

**Press  
Release**  
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**IRR**

South African Institute of Race Relations  
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**1 in 2 pregnant women in Gert Sibande district  
HIV-positive, but only 6% in Namakwa**

Some 46.1% of women attending public antenatal clinics in the Gert Sibande district municipality (Mpumalanga) are HIV-positive. This is according to the latest *South Africa Survey*, published by the South African Institute of Race Relations (IRR) in Johannesburg last week.

The *Survey* is the annual yearbook on all social, economic, and political aspects of South Africa that the IRR has been publishing since 1946.

The data used was obtained from a Department of Health (DoH) publication entitled *The 2011 National Antenatal Sentinel HIV and Syphilis Prevalence Survey in South Africa*.

Following Gert Sibande were the Ugu and uMkhanyakude districts (both in KwaZulu-Natal), at 41.7% and 41.1% respectively. Of the ten districts in the whole country with the highest HIV prevalence among women attending public antenatal clinics, KwaZulu-Natal accounted for seven.

The district municipality with the lowest HIV prevalence among women attending public antenatal clinics was Namakwa (Northern Cape), at 6.2%. This was followed by the West Coast and Central Karoo districts (both in the Western Cape), at 10% and 11.3% respectively.

Ms Lerato Moloi, head of research at the IRR, said, 'It is worth noting that the antenatal survey is not fully representative as only 80% of pregnant women attend public antenatal clinics and some 85% of them are African. However, women attending public antenatal clinics are considered to represent most closely the HIV prevalence of the general sexually active population, according to the DoH'.

**Ends**

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