

# FreeFACTS

No 3/2019 / March 2019 / Issue 11

Find us online at [www.irr.org.za](http://www.irr.org.za)

## South Africa – a qualified success

The previous edition of *Free Facts* was on how South Africa's progress was retarded in the Zuma years. It did not make for pretty reading, compared to evidence of the progress made under Mr Zuma's predecessors, Nelson Mandela and Thabo Mbeki.

However, there were certainly some missteps under the presidencies of Mr Mandela and Mr Mbeki. Under Mr Mandela, the initial weeds of corruption began to sprout, as seen in the Arms Deal, and now corruption is becoming increasingly institutionalised. Under President Mbeki, we saw people denied life-saving AIDS drugs, and he helped prop up the Mugabe regime in Zimbabwe. Much of the race nationalism that is increasingly a feature of our everyday politics can be traced back to some of the stances Mr Mbeki took. Despite this, South Africa made much progress in the initial post-apartheid years, progress which has now largely stalled, as chronicled in last month's edition of *Free Facts*.

From the early 1990s to 2007, South Africa saw successes on many indicators. The number of people (black people particularly) earning university degrees more than doubled between 1991 and 2016.

The South African economy is also three times bigger than it was in 1994. Considering that South Africa's population has not even doubled, this is also an achievement to be proud of.

Inflation has also largely been kept under control. This may not seem important, but inflation is an insidious destroyer of wealth. Keeping it under control means that savings maintain value, and encourages people to build up nest eggs, a vital component in a prosperous society.

There are many other indicators – a small selection of which are reproduced in these pages – which show that South Africa has made much progress since the end of apartheid. And it can be done again. We have shown what can be done if we all work together and we have a government which seeks to encourage progress rather than impede it. A successful and prosperous South Africa is possible, and we must all work towards that.

— **Marius Roodt**

## JOIN US

The IRR is an advocacy group that fights for your right to make decisions about your life, family and business, free from unnecessary government, political, and bureaucratic interference. FreeFACTS publishes evidence that communities are better off when individuals are free to make decisions about how they want to live, be educated, work, access healthcare, think, speak, own property, and protect their communities. If you agree with the issues we stand for, welcome to the team. There are millions of people just like you who are tired of South African politicians, activists, and commentators attempting to rein in your freedom to decide. Take control and make sure your voice is heard by becoming a friend of the IRR.

**SMS YOUR NAME  
TO 32823  
SMS costs R1.  
Ts and Cs apply.**

## Progress but in fits and starts

# Education

## Attendance and achievement

Proportion of people with a degree and higher, by race, 1995-2017				
Race	1995	2002	2010	2017
Black	1.2%	1.7%	2.7%	5.4%
Coloured	1.2%	1.8%	3.7%	5.1%
Indian/Indian	5.4%	7.7%	11.9%	18.7%
White	10.9%	17.1%	22.6%	29.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>8.1%</b>

Source: Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), *October Household Survey 1995*, Statistical release P0317, 27 November 1996, Table 8.1, p75; *General Household Survey 2002*, Statistical release P0318, 15 December 2003, p4; *General Household Survey 2010 (Revised version)*, Statistical release P0318, 3 August 2011, Table 2.2, p53; *General Household Survey 2017*, Statistical release P0318, 21 June 2018, Table 2.2, p82

This table reflects the growth in the proportion of people with degrees in South Africa. The proportion of black people with degrees more than quadrupled between 1995 and 2017 (although off a low base). This is likely to continue.

Proportion of people with no schooling, by race, 1995-2017				
Race	1995	2002	2010	2017
Black	16.8%	14.2%	8.7%	5.5%
Coloured	8.8%	7.3%	3.1%	3.3%
Indian/Indian	5.3%	3.6%	1.8%	1.1%
White	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.0%</b>	<b>11.6%</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>4.6%</b>

Source: Stats SA, *October Household Survey 1995*, Statistical release P0317, 27 November 1996, Table 8.1, p75; *General Household Survey 2002*, Statistical release P0318, 15 December 2003, p4; *General Household Survey 2010 (Revised version)*, Statistical release P0318, 3 August 2011, Table 2.2, p53; *General Household Survey 2017*, Statistical release P0318, 21 June 2018, Table 2.2, p81

People aged 7 to 18 who are out of school, 2002-16					
Year	Number	Proportion	Year	Number	Proportion
2002	818 672	6.9%	2010	649 176	5.3%
2003	754 091	6.3%	2011	582 002	4.8%
2004	700 727	5.8%	2012	548 306	4.5%
2005	710 419	5.8%	2013	543 076	4.5%
2006	749 040	6.1%	2014	530 589	4.3%
2007	654 076	5.3%	2015	564 680	4.6%
2008	695 360	5.6%	2016	570 000	4.6%
2009	636 133	5.2%			

Source: Department of Basic Education (DBE), *General Household Survey: Focus on schooling 2016*, Figure 15, p16

As can be seen from the above two tables, South Africa has also done very well in rolling out basic education. The proportion of people with no education is now very low, and is likely to continue to remain that way, while the vast majority of people aged between seven and 18 are in some form of formal education. However, questions remain about the quality of education.

## Progress but in fits and starts

### University enrolment

Undergraduate students enrolling for their first year of study by race, 1994-2016						
Year	Black	Coloured	Indian/Asian	White	Other <sup>b</sup>	Total
1994 <sup>a</sup>	52 988	6 257	6 929	38 355	N/A	104 529
2000	58 759	6 468	6 942	25 782	33	97 984
2005	84 979	9 542	10 259	30 316	197	135 293
2010	118 533	11 020	8 794	29 524	517	168 388
2011	130 474	11 043	8 516	25 587	485	179 105
2012	127 066	9 882	6 398	25 754	665	169 765
2013	114 794	10 329	7 461	25 128	677	158 389
2014	121 937	10 971	9 375	25 231	842	168 356
2015	126 734	11 287	7 956	24 772	1 181	171 930
2016	118 909	11 120	6 227	21 737	898	158 891
<b>1994-2016</b>	<b>124.4%</b>	<b>77.7%</b>	<b>-10.1%</b>	<b>-43.3%</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>52.0%</b>

Source: Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), [www.dhet.gov.za](http://www.dhet.gov.za), Table 2.7 for all institutions including languages (1986-2016), accessed 23 March 2018

a Excludes figures for the University of Transkei, Border and Eastern Cape Technikons (all merged in 2005 to become the Walter Sisulu University), University of Venda, North West University, Peninsula Technikon (now the Cape Peninsula University of Technology), Technikon North West (merged in 2004 with Technikon Northern Gauteng and Technikon Pretoria to become the Tshwane University of Technology).

b Students whose race is unspecified.

N/A — Not available.

One of post-apartheid South Africa's greatest achievements has been the increase in students attending university, with this increase being particularly pronounced among black South Africans. Although this has not come without problems, such as overcrowding and issues of funding, it is something that should nonetheless be celebrated.

## Progress but in fits and starts

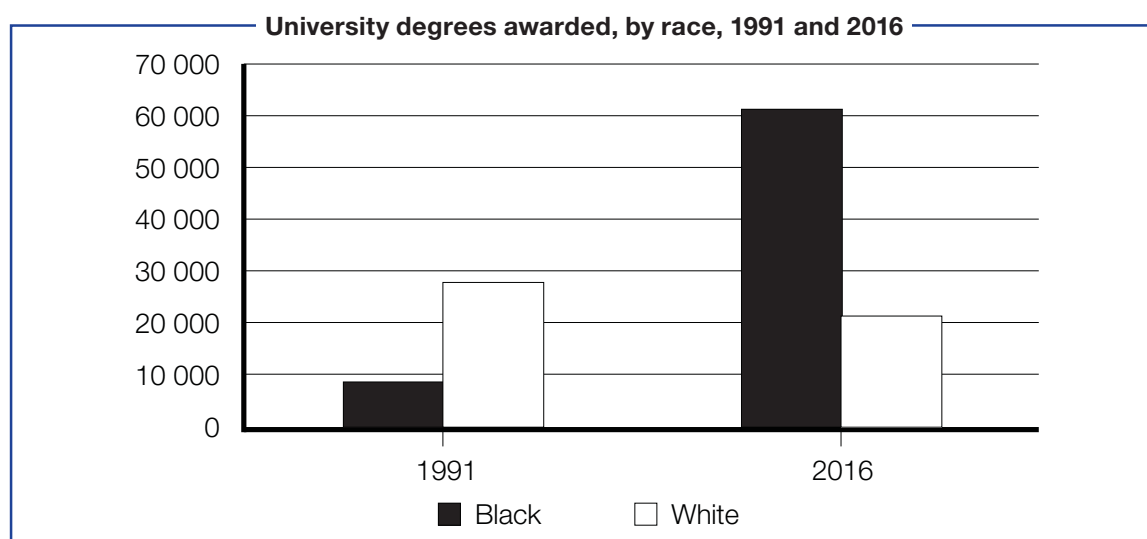
### Degrees and diplomas

Undergraduate degrees/diplomas by race (actual numbers) <sup>ab</sup> , 1991 and 2016						
Field of study	Black		White		Total	
	1991	2016	1991	2016	1991	2016
Agriculture and related sciences	60	1 495	619	492	681	2 051
Architecture and environmental design	8	942	643	479	673	1 633
Business, commerce and management	303	15 910	5 952	5 400	6 777	25 091
Communication, journalism and related studies	58	1 466	346	298	412	1 976
Computer and information sciences	14	1 669	545	565	620	1 658
Education	2 386	10 694	1 499	2 848	4 526	15 346
Engineering	36	3 744	1 582	1 929	1 721	6 564
Family ecology and consumer sciences	8	368	154	143	174	549
Health professions and clinical sciences	820	4 212	2 277	2 059	3 539	7 714
Language, linguistics and literature	1 471	1 125	1 414	452	3 364	1 903
Law	522	3 302	2 453	1 695	3 360	5 921
Life and physical sciences	267	4 084	1 930	1 684	2 498	6 675
Mathematics and statistics	93	767	586	265	783	1 125
Philosophy, religion and theology	298	331	701	170	1 147	639
Psychology	455	2 150	2 202	1 097	3 046	4 032
Public management and services	436	2 710	688	204	1 295	3 160
Social sciences	1 223	5 685	3 244	623	5 259	6 945
Visual and performing arts	41	591	553	677	650	1 498
<b>Total<sup>cd</sup></b>	<b>8 514<sup>e</sup></b>	<b>61 245</b>	<b>27 619</b>	<b>21 080</b>	<b>40 813</b>	<b>94 480</b>

Source: DHET, [www.dhet.gov.za](http://www.dhet.gov.za), Table 2.13 for all Institutions to 2nd order CESM (Graduates - African, Coloured, Indian, White; 1991 and 2016), accessed 22 March 2018

- a IRR calculations. Figures refer to undergraduate degrees/diplomas. Figures should add up vertically but may not, owing to rounding.
- b In 2008, the Higher Education Information Management System (HEMIS) revised the Classification of Educational Subject Matter (CESM), reducing the number of subject matter categories from 22 to 20. These revisions were implemented in the 2010 HEMIS database. As a result, the 1991 figures have been adjusted to reflect the new subject categories. The figures for 1991 exclude the Universities of the Transkei, Venda and the North West.
- c Courses unspecified above are included in the total.
- d Students whose race is unspecified are included in the total.

This increase in the number of people attending university was mirrored by a corresponding increase in the number of people being awarded university degrees and, once again, a large increase in black graduates. In 1991, for every black person who received a degree, approximately three white people received a degree. In 2016 this ratio was reversed, with three black graduates for every white graduate.



# The economy

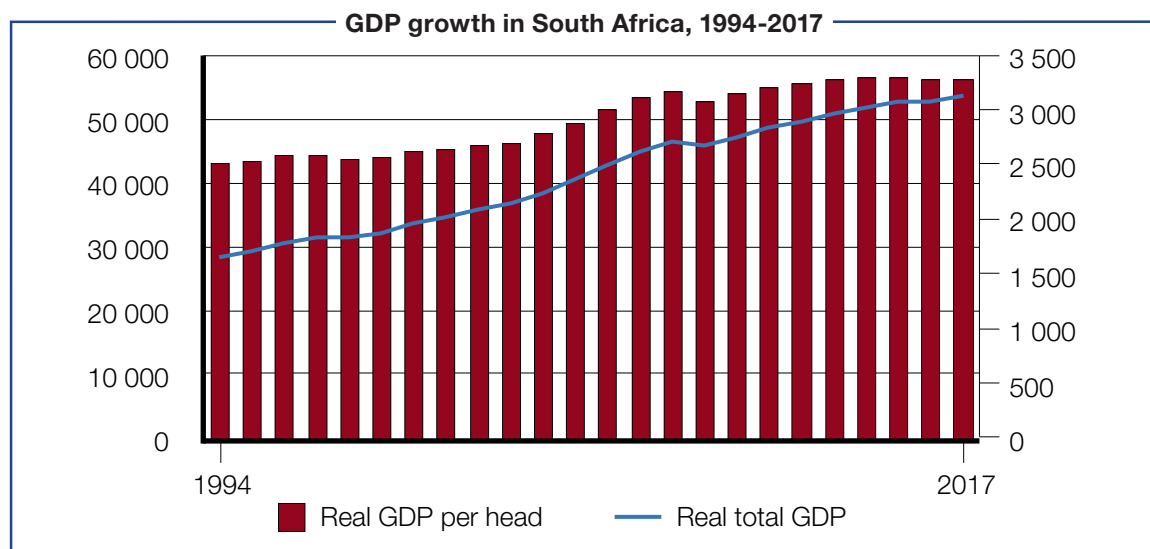
## Gross domestic product

GDP growth in South Africa, 1994-2017					
Year	Real total GDP Rbn <sup>ab</sup>	Real GDP per head <sup>c</sup> R	Year	Real total GDP Rbn <sup>ab</sup>	Real GDP per head <sup>c</sup> R
1994	1 652	42 849	2007	2 625	53 334
1995	1 704	43 267	2008	2 709	54 322
1996	1 777	44 193	2009	2 667	52 838
1997	1 824	44 420	2010	2 748	53 823
1998	1 834	43 720	2011	2 838	54 968
1999	1 877	43 826	2012	2 901	55 543
2000	1 955	44 735	2013	2 973	56 232
2001	2 008	45 075	2014	3 028	56 549
2002	2 082	45 798	2015	3 067	56 518
2003	2 143	46 287	2016	3 084	56 054
2004	2 241	47 605	2017	3 125	56 020
2005	2 359	49 335			
2006	2 491	51 331			
			<b>1994-2017</b>	<b>89.2%</b>	<b>30.7%</b>

Source: South African Reserve Bank (SARB), time series data, [www.resbank.co.za](http://www.resbank.co.za), accessed 10 August 2018

- a Gross domestic product (GDP) is the total value of all 'final' goods and services that were produced within the borders of the country during a year.
- b At constant 2010 prices.
- c GDP per head is total GDP divided by the total population.

Despite challenges facing the country's economy, it grew steadily since 1994. The size of the economy tripled in real terms, and there were also notable increases in per capita incomes. But, as we have documented extensively, this growth slowed in the Zuma years, with economic growth barely keeping up with population growth. Nevertheless, the country could reach economic growth levels of five percent or higher if the right policies were put into place.



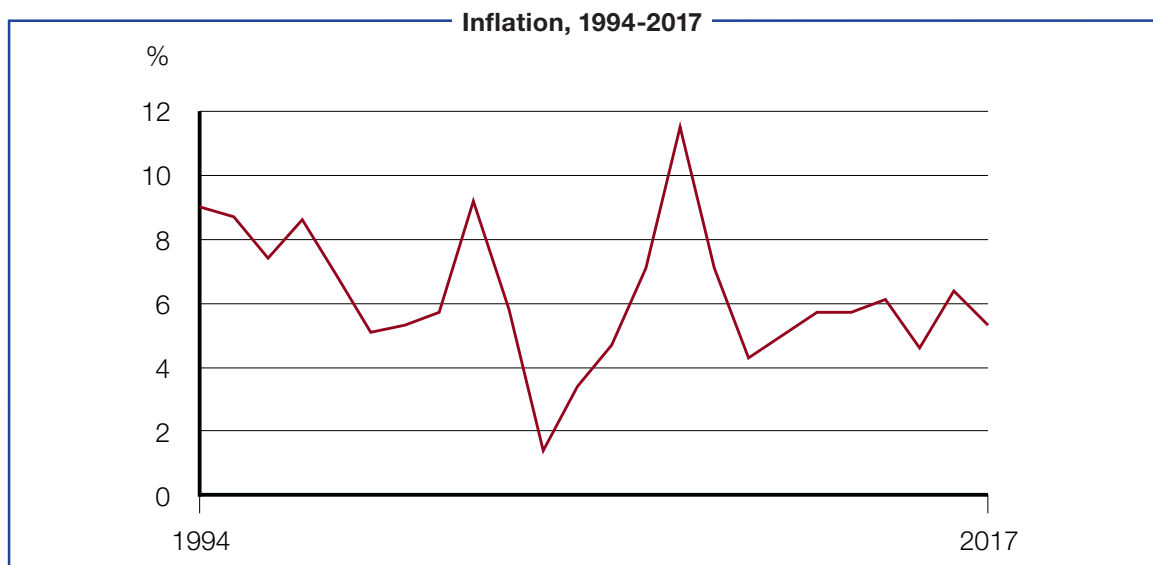
## Progress but in fits and starts

### Inflation

Inflation, 1994-2017			
Year	Headline inflation rate <sup>a</sup>	Year	Headline inflation rate <sup>a</sup>
1994	9.0%	2006	4.7%
1995	8.7%	2007	7.1%
1996	7.4%	2008	11.5%
1997	8.6%	2009	7.1%
1998	6.9%	2010	4.3%
1999	5.1%	2011	5.0%
2000	5.3%	2012	5.7%
2001	5.7%	2013	5.7%
2002	9.2%	2014	6.1%
2003	5.8%	2015	4.6%
2004	1.4%	2016	6.4%
2005	3.4%	2017	5.3%

Source: *Consumer Price Index June 2018*, Statistical release P0141, 18 July 2018, p5

a Consumer Price Index. Base year December 2016 = 100.



## Progress but in fits and starts

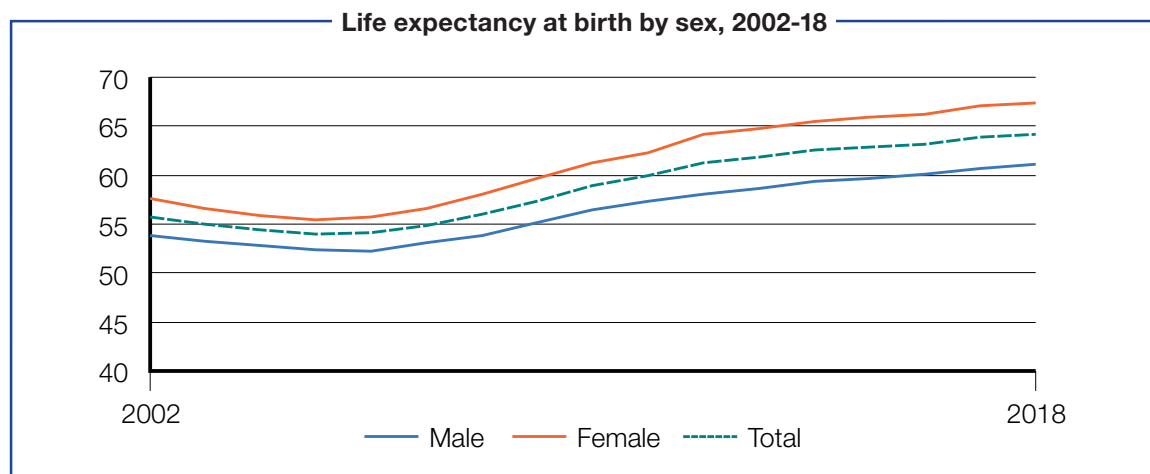
# Health

## Life expectancy

Life expectancy at birth by sex, 2002-18			
Year	Male	Female	Total
2002	53.8	57.6	55.8
2003	53.3	56.6	55.0
2004	52.8	55.9	54.4
2005	52.4	55.5	54.0
2006	52.2	55.8	54.1
2007	53.1	56.6	54.9
2008	53.8	58.1	56.0
2009	55.1	59.6	57.4
2010	56.5	61.2	58.9
2011	57.4	62.3	59.9
2012	58.1	64.1	61.2
2013	58.7	64.8	61.8
2014	59.4	65.5	62.5
2015	59.7	65.9	62.8
2016	60.1	66.2	63.2
2017	60.7	67.1	63.9
2018	61.1	67.3	64.2
<b>2002-18</b>	<b>12.8%</b>	<b>16.5%</b>	<b>14.5%</b>

Source: Stats SA, *Mid-year population estimates 2018*, Statistical release P0302, 23 July 2018, Figure 3, p6

Life expectancy is on the increase again after dipping in the mid-part of the last decade, which can largely be attributed to President Mbeki's policies around HIV/AIDS. One of the few positive attributes of the Zuma government was its stance on this disease, which was much improved compared to that of his predecessor. Overall, as can be seen from the following two tables, South African health outcomes are, generally, on a positive trend. Without a major economic shock or other disaster, this is likely to remain so.



## Progress but in fits and starts

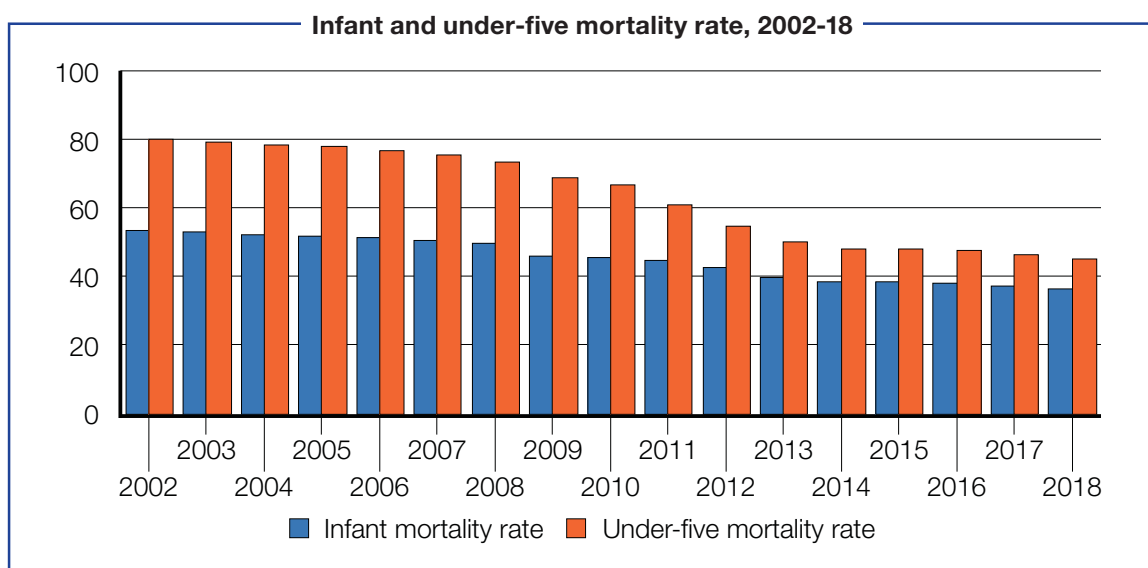
### Child mortality

Infant and under-five mortality rate, 2002-18					
Year	Infant mortality rate <sup>a</sup>	Under-five mortality rate <sup>b</sup>	Year	Infant mortality rate <sup>a</sup>	Under-five mortality rate <sup>b</sup>
2002	53.2	80.1	2011	44.8	60.8
2003	52.8	79.5	2012	42.4	54.7
2004	52.3	78.6	2013	39.8	50.2
2005	51.8	78.0	2014	38.3	48.1
2006	51.2	76.9	2015	38.4	48.0
2007	50.4	75.5	2016	37.9	47.4
2008	49.5	73.6	2017	37.0	46.1
2009	45.8	68.9	2018	36.4	45.0
2010	45.4	66.9	<b>2002-18</b>	<b>-30.5%</b>	<b>-42.4%</b>

Source: Stats SA, *Mid-year population estimates 2018*, Statistical release P0302, 23 July 2018, Figure 4, p6

a The number of deaths of infants under one year of age, per 1 000 live births.

b The number of children who die by the age of five, per 1 000 live births.





## Progress but in fits and starts

### HIV/AIDS

**AIDS-related deaths among children<sup>a</sup>, 1994-2017**

Year	Number	Year	Number
1994	7 600	2006	45 000
1995	11 000	2007	40 000
1996	15 000	2008	34 000
1997	20 000	2009	27 000
1998	24 000	2010	27 000
1999	29 000	2011	18 000
2000	33 000	2012	15 000
2001	37 000	2013	12 000
2002	41 000	2014	11 000
2003	44 000	2015	11 000
2004	45 000	2016	9 500
2005	46 000	2017	8 600

Source: United Nations AIDS (UNAIDS) Estimates 2018, [www.aidsinfo.unaids.org](http://www.aidsinfo.unaids.org), AIDSinfo, accessed 27 July 2018

a People aged 0-14. Estimates.

**AIDS-related deaths among children<sup>a</sup>, 1994-2017**

