = 0.0928			Ratio High/Low = 4.97
<b>PRAZOSIN 1 MG TAB-CAP (PO)</b>							
	BDS	100 TAB-CAP	1.49	0.0149 CAPSULES	5 MG	C	C02CA01
<b>PREDNISOLONE 5 MG TAB-CAP (PO)</b>							
				Price/Tab-Cap	10 MG	E	H02AB06
	GHANA	1000 TAB-CAP	4.00	0.0040 TABLETS			
	CRSS	100 TAB-CAP	0.64	0.0064 TABLETS			
	SENEGAL	1 TAB-CAP	0.01	0.0066 TABLETS			
	ECDS	1000 TAB-CAP	8.97	0.0090 TABLETS			
	BDS	1000 TAB-CAP	10.12	0.0101 TABLETS			
	ELSAV	100 TAB-CAP	2.19	0.0219 TABLETS			
				Median Price/Tab-Cap = 0.0078			Ratio High/Low = 5.48

The median price is a type of average; it is whatever value splits a series of values in half when the series is put in ascending order. This is likely to be more valuable than a simple average for estimation and comparison when there is a skewed distribution.

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