



social development

Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SHORT PRESENTATION
FEBRUARY 2025

DIAGNOSTIC EVALUATION
OF GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO
TEENAGE PREGNANCY IN SOUTH AFRICA

OVERVIEW: GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO TEENAGE PREGNANCY

- Teenage pregnancy in South Africa remains a critical social and health concern
- Despite comprehensive policy frameworks, fragmented implementation, weak interdepartmental coordination, and limited access to adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services hinder progress

BUILDING A CARING SOCIETY TOGETHER

www.dsd.gov.za



social development

Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



BACKGROUND AND STUDY PURPOSE

- The study assessed the relevance and responsiveness of government interventions addressing teenage pregnancy. It focused on programmes, service delivery, policies, and gaps at national and provincial levels.
- Teenage pregnancy is a complex issue that requires coordinated interventions from government and non-profit organisations.
- The Department of Social Development (DSD) leads prevention and early intervention through Ezabasha Dialogues and Risiha programmes.
- Behavioural change initiatives such as ChommY and YOLO target youth aged 10–24. DSD promotes intergenerational dialogues and provides training on adolescent SRHR and CSE for out-of-school youth.
- The Nzululwazi model supports SRHR in schools with high learner pregnancy rates. Psychosocial services and demographic data planning support adolescents and families.
- The ASRH&R Framework (2015) encourages collaboration across departments and NGOs to close service gaps

BUILDING A CARING SOCIETY TOGETHER

www.dsd.gov.za

KEY POLICIES AND FRAMEWORKS

- Policies include the ASRH&R Framework (2015), Learner Pregnancy Policy (2022), and various SRHR and social welfare policies across departments such as DSD, DOH, and DBE.

BUILDING A CARING SOCIETY TOGETHER

www.dsd.gov.za



social development

Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



STUDY METHODOLOGY AND DATA SOURCES

- The study used mixed methods including literature reviews, administrative document analysis, and stakeholder interviews. Tools include DHIS, DHA CRVS, Thembisa and Naomi models
- Review of various publications and health surveillance tools: DHIS, StatsSA (2023), Thembisa Model, StatsSA (2023), DHA, Lifestyle Publications (2023), DHIS, Naomi Model (2023), Thembisa Model, StatsSA (2023), DHIS, Lifestyle Publications (2023), DHA, StatsSA (2023), Naomi Model, DHIS (2023), Thembisa Model, Lifestyle Publications (2023), South African Demographic and Health Survey (SADHS), Mid-Year Population Estimates (MYPE) – Stats SA, Stats SA. (2023). Recorded Live Births Report 2023. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa.SADHS. (2016). South Africa Demographic and Health Survey. National Department of Health (NDoH), Stats SA, SAMRC, and ICF.
- Focus on prevalence, service responses, institutional frameworks, and international comparisons



KEY FINDINGS: POLICY IMPLICATION SUMMARY

- Teenage pregnancy negatively impacts education, health, and social outcomes despite South Africa's strong policy frameworks like the Children's Act, ASRH&R Framework, and Learner Pregnancy Policy.
- Implementation remains uneven, particularly at provincial and municipal levels, limiting service delivery effectiveness.
- Fragmented responses by DSD, DOH, and DBE reduce impact; stronger coordination is needed through mechanisms like the Programme of Action (POA) and ISHP.
- Integrated, adolescent-centred service delivery models are essential to address multi-dimensional drivers of teenage pregnancy.
- Weak, non-integrated data systems hinder real-time planning; coordinated platforms across DSD, DOH, DBE, SAPS, and DOJ are urgently needed.
- Limited access to youth-friendly SRHR services and stigma in healthcare settings remain major barriers.
- Sustainable delivery requires community education, reduced donor dependency, and increased domestic resource mobilisation.

BUILDING A CARING SOCIETY TOGETHER

www.dsd.gov.za



social development

Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



KEY FINDINGS: ACTIONS TO IMPROVE POLICY

- Strengthen implementation through operational guidelines, staff training, and monitoring tools.
- Enhance intersectoral coordination via revitalised POA, ISHP, and planning across departments.
- Invest in real-time data systems using DHIS, CRVS, NAOMI, and Thembisa for targeted services.
- Expand adolescent-friendly SRHR services and train providers in inclusive, youth-centred care.
- Address poverty, gender inequality, and school dropout via empowerment and social protection.
- Institutionalise youth participation through advisory panels and civic engagement, aligned with BELA Act.
- Develop sustainable domestic financing to reduce donor reliance and support community-led systems.

BUILDING A CARING SOCIETY TOGETHER

www.dsd.gov.za



social development

Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

7



KEY FINDINGS: PREVALENCE AND TRENDS

- Teenage pregnancy is a significant health and development concern in South Africa
- Prevalence varies across provinces; highest in KwaZulu-Natal (18.1%), Limpopo (17.4%), and Mpumalanga (17.0%)

No.	Province	Teenage Pregnancy Rate	Primary Data Source
1.	Gauteng	13.2	DHIS, StatsSA (2023)
2.	Eastern Cape	16.8	Thembisa Model, StatsSA (2023)
3.	Northern Cape	14.5	DHA, Lifestyle Publications (2023)
4.	KwaZulu-Natal	18.1	DHIS, Naomi Model (2023)
5.	Limpopo	17.4	Thembisa Model, StatsSA (2023)
6.	Western Cape	12.3	DHIS, Lifestyle Publications (2023)
7.	Free State	15.6	DHA, StatsSA (2023)
8.	Mpumalanga	17.0	Naomi Model, DHIS (2023)
9.	North West	16.0	Thembisa Model, Lifestyle Publications (2023)

- Lowest rates recorded in Western Cape (12.3%) and Gauteng (13.2%)
- ASFR for girls aged 15–19 declined from 66.1 in 2010 to 44.6 in 2022. Teenage births account for 11.1% of all live births in 2022, with notable increases in very young adolescent pregnancies.

BUILDING A CARING SOCIETY TOGETHER

www.dsd.gov.za



social development

Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



KEY FINDINGS: TEENAGE PREGNANCE PREVALENCE









Indicators: birth occurrences, *live births*, *Age-Specific Fertility Rate (ASFR)*, *Delivery in Facility Rate*, *Parity*, *Girls pregnant at time of GHS survey*. (Data sources: StatsSA: Census + MYPE + GHS, DOH DHIS, DHA CRVS.)

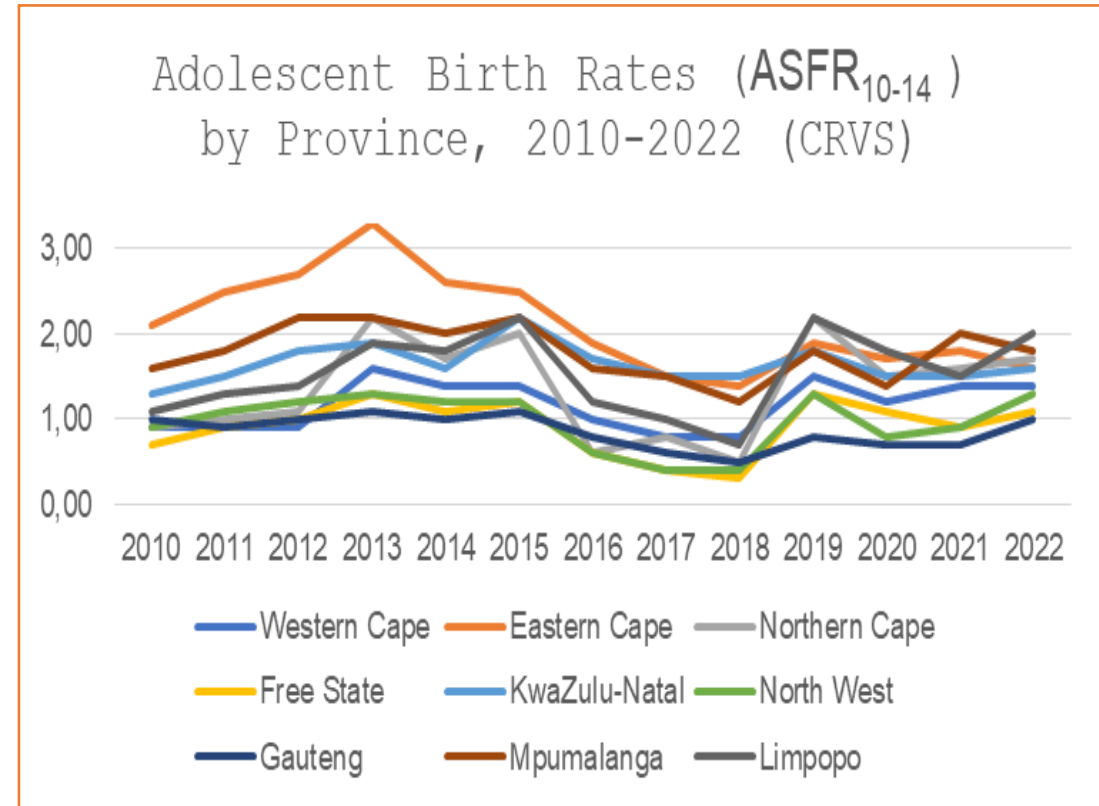
- Proportion of female population: Girls₁₀₋₁₄ about 8%, girls₁₅₋₁₉ 9% - StatsSA (2023b)
- ASFR₁₅₋₁₉ (per 1,000) ↓ 66,1 (2010), 60,2 (2016), 44,6 (2022) StatsSA (2024:7)
- ASFR₁₀₋₁₄ 1,3 (2010), 1,2 (2016), ↑ to 1,4 (2022) StatsSA (2024:7)
- ASFR₁₀₋₁₉ 35,1 (2010), 30,0 (2016), ↓ to 21,9 (2022) StatsSA (2024:7)
- ASFR₁₀₋₁₄ provincial ranking ↓: LP, MP, NC, EC, KZN, WC, NW, FS, GP. Some ↑
- ASFR₁₅₋₁₉ provincial ranking ↓: NC, KZN, MP, LP, EC, NW, FS, WC, GP. General ↓
- ASFR₁₅₋₁₉ ↓ over 1996-2016: 71 in 2016. StatsSA 2023b from Census data

BUILDING A CARING SOCIETY TOGETHER

www.dsd.gov.za

KEY FINDINGS: KEY INDICATORS AND FERTILITY TRENDS

- ASFR (15-19) marginal  2010-2022
- ASFR (10-14) **substantial**  2010-2022
- ASFR (10-19) marginal  2010-2022
- ASFR (10-14) provincial ranking  : LP, MP, NC, EC, KZN, WC, NW, FS, GP. Some 
- ASFR (15-19) provincial ranking  : NC, KZN, MP, LP, EC, NW, FS, WC, GP. General 
- ASFR (15-19) 1996-2016: General 
- ASFR (15-19) declined from 66.1 (2010) to 44.6 (2022).
- ASFR (10-14) remained low: 1.4 in 2022.
- Birth registrations improving; late registration declining.
- Teenage births account for 11.1% of all live births in 2022.



BUILDING A CARING SOCIETY TOGETHER

www.dsd.gov.za

KEY FINDINGS: POLICY & LEGISLATIVE RESPONSES

- Policies: White Paper on Welfare, Child Care & Protection, Families Policy.
- Laws: Children's Act, Criminal Law (Sexual Offences), Social Assistance Act.
- Legislation addresses structural drivers like poverty and inequality.

BUILDING A CARING SOCIETY TOGETHER

www.dsd.gov.za



social development

Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



KEY FINDINGS: SERVICE DELIVERY GAPS & IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

- Weak inter-sectoral coordination, donor dependency, under-resourced services.
- Unequal deployment of social workers, limited youth engagement.
- Gaps in CSE roll-out, contraceptive access, and digital health tools.
- Inadequate adolescent-friendly services, stigma in healthcare settings, inconsistent CSE implementation, and under-resourced psychosocial services were key gaps identified

BUILDING A CARING SOCIETY TOGETHER

www.dsd.gov.za



social development

Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



KEY FINDINGS: STAKEHOLDER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Implementation varies by province and institutional capacity
- Key actors involves a Multiple stakeholders approach that include DSD, DOH, DBE, DWYPD, DHA, NGOs and development partners. Coordination remains fragmented, affecting programme implementation.
- Commitments span SRHR services, psychosocial support, CSE, and school-based interventions.

BUILDING A CARING SOCIETY TOGETHER

www.dsd.gov.za



social development

Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



KEY FINDINGS: INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICES

- Models from countries like the **US, Finland, Chile, Kenya, and Rwanda** offer integrated service delivery approaches, youth-friendly clinics, and participatory frameworks that can inform **South Africa's** response.

CONCLUSION & APPLICABILITY TO SOUTH AFRICA

- Align policy and programmes with global integrated service delivery models
- Strengthen school-community-clinic linkages
- Foster adolescent participation, data-driven planning, and inclusive governance

BUILDING A CARING SOCIETY TOGETHER

www.dsd.gov.za



social development

Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations include enhancing inter-sectoral planning, expanding youth-friendly services, strengthening data systems, and mobilizing domestic resources to reduce donor dependence

BUILDING A CARING SOCIETY TOGETHER

www.dsd.gov.za



social development

Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Siyabonga



BUILDING A CARING SOCIETY TOGETHER

www.dsd.gov.za



social development

Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

