

FreeFACTS

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Some good news on the health front, but NHI threatens

The last edition of *FreeFACTS* examined the latest population statistics and showed the impact of Covid-19 on South Africa, particularly on things such as number of deaths and life expectancy.

However, if we take a snapshot of South African health over the past few years there are some things that we can be heartened about.

For example, the mortality rate of people aged under five and babies has dropped significantly since the turn of the century. As this edition of *FreeFACTS* shows in 2 000 more than 50 babies (for every 1 000 born) died before they turned one. By 2020 this had dropped to 24. There were similar numbers for the mortality rate of people under the age of five. The mortality rate for this cohort also dropped by more than half in the two decades since the beginning of the century.

Other data shows similar successes for the proportion of children being vaccinated against diseases such as polio or hepatitis. Another success is the growth in the proportion of women who visit the doctor at least once while pregnant, an important factor in the health of mothers and babies.

However, all is not rosy. The health budget will be cut in the future, according to current budget estimates, with a growing proportion going to the remuneration of employees. This is a direct function of the poor way the government has been running the country's finances and will have consequences for all South Africans, but especially those who rely on government medical services.

With that said, all South Africans may have to rely on medical services from the government in future years with the National Health Insurance (NHI) project still seeming an aim of the government. This will effectively abolish private health care. This will likely see an increase in migration and the brain drain, which is already gaining momentum.

Instead of implementing the NHI they government should ensure state facilities are excellent while allowing people on lower incomes to join medical aids.

— **Marius Roodt**

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Health

Health expenditure, 2020/21-2023/24

Health expenditure	2020/21		Medium-term estimates					
	Expenditure Rbn	Proportion of total	2021/22		2022/23		2023/24	
			Expenditure Rbn	Proportion of total	Expenditure Rbn	Proportion of total	Expenditure Rbn	Proportion of total
Central hospital services	44.6	18.1%	44.1	17.7%	45.1	18.3%	46.6	19.0%
Provincial hospital services	37.2	15.1%	38.1	15.3%	39.1	15.9%	39.0	15.9%
District health services	106.1	43.0%	105.5	42.4%	107.9	43.9%	107.6	43.9%
—HIV, TB, malaria and community outreach	27.4	11.1%	27.8	11.2%	28.2	11.5%	27.3	11.1%
Emergency medical services	7.3	3.0%	7.8	3.1%	8.1	3.3%	8.1	3.3%
Facilities management and maintenance	14.4	5.8%	9.7	3.9%	10.4	4.2%	10.6	4.3%
Health science and training	5.2	2.1%	5.8	2.3%	6.0	2.4%	5.7	2.3%
National Health Laboratory Service	8.7	3.5%	9.8	3.9%	9.6	3.9%	10.0	4.1%
National Department of Health ^a	6.6	2.7%	10.2	4.1%	8.6	3.5%	6.8	2.8%
Total health expenditure	247.0	100.0%	248.8	100.0%	245.9	100.0%	245.0	100.0%
—Compensation of employees	145.1	58.7%	150.7	60.6%	149.8	60.9%	149.2	60.9%
—Goods and services	72.8	29.5%	80.1	32.2%	75.4	30.7%	74.2	30.3%
—Transfers and subsidies	6.5	2.6%	6.5	2.6%	7.6	3.1%	8.3	3.4%
—Buildings and other fixed structures	9.9	4.0%	6.4	2.6%	8.2	3.3%	8.7	3.6%
—Machinery and equipment	7.8	3.2%	5.0	2.0%	4.8	2.0%	4.7	1.9%

Source: National Treasury, *Budget Review 2021*, Table 5.10, p63

a Excludes grants and transfers reflected as expenditure in appropriate sub-functional areas.

Health

Health expenditure, 2000-18						
Year	Public health expenditure as a proportion of GDP	Total health expenditure as a proportion of GDP	Public health expenditure as a proportion of total government expenditure	Public health expenditure as a proportion of total health expenditure	Private health expenditure as a proportion of total health expenditure	Out-of-pocket ^a health expenditure as a proportion of total health expenditure
2000	2.7%	7.4%	10.9%	36.8%	61.7%	15.1%
2001	2.7%	7.5%	10.7%	36.3%	62.2%	14.3%
2002	2.3%	6.9%	9.3%	33.4%	65.1%	14.0%
2003	2.4%	6.9%	9.3%	34.2%	64.3%	13.4%
2004	2.8%	6.8%	11.1%	41.4%	57.2%	12.9%
2005	2.8%	6.7%	9.8%	41.1%	57.6%	12.4%
2006	3.2%	6.6%	11.5%	48.3%	50.2%	11.8%
2007	3.2%	6.4%	11.7%	49.6%	48.6%	11.0%
2008	3.3%	6.5%	11.6%	50.7%	46.9%	10.1%
2009	3.6%	7.1%	11.3%	50.5%	46.7%	9.3%
2010	3.9%	7.4%	12.4%	52.8%	44.2%	8.5%
2011	4.1%	7.5%	13.2%	54.4%	43.1%	8.4%
2012	4.3%	7.8%	13.6%	55.0%	43.0%	8.1%
2013	4.4%	7.7%	13.3%	54.5%	43.5%	8.1%
2014	4.4%	7.9%	13.4%	53.7%	43.7%	7.9%
2015	4.4%	8.2%	13.3%	53.6%	44.0%	7.7%
2016	4.4%	8.1%	13.3%	53.8%	44.3%	7.7%
2017	4.4%	8.1%	13.3%	53.7%	44.4%	7.8%
2018	4.5%	8.3%	13.3%	54.0%	44.1%	7.7%

Source: World Bank, www.data.worldbank.org, *World Development Indicators*, accessed 15 March 2021

a As part of private healthcare, out-of-pocket health expenditure is the payment by private households to health practitioners or the suppliers of pharmaceuticals, therapeutic appliances, and other goods and services whose primary intent is to contribute to the restoration or enhancement of the health status of individuals. It is, therefore, distinct from private expenditure on health through medical insurance.

Health

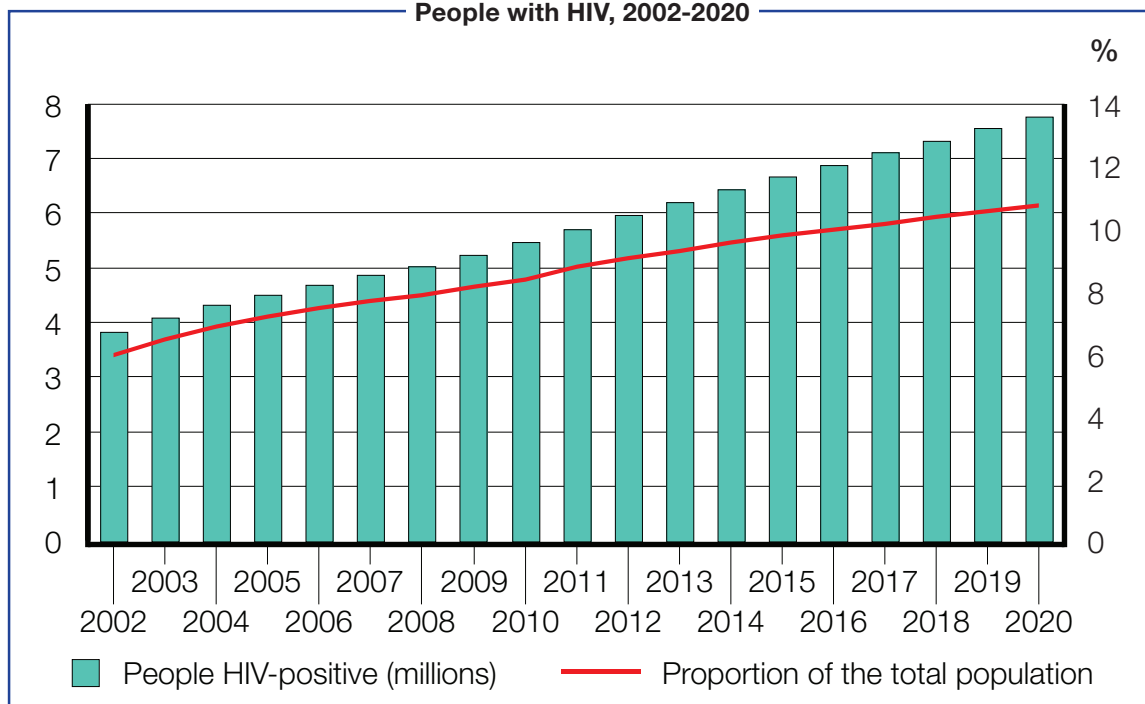
Infant and under-five mortality rate^a, 2002-20

Year	Infant mortality rate	Under-five mortality rate
2002	55.5	75.3
2003	57.2	76.8
2004	55.7	76.5
2005	55.6	75.1
2006	53.8	72.4
2007	49.5	68.0
2008	47.4	64.0
2009	44.0	57.1
2010	38.2	53.5
2011	36.9	48.8
2012	34.0	44.1
2013	31.7	41.0
2014	30.3	39.8
2015	29.0	39.2
2016	27.9	38.7
2017	26.9	38.2
2018	26.0	37.9
2019	24.7	36.5
2020	23.6	34.1
2002-20	-57.5%	-54.7%

Source: Stats SA, *Mid-year population estimates 2020*, Statistical release P0302, 9 July 2020, Appendix 2, p23

a The number of children under one year who die, per 1 000 live births, in a particular year.

People with HIV, 2002-2020



Health

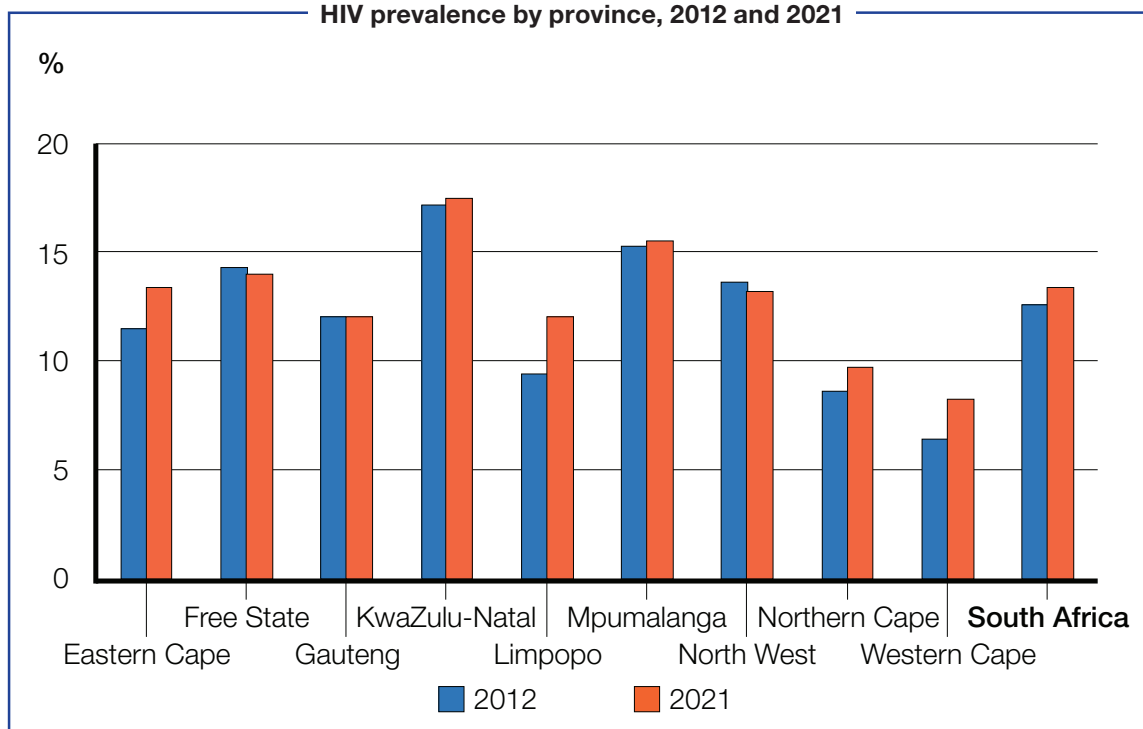
HIV prevalence^a by province, 2012 and 2021

Province	2012	2021 ^b	Change
Eastern Cape	11.5%	13.4%	16.5%
Free State	14.3%	14.0%	-1.9%
Gauteng	12.0%	12.0%	0.1%
KwaZulu-Natal	17.2%	17.5%	1.6%
Limpopo	9.4%	12.0%	27.1%
Mpumalanga	15.3%	15.5%	1.2%
North West	13.6%	13.2%	-2.8%
Northern Cape	8.6%	9.7%	12.4%
Western Cape	6.4%	8.2%	28.1%
South Africa	12.6%	13.4%	6.9%

Source: Thembisa, www.thembisa.org, *National and provincial model outputs: version 4.4 downloads*, accessed 14 April 2021

- a The proportion of people tested, who were found to be infected with HIV.
 b Projections, which are based on model extrapolations of past trends and of which data is not available.

HIV prevalence by province, 2012 and 2021



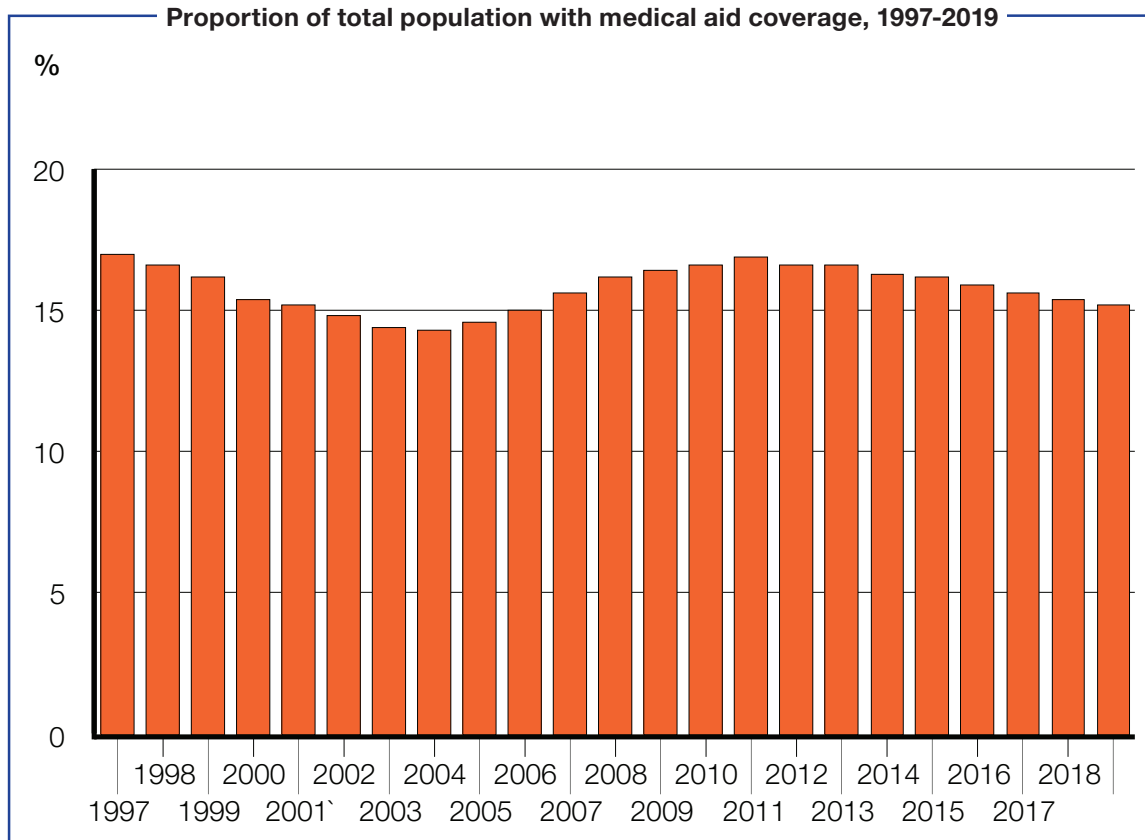
Health

Beneficiaries of medical aid schemes, 1997-2019

Year	Total beneficiaries	Proportion of total population ^a	Year	Total beneficiaries	Proportion of total population ^a
1997	6 965 000	17.0%	2009	8 068 505	16.4%
1998	6 992 000	16.6%	2010	8 315 718	16.6%
1999	6 989 000	16.2%	2011	8 526 409	16.9%
2000	6 729 551	15.4%	2012	8 679 473	16.6%
2001	6 764 409	15.2%	2013	8 778 308	16.6%
2002	6 713 870	14.8%	2014	8 814 458	16.3%
2003	6 671 801	14.4%	2015	8 809 523	16.2%
2004	6 662 563	14.3%	2016	8 878 081	15.9%
2005	6 835 621	14.6%	2017	8 839 892	15.6%
2006	7 127 343	15.0%	2018	8 872 149	15.4%
2007	7 478 040	15.6%	2019	8 935 496	15.2%
2008	7 874 826	16.2%			

Source: CMS, e-mail communication, 22 October 2012; CMS, www.medicalschemes.com, Council for Medical Schemes Annual Report 2012-2013, September 2013, p8; Council for Medical Schemes Annual Report 2014-15, September 2015, p2; Council for Medical Schemes Annual Report 2015-16, March 2016, p2; Quarterly Reports for the period ending 30 September 2016, January 2017, p4; CMS, Press release 14 of 2017: CMS release annual report 2016/17, October 2017, p1; Council for Medical Schemes Annual Report 2017/18, October 2018, Table 2, p127; Annual Report 2018/19, October 2019, Annexure FSU16; Annual report 2019/20, December 2020, Annexure Q; Stats SA, Mid-year population estimates data

Proportion of total population with medical aid coverage, 1997-2019



Health

People-to-public sector doctora ratio, 2000-20

Year	People per doctor ^b ^c	Year	People per doctor ^b ^c
2000	3 808 to 1	2011	3 112 to 1
2001	4 015 to 1	2012	3 036 to 1
2002	4 143 to 1	2013	2 867 to 1
2003	4 186 to 1	2014	2 921 to 1
2005	3 829 to 1	2015	2 948 to 1
2006	3 584 to 1	2016	2 978 to 1
2007	3 428 to 1	2017	2 862 to 1
2008	3 317 to 1	2018	2 911 to 1
2009	3 247 to 1	2019	3 051 to 1
2010	3 174 to 1	2020	2 936 to 1

Source: Stats SA, email communication; *Mid-year population estimates, 2007-20 data*; HST, www.hst.org.za, *SAHR 2016*, May 2016, Table 34, p302; *SAHR 2018*, December 2018, Table 45, p221; *SAHR 2019*, December 2019, Table 31, p286; *SAHR 2020*, December 2020, Table 23, p260

a Data for 2004 was not available.

b Registered general practitioners and specialists.

c IRR calculations.

Registered professional and enrolled nurses^a, 1998-2020

Year	Professional nurses ^b	Enrolled nurses ^c	Total	People per nursed
1998	91 011	32 744	123 755	340 to 1
1999	92 390	32 925	125 315	344 to 1
2000	93 303	32 399	125 702	348 to 1
2001	94 552	32 120	126 672	352 to 1
2002	94 948	32 495	127 443	349 to 1
2003	96 715	33 575	130 290	356 to 1
2004	98 490	35 266	133 756	348 to 1
2005	99 534	37 085	136 619	343 to 1
2006	101 295	39 305	140 600	337 to 1
2007	103 792	40 582	144 374	331 to 1
2008	107 978	43 686	151 664	321 to 1
2009	111 299	48 078	159 377	309 to 1
2010	115 244	52 370	167 614	298 to 1
2011	118 262	55 408	173 670	298 to 1
2012	124 045	58 722	182 767	286 to 1
2013	129 015	63 788	192 803	275 to 1
2014	133 127	66 891	200 018	270 to 1
2015	136 854	70 300	207 154	265 to 1
2016	140 598	73 558	214 156	261 to 1
2017	142 092	74 556	216 648	261 to 1
2018	146 791	70 552	217 343	266 to 1
2019	153 095	64 638	217 733	270 to 1
2020	154 024	61 028	215 052	277 to 1
1998-2020	69.2%	86.4%	73.8%	—

Source: South African Nursing Council (SANC), www.sanc.co.za, *Provincial distribution of nursing manpower versus the population of South Africa*, January 2016, p2; January 2018, p2; December 2018, p1; December 2019, p2; December 2020, p1; Stats SA, *Mid year population estimates, 1998-2020 data*

a Registered with the South African Nursing Council.

b Includes nurses practising in either the public or the private sector, those working abroad, and those registered but no longer practising. Professional nurses have completed a four-year programme at university or a nursing college and practise comprehensive nursing and midwifery.

c Includes nurses practising in either the public or the private sector, those working abroad, and those registered but no longer practising. Enrolled nurses have completed a two-year programme at a public or private institution, usually a nursing college. Alternatively, an enrolled nurse has left university after completing only two years of the four-year university programme. Enrolled nurses practise basic nursing.

d IRR calculations.

Health

Province	DTaP ^b -IPV ^c -Hib ^d -HBV ^e 3rd dose coverage		
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Eastern Cape	63.4%	67.1%	69.8%
Free State	77.9%	78.6%	83.0%
Gauteng	80.6%	84.2%	90.3%
KwaZulu-Natal	75.4%	77.9%	82.3%
Limpopo	82.6%	97.5%	93.3%
Mpumalanga	79.0%	90.4%	90.9%
North West	75.9%	77.9%	62.3%
Northern Cape	95.6%	96.9%	100.5%
Western Cape	78.8%	92.9%	96.1%
South Africa	76.6%	83.0%	84.5%

Source: HST, SAHR 2020, December 2020, Table 19, p250

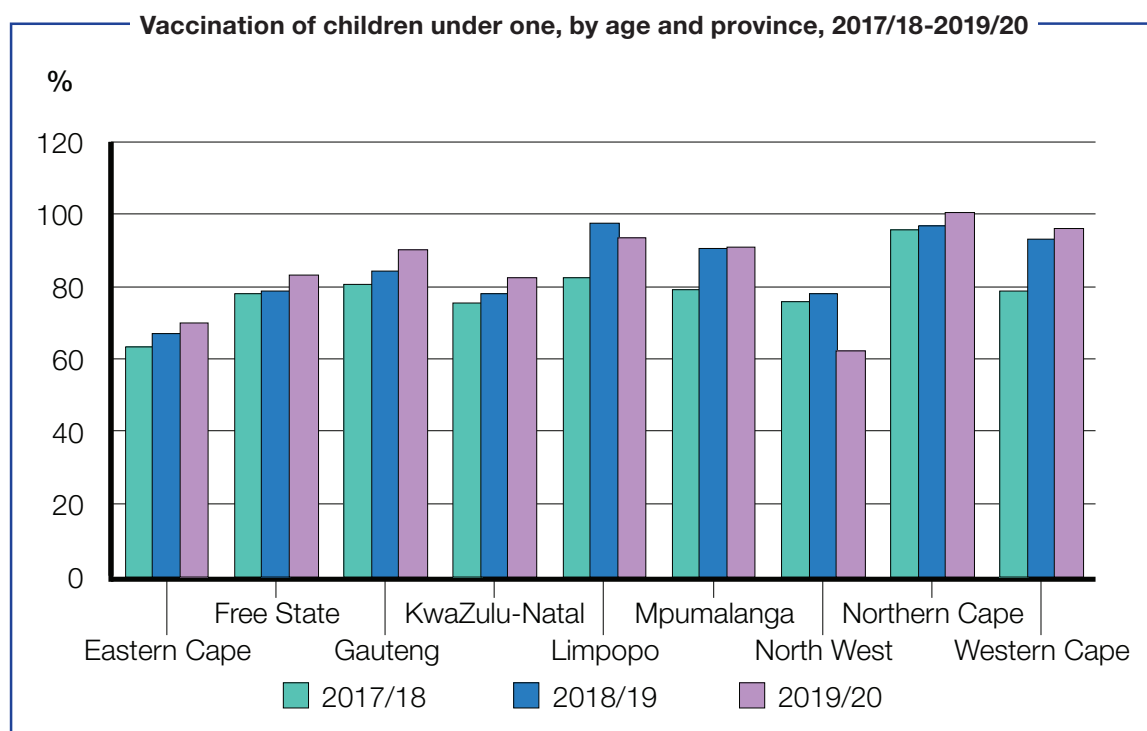
a Children under 1 year who received specific vaccines.

b Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis.

c Inactivated Polio Vaccine.

d Haemophilus Influenzae Type B.

e Hepatitis B.



Health

Rate of antenatal first visits^a by province, 2006/07-2019/20

Province	2006/07	2008/09	2010/11	2014/15	2016/17	2018/19	2019/20
Eastern Cape	27.5%	27.6%	31.7%	48.8%	63.8%	61.7%	67.5%
Free State	36.7%	39.8%	45.2%	58.6%	65.8%	65.2%	68.3%
Gauteng	25.4%	24.3%	30.6%	48.4%	58.4%	64.7%	67.3%
KwaZulu-Natal	30.9%	33.5%	36.9%	57.3%	70.2%	73.2%	75.0%
Limpopo	35.8%	40.0%	41.6%	50.7%	65.7%	67.2%	68.9%
Mpumalanga	29.5%	32.3%	36.0%	56.6%	71.7%	75.6%	75.0%
North West	31.8%	27.1%	47.2%	60.1%	63.7%	69.0%	71.1%
Northern Cape	45.4%	36.4%	39.6%	54.3%	64.7%	63.1%	70.4%
Western Cape	38.3%	46.6%	62.0%	61.6%	69.6%	70.3%	75.9%
South Africa	31.3%	32.9%	37.6%	53.9%	65.2%	68.1%	69.7%

Source: HST, www.hst.org.za, *DHB 2016/17*, November 2017, Table 1, p72; *SAHR 2018*, December 2018, Table 22, p188; *DHB 2018/19*, February 2020, Figure 3, p7; *DHB 2019/20*, Data file, accessed 14 April 2021

a Measures the proportion of pregnant women who visit antenatal clinics for the first time before 20 weeks of their pregnancy. The denominator is the number of pregnant women who had at least one antenatal visit before delivery.

Health

Infant and under-five mortality rate ^a , 2002-20					
Year	Infant mortality rate	Under-five mortality rate	Year	Infant mortality rate	Under-five mortality rate
2002	55.5	75.3	2012	34.0	44.1
2003	57.2	76.8	2013	31.7	41.0
2004	55.7	76.5	2014	30.3	39.8
2005	55.6	75.1	2015	29.0	39.2
2006	53.8	72.4	2016	27.9	38.7
2007	49.5	68.0	2017	26.9	38.2
2008	47.4	64.0	2018	26.0	37.9
2009	44.0	57.1	2019	24.7	36.5
2010	38.2	53.5	2020	23.6	34.1
2011	36.9	48.8	2002-20	-57.5%	-54.7%

Source: Stats SA, *Mid-year population estimates 2020*, Statistical release P0302, 9 July 2020, Appendix 2, p23

a The number of children under one year who die, per 1 000 live births, in a particular year.

