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Sommario/riassunto	<p>In many countries shortage and maldistribution of trained health workers is one of the most important constraints to strengthening the delivery of primary and other health services including curative promotional preventive and rehabilitative services. At the same time many countries currently lack the technical capacity to accurately monitor their own health workforce: data are often unreliable and out-of-date common definitions and proven analytical tools are absent skills and experience for assessing crucial policy issues are lacking. This Handbook aims to strengthen that technical capacity.</p>