

Statistical release

P0305

Recorded live births

2016

**Embargoed until:
28 September 2017
14:00**

ENQUIRIES:

User Information Services

Tel.: 012 310 8600

FORTHCOMING ISSUE:

2017

EXPECTED RELEASE DATE:

August 2018

Preface

This statistical release presents information on recorded live births in South Africa based on births registered and collated through the national birth registration system that is maintained by the Department of Home Affairs. The primary focus of the release is live birth occurrences and registrations for 2016. Reference is also made to live birth occurrences from 1994 to 2015 to show trends and patterns in the occurrence and registration of live births.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PJ Lehohla', with a large, stylized initial 'P'.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

Contents

Preface	i
1. Introduction	1
2. Data and methods	2
2.1 Data source	2
2.2 Assessment of the quality of data	3
2.3 Data analysis	4
3. Birth registrations	5
3.1 Trends in birth registration	5
3.2 Birth registrations by selected variables	7
4. Birth occurrences	13
4.1 Birth occurrences as at 28 February 2017	14
4.2 Birth occurrences registered within 30 days from date of birth	16
4.3 Birth occurrences as at 01 July 2017	19
4.4 Baby forenames and surnames in South Africa, 2016	21
5. Concluding remarks	23
References	24

List of Tables

Table 1: Birth registrations for 2015–2016	2
Table 2: Distribution of birth registrations by the number of days it took to register the birth: 2013–2016	4
Table 3: Year to year changes in the number of days/years it took to register the birth: 2013–2016	4
Table 4: Birth registrations by status of registration, South Africa: 1994–2016	5
Table 5: Birth registrations by age of the mother and status of registration, South Africa: 2016	8
Table 6: Birth occurrences by year of birth and reference period, South Africa: 1994–2016	13
Table 7: Birth occurrences (as at end of February 2017) by year of birth occurrence and year of birth registration, South Africa: 1994–2016	15
Table 8: Number of births registered within 30 days of occurrence by month of birth occurrence and month of birth registration, South Africa: 2016	16
Table 9: Number and percentage of births by age of mother, South Africa: 2016	17
Table 10: Birth occurrences (as at 01 July 2017) by sex and year of birth, South Africa: 1994–2016	20
Table 11: Number distribution of top ten baby forenames and surnames, South Africa: 2016	22

List of Figures

Figure 1: Birth registrations by status of registration, South Africa: 1994–2016.....	6
Figure 2: Late birth registrations by year of birth, South Africa: 1981–2016	7
Figure 3: Birth registrations by age of the mother and status of registration, South Africa: 2016	8
Figure 4A: Number distribution of birth registrations by province of birth registration and status of registration, South Africa: 2016	10
Figure 4B: Percentage distribution of birth occurrences by province of birth registration and status of registration, South Africa: 2016	10
Figure 5: Sex ratios by province of birth registration, South Africa: 2016.....	12
Figure 6: Median age of the mother by year of birth, South Africa: 1998–2016	18
Figure 7: Birth occurrences by province of birth registration, South Africa: 2016.....	19
Figure 8: Percentage distribution of birth occurrences by year and month of birth, South Africa: 2012–2016	21

List of Appendices

Appendix A: Notice of birth form (DHA-24)	25
Appendix B: Total birth registrations for 2016 by year of birth occurrence, province and district municipality ...	27
Appendix C: Birth registrations by registration status, sex, province and district municipality, 2016	29
Appendix D: Birth occurrences by year of birth and age of the mother, 2012–2016	31
Appendix E: Birth occurrences by province of birth registration and age of the mother, 2016.....	32
Appendix F: Birth occurrences by year of birth and province and district municipality of birth registration, 2012–2016.....	33
Appendix G: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 1994–1996	35
Appendix G.1: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 1997–1999	36
Appendix G.2: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2000–2002	37
Appendix G.3: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2003–2005	38
Appendix G.4: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2006–2008	39
Appendix G.5: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2009–2011	40
Appendix G.6: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2012–2014	41
Appendix G.7: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2015–2016	42
Appendix H: Number distribution of 2016 top ten baby forenames and surnames by province of birth registration	43
Explanatory notes.....	46
General Information.....	48

1. Introduction

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) requires every child born to be "registered to provide the foundation for safeguarding a child's civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights" (UNICEF, 2017:5). This is done in order to protect them from "child labour, being arrested and treated as adults in the justice system, forcible conscription in armed forces, child marriage, trafficking and sexual exploitation" (UNICEF, 2017:19). Thus birth registration is mandatory for legalising the existence of a child and providing an identity to enable them to practice and access human rights. Goal 16.9 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) calls for the provision of legal identity for all, including birth registration (United Nations [UN], 2015). In doing so, this would aid in curbing abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture of children as noted in Goal 16.2 of the SDGs. Apart from the legal requirement on birth registration, it is also vital for the provision of statistics for state social and economic planning and monitoring. For example, data on birth registration is needed for the monitoring of the eradication of poverty (SDG Goal 1), no hunger (SDG goal 2), quality education (SDG goal 4), gender equality (SDG goal 5), reduced inequality (SDG goal 10) and partnerships for the goals (SDG goal 17). In addition, SDG goal 3 on ensuring healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, requires live births for the computation of the maternal mortality ratio, neonatal mortality rate, under-five mortality rate and the adolescent birth rate.

The Department of Home Affairs (DHA) is responsible for the registration of births in South Africa (SA) under the provision of the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1992 (Act No. 51 of 1992), amended in 2010 as the Births and Deaths Registration Amendment Act, 2010 (Act No. 18 of 2010) (Republic of South Africa, 1992; Republic of South Africa, 2010). According to the Act, a birth ought to be registered within the period of 30 days from the day of occurrence using the DHA-24 form. However if a birth is not registered within this timeframe, the Act allows for the late registration of births using the DHA-24/LRB form and supporting documentation is required to make the application. Documents required include a clinic card, a certificate from place of birth occurrence, baptismal certificate, first school attended, school reports and social worker's report for abandoned children and a prescribed affidavit (DHA, 2014). Late birth registration is classified into three categories: after 30 days but before 365 days, after one year but before age 15 years, and 15 years and older (DHA, 2014). After birth registration is completed, a birth certificate is issued to the applicant and information is captured on the birth register on a monthly basis. Thereafter Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) obtains the births data annually from the State Information Technology Agency (SITA) and bi-annually from the DHA in print form.

The South African government has made great strides in eliminating late registration of births. These include providing on-site registration facilities at designated hospitals (491) and taking services to communities through mobile units (117). Additionally, on the 4th and 5th December 2015, the DHA held the birth registration Indaba to reinforce the need to promote early birth registration and discourage late registration. Although the government intends to penalise late registration of births, this has not been implemented. However, the UNICEF argues that the introduction of penalties may pose an unfair burden to poor communities and thus exacerbate late registration of the births (UNICEF, 2013).

This release presents information on live births that occurred and were recorded in the South African birth registration system at the DHA up to 28 February 2017. Live births from 1994 to 2015 are also included to show patterns and trends in the occurrence and registration of live births. The reporting of live births is analysed by year of birth registration (year of which the birth was captured in the system, irrespective of when it occurred) and year of birth occurrence (the year of which birth took place).

2. Data and methods

2.1 Data source

Administrative records on live births from the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) are the exclusive data source for this statistical release. The release primarily covers current birth registrations, which are live birth occurrences for 2016 registered over a 14-month period (between January 2016 and February 2017). It also provides information on late birth registrations, which are birth occurrences for 2015 and earlier years registered over a 12-month period (between March 2016 and February 2017).

The data files obtained from the DHA were categorised into five files: (i) births registered within 30 days; (ii) births registered after 30 days up to 365 days; (iii) 1 to 14 years, (iv) from 15 years and above as well as (v) births registered in health facilities combined with births that occurred to South African citizens while in a foreign country. Accordingly, each of the five files consisted of births registered over a 14-month period (between January 2016 and February 2017). During the data editing stage, births for 2015 and earlier years registered between January and February 2017 were removed from the files as these had already been analysed during the 2015 birth registrations processing phase. Each of the 14 files in the five categories were merged into one file, consequently resulting into five files, which were merged to form one dataset for the 2016 birth registrations reporting period.

Table 1 shows the total number of birth registrations for the 2015 and 2016 reporting periods and how these were aligned to arrive at the final total birth registrations for analyses. The table indicates that a total of 1 277 576 birth registrations for 2015 births and earlier years were registered between January 2015 and February 2016. From this total, 88 959 births for 2014 births and earlier years registered between January and February 2015 were subtracted as these had already been analysed during the 2014 processing phase. The 2016 births registered between January and February 2016 were also subtracted as these form part of 2015 reporting period and were included by the DHA in the 1 145 965 births registered between January 2016 and February 2017. Similarly, for the 2016 reporting period, births for 2015 and earlier years registered between January and February 2016 were removed as these had already been included during the 2015 reporting period. The births for 2017 registered between January and February 2017 were also removed while the births for 2016 and earlier years registered between January and February 2017 were kept as these form part of the 2016 reporting period. The table further shows that during the 2016 processing phase a total of 969 415 births that occurred in 2016 and earlier years were registered.

Table 1: Birth registrations for 2015–2016

2015	Number of birth registrations
Total births registered January 2015 to February 2016	1 277 576
Less births for 2014 and earlier years registered in January to February 2015	88 959
	1 188 617
Less 2016 births registered in January to February 2016	104 106
	1 084 511
2016	
Total births registered January 2016 to February 2017	1 145 965
Less births for 2015 and earlier years registered in January to February 2016	69 585
	1 076 380
Less 2017 births registered in January to February 2017	106 965
	969 415

2.2 Assessment of the quality of data

Completeness of birth registration

Methods of varying precision exist for measuring the completeness of birth and death registration from the vital statistics system. The veracity of estimates provided by these methods depends on the quality of data and underlying assumptions used in their computation. One such method is the synthetic cohort P/F method proposed by Zlotnik and Hill (1981) and applied by Hill (2009) on data from a number of countries as an alternative to the Brass (1964) P/F ratio method. Key to this method is the capacity to assess the level of completeness of birth registration in the absence of constant fertility previously assumed by the P/F method as is the case in South Africa. The method assumes that cumulated age specific fertility rates for any given age will be equal to the average number of children ever born by women at that age. Ideally the input data required for estimation of completeness of births is the age distribution of women aged 15–49 years from two censuses and registered births in the applicable years. In the case of the 2011–2016 completeness estimation, the population was obtained from Census 2011 and Community Survey 2016 (CS) data. Hill (2009) cautions against the use of information on the age distribution from two different types of data collection activities (for example, survey and Census). Additionally, the 2016 CS data seem to point to some level of differential coverage of enumeration, the result of which are lowered estimates of fertility. This factor coupled with the decline in the number of 2016 registered births obtained from DHA, meant the data needed to be adjusted to facilitate the estimation process. The overall completeness of birth registration is estimated at 88,6% for the intercensal period 2011–2016.

Timeliness of birth registration

Table 2 on page 4, presents the number of days or years it took for the births registered between 2013 and 2016 to be registered from the date on which the births occurred. The table generally shows improvements in the timeliness of birth registration overtime, which can be attributed to various efforts to strengthen the civil registration system including reformation of legislation and the DHA initiatives. In 2010, the Births and Deaths Registration Amendment Act (Act No.18 of 2010) was enacted to facilitate early registration of births defined as births registered within the first 30 days of life. Since 2010, the DHA has strengthened efforts to establish a culture of early birth registration by raising awareness, increasing health facility birth registrations as well as stringent measures for late registrations. According to the birth registration Indaba in Durban on 4–5 December 2015, late registration of birth was a temporary necessity in the early years of the South African democracy to make sure that all South African citizens are registered on the national population register. It is for this reason that late registration is now discouraged.

According to Table 2, the proportion of births registered within 30 days increased from 2013 to 2016, whereas late registrations have declined. In 2013, 55,5% of births were registered within the 30 days as mandated by the legislation. For 2014, births registered within 30 days constituted 60,1% of total registrations, while for 2015 they comprised 65,1% of the total registrations. In 2016, the proportion of births registered within 30 days was 75,6%. This indicates an increase of 10,5 percentage points relative to 2015 birth registrations, 15,5 percentage points relative to 2014 births registrations and 20,0 percentage points in comparison to the 2013 birth registrations. Over the four-year period, there were yearly declines in births registered after the lapse of 30 days but before a year from 29,3% in 2013 to 17,5% in 2016. Birth registrations for those aged 1–14 years and those aged 15 years and older also flattened, suggesting declines in the late registration of births. These improvements are indicative of the efforts by the DHA to expedite birth registrations in line with the legislation.

Table 2: Distribution of birth registrations by the number of days it took to register the birth: 2013–2016

Number of days/years	Number of birth registrations				Percentage*				Cumulative percentage*			
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016
0–30 days	643 480	686 803	706 191	732 672	55,5	60,1	65,1	75,6	55,5	60,1	65,1	75,6
31–364 days	339 952	305 235	245 323	169 495	29,3	26,7	22,6	17,5	84,9	86,8	87,7	93,1
1–14 years	105 769	88 248	76 280	40 234	9,1	7,7	7,0	4,2	94,0	94,6	94,8	97,2
15 years and older	69 421	61 989	56 717	27 014	6,0	5,4	5,2	2,8	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Total	1 158 622	1 142 275	1 084 511	969 415	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0				

*Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding up.

Year on year changes in birth registration

Information on the annual percentage changes in the number of births registered by age in days or years for the period 2013 to 2016 are shown in Table 3. Throughout these years, though with varying magnitude, increases were observed in the number of births registered within 30 days, while decreases were observed in the number of births registered after 30 days. This gives an indication of improvements in timely registration of births over time. The table shows that over the period 2013–2014, births registered before the expiration of 30 days increased by 6,7% from the 2013 levels. In 2014–2015, an increase of 2,8% was observed after which the births registered within 30 days increased by 3,7% in 2016 from the 2015 levels. In terms of births registered from 31 days to 364 days, the year to year percentage changes show a 10,2% decline between 2013 and 2014, a 19,6% decline between 2014 and 2015 as well as a much steeper decline of 30,9% between 2015 and 2016. For instance, the latter means that the births registered in this age category in 2016 (169 495) indicated a decline of 30,9% from the 2015 birth registrations of the same age category (245 323). Similarly, the year on year percentage changes indicate decreases in the births registered at 1–14 years and from 15 years. Of note are the broadening declines for both age categories during 2015–2016 as indicated by the 47,3% in late registration for births 1–14 years and the decline of 52,4% birth registrations for births from 15 years and above.

Table 3: Year to year changes in the number of days/years it took to register the birth: 2013–2016

Number of days/years	Number of birth registrations				Percentage changes		
	2 013	2 014	2 015	2 016	2013–2014	2014–2015	2015–2016
0–30 days	643 480	686 803	706 191	732 672	6,7	2,8	3,7
31–364 days	339 952	305 235	245 323	169 495	-10,2	-19,6	-30,9
1–14 years	105 769	88 248	76 280	40 234	-16,6	-13,6	-47,3
15 years and older	69 421	61 989	56 717	27 014	-10,7	-8,5	-52,4
Total	1 158 622	1 142 275	1 084 511	969 415	-1,4	-5,1	-10,6

2.3 Data analysis

The analyses undertaken in this release are descriptive using univariate analyses (frequency distributions) and bivariate analysis including cross-tabulations and trends in median ages of mothers at birth. The focus on the analysis is on registered births and birth occurrences. Selected socio-economic variables such as differentials by age of the mother, sex of child and province of registration are also presented. Further information on data quality issues are included and additional information on the months of birth occurrence, baby forenames and surnames and analysis of birth registration within 30 days and year to year changes in birth registrations are provided in the statistical release.

In the appendices, tables on birth registrations by district municipality showing current or late registrations, birth occurrences by province and age of mother, birth occurrences by district municipality from 2012–2016 and birth occurrences by sex and month for the years 1994–2016 are also shown.

3. Birth registrations

3.1 Trends in birth registration

Every year, the Department of Home affairs (DHA) registers births regardless of when they occurred. This statistical publication reports on the total number of births registrations which is the combination of both current registrations (live births occurring in a specific year and registered within the same year) and late registrations (live births registered later than the year of birth) registered at the DHA offices during a specific year.

Table 4 shows the number and proportion of birth registrations by status of registration for the period 1994 to 2016. Generally, birth registrations in South Africa have been consistently more than a million births each year with the exception of the years 1994, 1995, 1996 and 2016, where birth registrations were less than a million. Over the 23-year period, the year 2003 had the highest number of birth registrations compared to any other years at 1 677 415. Of these, 62,9% were late registrations. It is also worth noting that in the ten year period (1994–2004), the proportion of late birth registrations were higher than current birth registrations. Late birth registrations increased from 63,1% in 1994 to 70,4% in 1996 and maintained 70,4% in 1997 and increased to 77,5% in 1998. After 1998 the proportion of late registration constantly declined to as low as 9,6% in 2016. This indicates that current registrations have improved significantly over the recent years. Between 2015 and 2016, births declined from 1 084 511 to 969 415, showing a 10,6% decline in registered births.

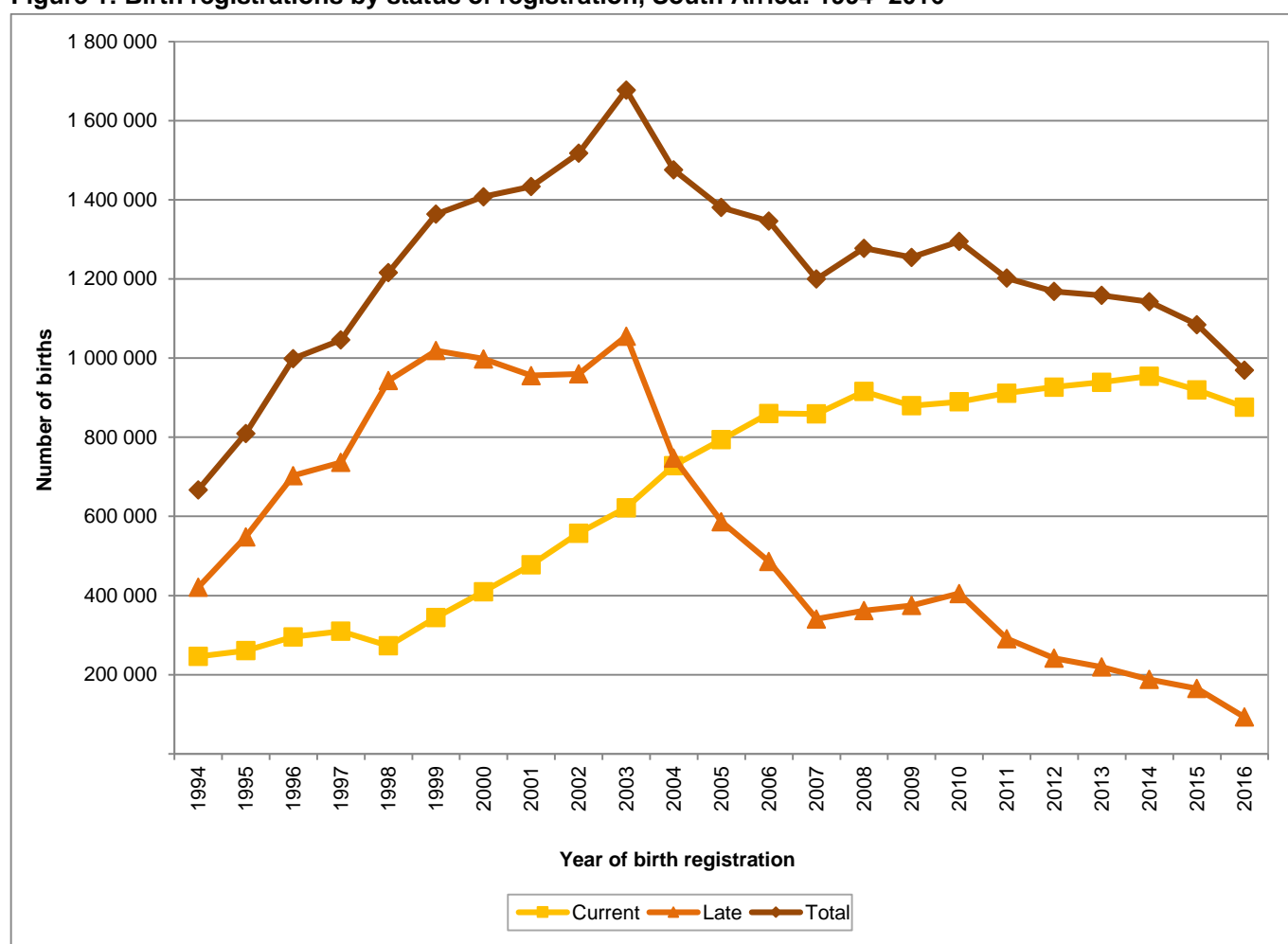
Table 4: Birth registrations by status of registration, South Africa: 1994–2016

Year of registration	Number of birth registrations			Percentages		
	Total	Current	Late	Total	Current	Late
1994	667 107	246 345	420 762	100,0	36,9	63,1
1995	809 439	260 880	548 559	100,0	32,2	67,8
1996	998 798	295 719	703 079	100,0	29,6	70,4
1997	1 046 095	309 723	736 372	100,0	29,6	70,4
1998	1 216 337	273 180	943 157	100,0	22,5	77,5
1999	1 363 800	344 700	1 019 100	100,0	25,3	74,7
2000	1 407 833	409 707	998 126	100,0	29,1	70,9
2001	1 433 432	477 489	955 943	100,0	33,3	66,7
2002	1 517 671	557 573	960 098	100,0	36,7	63,3
2003	1 677 415	621 887	1 055 528	100,0	37,1	62,9
2004	1 475 809	728 283	747 526	100,0	49,3	50,7
2005	1 380 496	793 788	586 708	100,0	57,5	42,5
2006	1 346 119	860 263	485 856	100,0	63,9	36,1
2007	1 199 712	858 866	340 846	100,0	71,6	28,4
2008	1 277 763	915 674	362 089	100,0	71,7	28,3
2009	1 254 707	879 707	375 000	100,0	70,1	29,9
2010	1 294 694	889 691	405 003	100,0	68,7	31,3
2011	1 202 377	911 353	291 024	100,0	75,8	24,2
2012	1 168 403	926 726	241 677	100,0	79,3	20,7
2013	1 158 622	939 011	219 611	100,0	81,0	19,0
2014	1 142 275	954 385	187 890	100,0	83,6	16,4
2015	1 084 511	919 562	164 949	100,0	84,8	15,2
2016	969 415	876 435	92 980	100,0	90,4	9,6

Figure 1 shows the trends and patterns of birth registrations by status of registration for the years 1994–2016. The total birth registrations (both current and late registrations) increased sharply from 1994 peaking in 2003 with a total of 1 677 415 birth registrations and thereafter, registrations steadily declined to as low as 969 415 in 2016. Late registrations increased sharply from 1994 (420 762) first peaking in 1999 (1 019 100) and thereafter decreased slightly between 2000 and 2002 (998 126 and 960 098, respectively) and then peaked for the second time in 2003 (1 055 528), which was the highest level for late registrations in the 23-year period. Late registrations were lowest in 2016 with only 92 980 late birth registrations.

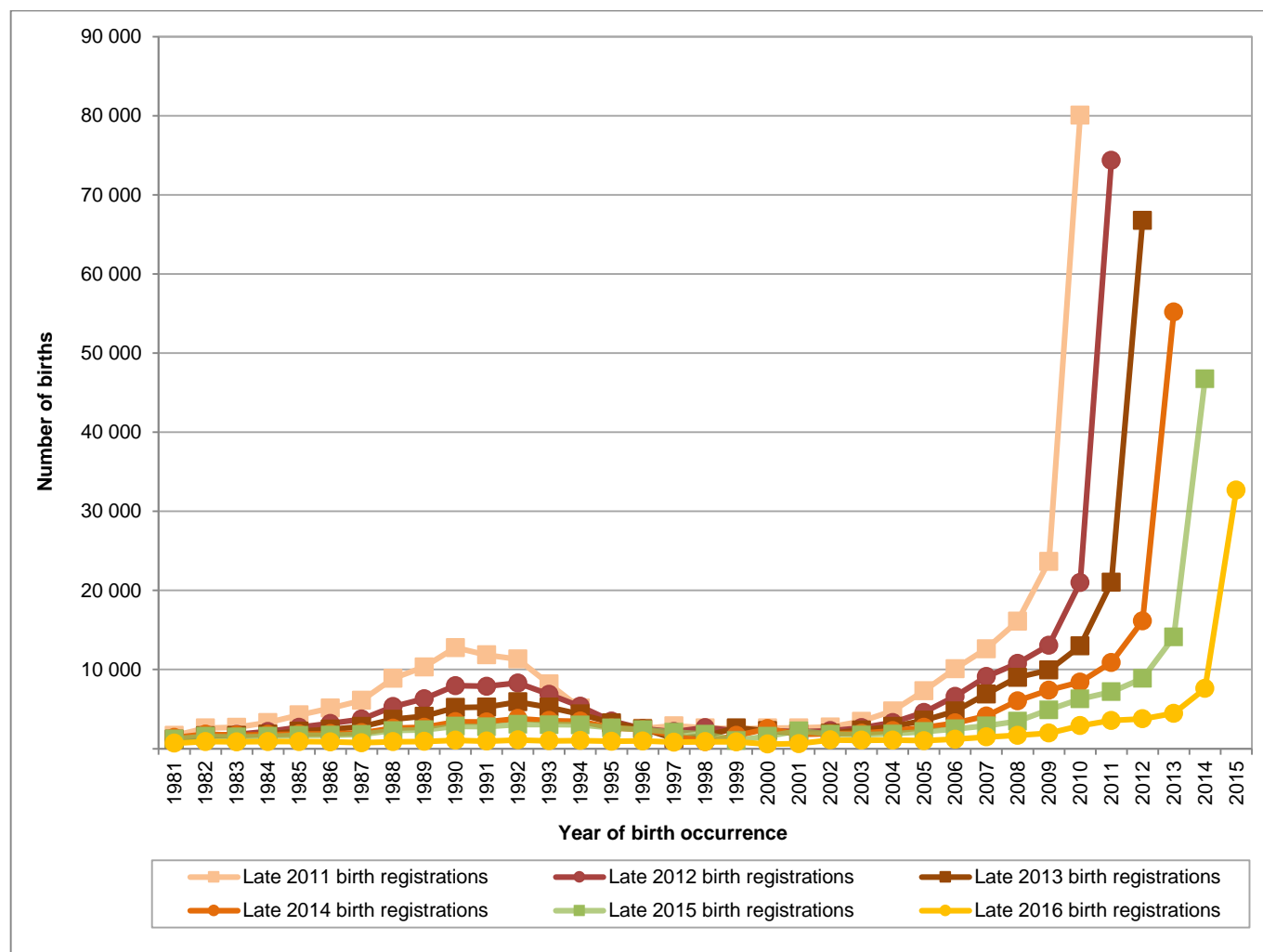
Current registrations increased marginally between 1994 (246 345) and 1997 (309 723) followed by a decline to 273 180 registrations in 1998. The drop in current registrations in 1998 was followed by a year to year increase in current registrations with the highest number of current registrations recorded in 2014 (954 385). Registrations by birth status also show that late registrations were constantly higher than current registrations from 1994 until 2004, whereby current and late registrations converged, thereafter current registrations increased and late registrations declined.

Figure 1: Birth registrations by status of registration, South Africa: 1994–2016



The overall number of late birth registrations registered between the years 2011–2016 for the period 1981 to 2015 is shown in Figure 2 on page 8. These are births which occurred in the period 1981 to 2015 but were registered between 2011 and 2016. For almost all the years, late registrations were highest in the year prior to the year of reporting, which means that the year preceding the reporting period makes up the majority of late registrations. Furthermore, the figure also shows that late registrations have declined over the five years with the lowest late registrations observed in 2016.

The figure also shows that between 1986 and 1996, late registrations tended to be higher for 2010 and have gradually flattened over the years, suggesting that births later than 15 years of age are declining.

Figure 2: Late birth registrations by year of birth, South Africa: 1981–2016

3.2 Birth registrations by selected variables

Age of the mother

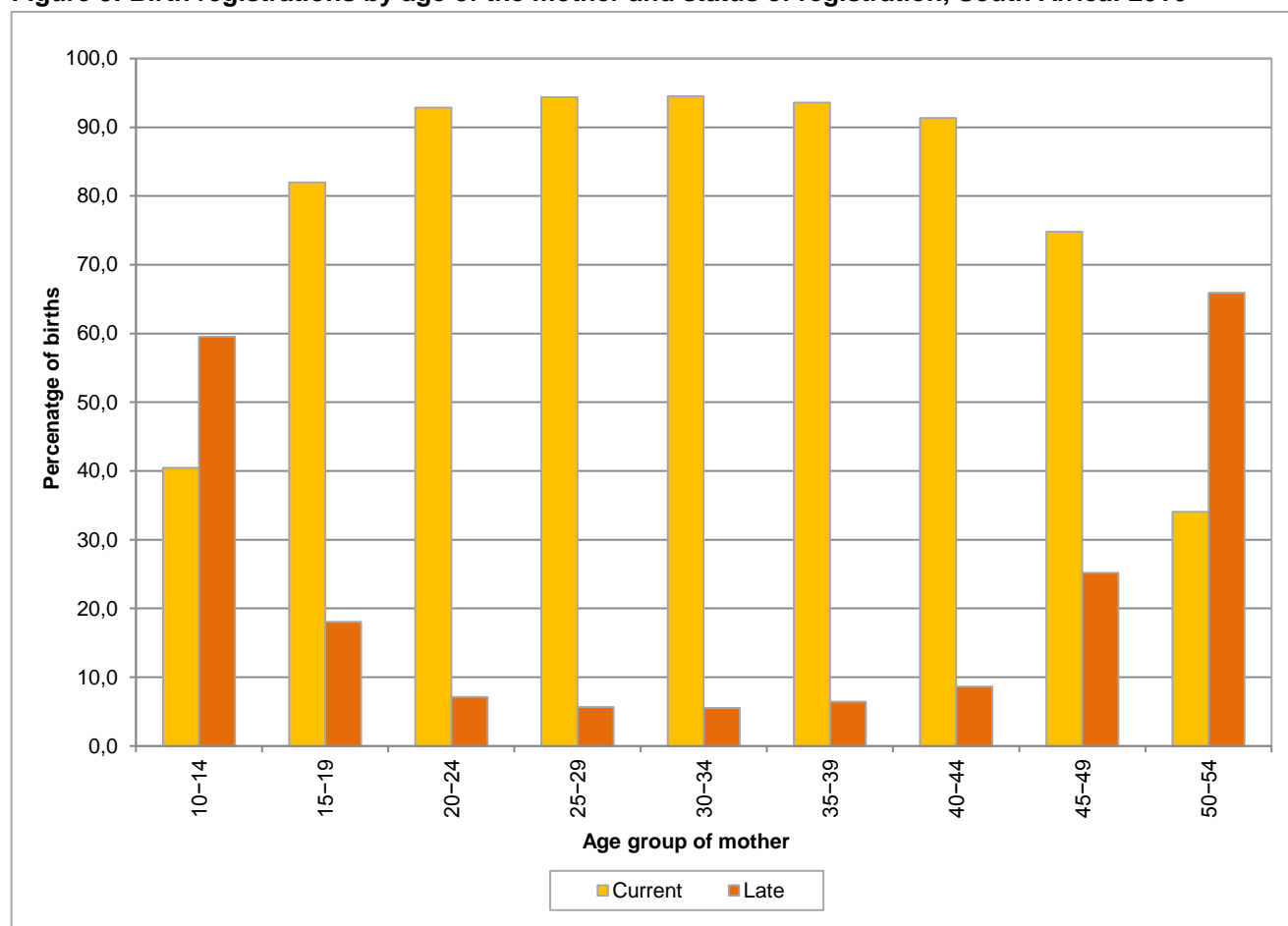
The notice of birth form (DHA-24) makes provision for the inclusion of the details of both the biological father and mother of a child. However, more than two-thirds of births did not contain information on fathers. This finding is consistent to that of the previous years, which means information about the age of the natural fathers remain relatively unknown. This section will therefore report only on information pertaining to mothers.

Table 5 on page 8, shows the number and percentage distribution of registered births by age of mother and status of registration for 2016. For mothers aged 15–49 years, more than three quarters of births were registered within the year of birth occurrence. Mothers aged 25–29 years and those aged 35–39 years had almost 95% of their births registered within the year of occurrence. Mothers aged 15–19 years had 82% births registered within year of occurrence. The unspecified or age category outside 10–54 years shows a high percentage of late registrations. It is possible that those registering these births might not be the biological parents of the children and hence the late registrations. Among those aged 10–14 years old, only 40% registered the birth of the child in the year of occurrence and 34,1% of mothers aged 50–54 years registered the child in the year of birth occurrence. .

Figure 3 on page 8, shows the proportion of birth registrations by registration status and age of the mother. Current birth registrations were higher than late birth registrations for all age groups with the exception of mothers aged 10–14 and 50–54 years. Current birth registrations increased with an increase in mother's age until age group 30–34 years, thereafter current birth registrations decrease with an increase in age.

Table 5: Birth registrations by age of the mother and status of registration, South Africa: 2016

Age of mother	Number of birth registrations			Percentage		
	Total	Current	Late	Total	Current	Late
10–14	3 568	1 444	2 124	100,0	40,5	59,5
15–19	131 428	107 730	23 698	100,0	82,0	18,0
20–24	243 148	225 847	17 301	100,0	92,9	7,1
25–29	240 557	226 996	13 561	100,0	94,4	5,6
30–34	195 731	184 962	10 769	100,0	94,5	5,5
35–39	103 886	97 218	6 668	100,0	93,6	6,4
40–44	32 067	29 298	2 769	100,0	91,4	8,6
45–49	2 583	1 932	651	100,0	74,8	25,2
50–54	323	110	213	100,0	34,1	65,9
Unspecified/outside the 10–54 age range	16 124	898	15 226	100,0	5,6	94,4
Total	969 415	876 435	92 980	100,0	90,4	9,6

Figure 3: Birth registrations by age of the mother and status of registration, South Africa: 2016*

*Excluding births where mothers' ages were not stated or were outside the age range of 10–54 years.

Province of birth registration

Province of birth occurrence in this statistical release is based on the 2016 municipal boundaries. Stats SA derives province of birth registration based on the office of registration as supplied by the DHA. The majority of birth registrations for persons 15 years and older are allocated to Gauteng province since late registrations from 15 years are centralised for processing in Tshwane metropolitan municipality.

Figure 4A on page 10, shows the distribution of all births registered in 2016 by province of registration and registration status. Registration status is divided into four categories namely: current registrations (0–30 days and 31–364 days) and late registrations split by births registered after one year but before 15 years, as well as births registered from 15 years of age.

The highest number of total births were registered in Gauteng (235 218) followed by KwaZulu-Natal (198 628) then Limpopo (122 890). For all the provinces, there were more births registered within 0–30 days than in the 31–364 days category, although the difference was marginal for Northern Cape and Free State provinces.

Gauteng had the highest number of births registered within 0–30 days at 171 115 (72,7%), followed by KwaZulu-Natal with 126 671 (63,8%). Northern Cape had the lowest number of births registered within 30 days at 20 719 (87,8%) though it had the highest proportion of births registered within 30 days. KwaZulu-Natal had the highest number of births registered within 31–364 days 58 720 (29,6%) and also had the highest number of births registered between 1–14 years at 13 233 (6,7%). This was followed by Gauteng for both registration types 28 691 (12,2%) for 31–364 days and 8 559 (3,6%) for birth registrations between 1–14 years.

Appendix B on pages 27–28 provides analysis of total birth registrations by year of birth occurrence and status of registration, province and district municipality. In 2016, at district level, the top five district municipalities with the highest number of total birth registrations were the metropolitan municipalities. These were City of Tshwane, City of Johannesburg, City of Cape Town, eThekweni and Ekurhuleni. The highest number of birth registrations were recorded in the City of Tshwane (87 387), followed by the City of Cape Town (63 404) then eThekweni (60 427). Central Karoo in Northern Cape province had the lowest number of birth registration with 1 172 births registered.

For current birth registrations at district level, the five metropolitan municipalities still had the highest number of current birth registrations, however the City of Cape Town (61 539) recorded the highest number of current birth registrations followed closely by City of Johannesburg (57 845) then City of Tshwane (55 866). Amongst non-metropolitan districts, Ehlanzeni in Mpumalanga had the highest number of current birth registrations with 38 330 registrations followed by Vhembe in Limpopo with 29 169 current birth registrations.

For late registrations type 1–14 years, the City of Tshwane had the highest number of late birth registrations with 31 521 births followed by eThekweni with 5 318 and Ekurhuleni (3 372). These figures must be interpreted with caution as this can also be a reflective function of the population size in each of these municipalities. The City of Tshwane has the largest number of late registrations as most of the late registrations for those aged 15 years and older were processed in Tshwane regional office.

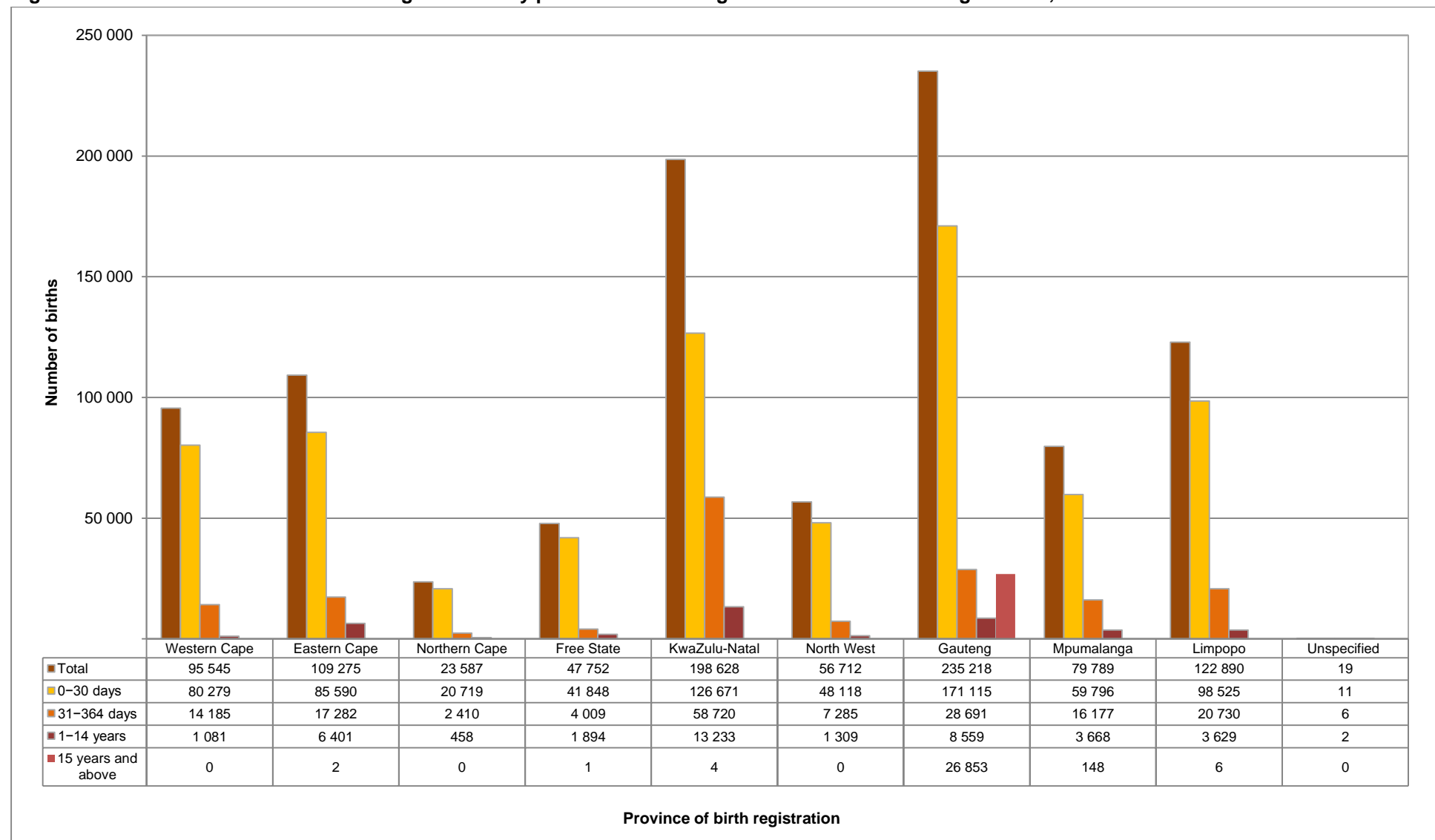
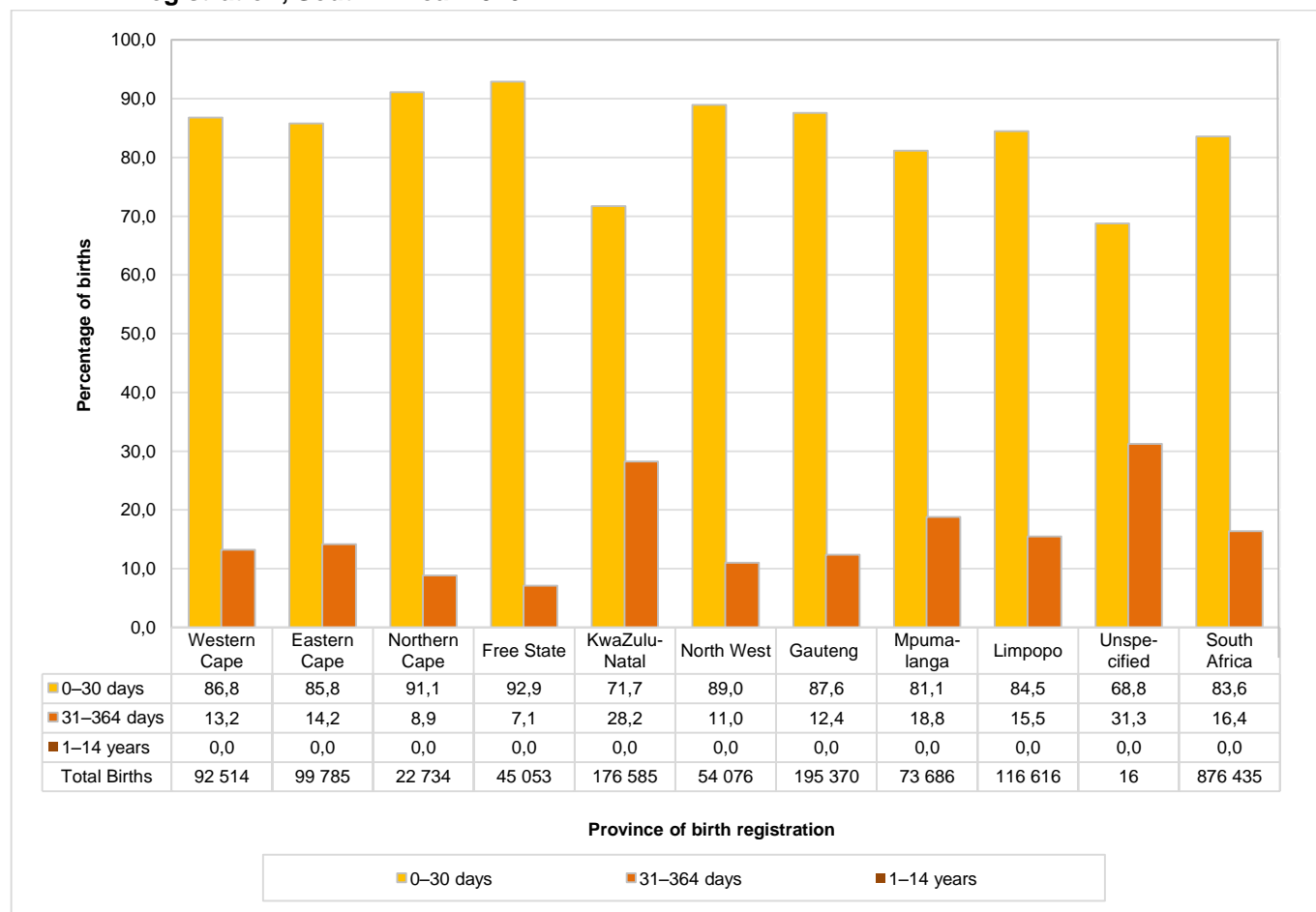
Figure 4A: Number distribution of birth registrations by province of birth registration and status of registration, South Africa: 2016

Figure 4B shows the distribution of 876 435 birth occurrences for 2016 by province of registration for births that occurred and were registered in 2016. Registrations were categorized into two groups, 0–30 days and 31–364 days. Free State (92,9%) had the highest number of births registered within 30 days after birth followed closely by Northern Cape at 91,1% then North West at 89,0%. KwaZulu-Natal had the lowest proportion amongst all the other provinces with only 71,7% births registered within 30 days of birth occurrence. Overall, all provinces ranged between 80 and 95% with only the exception of KwaZulu-Natal, which lags behind in the registration of births within 30 days.

Figure 4B: Percentage distribution of birth occurrences by province of birth registration and status of registration, South Africa: 2016



*Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding up.

Sex of the child

The sex ratio of birth registrations is defined as the number of male birth registrations per 100 female birth registrations. A ratio of 100 indicates there was an equal number of male birth registration for every female birth registration, while a number less than 100 indicates relatively more female birth registrations and a number above 100 indicates more male than female birth registrations.

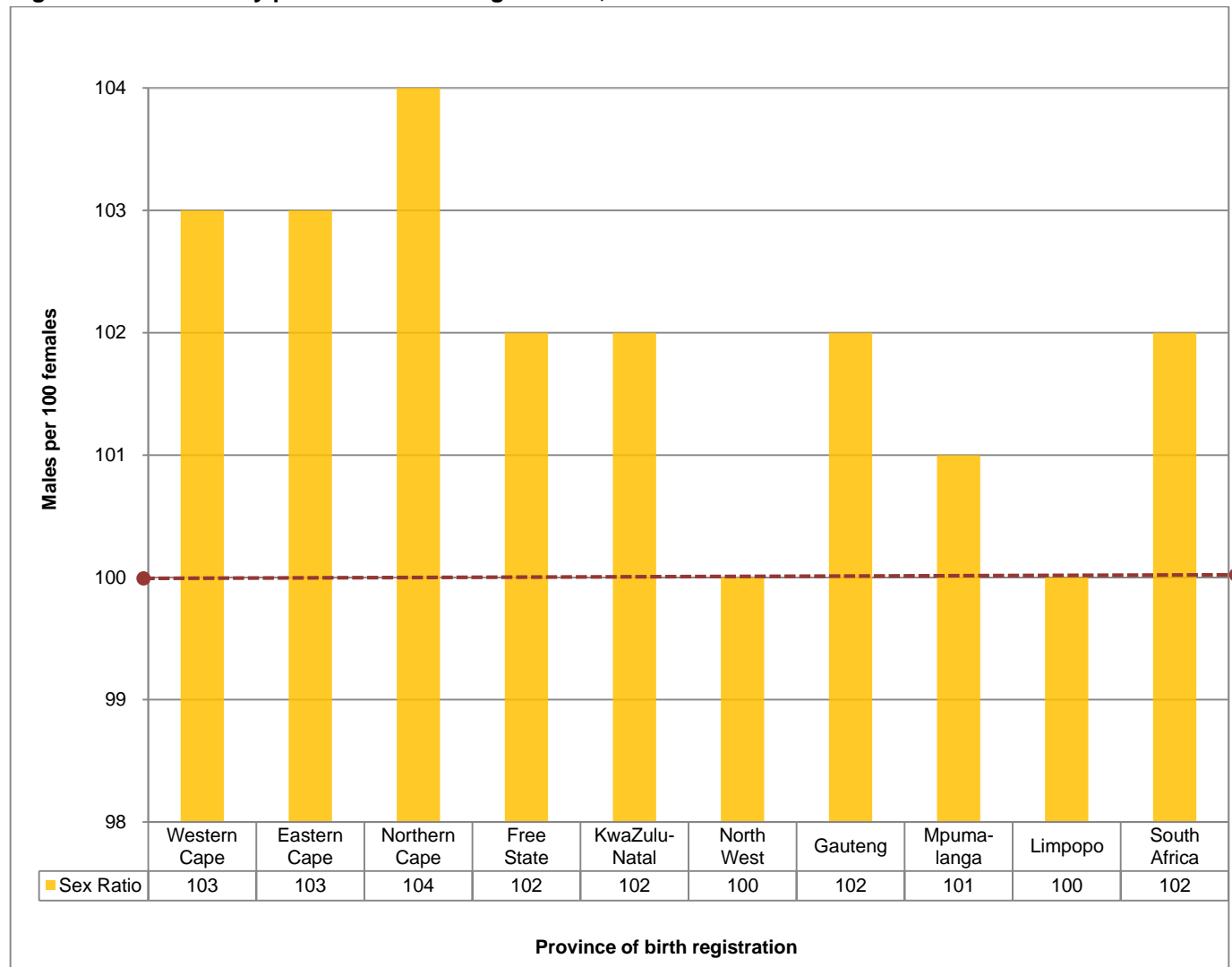
Sex ratios at birth registration by provincial distribution are presented on Figure 5 on page 12. South Africa had a sex ratio of 102 males per 100 females indicating that there were more male birth registrations than female birth registrations in 2016. Northern Cape had the highest sex ratio at registration with 104 male birth registrations per 100 female birth registrations, followed by Western Cape and Eastern Cape each at 103 male birth registrations per 100 female birth registrations.

North West and Limpopo had sex ratio of 100 male birth registrations per 100 female birth registrations meaning that for every male birth registration there was a female birth registration. Mpumalanga had sex ratio of 101 male birth registrations per 100 female birth registrations and the other provinces Free State, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng had

sex ratio at birth registration equal to that of South Africa at 102 male birth registrations per 100 female birth registrations.

Further information on total registrations by sex, status of registration, province and district municipality for the year 2016 are provided on Appendix C on pages 29–30.

Figure 5: Sex ratios by province of birth registration, South Africa: 2016



*Sex ratios have been rounded off.

4. Birth occurrences

This section reports on birth occurrences based on the year of birth captured in the electronic birth registration system up to 28 February 2017 (with 28 February being the processing phase cut-off date by Stats SA) and birth occurrences extracted as a print-out from the national population register on 01 July 2017. Birth occurrences refer to the year in which the birth actually occurred (year of birth) and was registered in that same year. Updated birth occurrences are when a birth for any particular year is registered, the birth occurrences for that particular year are updated to include those that were registered late or were registered later than the Stats SA processing cut-off.

Table 6 shows the total birth occurrences for the years 1994 to 2016 as at 28 February 2017 and updated birth occurrences as at 1 July 2017. In 2016, there were 876 435 birth occurrences and by 01 July these were 893 990. Between 1994 and 2003 there was no consistent pattern but births were below 1 million. From 2004, births exceeded 1 million and increased to 1 094 656 in 2008 then started declining, although there was a slight increase in 2011. Since 2015, birth occurrences have been below 1 million reaching their lowest levels in 2016 at 876 435.

Updated birth occurrences followed a similar pattern with less than a million births from 1994 to 2003 and 2015 to 2016. Again, 2008 had the highest number of updated birth occurrences, as at 01 July 2017 with 1 104 580 birth occurrences, whilst 2016 had the lowest updated births (893 990). In general, updated birth occurrences as at 01 July 2017 exceed those from 28 February 2017.

Table 6: Birth occurrences by year of birth and reference period, South Africa: 1994–2016

Year of birth occurrence	Birth occurrences	Updated Birth occurrences
	(as at 28 Feb. 2017)	(as at 01 Jul. 2017)
1994	940 967	987 684
1995	933 639	957 459
1996	975 299	983 063
1997	965 940	967 054
1998	906 389	950 407
1999	936 888	966 154
2000	935 708	978 397
2001	930 273	961 176
2002	918 524	971 575
2003	926 061	965 787
2004	1 013 907	1 022 578
2005	1 060 494	1 064 375
2006	1 088 789	1 094 014
2007	1 075 538	1 080 639
2008	1 094 656	1 104 580
2009	1 031 710	1 053 026
2010	1 021 362	1 025 394
2011	1 028 401	1 032 621
2012	1 022 301	1 030 343
2013	1 012 808	1 014 784
2014	1 008 740	1 014 132
2015	952 242	958 401
2016	876 435	893 990

4.1 Birth occurrences as at 28 February 2017

Table 7 on page 15, shows the number of births that occurred over the years 1994 to 2016 classified by year of birth occurrence and year of birth registration. For each year, births registered within the year they occurred and births registered later than the year of their occurrence are shown. The figures in bold indicate all births that were registered within the year of occurrence, while the rest represent late birth registrations, indicating the year in which the late registration occurred. The 'Total' row shows the updated number of births registered up to the end of February 2017.

Over the 23-year period birth occurrences improved with time. For example between 1994 and 2000, births registered within the same year ranged from 26,2% to 43,8%. In 1994, of the 940 967 births reported in 2016, only 246 345 were registered in 1994. Similarly, for the year 2000, 409 707 of the 935 708 births were registered when they occurred thus 43,8%. Since 2001, birth registration has been above 50% and increased consistently with 96,6% of the 2015 births registered by 2016 i.e. 919 562 of 952 242 births.

Table 7: Birth occurrences (as at end of February 2017) by year of birth occurrence and year of birth registration, South Africa: 1994–2016

Year of birth registration	Year of birth occurrence																						
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1 994	246 345																						
1 995	73 336	260 880																					
1 996	51 748	89 566	295 719																				
1 997	50 627	54 198	93 807	309 723																			
1 998	61 919	59 942	70 261	105 766	273 180																		
1 999	84 563	80 362	92 276	104 453	146 055	344 700																	
2 000	58 170	78 122	92 269	102 179	114 781	178 516	409 707																
2 001	43 932	65 682	79 095	87 285	96 809	116 374	192 410	477 489															
2 002	34 679	36 685	58 125	73 665	86 859	98 553	118 600	218 256	557 573														
2 003	63 494	73 845	69 465	68 289	69 795	72 533	77 256	94 588	194 204	621 887													
2 004	58 549	44 477	41 014	38 700	41 372	42 511	43 503	48 197	63 234	165 662	728 283												
2 005	36 883	28 386	25 341	23 240	23 162	24 996	24 807	23 798	27 701	43 404	150 546	793 788											
2 006	20 002	18 034	18 217	17 623	19 518	21 911	26 516	24 057	26 042	34 601	54 941	154 331	860 263										
2 007	10 178	9 472	9 309	9 227	9 897	10 969	14 158	15 200	16 766	20 009	26 769	42 569	126 358	858 866									
2 008	11 767	7 955	7 105	6 548	6 691	6 927	8 327	8 722	11 378	14 085	17 869	23 732	40 554	128 336	915 674								
2 009	6 024	6 204	5 406	4 489	4 317	4 609	5 128	5 072	6 053	8 322	11 793	14 208	19 510	31 885	101 743	879 707							
2 010	6 389	3 913	4 495	3 790	3 483	3 340	3 450	3 535	3 844	4 852	7 623	10 566	13 736	19 323	30 164	91 064	889 691						
2 011	5 148	2 991	2 576	2 879	2 624	2 517	2 604	2 632	2 743	3 457	4 763	7 298	10 111	12 628	16 091	23 665	80 079	911 353					
2 012	5 346	3 493	2 532	2 151	2 654	2 240	2 310	2 139	2 259	2 644	3 301	4 578	6 599	9 104	10 776	13 065	21 005	74 374	926 726				
2 013	4 375	3 257	2 507	1 264	1 605	2 626	2 262	1 904	1 925	2 357	2 800	3 590	4 742	6 914	9 018	9 938	12 978	21 023	66 775	939 011			
2 014	3 470	2 620	2 403	1 748	889	1 664	2 531	1 802	1 866	1 950	2 261	2 673	3 241	4 122	6 039	7 390	8 418	10 898	16 147	55 202	954 385		
2 015	3 005	2 629	2 404	2 098	1 826	1 046	1 570	2 256	1 838	1 759	1 874	2 151	2 489	2 892	3 476	4 908	6 290	7 197	8 882	14 125	46 754	919 562	
2 016	1 018	926	973	823	872	856	569	626	1 098	1 072	1 084	1 010	1 186	1 468	1 675	1 973	2 901	3 556	3 771	4 470	7 601	32 680	876 435
Total	940 967	933 639	975 299	965 940	906 389	936 888	935 708	930 273	918 524	926 061	1 013 907	1 060 494	1 088 789	1 075 538	1 094 656	1 031 710	1 021 362	1 028 401	1 022 301	1 012 808	1 008 740	952 242	876 435

4.2 Birth occurrences registered within 30 days from date of birth

A functional civil registration ensures that the country has up-to-date and reliable data for evidence-based decision making (World Health Organization [WHO], 2013). Timely birth registration is mandated in the Births and Deaths Registration Amendment Act (Act No. 18 of 2010), which stipulates that all births must be registered within 30 days from date of occurrence (Republic of South Africa, 2010). However, even if registration of births is anchored in a legal framework, which makes provisions for birth registration within a prescribed period, if there is lack of oversight or enforcement of the legal framework, birth registration can be undermined (WHO, 2013). Accordingly, the tabulation of month of birth occurrence by month of birth registration provides necessary information for evaluating progress towards this requirement.

Table 8 presents the distribution of births that occurred in 2016 and were registered within 30 days by month of birth occurrence and month of birth registration. The table shows that 732 672 births that occurred in 2016 were registered within 30 days. This represents 83,6% of the 876 435 total birth occurrences for 2016. This is a slight improvement from 76,8% of the 919 562 birth occurrences in 2015, which were registered before the end of 30 days.

The highest number of birth occurrences that were registered within the 30 days timeframe were for March (64 709), followed by September (64 330) and May (63 294). The months of October and November had the lowest number of births registered within 30 days, (57 158 and, 55 560 respectively).

Table 8: Number of births registered within 30 days of occurrence by month of birth occurrence and month of birth registration, South Africa: 2016

Month of birth registration	Month of birth occurrence												
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
January	39 592												39 592
February	22 349	38 756											61 105
March	23	20 532	41 124										61 679
April			23 585	40 104									63 690
May				22 711	42 608								65 319
June					20 686	40 747							61 432
July						21 597	38 897						60 494
August							21 112	42 677					63 789
September								20 246	43 710				63 956
October									20 620	38 641			59 261
November										18 517	38 304		56 821
December											17 256	34 627	51 883
January												23 651	23 651
Total	61 964	59 288	64 709	62 815	63 294	62 344	60 009	62 923	64 330	57 158	55 560	58 278	732 672

Age of the mother for births occurring in 2016

The notice of birth forms makes provision for the inclusion of the mother's details making it possible to derive the mother's age at birth of the child. The information on the mother's age is useful when developing maternal and child health policies and planning for the provision of health care services. Table 9 on page 17, shows the distribution of

births occurring in 2016 by age of the mother. Most births occurred to women aged 25–29 years (25,9%), closely followed by those aged 20–24 years (25,8%), and then those aged 30–34 years (21,1%). Births occurring in these age groups (20–34 years) represent 72,8% of all births occurring in 2016. About 12,3% of births occurred to older adolescents aged 15–19; while about 0,2% of births occurred to younger adolescents in the 10–14 age range. Mothers aged 35 years and older accounted for 14,7% of all births.

Additional information, providing the number of births by age of mother for the past five years (2012–2016), updated for late registrations up to 28 February 2017 is provided in Appendix D on page 31, while information on birth occurrences for 2016 by age of mother and province of birth registration is presented on Appendix E (see page 32).

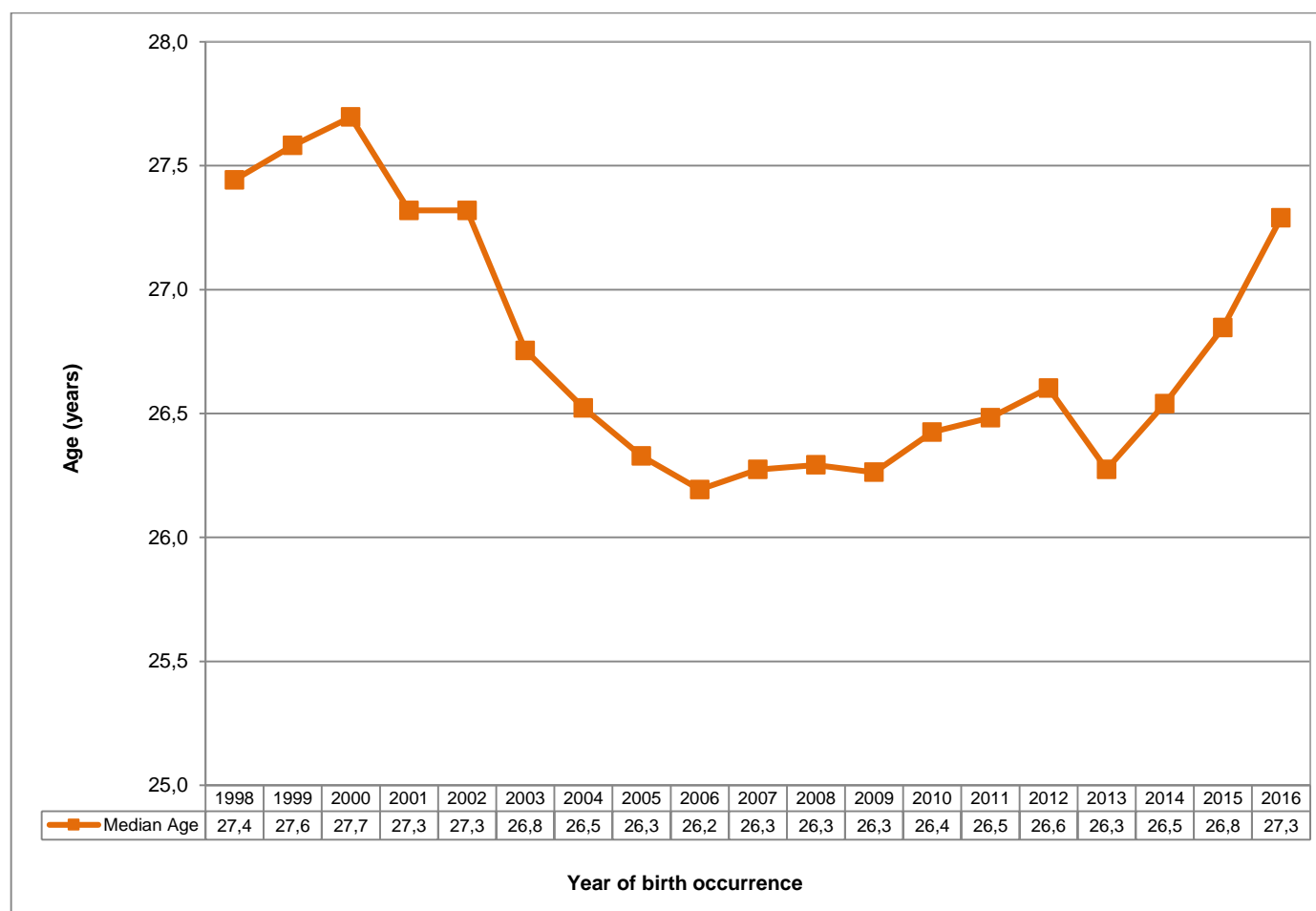
Table 9: Number and percentage of births by age of mother, South Africa: 2016

Age of mother	Number of birth occurrences	Percentage
10–14	1 444	0,2
15–19	107 730	12,3
20–24	225 847	25,8
25–29	226 996	25,9
30–34	184 962	21,1
35–39	97 218	11,1
40–44	29 298	3,3
45–49	1 932	0,2
50–54	110	0,0
Unspecified/outside the 15–54 age range	898	0,1
Total	876 435	100,0

Median age of mother from 1998 to 2016

The median ages of the mothers for births occurring between 1998 and 2016 are shown in Figure 6 on page 18. The median age of the mothers is the exact age that divides the mothers into two numerically equal groups; that is, half the mothers are younger than this age and the other half are older. In essence, the median age at birth specifies how early or late births occur within a population. The figure shows that on average the median ages of mothers for the years 1998 to 2016 ranged from 26 to 28 years.

Between 1998–2000 the median age of mothers increased slightly from 27,4 years in 1998 to 27,7 years in 2000. Following this, the median age declined slightly and hovered around 27,3 years from 2001 to 2002, then declined further to 26,8 years in 2003 and reached its lowest at 26,2 years in 2006. From 2007 to 2009 the median age of mother stabilised around 26,3 years before increasing from 26,4 years in 2010 to 26,6 years in 2012. Between 2013 and 2016, the median age declined to 26,3 years in 2013 and thereafter increased yearly reaching 27,3 years in 2016.

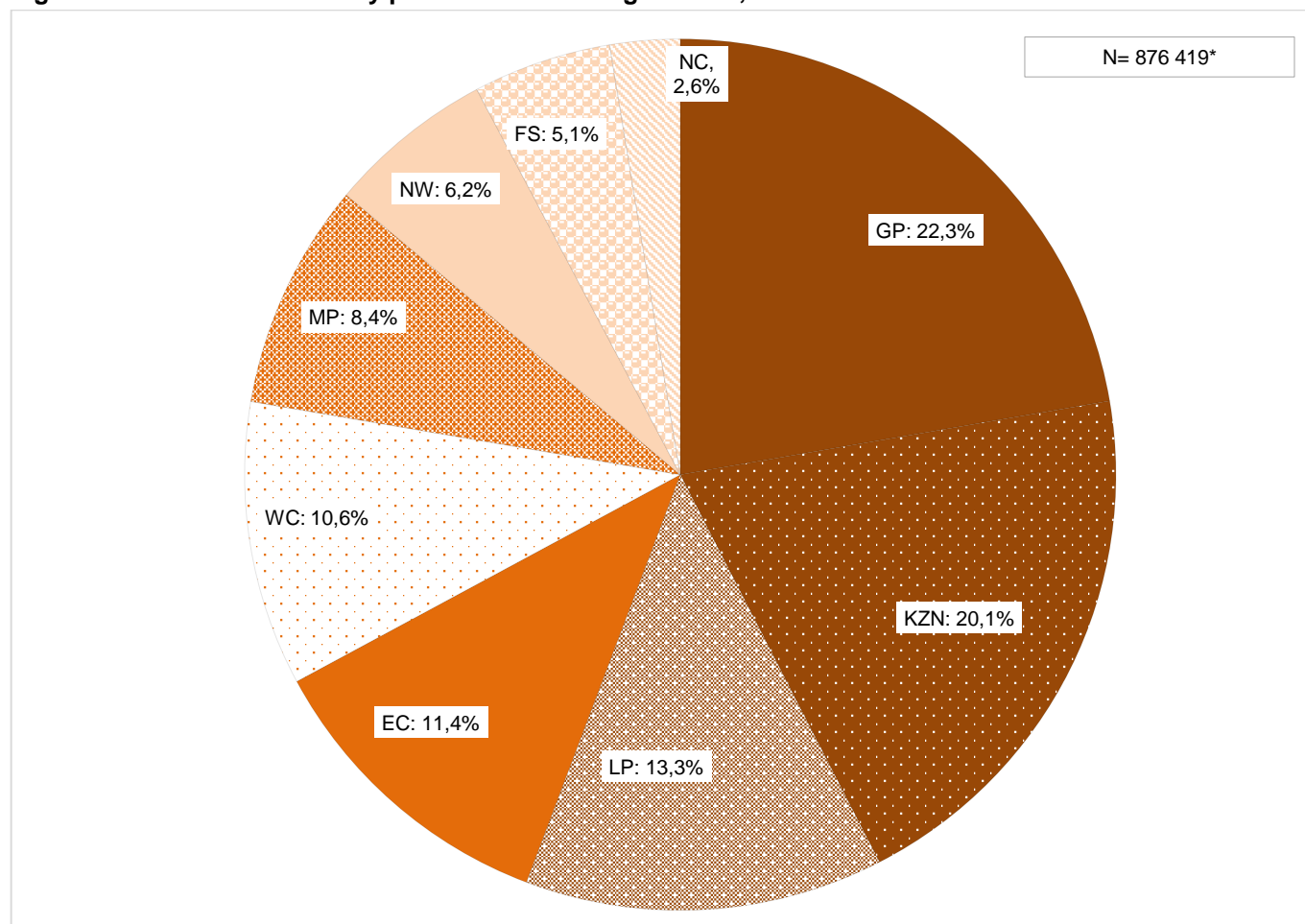
Figure 6: Median age of the mother by year of birth, South Africa: 1998–2016

Provincial distribution of births 2016

Figure 7 on page 19, presents the distribution of 2016 birth occurrences by province of birth registration. The information excludes unspecified births registrations. The highest proportion of births was registered in Gauteng followed by KwaZulu-Natal, at 22,3% and 20,1% respectively. Northern Cape and Free State reflected the lowest proportions of birth registrations, 2,6% and 5,1% respectively.

Further information on birth occurrences by province and age of mother is provided in Appendix E on page 32. The results show that Gauteng had the highest number of births amongst women in age group 25–29 years and KwaZulu-Natal had the highest number of birth occurrences in age group 20–24 years. Overall, Northern Cape reflected the lowest birth occurrences across all age groups, except among those aged 50–54 years where Free State had lowest (1) birth occurrences.

Appendix F on pages 33–34, shows a detailed distribution of birth occurrences by province and district municipality of birth registration for the years 2012 to 2016. The results indicate that birth occurrences were highest in Gauteng each year for the period 2012 to 2016 followed by KwaZulu-Natal in the same period. Information on district municipalities shows that City of Cape Town had the highest number of births for the years 2012 and 2016, City of Tshwane was the highest in 2013 and City of Johannesburg was the highest in both 2014 and 2015.

Figure 7: Birth occurrences by province of birth registration, South Africa: 2016

* Excluding births with unspecified province of birth registration.

4.3 Birth occurrences as at 01 July 2017

This sub-section reports on birth occurrences extracted from the national birth register on the 1st of July 2017 categorised by sex of the child and year of birth as a way of providing the most recent data available before publication. Table 10 on page 20 presents information on the number of birth occurrences by birth year and sex. The total number of birth occurrences per year, as shown in the table indicates that a total of about 23,1 million births occurred in South Africa between 1994 and 2017, with an average of about 1 003 375 births per year over the 24-year period. The number of births fluctuated between 893 990 and around a million (per year) over the years 1994 to 2016, with the lowest occurring in 2016 and the highest in 2008 (1 104 580).

Sex of the child

Table 10 shows that from 1994–2016, sex ratios were between 100 and 102 male births per 100 female births. For the years 1994 and 1996 and from 2003 to 2009, the sex ratio was at 101 male births per 100 female births, signifying slightly more males than females. In 1995 and from 1997 to 2002, the sex ratio of birth occurrences was 100, indicating equal male and female births. Since 2010, the sex ratios have been at 102 male births per 100 female births. Over the 24-year period the sex ratio has been 101 male births per 100 females. Additionally, although the sex ratios have been constant at 102 male births per 100 females since 2010, sex ratios have increased over time.

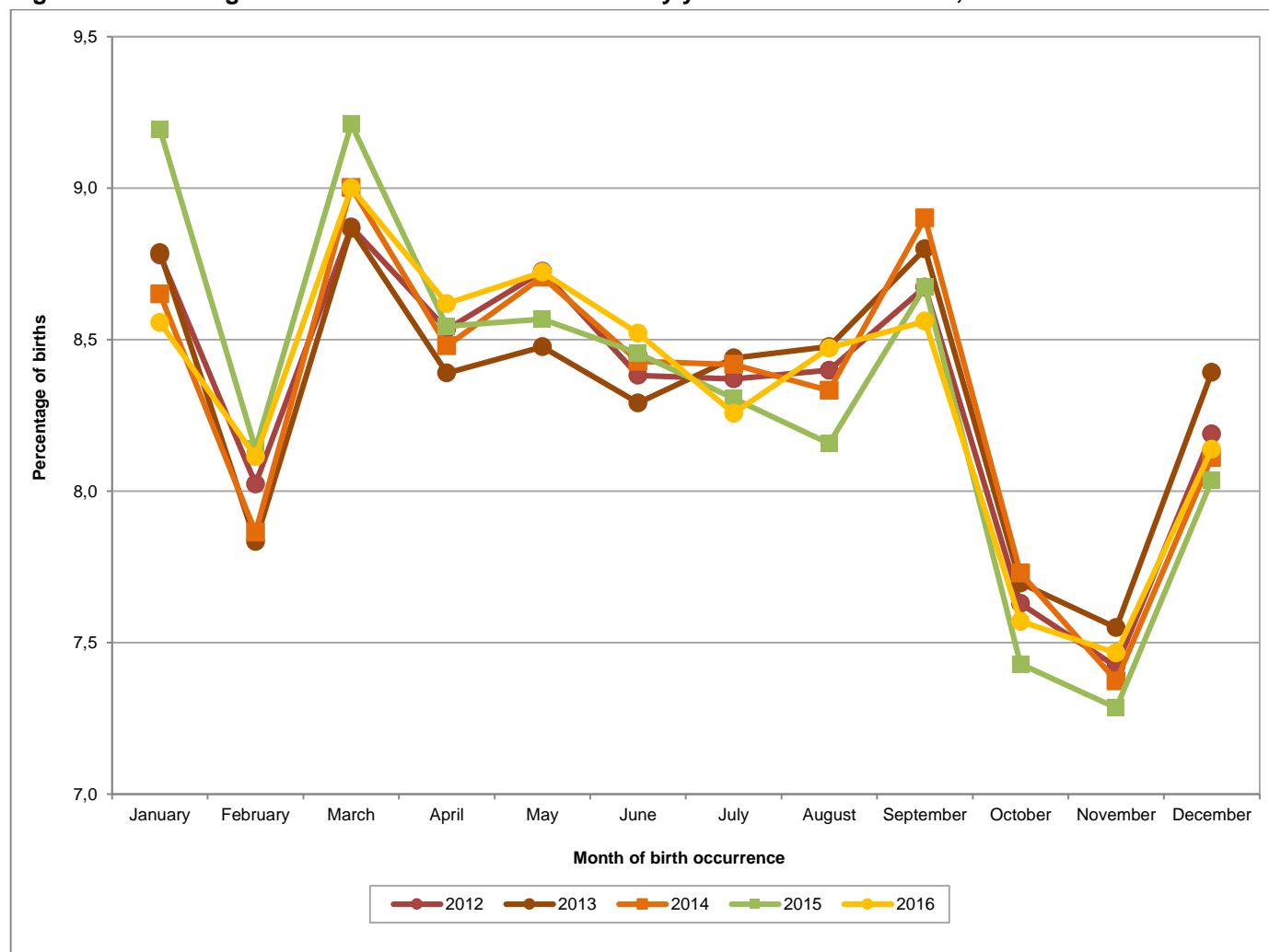
Table 10: Birth occurrences (as at 01 July 2017) by sex and year of birth, South Africa: 1994–2016

Year	Total	Male	Female	Sex ratio
1994	987 684	495 495	492 189	101
1995	957 459	479 051	477 408	100
1996	983 063	493 061	490 002	101
1997	967 054	484 107	482 947	100
1998	950 407	475 497	474 910	100
1999	966 154	483 486	482 668	100
2000	978 397	490 118	488 279	100
2001	961 176	481 402	479 774	100
2002	971 575	486 500	485 075	100
2003	965 787	484 949	480 838	101
2004	1 022 578	513 931	508 647	101
2005	1 064 375	535 399	528 976	101
2006	1 094 014	549 441	544 573	101
2007	1 080 639	543 953	536 686	101
2008	1 104 580	555 541	549 039	101
2009	1 053 026	530 122	522 904	101
2010	1 025 394	517 349	508 045	102
2011	1 032 621	520 815	511 806	102
2012	1 030 343	519 714	510 629	102
2013	1 014 784	512 131	502 653	102
2014	1 014 132	511 559	502 573	102
2015	958 401	482 942	475 459	102
2016	893 990	451 400	442 590	102
Total	23 076 633	11 597 963	11 478 670	101

Month of birth as at 01 July 2017

The percentage distribution of birth occurrences from 2012 to 2016 classified by month of birth updated as at the first of July 2017 is shown in Figure 8 on Page 21. In general, over the five-year period, the pattern of birth occurrences by month and year of birth was somewhat uniform, with the highest proportion of births occurring during the month of March. This suggests that over the five years, birth occurrences were likely to be conceived during June or July. The second most common month of birth occurrence varied with January for the years 2012 and 2015, September for 2013 and 2014 birth occurrences, and May for 2016 birth occurrences. It is for the first time that May is featured in as one of the most common month of birth occurrence. The figure further shows that for all the years, the lowest proportion of births occurred during the month of November.

Detailed information on birth occurrences from 1994 to 2016 by month of birth and sex is provided on Appendices G-G7 on pages 35–42.

Figure 8: Percentage distribution of birth occurrences by year and month of birth, South Africa: 2012–2016

4.4 Baby forenames and surnames in South Africa, 2016

According to section 28 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act No. 108 of 1996), 'every child has the right to a name from birth' (Republic of South Africa, 1996). A person's forename and surname are fundamental human rights enshrined in the Births and Deaths Registration (Act No. 51 of 1992) which are some of the most distinctive markers of individuality and are a prerequisite for the issuing of a birth certificate (Republic of South Africa, 1992).

Table 11 on page 23, shows the number distribution of the top ten baby forenames and surnames for 2016. The table shows that amongst males the top three leading forenames were Junior, followed by Blessing and Gift. The leading forenames for females were Precious in first place, followed by Princess in second place and Amahle in third place. Three of the forenames, namely Blessing, Melokuhle and Amogelang appeared on both males and females top ten list. Amongst males Blessing ranked second, Melokuhle sixth and Amogelang ninth. In the females' top ten forenames, Blessing occupied the sixth position, Melokuhle the ninth while Amogelang was the tenth most popular female baby forename. In general, the popular baby forenames for males and females reflect positive hopes for the child, express beliefs and are inspired by positive connotations of both love and acceptance.

Table 11 further shows that for both sexes Dlamini was the most common baby surname in 2016, closely followed by Nkosi and Ndlovu. It is noteworthy that, nine of the surnames were from the Nguni clans namely isiZulu, isiXhosa, isiNdebele and siSwati. Mokoena which featured as the sixth most popular surname was the only non-Nguni surname.

Appendix H on pages 43–45 presents detailed information on the top ten popular baby forenames and surnames for 2016 by province of birth registration. The distribution of the male forenames shows that Kungawo was the most common baby forename in Eastern Cape, Bandile in KwaZulu-Natal, Blessing in Mpumalanga while for the rest of the provinces Junior ranked number one. For females, Precious was the most common forename in three provinces namely Free State, Gauteng and Limpopo. In the other provinces, it was Mia in Western Cape, Iminathi in Eastern Cape, Grace in Northern Cape, Luthando in KwaZulu-Natal, Amogelang in North West and Princess in Mpumalanga that held the first place in the respective provinces. In terms of baby surnames, Jacobs was the leading surname in Western Cape, Williams in Eastern Cape, Van Wyk in Northern Cape, Dlamini in KwaZulu-Natal, Molefe in North West, Nkosi in Mpumalanga and Baloyi in Limpopo. Mokoena which was the most popular surname in Gauteng and Free State was the only surname that featured as the number one leading surname in more than one province.

Table 11: Number distribution of top ten baby forenames and surnames, South Africa: 2016

Rank	Male		Female		Both sexes	
	Forename	Number	Forename	Number	Surname	Number
1	Junior	10 769	Precious	5 850	Dlamini	5 722
2	Blessing	6 130	Princess	4 424	Nkosi	5 569
3	Gift	4 597	Amahle	3 936	Ndlovu	5 558
4	Bandile	3 933	Luthando	3 461	Khumalo	5 162
5	Prince	3 601	Thandolwethu	3 385	Sithole	3 781
6	Melokuhle	3 457	Blessing	3 334	Mokoena	3 730
7	Siyabonga	3 379	Angel	3 302	Mkhize	3 673
8	Lethabo	3 365	Siphesihle	3 232	Ngcobo	3 356
9	Amogelang	3 060	Melokuhle	3 132	Gumede	3 243
10	Lubanzi	2 848	Amogelang	2 954	Mthembu	3 218

5. Concluding remarks

Birth registration is a fundamental human right and from a legal perspective it opens the way to other rights, such as nationality, education and health facilities. Birth registration is also required for the monitoring of the sustainable development goals (SDGs). Data on births will be required for monitoring progress in poverty eradication, reducing hunger, promoting good health and well-being, access to education, gender equality, reduced inequalities, peace, justice and strong institutions and partnerships for the goals (Pacific Community, 2016).

The 2016 statistical release provided information on birth registrations and occurrences in South Africa for 2016. In addition, information for the period 1994 to 2015 was examined to review trends on birth registrations and occurrences. A total of 969 415 births were registered in 2016. This reflects a decline of 115 096 from the 1 084 511 births registered in 2015. Whilst the number of birth registrations had decreased the proportion of births registered in 2016 increased to 90,4% (876 435) compared to 84,8% (919 562) in 2015.

The findings also show that timeliness of birth registration continues to improve. Indeed the efforts to reduce late birth registrations are paying off. In 2016, 75,6% of births were registered within the first 30 days of existence, compared to 65,1% of 2015 and 60,1% of 2014 respectively.

Differentials in births by sex showed that there were slightly more male births than female births with a sex ratio of 102 male birth registrations per 100 female birth registrations. Further analysis by age of the mother reflect higher proportions of births among women aged 20–29 years, while few occurred to women aged 50–54 years. On the one hand, provincial distributions show that the highest birth occurrences were in Gauteng (22,3%) and KwaZulu-Natal (20,1%) followed by Limpopo (13,3%). On the other hand, Northern Cape (2,6%) had the lowest amongst them all and is followed by Free State (5,1%). In 2016, more births occurred in the months of March, May, and September. At the national level, the most popular name amongst baby girls was Precious, whilst the most popular name amongst baby boys was Junior. Dlamini was the most common surname amongst babies born and registered in 2016.

Although the completeness of birth registration has improved as more births are being recorded within the year of birth, there is a remaining need to increase not only birth registration but also the quality of birth registration information collected particularly of the fathers. The efforts to improve birth registration coverage in South Africa exist, as health institutions and maternity units currently provide registration services and birth registration is a prerequisite to access a social grant. The continued improvement in the registration of births puts South Africa in the forefront of many sub-Saharan countries in monitoring the SDGs.

References

DHA (Department of Home Affairs). 2014. Birth Certificates, <http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/civic-services/birth-certificates>. Accessed on 10 August 2017.

DHA (Department of Home Affairs). 2015. Address by the Minister of Home Affairs, Malusi Gigaba MP, to the Birth Registration Indaba in Durban on 4 December 2015. <http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/statements-speeches/710-address-by-the-minister-of-home-affairs-malusi-gigaba-mp-to-the-birth-registration-indaba-in-durban-on-4-december-2015>. Accessed on 10 August 2017.

Pacific Community (2016) CRVS and the sustainable development goals www.pacific-crvs.org accessed 28 August, 2017

Republic of South Africa. 1996. Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No.108 of 1996). Pretoria: Government of South Africa.

Republic of South Africa. 1992. Births and Deaths Registration Act (Act No. 51 of 1992). Pretoria: Government of South Africa.

Republic of South Africa. 2010. Births and Deaths Registration Amendment Act (Act No. 18 of 2010). Pretoria: Government of South Africa.

Stats SA (Statistics South Africa). 2015. Recorded live births, 2013. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa.

UN (2015) Compilation of Metadata Received on Indicators for Global Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets, Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/Metadata%20Compilation%20for%20SDG%20Indicators%2023%20October%202015%20Update.pdf>. Accessed 10 August, 2017

UNICEF (2017) Birth Registration https://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_58010.html, Accessed 10 August, 2017

UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund). 2013. Every Child's Birth Right: Inequities and trends in birth registration, UNICEF, New York. https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/files/Embargoed_11_Dec_Birth_Registration_report_low_res.pdf. Accessed on 10 August 2017.

WHO (World health Organization). 2013. Strengthening civil registration and vital statistics for births, deaths and causes of death: Resource kit. Geneva: World Health Organization.

Appendices

Appendix A: Notice of birth form (DHA-24) – page 1



Allocated Identity Number:

[illegible]

DHA-24

NOTICE OF BIRTH

[Births and Deaths Registration Act 51 of 1992]

Regulation No. 5

To be completed in full and submitted at the Department of Home Affairs' office or to a South African embassy or consulate. The form to be completed in black ink with **BLOCK LETTERS**. Please mark with ☒ the **CORRECT** box, where required. **Applications that are not legible shall not be accepted.**

Date of application

Y	Y	Y	Y
---	---	---	---

M	M
---	---

D	D
---	---

--

 Registration within 30 Days

--

 Registration after 30 Days

A. DETAILS OF THE CHILD

Surname																														
Forenames in full																														
Date of birth	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	D	D	(write month in full)	Gender:												
Place of birth: City/Town															Province															
Country of birth																														
Are the parents of the child married to each other?				If Yes, nature of marriage		Civil		Customary		Civil Union		Religious: Specify																		
Date of marriage	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	M	D	D	If Yes, enclose a certified copy of the marriage certificate																					

COMPULSORY SECTION: Reasons for registering after 30 days as per section 9(1)

B. DETAILS OF FATHER (PARENT A)

Identity number (passport if foreigner)										Date of birth	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	M	D	D
Present surname																		
Maiden surname																		
Forenames in full																		
Place of birth: City/Town										Country of birth								
Citizenship										Permanent/Temporary permit no.								

C. DETAILS OF MOTHER (PARENT B) (In the case of Civil Union this section must be completed by the natural mother)

Identity number (passport if foreigner)												Date of birth	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	M	D	D
Present surname																				
Maiden surname																				
Forenames in full																				
Place of birth: City/Town												Country of birth								
Citizenship												Permanent/Temporary permit no.								

D. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PATERNITY OF A CHILD BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK

I hereby declare that I am the biological father of the child

Mother's consent to the acknowledgement of paternity

Initials and surname						Signature									
Identity number (passport if foreigner)															
Date	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	M	D	D							

Initials and surname						Signature									
Identity number (passport if foreigner)															
Date	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	M	D	D							

E. DETAILS OF THE LEGAL GUARDIAN/SOCIAL WORKER*

*Compulsory if notice is not given by the parent

Identity number (passport if foreigner*)								Date of birth		Y Y Y Y		M M		D D	
Social Workers Case No:															
Surname															
Forenames in full															
Place of birth								Country of birth							
Residential address		Street													
Town/Village								Province							
Telephone no., incl. area code								Cell phone no.						Postal code	
Citizenship								Permanent/Temporary permit no.							

Appendix A: Notice of birth form (DHA-24) – page 2

F. DECLARATION

I, _____, hereby declare that the information supplied is to the best of my knowledge and belief, true and correct, I understand that a false statement is punishable under section 31 of the Births and Deaths Registration Act of 1992.

Informant

Informant		Date	Y Y Y Y	M M	D D
Initials and surname	Signature	Place			
Relationship to the child:	Father (Parent A)	Mother (Parent B)	Legal guardian	Social worker	

G. FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY - OFFICE OF ORIGIN

NOTICE OF BIRTH RECEIVED BY:

Identity number												
Surname												
First name												
Persal number												

Stat		Birth			
I	O	S	M		

Office stamp - Office of origin

DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED WITH THIS APPLICATION: PLEASE TICK ☒

Birth Registration within 30 Days:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Confirmation of Birth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Certified copy of Father's/Parent A's ID document (if applicable) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Certified copy of Mother's/Parent B's ID document |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Certified copy of Legal Guardian/Social Worker's ID document |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Certified copy of Marriage Certificate of parents (if married) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | BI 1658 if married religiously i.e. Moslem, Hindu |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Medical Report: Same Sex Parents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Certified copy of Social Worker's Registration Certificate |

Birth Registration after 30 Days, additional documents:

- ☐ Proof of Paternity

If foreign birth, additional documents:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Certified copy of the Foreign birth certificate of the child |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Citizenship determination form BI-529 (SA Parent) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Citizenship determination form BI-529 (Child) |

Online verification performed and printouts attached for following persons:

- ☐ Father (Parent A) ☐ Mother (Parent B) ☐ Legal guardian ☐ Social worker

Date	Y	Y	Y	Y		M	M		D	D
------	---	---	---	---	--	---	---	--	---	---

Signature _____

H. APPLICATION VERIFIED

Date

Y	Y	Y	Y
---	---	---	---

M	M
---	---

D	D
---	---

I hereby declare that I have verified the application and registration

Initials and surname

Signature

Identity number

Persal number

Appendix B: Total birth registrations for 2016 by year of birth occurrence, province and district municipality*

Province and district municipality	Grand Total	2016 (current)	Late registrations					
			Total	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011 and below
Total	969 415	876 435	92 980	32 680	7 601	4 470	3 771	44 458
Western Cape								
Cape Winelands	13 005	12 614	391	275	25	23	19	49
Central Karoo	1 172	1 134	38	21	5	2	2	8
City of Cape Town	63 404	61 539	1 865	1 380	146	76	61	202
Eden	8 720	8 458	262	176	23	12	13	38
Overberg	3 751	3 632	119	77	14	7	8	13
West Coast	5 493	5 137	356	234	36	18	21	47
Total	95 545	92 514	3 031	2 163	249	138	124	357
Eastern Cape								
Alfred Nzo	14 654	12 937	1 717	714	167	130	98	608
Amathole	11 133	9 910	1 223	372	116	69	66	600
Buffalo City	14 633	14 127	506	324	28	23	23	108
Cacadu	5 531	4 947	584	233	74	36	31	210
Chris Hani	11 861	10 909	952	441	87	54	53	317
Joe Gqabi	5 022	4 493	529	206	57	36	38	192
Nelson Mandela Bay Metro	17 246	16 412	834	461	85	35	53	200
O.R.Tambo	29 195	26 050	3 145	1 135	313	182	198	1 317
Total	109 275	99 785	9 490	3 886	927	565	560	3 552
Northern Cape								
Frances Baard	8 879	8 576	303	181	23	22	15	62
John Taolo Gaetsewe	5 396	5 259	137	70	12	6	17	32
Namakwa	1 523	1 494	29	20	3	2		4
Pixley ka Seme	2 936	2 769	167	98	13	13	9	34
Siyanda	4 853	4 636	217	99	25	10	14	69
Total	23 587	22 734	853	468	76	53	55	201
Free State								
Fezile Dabi	7 248	6 744	504	236	60	30	28	150
Lejweleputswa	9 908	9 329	579	221	69	49	46	194
Mangaung	16 176	15 483	693	250	79	50	50	264
Thabo Mofutsanyane	13 040	12 257	783	316	88	58	59	262
Xhariep	1 380	1 240	140	68	16	7	10	39
Total	47 752	45 053	2 699	1 091	312	194	193	909

Appendix B: Total birth registrations for 2016 by year of birth occurrence, province and district municipality* (concluded)

Province and district municipality	Grand Total	2016 (current)	Late registrations					
			Total	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011 and below
Total	969 415	876 435	92 980	32 680	7 601	4 470	3 771	44 458
KwaZulu-Natal								
Amajuba	8 990	8 161	829	469	118	58	56	128
Sisonke	10 814	8 929	1 885	473	149	97	115	1 051
Ugu	13 652	12 391	1 261	712	175	96	60	218
Zululand	17 624	15 255	2 369	1 133	330	205	157	544
eThekweni	60 427	55 109	5 318	3 274	794	373	268	609
iLembe	10 097	8 797	1 300	749	205	97	67	182
uMgungundlovu	15 214	13 858	1 356	724	197	107	99	229
uMkhanyakude	15 851	13 657	2 194	1 105	303	172	135	479
uMzinyathi	13 417	11 955	1 462	901	172	91	61	237
uThukela	13 289	11 787	1 502	775	202	114	87	324
uThungulu	19 253	16 686	2 567	1 347	372	199	147	502
Total	198 628	176 585	22 043	11 662	3 017	1 609	1 252	4 503
North West								
Bojanala	23 394	22 387	1 007	691	87	62	40	127
Dr Kenneth Kaunda	12 520	11 871	649	289	81	70	52	157
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	9 709	9 201	508	345	47	32	25	59
Ngaka Modiri Molema	11 089	10 617	472	231	78	40	38	85
Total	56 712	54 076	2 636	1 556	293	204	155	428
Gauteng								
City of Johannesburg	60 389	57 845	2 544	1 525	276	131	116	496
City of Tshwane	87 387	55 866	31 521	1 996	512	339	266	28 408
Ekurhuleni	57 200	53 828	3 372	1 543	405	274	221	929
Sedibeng	15 650	14 275	1 375	350	124	85	75	741
West Rand	14 592	13 556	1 036	390	60	56	46	484
Total	235 218	195 370	39 848	5 804	1 377	885	724	31 058
Mpumalanga								
Ehlanzeni	41 290	38 330	2 960	1 057	322	220	216	1 145
Gert Sibande	16 441	15 265	1 176	745	95	60	63	213
Nkangala	22 058	20 091	1 967	871	102	70	58	866
Total	79 789	73 686	6 103	2 673	519	350	337	2 224
Limpopo								
Capricorn	28 806	27 618	1 188	796	143	91	43	115
Greater Sekhukhune	23 758	22 611	1 147	578	178	103	82	206
Mopani	23 254	22 278	976	485	117	62	70	242
Vhembe	30 946	29 169	1 777	914	245	134	110	374
Waterberg	16 126	14 940	1 186	603	146	82	66	289
Total	122 890	116 616	6 274	3 376	829	472	371	1 226
Unknown	19	16	3	1	2	0	0	0

* Foreign births reflected in province and district of birth registration.

Appendix C: Birth registrations by registration status, sex, province and district municipality, 2016*

Province and district municipality	Total registrations			Current registrations			Late registrations					
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Before age 15			From age 15		
							Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total - South Africa	969 415	491 109	478 306	876 435	442 301	434 134	65 966	33 164	32 802	27 014	15 644	11 370
Western Cape												
Cape Winelands	13 005	6 545	6 460	12 614	6 347	6 267	391	198	193	0	0	0
Central Karoo	1 172	571	601	1 134	550	584	38	21	17	0	0	0
City of Cape Town	63 404	32 078	31 326	61 539	31 121	30 418	1865	957	908	0	0	0
Eden	8 720	4 449	4 271	8 458	4 322	4 136	262	127	135	0	0	0
Overberg	3 751	1 941	1 810	3 632	1 885	1 747	119	56	63	0	0	0
West Coast	5 493	2 840	2 653	5 137	2 642	2 495	356	198	158	0	0	0
Total	95 545	48 424	47 121	92 514	46 867	45 647	3 031	1 557	1 474	0	0	0
Eastern Cape												
Alfred Nzo	14 654	7 382	7 272	12 937	6 531	6 406	1717	851	866	0	0	0
Amathole	11 133	5 647	5 486	9 910	5 066	4 844	1223	581	642	0	0	0
Buffalo City	14 633	7 413	7 220	14 127	7 165	6 962	505	247	258	1	1	0
Cacadu	5 531	2 801	2 730	4 947	2 496	2 451	583	305	278	1	0	1
Chris Hani	11 861	5 991	5 870	10 909	5 514	5 395	952	477	475	0	0	0
Joe Gqabi	5 022	2 512	2 510	4 493	2 249	2 244	529	263	266	0	0	0
Nelson Mandela Bay Metro	17 246	8 810	8 436	16 412	8 385	8 027	834	425	409	0	0	0
O.R.Tambo	29 195	14 695	14 500	26 050	13 195	12 855	3145	1500	1645	0	0	0
Total	109 275	55 251	54 024	99 785	50 601	49 184	9 488	4 649	4 839	2	1	1
Northern Cape												
Frances Baard	8 879	4 505	4 374	8 576	4 353	4 223	303	152	151	0	0	0
John Taolo Gaetsewe	5 396	2 741	2 655	5 259	2 670	2 589	137	71	66	0	0	0
Namakwa	1 523	802	721	1 494	790	704	29	12	17	0	0	0
Pixley ka Seme	2 936	1 484	1 452	2 769	1 412	1 357	167	72	95	0	0	0
Siyanda	4 853	2 473	2 380	4 636	2 360	2 276	217	113	104	0	0	0
Total	23 587	12 005	11 582	22 734	11 585	11 149	853	420	433	0	0	0
Free State												
Fezile Dabi	7 248	3 655	3 593	6 744	3 401	3 343	503	254	249	1	0	1
Lejweleputswa	9 908	5 031	4 877	9 329	4 747	4 582	579	284	295	0	0	0
Mangaung	16 176	8 138	8 038	15 483	7 787	7 696	693	351	342	0	0	0
Thabo Mofutsanyane	13 040	6 546	6 494	12 257	6 131	6 126	783	415	368	0	0	0
Xhariep	1 380	702	678	1 240	636	604	140	66	74	0	0	0
Total	47 752	24 072	23 680	45 053	22 702	22 351	2 698	1 370	1 328	1	0	1

* Foreign births reflected in province and district of birth registration.

Appendix C: Birth registrations by registration status, sex, province and district municipality, 2016* (concluded)

Province and district municipality	Total registrations			Current registrations			Late registrations					
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Before age 15			From age 15		
							Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total - South Africa	969 415	491 109	478 306	876 435	442 301	434 134	65 966	33 164	32 802	27 014	15 644	11 370
KwaZulu-Natal												
Amajuba	8 990	4 467	4 523	8 161	4 056	4 105	829	411	418	0	0	0
Sisonke	10 814	5 469	5 345	8 929	4 536	4 393	1 882	932	950	3	1	2
Ugu	13 652	6 923	6 729	12 391	6 285	6 106	1 261	638	623	0	0	0
Zululand	17 624	8 931	8 693	15 255	7 703	7 552	2 369	1 228	1 141	0	0	0
eThekweni	60 427	30 573	29 854	55 109	27 888	27 221	5 318	2 685	2 633	0	0	0
iLembe	10 097	5 094	5 003	8 797	4 460	4 337	1 300	634	666	0	0	0
uMgungundlovu	15 214	7 798	7 416	13 858	7 096	6 762	1 356	702	654	0	0	0
uMkhanyakude	15 851	8 008	7 843	13 657	6 902	6 755	2 194	1 106	1 088	0	0	0
uMzinyathi	13 417	6 817	6 600	11 955	6 056	5 899	1 461	760	701	1	1	0
uThukela	13 289	6 672	6 617	11 787	5 919	5 868	1 502	753	749	0	0	0
uThungulu	19 253	9 741	9 512	16 686	8 423	8 263	2 567	1 318	1 249	0	0	0
Total	198 628	100 493	98 135	176 585	89 324	87 261	22 039	11 167	10 872	4	2	2
North West												
Bojanala	23 394	11 754	11 640	22 387	11 233	11 154	1007	521	486	0	0	0
Dr Kenneth Kaunda	12 520	6 264	6 256	11 871	5 954	5 917	649	310	339	0	0	0
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	9 709	4 800	4 909	9 201	4 556	4 645	508	244	264	0	0	0
Ngaka Modiri Molema	11 089	5 620	5 469	10 617	5 374	5 243	472	246	226	0	0	0
Total	56 712	28 438	28 274	54 076	27 117	26 959	2 636	1 321	1 315	0	0	0
Gauteng												
							0	0	0			
City of Johannesburg	60 389	30 468	29 921	57 845	29 153	28 692	2 543	1 315	1 228	1		1
City of Tshwane	87 387	46 180	41 207	55 866	28 189	27 677	4 690	2 432	2 258	26 831	15 559	11 272
Ekurhuleni	57 200	28 664	28 536	53 828	26 988	26 840	3 367	1 673	1 694	5	3	2
Sedibeng	15 650	7 973	7 677	14 275	7 297	6 978	1 372	675	697	3	1	2
West Rand	14 592	7 470	7 122	13 556	6 940	6 616	1 023	525	498	13	5	8
Total	235 218	120 755	114 463	195 370	98 567	96 803	12 995	6 620	6 375	26 853	15 568	11 285
Mpumalanga												
Ehlanzeni	41 290	20 741	20 549	38 330	19 236	19 094	2 885	1 469	1 416	75	36	39
Gert Sibande	16 441	8 318	8 123	15 265	7 746	7 519	1 176	572	604	0	0	0
Nkangala	22 058	11 083	10 975	20 091	10 118	9 973	1 894	930	964	73	35	38
Total	79 789	40 142	39 647	73 686	37 100	36 586	5 955	2 971	2 984	148	71	77
Limpopo												
Capricorn	28 806	14 356	14 450	27 618	13 747	13 871	1 186	608	578	2	1	1
Greater Sekhukhune	23 758	11 944	11 814	22 611	11 372	11 239	1 147	572	575	0	0	0
Mopani	23 254	11 627	11 627	22 278	11 160	11 118	975	467	508	1	0	1
Vhembe	30 946	15 529	15 417	29 169	14 651	14 518	1 776	877	899	1	1	0
Waterberg	16 126	8 063	8 063	14 940	7 501	7 439	1 184	562	622	2	0	2
Total	122 890	61 519	61 371	116 616	58 431	58 185	6 268	3 086	3 182	6	2	4
Unknown	19	10	9	16	7	9	3	3	0	0	0	0

* Foreign births reflected in province and district of birth registration.

Appendix D: Birth occurrences by year of birth and age of the mother, 2012–2016*

Age of the mother	Year of birth occurrence				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
10–14	2 781	3 234	2 687	2 755	1 444
15–19	144 509	160 976	152 836	134 521	107 730
20–24	275 466	271 838	267 149	248 078	225 847
25–29	260 051	253 545	255 421	241 935	226 996
30–34	189 786	185 869	194 211	190 853	184 962
35–39	109 162	100 158	102 372	101 032	97 218
40–44	34 690	29 727	30 487	29 943	29 298
45–49	2 899	2 102	2 029	2 078	1 932
50–54	297	266	169	146	110
Unspecified/outside 10–54 age range	2 660	5 093	1 379	901	898
Total	1 022 301	1 012 808	1 008 740	952 242	876 435

* Figures include birth occurrences as at 02 July 2016.

Appendix E: Birth occurrences by province of birth registration and age of the mother, 2016*

Province of birth registration	Age of Mother										Total
	10–14	15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49	50–54	Unsp.*	
Western Cape	174	9 237	21 809	24 926	22 290	11 028	2 809	161	6	74	92 514
Eastern Cape	405	16 572	27 882	23 086	18 053	10 060	3 319	311	18	79	99 785
Northern Cape	20	3 536	6 159	5 586	4 376	2 302	676	49	3	27	22 734
Free State	25	5 056	11 695	12 218	9 558	4 974	1 368	86	1	72	45 053
KwaZulu-Natal	276	27 551	50 425	43 276	33 088	16 606	4 903	311	22	127	176 585
North West	54	6 487	14 353	14 050	10 969	6 006	1 987	129	5	36	54 076
Gauteng	153	14 369	42 859	55 122	49 146	25 867	7 260	386	29	179	195 370
Mpumalanga	230	10 828	19 599	18 653	14 354	7 305	2 411	182	12	112	73 686
Limpopo	107	14 088	31 065	30 074	23 126	13 068	4 565	317	14	192	116 616
Unspecified	0	6	1	5	2	2	0	0	0	0	16
Total	1 444	107 730	225 847	226 996	184 962	97 218	29 298	1 932	110	898	876 435

* Unspecified or outside the 10–54 age range.

** Foreign births are reflected in province and district of birth registration.

Appendix F: Birth occurrences by year of birth and province and district municipality of birth registration, 2012–2016*

Province and district municipality	Year of birth				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total - South Africa	1 029 737	1 018 461	1 024 845	1 018 530	1 008 338
Western Cape					
Cape Winelands	13 345	13 575	14 143	13 566	12 614
Central Karoo	1 159	1 291	1 268	1 288	1 134
City of Cape Town	71 219	63 927	67 471	65 950	61 539
Eden	9 437	10 361	9 640	9 076	8 458
Overberg	2 982	3 484	4 003	3 119	3 632
West Coast	5 632	5 792	5 794	5 790	5 137
Total	103 774	98 430	102 319	98 789	92 514
Eastern Cape					
Alfred Nzo	14 156	14 610	16 290	14 783	12 937
Amatole	11 728	11 902	12 359	11 202	9 910
Buffalo City	17 940	16 092	15 994	15 727	14 127
Cacadu	6 645	5 781	6 059	5 719	4 947
Chris Hani	14 168	13 956	13 352	12 088	10 909
Joe Gqabi	5 431	5 550	5 875	5 334	4 493
Nelson Mandela Bay Metro	19 761	19 440	18 574	16 970	16 412
O.R. Tambo	34 741	33 341	33 179	31 273	26 050
Total	124 570	120 672	121 682	113 096	99 785
Northern Cape					
Frances Baard	8 989	9 181	9 086	9 240	8 576
John Taolo Gaetsewe	5 920	6 033	6 090	5 822	5 259
Namakwa	1 501	1 761	1 623	1 704	1 494
Pixley ka Seme	3 843	3 316	3 331	3 055	2 769
Siyanda	5 007	4 816	5 129	4 957	4 636
Total	25 260	25 107	25 259	24 778	22 734
Free State					
Fezile Dabi	8 327	7 797	9 517	7 437	6 744
Lejweleputswa	11 741	11 357	9 790	10 466	9 329
Mangaung	17 561	15 875	16 849	15 968	15 483
Thabo Mofutsanyane	15 030	14 380	14 395	13 106	12 257
Xhariep	1 388	2 084	1 909	1 587	1 240
Total	54 047	51 493	52 460	48 564	45 053

* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 29 February 2017.

Appendix F: Birth occurrences by year of birth and province and district municipality of birth registration, 2012–2016 (concluded)*

Province and district municipality	Year of birth				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total - South Africa	1 029 737	1 018 461	1 024 845	1 018 530	1 008 338
KwaZulu-Natal					
Amajuba	11 720	8 999	9 268	8 800	8 161
eThekweni	12 134	8 402	10 265	10 320	8 929
iLembe	14 386	16 432	16 100	14 818	12 391
Sisonke	19 111	19 706	18 491	17 219	15 255
Ugu	66 413	69 827	67 227	59 653	55 109
uMgungundlovu	8 359	6 551	8 010	8 356	8 797
uMkhanyakude	18 088	17 474	16 738	16 340	13 858
uMzinyathi	14 841	17 041	16 077	14 097	13 657
uThukela	12 435	14 341	13 882	12 923	11 955
uThungulu	14 063	13 572	13 753	13 515	11 787
Zululand	22 475	22 337	22 317	19 846	16 686
Total	214 025	214 682	212 128	195 887	176 585
North West					
Bojanala	23 840	27 360	26 700	24 576	22 387
Dr Kenneth Kaunda	14 473	11 667	12 988	13 012	11 871
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	11 262	10 135	9 876	9 357	9 201
Ngaka Modiri Molema	14 002	10 333	10 080	10 088	10 617
Total	63 577	59 495	59 644	57 033	54 076
Gauteng					
City of Johannesburg	65 248	72 826	71 281	69 243	57 845
City of Tshwane	63 672	73 564	65 540	60 736	55 866
Ekurhuleni	57 923	52 120	56 387	53 998	53 828
Sedibeng	17 162	16 691	16 632	15 214	14 275
West Rand	14 961	9 977	10 156	9 829	13 556
Total	218 966	225 178	219 996	209 020	195 370
Mpumalanga					
Ehlanzeni	48 486	42 361	43 489	38 284	38 330
Gert Sibande	16 720	16 265	16 731	16 187	15 265
Nkangala	22 888	23 502	23 719	21 888	20 091
Total	88 094	82 128	83 939	76 359	73 686
Limpopo					
Capricorn	32 068	31 065	30 786	29 739	27 618
Greater Sekhukhune	20 389	25 011	23 556	22 996	22 611
Mopani	29 314	24 154	24 039	24 639	22 278
Vhembe	30 485	30 918	32 776	31 719	29 169
Waterberg	16 774	17 256	17 639	16 256	14 940
Total	129 030	128 404	128 796	125 349	116 616
Foreign	172	0	0	0	0
Unspecified	786	7 219	2 517	3 367	16

* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 29 February 2017.

** Foreign births from 2013 to 2015 are reflected in the district of birth registration.

Appendix G: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 1994–1996*

Year	Month	Male	Female	Male
1994	January	41 808	41 345	83 153
	February	37 854	37 470	75 324
	March	41 571	41 193	82 764
	April	42 125	42 211	84 336
	May	40 916	40 648	81 564
	June	42 527	42 578	85 105
	July	39 931	39 392	79 323
	August	41 699	41 504	83 203
	September	45 984	45 519	91 503
	October	40 211	39 777	79 988
	November	37 809	37 845	75 654
	December	43 060	42 707	85 767
	Total	495 495	492 189	987 684
1995	January	41 081	40 839	81 920
	February	36 091	35 827	71 918
	March	40 271	39 967	80 238
	April	38 361	38 457	76 818
	May	40 166	39 545	79 711
	June	40 542	40 987	81 529
	July	39 186	39 430	78 616
	August	40 920	40 367	81 287
	September	45 003	44 927	89 930
	October	38 925	39 206	78 131
	November	36 883	36 706	73 589
	December	41 622	41 150	82 772
	Total	479 051	477 408	956 459
1996	January	42 797	42 822	85 619
	February	37 867	37 455	75 322
	March	41 323	41 599	82 922
	April	40 116	39 474	79 590
	May	40 675	40 601	81 276
	June	42 954	42 478	85 432
	July	40 429	40 380	80 809
	August	41 826	41 471	83 297
	September	46 168	46 000	92 168
	October	39 706	38 988	78 694
	November	36 848	36 939	73 787
	December	42 352	41 795	84 147
	Total	493 061	490 002	983 063

* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 01 July 2017.

Appendix G.1: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 1997–1999*

Year	Month	Male	Female	Male
1997	January	41 879	41 731	83 610
	February	37 284	37 216	74 500
	March	42 662	42 523	85 185
	April	39 807	40 091	79 898
	May	39 837	39 876	79 713
	June	40 914	41 253	82 167
	July	40 558	40 386	80 944
	August	40 638	40 827	81 465
	September	45 009	44 538	89 547
	October	38 695	38 127	76 822
	November	36 063	35 670	71 733
	December	40 761	40 709	81 470
	Total	484 107	482 947	967 054
1998	January	40 973	41 290	82 263
	February	37 218	37 158	74 376
	March	41 967	41 783	83 750
	April	38 953	39 504	78 457
	May	39 942	39 486	79 428
	June	40 366	40 264	80 630
	July	39 226	38 786	78 012
	August	39 709	40 079	79 788
	September	44 234	43 913	88 147
	October	38 056	37 950	76 006
	November	35 399	35 157	70 556
	December	39 454	39 540	78 994
	Total	475 497	474 910	950 407
1999	January	40 100	40 219	80 319
	February	35 876	35 578	71 454
	March	41 377	41 621	82 998
	April	40 944	41 181	82 125
	May	41 415	41 515	82 930
	June	41 655	41 666	83 321
	July	40 033	39 836	79 869
	August	40 515	40 374	80 889
	September	44 539	44 245	88 784
	October	38 369	38 705	77 074
	November	37 244	36 480	73 724
	December	41 419	41 248	82 667
	Total	483 486	482 668	966 154

* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 01 July 2017.

Appendix G.2: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2000–2002*

Year	Month	Male	Female	Male
2000	January	42 875	42 754	85 629
	February	40 012	39 638	79 650
	March	43 004	42 971	85 975
	April	40 661	40 723	81 384
	May	41 381	41 603	82 984
	June	41 869	41 577	83 446
	July	40 262	40 210	80 472
	August	40 998	40 502	81 500
	September	43 993	43 730	87 723
	October	38 959	38 594	77 553
	November	36 631	36 684	73 315
	December	39 473	39 293	78 766
	Total	490 118	488 279	978 397
2001	January	43 481	43 221	86 702
	February	36 941	37 148	74 089
	March	42 502	42 131	84 633
	April	40 362	40 263	80 625
	May	40 812	41 069	81 881
	June	40 245	40 664	80 909
	July	39 683	39 070	78 753
	August	39 757	39 769	79 526
	September	43 288	42 823	86 111
	October	38 183	38 585	76 768
	November	36 498	35 951	72 449
	December	39 650	39 080	78 730
	Total	481 402	479 774	961 176
2002	January	43 436	43 046	86 482
	February	38 193	38 067	76 260
	March	41 315	41 677	82 992
	April	39 460	39 676	79 136
	May	40 728	40 976	81 704
	June	41 442	41 152	82 594
	July	40 857	41 087	81 944
	August	40 895	39 926	80 821
	September	44 467	43 906	88 373
	October	39 027	39 450	78 477
	November	36 506	36 210	72 716
	December	40 174	39 902	80 076
	Total	486 500	485 075	971 575

* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 01 July 2017.

Appendix G.3: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2003–2005*

Year	Month	Male	Female	Male
2003	January	42 673	42 197	84 870
	February	37 828	37 658	75 486
	March	43 191	43 050	86 241
	April	40 669	40 306	80 975
	May	41 342	40 906	82 248
	June	40 931	40 592	81 523
	July	39 770	39 406	79 176
	August	40 194	40 023	80 217
	September	44 613	43 950	88 563
	October	38 313	38 307	76 620
	November	35 643	35 328	70 971
	December	39 782	39 115	78 897
	Total	484 949	480 838	965 787
2004	January	42 831	42 036	84 867
	February	39 356	38 430	77 786
	March	42 914	42 655	85 569
	April	41 423	40 858	82 281
	May	42 310	42 238	84 548
	June	43 006	42 866	85 872
	July	43 290	42 644	85 934
	August	44 692	44 077	88 769
	September	48 299	48 062	96 361
	October	41 667	41 446	83 113
	November	40 352	40 186	80 538
	December	43 791	43 149	86 940
	Total	513 931	508 647	1 022 578
2005	January	45 690	44 546	90 236
	February	41 121	40 625	81 746
	March	46 636	46 590	93 226
	April	44 833	44 671	89 504
	May	46 733	46 162	92 895
	June	45 564	45 602	91 166
	July	44 511	44 046	88 557
	August	44 729	43 804	88 533
	September	47 064	46 573	93 637
	October	41 694	40 893	82 587
	November	41 215	40 451	81 666
	December	45 609	45 013	90 622
	Total	535 399	528 976	1 064 375

* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 01 July 2017.

Appendix G.4: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2006–2008*

Year	Month	Male	Female	Male
2006	January	47 520	47 119	94 639
	February	42 822	42 844	85 666
	March	47 696	47 714	95 410
	April	45 766	45 645	91 411
	May	47 602	46 975	94 577
	June	46 683	46 289	92 972
	July	45 814	45 506	91 320
	August	45 934	45 777	91 711
	September	49 759	49 514	99 273
	October	43 518	42 907	86 425
	November	41 477	40 444	81 921
	December	44 850	43 839	88 689
	Total	549 441	544 573	1 094 014
2007	January	48 399	48 055	96 454
	February	42 233	41 397	83 630
	March	47 881	47 202	95 083
	April	46 300	46 079	92 379
	May	47 641	47 515	95 156
	June	46 223	45 149	91 372
	July	45 526	45 250	90 776
	August	44 942	44 451	89 393
	September	47 791	47 014	94 805
	October	41 833	40 902	82 735
	November	40 376	39 950	80 326
	December	44 808	43 722	88 530
	Total	543 953	536 686	1 080 639
2008	January	47 767	47 171	94 938
	February	44 831	44 203	89 034
	March	48 741	48 634	97 375
	April	46 222	45 951	92 173
	May	46 089	45 790	91 879
	June	45 790	45 207	90 997
	July	46 682	46 651	93 333
	August	47 036	46 065	93 101
	September	50 506	49 396	99 902
	October	43 146	43 105	86 251
	November	42 102	41 249	83 351
	December	46 629	45 617	92 246
	Total	555 541	549 039	1 104 580

* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 01 July 2017.

Appendix G.5: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2009–2011*

Year	Month	Male	Female	Male
2009	January	47 918	47 043	94 961
	February	42 226	41 815	84 041
	March	47 955	47 229	95 184
	April	43 747	43 468	87 215
	May	44 515	44 641	89 156
	June	44 863	44 016	88 879
	July	44 096	43 936	88 032
	August	44 070	43 465	87 535
	September	46 655	45 919	92 574
	October	40 839	39 750	80 589
	November	39 754	38 908	78 662
	December	43 484	42 714	86 198
	Total	530 122	522 904	1 053 026
2010	January	44 820	44 110	88 930
	February	40 117	39 482	79 599
	March	45 739	44 805	90 544
	April	42 819	42 289	85 108
	May	43 439	42 453	85 892
	June	43 609	43 009	86 618
	July	44 130	43 230	87 360
	August	43 970	42 763	86 733
	September	46 807	45 616	92 423
	October	40 236	39 822	80 058
	November	38 787	38 183	76 970
	December	42 876	42 283	85 159
	Total	517 349	508 045	1 025 394
2011	January	42 989	42 229	85 218
	February	41 113	40 087	81 200
	March	47 766	46 524	94 290
	April	43 308	43 163	86 471
	May	45 446	44 908	90 354
	June	43 977	43 298	87 275
	July	43 421	42 303	85 724
	August	43 635	42 885	86 520
	September	46 200	45 272	91 472
	October	40 299	40 442	80 741
	November	40 171	39 117	79 288
	December	42 490	41 578	84 068
	Total	520 815	511 806	1 032 621

* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 01 July 2017.

Appendix G.6: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2012–2014*

Year	Month	Male	Female	Male
2012	January	45 671	44 786	90 457
	February	41 622	41 049	82 671
	March	45 988	45 427	91 415
	April	44 269	43 661	87 930
	May	45 274	44 629	89 903
	June	43 599	42 767	86 366
	July	43 407	42 837	86 244
	August	43 792	42 749	86 541
	September	45 142	44 227	89 369
	October	39 539	39 069	78 608
	November	38 602	37 861	76 463
	December	42 809	41 567	84 376
	Total	519 714	510 629	1 030 343
2013	January	45 133	44 040	89 173
	February	40 341	39 150	79 491
	March	45 091	44 888	89 979
	April	42 940	42 199	85 139
	May	43 365	42 654	86 019
	June	42 524	41 614	84 138
	July	43 132	42 513	85 645
	August	43 396	42 628	86 024
	September	44 854	44 441	89 295
	October	39 715	38 389	78 104
	November	38 702	37 909	76 611
	December	42 938	42 228	85 166
	Total	512 131	502 653	1 014 784
2014	January	44 243	43 487	87 730
	February	40 227	39 531	79 758
	March	46 074	45 224	91 298
	April	43 237	42 758	85 995
	May	44 471	43 825	88 296
	June	43 200	42 275	85 475
	July	43 037	42 336	85 373
	August	42 576	41 927	84 503
	September	45 663	44 614	90 277
	October	39 632	38 757	78 389
	November	37 635	37 146	74 781
	December	41 564	40 693	82 257
	Total	511 559	502 573	1 014 132

* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 01 July 2017.

Appendix G.7: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2015–2016*

Year	Month	Male	Female	Male
2015	January	44 600	43 511	88 111
	February	39 249	38 758	78 007
	March	44 528	43 755	88 283
	April	41 401	40 488	81 889
	May	41 115	40 998	82 113
	June	40 670	40 366	81 036
	July	40 031	39 578	79 609
	August	39 367	38 815	78 182
	September	41 979	41 157	83 136
	October	35 980	35 224	71 204
	November	35 174	34 640	69 814
	December	38 848	38 169	77 017
	Total	482 942	475 459	958 401
2016	January	38 864	37 632	76 496
	February	36 599	35 943	72 542
	March	40 723	39 740	80 463
	April	38 790	38 265	77 055
	May	39 130	38 849	77 979
	June	38 372	37 807	76 179
	July	37 044	36 773	73 817
	August	38 069	37 672	75 741
	September	38 709	37 828	76 537
	October	34 378	33 300	67 678
	November	33 756	32 988	66 744
	December	36 966	35 793	72 759
	Total	451 400	442 590	893 990

* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 01 July 2017.

Appendix H: Number distribution of 2016 top ten baby forenames and surnames by province of birth registration

Province of birth registration	Rank	Male		Female		Both sexes	
		Forename	Number	Forename	Number	Surname	Number
Western Cape	1	Junior	733	Mia	453	Jacobs	886
	2	Liam	544	Faith	397	Williams	847
	3	Joshua	479	Grace	391	Adams	766
	4	Luke	385	Hope	337	Abrahams	669
	5	Caleb	344	Ava	314	Davids	592
	6	Noah	341	Alunamda	309	Hendricks	515
	7	Kungawo	309	Leah	306	Petersen	474
	8	John	285	Iminathi	301	Van Wyk	443
	9	Khayone	252	Khayone	299	Smith	425
	10	Alunamda	251	Rose	235	Booyesen	412
Eastern Cape	1	Kungawo	704	Iminathi	779	Williams	243
	2	Alunamda	596	Alunamda	714	Booi	225
	3	Khayone	577	Khayone	649	Jacobs	215
	4	Iminathi	463	Kungawo	479	Smith	176
	5	Lingomso	460	Minentle	385	Madikizela	174
	6	Junior	454	Mbalentle	384	Klaas	166
	7	Enzokuhle	371	Lingomso	360	Diko	145
	8	Likuwe	325	Melokuhle	330	Ndamase	142
	9	Melokuhle	303	Olothando	329	Peter	140
	10	Luniko	295	Enzokuhle	315	Plaatjies	140
Northern Cape	1	Junior	386	Grace	223	Van Wyk	291
	2	Omphile	199	Precious	147	Louw	225
	3	Lebogang	144	Reneilwe	138	Cloete	206
	4	Amogelang	105	Remofilwe	84	Jacobs	174
	5	Jayden	97	Faith	77	Olyn	153
	6	Prince	95	Omaatla	77	Booyesen	116
	7	Katlego	89	Reatlegile	69	Modise	101
	8	Gift	79	Omolemo	67	Witbooi	99
	9	Lethabo	70	Princess	66	Beukes	98
	10	Rethabile	56	Rethabile	64	Visagie	97

Appendix H: Number distribution of 2016 top ten baby forenames and surnames by province of birth registration (continued)

Province of birth registration	Rank	Male		Female		Both sexes	
		Forename	Number	Forename	Number	Surname	Number
Free State	1	Junior	956	Precious	618	Mokoena	1183
	2	Amohelang	607	Bokamoso	452	Mofokeng	1165
	3	Katleho	559	Rethabile	443	Tshabalala	386
	4	Kamohelo	481	Relebohile	423	Dlamini	149
	5	Bokamoso	441	Naledi	421	Molefe	106
	6	Lethabo	391	Bonolo	384	Khumalo	97
	7	Mpho	389	Karabo	366	Van Wyk	96
	8	Blessing	382	Blessing	354	Modise	95
	9	Bokang	350	Omphile	335	Maseko	75
	10	Siyabonga	299	Lesedi	331	Louw	60
KwaZulu-Natal	1	Bandile	2599	Luthando	2525	Dlamini	4391
	2	Lubanzi	2299	Amahle	1809	Mkhize	3269
	3	Melokuhle	2248	Esihle	1777	Ndlovu	3178
	4	Ayabonga	1803	Emihle	1670	Khumalo	3130
	5	Bayanda	1649	Okuhle	1638	Ngcobo	2964
	6	Samkelo	1437	Ziyanda	1630	Gumede	2814
	7	Banele	1415	Melokuhle	1592	Mthembu	2563
	8	Wandile	1367	Alwande	1547	Buthelezi	2329
	9	Alwande	1222	Asemahle	1534	Zulu	2222
	10	Junior	1128	Aphelele	1487	Nkosi	1297
North West	1	Junior	802	Amogelang	562	Molefe	450
	2	Lethabo	524	Precious	487	Modise	353
	3	Amogelang	523	Remofilwe	397	Mogale	178
	4	Katlego	360	Olerato	392	Phiri	132
	5	Omphile	343	Reatlegile	379	Khumalo	127
	6	Oratile	343	Thandolwethu	370	Ndlovu	108
	7	Kamogelo	329	Rethabile	366	Mokoena	102
	8	Bokamoso	317	Omolemo	293	Van Wyk	92
	9	Blessing	295	Lesedi	282	Sithole	86
	10	Gift	273	Kamogelo	253	Tshabalala	84

Appendix H: Number distribution of 2016 top ten baby forenames and surnames by province of birth registration (concluded)

Province of birth registration	Rank	Male		Female		Both sexes	
		Forename	Number	Forename	Number	Surname	Number
Gauteng	1	Junior	2731	Precious	1825	Mokoena	1333
	2	Blessing	1707	Princess	1422	Nkosi	1326
	3	Gift	1388	Lesedi	1182	Mahlangu	1201
	4	Lethabo	1353	Lethabo	1128	Khumalo	1091
	5	Siyabonga	1238	Angel	1107	Ndlovu	1090
	6	Prince	1048	Siphesihle	1076	Sithole	1068
	7	Amogelang	1044	Amogelang	1035	Baloyi	1038
	8	Thato	916	Blessing	1025	Dlamini	956
	9	Mpho	905	Naledi	989	Mofokeng	931
	10	Bokamoso	857	Amahle	894	Tshabalala	918
Mpumalanga	1	Blessing	1325	Princess	1029	Nkosi	2662
	2	Junior	1188	Angel	900	Mahlangu	1499
	3	Prince	747	Precious	841	Khoza	1218
	4	Innocent	725	Minenhle	825	Mathebula	1000
	5	Iminathi	687	Siphesihle	802	Mnisi	820
	6	Gift	668	Melokuhle	705	Ndlovu	809
	7	Siyabonga	666	Amahle	634	Mokoena	747
	8	Bandile	569	Thandolwethu	610	Maseko	663
	9	Siphosethu	528	Mbalenhle	428	Shabangu	662
	10	Banele	487	Hope	417	Sithole	642
Limpopo	1	Junior	2391	Precious	1624	Baloyi	1427
	2	Blessing	1879	Blessing	1341	Maluleke	1287
	3	Gift	1322	Amogelang	912	Chauke	1160
	4	Amogelang	893	Angel	876	Ngobeni	1071
	5	Katlego	806	Lethabo	777	Malatji	1008
	6	Mpho	750	Princess	698	Mathebula	776
	7	Kamogelo	726	Tshegofatso	685	Mudau	720
	8	Lethabo	685	Kamogelo	676	Mohlala	592
	9	Prince	630	Hope	670	Ndou	581
	10	Thapelo	624	Faith	619	Shabangu	581

Explanatory notes

Sources of data

The Department of Home Affairs (DHA) provides Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) with information on recorded live births. Two sets of birth statistics are provided: registration-based and occurrence-based data. Both these datasets come from the Nucleus Bureau of the DHA. When the officials at the various offices of the Department of Home Affairs capture the information about a birth, they do so directly onto the database at the Nucleus Bureau. These transactions are used to update the database of the birth register.

For the purpose of producing vital statistics, the following system is followed: each day, all civil transactions carried out at all the Department of Home Affairs offices are written onto a cassette. At the end of every month, a combined set of cassettes is created, containing all the transactions done for the month. These transactions are downloaded and the birth transactions are extracted for processing at Stats SA. The year in which the births are registered is the registration year. Using this information, Stats SA provides the breakdown of the registered births according to the year in which the births occurred.

While births information sent to Stats SA is the same as that in the population register, there is a difference of format between the two. On the one hand, Stats SA's data are based on births registered during the year (registration-based), while on the other hand, entries in the population register reflect the date of birth. The date of registration of birth is not stored on the population registration file. For this reason, the population register can only be used to obtain birth data broken down by date of birth (occurrence-based).

By continuously updating the population register for late registration, the occurrence-based data from the population register get closer and closer to the true level of births. In a situation where birth registrations are complete (with very few late registrations), the occurrence-based perspective will be very similar to the registration-based perspective. However, if there are a large number of late registrations, the two perspectives will become widely dissimilar. With improvements in birth registration, the recorded data from the two sources will gradually converge.

The South African population register

The South African population register covers births, deaths, identity, marriages, divorces and movements of all South African citizens and permanent residents. The Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1992 (Act No. 51 of 1992) guides the registration of births and deaths throughout South Africa. The Act was subsequently amended in 1997 (Act No. 67 of 1997), in 1998 (Act No. 43 of 1998) and in 2010 (Act No. 18 of 2010). Another Act pertinent to the population register is the Identification Act, 1997 (Act No. 68 of 1997). This Act repealed previous Identification Acts (Act No. 72 of 1986, Act No. 21 of 1991, Act No. 4 of 1993, and Act No. 47 of 1995). Thus, each of the Acts dealing with any aspect of civil registration has implications for the information recorded into the population register.

From these Acts and amendments, the following persons and particulars are eligible to be included on the population register:

- All children born of South African citizens and permanent residents when the notice of the birth is given within one year after the birth of the child.
- All children born of South African citizens and permanent residents when the notice of the birth is given one year after the birth of the child together with the prescribed requirement for a late registration of birth.
- All South African citizens and permanent residents who, upon attainment of the age of 16, applied for and were granted identification cards (or books).
- All South African citizens and permanent residents who die at any age after birth.
- All South African citizens and permanent residents who depart permanently from South Africa.
- Persons whose particulars are not eligible for inclusion on the population register are listed below:
 - Non-South African citizens who sojourn temporarily in the country.
 - All South African citizens and permanent residents who died before notice of their birth had been given.

Municipal demarcation

The Department of Home Affairs captured information on places based on office of birth registration. Stats SA re-classified the offices of birth registration into district councils and metropolitan areas based on the 2016 municipal boundaries. Certain magisterial districts are situated in more than one district council, in which case such magisterial districts are allocated to the district council where the majority of the land area falls. The only exception was with Nigel in Gauteng province. The majority of the land area of Nigel magisterial district is in Sedibeng District Council (which is mainly farm areas and therefore sparsely populated), while the majority of the population lives in the Ekurhuleni metropolitan area. As such, Nigel was classified under Ekurhuleni and not under Sedibeng. Maps for the old and the new classification are available from Stats SA on request.

Population group

As from 1991, no distinction is made between the different population groups on the data collected by the Department of Home Affairs. The statistics collected, therefore, refer to all population groups combined.

Definitions of concepts used

1.1 Live birth

The complete expulsion or extraction from its mother's womb of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which, after such separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached. Each product of such a birth is considered live born (WHO, 1992).

1.2 Recorded live births

The number of births recorded (registered) in a specific year, irrespective of when the birth actually occurred. The births recorded in any given year include the births that occurred during that year plus other births that occurred in years prior to the year of registration. It should be noted that not all births are recorded (registered).

1.3 Current birth registrations

This refers to the number of births occurring in a specific year and registered within the same year.

1.4 Late birth registrations

This refers to births occurring in a given calendar year but registered in subsequent calendar years. In this release, late registrations are grouped into two: (i) births registered after one year of birth but less than 15 years after birth; and (ii) births registered from 15 years after birth.

General Information

Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different statistical releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's eleven official languages. Since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities, Stats SA releases are published in English only.

Stats SA has copyright on this publication. Users may apply the information as they wish, provided that they acknowledge Stats SA as the source of the basic data wherever they process, apply, utilise, publish or distribute the data; and also that they specify that the relevant application and analysis (where applicable) result from their own processing of the data.

Advance release calendar

An advance release calendar is disseminated on www.statssa.gov.za

Stats SA products

A complete set of Stats SA publications is available at the Stats SA Library and the following libraries:

National Library of South Africa, Pretoria Division
National Library of South Africa, Cape Town Division
Natal Society Library, Pietermaritzburg
Library of Parliament, Cape Town
Bloemfontein Public Library
Johannesburg Public Library
Eastern Cape Library Services, King William's Town
Central Regional Library, Polokwane
Central Reference Library, Nelspruit
Central Reference Collection, Kimberley
Central Reference Library, Mmabatho

Stats SA also provides a subscription service.

Electronic services

A large range of data are available via on-line services, diskette and computer printouts. For more details about our electronic data services, contact 012 310 8600.

You can visit us on the internet at: www.statssa.gov.za

Enquiries

User Information Services:	Telephone number: 012 310 8600 Email address: info@statssa.gov.za
Orders/subscription services:	Telephone number: 012 310 8044 Email address: magdaj@statssa.gov.za
Technical enquiries:	vusinz@statssa.gov.za
Postal address:	Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001

Produced by Stats SA