

# South Africa's Children



## A Review of Equity and Child Rights



women, children &  
people with disabilities  
Department:  
Women, Children and People with Disabilities  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



unicef   
unite for children



# South Africa's Children

A Review of Equity and Child Rights





## South Africa's Children – A Review of Equity and Child Rights.

March 2011

This review was undertaken by the South African Human Rights Commission and UNICEF South Africa

# Acknowledgements

- This Report has been prepared under the guidance of Commissioner Lindiwe Mokate, Judith Cohen, Cameron Jacobs, Pandelis Gregoriou, Ekanem Okon from the South African Human Rights Commission; and George Laryea-Adjei, Bjorn Gelders and André Viviers from UNICEF South Africa.
- Bjorn Gelders from UNICEF South Africa conducted the technical collation and analysis of the data through an equity and child rights lens.
- Various specialists at UNICEF South Africa provided valuable feedback. Viv Barnes edited and managed the production of this Report under tight timeframes, with the assistance of Mary Luce.

© South African Human Rights Commission/UNICEF

This publication is intended to support everybody who works in the child rights field in South Africa. All care has been taken to ensure that the information provided is correct and original sources have been indicated for reference and verification. With an identification of the South African Human Rights Commission and UNICEF as source, the document may be freely quoted, reviewed, abstracted, reproduced and translated, in part or in whole, but not for sale nor for use in conjunction with commercial purposes. Original sources should be acknowledged where indicated in the publication.

### Obtainable free of charge from:

South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) Website: <http://www.sahrc.org.za>  
UNICEF South Africa. Website: <http://www.unicef.org/southafrica>

Cover photographs : Top row, left and centre; © UNICEF/Giacomo Pirozzi; right, UNICEF/Karin Schermbrucker. Middle row, left; UNICEF/Giacomo Pirozzi; right, UNICEF/Karin Schermbrucker. Bottom; UNICEF/Karin Schermbrucker.

Design and typesetting: Handmade Communications

**Childhood should be a happy time for all children.** It should be a time when children have opportunities to grow, learn and develop; receive love and care; play freely and be active; feel safe and protected; be healthy; and be listened to when they share their views on matters that are important to them. Our investments in our children today will reap the fruit of social justice and advanced human capital in decades to come. It is a wise and sustainable investment.

The South African Constitution provides a national blueprint of a society that respects the equality and dignity of every person – children and adults alike. It safeguards social, economic and cultural rights, as well as the civil rights and freedoms of adults and children, and particularly provides for additional rights that apply only to children in Section 28. Thus, children have a special place in our constitution.

The Ministry for Women, Children and People with Disabilities is committed to create an enabling environment to ensure the facilitation of constitutional obligations, policies and legislative frameworks to realise all children's rights. We have noted with pride that our democracy has made significant progress over the past years in creating a better South Africa for children. However, we also acknowledge that there are still many challenges that our children, their caregivers and communities face today.

My ministry is in particular committed to work with other ministers and departments, and other partners, to ensure that no child is left behind. We need to make sure that girls and boys are afforded and experience equal opportunities from birth, at home, in school and in career choices; that violence against children is eradicated at its roots in our society; that children in rural and urban areas have the same access to resources while they grow up; that every child eligible for government support receives such support; that every child, no matter where s/he is born or lives, has the same chances to survive and thrive, and live healthily; that children with disabilities experience a society that values them and respects their rights; and that we make every effort to listen to our children.

As a country we have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, which shows our commitment to make sure that we meet international and regional standards in the realisation of child rights. Linked to the aforementioned are our commitments made by also ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, as these are also intrinsically linked to the full realisation of child rights.

This publication of the South African Human Rights Commission shows the importance of working together and forming partnerships for the realisation of all rights for all children, and the importance of looking at the realisation of child rights through an equity lens. It is important for us to hold hands and work with each other, as together, we can create a country where children feel safe, protected, cared for and free.

**Ms Lulu Xingwana, MP**  
**Minister for Women, Children and People with Disabilities**

# Foreword by Minister for Women, Children and People with Disabilities



# Message by Commissioner Lindiwe Mokate, South African Human Rights Commission



**The South African Constitution** and much of our legislation addressing children's needs, is regarded as world class, providing eloquent, explicit and more than satisfactory guarantees of the rights of children. These national laws reflect the spirit of all the relevant international instruments which have been ratified by South Africa. However, as this publication demonstrates, the unfortunate reality is that there are still many children in South Africa whose basic rights are yet to be realised.

There is an enormous gap between those children who live in poverty and those who live in affluence. Children do not choose the circumstances they find themselves in. Efficient and effective service delivery could go a long way towards closing this gap. As a nation we all have a responsibility to ensure that government, which has the primary responsibility to promote and protect these children's rights, delivers on its mandate.

As one of the principles for effective implementation of human rights, equity demands that government-funded programmes and services specifically address the needs of all children and ensure that they enjoy the right to equality of opportunity in life. More attention should be given to children's meaningful participation in the decisions taken about their lives to ensure that the initiatives taken truly address their needs and have the desired impact.

It is important that we are constantly reminded that those of us who are tasked with the responsibility of providing services to our children are not merely involved in an act of kindness but rather the delivery of inalienable human rights to children.

It is my hope that this publication will be used as a reference text to assess the state of South African children to date, address the gaps in policies and service delivery programmes, and project the way forward to improve the situation of children, especially vulnerable children. The inequalities in the provision of and access to basic needs have been graphically represented in the text, to give users a pictorial view of the discrepancies that exist.

I have no doubt that this publication is a valuable resource to everyone who works towards fulfilling our constitutional promise of achieving equality and ensuring human dignity.

**Commissioner Lindiwe Mokate**  
**South African Human Rights Commission**

# Message by Aida Girma, UNICEF Country Representative

**On 20 November 1989**, world leaders came together in the General Assembly to adopt the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Since then, the Convention has become the most ratified human rights treaty in history. The Convention underscores the accountability of governments, civil society, parents and the international community to fulfil their obligations towards the realisation of the rights of children, and to ensure that these rights remain inalienable, integral and indivisible.

There can be no doubt that the Convention has transformed the way we view children today. It has set in motion a process of social change, building the foundation for a world where all rights for all children can be realised – the rights to survival, development, protection and participation.

South Africa ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1995. The rights of children are entrenched in, and protected by, the Bill of Rights in the country's Constitution. The Government of South Africa has put in place a forward-looking system of laws and programmes to ensure basic support for children. The country can be truly proud of its leadership in ensuring that laws are now fully aligned with the provisions of the Convention.

Realising the rights of children is not only fundamental for their development and well-being, it is pivotal to creating the world envisioned by the Millennium Declaration – a world of peace, equity, security, freedom, respect for the environment and shared responsibility. In short, a world fit for children.

Significant efforts have been made by countries across the world towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). But it is increasingly evident that our progress is uneven in many key areas. In the global push to achieve the MDGs, we are leaving behind millions of the world's most disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalised children. Deprivations of children's rights are disproportionately concentrated among the poorest populations within countries.

This statistical report demonstrates that the situation is no different in South Africa.

Mounting evidence has shown that the Millennium Development Goals and other commitments to children can only be fully realised if we look at development through the prism of equity. Concretely, this means that all programmes and policies should seek to understand and address the root causes of inequity so that all children, particularly those who suffer the worst deprivations, have access to education, health care, sanitation, clean water, protection, and other services necessary for their survival, growth, and development.

**Aida Girma**  
**UNICEF South Africa Country Representative**



# Table of Contents

<b>Acronyms</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Demography of South Africa's Children</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Summary View of Inequity Among Children – How Far Have We Come?</b>	<b>12</b>
Summary Report Card on Equity in the Realisation of Child Rights in South Africa	18
<b>Children's Rights to an Adequate Standard of Living</b>	<b>20</b>
Status of Child Poverty and Hunger	20
The Right to Social Security	24
The Right to Housing	26
The Right to Water and Sanitation	28
<b>Children's Rights to Life and Basic Health</b>	<b>30</b>
The Right to the Highest Attainable Standard of Health	30
The Right to Adequate Food	33
Children and AIDS	36
<b>Children's Rights to Early Childhood Development and Education</b>	<b>40</b>
The Right to Early Childhood Development	40
The Right to Education	41
<b>Children's Rights to a Family Environment and Alternative Care</b>	<b>50</b>
The Right to Parental or Family Care	50
The Right to Alternative Care in the Absence of Family Care	52
The Right to be Protected from all Forms of Violence	54
<b>Children's Rights to Special Protection</b>	<b>56</b>
The Right to Special Protection When in Conflict with the Law	56
The Right to Special Protection in Situations of Exploitation	58
<b>The Civil Rights and Freedoms of Children</b>	<b>60</b>
The Right to Birth Registration	60
The Right to Protection From Corporal Punishment and Other Cruel or Degrading Forms of Punishment	61
<b>Technical Note</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Database on Child Rights Indicators</b>	<b>67</b>



<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
<b>ART</b>	Antiretroviral Treatment
<b>ARV</b>	Antiretrovirals
<b>BCG</b>	Bacille Calmette Guerin (vaccine for TB)
<b>BMI</b>	Body Mass index
<b>CD4</b>	Cluster of Differentiation 4 (a glycoprotein that acts as receptor for HIV in humans)
<b>CDC</b>	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<b>CDG</b>	Care Dependency Grant
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
<b>CRC</b>	Convention on the Rights of the Child
<b>CSG</b>	Child Support Grant
<b>DCS</b>	Department of Correctional Services
<b>DHB</b>	District Health Barometer
<b>DHIS</b>	District Health Information System
<b>DHS</b>	Demographic and Health Survey
<b>DoE</b>	Department of Education
<b>DoH</b>	Department of Health
<b>DoHS</b>	Department of Human Settlements
<b>DPT</b>	Vaccine against diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough) and tetanus
<b>DRDLR</b>	Department of Rural Development and Land Reform
<b>EC</b>	Eastern Cape
<b>ECD</b>	Early Childhood Development
<b>EDD</b>	Economic Development Department
<b>EFA</b>	Education for All
<b>EPI</b>	Expanded Programme on Immunisation
<b>FCG</b>	Foster Care Grant
<b>FS</b>	Free State
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GER</b>	Gross Enrolment Ratio
<b>GHS</b>	General Household Survey

<b>GPI</b>	Gender Parity Index
<b>GT</b>	Gauteng
<b>HebB</b>	Hepatitis B vaccine
<b>Hib3</b>	Haemophilus influenzae type B vaccine
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>HSRC</b>	Human Sciences Research Council
<b>IES</b>	Income and Expenditure Survey
<b>IGME</b>	UN Inter-agency Group on Child Mortality Estimation
<b>IMR</b>	Infant Mortality Rate
<b>JCPS</b>	Justice Crime Prevention and Security
<b>KZN</b>	KwaZulu-Natal
<b>LIM</b>	Limpopo
<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goal
<b>MMR</b>	Maternal Mortality Ratio
<b>MP</b>	Mpumalanga
<b>MRC</b>	Medical Research Council
<b>MTCT</b>	Mother-to-Child-Transmission
<b>MTSF</b>	Medium Term Strategic Framework
<b>MWCPD</b>	Ministry of Women, Children and People with Disabilities
<b>NC</b>	Northern Cape
<b>NCHS</b>	National Centre for Health Statistics
<b>NFCS</b>	National Food Consumption Survey
<b>NIDS</b>	National Income Dynamic Study
<b>NT</b>	National Treasury
<b>NW</b>	North West
<b>OECD</b>	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
<b>OVC</b>	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
<b>PMTCT</b>	Prevention of Mother-to-Child-Transmission of HIV
<b>PPP</b>	Purchasing Power Parity
<b>QLFS</b>	Quarterly Labour Force Survey

# Acronyms

<b>RDP</b>	Reconstruction and Development Programme
<b>SA</b>	South Africa
<b>SABSSM</b>	South Africa HIV/AIDS Behavioural Risks, Sero-status and Media Impact Survey
<b>SACMEQ</b>	Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality
<b>SAHRC</b>	South African Human Rights Commission
<b>SAIMDC</b>	South African Index of Multiple Deprivation for Children
<b>SALDRU</b>	Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit
<b>SAPS</b>	South African Police Service
<b>SASSA</b>	South African Social Security Agency
<b>SAVACG</b>	South African Vitamin A Consultative Group
<b>SAYP</b>	Survey of Activities of Young People
<b>SES</b>	Socio-Economic Status
<b>SOCPEN</b>	Social Security Pension System
<b>Stats SA</b>	Statistics South Africa
<b>TFR</b>	Total Fertility Rate
<b>U5MR</b>	Under-Five Mortality Rate
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNAIDS</b>	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>WC</b>	Western Cape
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organisation
<b>YRBS</b>	Youth Risk Behaviour Survey

# Executive Summary

## Introduction

South Africa is often called 'A World in One Country' because it displays a contrast between an advanced economy rivalling that of the developed world co-existing with another that has only the most basic infrastructure; and a variety of peoples and cultures that make up the South African 'rainbow' nation.<sup>1</sup>

There are some 49.9 million people in South Africa, with 18.6 million being children under the age of 18 years. Of these children, 85 per cent are Black African; 8 per cent are Coloured; 5 per cent are White; and 2 per cent are Indian/Asian.<sup>2</sup> The overall population is growing at 1.06 per cent per annum. Migration is an important demographic process in shaping the age structure and distribution of the population. The constitution recognises 11 official languages, namely Afrikaans, English, isiNdebele, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sesotho sa Leboa, Sesotho, Setswana, siSwati, Tshivenda and Xitsonga. South Africa is divided into nine provinces, each with its own legislature, premier and executive councils.

The South African economy is the largest on the continent of Africa with a GDP of US\$493 billion (PPP) and a GDP per capita of US\$10,135 (PPP) in 2008.<sup>3</sup> Since 1994, it has recorded positive real GDP growth, except for 2009 when there was contraction by almost 2 per cent due to the global financial crisis. Unemployment is a major economic policy problem for the country.<sup>4</sup> One in four working-age South Africans, some 4.5 million people, are unemployed (out of a total labour force of 17 million). Among young people aged 18 to 24 years, 41 per cent are not working and not in school. Other major development challenges include inequality, poverty and HIV and AIDS.

## Methodology

This report reflects an analysis of key indicators to assess the fulfilment of children's rights in South Africa. Most of the data is derived from Statistics South Africa's General Household Survey (GHS). The GHS is a household survey representative for the entire population of the country. It has been executed annually by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) since 2002. It covers six broad areas, namely: education, health, social development, housing, household access to services and facilities, food security and agriculture.

The report also incorporates data from other large-scale surveys, such as the National Food Consumption Survey and the National Antenatal Sentinel HIV Survey by the Department of Health, the National HIV Prevalence Survey by the Human Sciences Research Council, and the Youth Risk Behaviour Survey by the Medical Research Council. Furthermore, for selected indicators, the report draws on administrative data and information published in departmental annual reports.

While South Africa is a relatively data-rich country, the lack of availability of pre-analysed disaggregated data poses a significant challenge to providing a complete picture of inequities in the fulfilment of child rights. Moreover, published statistics usually focus on the entire population or households, not specifically children. Additional analysis of the raw GHS 2009 dataset was therefore undertaken to calculate disaggregated, child-centred statistics. Person

<sup>1</sup> South African Government Information (2011). 'About South Africa', <http://www.info.gov.za/aboutsa/index.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> Statistics South Africa (2010). Mid-year population estimates, 2010.

<sup>3</sup> OECD (2010). Stats Extract.

<sup>4</sup> OECD (2010). Economic Survey of South Africa.

weights provided by Stats SA were applied in the analyses to give estimates by province, population group and gender. Data were also disaggregated by income quintile using total household per capita income as the ranking variable.

## Equity and Child Rights

Equity is rooted in the principles of universality, non-discrimination, indivisibility and participation that underpin the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and other major human rights instruments. The CRC guarantees the fundamental rights of every child, regardless of gender, race, religious beliefs, income, physical attributes, geographical location or other status. Equity is also one of the founding principles of the South African Constitution.

Significant progress has been made since the end of apartheid in 1994 in fulfilling the rights of children in South Africa. New laws, progressive public spending and reorganisation of administrative systems have contributed to accelerating the fulfilment of rights. For example, millions of children are benefiting from the Child Support Grant through the extension of the age of eligibility and an extensive outreach programme by the state. Recent changes in government's response to HIV have also been far reaching, including state provision of treatment for all HIV-infected infants at government-run health facilities, and provision of treatment and care to HIV-positive pregnant women earlier in their pregnancies to prevent new paediatric infections. Near-universal access to primary education has been achieved and government is increasingly focusing on the improvement of the quality of education. The Children's Act and the Child Justice Act provide a solid foundation for advancing child protection in the country.

Altogether, progressive policies by the state in the last sixteen years or so have led to the expansion of many services for children, especially poor children. Nevertheless, the existence of large disparities in children's access to some of the essentials of life points to a critical policy challenge, a challenge that requires a more accelerated drive to redress inequities from the past as well as confronting the substantial barriers that the poorest children still face today.

The report is structured in three parts. Part 1 on the demographic profile of children in the country shows that almost two out of five South Africans are children, that is, under the age of 18. About 7 million of these children live in the poorest 20 per cent of households.

Part 2 of the report presents a summary view of inequities in the fulfilment of child rights. South Africa is one of the most unequal countries in the world and income inequality, as measured by the Gini coefficient, has increased since 1993. In South Africa, compared to a child growing up in the richest income quintile, a child in the poorest quintile is two times less likely to have access to adequate sanitation and water; two times less likely to be exposed to early childhood development programmes; three times less likely to complete secondary education; seventeen times more likely to experience hunger; and twenty-five times less likely to be covered by a medical scheme.

Racial disparities remain strong. For example, compared to a white child, a black African child is nearly 18 times more likely to grow up in poverty. Moreover, the spatial distribution of multiple child deprivation still overlaps to a large extent to the location of the former homelands.

The country has nevertheless made good progress in reducing gender inequality. Gender parity has been achieved in primary and secondary education. There is also little difference between boys and girls for many child outcomes.

Some gender gaps, however, remain. Children in female-headed households, for example, are more likely to experience hunger than children in male-headed households. They are also less likely to have access to adequate sanitation and water. Moreover, female youth are disproportionately affected by the HIV epidemic and gender-based violence remains widespread in the country.

Part 3 of the report presents wide-ranging data on the realisation of specific child rights in the country. The various rights are clustered into six groups: (1) the right to an adequate standard of living; (2) the right to life and basic health; (3) the right to early childhood development and education; (4) the right to a family environment and alternative care; (5) the right to special protection; and (6) the civil rights and freedoms of children. Each right is accompanied by a brief description of the relevant articles in the CRC and the South African Constitution; related national targets as articulated in service delivery agreements for government's 12 outcomes for the MTSF 2009–2014 period; and international goals and targets, particularly the Millennium Development Goals.

#### **Children's right to an adequate standard of living**

Child poverty was reduced by 13 per cent between 2004 and 2008. However, despite this positive progress income poverty remains very much a part of inequality in South Africa and a key determinant of children's standard of living. Some 11.9 million children (64 per cent of all children) live in poverty. Just two provinces, Gauteng and Western Cape, have child poverty levels below the national average. If the Vision 2014 target is to be met, child poverty has to decrease from the current level of 64 per cent to 37 per cent in 2014.

Unemployment is a key constraint to overcoming child poverty. Overall, nearly four out of ten children live in households with no employed household members. Among the poorest, seven of out ten children live in households with no economically active members.

Reported hunger among children declined from 31 per cent in 2002 to 15 per cent in 2007. However, progress is at risk of being reversed as data shows an increase in child hunger to 22 per cent in 2009. Children in the poorest households and female-headed households are significantly more likely to experience hunger. There are also wide disparities across provinces.

The evidence shows that there has been significant progress in fulfilling children's right to social security, particularly through the dramatic expansion of social grants. This has contributed to the moderate decline in child poverty. The eligibility age range for the Child Support Grant has gradually been extended from 0–6 years in 1999 to 0–17 years from 2012 onwards. Yet, some 2.1 million children eligible for the Child Support Grant were not receiving it in 2008. Lack of documentation continues to be the biggest barrier to accessing the Child Support Grant.

About 2.8 million children (15 per cent of all children) have been reached with a RDP or state-subsidised dwelling. Nevertheless, children from middle-income households appear to have received most benefits from RDP or state-subsidised housing. Some 1.7 million children (9 per cent of all children) still live in informal housing such as shacks in backyards or squatter settlements. Children from the poorest households are less likely to live in formal housing.

Access to safe water and sanitation has improved over the past decade with 83 per cent of children having access to piped water on site or at public/neighbour's tap, and access to adequate sanitation for children has improved from 47 per cent in 2002 to 64 per cent in 2009. Yet, almost 1.4 million children (8 per cent of all children) live in households that rely on rivers or streams as their main source of drinking water. In addition, nearly 1.5 million children (8 per cent of all children) live in households with no toilet facility at all. In fact, among children in the poorest households just 50 per cent have access to adequate sanitation.

### **Children's right to life and basic health**

Data on the right to health presents a mixed picture. Access to health services appears to be high as nine out of ten births take place in health facilities. However, South Africa is not on track for meeting the health targets of the 2015 Millennium Development Goals. Under-five mortality is at the same level it was in 1990. Maternal mortality has increased by 80 per cent since 1990. Each year in South Africa, around 4,300 mothers die due to complications of pregnancy and child birth; 20,000 babies are stillborn and another 23,000 die before they reach one month of age. In total, some 75,000 children die before their fifth birthday. This toll of over 270 maternal and child deaths every day is mainly due to HIV and AIDS and poor implementation of existing packages of care.

The data shows that malnutrition among children continues and wide disparities persist across provinces. One in five children are stunted which is a consequence of chronic nutritional deprivation. One in ten children are underweight. Close to 5 per cent of children suffer from wasting and face a markedly increased risk of death. Chronic undernutrition in early childhood results in diminished cognitive and physical development which puts children at a disadvantage for the rest of their lives. Micronutrient deficiencies, particularly vitamin A and iron deficiency, doubled between 1994 and 2005. The School Nutrition Programme nevertheless reaches 6 out of 10 children in public schools.

HIV prevalence among children has decreased since 2002. Children's access to antiretroviral therapy has gone up substantially in recent years, and around 100,000 children living with HIV are now receiving treatment. Yet, only 54 per cent of children needing antiretroviral therapy were receiving it in 2009, though this is expected to have increased because of new treatment guidelines which became effective in April 2010. Overall, there is need for a greater focus on the HIV-free survival among the children.

### **Children's right to early childhood development and education**

Early childhood development (ECD) is crucial to children's mental and emotional development and their readiness for school and life. There has been substantial progress in expanding enrolment in Grade R – from 15 per cent in 1999 to 60 per cent in 2009. Government subsidies have also given momentum to centre-based care for younger children, though at a much slower pace than Grade R. However overall, just 43 per cent of children under five are exposed to an ECD programme at home, a centre or elsewhere. Again, there are large disparities across provinces.

There has been significant progress in the realisation of the right to education. Near-universal primary education has been achieved in all provinces and one in two learners in public schools receives free education. School attendance

among children has increased steadily in the past 15 years, but less so for older age groups, especially those eligible for secondary education. Nationwide some 582,000 children are out of secondary school. Lack of money and disability are major reasons why children are not attending school. Furthermore, children in the poorest households are nearly three times less likely to complete secondary schooling than children in the richest households.

The quality of education is a major challenge in South Africa. Learners' achievement in national and international assessments is generally poor. Children in the poorest households are more likely to repeat the same grade and tend to have lower achievement levels. Violence at school is also a barrier to quality education. About 27 per cent of high school learners feel unsafe at school while 16 per cent have been threatened with a weapon.

#### **Children's right to a family environment and alternative care**

In South Africa, just one in three children live with both biological parents. Overall, one in five children have lost one or both parents, though there are large differences between provinces. The AIDS epidemic is an important driver of the growing number of orphans. Some 1.9 million children have lost one or both parents due to AIDS. Poor children appear to be more likely to be deprived of parental care.

South Africa has made significant strides in ensuring that children in need of alternative care are placed in appropriate alternative care options. Over 88,600 children were declared in need of care by a children's court during 2009/10. These children can be placed in foster care, in a children's home, in a school of industry, or back into the parents' or guardians' care under the supervision of a social worker. Orphaned and abandoned children may also be adopted. Close to 500,000 children live with foster parents and benefit from the Foster Child Grant, while the number of adoptions has increased to more than 5,850 annually. Approximately 13,250 children stay in registered child and youth care centres.

Violence against children is pervasive in the country. Over 56,500 children were reported to be victims of violent crime in 2009/10, yet many more crimes remain unreported. People closest to them perpetrate the majority of cases of child sexual and physical abuse.

#### **Children's right to special protection**

The CRC and the South African Constitution afford special protection to children in conflict with the law and children in situations of exploitation. Approximately 33,000 children awaited trial in detention during 2008/09, either in correctional service facilities, secure care centres, places of safety or under home-based supervision. The number of children in correctional facilities has decreased substantially over the past years as an increasing number of children are placed in secure care centres or diverted from the mainstream criminal justice system by attending diversion programmes such as life skills or anger management programmes. Little data is available on children in situations of exploitation, such as child labour, child prostitution and trafficking. More than one in ten high school learners has taken at least one illegal narcotic drug or psychotropic substance.

### **The civil rights and freedoms of children**

There has been good progress in realising children's right to an identity. The proportion of births registered within the year of birth jumped from 25 percent in 1998 to 85 percent in 2009. There are, nonetheless, large provincial disparities and the lowest levels of birth registration continue to be in predominantly rural provinces.

Corporal punishment is practised in many homes and schools. Children in the poorest households are five times more likely to experience corporal punishment at school than children in the richest households, though by law it is prohibited in schools.

### **Conclusion**

South Africa has made significant progress in fulfilling the rights of children. The country has one of the most progressive constitutions in the world, and a system of laws and programmes has been put in place to ensure basic support for children. The delivery of essential services has been expanded in significant ways to all groups of society since the end of apartheid. Yet, inequities in access to the essentials of life still exist, affecting in very strong ways how children access the opportunities that the country has for the fulfilment of their rights. Children in the poorest households appear to have benefited least from progress since the end of apartheid.

The income situation of a child's family, race, location and to a lesser degree gender, determine the extent of inequities in the fulfilment of children's rights. Accelerating the reduction of inequities in the fulfilment of children's rights is both a moral imperative and necessary condition for the total development of the country.

As the evidence shows, the situation of children left behind in South Africa requires special attention from policy makers, attention that prioritises their rights in government programmes, budgets and monitoring systems. There is an urgent need for policy makers to move at a faster pace to redress inequities from the past as well as tackle the substantial barriers that the poorest children still face today.

This report is a statistical publication. But behind every statistic is the life of a child – each one endowed with rights to survive, develop and reach his or her full potential, regardless of geographic location, race, income, gender or other status.

# Demography of South Africa's Children

## RIGHTS

**CRC, Article 1:** ... a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.

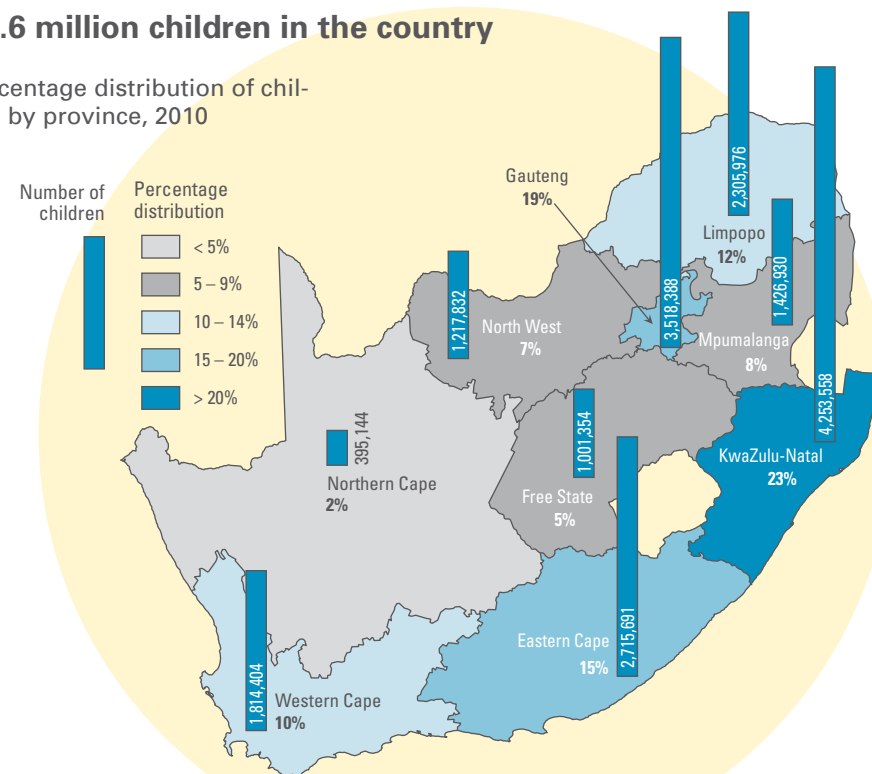
**African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child:** article 2 ... a child means every human being below the age of 18 years.

## SA Constitution

**Section 28(3):** ... 'child' means a person under the age of 18 years.

## There are 18.6 million children in the country

Number and percentage distribution of children (< 18 years) by province, 2010

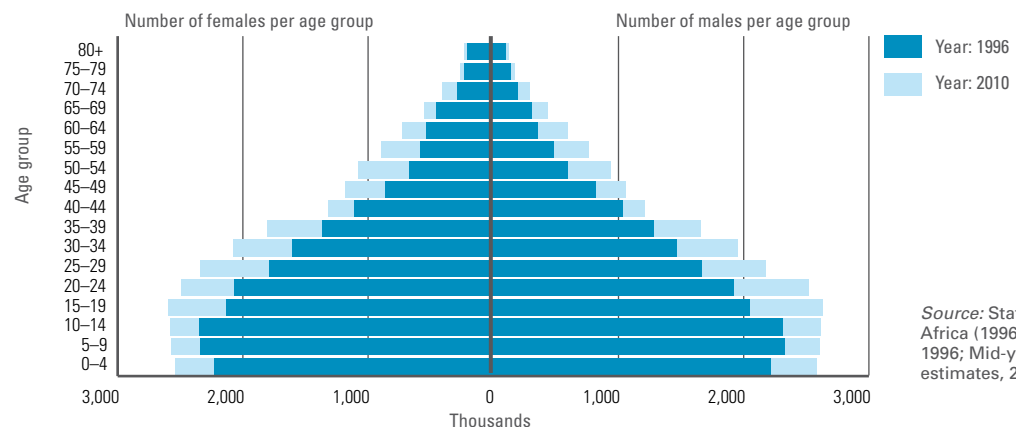


Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). Mid-year population estimates, 2010.

## South Africa's population structure is skewed towards the young

37% of the population is below 18 years of age

Number of males and females by age group (population pyramid), 1996–2010

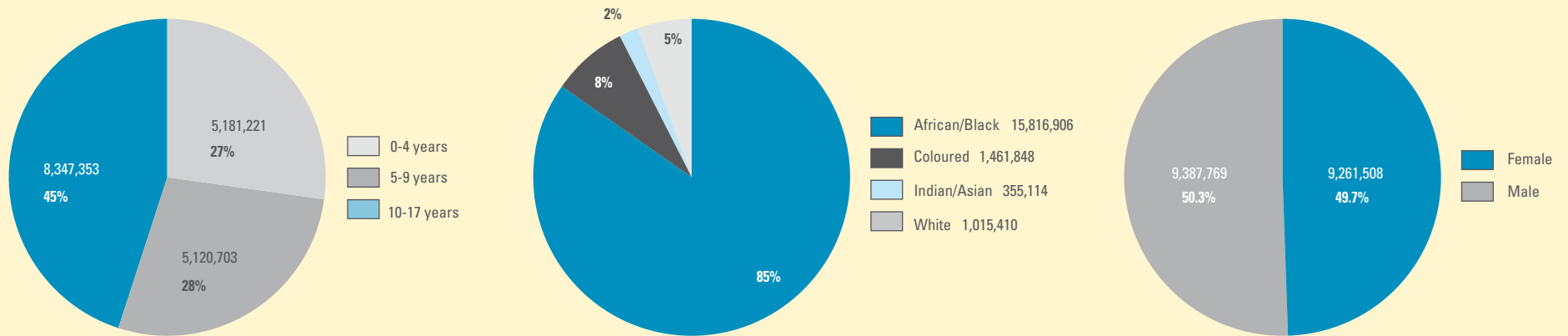


Source: Statistics South Africa (1996; 2010). Census 1996; Mid-year population estimates, 2010.



## 85% of children are black; 27% under 5 years of age; there are only slightly more boys than girls

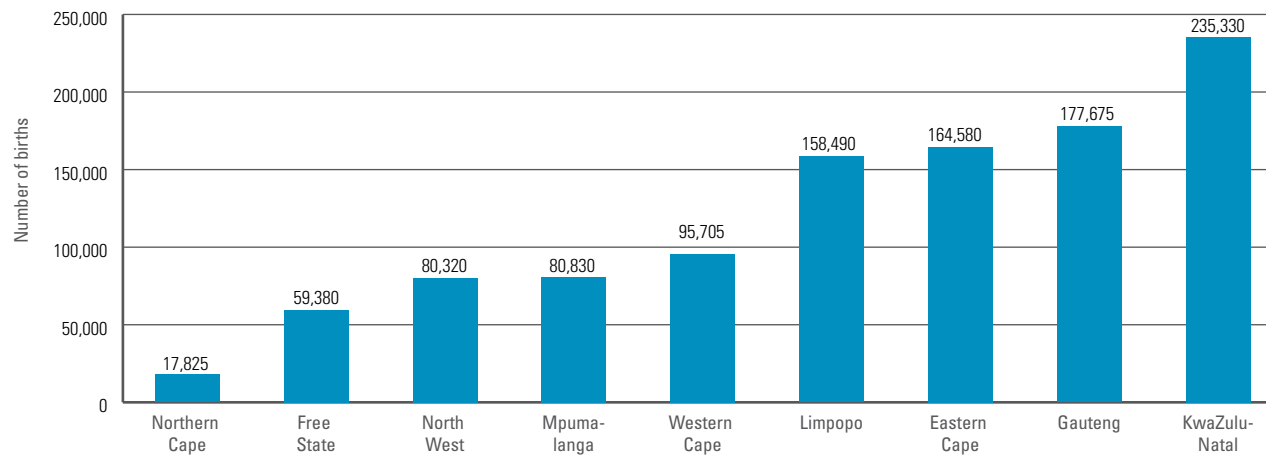
Percentage distribution of children in South Africa by age, population group, and sex, 2010



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). Mid-year population estimates, 2010.

## 1.07 million children were born in 2010

Number of births by province, 2010



Source: Actuarial Society of South Africa (2005). ASSA2003 Model.

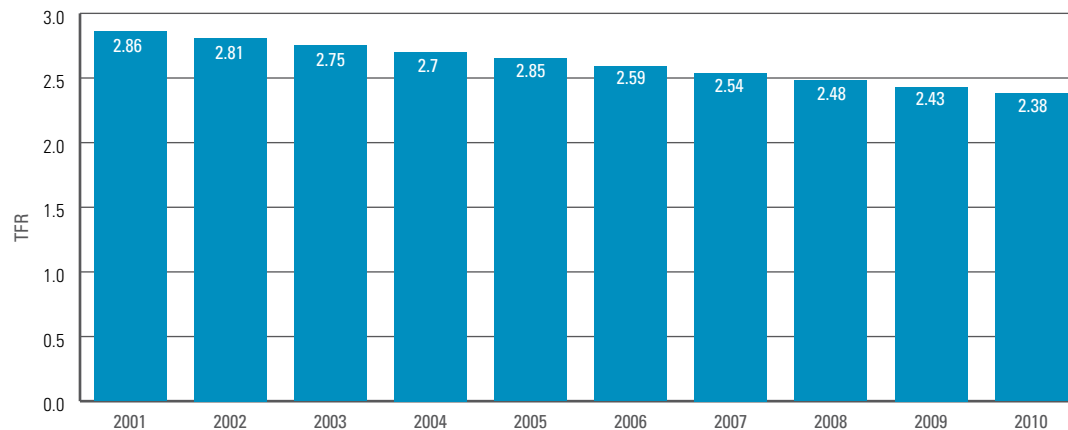


© UNICEF/Rebecca Hearfield



## Fertility has declined from an average of 2,86 children per woman in 2001 to 2,38 children in 2010

Total fertility rate (TFR), 2001–2010

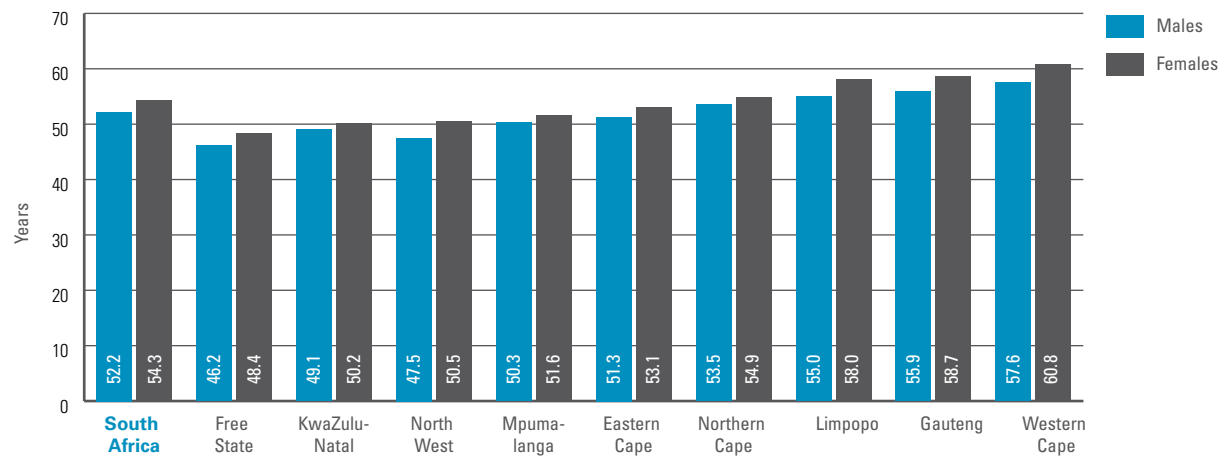


Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). Mid-year population estimates, 2010.

## A child born in South Africa today will on average live for 53 years

If born in Brazil, that child would have lived for 73 years

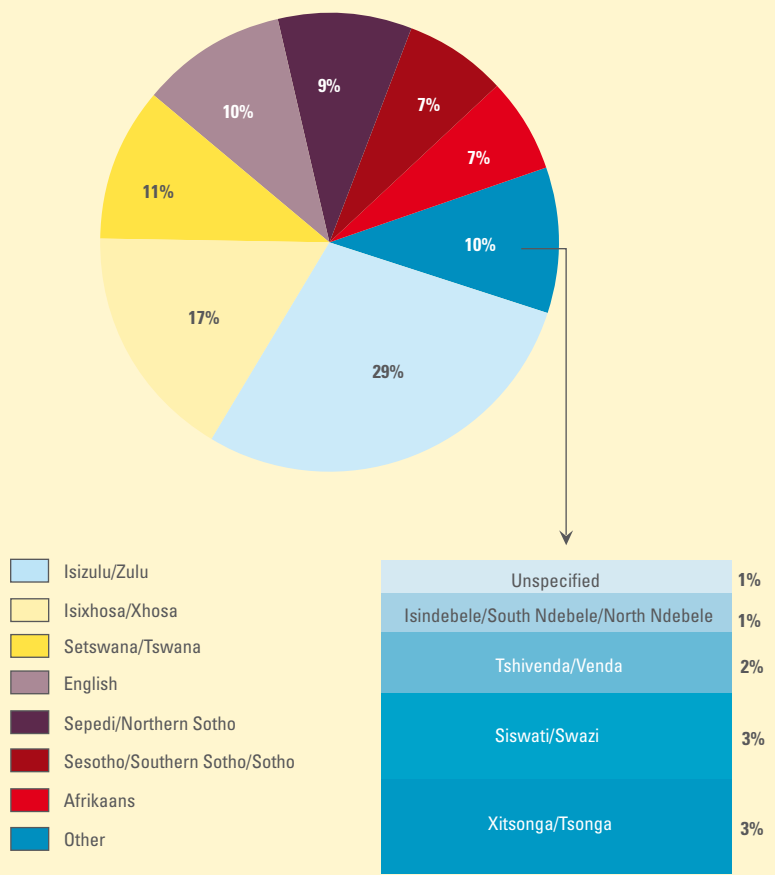
Average life expectancy at birth by sex and province for the period 2006–2011



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). Mid-year population estimates, 2010.

## South Africa's children speak a wide diversity of languages

Percentage distribution of children's mother tongue, 2009

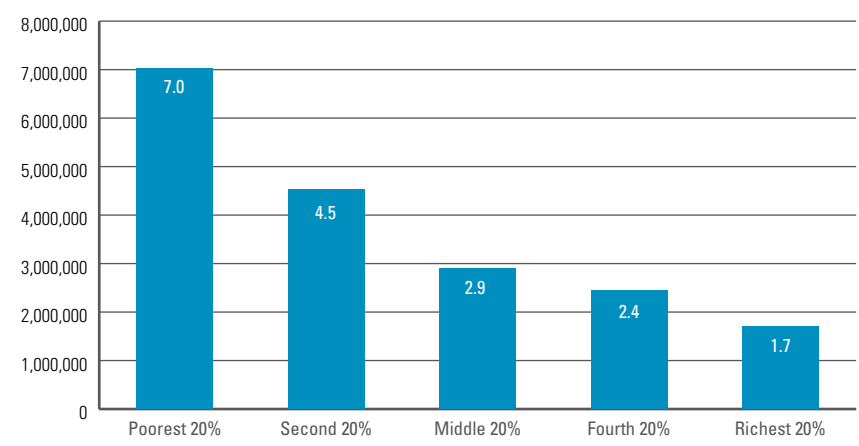


*Note:* The GHS only records in what language the interview with the household's respondent was conducted. It is assumed this serves as a good proxy of the mother tongue of any child living in that household.  
*Source:* Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## Children are more likely to live in poorer households

Some 7 million children live in the poorest 20% of households while only 1.7 million children live in the richest 20% of households

Total number of children by household income quintile, 2009



*Source:* Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.



© UNICEF/Karin Schermbrucker

# Summary View of Inequity Among Children – How Far Have We Come?

## RIGHTS

**CRC, Article 2:** States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.

## NATIONAL TARGETS

### EDD/NT Service Delivery Agreement, Output 4.1:

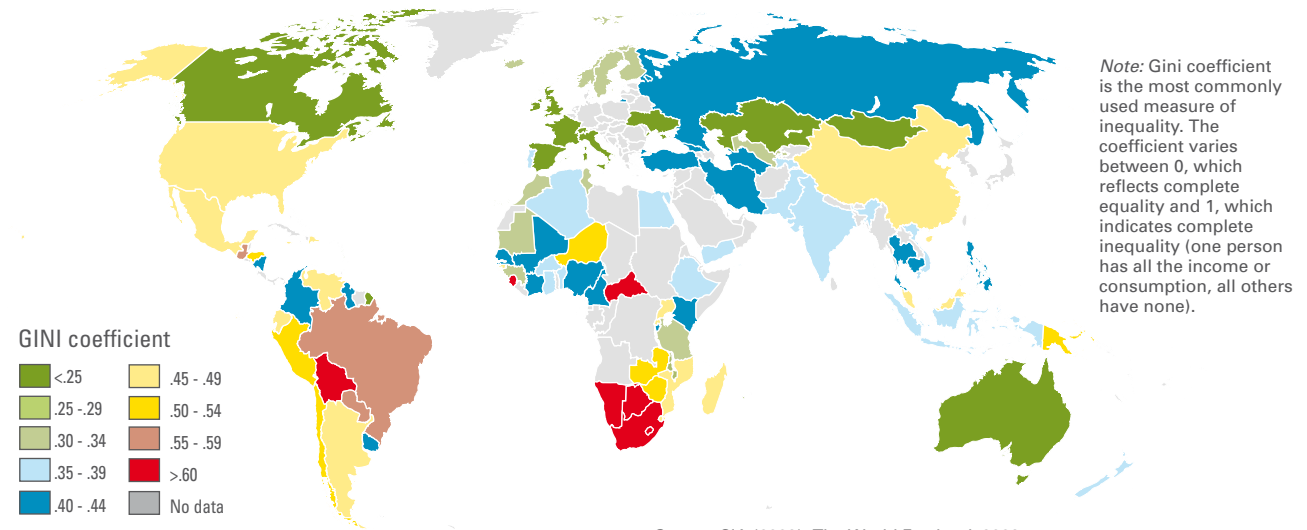
Faster and sustainable inclusive growth.

#### Key targets by 2014:

- Gini coefficient reduced to 0.59.
- Share of income of the bottom 40% of the population increased to at least 6.4%.

## South Africa is one of the most unequal countries in the world

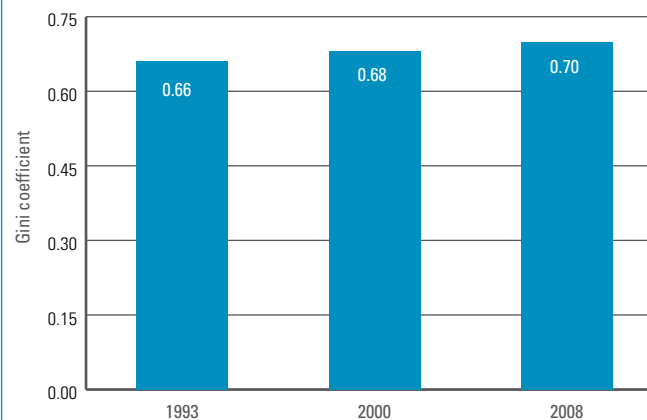
Gini coefficient by country in the world



Source: CIA (2009). The World Factbook 2009.

## Income inequality has worsened since 1993

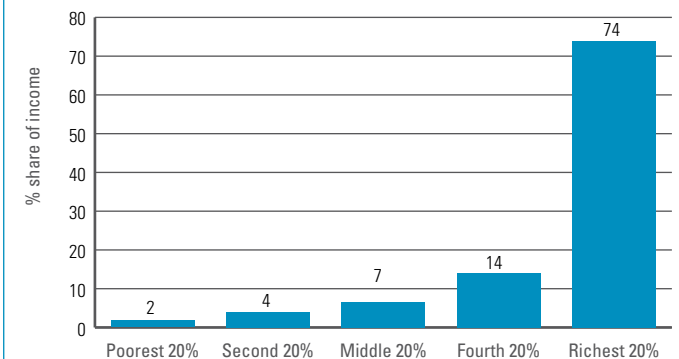
Gini coefficient for per capita income, 1993, 2000 and 2008



Source: OECD (2010). Trends in South African income distribution and poverty since the fall of apartheid. Analysis of SALDRU 1993, IES 2000 and NIDS 2008 data sets.

## The poorest 20% of the population earns only 1.8% of total national household income

Percentage share of total reported household income per capita by quintile, 2008

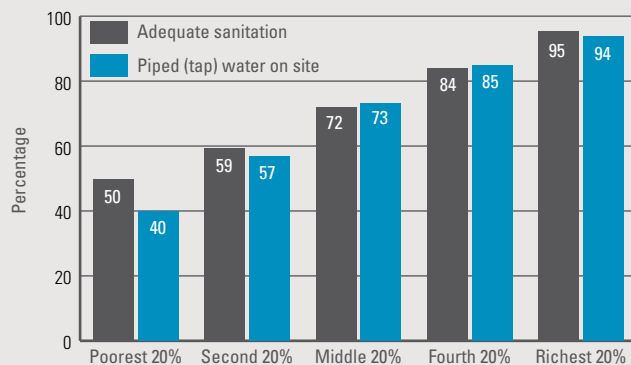


Source: Finn, Leibbrandt and Woolard (2009). Income and Expenditure Inequality: Analysis of the NIDS Wave 1 Dataset.

# Compared to a child growing up in the richest quintile, a child in the poorest quintile is ...

## 2 times less likely to have access to adequate sanitation and water

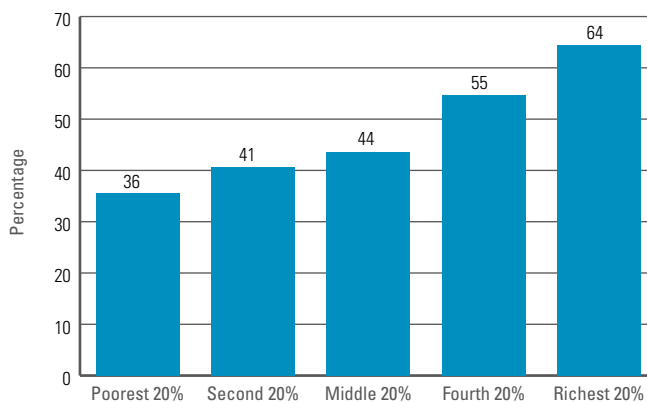
Percentage of children living in households with access to adequate sanitation; piped (tap) water in dwelling or on site, 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## 2 times less likely to be exposed to early childhood development programmes

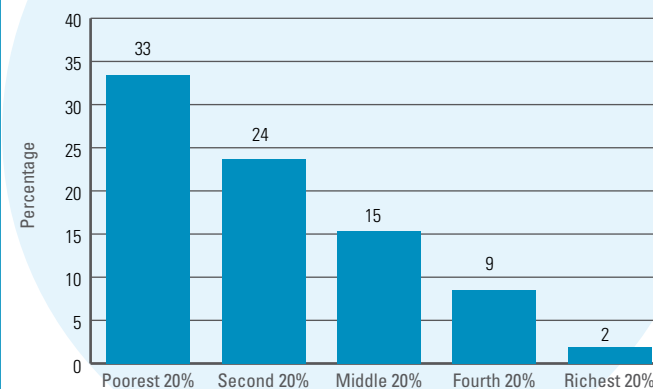
Percentage of children under 5 exposed to ECD programmes, 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## 17 times more likely to experience hunger

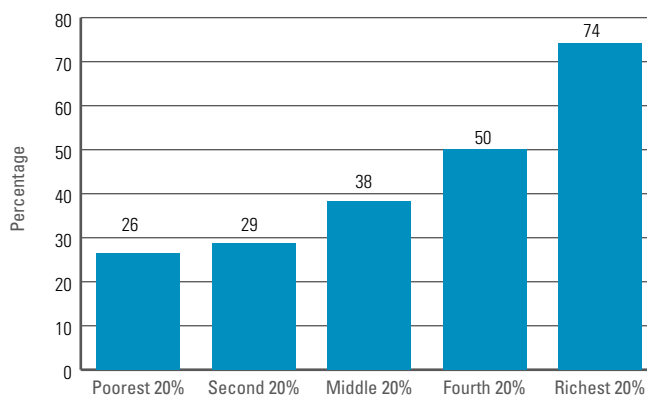
Percentage of children living in households experiencing hunger, 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## 3 times less likely to complete secondary education

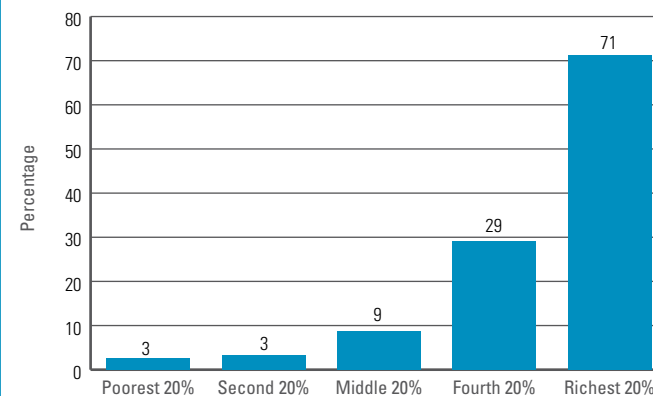
Percentage of youth (20–24 years old) who have completed secondary education, 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## 25 times less likely to be covered by a medical scheme

Percentage of children covered by a medical aid scheme, 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

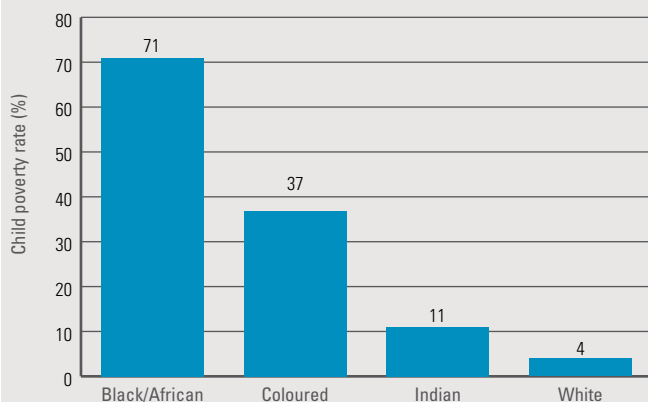


© UNICEF/Karin Scherbrucker

# Racial disparities remain strong. Compared to a White child, a Black African child is ...

## 18 times more likely to live in poverty

Percentage of children living in poverty, 2008

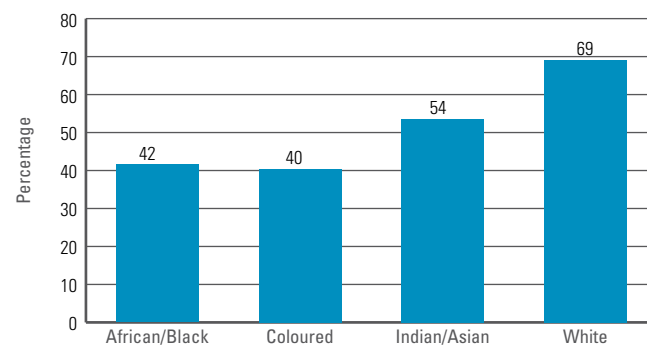


Note: The poverty line is set at the 40th percentile of household per capita income.

Source: Children's Institute, University of Cape Town (2010). South African Child Gauge 2009/2010. Analysis of Stats SA General Household Survey 2008.

## 1.5 times less likely to be exposed to early childhood development programmes

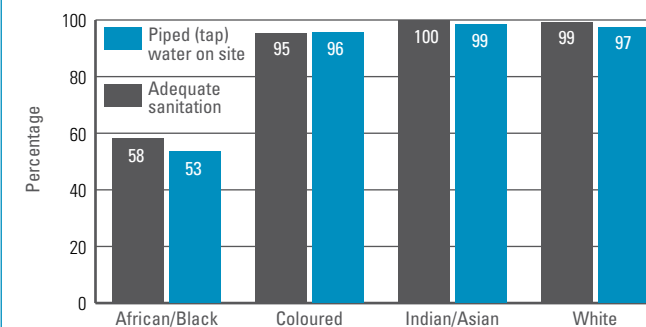
Percentage of children under 5 exposed to ECD programmes, 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## 2 times less likely to have access to adequate sanitation and water

Percentage of children living in households with access to adequate sanitation; piped (tap) water in dwelling or on site, 2009

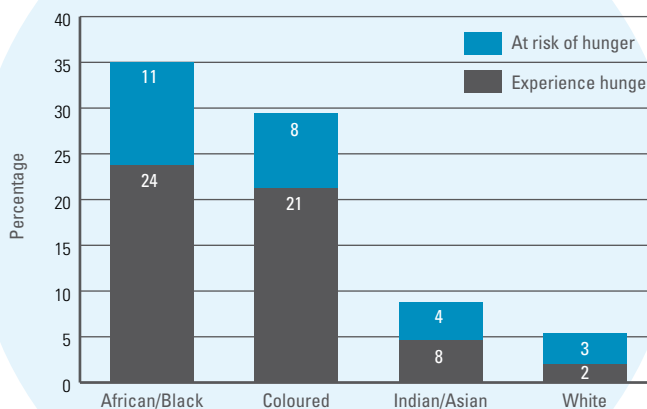


Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.



## 12 times more likely to experience hunger

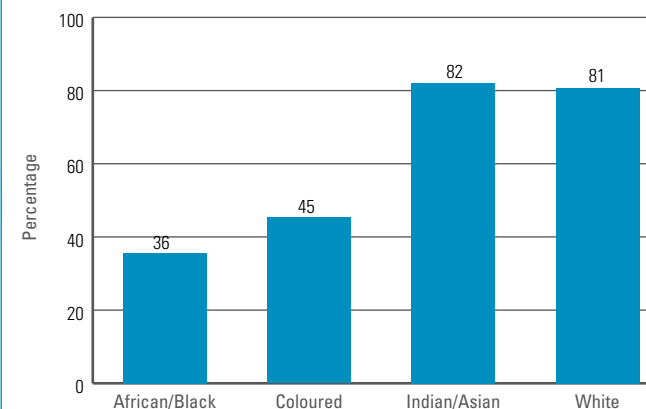
Percentage of children living in households experiencing hunger or at risk of hunger, 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## 2 times less likely to complete secondary education

Percentage of youth (20–24 years old) who have completed secondary education, 2009

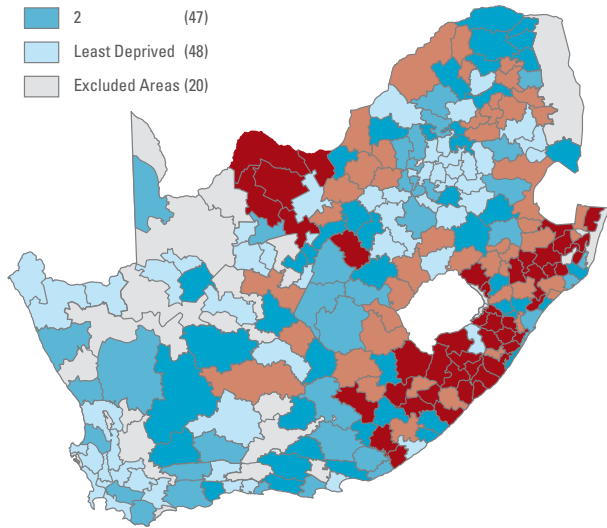
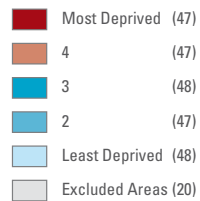


Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

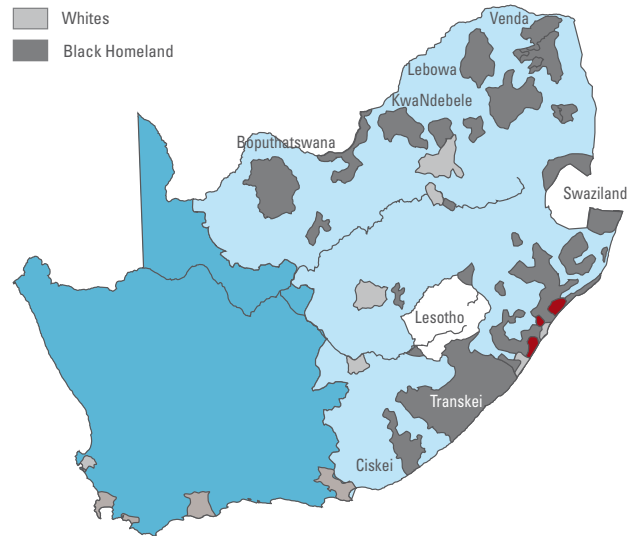
# The spatial distribution of multiple child deprivation still overlaps to a large extent to the location of the former homelands

South African Index of Multiple Child Deprivation at municipal level, 2007

## Index of Multiple Deprivation for Children



## Former Homelands



*Note:* The SAIMDC 2007 was constructed on the basis of a model of child deprivation comprising a series of uni-dimensional domains of deprivation which each contain one or more indicators relating to that domain of deprivation. The domains were each constructed as a separate domain index and then combined into a single measure of multiple deprivation – the SAIMDC 2007. Five domains of deprivation were produced using the 2007 Community Survey to form the SAIMDC 2007: Income and Material Deprivation; Employment Deprivation; Education Deprivation; Biological Parent Deprivation; Living Environment Deprivation.

*Source:* Wright, G., Noble, M., Barnes, H. and Noble, S. (2009) The South African Index of Multiple Deprivation for Children 2007 at Municipality Level, Pretoria: Department of Social Development.



© UNICEF/Karin Schermbrucker

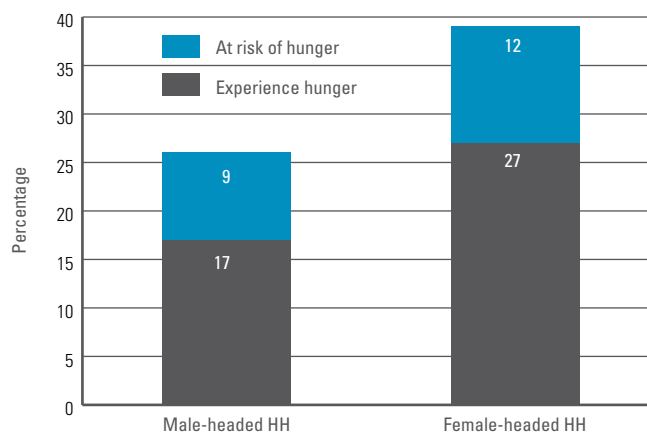


The country has made good progress in reducing gender inequalities. Gender parity has been achieved in primary and secondary education and for many child outcomes there is little difference between boys and girls.

Nevertheless, compared to children living in male-headed households, children in female-headed households are ...

**1.5 times more likely to experience hunger**

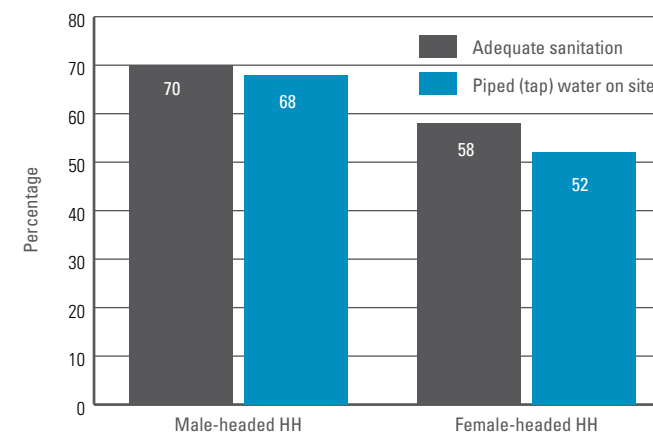
Percentage of children living in households experiencing hunger or at risk of hunger, 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

**1.3 times less likely to have access to adequate sanitation and water**

Percentage of children living in households with access to adequate sanitation; piped (tap) water in dwelling or on site, 2009



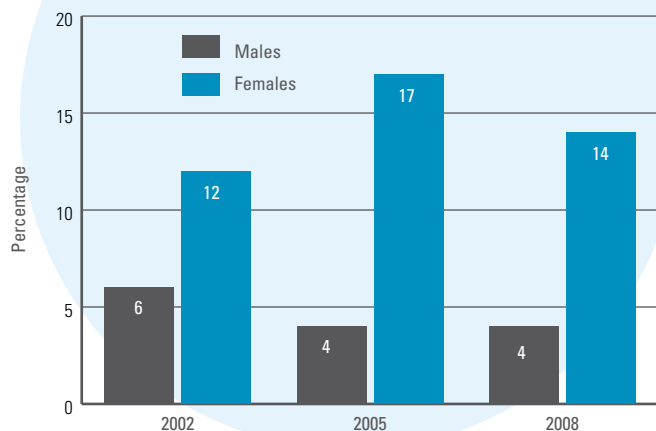
Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.



## Women are disproportionately affected by the HIV and AIDS epidemic

### Female youth are 3.5 times more likely to be HIV positive than their male counterparts

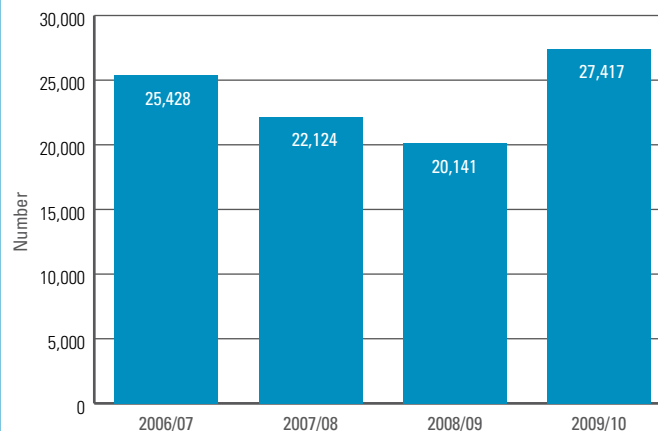
HIV prevalence (%) among youth 15–24 years old by sex, 2002; 2005 and 2008



Source: Shisana O, et al. (2009). South African national HIV prevalence, incidence, behaviour and communication survey 2008: A turning tide among teenagers? Cape Town: HSRC Press.

### Gender-based violence remains widespread

Sexual offences against children reported to the police, 2006/07–2009/10



Source: South African Police Service (2010). Crime Situation in South Africa.



© UNICEF/Karin Schermbucker

# Summary Report Card on Equity in the Realisation of Child Rights in South Africa

Selected key indicators	National average	Province									
		EC	FS	GT	KZN	LIM	MP	NW	NC	WC	Ratio of Highest to Lowest value
<b>Children's Rights to an Adequate Standard of Living</b>											
Children living in poverty (% , 2008)	64	72	66	42	71	83	69	70	70	37	2.3
Children experiencing hunger (% , 2009)	22	23	38	15	30	10	26	25	21	17	3.8
Children living in formal housing (% , 2009)	72	46	81	80	58	90	86	88	85	80	2.0
Children living in households with piped water in dwelling or on site (% , 2009)	60	31	91	91	45	39	65	55	70	92	3.0
Children living in households with adequate sanitation (% , 2009)	64	51	77	88	59	37	43	64	80	94	2.6
<b>Children's Rights to Life and Basic Health</b>											
Births taking place in public health facilities (% , 2008/09)	87	71	84	97	83	90	84	84	89	98	1.4
Under-five mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births, 2009)	62	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Full immunisation coverage among children under one year (% , 2008/09)*	90	84	90	102	85	84	72	89	93	104	1.4
Prevalence of stunting among children 1–9 years (% , 2005)	18	18	28	17	15	24	18	15	28	12	2.3
Prevalence of underweight among children 1–9 years (% , 2005)	9	8	14	6	5	12	11	12	38	8	7.7
Prevalence of wasting among children 1–9 years (% , 2005)	5	4	3	3	1	4	8	3	19	12	14.7
HIV prevalence among pregnant women (% , 2009)	29	28	30	30	40	21	35	30	17	17	2.3
HIV prevalence among children 2–14 years (% , 2008)	2.5	2.1	4.1	2.2	2.8	2.5	3.8	3.2	2.3	1.1	3.7
<b>Children's Rights to Early Childhood Development and Education</b>											
Children under five years of age exposed to an ECD programme (% , 2009)	43	38	67	59	33	35	42	43	44	38	2.0
Children of primary school age attending an educational institution (% , 2009)	99	98	99	99	99	99	98	98	99	99	1.0
Youth (20–24 years old) who have completed primary education (% , 2009)	92	87	94	94	92	92	94	91	88	96	1.1
Children of secondary school age attending an educational institution (% , 2009)	89	87	90	92	87	94	90	87	83	82	1.2
Youth (20–24 years old) who have completed secondary education (% , 2009)	40	26	40	53	42	26	37	37	32	50	2.0
Grade 6 average mathematics score in SACMEQ assessment (2007)	495	469	492	545	485	447	476	503	499	566	1.2
<b>Children's Rights to a Family Environment and Alternative Care</b>											
Children living with both biological parents (% , 2009)	32	21	34	50	25	23	28	30	31	52	2.4
Children who have lost one or both parents (% , 2009)	19	25	23	13	25	18	22	19	15	8	3.0
Cases of neglect and ill-treatment reported to the police (per 100,000 population, 2009/10)	8	5	16	10	4	4	5	8	17	16	4.1
<b>Children's Rights to Special Protection</b>											
High school learners who have ever taken drug like heroin, mandrax, sugars, tik (% , 2008)	12	12	8	9	13	13	14	10	13	11	1.8
<b>The Civil Rights and Freedoms of Children</b>											
Birth registered within year of birth (% , 2005)**	72	66	75	81	62	67	70	67	82	97	1.6
Children attending school experiencing corporal punishment (% , 2009)	17	25	20	12	24	15	8	13	6	3	8.1



Income quintile			Gender			Population group					Source
Poorest 20%	Richest 20%	Ratio of Richest to Poorest	Male	Female	Ratio of Male to Female	Black / African	Coloured	Indian / Asian	White	Ratio of White to Black	
–	–	–	–	–	–	71	37	11	4	0.1	GHS 2008
33	2	0.1	22	23	0.96	24	21	5	2	0.1	GHS 2009
61	98	1.6	72	72	1.00	68	88	100	100	1.5	GHS 2009
40	94	2.3	60	60	1.00	53	96	99	97	1.8	GHS 2009
50	95	1.9	64	65	0.99	58	95	100	99	1.7	GHS 2009
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	DHB 2008/09
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	UN estimate
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	DHB 2008/09
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	NFCS 2005
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	NFCS 2005
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	NFCS 2005
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	DoH 2010
–	–	–	3.0	2.0	1.5	–	–	–	–	–	HSRC 2010
36	64	1.8	43	43	0.99	42	40	54	69	1.7	GHS 2009
99	100	1.0	98	99	1.00	99	99	100	99	1.0	GHS 2009
89	98	1.1	91	94	0.97	91	96	99	97	1.1	GHS 2009
89	93	1.0	89	88	1.01	89	77	89	91	1.0	GHS 2009
26	74	2.8	36	44	0.82	36	45	82	81	2.3	GHS 2009
–	–	–	491	498	0.99	–	–	–	–	–	SACMEQ 2007
18	74	4.0	32	33	0.98	27	48	82	80	3.0	GHS 2009
24	5	0.2	20	19	1.05	22	8	3	3	0.1	GHS 2009
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	SAPS 2010
–	–	–	14	9	1.46	12	13	7	4	0.4	YRBS 2008
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Stats SA 2007
21	4	0.2	17	17	1.00	19	4	2	1	0.0	GHS 2009



© UNICEF/Giacomo Pirozzi

\* Data should be read with caution as several districts and provinces recorded values over 100%.

\*\* Stats SA has only published provincial data up to 2005. National data is available up to 2009.

# Children's Rights to an Adequate Standard of Living

## Status of Child Poverty and Hunger

### RIGHTS

**CRC, Article 27:** (1) States Parties recognise the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. (2) The parent(s) or others responsible for the child have the primary responsibility to secure, within their abilities and financial capacities, the conditions of living necessary for the child's development. (3) States Parties, in accordance with national conditions and within their means, shall take appropriate measures to assist parents and others responsible for the child to implement this right and shall in case of need provide material assistance and support programmes, particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing.

Also see African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child's articles 14 (2)(c); 20(2)(a).

### SA Constitution

**Section 27(1):** Everyone has the right to have access to – (b) sufficient food and water; ....

**Section 28(1):** Every child has the right – (c) to basic nutrition, ....

### NATIONAL TARGETS

**Vision 2014:** Halve poverty between 2004 and 2014.

**DRDLR Service Delivery Agreement, output 7.2:** Improved access to affordable and diverse food.

**Key targets:** Decrease the proportion of the total population that experiences hunger from 52% in 2005 to 30% in 2014 using national food consumption survey data.

### RELATED INTERNATIONAL GOALS/TARGETS

**MDG 1, Target 1.A:** Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day.

**MDG 1, Target 1.B:** Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people.

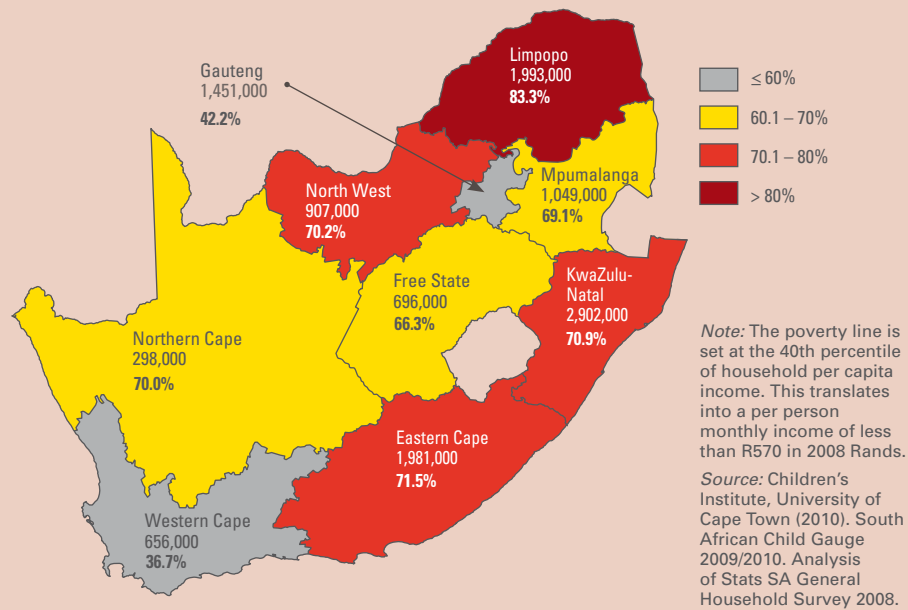
**MDG 1, Target 1.C:** Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.



© UNICEF/Kate Pawelczyk

## In South Africa, 11.9 million children (64% of all children) live in income poverty

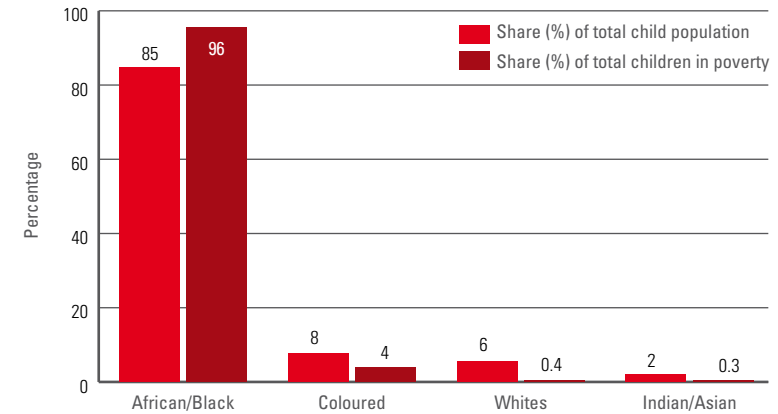
Number and percentage of children living in poverty by province, 2008



## Racial disparities in child poverty remain

Black children constitute a disproportionately large share of the total number of children living in poverty

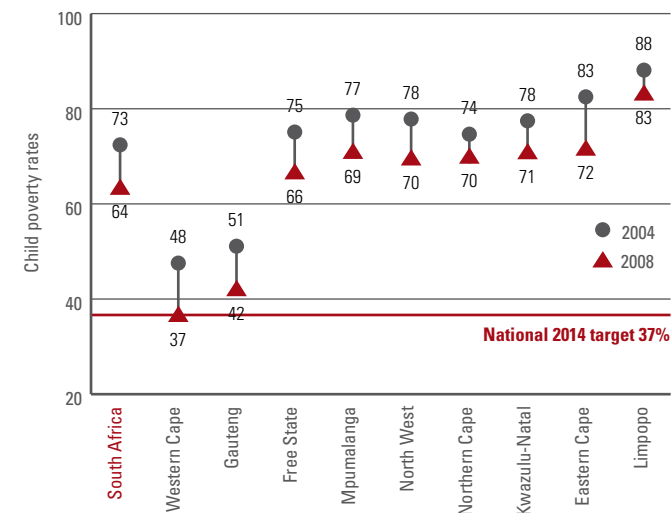
Percentage share of each population group in the total child population and the total number of children living in poverty, 2008



Source: Children's Institute, University of Cape Town (2010). South African Child Gauge 2009/2010. Analysis of Stats SA General Household Survey 2008, and Stats SA mid-year population estimates 2008.

**Child poverty has decreased by an average annual rate of 3.2% between 2004 and 2008 in all declining by just 13% over the period**  
 If the Vision 2014 target is to be met, child poverty has to decrease from the current rate of 64% to 37% in 2014

Percentage of children living in poverty by province, 2002–2008



Note: The poverty line is set at the 40th percentile of household per capita income.

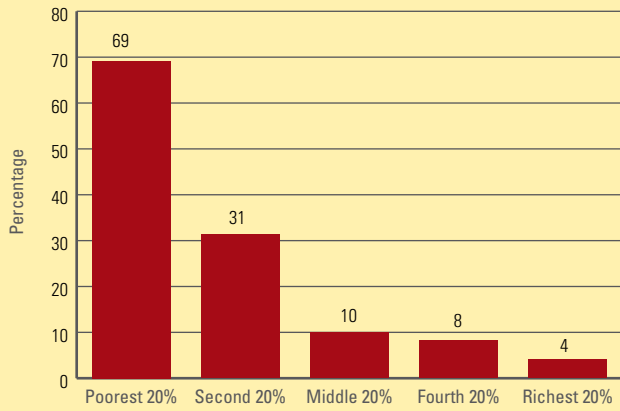
Source: Children's Institute, University of Cape Town (2010). Children Count – Abantwana Babalulekile. Analysis of Stats SA General Household Survey 2004–2008.



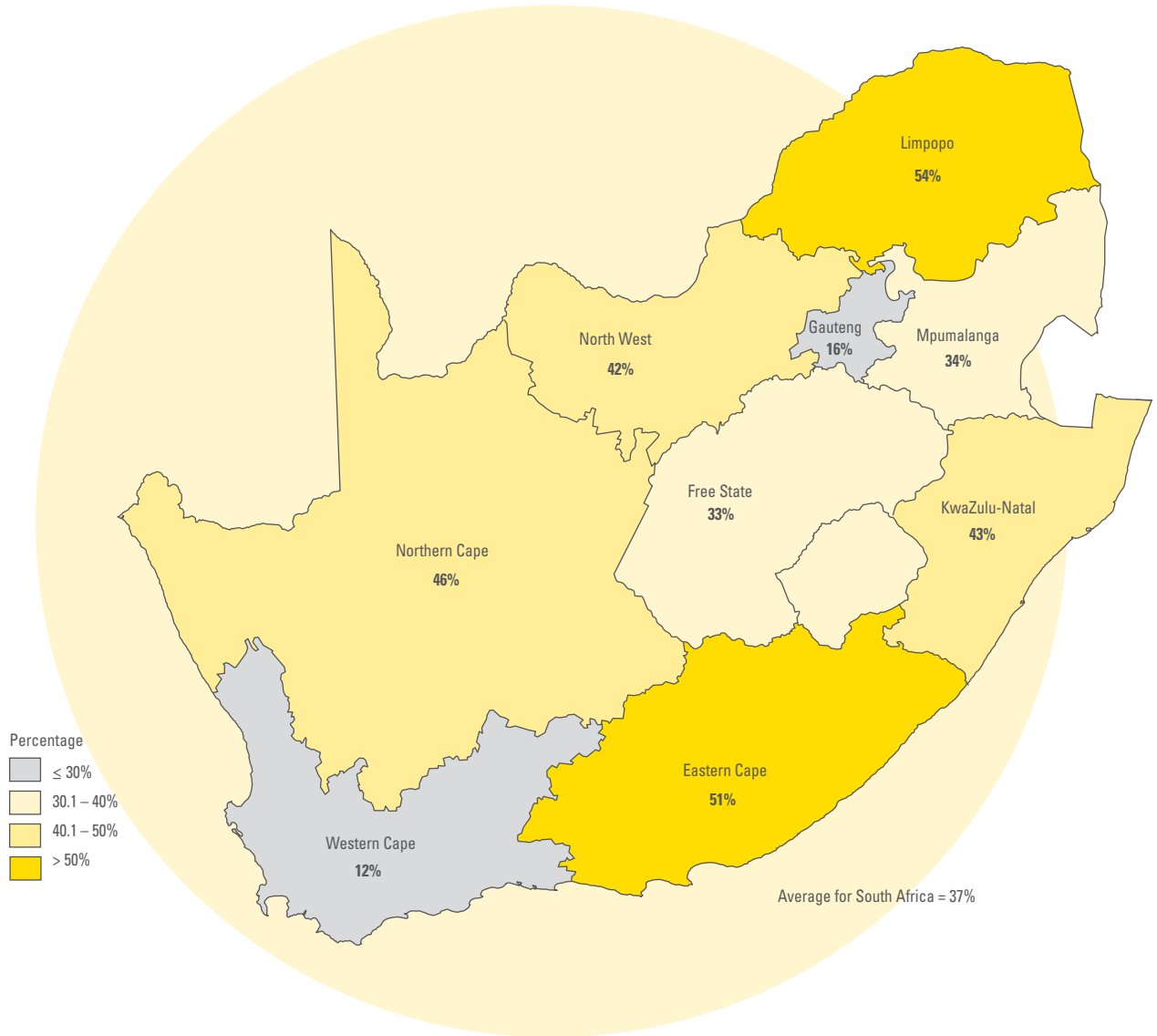
## Unemployment appears to be a key driver of poverty

Overall, nearly 4 out of 10 children live in households with no employed household members. Among the poorest, 7 of out 10 children live in households with no employed members

Percentage of children living in households with no economically active household members by province and household income quintile, 2009

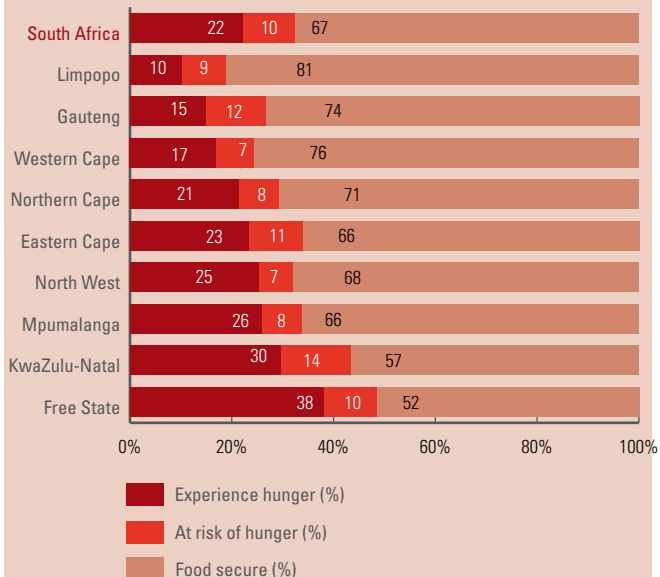


Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.



## 1 in 3 children nationwide experience hunger or are at risk of hunger

Hunger risk classification in children by province, 2009

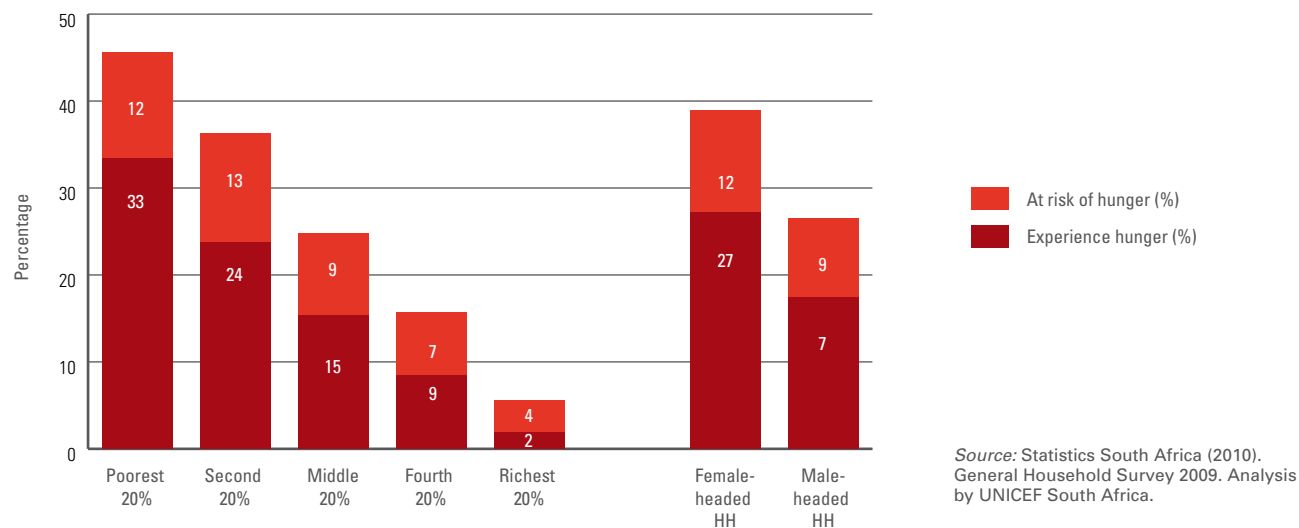


Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

Note: The Hunger Scale Questionnaire introduced in the GHS 2009 is composed of eight questions that investigate whether adults and children are affected by food insecurity, food shortages, perceived food insufficiency or altered food intake due to constraints on resources. Children living in households responding negatively to all eight questions are classified as 'food secure'. Children in households responding affirmatively to 1-4 questions are classified as 'at risk of hunger', while children in households responding affirmatively to five or more questions are considered to 'experience hunger'.

## Children in the poorest households and female-headed households are significantly more likely to experience hunger

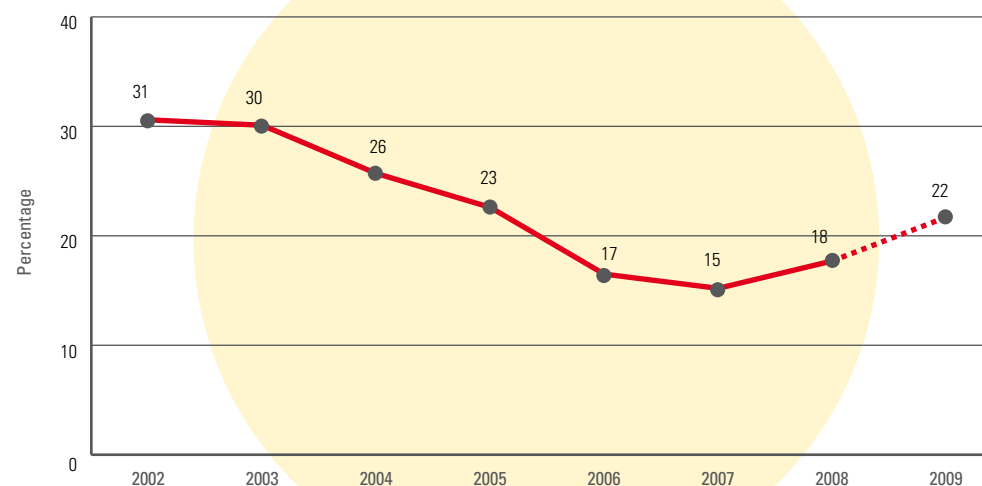
Hunger risk classification in children by household income quintile and sex of household head, 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## Progress made in reducing child hunger is at risk of being reversed

Percentage of children experiencing hunger, 2002-2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). Reweighted GHS 2002-2008 data series and GHS 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

Note: Data for 2009 are not strictly comparable with data for previous years because of revisions in the GHS questionnaire. The GHS 2002-2008 asks: "In the past 12 months, did any child in this household go hungry because there wasn't enough food?" Children living in households reporting 'sometimes', 'often' or 'always' are classified as experiencing hunger. The GHS 2009 asks: "Did your children ever say they are hungry during the past year because there was not enough food in the house?" (Yes/No).



## The Right to Social Security

### RIGHTS

CRC, Article 26: (1) States Parties shall recognise for every child the right to benefit from social security, including social insurance, and shall take the necessary measures to achieve the full realisation of this right in accordance with their national law. (2) The benefits should, where appropriate, be granted, taking into account the resources and the circumstances of the child and persons having responsibility for the maintenance of the child, as well as any other consideration relevant to an application for benefits made by or on behalf of the child.

### SA Constitution

**Section 27(1):** Everyone has the right to have access to – (c) social security, including, if they are unable to support themselves and their dependants, appropriate social assistance.

**Section 27(2):** The state must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realisation of each of these rights.

© UNICEF/Karin Schermbrucker



### Children's access to social grants has expanded dramatically

The eligibility age range for the child support grant has gradually been extended from 0–6 years in 1999 to 0–17 years from 2012 onwards

Year	Child Support Grant			Care Dependency Grant		Foster Care Grant	
	Beneficiaries	Age threshold	Nominal grant value	Beneficiaries	Nominal grant value	Beneficiaries	Nominal grant value
1999	21,997	< 7 years	R100	16,835	R520	46,496	R374
2000	150,366	< 7 years	R100	22,789	R540	49,843	R390
2001	856,402	< 7 years	R110	33,574	R570	66,967	R410
2002	1,277,396	< 7 years	R140	34,978	R640	67,817	R460
2003	3,947,073	< 9 years	R160	42,355	R700	83,574	R500
2004	4,446,230	< 11 years	R170	76,494	R740	120,571	R530
2005	5,465,545	< 14 years	R180	86,917	R780	195,454	R560
2006	7,075,266	< 14 years	R190	90,112	R820	317,434	R590
2007	7,892,869	< 14 years	R200	98,631	R870	400,503	R620
2008	8,189,975	< 14 years	R220	102,292	R960	454,199	R650
2009	8,765,354	< 15 years	R240	107,065	R1,010	474,759	R680
2010	9,570,287	< 16 years	R250	110,731	R1,080	510,760	R710
2011*	10,336,000	< 17 years	R260	121,000	R1,080	554,000	R710
2012*	10,977,000	< 18 years	R270	128,000	R1,140	613,000	R740

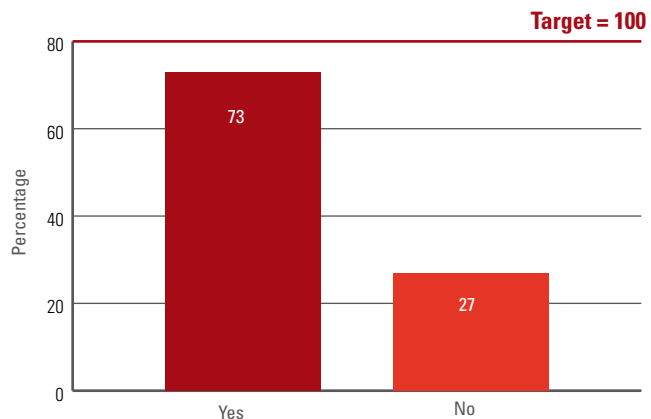
*Note:* \*Projections by National Treasury. The Child Support Grant is paid to parents or primary caregivers of a child within the eligible age range who pass the means test. The Care Dependency Grant is paid to parents, primary caregivers or foster parents of any child with severe mental and/or physical disabilities between the ages of 1 and 18 years, requiring full-time home care. The Foster Care Grant is paid to foster parents for children between the ages of 0 and 18 years. An extension order on a foster care grant can be given until the age of 21 years.

*Source:* South African Social Security Agency's (SASSA) Social Security Pension System (Socpen). National Treasury (2011) National Budget Review 2011.



## Yet, 2.1 million children eligible for the child support grant (27% of all eligible children) were not receiving it in 2008

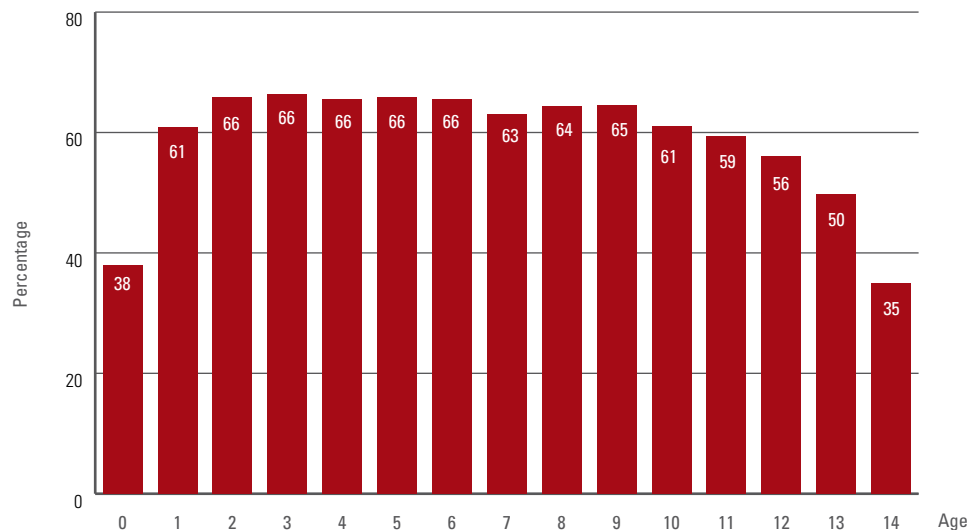
Percentage of eligible children receiving the child support grant, 2008



Source: Coetzee (2010). Finding the Benefits Evaluating the Impact of the South African Child Support Grant. Analysis of National Income Dynamics Survey (NIDS) 2008.

## Uptake of the child support grant is lowest among children under 1 and in the older age groups

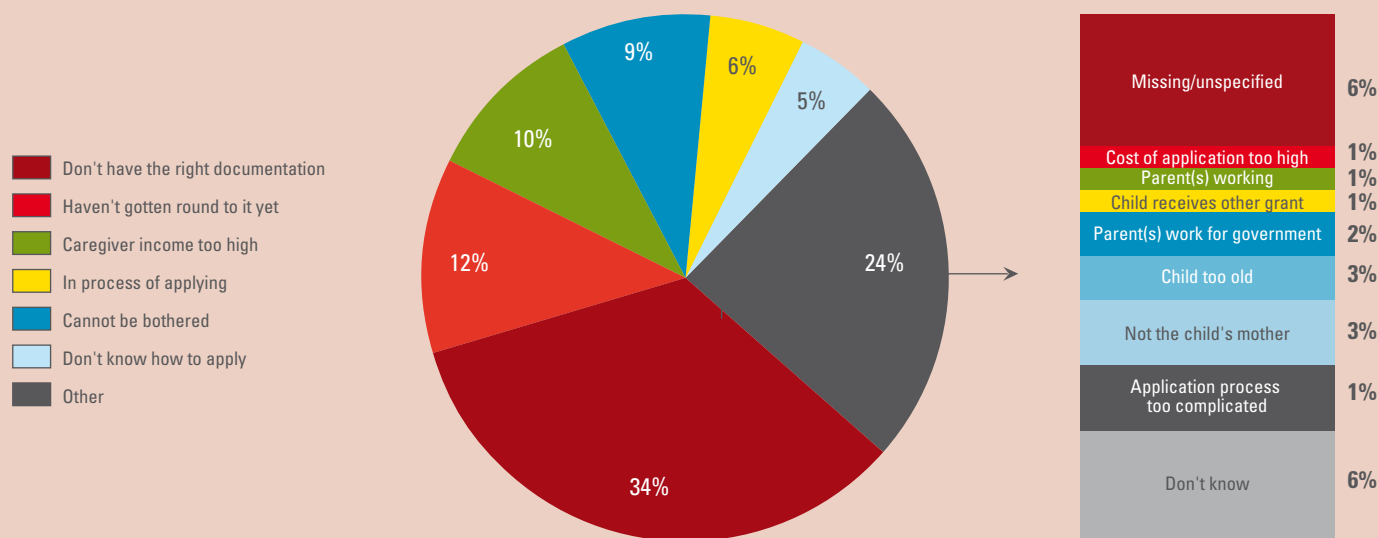
Percentage of children receiving a child support grant by age (single years), 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## Lack of documentation is the biggest barrier to access the child support grant

Reasons why eligible caregivers do not apply for the child support grant, 2008



Source: Coetzee (2010). Finding the Benefits – Evaluating the Impact of the South African Child Support Grant. Analysis of National Income Dynamics Survey (NIDS) 2008.

# The Right to Housing

## RIGHTS

**CRC, Article 27:** (1) States Parties recognise the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. (3) States Parties, in accordance with national conditions and within their means, shall take appropriate measures to assist parents and others responsible for the child to implement this right and shall in case of need provide material assistance and support programmes, particularly with regard to ... housing.

Also see African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child's article 20(2)(a).

## SA Constitution

**Section 26(1):** Everyone has the right to have access to adequate housing.

**Section 28(1):** Every child has the right – (c) to ... shelter ....

## NATIONAL TARGETS

**DoHS Service Delivery Agreement, Output 8.1:** Accelerated Delivery of Housing Opportunities. **Key target by 2014:** Upgrading of 400,000 households in well-located informal settlements with access to basic services and secure tenure.

**DoHS Service Delivery Agreement, Output 8.2:** Improve access to basic services. **Key target by 2014:** Universal access to electricity (100%).

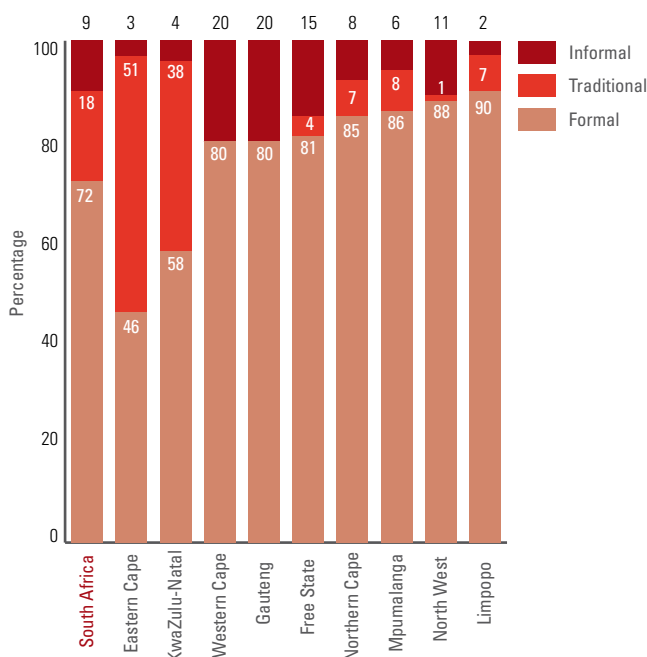
**DoHS Service Delivery Agreement, Output 8.3:** Mobilisation of well-located public land for low income and affordable housing. **Key target for 2014:** Set aside at least 6,250 hectares of well-located public land for low income and affordable housing.

## RELATED INTERNATIONAL GOALS/TARGETS

**MDG 7, Target 7.D:** By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers (global figure).

## 1.7 million children (9% of all children) live in informal housing such as shacks in backyards or squatter settlements

Percentage of children living in formal, informal or traditional housing by province, 2009

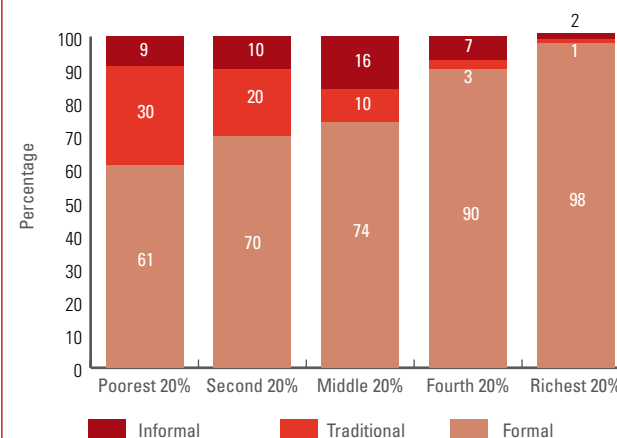


*Note:* Formal refers to dwelling/house or brick/concrete block structure on a separate stand or yard or on farm; flat or apartment; town/cluster/semi-detached house; dwelling/house/flat/room in backyard; room/flatlet on a property or a larger dwelling servants' quarters/granny flat. Informal refers to informal dwelling/shack in backyard or an informal/squatter settlement or on farm. Traditional refers to traditional dwelling/hut/structure made of traditional materials. Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

*Source:* Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## Children from the poorest households are less likely to live in formal housing

Percentage of children living in formal, informal or traditional housing by household income quintile, 2009



*Source:* Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## 2.8 million children (15% of all children) have been reached with a RDP or state subsidised dwelling

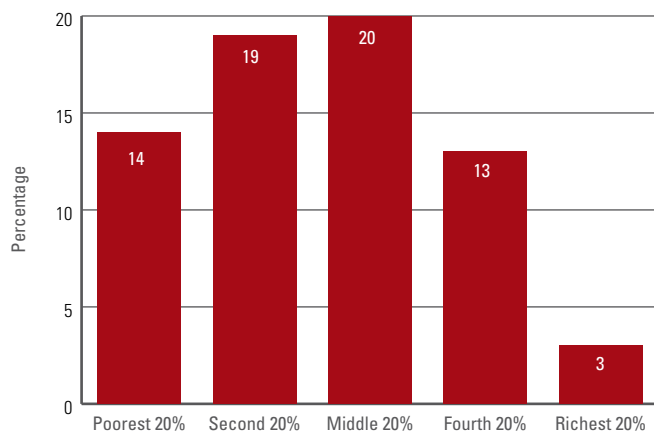
Number and percentage of children living in Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) or state subsidised dwelling by province, 2009

Province	Number	Percentage
Free State	311,820	29
Northern Cape	116,680	27
Western Cape	464,840	26
Gauteng	543,790	17
North West	193,630	15
Mpumalanga	223,690	15
Eastern Cape	329,820	12
Limpopo	265,590	12
KwaZulu-Natal	343,760	8
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>2,793,615</b>	<b>15</b>

*Source:* Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## Children from middle-income households appear to have received most benefits from RDP or state subsidised housing

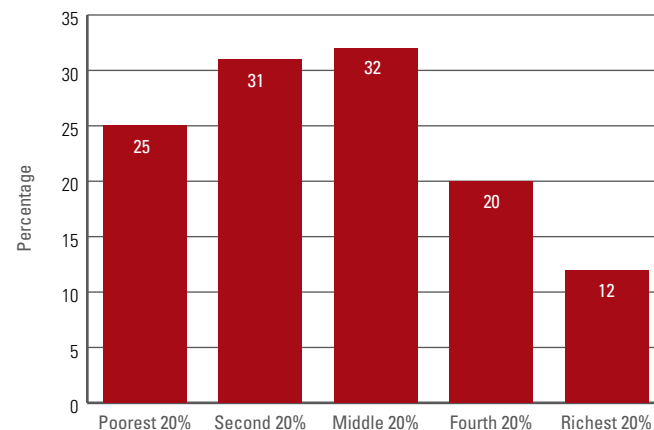
Percentage of children living in RDP or state subsidised dwelling by household income quintile, 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## Children from middle-income households appear to be benefiting most from receiving free electricity

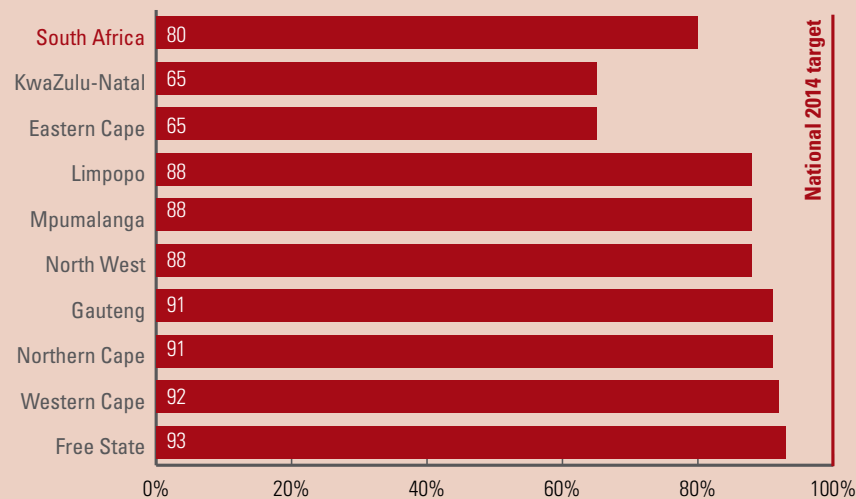
Percentage of children living in households with a connection to the mains supply receiving free electricity, 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## 8 out of 10 children live in households connected to the mains electricity supply

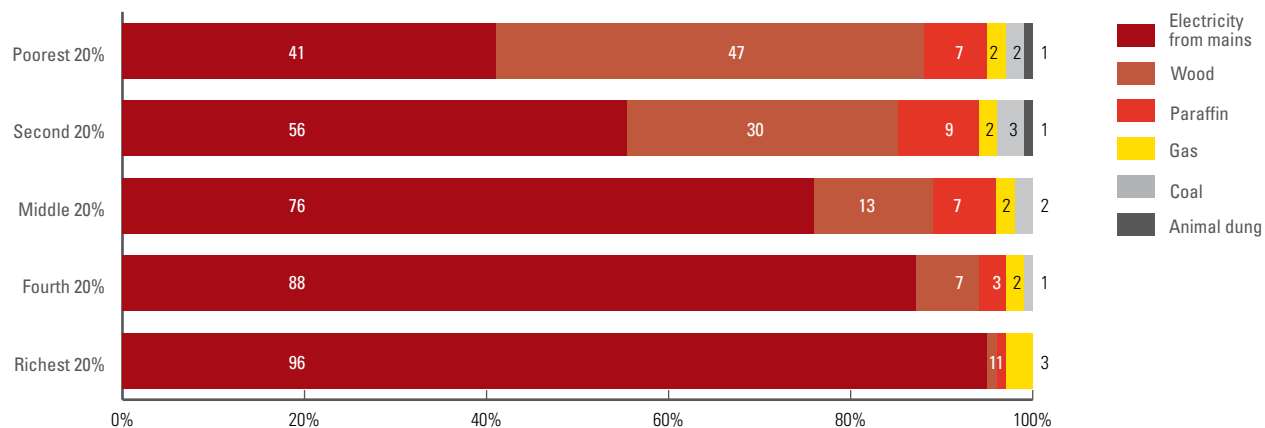
Percentage of children living in households with a connection to the mains electricity supply, 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## 47% of the poorest children live in households using wood as the main energy source for cooking

Percentage of children by main energy source for cooking in the household by income quintile, 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## The Right to Water and Sanitation

### RIGHTS

**CRC, Article 24:** States Parties shall ... take appropriate measures: (d) to combat disease and malnutrition, including within the framework of primary health care, through, inter alia, the application of readily available technology and through the provision of ... clean drinking-water, taking into consideration the dangers and risks of environmental pollution.

Also see African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child's article 14(2)(c).

### SA Constitution

**Section 27(1):** Everyone has the right to have access to – (b) sufficient ... water.

### NATIONAL TARGETS

**DoHS Service Delivery Agreement, Output 8.2:** Improve access to basic services.

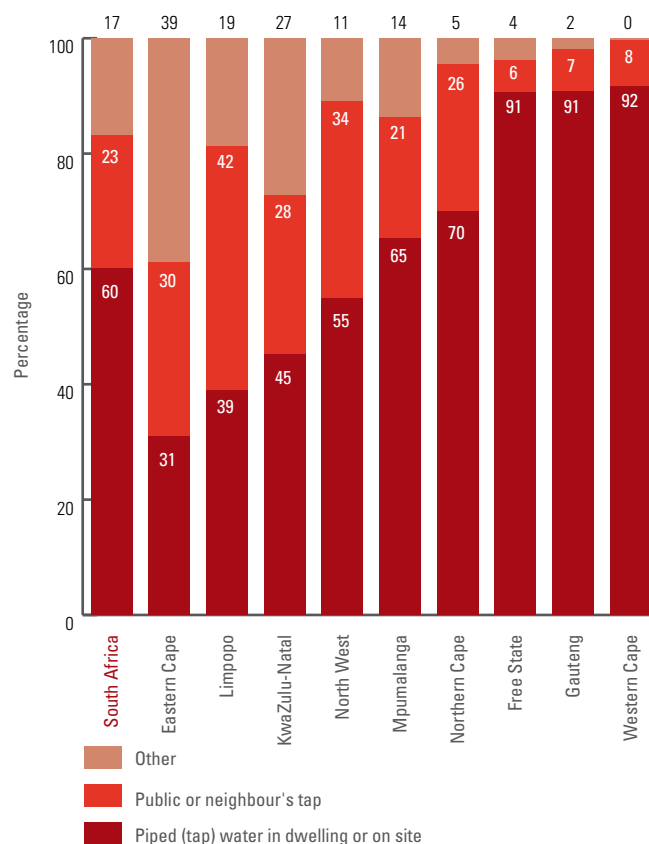
**Key target by 2014:** Universal access to water and sanitation (100%).

### RELATED INTERNATIONAL GOALS/TARGETS

**MDG Goal 7, Target 7.C:** Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

## 4 out of 10 children do not have access to piped water inside the dwelling or on site

Percentage of children living in households with access to water by type of source, 2009



Note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## Almost 1.4 million children (8% of all children) live in households relying on rivers or streams as their main source of drinking water

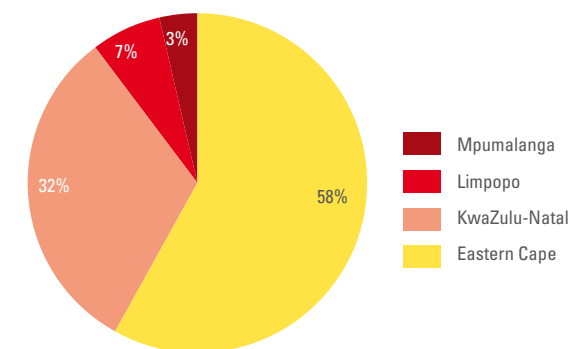
Number and percentage of children by main source of drinking water in the household, 2009

Source	Number	Percentage
Piped (tap) water in dwelling	6,101,660	32.8
Piped (tap) water on site or in yard	5,067,520	27.2
Public tap	3,763,845	20.2
Flowing water/stream/river	1,392,980	7.5
Neighbour's tap	536,325	2.9
Borehole off site/communal	434,310	2.3
Spring	369,350	2.0
Water-carrier/Tanker	354,415	1.9
Borehole on sit	236,305	1.3
Other (e.g. well, dam, rain-water tank)	350,650	1.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,607,354</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## Where do these 1.4 million children live?

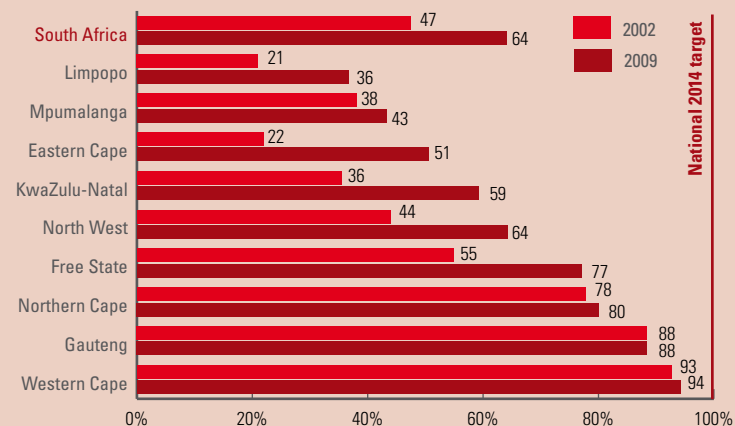
Percentage distribution of children living in households relying on flowing water/stream/river as main source of drinking water, 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## Access to adequate sanitation has improved over the past decade

Percentage of children living in households with access to adequate sanitation by province, 2002 and 2009

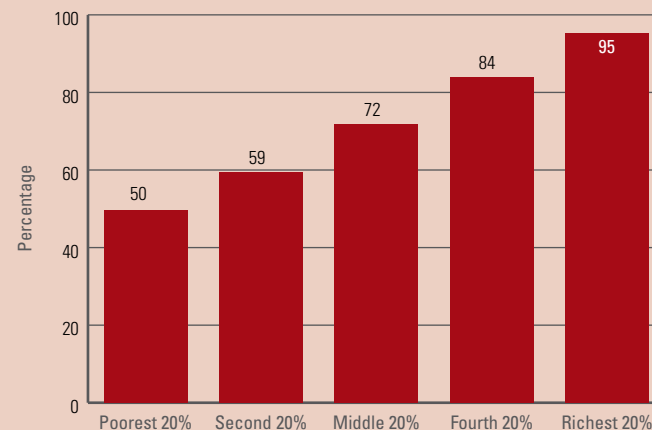


*Note:* Adequate sanitation includes flush toilets connect to a public sewerage system or septic tank, and pit latrines with ventilation. Inadequate sanitation includes chemical toilets, pit latrines without ventilation, bucket toilets or no toilet facility at all.

*Source:* Statistics South Africa (2003; 2010) General Household Survey 2002; 2009. Analysis of 2002 data by Children's Institute, University of Cape Town; analysis of 2009 data by UNICEF South Africa.

## Among children in the poorest households just 50% have access to adequate sanitation

Percentage of children living in households with access to adequate sanitation by household income quintile, 2009



*Source:* Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## Yet, nearly 1.5 million children (8% of all children) live in households with no toilet facility at all

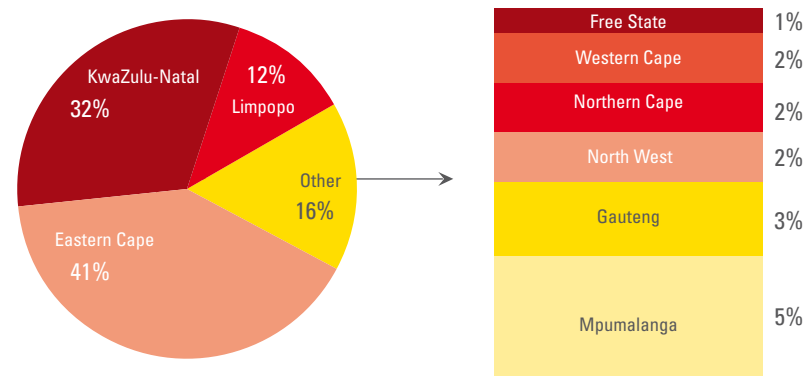
Number and percentage of children by type of toilet facility used in the household, 2009

Type of Toilet Facility	Number	Percentage
Flush toilet (connected to public sewerage system or septic tank)	8,499,515	45.7
Pit latrine/toilet without ventilation pipe	4,917,100	26.4
Pit latrine/toilet with ventilation pipe	3,431,120	18.4
None	1,471,455	7.9
Bucket toilet	174,915	0.9
Chemical toilet	52,305	0.3
Other/Unspecified	60,940	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,607,355</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source:* Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## Where do these 1.5 million children live?

Percentage distribution of the children living in households with no toilet facility by province, 2009



# Children's Rights to Life and Basic Health

## The Right to the Highest Attainable Standard of Health

### RIGHTS

**CRC, Article 24:** (1) States Parties recognise the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health. States Parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services. (2) States Parties shall pursue full implementation of this right and, in particular, shall take appropriate measures: (a) To diminish infant and child mortality; (b) To ensure the provision of necessary medical assistance and health care to all children with emphasis on the development of primary health care;... (d) To ensure appropriate pre-natal and post-natal health care for mothers.

Also see African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child's articles 5; 14 and 20(2)(a).

### SA Constitution

**Section 11:** Everyone has the right to life.

**Section 27(1):** Everyone has the right to have access to – (a) health care services, including reproductive health care.

**Section 28(1):** Every child has the right ... (c) to ... basic health care services ...

### NATIONAL TARGETS

#### **DoH Service Delivery Agreement, Output 2.1:**

Decreasing maternal and child mortality. Key targets by 2014:

- Decrease infant mortality rate to 18 deaths (or less) per 1,000 live births.
- Decrease under-five mortality rate to 20 deaths (or less) per 1,000 live births.
- Decrease maternal mortality ratio to 100 (or less) per 100,000 live births.
- Increase the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel to 100%.
- Decrease diarrhoea incidence in children under 5 years.
- Decrease pneumonia incidence in children under 5 years.

### RELATED INTERNATIONAL GOALS/TARGETS

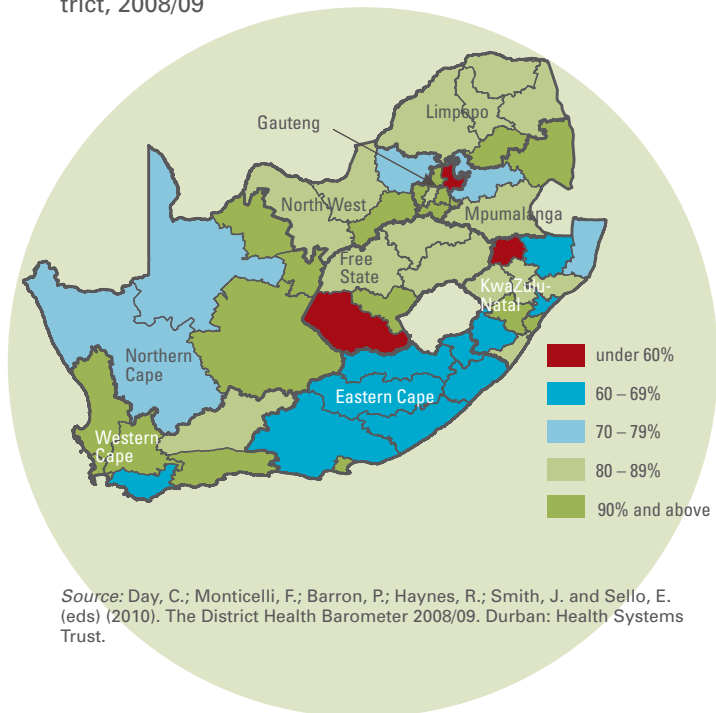
**MDG Goal 4, Target 4.A:** Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.

**MDG Goal 5, Target 5.A:** Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio.

**MDG Goal 5, Target 5.B:** Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health.

## 9 out of 10 births take place in health facilities

Percentage of deliveries that take place in public health facilities under supervision of trained personnel by district, 2008/09

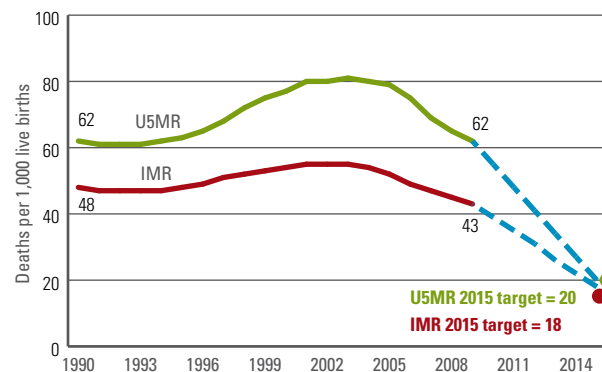


Source: Day, C.; Monticelli, F.; Barron, P.; Haynes, R.; Smith, J. and Sello, E. (eds) (2010). The District Health Barometer 2008/09. Durban: Health Systems Trust.

## Yet, South Africa is not on track for meeting the health targets of the 2015 Millennium Development Goals ...

Under-five mortality is at the same level it was in 1990

Trends in infant (IMR) and under-five (U5MR) mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births), 1990–2009

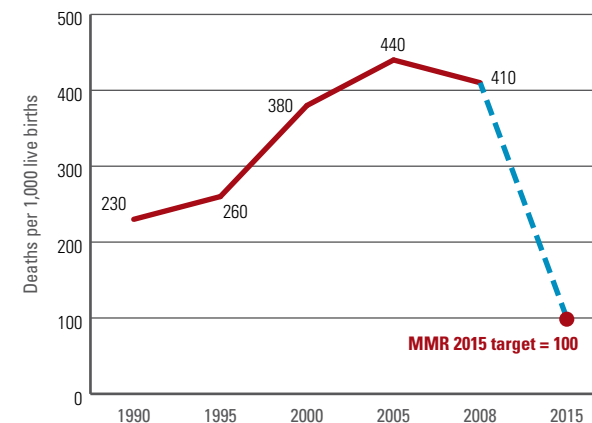


Note: The mortality trends are produced by compiling national estimates from the 1988–1992 Human Science Research Council (HSRC) Survey, the 1998 and the 2003 South Africa Demographic and Health Surveys, and the 2007 Community Survey. A regression curve is then fitted to these data points and extrapolated to a common reference year to produce a smooth trend.

Source: UN Inter-agency Group on Child Mortality Estimation (2010). Levels and Trends in Child Mortality.

Maternal mortality has increased by 80% since 1990

Trend in maternal mortality ratio (MMR, deaths per 100,000 live births), 1990–2008



Source: WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and World Bank (2010). Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990 to 2008.

## Each year in South Africa ...

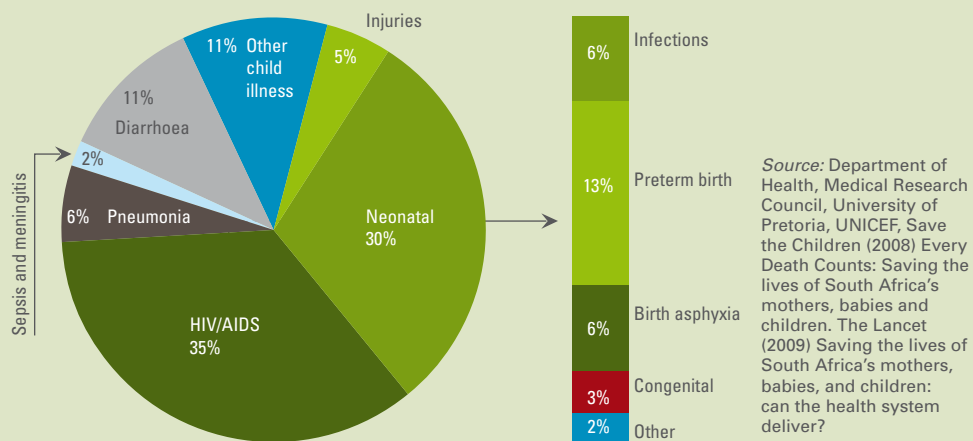
4,300 mothers die due to complications of pregnancy and child birth.  
20,000 babies are stillborn and another 23,000 die before they reach 1 month of age.  
In total, some 75,000 children die before their fifth birthday.

This toll of over 270 maternal and child deaths every day is mainly due to HIV and AIDS and poor implementation of existing packages of care.

Source: The Lancet (2009). Saving the lives of South Africa's mothers, babies, and children: can the health system deliver?

## Most causes of under-five deaths are either preventable or treatable

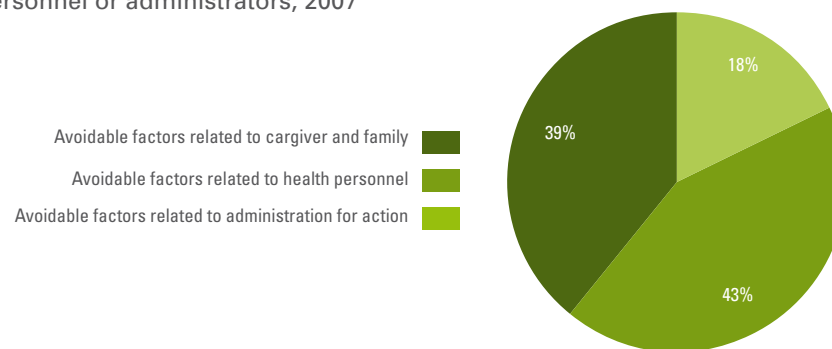
The lives of almost 50,000 newborn babies and children could be saved in 2015 if South Africa reached high, effective coverage of key packages of interventions such as PMTCT and neonatal care. This can be achieved at relatively little cost.



## Many child deaths are the result of avoidable factors, missed opportunities and substandard care

61% of avoidable factors in child deaths are related to health systems failures (either by health personnel or administrators), such as poor assessment and management in hospitals. 39% of avoidable factors are related to caregiver and family actions, such as delay in seeking care or caregiver not realising the severity of illness.

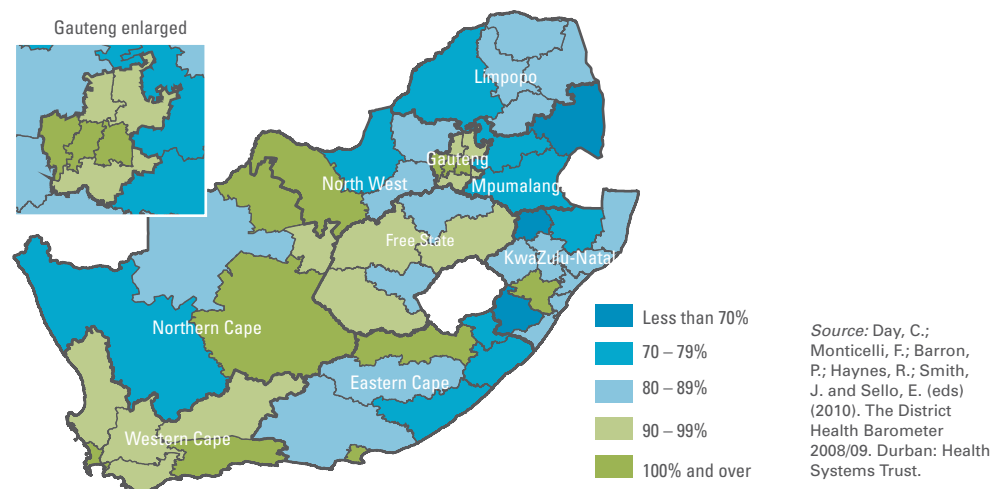
Percentage of modifiable factors related to actions by caregivers/family, health personnel or administrators, 2007



*Source: Stephen, Mulaudzi, Kauchali and Patrick (2009) Saving Children 2005–2007: A fourth survey of child healthcare in South Africa. Pretoria: University of Pretoria, MRC, CDC.*

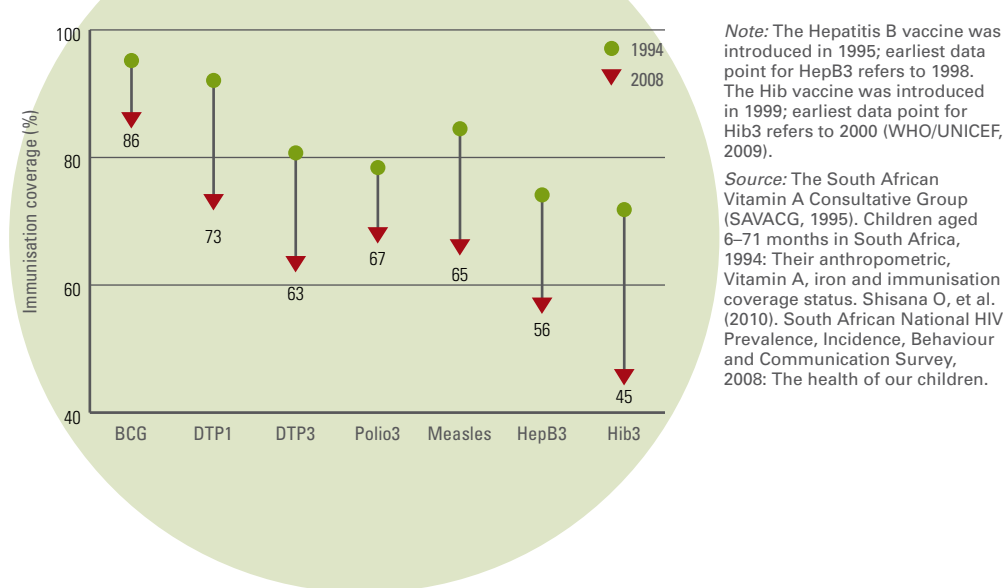
## Government data suggest 30 of the 52 districts did not achieve the national target of 90% full immunisation coverage

Percentage of children under 1 year who have received all their recommended vaccinations, 2008/09



## Data from surveys suggest immunisation coverage has decreased compared to 1994

National immunisation coverage among children 12–23 months by specific vaccines, 1994 and 2008





## The Right to Adequate Food

### RIGHTS

CRC, Article 24: States Parties shall pursue full implementation of this right and, in particular, shall take appropriate measures: (e) To ensure that all segments of society, in particular parents and children, are informed, have access to education and are supported in the use of basic knowledge of child health and nutrition, the advantages of breastfeeding ....

**CRC, Article 27:** (3) States Parties, in accordance with national conditions and within their means, shall take appropriate measures to assist parents and others responsible for the child to implement this right and shall in case of need provide material assistance and support programmes, particularly with regard to nutrition ....

Also see African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child's articles 14(2)(c) and 20(2)(a).

### SA Constitution

**Section 27(1):** Everyone has the right to have access to ... (b) sufficient food ....

**Section 28(1):** Every child has the right ... (c) to basic nutrition ....

### NATIONAL TARGETS

**DRDLR Service Delivery Agreement, output 7.2:** Improved access to affordable and diverse food.

**Key target by 2014:** The rate of under-nutrition of children falls from 9.3% (2005 NFCS) to 5% in 2014.

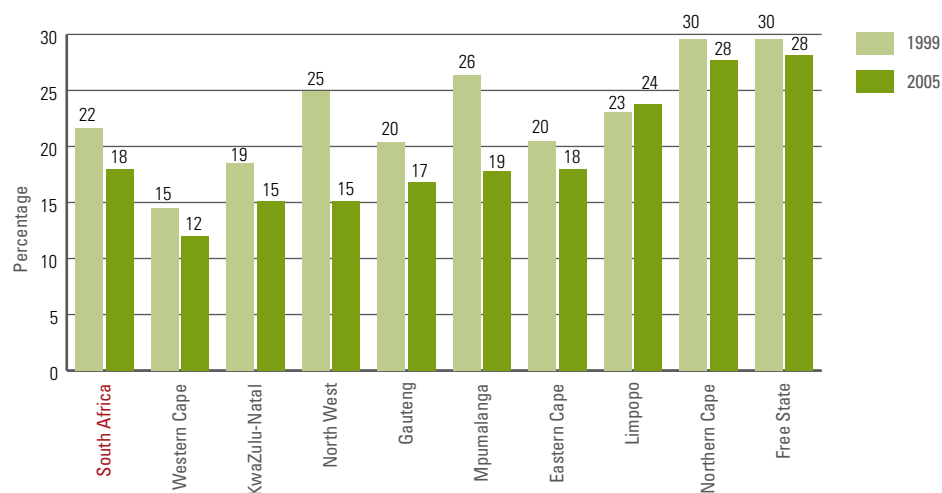
### RELATED INTERNATIONAL GOALS/TARGETS

MDG 1, Target 3: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

## Status of child nutrition

### 1 in 5 children are stunted, a consequence of chronic nutritional deprivation

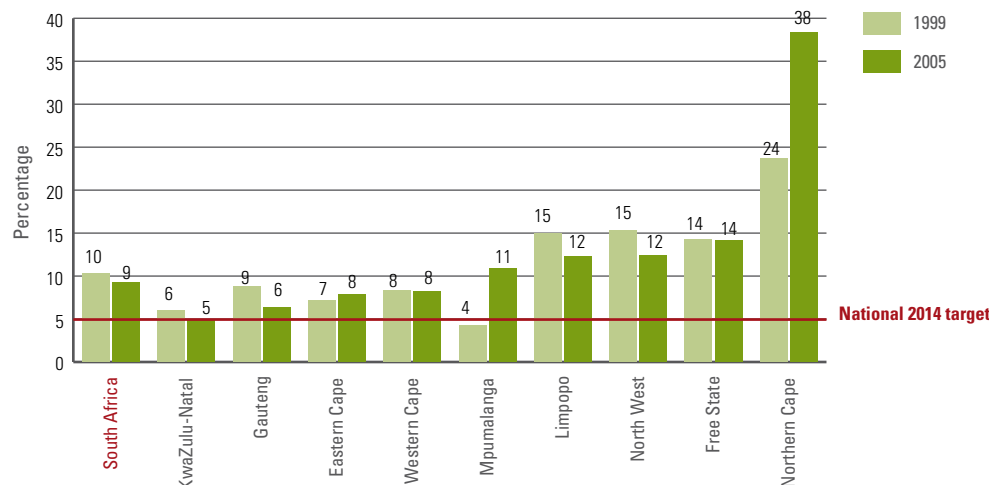
Percentage of children 1–9 years suffering from stunting (moderate and severe chronic malnutrition) by province, 1999 and 2005



Source: Department of Health (2000). The National Food Consumption Survey 1999; Department of Health (2007) The National Food Consumption Survey 2005: Fortification Baseline (NFCS-FB). Estimates are calculated according to the NCHS/WHO reference population.

### 1 in 10 children are underweight

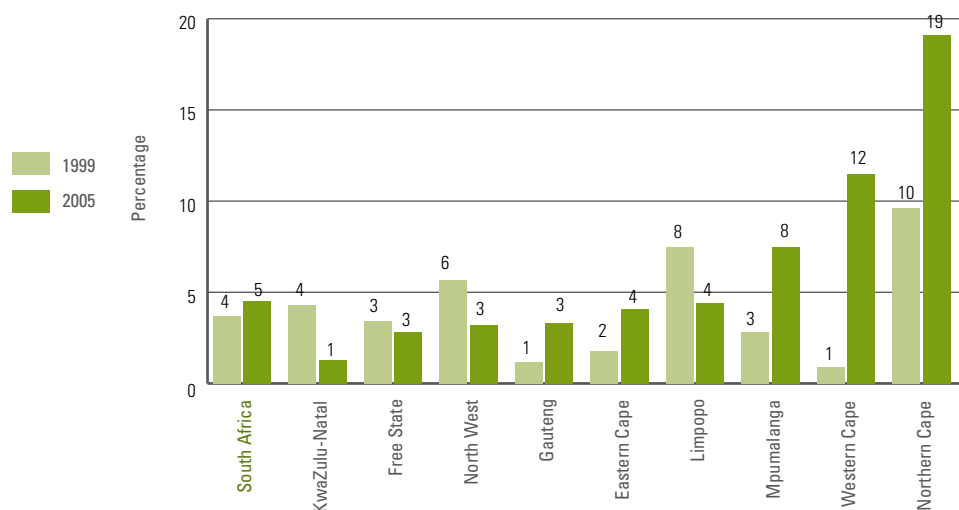
Percentage of children 1–9 years suffering from underweight (moderate and severe mixed acute and chronic malnutrition) by province, 1999 and 2005



Source: Department of Health (2000). The National Food Consumption Survey 1999; Department of Health (2007) The National Food Consumption Survey 2005: Fortification Baseline (NFCS-FB). Estimates are calculated according to the NCHS/WHO reference population.

## Close to 5% of children suffer from wasting and face a markedly increased risk of death

Percentage of children 1–9 years suffering from wasting (moderate and severe acute malnutrition) by province, 1999 and 2005

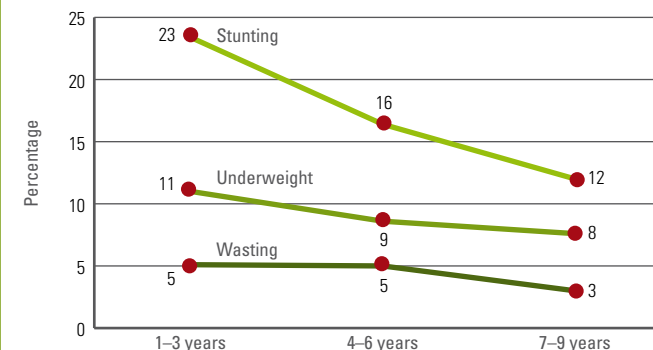


Source: Department of Health (2000). The National Food Consumption Survey 1999; Department of Health (2007). The National Food Consumption Survey 2005: Fortification Baseline (NFCS-FB). Estimates are calculated according to the NCHS/WHO reference population.

## Younger children are most severely affected by malnutrition

Chronic undernutrition in early childhood results in diminished cognitive and physical development, which puts children at a disadvantage for the rest of their lives

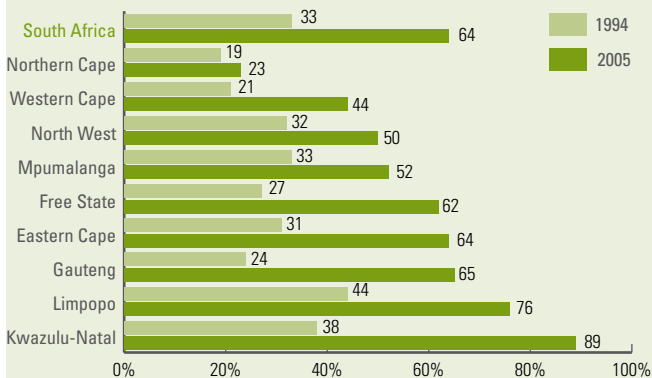
Percentage of children 1–9 years suffering from stunting, underweight and wasting by age group, 2005



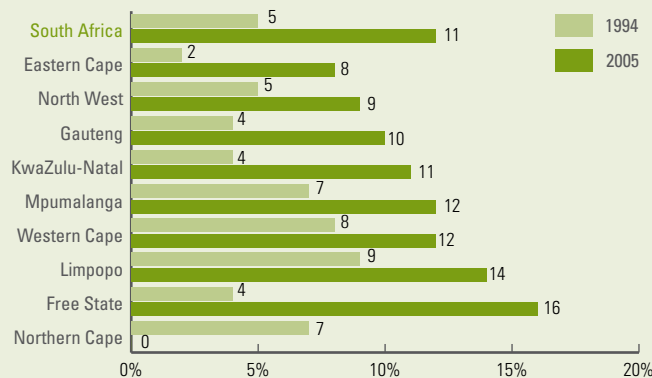
Source: Department of Health (2007). The National Food Consumption Survey 2005: Fortification Baseline (NFCS-FB). Estimates are calculated according to the NCHS/WHO reference population.

## Micronutrient deficiencies: vitamin A and iron deficiency has doubled between 1994 and 2005

Percentage of children 1–5 years affected by vitamin A deficiency (serum retinol level < 20 µg/dL)



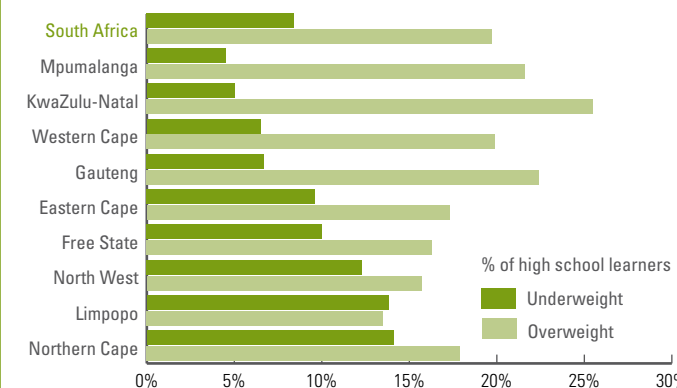
Percentage of children 1–5 years affected by iron deficiency anaemia (%Hb <11 and Ferritin <12)



Source: The South African Vitamin A Consultative Group (SAVACG, 1995). Children aged 6–71 months in South Africa, 1994: Their anthropometric, Vitamin A, iron and immunisation coverage status; Department of Health (2007). The National Food Consumption Survey 2005: Fortification Baseline (NFCS-FB).

## South Africa faces a dual burden of over- and under-nutrition, especially among youth

Percentage of high school learners (in grades 8–11) who are underweight (low weight for age); overweight (according to age-dependent BMI cut-off points) by province, 2008

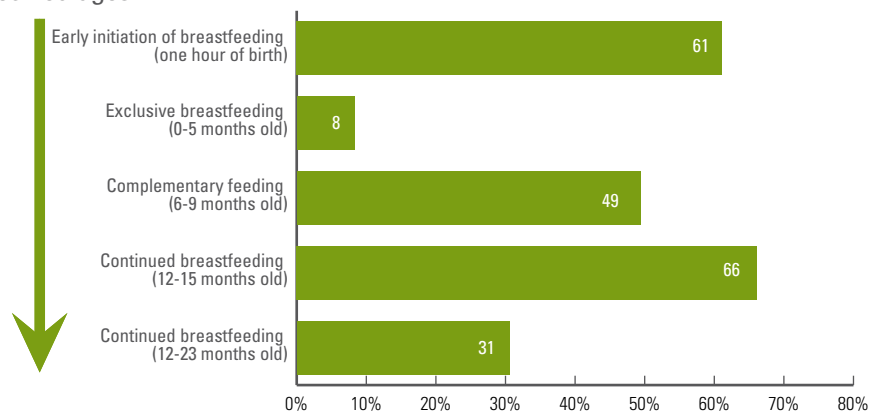


Source: Medical Research Council (2010). The 2nd South African National Youth Risk Behaviour Survey 2008.

## Coverage of interventions to improve nutrition

### Continuum of infant feeding practices

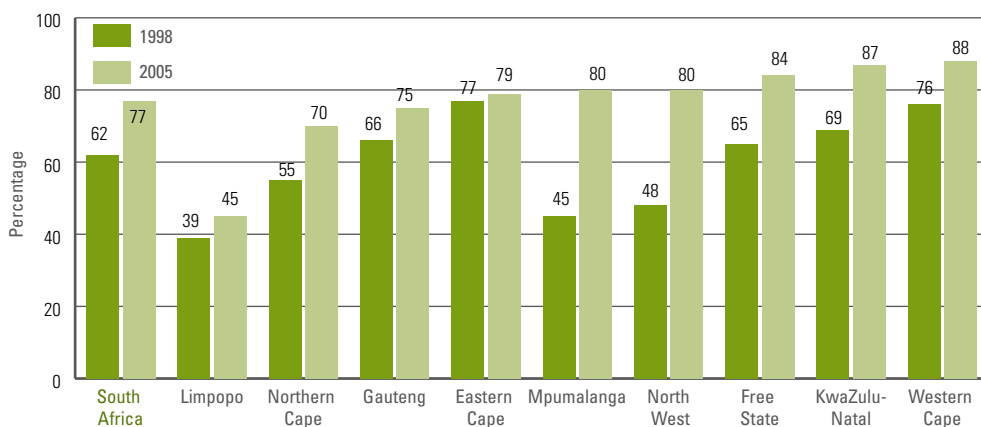
Percentage of children put to the breast within 1 hour of delivery; exclusively breast-fed; both breast-fed and receiving complementary foods; and continuing to breastfeed at specified ages



Source: Department of Health (2007). Demographic and Health Survey 2003.

### Use of adequately iodised salt in households has improved

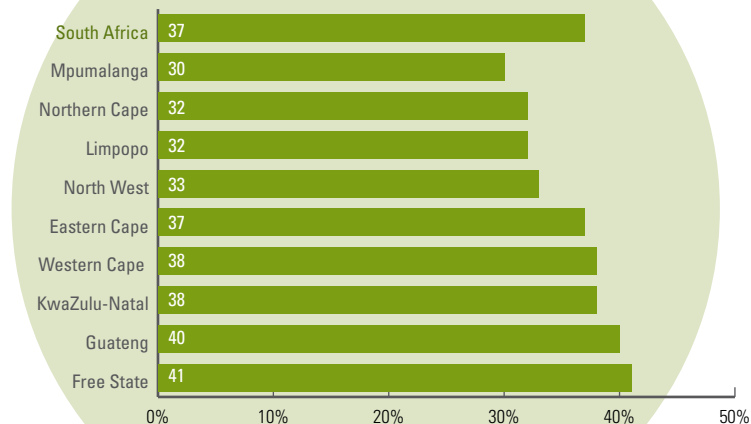
Percentage of households using adequately iodated salt (> 15 ppm of iodine) by province, 1998 and 2005



Source: Jooste L., Weight M. and Lombard C. (2001) A national survey of the iodine content of household salt in South Africa. Bull WHO 2001; 79:534-540; Department of Health (2007). The National Food Consumption Survey 2005: Fortification Baseline (NFCS-FB).

### Vitamin A supplementation coverage is low in all provinces

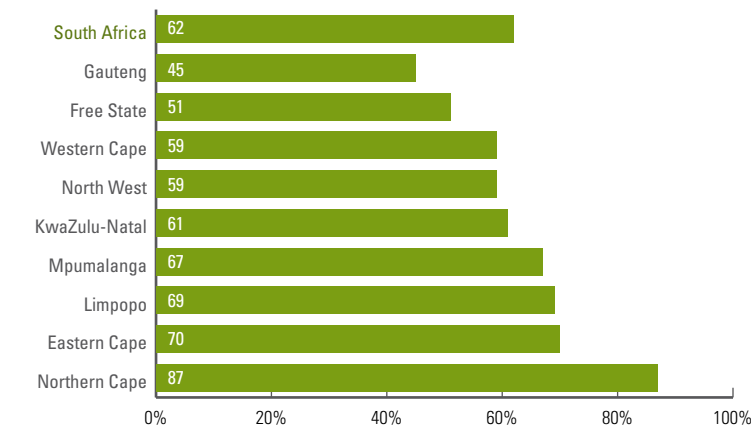
Percentage of children (12-59 months) receiving a high dose of vitamin A by province, 2009



Source: District Health Information System (DHIS, 2009) in Health Systems Trust (2010). South African Health Review.

### 6 out of 10 children in public schools benefit from the School Nutrition Programme

Percentage of children in public schools benefiting from the school nutrition programme by province, 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009.

## Children and AIDS

### RIGHTS

**CRC, Article 6 (1):** States Parties recognise that every child has the inherent right to life. (2). States Parties shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child.

**Committee on the Rights of the Child – General Comment No. 3, Article 25:** States parties are requested to ensure implementation of the strategies recommended by the United Nations agencies to prevent HIV infection in infants and young children. These include: (a) the primary prevention of HIV infection among parents-to-be; (b) the prevention of unintended pregnancies in HIV-infected women, (c) the prevention of HIV transmission from HIV-infected women to their infants; and (d) the provision of care, treatment and support to HIV-infected women, their infants and families.

Also see African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child's article 5.

### SA Constitution

**Section 11:** Everyone has the right to life.

### NATIONAL TARGETS

#### DoH Service Delivery Agreement, Output 2.3:

Combating HIV and AIDS and decreasing the burden of diseases from tuberculosis.

#### Key targets by 2014:

- Decrease HIV prevalence amongst 15–24 year old pregnant women.
- Decrease mother-to-child transmission rate from 10% to less than 5%.
- All eligible pregnant women to be initiated on ART at CD4 count of < 350.

- Total number of patients (adults and children) on ART increases from 1.1 million to 3.2 million.

### INTERNATIONAL GOALS/TARGETS

**MDG Goal 6, Target 6.A:** Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.

**MDG Goal 6, Target 6.B:** Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it.



© UNICEF/Karin Scherbrucker

## South Africa has the largest burden of HIV and AIDS in the world

1 in 8 children infected with HIV globally live in South Africa

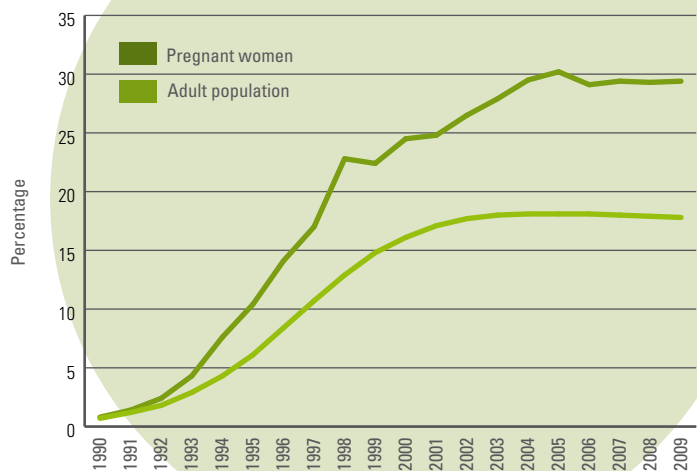
Summary of the AIDS epidemic, 2009

Number of people living with HIV			
	Globally	South Africa	Share (%)
Total	33.3 million	5.6 million	17%
Adults	30.8 million	5.3 million	17%
Women	15.9 million	3.3 million	21%
Children (<15 years)	2.5 million	330,000	13%
People newly infected with HIV in 2009			
	Globally	South Africa	Share (%)
Total	2.6 million	390,000	15%
Adults	2.2 million	347,000	16%
Children (<15 years)	370,000	43,000	12%
AIDS deaths in 2009			
	Globally	South Africa	Share (%)
Total	1.8 million	314,000	17%
Adults	1.6 million	284,000	18%
Children (<15 years)	260,000	30,000	12%

Source: UNAIDS (2010). Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic and AIDS info Database.

## The epidemic has reached its peak and HIV prevalence has stabilised at a very high level

National HIV prevalence in the adult population (15–49 years) and pregnant women (15–49 years), 1990–2009



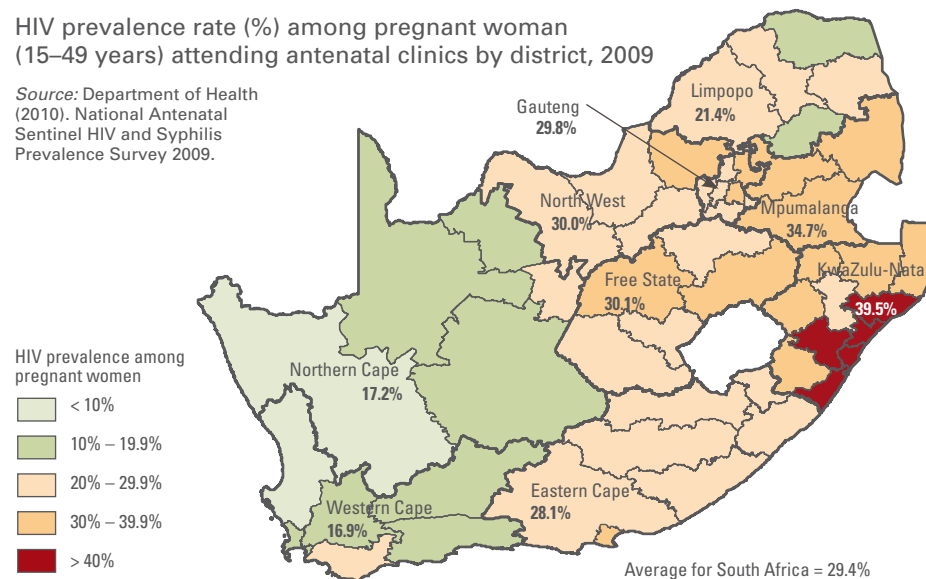
Source: UNAIDS (2010). AIDS info Database.

## Close to 30% of pregnant women are HIV positive

In 5 districts in KwaZulu-Natal more than 40% of pregnant women are living with HIV

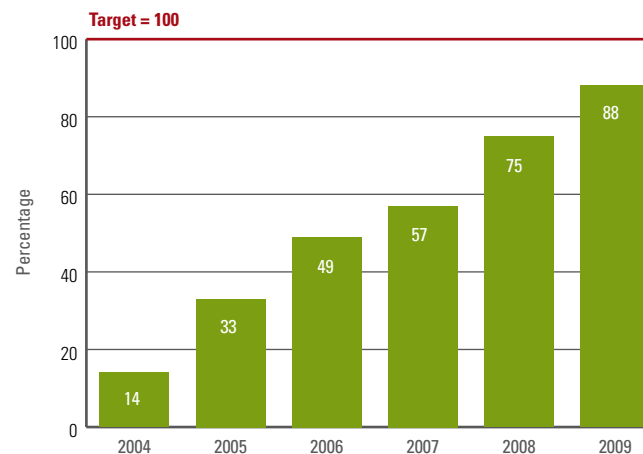
HIV prevalence rate (%) among pregnant woman (15–49 years) attending antenatal clinics by district, 2009

Source: Department of Health (2010). National Antenatal Sentinel HIV and Syphilis Prevalence Survey 2009.



## 9 in 10 pregnant women living with HIV receive antiretrovirals for preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV

Estimated percentage of pregnant women living with HIV who received ARV for preventing MTCT, 2004–2009



Source: Department of Health (2010). National Antenatal Sentinel HIV and Syphilis Prevalence Survey 2009; UNAIDS (2010). AIDS info Database.

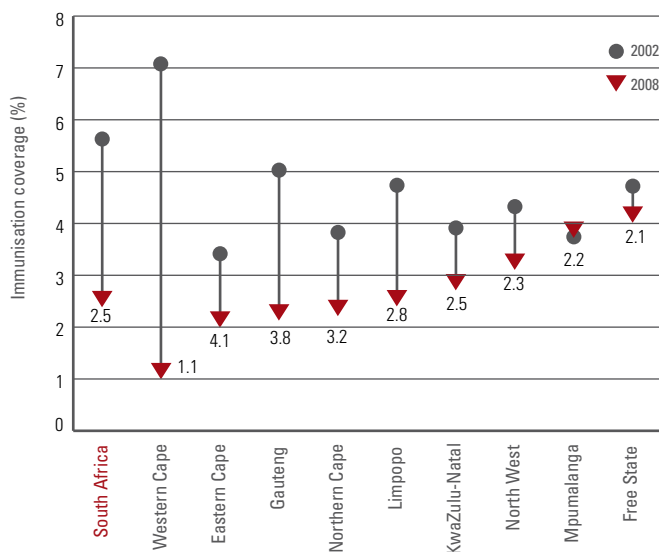


© UNICEF/Karin Schermbrucker

## HIV prevalence among children has decreased since 2002

2.5% of children 2–14 years old are living with HIV

HIV prevalence among children 2–14 years by province, 2002 and 2008



Source: Shisana O, et al. (2009). South African national HIV prevalence, incidence, behaviour and communication survey 2008: A turning tide among teenagers? Cape Town: HSRC Press.

## Children's access to antiretroviral therapy has increased substantially in recent years

Around 100,000 children living with HIV were receiving treatment in 2010

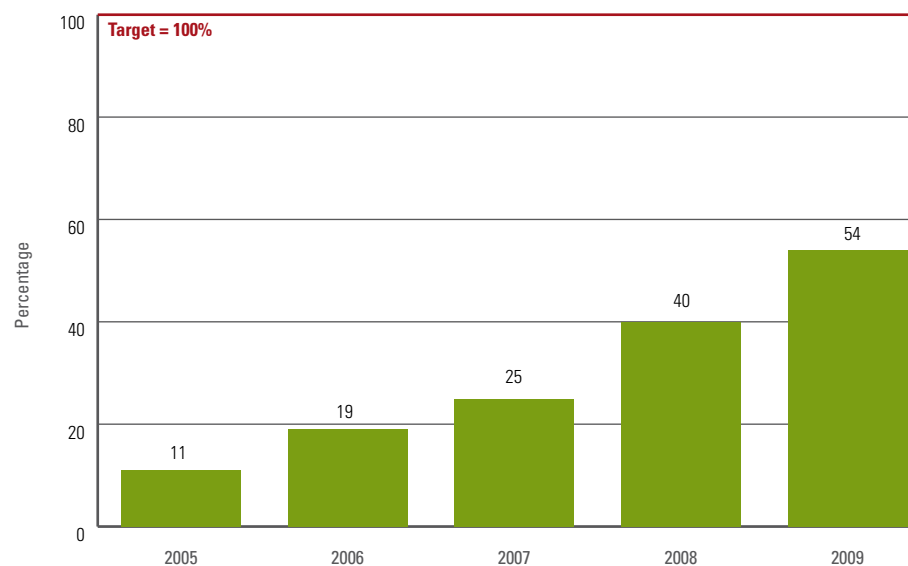
Number of children on comprehensive HIV and AIDS treatment (public sector), 2005–2010

	Dec. 2005	Dec. 2006	Dec. 2007	Dec. 2008	Dec. 2009	May 2010
KwaZulu-Natal	3,005	7,173	11,841	19,689	28,791	32,528
Gauteng	3,885	7,066	9,844	14,445	19,519	22,194
Eastern Cape	1,054	1,354	3,141	4,737	8,160	9,880
North West	616	1,804	3,502	5,530	7,319	8,123
Limpopo	441	1,068	2,061	4,136	5,897	6,618
Western Cape	1,877	2,649	3,505	4,496	5,389	5,883
Mpumalanga	261	899	1,874	2,983	5,033	5,695
Free State	465	806	806	2,066	3,601	4,638
Northern Cape	355	550	1,120	1,441	1,921	2,123
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>11,959</b>	<b>23,369</b>	<b>37,694</b>	<b>59,523</b>	<b>85,630</b>	<b>97,682</b>

Source: Department of Health (2010). National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS / Comprehensive HIV and AIDS Treatment Plan statistics.

## Yet, only 54% of children needing antiretroviral therapy were receiving it in 2009

Estimated coverage of antiretroviral therapy among children (0–14 years old), 2005–2009

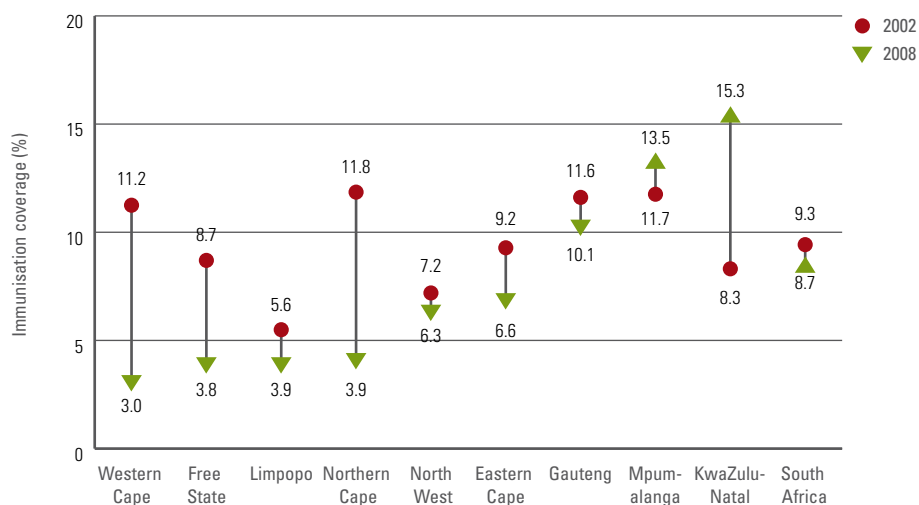


Source: Department of Health (2010). National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS, Comprehensive HIV and AIDS Treatment Plan statistics (numerator). UNAIDS (2010). Estimated number of children (0–14 years old) needing antiretroviral therapy based on UNAIDS/WHO methods (denominator).



## HIV prevalence among youth is increasing in KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga while decreasing in all other provinces

HIV prevalence among youth 15–24 years by province, 2002 and 2008

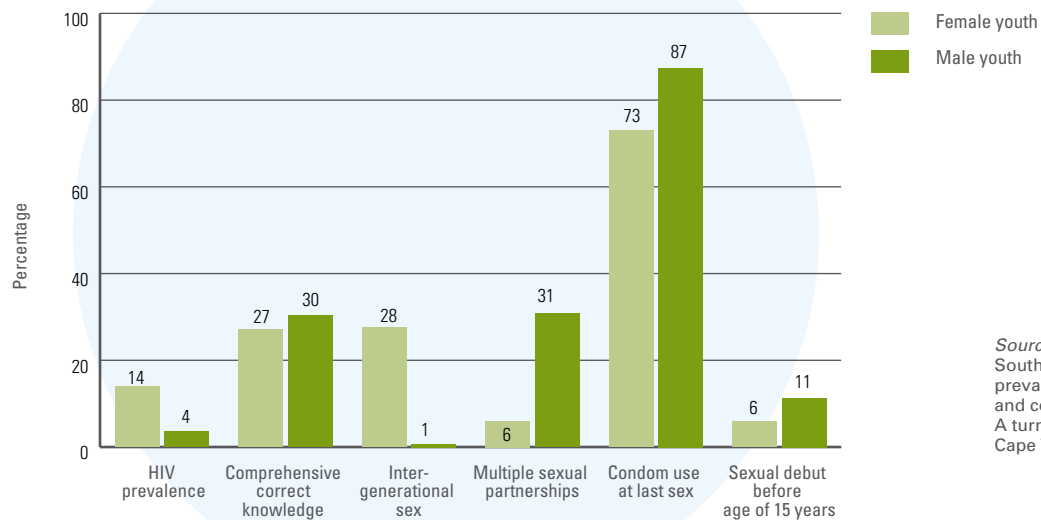


Source: Shisana O, et al. (2009). South African national HIV prevalence, incidence, behaviour and communication survey 2008: A turning tide among teenagers? Cape Town: HSRC Press.

## Women are disproportionately affected by HIV

Female youth are 3.5 times more likely to be HIV positive than their male counterparts

HIV prevalence and behavioural determinants among youth 15–24 years by sex, 2008



Source: Shisana O, et al. (2009). South African national HIV prevalence, incidence, behaviour and communication survey 2008: A turning tide among teenagers? Cape Town: HSRC Press.



© UNICEF/Karin Scherbrucker

# Children's Rights to Early Childhood Development and Education

## The Right to Early Childhood Development

### RIGHTS

**CRC, Article 6(2):** States Parties shall ensure to the maximum extent possible the ... development of the child.

**CRC, Article 18(2):** ... States Parties shall render appropriate assistance to parents and legal guardians in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities and shall ensure the development of institutions, facilities and services for the care of children.

### Committee on the Rights of the Child

**General Comment No. 7, Article X:** The Committee interprets the right to education during early childhood as beginning at birth and closely linked to young children's right to maximum development (art. 6.2).

**Linking education to development is elaborated in article 29.1:** States parties agree that the education of the child shall be directed to: (a) the development of the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential. ... The Committee calls on States parties to ensure that all young children receive education in the broadest sense (as outlined in paragraph 28 above), which acknowledges a key role for parents, wider family and community, as well as the contribution of organised programmes of early childhood education provided by the State, the community or civil society institutions.

Also see African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child's article 20(2)(b) and (c).

### NATIONAL TARGETS

**DoE Service Delivery Agreement, Output 1.3:** Improve Early Childhood Development. Key target by 2014:

The percentage of Grade 1 learners who have received formal Grade R increases from 80% to 100%.

### INTERNATIONAL GOALS/TARGETS

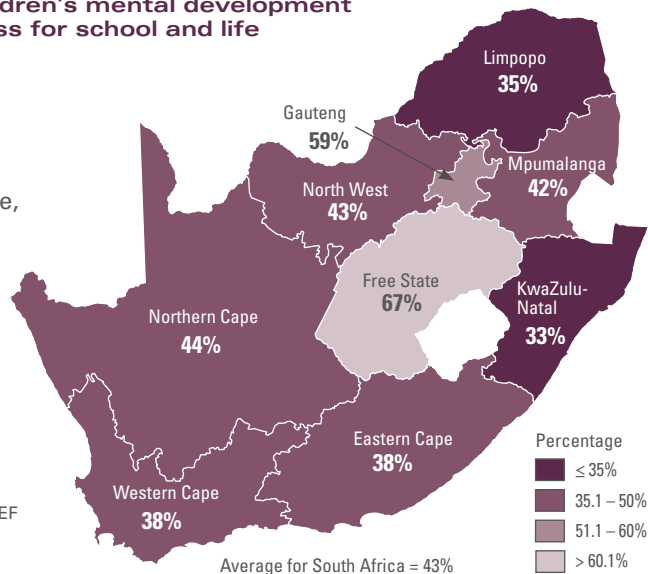
**EFA, Goal 1:** Expanding and improving comprehensive early childhood care and education, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children.



## Only 43% of children under 5 are exposed to an Early Childhood Development programme at home, a centre or elsewhere

ECD is crucial in children's mental development and in their readiness for school and life

Percentage of children under 5 exposed to an ECD programme (anywhere) by province, 2009

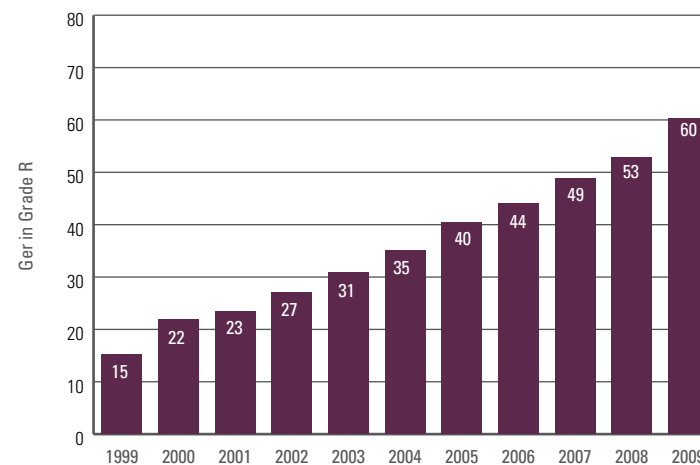


Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## Grade R enrolment increased from 15% in 1999 to 60% in 2009

Grade R (Reception Year) programmes are meant to prepare children for primary education

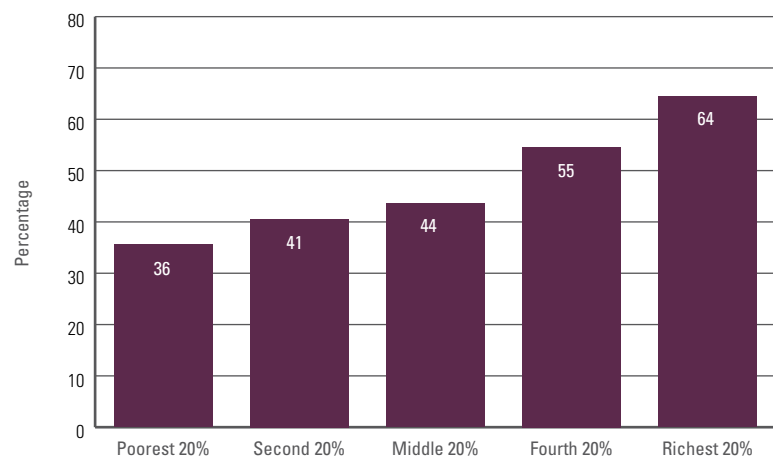
Participation in Grade R (Gross Enrolment Ratio) to sites attached to public and independent ordinary schools, 1999–2009



Source: Department of Education (2011). Education for All (EFA) Country Report South Africa, 2010.

## Children in the poorest households are only half as likely to benefit from ECD than children in the richest households

Percentage of children under 5 exposed to an ECD programme (anywhere) by household income quintile, 2009



Note: In South Africa, ECD is defined as the emotional, cognitive, sensory, spiritual, moral, physical, social and communication development of a child.  
Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.



© Leonie Marinovich

## The Right to Education

### RELATED RIGHTS

**CRC, Article 28:** (1) States Parties recognise the right of the child to education, and with a view to achieving this right progressively and on the basis of equal opportunity, they shall, in particular: (a) Make primary education compulsory and available free to all; (b) Encourage the development of different forms of secondary education, including general and vocational education, make them available and accessible to every child, and take appropriate measures such as the introduction of free education and offering financial assistance in case of need; ... (e) Take measures to encourage regular attendance at schools and the reduction of drop-out rates.

**CRC, Article 23 (3):** Recognising the special needs of a disabled child, assistance extended in accordance with paragraph 2 of the present article shall be provided free of charge, whenever possible, taking into account the financial resources of the parents or others caring for the child, and shall be designed to ensure that the disabled child has effective access to and receives education, training ....

Also see African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child's articles 11 and 13.

### SA Constitution

**Section 29(1):** Everyone has the right – (a) to a basic education, including adult education; and (b) to further education, which the state, through reasonable measures, must make progressively available and accessible.

### NATIONAL TARGETS

**DoE Service Delivery Agreement, Output 1.1:** Improve the quality of teaching and learning.

#### Key targets by 2014:

- Percentage of Grade 3 learners performing at the required literacy level according to the country's Annual National Assessments increases from 48% to 60%.
- Average score obtained in Grade 6 in mathematics in the SACMEQ assessment increases from 495 to 520.
- Percentage of Grade 9 learners performing at the required mathematics level according to the country's Annual National Assessments increases to 60%.
- Number of Grade 12 learners who become eligible for a Bachelor's programme in the public national examinations increases from 110,000 to 175,000.
- The percentage of teachers who are able to attain minimum standards in anonymous and sample-based assessments of their subject knowledge (baseline and target to be determined).
- The percentage of learners having access to the required textbooks and workbooks for the entire school year increase to 100%.
- The percentage of learners in schools with a library or media centre fulfilling certain minimum standards increasing by 20 percentage points.

### RELATED INTERNATIONAL GOALS/TARGETS

**MDG 2, Target 2.A:** Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.

**MDG Goal 3, Target 3.A:** Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015.



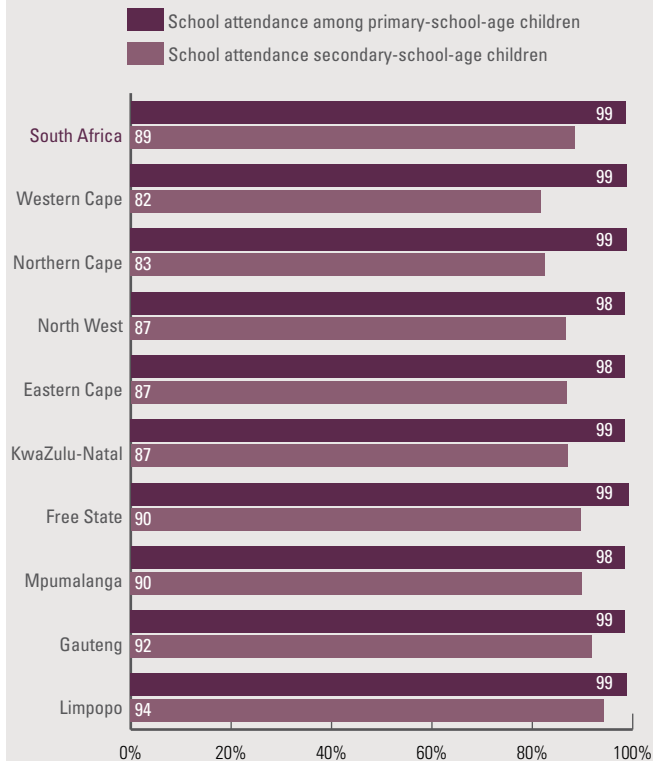
© UNICEF/Rebecca Hearfield

## Access to Education

### Near universal primary education has been achieved in all provinces

Less than 90% of secondary-school-age children attend school

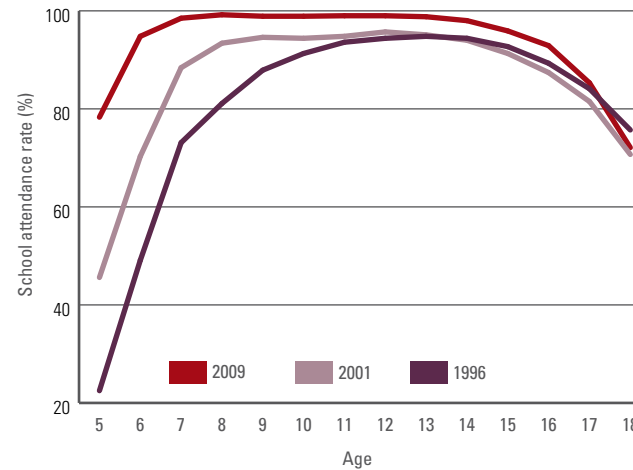
Percentage of children of primary school age (7–13 years) and secondary school age (14–18 years) attending an educational institution by province, 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

### School attendance among children has increased steadily in the past 15 years, but less so for the older age groups

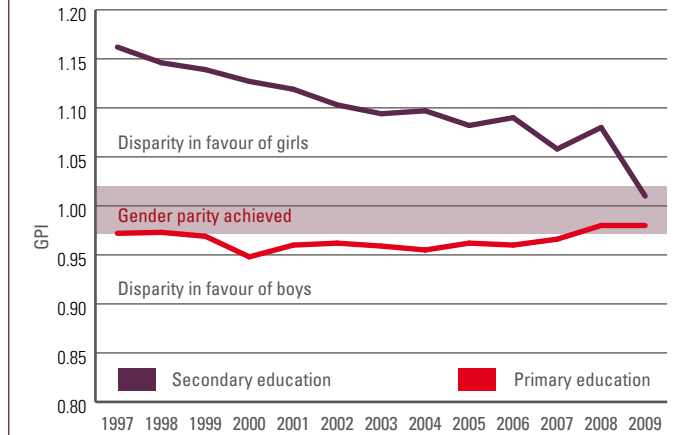
Percentage of children attending an educational institution by age, 1996; 2001 and 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (1998; 2003; 2010). Census 1996; Census 2001; General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

### Gender parity has been achieved both in primary and secondary education

Gender Parity Index (GPI) in primary and secondary education, 1997–2009



Source: The Presidency (2010). Development Indicators 2009.



© UNICEF/Giacomo Pirozzi

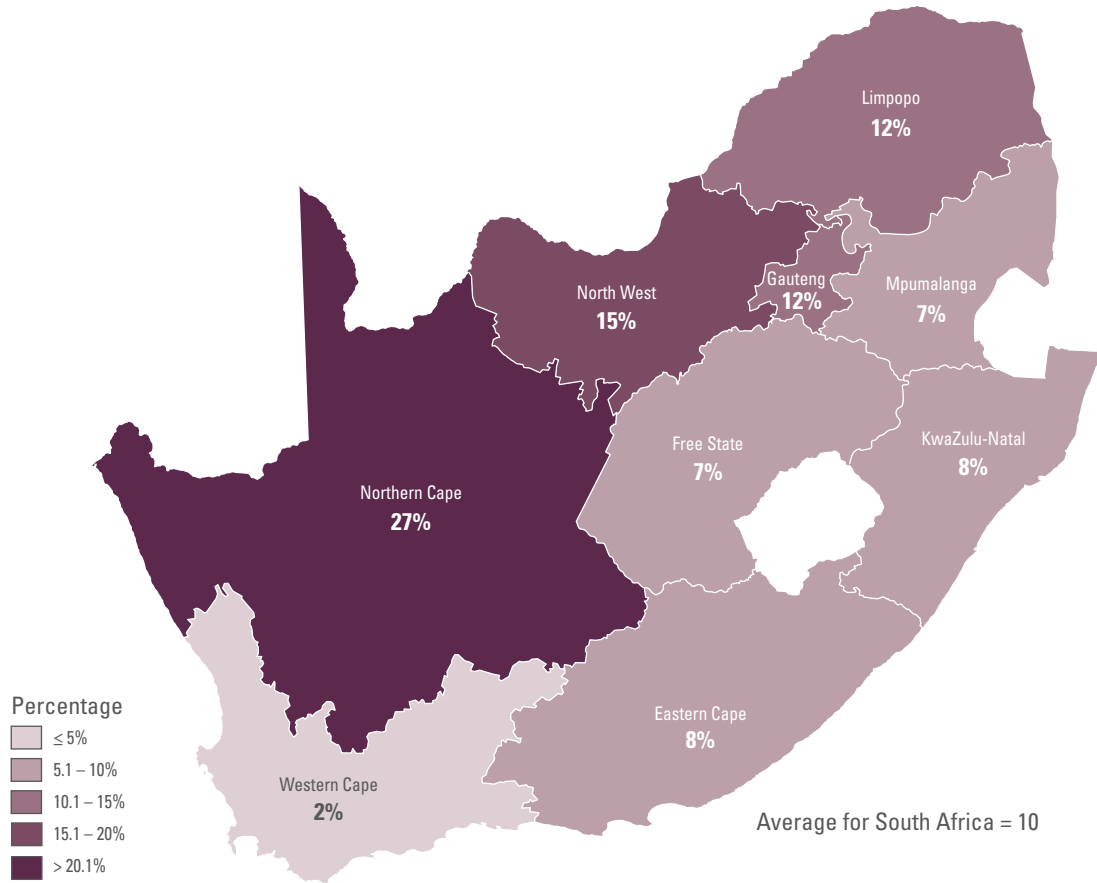


© UNICEF/Giacomo Pirozzi

## Disability is a serious barrier to access basic education

10% of children with disabilities do not attend school

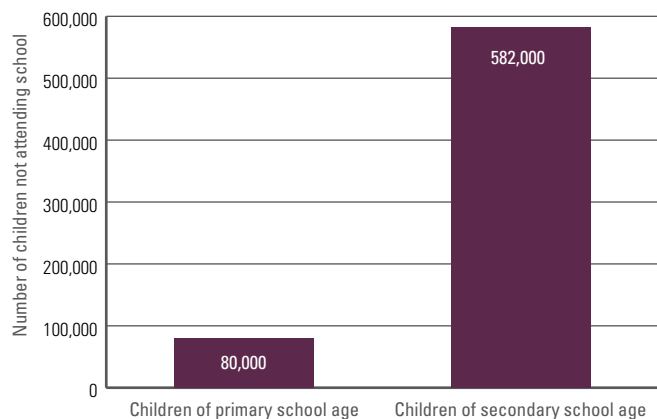
Percentage of children with disabilities 7–15 years old not attending an educational institution by province, 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). Selected development indicators – A discussion document sourced from the General Household Survey, 2009.

## Nationwide, some 662,000 children are out of primary and secondary school

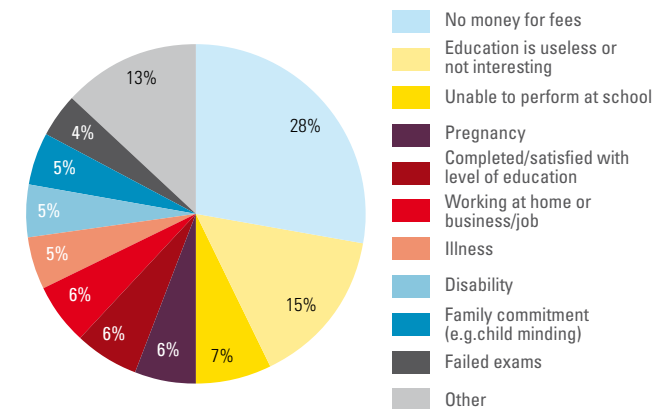
Number of children of primary/secondary school age not attending an educational institution, 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## Lack of money is the most important reason why children are not attending school

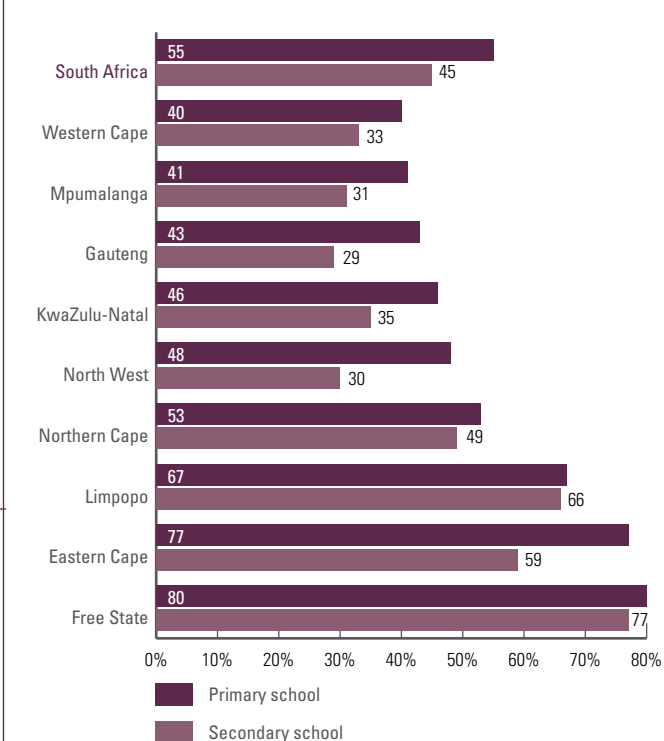
Reasons for children (7–18 years old) not attending school, 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## Yet 1 in 2 learners in public schools receive free education

Percentage of learners attending public schools (primary/secondary) who do not pay school fees by province, 2009



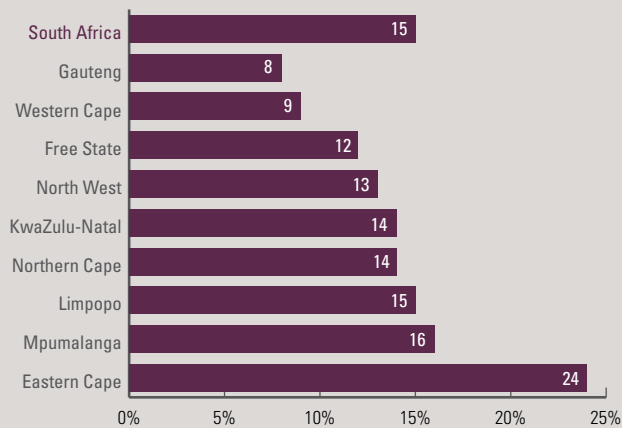
Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.



## Efficiency and Quality of the Education System

### 15% of secondary-school-age children attend primary school because of late entry or grade repetition

Percentage of children of secondary school age (14–18 years) attending primary school (Grade 1–7) by province, 2009

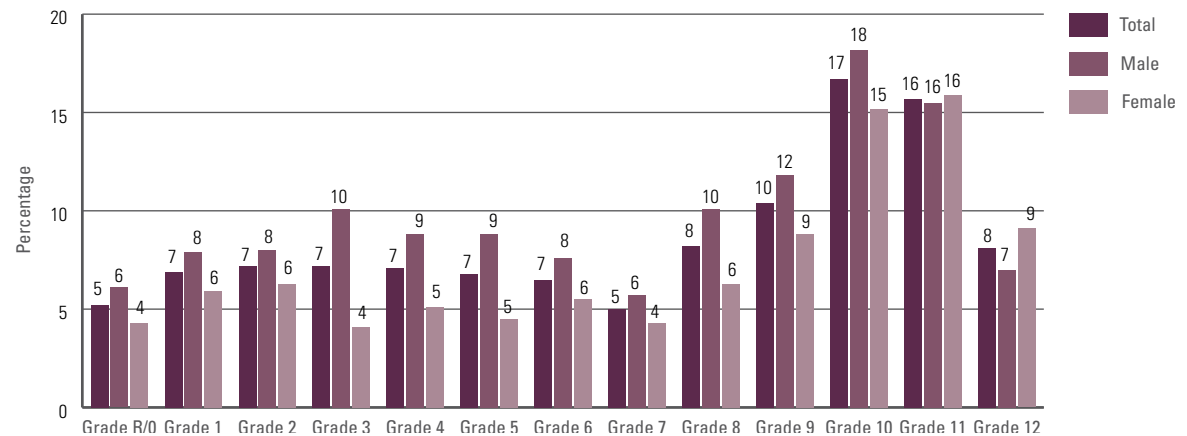


Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

### Repetition rates are high, especially in Grade 10 and Grade 11

Female learners generally have lower repetition rates than male learners

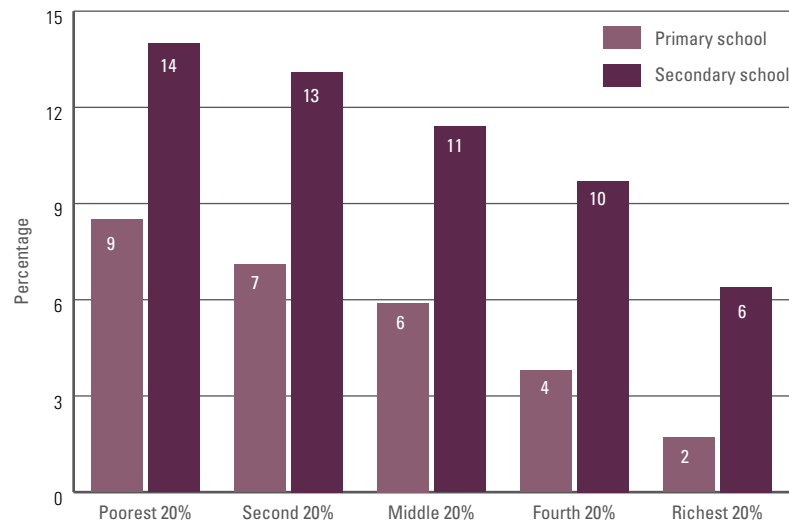
Percentage of learners who repeat the same grade by sex of learners and by grade, 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

### Children in the poorest households are more likely to repeat the same grade

Repetition rates in primary and secondary school by household income quintile, 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

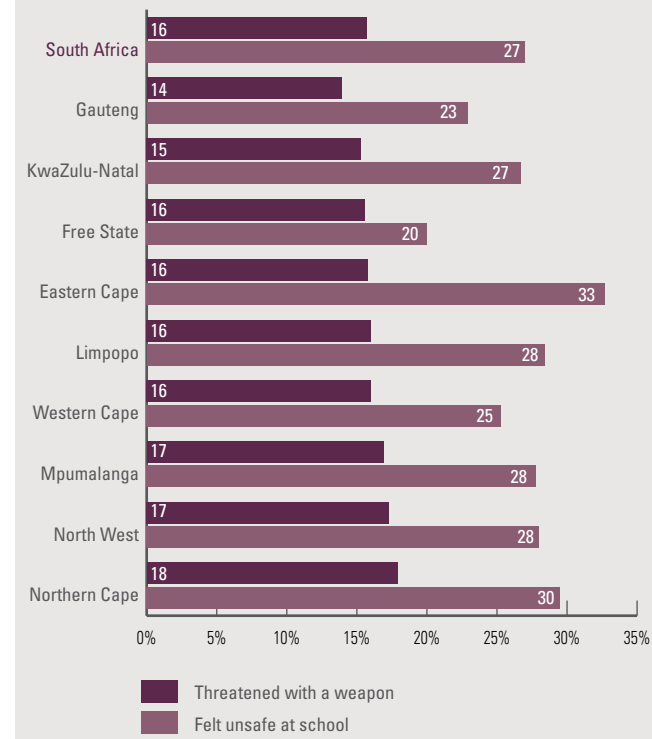


© UNICEF/Giacomo Pirozzi

### Violence at school is a barrier to quality education

**27% of high school learners feel unsafe at school while 16% have been threatened with a weapon**

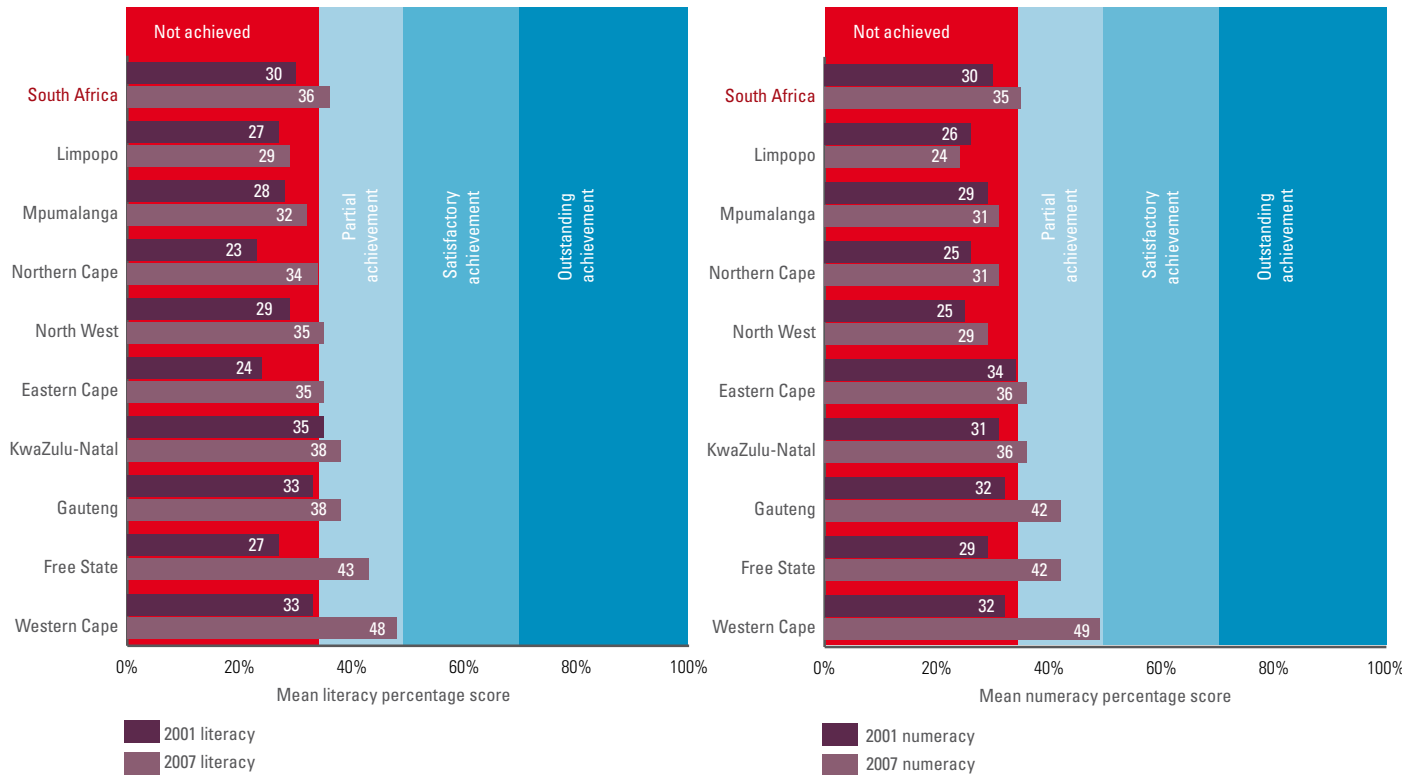
Percentage of high school learners who have been threatened /injured with a weapon; felt unsafe at school by province, 2008



Source: Medical Research Council (2010). Youth Risk Behaviour Survey 2008.

## Grade 3 learners' achievement in national assessments is generally very poor

Average percentage scores of learners in literacy and numeracy in Grade 3 Systemic Evaluations by province, 2001 and 2007

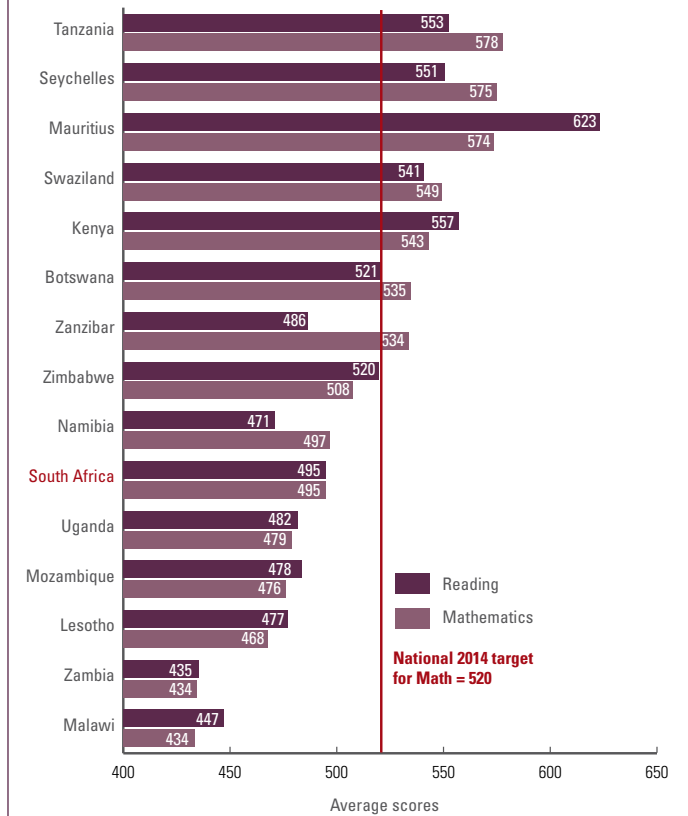


Note: Attainment score bands: Not achieved: 0–34; Partial achievement: 35–49; Satisfactory achievement: 50–69; Outstanding achievement: 70–100.

Source: Department of Education (2005; 2008). National Protocol on Assessment; Grade 3 Systematic Evaluation Report.

## South Africa's Grade 6 learner achievement levels are poor compared to many other countries in the region

Average reading and mathematics scores for Grade 6 learners in SACMEQ countries, 2007



Note: A linear transformation of the reading and mathematics scores was undertaken that resulted in the mean and standard deviation of pupil scores being 500 and 100, respectively (for the pooled data with equal weight given to each country). As a result, a score of 500 is equal to the average of all country mean scores.

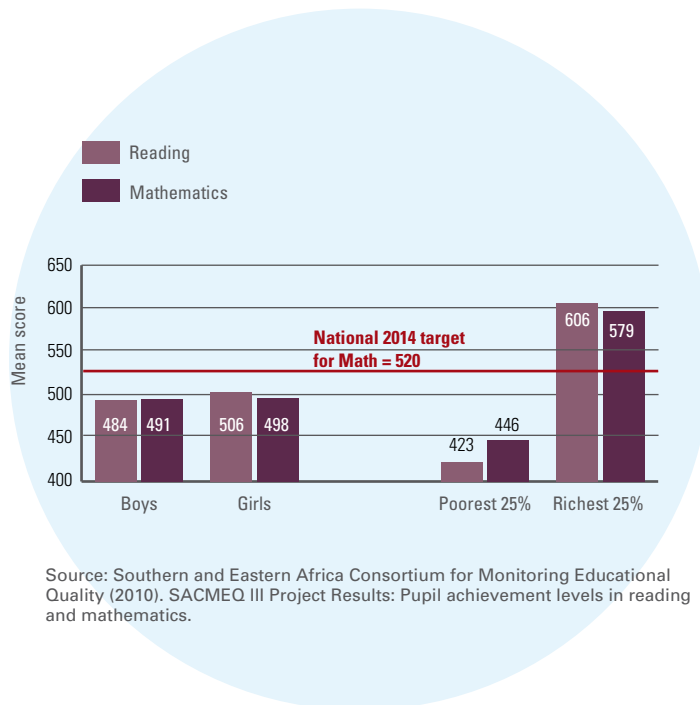
Source: Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality (2010). SACMEQ III Project Results: Pupil achievement levels in reading and mathematics.



## Children living in poor households have lower achievement levels in school

Girls tend to perform better than boys

Average reading and mathematics scores for South African Grade 6 learners in SACMEQ assessment by pupil sex, and socioeconomic status (SES), 2007

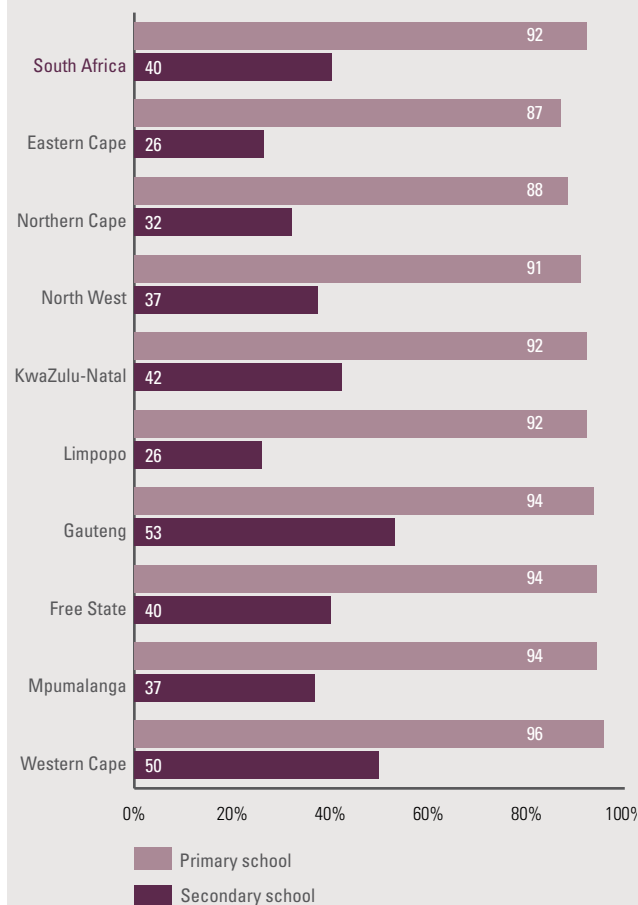


Source: Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality (2010). SACMEQ III Project Results: Pupil achievement levels in reading and mathematics.

## Completion of primary and secondary schooling

Over 90% of youth has completed primary schooling. Yet, only 40% has finished secondary schooling

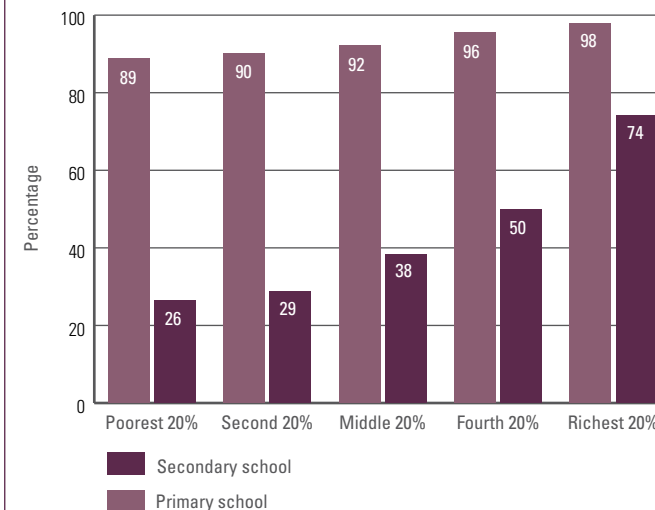
Percentage of youth (20–24 years old) who have completed primary/secondary education by province, 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## Children in the poorest households are nearly 3 times less likely to complete secondary schooling than children in the richest households

Percentage of youth (20–24 years old) who have completed primary/secondary education by province, 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

# Children's Rights to a Family Environment and Alternative Care

## The Right to Parental or Family Care

### RIGHTS

**CRC, Article 5:** States Parties shall respect the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents or, where applicable, the members of the extended family or community as provided for by local custom, legal guardians or other persons legally responsible for the child, to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child, appropriate direction and guidance in the exercise by the child of the rights recognised in the present Convention.

**CRC, Article 7(1):** The child shall ... have ... as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.

**CRC, Article 8(1):** States Parties undertake to respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognised by law without unlawful interference.

**CRC, Article 18(1–2):** States Parties shall use their best efforts to ensure recognition of the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child. Parents or, as the case may be, legal guardians, have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child. The best interests of the child will be their basic concern. 2. For the purpose of guaranteeing and promoting the rights set forth in the present Convention, States Parties shall render appropriate assistance to parents and legal guardians in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities and shall

ensure the development of institutions, facilities and services for the care of children.

Also see African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child's article 18, 19 and 20.

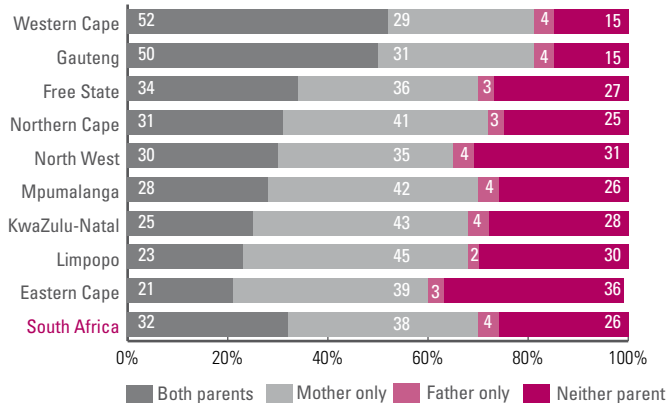
### SA Constitution

**Section 28(1):** Every child has the right ... (b) to family care or parental care.



## Only 1 in 3 children live with both biological parents

Percentage of children living in the same household with both their biological parents; their mother only; their father only; or neither biological parent by province, 2009

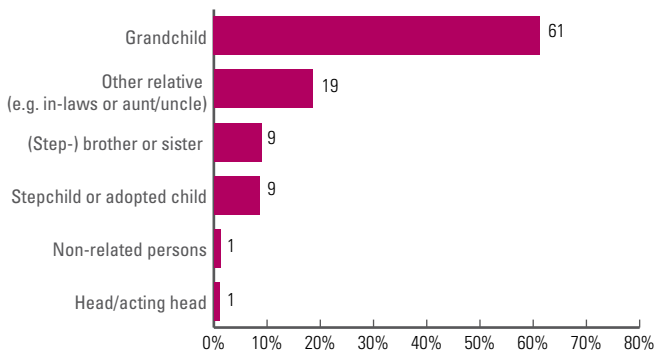


Note: Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## The majority of children (80%) not living with either parent reside with their grandparents or relatives

Child's relationship to head of the household when both biological parents are absent, 2009

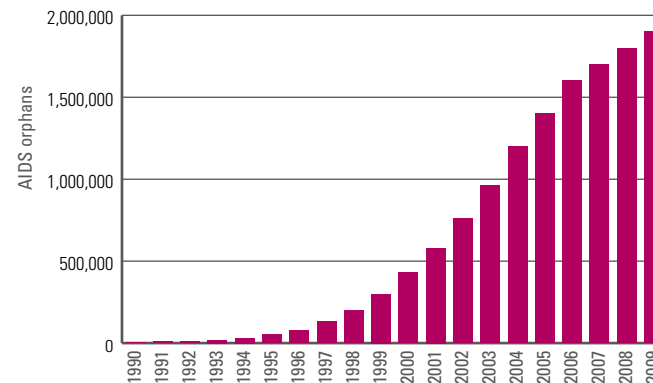


Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## The AIDS epidemic is an important driver of the growing number of orphans

1.9 million children have lost one or both parents due to AIDS

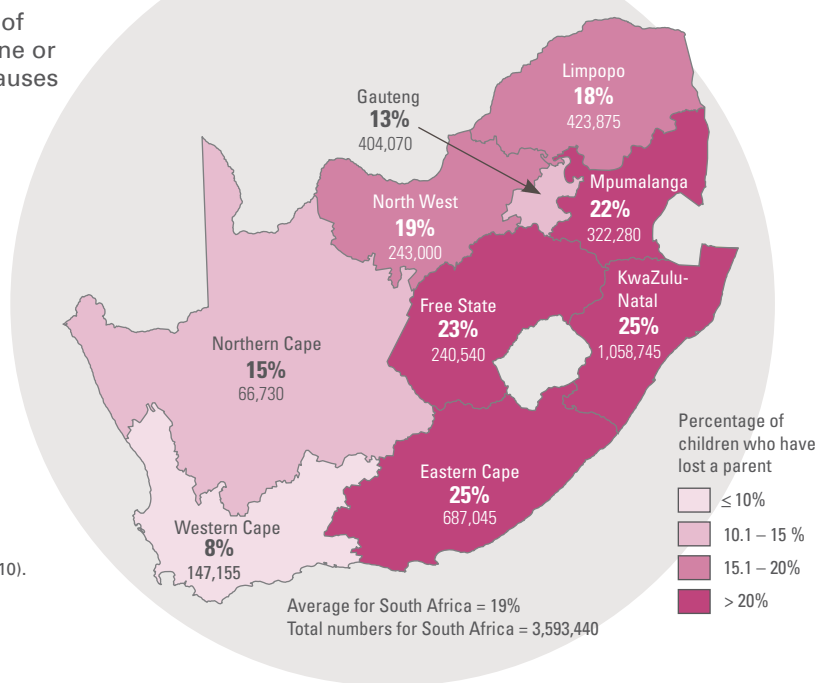
Total number of children who have lost one or both parents due to AIDS, 2000–2009



Source: UNAIDS (2010) Estimates.

## 1 in 5 children have lost one or both parents

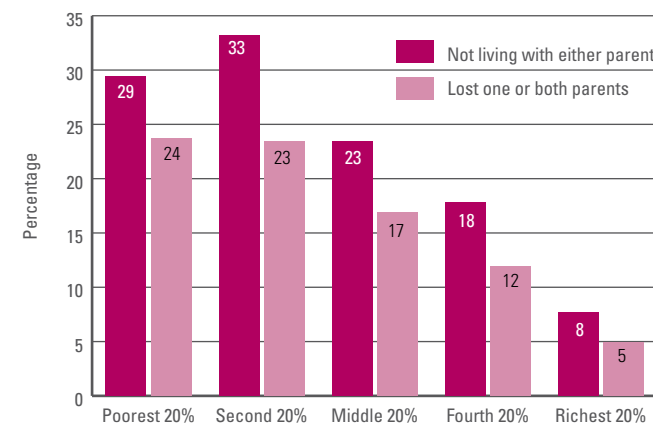
Number and percentage of children who have lost one or both parents due to all causes by province, 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## Poor children are less likely to live with their biological parents

Percentage of children not living with either parent; who have lost one or both parents due to all causes by household income quintile, 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

## The Right to Alternative Care in the Absence of Family Care

### RIGHTS

**CRC, Article 20(1);(2) and (3):** (1) A child temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment, or in whose own best interests cannot be allowed to remain in that environment, shall be entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the State. (2) States Parties shall in accordance with their national laws ensure alternative care for such a child. (3) Such care could include, inter alia, foster placement, kafalah of Islamic law, adoption or if necessary placement in suitable institutions for the care of children. When considering solutions, due regard shall be paid to the desirability of continuity in a child's upbringing and to the child's ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic background.

**CRC, Article 25:** States Parties recognise the right of a child who has been placed by the competent authorities for the purposes of care, protection or treatment of his or her physical or mental health, to a periodic review of the treatment provided to the child and all other circumstances relevant to his or her placement.

Also see African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child's articles 24 and 25.

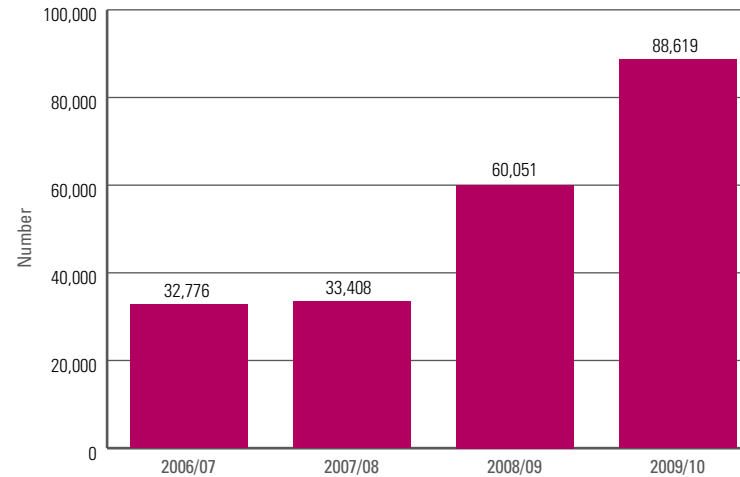
### SA Constitution

**Section 28(1):** Every child has the right ... (b) to ... appropriate alternative care when removed from the family environment.

## Over 88,600 children were declared in need of care by a children's court during 2009/10

These children can be placed in foster care, in a children's home, in a school of industry or back into the parents' or guardians' care, under the supervision of a social worker. Orphaned and abandoned children may also be adopted.

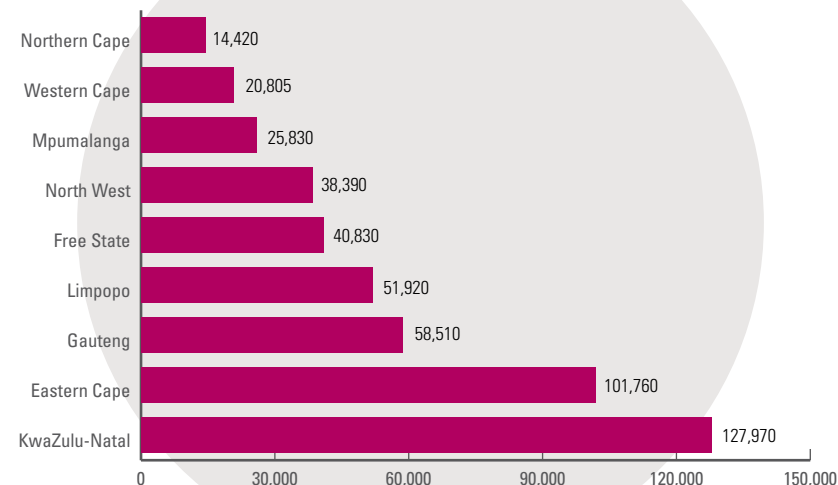
Number of children declared to be in need of care and protection by a children's court, 2006/07–2009/10



Source: Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (2007–2010). Annual Reports 2006/07–2009/10.

## Close to 500,000 children live with foster parents and benefit from the Foster Child Grant

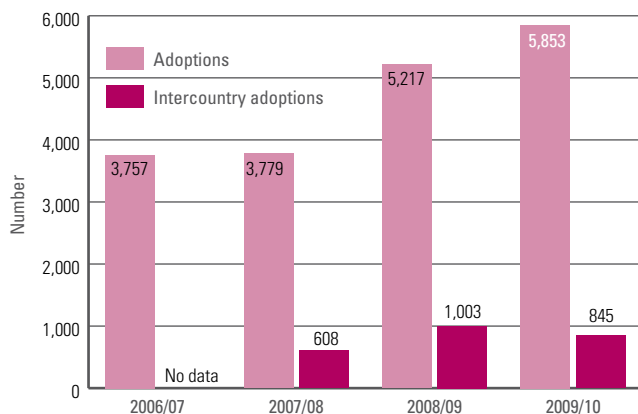
Number of Foster Child Grants by province, Jan. 2011



Source: South African Social Security Agency (2011). Statistical Report No. 38 on Social Grants (January 2011).

## The number of adoptions has increased to over 5,850 annually

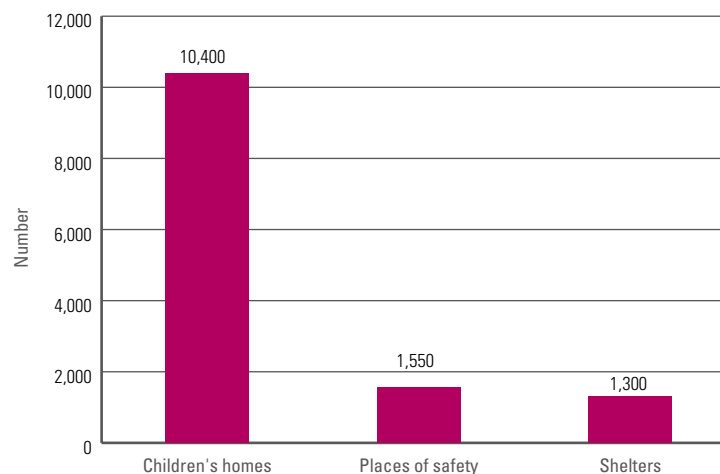
Number of adoptions and intercountry adoptions dealt with in children's courts, 2006/07–2009/10



Source: Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (2007–2010). Annual Reports 2006/07–2009/10.

## Approximately 13,250 children stay in registered child and youth care centres. The number of children in unregistered centres is unknown.

Number of children in registered child and youth care centres by centre type, 2010



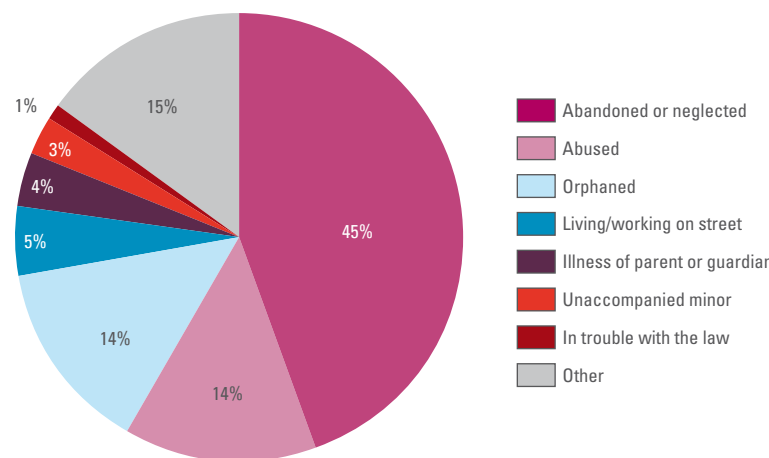
Note: This number is equivalent to only 76% of the total capacity of registered child and youth care centres, but 95% of the total number of children accommodated on the last weekday night during the time of the survey.

Source: Department of Social Development, UNICEF (2010). Baseline Study on Registered Child and Youth Care Centres.



## Close to half of children (45%) are admitted to registered child and youth care centres because of abandonment or neglect

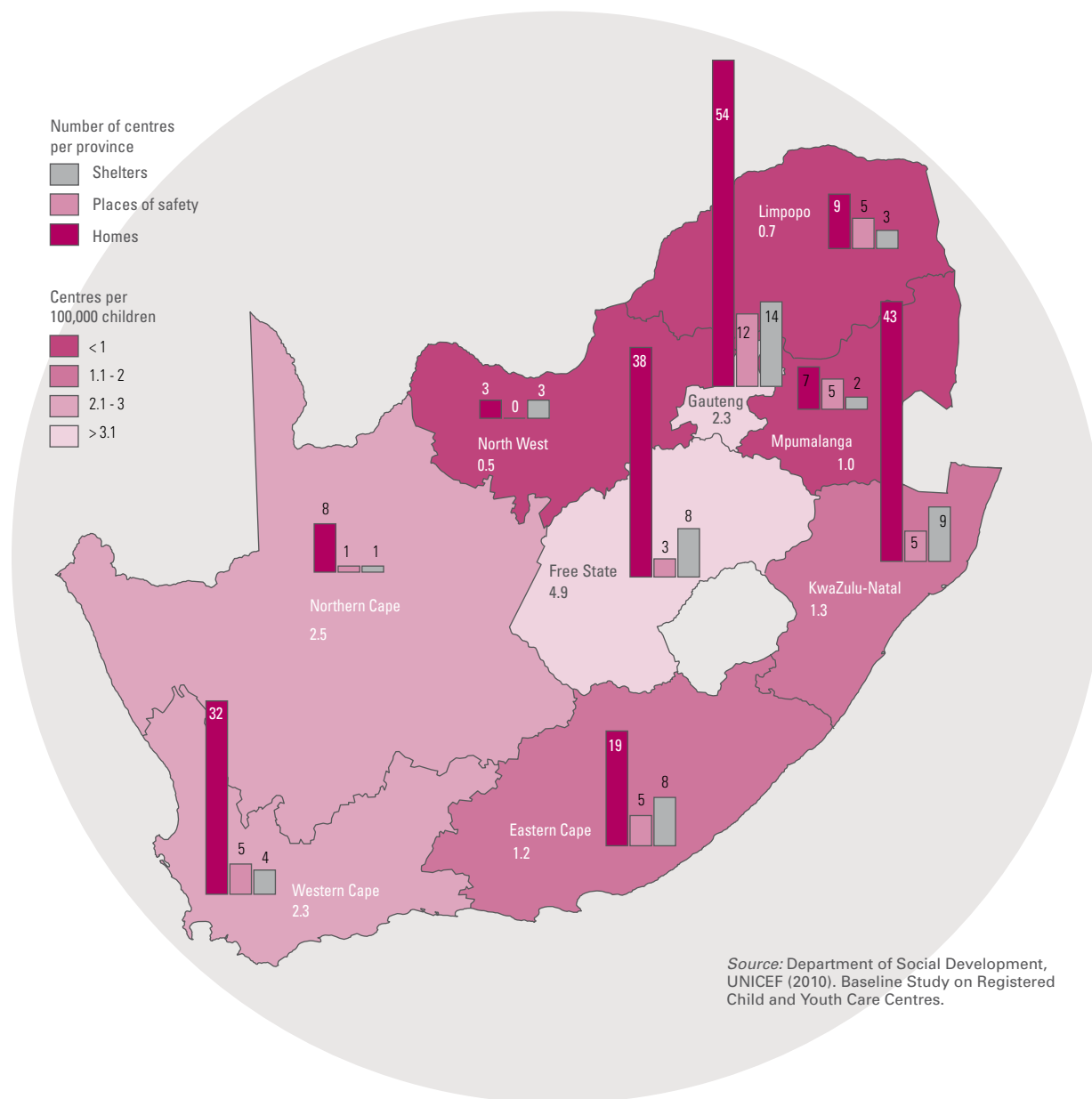
Main reason for admission of child to registered child and youth care centres, 2010



Source: Department of Social Development, UNICEF (2010). Baseline Study on Registered Child and Youth Care Centres.

## Registered child and youth care centres are not equitably distributed across the country

Number of registered child and youth care centres by province, type, and per 100,000 child population, 2010



## The Right to be Protected from all Forms of Violence

### RIGHTS

CRC, Article 19: States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.

**CRC, Article 34:** States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

Also see African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child's article 16.

### SA Constitution

**Section 28(1):** Every child has the right ... (d) to be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation.

### NATIONAL TARGETS

**JCPS Delivery Agreement, Output 3.1:** Address overall levels of crime and reduce the levels of contact and trio crimes.

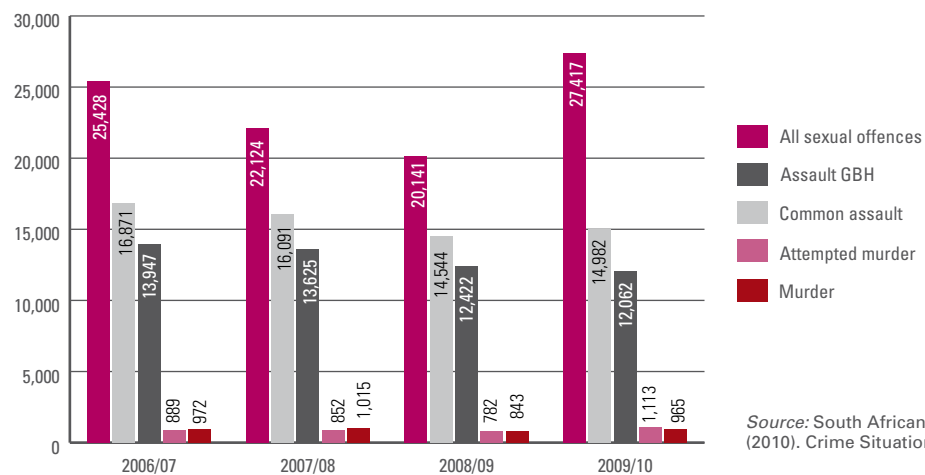
#### Key target by 2014:

- Reduce reported serious crimes from 3,924 (1,910,847 crimes) to at least 3,767 per 100,000 people.
- Reduce contact crimes from 1,407 (685,185 crimes) to 930 per 100,000 people whilst reducing trio crimes from 97,1 (47,273 crimes) to 67 per 100,000 people.

## Violence against children is pervasive in South Africa

Over 56,500 children were reported to be victims of violent crime in 2009/10, yet many more crimes remain unreported. People closest to them perpetrate the majority of cases of child sexual and physical abuse.

Reported crimes against children by crime category, 2006/07–2009/10



## Over 4,000 cases of child neglect or ill-treatment are reported to the police annually

Reported cases of neglect and ill-treatment of children by province, 2009/10

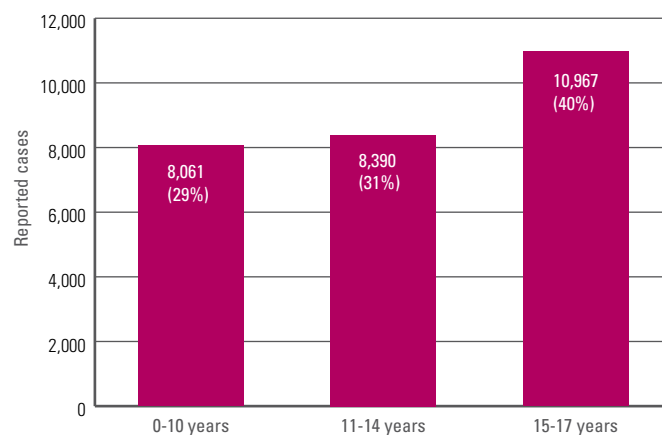
Province	Reported cases	Ratio per 100,000 population
Northern Cape	197	17.2
Western Cape	847	15.8
Free State	450	15.5
Gauteng	1,057	10.0
North West	270	7.8
Eastern Cape	356	5.4
Mpumalanga	164	4.5
KwaZulu-Natal	455	4.4
Limpopo	218	4.2
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>4,014</b>	<b>8.1</b>

Source: South African Police Service (2010). Crime Statistics: April 2009 – March 2010.

## Sexual offences are often committed against young children

29% of all sexual offences against children involve children aged 0–10 years old

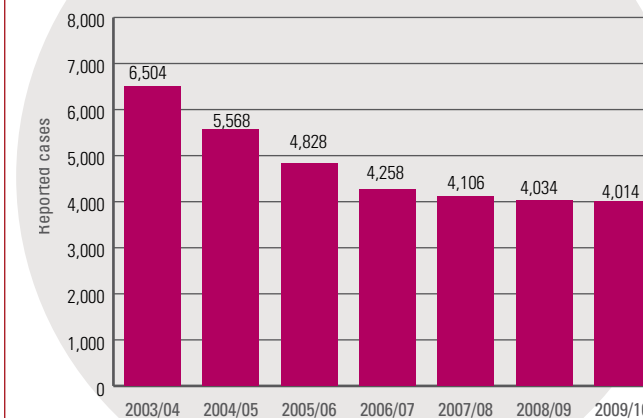
Reported sexual offences against children by age group, 2009/10



Source: South African Police Service (2010). Crime Situation in South Africa.

## The number of cases of neglect and ill-treatment reported to the police has decreased since 2003

Number of reported cases of neglect and ill-treatment of children, 2003/04–2009/10



Source: South African Police Service (2010). Crime Statistics: April 2009 – March 2010.

# Children's Rights to Special Protection

## The Right to Special Protection When in Conflict with the Law

### RIGHTS

**CRC, Article 40:** (1) States Parties recognise the right of every child alleged as, accused of, or recognised as having infringed the penal law to be treated in a manner consistent with the promotion of the child's sense of dignity and worth, which reinforces the child's respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of others and which takes into account the child's age and the desirability of promoting the child's reintegration and the child's assuming a constructive role in society ....

Also see African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child's articles 15, 27, 28 and 29.

### SA Constitution

**Section 28(1):** Every child has the right ... (g) to not to be detained except as a measure of last resort, in which case ... the child may be detained only for the shortest appropriate period of time, and has the right to be (i) kept separately from detained persons over the age of 18 years; and (ii) treated in a manner, and kept in conditions, that take account of the child's age.

### Some facts on children in conflict with the law:

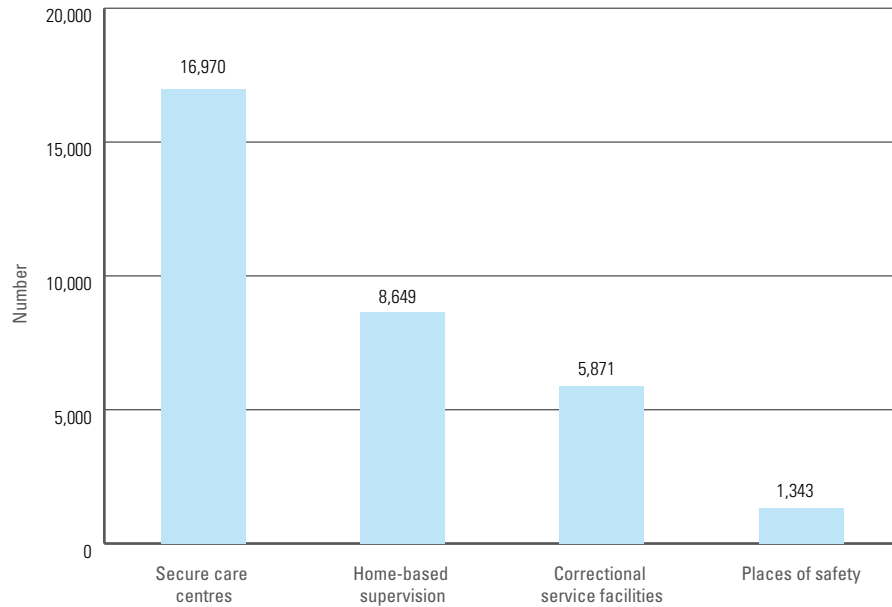
- On average, between 9,000 and 13,000 children are arrested by the South African Police Service on a monthly basis.
- Approximately 4,500 to 5,000 cases per month are converted into Children's Court Inquiries in terms of the Child Care Act, 1983 (Act 74 of 1983). Of the remaining numbers of children in the criminal justice system, between 3,000 and 5,500 children go through the courts on a monthly basis.
- On average, 1,900 children per month are diverted from the mainstream criminal justice system. This means that where a child acknowledges wrong-doing, the prosecutor provisionally withdraws charges, on condition that the child attends diversion programmes such as life skills and anger management programmes.

*Source:* Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (2008). Annual Report 2007/08.



## Approximately 33,000 children awaited trial in detention during 2008/09

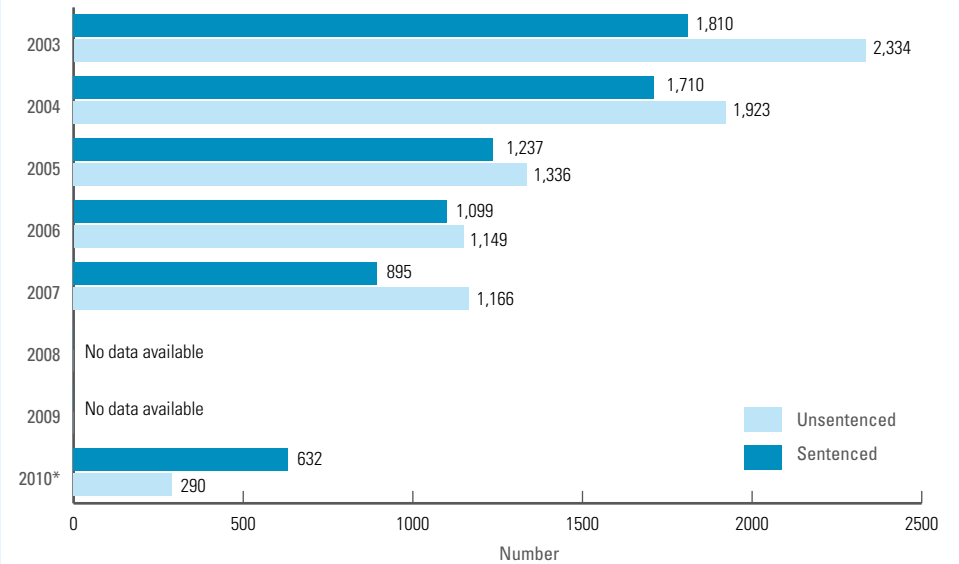
Number of children in conflict with the law awaiting trial by place of detention, 2008/09



Source: National Treasury (2009). Provincial Budgets and Expenditure Review 2005/06 – 2011/12. Annexure B: Non-financial (performance) information.

## The number of children in correctional facilities has decreased substantially

Average number of children detained in correctional service facilities by sentence status at any given point, 2003–2010



Note: 2010 data refers to children in detention on the last day of October 2010, while 2003–2007 data refers to the average number of children in detention at any given point within that year.

Source: Department of Correctional Services (2008). Presentation to the Portfolio Committee on Children in Conflict with the Law (2003–2007 data) and DCS Statistical Information at <http://www.dcs.gov.za/AboutUs/StatisticalInformation.aspx> (2010 data).



## The Right to Special Protection in Situations of Exploitation

### RIGHTS

**CRC, Article 32:** (1) States Parties recognise the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

**CRC, Article 33:** States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as defined in the relevant international treaties and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances.

**CRC, Article 34:** States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. For these purposes, States Parties shall in particular take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent: (a) The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity; (b) The exploitative use of children in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices; (c) The exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials.

**CRC, Article 35:** States Parties shall take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures to prevent the abduction of, the sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form.

**CRC, Article 36:** States Parties shall protect the child against all other forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspects of the child's welfare.

Also see African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child's articles 15, 27, 28 and 29.

### SA Constitution

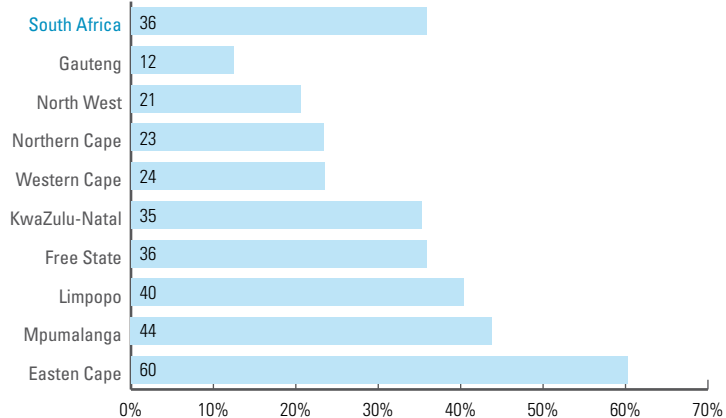
**Section 28.** Every child has the right ... (e) to be protected from exploitative labour practices; (f) not to be required or permitted to perform work or provide services that – (i) are inappropriate for a person of that child's age; or (ii) place at risk the child's well-being, education, physical or mental health or spiritual, moral or social development.



© UNICEF/Karin Scherbrucker

## No recent data on child labour is available for South Africa. A 1999 survey found that 36% of children above 5 years of age were engaged in at least one form of work activity

Percentage of children aged 5–17 years engaged in children’s work activities (higher cut-off points), 1999

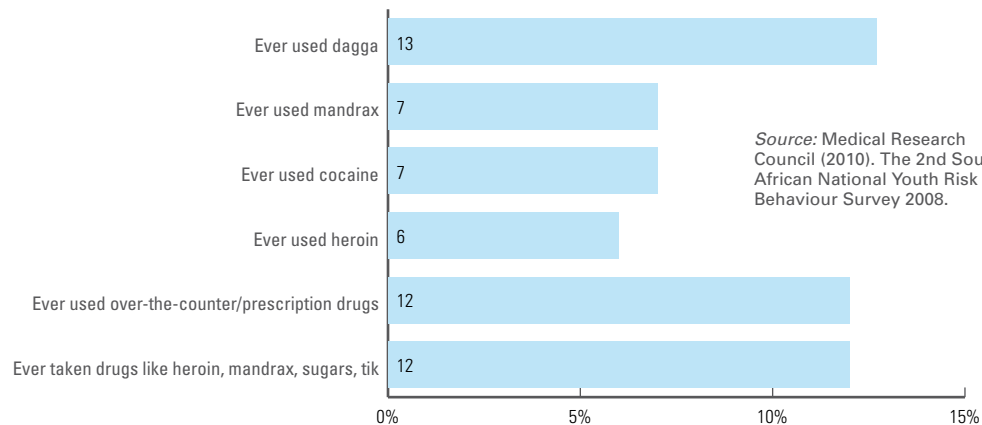


*Note:* To be classified as engaged in work, a child would have been involved in at least one activity, according to the following cut-off points: three hours per week for economic activities, seven hours per week for household chores, and five hours per week for school maintenance.

*Source:* Department of Labour and Statistics South Africa (2001). Survey of Activities of Young People (SAYP), 1999.

## More than 1 in 10 high school learners has taken at least one illegal drug such as dagga, heroin, or cocaine before

Percentage of high school learners (in Grades 8–11) who have ever used illegal drugs, 2008



*Source:* Medical Research Council (2010). The 2nd South African National Youth Risk Behaviour Survey 2008.



© UNICEF/Karin Schermerbrucker

# The Civil Rights and Freedoms of Children

## The Right to Birth Registration

### RIGHTS

**CRC, Article 7:** The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.

Also see African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child's article 6.

### SA Constitution

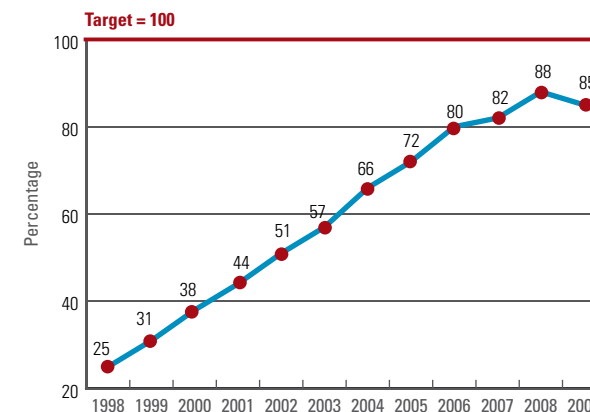
**Section 28(a):** Every child has the right to a name and nationality from birth.



© UNICEF/Karin Schermbrucker

## Birth registration has improved steadily over the past decade

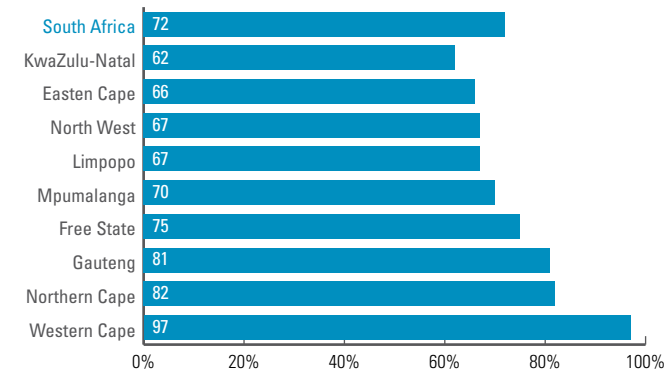
Percentage of births registered within year of birth, 1998–2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2007). Coverage and quality of birth registration 1998–2005; Statistics South Africa (2010). Recorded live births, 2009.

## The lowest levels of birth registration are found in predominantly rural provinces

Percentage of births registered within year of birth by province, 2005



Source: Statistics South Africa (2007) Coverage and quality of birth registration 1998–2005.

## The Right to Protection From Corporal Punishment and Other Cruel or Degrading Forms of Punishment

### RIGHTS

**CRC, Article 17:** No child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Also see African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child's article 20(1)(c); 21(1).

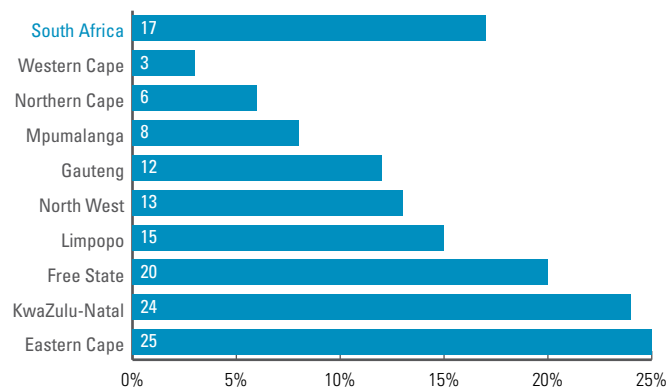
### SA Constitution

**Section 12:** Everyone has the right to freedom and security of the person, which includes the right ... (c) to be free from all forms of violence from either public or private sources; ... (d) not to be tortured in any way; and ... (e) not to be treated or punished in a cruel, inhuman or degrading way.

**Section 28(d):** Every child has the right to be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation.

### Though prohibited by law, nearly 1 in 5 children experience corporal punishment at school

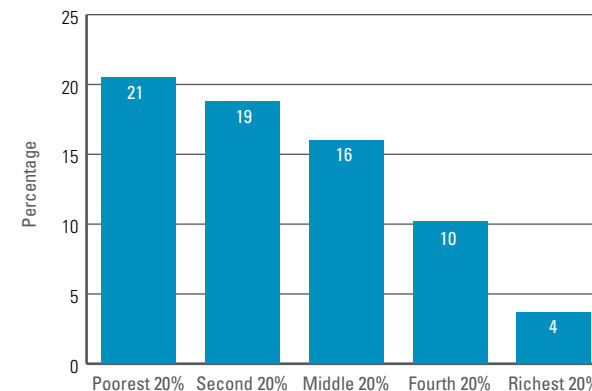
Percentage of children attending school experiencing corporal punishment by teachers by province, 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009.

### Children in the poorest households are more likely to experience corporal punishment by teachers

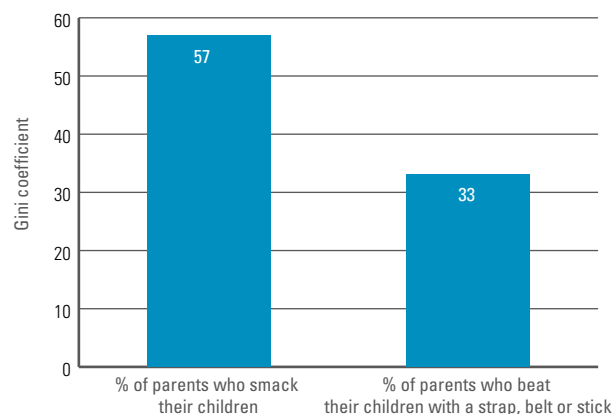
Percentage of children attending school experiencing corporal punishment by teachers by household income quintile, 2009



Source: Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009. Analysis by UNICEF South Africa.

### 1 in 3 parents use severe corporal punishment in the form of beatings

Percentage of parents who smack their children with their hand; beat their children with a strap, belt, stick or similar object, 2005



Source: Dawes, A., De Sas Kroppiwnicki, Z., Kafaar, Z. and Richter, L. (2005). Corporal punishment of children: a South African national survey.



© UNICEF/Karin Schermbucker

# Technical Note

**While South Africa is a relatively** data-rich country, published statistics usually focus on the entire population or on households, not specifically on children. Additional analysis of the raw General Household Survey (GHS) 2009 dataset was therefore undertaken to collate disaggregated statistics using children as the unit of analysis. The GHS was selected because of its sample size, annual frequency and the topics it covers. This note provides a brief description of the dataset and main approaches followed during the analysis.

## **Description of the GHS<sup>1</sup>**

The GHS is a household survey that has been executed annually by Stats SA since 2002. It is designed to measure multiple facets of the living conditions of South African households and covers six broad areas, namely: education, health, social development, housing, household access to services and facilities, food security and agriculture.

The survey covers private households in all nine provinces of South Africa, and residents in workers' hostels. A household is defined as a person, or group of persons, who occupy a common dwelling unit (or part of it) for at least four nights in a week on average during the past four weeks prior to the survey interview. The survey does not cover other collective living quarters such as students' hostels, old age homes, hospitals, prisons and military barracks. The GHS is therefore only representative of non-institutionalised and non-military persons or households in South Africa. These exclusions, however, should not have a noticeable impact on the findings in respect of children.

The sample design for the GHS 2009 was based on a master sample that was originally designed for the QLFS and was used for the first time for the GHS in 2008. The sample was stratified first by province and then by district council. A total of 25,303 households were successfully interviewed during the face-to-face interviews conducted in July, August and September 2009. Information was captured on 94,263 persons, including 35,494 children under the age of 18 years.

## **Analysing the GHS 2009**

The GHS 2009 data are available in two separate data files that can be accessed and downloaded from StatsOnline at [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za). The 'Person' file contains demographic information (sex, age, population group, etc.) and biographical information (education, health, social grants, and economic activities) of every member in the household. The 'House' file contains household information (housing, water and sanitation, electricity, environmental issues, services, etc.) and data on food security, household income sources and expenditure. The microdata files also contain a number of derived variables calculated by

---

<sup>1</sup> Statistics South Africa (2010). General Household Survey 2009: Metadata.

Stats SA, as well as household and person weights. Data were analysed using the software package SPSS Statistics 17.0.

An important part of the equity analysis for this Report entailed disaggregating data by economic status in order to compare the situation of the poorest and the richest children. From the spectrum of indicators of economic status, household income was selected as the indicator of choice. The analysis relied on a derived variable on estimated total household income that was included in the 'House' file by Stats SA. This derived variable is a combination of total reported earnings, income from social grants, and income from remittances. Stats SA combined estimated monthly incomes of R20,000 and higher as 20,000 as the questionnaire was not designed to capture incomes from more complex sources such as rentals, interest etc. that are typical of higher income households.

Data on total household income was missing for 8.4 per cent of households. When analyzing inequality, ignoring households with unspecified household income can lead to biased results. A method called multiple imputation was therefore applied at household level to deal with missing values. The imputation model used the following variables as predictors of household income: province, race and sex of the household head, dwelling type, fuel for cooking, sanitation, water source, refuse removal, telephone, internet connection, means of transport, and economically active household members. The model was run 15 times and the imputed datasets were pooled to provide estimates that are generally more accurate than they would be with only one imputation.

Next, household income was converted into per capita income in order to compensate for differences in household size. All households were then ordered by household per capita income, and the distribution was divided into quintiles each containing 20 per cent of households. Each household was assigned a quintile score with 1 referring to the poorest 20 per cent of households, and 5 referring to the richest 20 per cent of households.

Finally, the data from the two separate data files ('House' and 'Person') were linked on the basis of a unique household identifier (UqNr), pre-classified by Stats SA, in order to allow for extensive analysis using children as the unit of analysis. All records with a given unique household identifier, no matter which file they are in, belong to the same household. This means that common household data, for example, on access to water or the quintile category, was applied to each individual household member in the merged dataset. Tabulations were then produced for the child indicators presented in this Report. Throughout the analysis, weights provided by Stats SA were applied to give representative estimates by province, population group and gender.

# References

- Actuarial Society of South Africa (2005) ASSA2003 AIDS and Demographic Model.
- Central Intelligence Agency (2009). The World Factbook 2009.
- Chopra M, Daviaud E, Pattinson R, Fonn S, Lawn J (2009) Saving the Lives of South Africa's Mothers, Babies, and Children: Can the Health System Deliver? The Lancet, Volume 374, Issue 9692, Pages 835–846.
- Coetzee, M. (2010). 'Finding the Benefits – Evaluating the Impact of the South African Child Support Grant.' Stellenbosch University.
- Committee on the Rights of the Child (2003) General Comment No. 3: HIV/AIDS and the Rights of the Child.
- Committee on the Rights of the Child (2006) General Comment No. 7: Implementing Child Rights in Early Childhood.
- Dawes, A., De Sas Kropiwnicki, Z., Kafaar, Z. and Richter, L. (2005) Corporal Punishment of Children: A South African National Survey. Cape Town: Child Youth and Family Development, Human Sciences Research Council.
- Day, C.; Monticelli, F.; Barron, P.; Haynes, R.; Smith, J. and Sello, E. (eds) (2010). The District Health Barometer 2008/09. Durban: Health Systems Trust.
- Department of Correctional Services (2008) Presentation to the Portfolio Committee on Children in Conflict with the Law.
- Department of Education (2005) The National Protocol on Assessment for Schools in the General and Further Education and Training Band (Grades R–12).
- Department of Education (2008). Grade 3 Systematic Evaluation Report. Pretoria: Department of Education.
- Department of Education (2011) Education for All (EFA) Country Report South Africa, 2010.
- Department of Health (2002). South Africa Demographic and Health Survey 1998. Full Report. Pretoria: Department of Health.
- Department of Health (2008). South Africa Demographic and Health Survey 2003. Full Report. Pretoria: Department of Health.
- Department of Health (2010). National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS / Comprehensive HIV and AIDS Treatment Plan Statistics May 2010.
- Department of Health (2010). National Antenatal Sentinel HIV and Syphilis Prevalence Survey 2009, South Africa. Pretoria: Department of Health.
- Department of Health, Medical Research Council, University of Pretoria, UNICEF, Save the Children (2008) Every Death Counts: Saving the Lives of South Africa's Mothers, Babies and Children.
- Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (2007) Annual Report 2006/07.
- Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (2008) Annual Report 2007/08.
- Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (2009) Annual Report 2008/09.
- Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (2010). Annual Report 2009/10.
- Department of Labour and Statistics South Africa (2001) Survey of Activities of Young People (SAYP), 1999. Pretoria : Statistics South Africa.
- Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (2010). Delivery Agreement for Outcome 1: Improved Quality of Basic Education.
- Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (2010). Delivery Agreement for Outcome 2: A Long and Healthy Life for All South Africans.
- Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (2010). Delivery Agreement for Outcome 3: All People in South Africa Are and Feel Safe.
- Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (2010). Delivery Agreement for Outcome 4: Decent Employment through Inclusive Growth.
- Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (2010). Delivery Agreement for Outcome 7: Vibrant, Equitable and Sustainable Rural Communities and Food Security for All.
- Department of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (2010). Delivery Agreement for Outcome 8: Sustainable Human Settlements and Improved Quality of Household Life.
- Department of Social Development, UNICEF (Forthcoming) Baseline Study on Registered Child and Youth Care Centres.
- Finn, Leibbrandt and Woolard (2009) Income and Expenditure Inequality: Analysis of the NIDS Wave 1 Dataset.
- Fonn S., Padarath A. (eds) (2010). South African Health Review 2010. Durban: Health Systems Trust.



# References

- Jooste L., Weight M. and Lombard C. (2001) A national survey of the iodine content of household salt in South Africa. *Bull WHO* 2001; 79:534–540.
- Kibel, M.; Lake, L.; Pendlebury, P. and Smith, C. (eds) (2010). *South African Child Gauge 2009/2010*. Children's Institute, University of Cape Town.
- Labadarios D. and Van Middelkoop A. (eds) (1995). *Children aged 6–71 months in South Africa, 1994: Their anthropometric, Vitamin A, iron and immunisation coverage status*. Johannesburg: South African Vitamin A Consultative Group (SAVACG).
- Labadarios D. (ed) (2000). *The National Food Consumption Survey (NFCS): Children aged 1–9 years, South Africa, 1999*. Pretoria: Department of Health.
- Labadarios D. (ed) (2007). *The National Food Consumption Survey: Fortification Baseline (NFCS-FB)*. Stellenbosch: Department of Health.
- Leibbrandt M, Woolard I, Finn A and Argent J. (2010). 'Trends in South African Income Distribution and Poverty since the Fall of Apartheid.' *OECD Social, Employment and Migration Working Paper No.101*.
- National Treasury, Republic of South Africa (2009). *Provincial Budget and Expenditure Review: 2005/06–2011/12*. Pretoria: Government Printers.
- National Treasury, Republic of South Africa (2011) *National Budget Review 2011*. Pretoria: Government Printers.
- Reddy, SP.; James, S.; Sewpaul, R.; Koopman, F.; Funani, NI.; Sifunda, S.; Josie, J.; Masuka, P.; Kambaran, NS. and Omaidien, RG. (2010). *Umthente Uhlabisa Usamila – The South African Youth Risk Behaviour Survey 2008*. Cape Town: South African Medical Research Council.
- Republic of South Africa (1996) *Constitution of the Republic of South Africa*.
- Shisana O, Simbayi LC, Rehle T, Zungu NP, Zuma K Ngogo N, Jooste S, Pillay-van-Wyk V, Parker W, Pezi S, Nwanyanwu O, Dinh T and SABSSM III Implementation Team (2010). *South African National HIV Prevalence, Incidence, Behaviour and Communication Survey, 2008: The Health of Our Children*. Cape Town: HSRC Press.
- Shisana O.; Rehle T, Simbayi LC, Zuma K, Jooste S, Pillay-van-Wyk V, Mbelle N, Van Zyl J, Parker W, Zungu NP, Pezi S and the SABSSM III Implementation Team (2009). *South African National HIV Prevalence, Incidence, Behaviour and Communication Survey 2008: A Turning Tide among Teenagers?* Cape Town: HSRC Press.
- South Africa Every Death Counts Writing Group (2008). *Every Death Counts: Use of Mortality Audit Data for Decision Making To Save the Lives of Mothers, Babies and Children in South Africa*. *The Lancet* 371 (9620): 1294–1304.
- South African Police Service (2010). *Crime Situation in South Africa. Crime Information Management South African Police Service*.
- South African Social Security Agency (2011) *Statistical Report No. 38 on Social Grants (January 2011)*.
- Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality (2010). *SACMEQ III Project Results: Pupil Achievement Levels in Reading and Mathematics*.
- Statistics South Africa (1998) *Census 1996*.
- Statistics South Africa (2003) *Census 2001*.
- Statistics South Africa (2007) *Coverage and Quality of Birth Registration 1998–2005*.
- Statistics South Africa (2008). *Community Survey 2007*.
- Statistics South Africa (2010). *General Household Survey 2009*
- Statistics South Africa (2010). *General Household Survey 2009: Metadata*.
- Statistics South Africa (2010). *Mid-year Population Estimates, 2010*.
- Statistics South Africa (2010). *Recorded Live Births, 2009*.
- Statistics South Africa (2010). *Selected Development Indicators – A Discussion Document Sourced from the General Household Survey, 2009*.
- The Presidency, Republic of South Africa (2010). *Development Indicators 2010*.
- UNAIDS (2010). *Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic*.
- UNAIDS (2011) *AIDS info Database*.
- UNICEF (1989) *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. New York: UNICEF.
- WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and World Bank (2010). *Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990 to 2008*.
- WHO/UNICEF (2009) *Review of National Immunisation Coverage 1980–2008*.
- Wright, G., Noble, M., Barnes, H. and Noble, S. (2009) *The South African Index of Multiple Deprivation for Children 2007 at Municipality Level*. Pretoria: Department of Social Development.



## DATABASE ON CHILD RIGHTS INDICATORS

The database available in the CD ROM attached to this report contains key indicators to monitor the fulfilment of child rights in South Africa. By installing the database on your computer, you are literally just a few mouse clicks away from:

- Getting facts to help make better decisions based on evidence;
- Analyzing national, provincial and district data for monitoring and evaluation purposes;
- Producing high-quality tables, graphs and maps for inclusion in reports, presentations and advocacy materials.

### System requirements

The recommended hardware requirements to install this software application are:

- Pentium IV
- 512 MB of RAM
- 1 GB of free hard disk space
- Display resolution 1024 x 768
- Microsoft Windows XP or above
- Microsoft Office XP is recommended but not required.


### Installing the database


To install the application on your computer, follow these steps:

- Insert the CR-ROM into the CD drive.
- Wait for Auto-run to launch the Setup screen.
- Follow the instructions on the screen to complete setup.

If the setup program does not load automatically, then do the following:

- Click Start and then click Run.
- Type d:\setup (where 'd' is the location of your CD drive) and press Enter.
- Follow the instructions on the screen to complete setup.

After installation, double-click on the  icon on your desktop to start the application.

To view the User's Guide in .pdf format, click  di About and select Help.





south african  
**human  
rights**  
commission