Mid-year population estimates 2020

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General
Mid-year population estimates uses the latest available data on...

Fertility
Mortality
Migration

to estimate the size of the population of South Africa.
To project the full impact of COVID-19 without sufficient trend data will create a far greater uncertain set of population estimates for current planning and decision-making.

The impact of COVID-19 on conception and subsequent fertility will only be reflected in the reported births of 2021.

There has been 2657 reported COVID-related deaths by mid-year which is marginal in comparison to overall death count in a given year. It is premature to speculate on the annual COVID-19 related deaths for the cycle of the 2020 MYPE.

There is a reduction in international migration which is indicative of the COVID-19 travel restrictions over the past 3 months. Internal mobility in this period has mostly been temporary whilst the MYPE requires a more permanent act of migration.
South Africa’s population, mid-2020 is 59.62 million.
Births are the main driver of population growth in SA

For the period 2019–2020 the population is estimated to have grown by around 0,8 Million

Impact of births, deaths and migration on population, 2019

*data based on 2020 series,
More than half of the population live in 3 provinces (GP, KZN, and WC). GP remains SA's most populated province with approximately 15.5 million people (26%) living in this province.

Mid-year population estimates for South Africa by province, 2020
Four provinces have seen increases in population of 8% or more between 2015 and 2020 due largely to migration. EC has shown the lowest change in population.

**Percentage change in population, 2015 - 2020**

- GP: 13.4%
- WC: 9.9%
- NW: 8.9%
- MP: 8.0%
- KZN: 6.5%
- NC: 6.4%
- LP: 4.1%
- FS: 2.8%
- EC: 0.8%
Population Structure
Children and youth amount to nearly 38M in SA

Children aged 0-14 and adults aged 15-34 make up more than 60% of the population.

The median age in SA is 27
Youth 15 – 34 has increased by 4,2m between 2002 & 2020
Children age 0-14 and adults age 15-34 make up more than 60% of the population.

Population growth by age groups over time, 2002–2020
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Elderly (60+) within each province</th>
<th>Children under 15 within each province</th>
<th>Youth and Adult</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LP</td>
<td>8,9%</td>
<td>39,2%</td>
<td>51,8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>11,4%</td>
<td>36,6%</td>
<td>52,0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>7,9%</td>
<td>36,1%</td>
<td>56,0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KZN</td>
<td>8,1%</td>
<td>35,2%</td>
<td>56,6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>10,2%</td>
<td>32,4%</td>
<td>57,4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>9,0%</td>
<td>31,5%</td>
<td>59,5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td>9,9%</td>
<td>31,1%</td>
<td>59,0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>9,1%</td>
<td>28,6%</td>
<td>62,3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WC</td>
<td>10,3%</td>
<td>27,7%</td>
<td>62,0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP</td>
<td>8,5%</td>
<td>24,5%</td>
<td>67,0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LP has the **highest proportion of children under 15** whilst Gauteng has the highest proportion of Youth and Adults (15-59).

*Population by age category and province, 2020*
The EC has the highest proportion of the elderly

Percentage of Elderly (60+) within each province 2020, Absolute number of Elderly(60+) in Millions

The proportion of the elderly in SA is on the increase
The rate of annual growth among elderly (60 years and older) rose from 1,1% in 2002/2003 to 3% in 2019/2020.
Burden of care in SA has declined over time. Child and old age dependency ratios show a decrease since 2002.

Child and Old Age Dependency Ratios 2002 - 2020

- **Child Dependency**
  - 2002: 51.8 per 100
  - 2020: 43.8 per 100

- **Old Age Dependency**
  - 2002: 8.3 per 100
  - 2020: 6.2 per 100

Child dependency is on the decline as the fertility rate declines and life expectancy rises.
Approximately 51,1% (30,5 million) of the population is female.

South Africa’s population, mid-2020

Male
(29,1M) 48,9%

Female
(30,5M) 51,1%

59,62 million
There is a surplus of females to males at older ages, as well as a significant youth bulge aged 25-39.
The population profile differs significantly by province.
GP has a higher proportion of adults aged 25-39, when compared to EC which has a higher proportion of children ages 0-14 and elderly within the province.
The **black African** population is in the majority and constitutes approximately 81% of the total SA population

**SA by population group, 2020**

- **BLACK AFRICAN**
  - (48.2 million)
  - 81%
- **COLOURED**
  - (5.2 million)
  - 9%
- **WHITE**
  - (4.7 million)
  - 8%
- **INDIAN/ASIAN**
  - (1.5 million)
  - 3%

*Due to rounding totals may not add up to 100%*
The population distribution varies according to population group. The white population group presents that of an ageing population whilst the Black African population presents a more youthful population structure. **Median age lies in shaded age group.**

*SA by population group, five year ages 2020*
SA is ageing. The median age in SA has risen from 23 in 2002 to 27 in 2020. The white population group has a far higher median age compared to all other population groups.

SA by median age 2002-2020

- **Black African**: 22 (2002) to 26 (2020)
- **Coloured**: 25 (2002) to 29 (2020)
- **Indian/Asian**: 35 (2002) to 35 (2020)
- **White**: 43 (2020)
Fertility
(Births)
On average, a woman will give birth to **2,33** children in her lifetime*

The total fertility rate peaked in 2008 at 2,66 and is declining, reaching 2,33 in 2020.

---

*Provided that current fertility behaviour prevails*
Fertility varies from province to province. Less urbanised provinces of LP and EC indicate higher fertility rates whilst more urbanised provinces such as GP and the WC indicate lower levels of fertility.

Total Fertility Rate by Province

SA Average Fertility Rate is 2.33
Mortality (Deaths)
The proportion of AIDS-related deaths has declined by almost half, from 30.6% to just over 15%. Deaths peak in 2006, thereafter decreasing to the current value of 515,804 in 2020.
Life expectancy (LE) at birth for 2020 is estimated at 62,5 years for males and 68,5 years for females. Life expectancy (LE) has been increasing since 2007.

The difference in LE between men and women declines significantly during the era of high AIDS mortality but with increased access to HIV treatment and care, the difference between male and female LE increases reverting to the more normative pattern of higher female LE than males.
Infant (IMR) and under-five mortality (U5MR) rates in SA continue to decline. The IMR has declined from an estimated 55.5 infant deaths per 1 000 live births in 2002 to 23.6 in 2020. Similarly the U5MR declined from 75.3 child deaths per 1 000 live births to 34.1 between 2002 and 2020.
There is an average 6 year gap in life expectancy between males and females in SA. Free State has a significantly lower life expectancy than the SA average.
The total number of people living with HIV (PLWHIV) is estimated at approximately **7,8 million in 2020**. The estimated overall HIV prevalence rate is approximately 13,0% among the South African population.

*Number of people living with HIV, 2002-2020 (millions)*
For the period 2016-2021, GP will receive 3 times more migrants than the WC.

Estimated provincial migration streams, 2016–2021

Net Migration from Outside SA
Net Migration Within SA

-322 957

GP
For the period 2016–2021, GP is estimated to experience the largest inflow of migrants of approx. 1 553 162. The economic strength of Gauteng influences its attractiveness to migrants.
Western Cape estimated to experience the second highest number of in-migrants for period 2016 to 2021 of approx. **468 568**. Opportunities of employment, study and quality of life play an important role amongst the push-pull factors resulting in high flow of migrants to WC.
For 2020, Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) estimates the mid-year population at 59,62 million. 

Gauteng comprises the largest share of the South African population, with approximately 15,5 million people (26,0%) living in this province.

Life expectancy at birth for 2020 is estimated at 62,5 years for males and 68,5 years for females.

The estimated overall HIV prevalence rate is approximately 13,0% among the South African population.
Ndzi hela kwala!