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Preface

This statistical release presents information on South Africa's recorded live birth occurrences and registrations for 2017. It also provides information on live birth occurrences and registrations from 1995 to 2016 to show trends and patterns in recorded live births. The release is based on live births from the national birth registration system at the Department of Home Affairs.

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Contents

Preface	i
1. Introduction	4
1.1 Background	4
1.2 Objective of this statistical release	5
2. Data and methods	6
2.1 Data source	6
2.2 Assessment of the quality of data	7
2.3 Data analysis	9
3. Birth registrations	10
3.1 Trends in birth registration	10
3.2 Birth registrations by selected variables	12
4. Birth occurrences	19
4.1 Birth occurrences as at 28 February 2018	20
4.2 Birth occurrences registered within 30 days from date of birth	22
4.3 Birth occurrences as at 30 July 2018	25
4.4 Baby forenames and surnames in South Africa, 2017	28
5. Concluding remarks	30
References	31

List of Tables

Table 1: Birth registrations for 2016–2017	6
Table 2: Distribution of birth registrations by the number of days it took to register the birth: 2013–2017	7
Table 3: Year to year changes in the number of days/years it took to register the birth: 2014–2017	8
Table 4: Birth registrations by status of registration, South Africa: 1995–2017	10
Table 5: Birth registrations by age of the mother and status of registration, South Africa: 2017	12
Table 6: Birth occurrences by year of birth and reference period, South Africa: 1995–2017	19
Table 7: Birth occurrences (as at end of February 2017) by year of birth occurrence and year of birth registration, South Africa: 1995–2017	21
Table 8: Number of births registered within 30 days of occurrence by month of birth occurrence and month of birth registration, South Africa: 2017	22
Table 9: Number and percentage of births by age of mother, South Africa: 2017	23
Table 10: Birth occurrences (as at 30 July 2018) by sex and year of birth, South Africa: 1995–2017	26
Table 11: Number distribution of top ten baby forenames and surnames, South Africa: 2017	29

List of Figures

Figure 1: Birth registrations by status of registration, South Africa: 1995–2017	11
Figure 2: Late birth registrations by year of birth, South Africa: 1981–2017	12
Figure 3: Birth registrations by age of the mother and status of registration, South Africa: 2017	13
Figure 4A: Number distribution of birth registrations by province of birth registration and status of registration, South Africa: 2017	16
Figure 4B: Percentage distribution of birth occurrences by province of birth registration and status of registration, South Africa: 2017	16
Figure 5: Sex ratios by province of birth registration, South Africa: 2017	18
Figure 6: Median age of the mother by year of birth, South Africa: 1999–2017	24
Figure 7: Birth occurrences by province of birth registration, South Africa: 2017	25
Figure 8: Percentage distribution of birth occurrences by year and month of birth, South Africa: 2013–2017	27

List of Appendices

Appendix A: Notice of birth form (DHA-24) – page 1	32
Appendix B: Total birth registrations for 2017 by year of birth occurrence, province and district municipality	34
Appendix B1: Total birth registrations for 2017 by registration status, province and district municipality	36
Appendix C: Birth registrations by registration status, sex, province and district municipality, 2017	38
Appendix D: Birth occurrences by year of birth and age of the mother, 2013–2017	40
Appendix E: Birth occurrences by province of birth registration and age of the mother, 2017	40
Appendix F: Birth occurrences by year of birth and province and district municipality of birth registration, 2013–2017	41
Appendix G: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 1994–1996	43
Appendix G.1: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 1997–1999	44
Appendix G.2: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2000–2002	45
Appendix G.3: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2003–2005	46
Appendix G.4: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2006–2008	47
Appendix G.5: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2009–2011	48
Appendix G.6: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2012–2014	49
Appendix G.7: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2015–2017	50
Appendix H: Number distribution of 2017 top ten baby forenames and surnames by province of birth registration	51
Explanatory notes	54
General Information	56

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Birth registration is the compulsory, continuous, permanent and universal recording within the civil registration system of the occurrence and characteristics of birth, in accordance with the national legal requirements of the United Nations [UN], (2014). It yields vital statistics for use as rationale for resource allocation, priority setting and policy development, including monitoring progress towards national and international objectives (Setel et al., 2018). Globally, according to the United Nations Children's Fund [UNICEF] (2013) the percentage of birth registration increased from 58% in 2000 to 65% in 2010. However, non-registration particularly is a problem in sub-Saharan Africa where out of all infants about two in three (20 million) infants do not have their births registered (UNICEF, 2016). The high rates of non-registration are attributed to lack of awareness or knowledge of the importance of, and the benefits of births registration, the inability to afford the travelling costs to the registration facilities and prohibitive registration fees amongst other factors (UNICEF, 2016). Without a birth certificate, children may lack access to services like health care and education and other social services. Civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems are crucial for monitoring the implementation of the National Development Plan in South Africa, as well as for the regional and international health and development agendas namely, Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), respectively. Central to the advancement of development is the social inclusion agenda, which cannot be effectively accomplished without complete civil registration systems. Civil registration relates directly to the achievement of SDG target 16.9 which aims to provide legal identity for all, including achieving completeness of birth registration by 2030. Additionally, civil registration contributes to the monitoring and achievement of SDG Goal 5, *'achieve gender equity and empower all women and girls'*, as birth certificates can enable the enforcement of such laws which relate to against child marriage and child labour.

In South Africa the right to identity which includes nationality, name and family relations is enshrined in section 28 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act No. 108 of 1996 (Republic of South Africa, 1996). The Births and Deaths Act No.52 of 1992 governs the registration of births in South Africa (Republic of South Africa, 1992). The two acts reaffirm South Africa's commitment to Articles seven and eight of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the African Charter on the rights and welfare of the child. The agreements mandate the preservation of children's rights to identity, a nationality, to a name from birth, family ties and birth registration immediately after birth. The realisation of the right to be registered is closely linked to the safeguarding of a whole range of fundamental rights, including health care, social security, education, participation and protection. The primary purpose of the records derived from the civil registration process is to create a permanent record of the birth occurrence and for the issuing of a birth certificate which is a personal document to attest birth registration and the most visible evidence of the government's legal recognition of the child. In essence, without a birth certificate the unregistered babies/children essentially do not legally exist.

The Births and Deaths Registration Act has been amended several times, with the last amendment being made in 2010 [Births and Deaths Registration Amendment Act (Act No.18 of 2010)] (Republic of South Africa, 2010). The registration of births in South Africa falls under the mandate of the Department of Home Affairs (DHA). To better enforce the registration of births, the 2010 amendment Act mandates the registrations of births within 30 days from date of birth occurrence (Republic of South Africa, 2010). Form DHA-24 (see Appendix A on page 32) is used for births registered prior to the lapse of 30 days. The Act makes provisions for the registrations of births after the expiration of 30 days (late registrations). There are three main categories for late registrations, namely; beyond 30 days but before the baby's attainment of one year of age, after one year of age but before seven years and seven years and older. Form DHA-24/LRB (see Appendix B on page 34) is used for births registered after 30 days. Late registration of births also poses a serious security risk to the country as it opens possibilities for fraudulent entries into the National Population Register (NPR). Additional documents are needed for late birth registrations and these include an affidavit giving reasons for late registration, certificate proving that birth occurred in the health care facility or affidavit if birth occurred at home, a healthcare clinic card, baptismal certificate, and a letter from the first school attended by the child, school reports and social worker's report for abandoned children (DHA, 2018a). After a birth has been registered, relevant information is captured on the NPR for those eligible for entry in the register (see page 35 for further details). For those not eligible for entry in the NPR, a hand-written birth certificate is issued but the

details are not captured in NPR. The information captured on the NPR is used to compile statistics on recorded live births in the country.

On 16 May 2018 at the Extended Public Committee on Home Affairs budget vote meeting held in Cape Town the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Malusi Gigaba, highlighted the increase in early birth registration in South Africa. He attributed the noted increase to a few interventions including continued partnership with the Department of Health resulting in increases in mobile registration sites at hospitals and clinics with permanent staff members (DHA, 2018b). He further added that currently, 46% of births are registered at health care facilities rather than Home Affairs offices and the aim is for achieving 100% registration at health care facilities. In June 2019, South Africa will be hosting the 5th annual meeting of the ID4Africa movement which is held in a different African country each year. The movement advocates for universal, effective and efficient civil registration in Africa against the backdrop of the 2030 National Development Plan (NDP), Agenda 2063 and 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This statistical release provides statistics on registered births which are crucial in providing baselines for these events and in the monitoring of national, regional and international goals.

1.2 Objective of this statistical release

The recorded live births statistical release is part of a regular series published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), based on data collected through the civil registration system. This publication has two main objectives which are:

- To present information on the births that occurred in 2017 and were registered at the DHA between January 2017 and February 2018.
- To outline emerging patterns and trends in the occurrence and registration of births spanning a 23-year period (1995–2017).

2. Data and methods

2.1 Data source

Recorded live births from the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) are the solitary source of data used in the production of this statistical release. Fundamentally, the release covers current birth registrations and occurrences of live births for 2017 recorded for a period of 14 months (from January 2017 up until February 2018). Furthermore, late birth registration statistics are covered which shows the births that occurred in 2016 or before, but that were-captured between March 2017 and February 2018 (covering a 12-month period). The recorded live births statistics files acquired from DHA were reduced to five sub-files, where every file carries births registered in 2017 and captured up until 31 December 2017. These sub-files are: (i) births registered within 30 days; (ii) births registered after 30 days up to 365 days; (iii) One to 14 years; (iv) 15 years and older as well as (v) births registered at health facilities together with births that occurred in foreign countries to South African citizens.

Table 1 shows the aggregate number of birth registrations for the 2016 and 2017 reporting periods. It further shows how the birth registrations were merged to reach final aggregate birth registration as used in the analyses. Moreover, Table 1 shows that 1 145 965 birth registrations for 2016 births and earlier years were registered between January 2016 to February 2017. Of the 1 145 965 birth registrations between January 2016 and February 2017, 69 585 have to be subtracted as they were late registrations for the earlier years. A further 106 965 have to be subtracted for births of 2017 that were registered in January and February of 2017. These were included by the DHA in the 1 165 538 births registered between January 2017 and February 2018. The births for 2018 registered between January and February were also subtracted from the 1 165 538 births; while births for 2017 and earlier years registered between January and February 2018 were retained as these constituted 2017 reporting period. During the 2017 processing stage, the table shows that 989 318 registered births occurred in 2017 and earlier years.

Table 1: Birth registrations for 2016–2017

2016	Number of birth registrations
Total births registered during 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
2017	
Total births registered January 2017 to February 2018	1 165 538
Less births for 2016 and earlier years registered in January to February 2017	61 439
	1 104 099
Less 2018 births registered in January to February 2018	114 781
	989 318

2.2 Assessment of the quality of data

Completeness of birth registration

Birth registration completeness is a vital causal element for the usefulness of vital statistics attained from the South African civil registration system i.e. birth register. Additionally, it is also vital as an assessment of the effectiveness, efficiency and functioning of the Department of Home Affairs, which is mandated to maintain the birth register. Since 2010, DHA has taken steps to promote registering births early (before 30 days of life) and discourages the late registration of births (after 30 days of life). This was done by broadening the awareness, and expanding health facilities for birth registrations as well as introducing penalty fees for late registrations of births.

There are distinctive methods that can be applied to measure the completeness of birth and death registration from the vital statistics system. One method amongst others is the synthetic cohort P/F method suggested by Zlotnik together with Hill. However, Hill applied it on the data from several countries as an alternative to the Brass P/F ratio method (1964). The method presume that cumulated age specific fertility rates for every known age is equivalent to the average number of children ever born by woman at particular age. Age dissemination of women aged 15–49 years is ideally the input data required for estimating the completeness of births. The overall completeness of birth registration is estimated at 88,6% for the intercensal period 2011–2016.

Timeliness of birth registration

Timeliness of birth registration refers to the period it took for one to register the birth after it has occurred. The Births and Deaths Registration Amendment Act (Act No. 18 of 2010) regulates that the registration of a birth ought to be within 30 days after a birth has occurred (Republic of South Africa, 2010). Table 2 below demonstrates that, births that were registered within 30 days after birth event have been increasing over time from 2013–2017. Regarding late registrations of births, a decrease is observed, from 2013–2016, however that expanded marginally in 2017 for births registered between 1–14 years. Births registered within 30 days after birth occurrence for 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 constituted 55,5%; 60,1%; 65,1%; 75,6% and 77,7%; respectively in a similar way. Early birth registration have been improving over the five-year period. The aggregate numbers of birth registrations have increased from 969 415 in 2016 to 989 318 in 2017.

In addition, there was a notable decline for births registered within 1–14 years of birth occurrence from 2013–2016; however there was an increase in the decline in 2017, which the Births and Deaths Registration Amendment Act aims to reduce. However, this has increased again from 4,2% in 2016 to 4,6% in 2017. For birth registrations within 30 days from 2016 to 2017 an additional 2,1% was observed. A decline is also noticeable after some time for birth registrations between 31–364 days. Additionally, birth registrations between 15 years and older indicate the extent of exertion that the DHA is executing. Table 2 below also reflect the number of years and days it took for 2017 birth registrations to be registered and these births accounted 77,7% of the total births registered in 2017. They were conforming to the Amendment Act since these births were registered within 30 days of life, and only 15,3% of the aggregate births were registered between 31 and 365 days after birth occurrence. Moreover, this implies that 93,0% of the births were registered before one year after a birth event. Births registered between one and fourteen years accounted for 4,6% and births registered 15 years and older constituted 2,5% of late registrations.

Table 2: Distribution of birth registrations by the number of days it took to register the birth: 2013–2017

Number of days/years	Number of birth registrations					Percentage*					Cumulative percentage*				
	2 013	2 014	2 015	2 016	2 017	2 013	2 014	2 015	2 016	2 017	2 013	2 014	2 015	2 016	2 017
0–30 days	643 480	686 803	706 191	732 672	768 418	55,5	60,1	65,1	75,6	77,7	55,5	60,1	65,1	75,6	77,7
31–364 days	339 952	305 235	245 323	169 495	151 145	29,3	26,7	22,6	17,5	15,3	84,9	86,8	87,7	93,1	92,9
1–14 years	105 769	88 248	76 280	40 234	45 271	9,1	7,7	7,0	4,2	4,6	94,0	94,6	94,8	97,2	97,5
15 years and older	69 421	61 989	56 717	27 014	24 484	6,0	5,4	5,2	2,8	2,5	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Total	1 158 622	1 142 275	1 084 511	969 415	989 318	100,0	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

Table 3 shows, statistics on the yearly rate changes in the number of registered births by age in days or years for the period of 2013 to 2017. Although the magnitude of changes differ from year-to-year, from 2013 to 2017 there have been increases in the number of birth registrations for births registered within 30 days after the birth event. A decline is reflected for births that were registered after 30 days, it provides an indication of improvement towards timely registration of births over time. The table further shows an increase of 6,7% of births registered before 30 days, between 2013–2014. The table also shows an increase of 2,8% for births registered before 30 days of life between 2014 and 2015, while 2015–2016 reflect an increase of 3,7%, while for 2016–2017 an increase of 4,9% is observed for births registered with 30 days of life.

Regarding 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% decrease between 2014 and 2015 together with a decline of 30,9% between 2015 and 2016. There was 10,8% decline between 2016 and 2017 for births registered within 31 days to 364 days. For example, it means that births registered in this age category for 2017 (151 145) indicate a drop of 10,8% compared to the 2016 birth registrations in the same group (169 495) in 2016. The year-to-year percentage changes reflect an increase in the births registered between 1–14 years in 2016–2017 and a decline for from 15 years and older.

Table 3: Year to year changes in the number of days/years it took to register the birth: 2014–2017

Number of days/years	Number of birth registrations					Percentage changes			
	2 013	2 014	2 015	2 016	2 017	2013–2014	2014–2015	2015–2016	2016–2017
0–30 days	643 480	686 803	706 191	732 672	768 418	6,7	2,8	3,7	4,9
31–364 days	339 952	305 235	245 323	169 495	151 145	-10,2	-19,6	-30,9	-10,8
1–14 years	105 769	88 248	76 280	40 234	45 271	-16,6	-13,6	-47,3	12,5
15 years and older	69 421	61 989	56 717	27 014	24 484	-10,7	-8,5	-52,4	-9,4
Total	1 158 622	1 142 275	1 084 511	969 415	989 318	-1,4	-5,1	-10,6	2,1

2.3 Data analysis

This release includes descriptive analyses by making use of both bivariate and univariate analyses. In addition, it also covers the trends or patterns of median ages at birth together with cross-tabulations. Analysis were mainly on birth occurrences and registered births. Socio-demographic indicators covered include but are not limited to, age of the mother, sex of the child, and province of birth registration. Furthermore, statistics on months of birth occurrence, citizenship status, baby forenames and surnames are covered.

On the appendices, current or late registrations of births by district municipality are covered, birth occurrences by province and age of a mother, birth occurrences by district municipality from 2013–2017 and birth occurrences by sex and month for the years 1994–2017 are also shown.

3. Birth registrations

3.1 Trends in birth registration

Total birth registrations are all birth occurrences registered at the Department of Home Affairs during a specific year, regardless of when they occurred. The total number of birth registrations consists of both current birth 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 occurrence).

Trends and patterns in number of birth registrations are depicted in Table 4 below by status of registration. The table shows that prior to 2016, total birth registrations were below a million only in 1995 and 1996. Total birth registrations increased consistently between 1997 and 2003, but decreased between 2004 and 2007, and then fluctuated between 2008 and 2010. A consistent downward trend is observed again between 2011 and 2016. Total birth registrations increased from 969 415 in 2016 to 989 318 in 2017, indicating an increase of 2,1%.

The pattern of birth registrations was characterised by higher late registrations than current registrations between 1995 and 2004. During these years the proportion of late birth registrations increased yearly from 67,8% in 1995 to a high of 77,5% in 1998. While late birth registrations continued to be above 50% of total birth registrations they however decreased consistently from 74,7% in 1999 to 50,7% in 2004. This trend reversed in 2005, when most birth registrations were registered during the year of birth occurrence rather than later. In 2005, 57,5% of total births were current births and this proportion increased markedly reaching a high of 90,7% in 2017. It is worth noting that from 2011 current births have accounted for over 75% of total birth registrations, indicating pronounced improvements in early birth registration.

Table 4: Birth registrations by status of registration, South Africa: 1995–2017

Year of registration	Number of birth registrations			Percentages		
	Total	Current	Late	Total	Current	Late
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
2017	989 318	897 750	91 568	100,0	90,7	9,3

Figure 1 provides information on birth registrations for the period 1995 to 2017, classified by status of registration. Total birth registrations increased sharply between 1995 and 2003, but decreased persistently till 2007. The number of births registered consistently from 2011 to 2016, but the trend shifted in 2017 as the birth registration increased slightly from the 2016 levels.

In general, current and late birth registrations show two distinct patterns. In the first patterns, late birth registrations were consistently higher than current birth registration from 1995 to 2004. In 2005, late and current registrations were somewhat equivalent, with slightly more late birth registrations. In the second pattern, current birth registrations experienced an upward trend and were consistently higher than late registrations for the rest of the years 2006 to 2017. It is also worth noting that in the more recent years (2011 to 2017) the gap between late and current registrations has increased, with 2017 having the widest gap between current and late birth registrations.

Figure 1: Birth registrations by status of registration, South Africa: 1995–2017

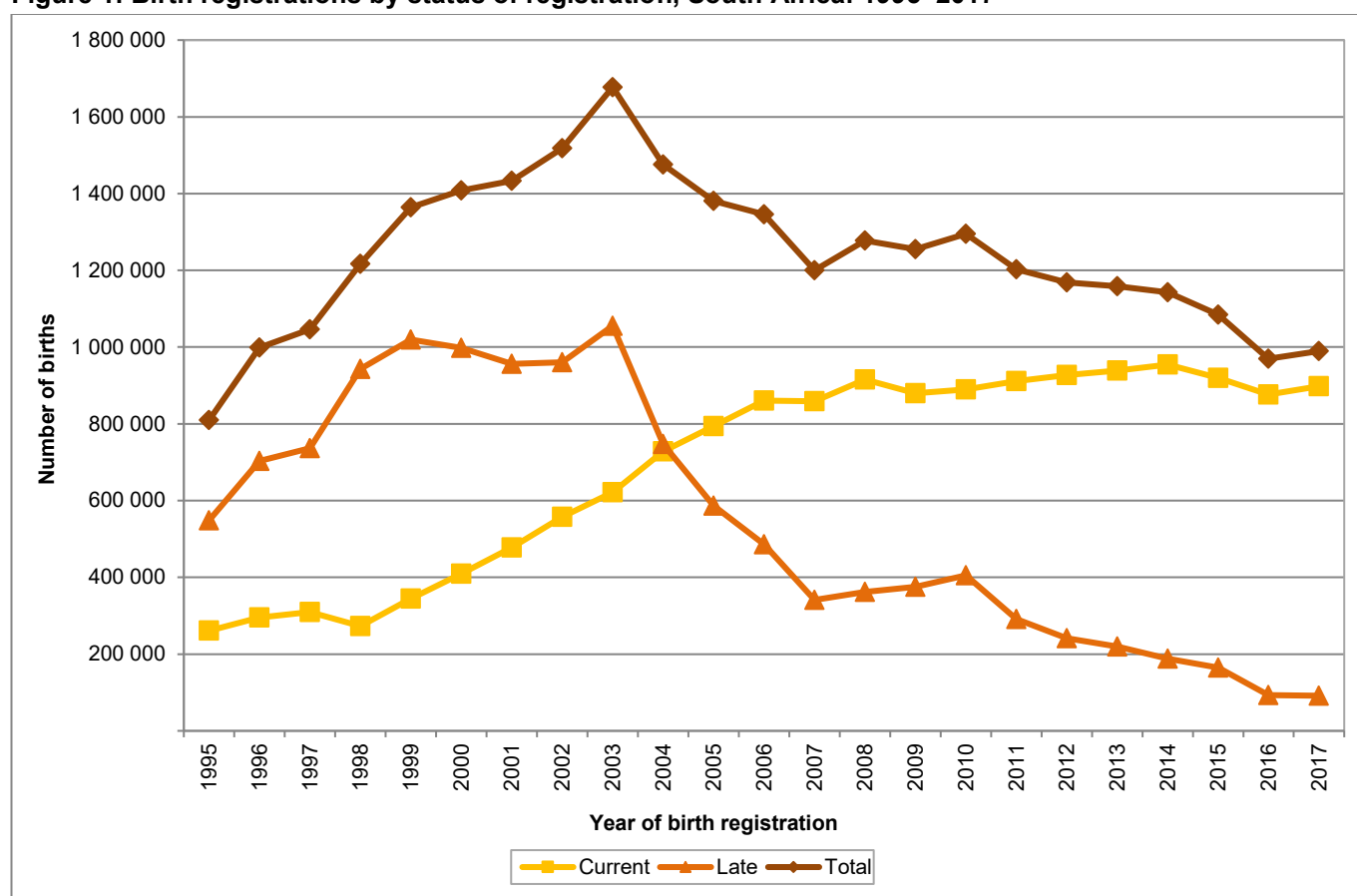
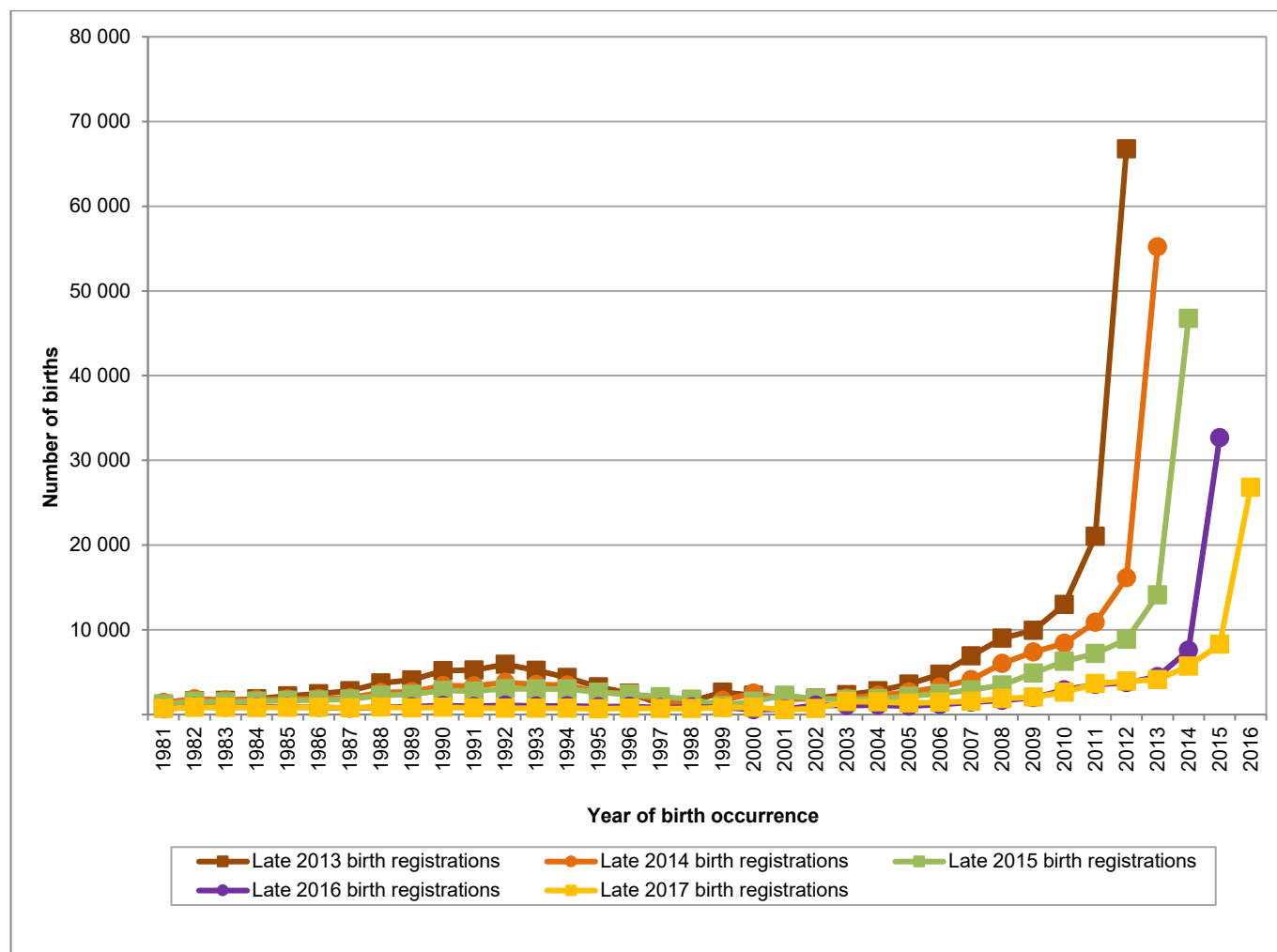


Figure 2 on page 12 presents the overall number of late birth registrations registered between 2013 and 2017 for births that occurred during the years 1981 to 2016. Overall, the figure shows that late birth registrations have gradually flattened over the years, suggesting that births registered later than 15 years of age are declining. This is also indicative of success of efforts by the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) to expedite birth registrations in line with the Births and Deaths Registration Amendment Act of 2010 and integrated efforts towards universal and early birth registration.

Notwithstanding the declining number of late birth registrations over the five-year period, for the years of observation late registrations were highest in the year preceding the year of reporting. For example since 2017 is the current year of reporting, most late registrations are from 2016 birth occurrences that were only registered in 2017. A total of 32 640 birth occurrences for 2016 were registered in 2017 and they accounted for 38,9% of the total (83 947) birth occurrences for the years 1981 to 2016 that were registered in 2017.

Figure 2: Late birth registrations by year of birth, South Africa: 1981–2017

3.2 Birth registrations by selected variables

Age of the mother

The notice of birth form (DHA-24) has a dedicated section for recording the details of the natural mother of the child and includes information such as date of birth which is used to calculate the age of the mother as at the time of giving birth. The form also makes provision for the inclusion of details about the biological father. However, as has been the case in the previous years, a high proportion of births did not contain information on fathers. In 2017, the percentage of births with no information on the natural father was 61,7%. Due to the high number of cases with missing father information, the age information reported in this section will only cover the mothers whose information is better reported.

The number and percentage distribution of registered births by age of the mother and status of registration for 2017 is depicted in Table 5 on page 13. The table shows that the age group 25–29 years accounted for the highest number of total birth registrations, followed by 20–24 years and 30–34 years. The lowest number of births occurred for the 50–54 year and 10–14 year age groups.

In terms of the status of birth registration, 93% of the births for mothers aged 15–49 years were registered in the year they occurred compared to less than 50% for mothers aged 50–54 years (45,6%) and 10–14 years (39,9%). Mothers aged 30–34 years had the highest proportion (95,5%) of births registered within the year of occurrence, closely followed by 25–29 years (95,1%) and those in the ages 35–39 years (94,7%). The high proportion of births registered later than the year of occurrence were observed for age groups 10–14 years and 50–54 years is also observed in the unspecified or age category outside 10–54 years. For this age group about 72% of the births were registered

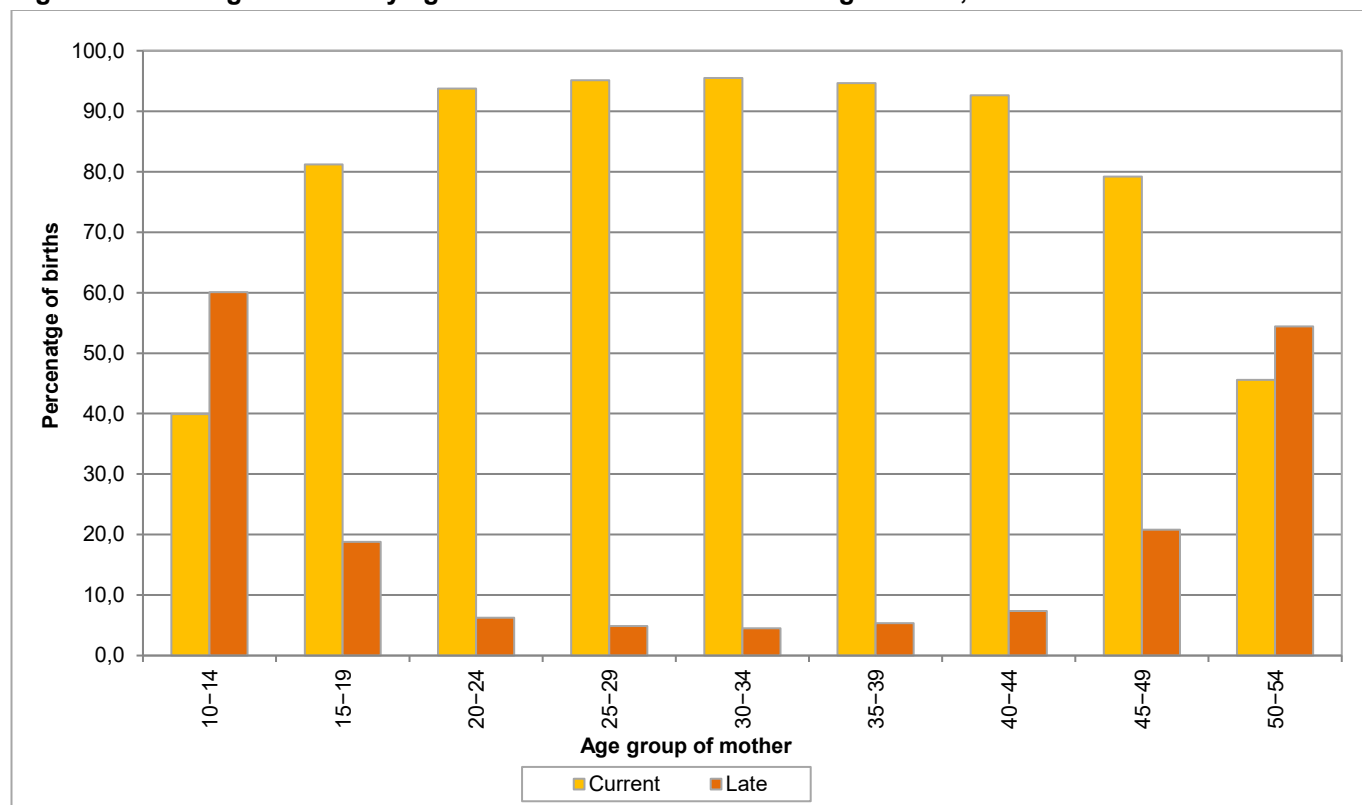
later than the year of occurrence. It is possible that those registering these births might not be the biological parents of the children and hence the late registrations.

Table 5: Birth registrations by age of the mother and status of registration, South Africa: 2017

Age of mother	Number of birth registrations			Percentage		
	Total	Current	Late	Total	Current	Late
10-14	3 261	1 302	1 959	100,0	39,9	60,1
15-19	119 645	97 143	22 502	100,0	81,2	18,8
20-24	244 190	228 936	15 254	100,0	93,8	6,2
25-29	247 507	235 466	12 041	100,0	95,1	4,9
30-34	200 490	191 418	9 072	100,0	95,5	4,5
35-39	108 362	102 565	5 797	100,0	94,7	5,3
40-44	32 737	30 318	2 419	100,0	92,6	7,4
45-49	2 679	2 122	557	100,0	79,2	20,8
50-54	340	155	185	100,0	45,6	54,4
Unspecified/outside the 10-54 age range	30 107	8 325	21 782	100,0	27,7	72,3
Total	989 318	897 750	91 568	100,0	90,7	9,3

Figure 3 shows the proportion of birth registrations by registration status and age of the mother. The figure shows that more than half of the births were registered within the year of birth occurrence for mothers aged 15-19 years up to 45-49 years. Births to mothers aged 10-14 years and 50-54 years were predominantly (over 50%) characterised by late birth registrations.

Figure 3: Birth registrations by age of the mother and status of registration, South Africa: 2017*



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

Province of birth registration

The DHA provides information on the office where the birth was registered and Stats SA uses this information to create district municipality and province of birth registration. In this sub-section, focus is placed on province of birth registration, district municipality of registration and registration status. For this release, district municipalities and provinces are classified based on 2016 municipal boundaries. It must be noted that births that occurred outside of the country, and where at least one parent was a South African citizen at the time of the child's birth were classified into the province and district municipality of birth registration.

Figure 4A on page 16, presents the numbers of births registered in 2017 by province of birth registration and registration status using four categories:

- i. 0–30 days: registered within the time stipulated by law (classified as current registrations)
- ii. 31–364: registered after a month but within a year (classified as current registrations)
- iii. 1–14 years: registered between one year and 14 years (classified as late registrations)
- iv. 15 years and above: registered from 15 years (classified as late registrations)

For persons 15 years and older, the majority of registrations are allocated to the City of Tshwane metropolitan municipality in Gauteng province, which is where late registrations from 15 years and above are centralised for processing.

The figure shows that in 2017 the most populous provinces had the highest number of total birth registrations, Gauteng (239 457) and KwaZulu-Natal (197 913). The lowest number of birth registrations were observed in Northern Cape (24 395) and Free State (50 130) which is also in line with the population sizes of these provinces. For all provinces births registered within 30 days were higher than birth registered from after one month but still within a year of birth occurrence. The highest number of births registered within 30 days were registered in Gauteng (177 612) followed by KwaZulu-Natal (130 936) and Limpopo (101 744). Births for those aged one to 14 years were mostly registered in KwaZulu-Natal (54 847) and Gauteng (27 683). As aforementioned due to the centralisation of registrations for persons 15 years and above, Gauteng (24 421) had the highest number of birth registration in this age category.

The total birth registrations by province and district municipality, year of birth occurrence and status of registration are shown in Appendix B1 on pages 33–34. Out of the total registrations in 2017, the highest number of births were registered in the City of Tshwane in Gauteng (91 803), City of Cape Town in Western Cape (66 367), City of Johannesburg (61 989) in Gauteng, Ekurhuleni in Gauteng (61 522) and eThekweni in KwaZulu-Natal (61 413) which are all metropolitan district municipalities. The top three lowest birth registrations were in Central Karoo in Western Cape (1 201), Namakwa in Northern Cape (1 592) and Xhariep in Free State (1 706). Of the 989 318 total births registered in 2017, 897 750 were current birth registrations and 91 568 were late birth registrations.

The top five district municipalities for total birth registrations also had the highest number of current birth registrations but the ranking was different. City of Cape Town (63 800) had the highest number of current birth registrations, followed by City of Tshwane (62 923), City of Johannesburg (57 855) and eThekweni (55 992). The lowest current birth registrations were recorded in Central Karoo (1 156), Xhariep (1 361) and Namakwa (1 550).

The highest number of late registrations were registered in City of Tshwane (28 880), eThekweni (5 421), City of Johannesburg (4 134), City of Ekurhuleni (4 116) and O.R. Tambo (3061). The lowest number of late registrations were observed in Namakwa (42) and Central Karoo (45). These figures must be interpreted with caution as they can be a reflection of the population size in each of the municipalities and in the case of City of Tshwane the centralisation of late registrations for certain ages has implications for the number of late registrations observed in this metropolitan district.

Appendix B2 on pages 35–36 shows district level variations in registration status for 2017 birth registrations. Overall, 77,7% of the total birth registrations were registered within the 30 days mandated by law, 15,3% between one day and before one year, 4,6% from age one to 14 years and 2,5% of the registrations were for persons aged 15 years

and older. Variations by district municipality shows that the highest proportions of within 30 days birth registrations were Namakwa in Northern Cape (92,1%), John Taolo Gaetsewe in Northern Cape (91,4%), Mangaung in Free State (91,4%), Buffalo City in Eastern Cape (90,9%) and Frances Baard in Northern Cape (89,8%). The top five lowest district municipality in timely birth registration (within 30 days) comprised of four districts in KwaZulu-Natal [(iLembe (51,8%), uMzinyathi (56,6%), uThungulu (63,2%) and uMkhanyakude (63,7%)] and one district, the fifth lowest was City of Tshwane in Gauteng (61,1%) whose proportions are generally skewed by the centralisation of late registrations in the Pretoria head office. In total, 21 of the 52 districts had proportions lower than the national level (77,7%) of birth registrations within a month. These district municipalities were West Coast in Western Cape, Free State in Xhariep, City of Tshwane in Gauteng, two districts in Mpumalanga (Gert Sibande and Nkangala), five districts in Eastern Cape (Cacadu, Chris Hani, Joe Gqabi and O.R. Tambo) and all districts in KwaZulu-Natal. Efforts are needed to expedite early birth registration particularly in districts with proportions below the national percentage.

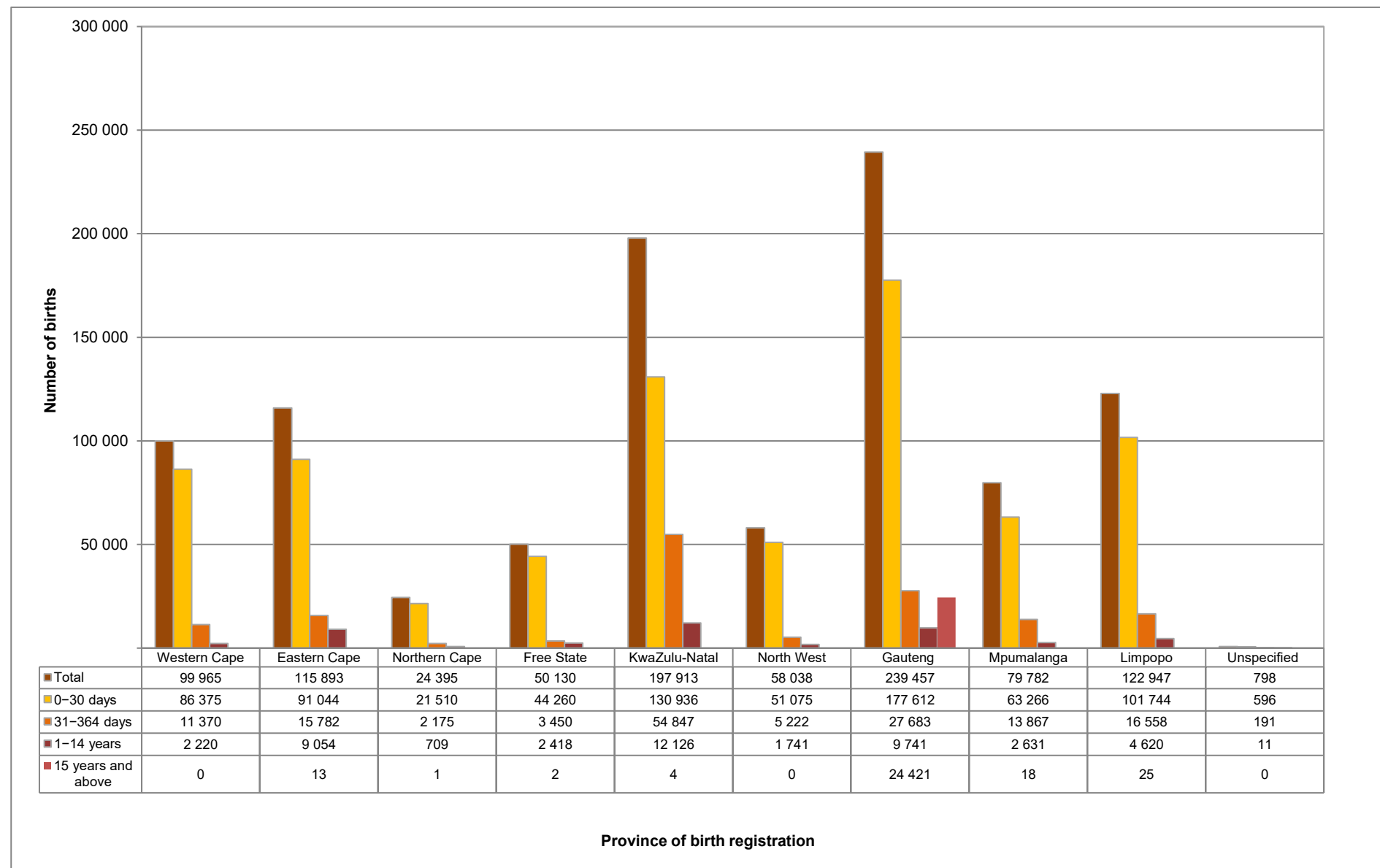
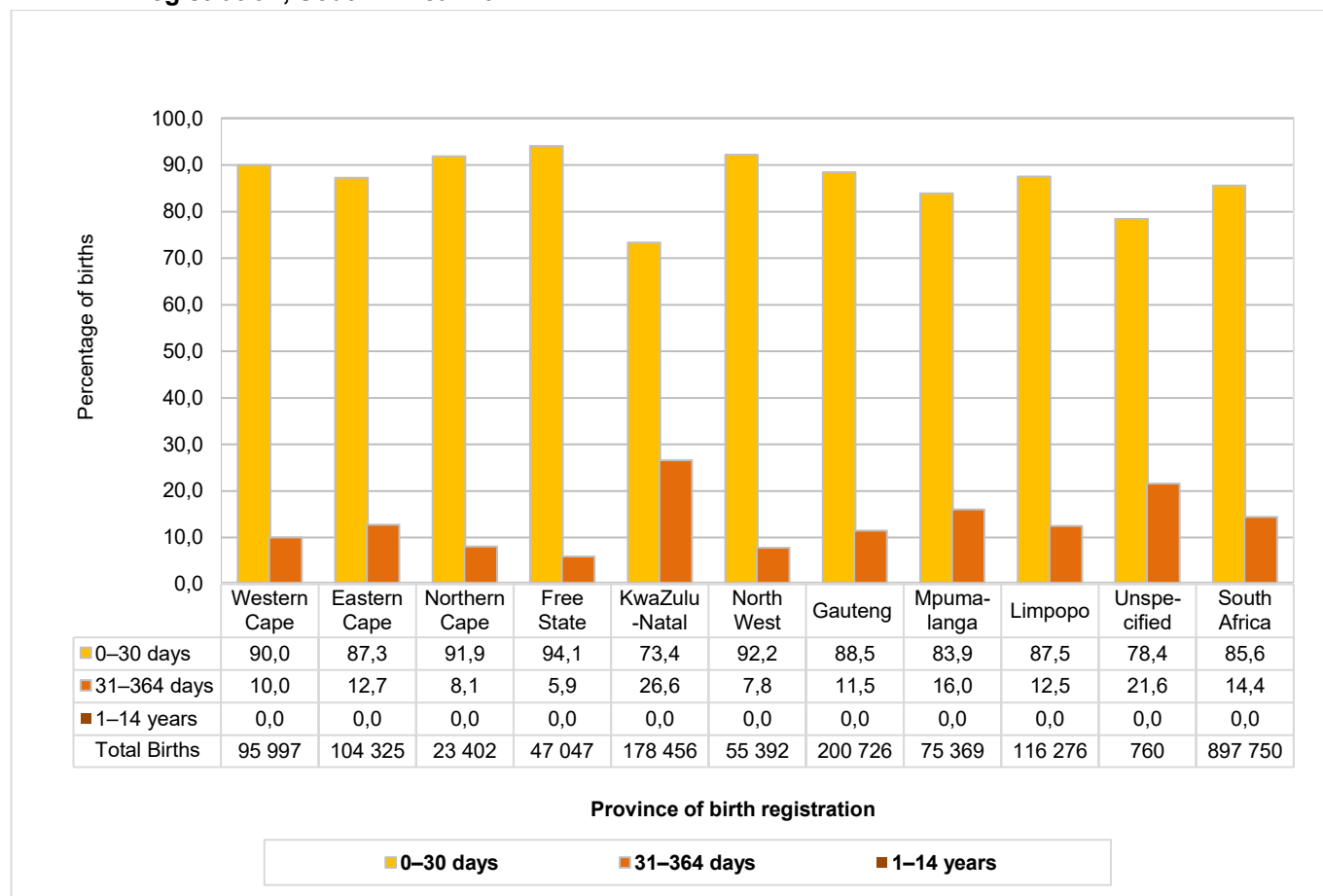
Figure 4A: Number distribution of birth registrations by province of birth registration and status of registration, South Africa: 2017

Figure 4B shows the percentage distribution of 897 750 registered birth occurrences for 2017 by province of birth registration and status of registration. The figure shows that Free State (94,1%) is at the forefront of birth registrations within 30 days of birth, followed by North West (92,2%) and Northern Cape (91,9%). The provinces with the lowest proportions were KwaZulu-Natal (73,4%), Mpumalanga (83,9%) and Eastern Cape (87,3%). KwaZulu-Natal was the only province lower than 75%. About 78,4% of births with no recorded province of registration information were for births registered within 30 days of birth occurrence.

Figure 4B: Percentage distribution of birth occurrences by province of birth registration and status of registration, South Africa: 2017



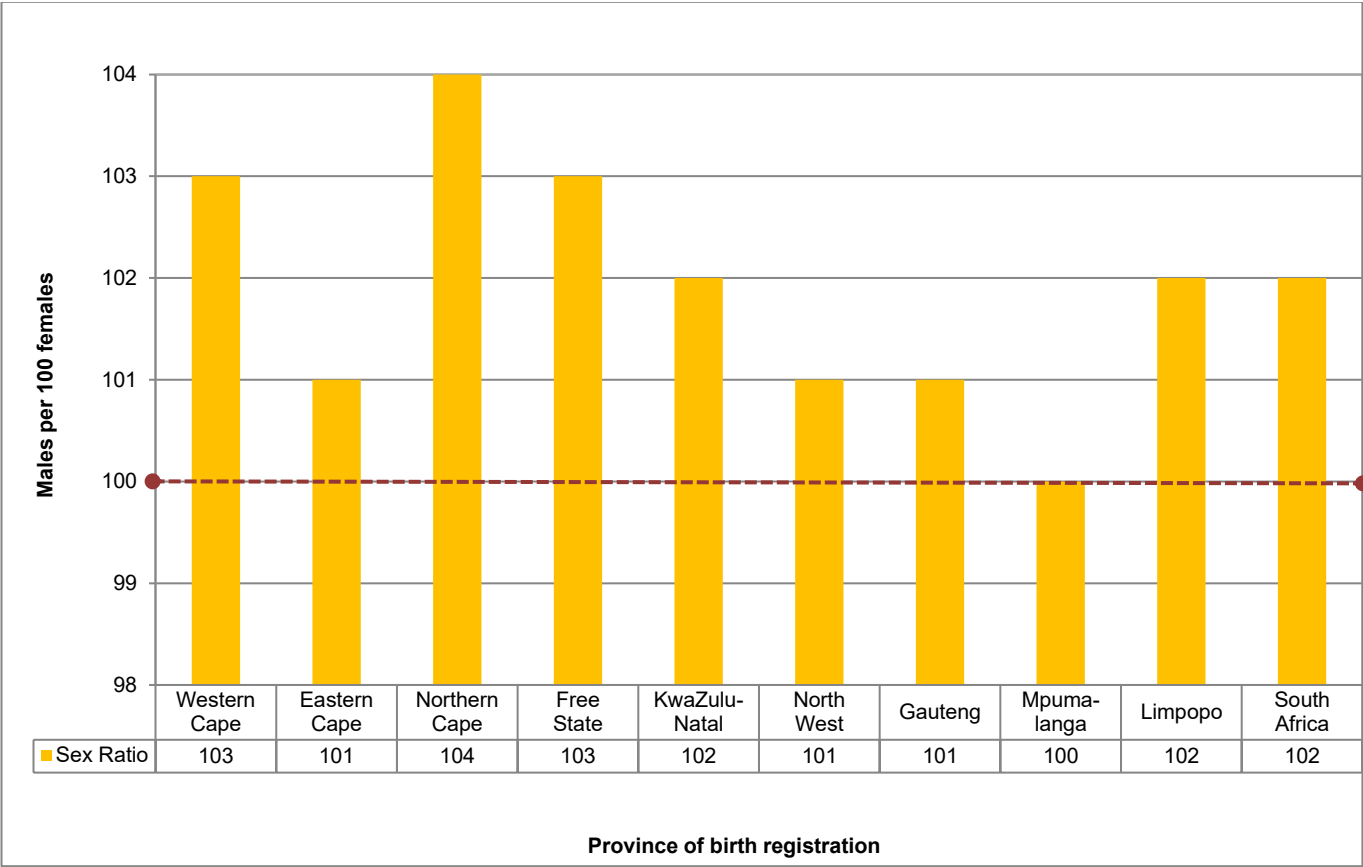
Sex of the child

Figure 5 on page 18 shows the sex ratios of 2017 birth occurrences by province of birth registration. The sex ratio of birth occurrences (the number of registered male birth occurrences per 100 registered female birth occurrences) is a demographic measure that indicates the relative number of male to female birth occurrences. A number more than 100 indicates more male than female birth registrations, a number equal to 100 indicates equal male and female birth registrations; and a number below 100 indicates more female than male birth registrations.

At the national level, proportionally more male births were registered than female births (102 male birth registrations per 100 female birth registrations). The results show that four provinces had sex ratios above the national average, two had sex ratios equivalent to the national average and four had sex ratios below the national average. Northern Cape had the highest sex ratio at registration with 104 male birth registrations per 100 female birth registrations. Free State and Western Cape tied with 103 male birth registrations per 100 female registrations. Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal both had a sex ratio of 102 male birth registrations per 100 female birth registrations. A sex ratio of 101 male birth registrations per 100 female birth registrations was observed in three provinces, namely; Eastern Cape, North West and Gauteng. Mpumalanga was the only province with a sex ratio of 100 (equal male and female birth registrations).

Appendix C on pages 38–39 provides additional information on total registrations by sex, status of registration, province and district municipality for the year 2017.

Figure 5: Sex ratios by province of birth registration, South Africa: 2017



*Sex ratios have been rounded off.

4. Birth occurrences

This section covers birth occurrences extracted from the National Population Register (NPR) on 30 July 2018 and birth occurrences based on year of birth data captured in the birth registration system up to 28 February 2018 (with 28 February being the cut-off date of processing phase by Stats SA). The latter information is received from the DHA in electronic format, while the former is received as a print-out from the same department. Year of birth occurrence refers to the year in which a birth actually occurred and was registered at the Department of Home Affairs (DHA). Each time a birth for any particular year is registered, the birth occurrences for that particular year are updated to include those that were registered late and it is for this reason that information on birth occurrences varies each time data are extracted from the Birth Register.

Table 6 presents total birth occurrences for the years 1995 to 2017 based on two reference periods, namely occurrences as at 28 February 2018 and with updated birth occurrences as at 30 July 2018. It is observed that by 29 February 2018 a total of 897 752 births that occurred in 2017 were registered and this number increased to 913 499 by 30 July 2018. This indicates that between 1 March 2018 and 30 July 2018, the national birth register was updated by 15 747 births that had occurred in 2017.

Since the national population register is continuously updated with late registrations, births for each year are expected to increase between the two time periods. Since 2004, the number of registered births exceeded a million, however for the three years (2015–2017) the number of registered births were less than one million with the lowest for the year 2017 at 897 750 as at 28 February 2018. In general, updated birth occurrences as per the last day of February for each observation period exceeded those from June/July of the same observation period.

Table 6: Birth occurrences by year of birth and reference period, South Africa: 1995–2017

Year of birth occurrence	Birth occurrences	Updated birth occurrences
	(as at 28 February 2018)	(as at 30 July 2018)
1995	934 304	958 253
1996	976 027	983 881
1997	966 645	967 897
1998	907 106	951 255
1999	937 708	967 076
2000	936 568	979 332
2001	930 842	962 057
2002	919 233	972 259
2003	927 596	967 374
2004	1 015 395	1 024 189
2005	1 061 836	1 065 792
2006	1 090 235	1 095 488
2007	1 077 116	1 082 189
2008	1 096 519	1 106 410
2009	1 033 756	1 055 065
2010	1 023 998	1 027 874
2011	1 032 064	1 035 976
2012	1 026 239	1 034 528
2013	1 016 926	1 019 005
2014	1 014 449	1 019 495
2015	960 561	966 162
2016	903 246	906 375
2017	897 750	913 499

4.1 Birth occurrences as at 28 February 2018

Table 7 on page 21, shows the number of births that occurred during the period 1995 to 2017 by year of birth and year of registration. All births that were registered within the year in which they occurred are in bold while those not in bold are late registrations, showing the year in which the births were eventually registered. The average number of birth occurrences increases each year due to the updating of the birth register with late registrations, as well as registrations for the current year.

For the 23-year period (1995 – 2018), birth occurrences have improved over time. This is evident especially in recent years. For example, 97% births which occurred in 2016 were already registered in 2017. This is far beyond the 1994 registrations where only 27.9% births which occurred in 1996 were registered in the same year. This clearly indicates that registration of births in South Africa has been improving since 1996 and even earlier. From 2001, birth registration has been above 50% and increased consistently, as evidenced by 95,7% of the 2015 births registered by 2017 and 97,0% births which occurred in 2016 already registered in 2017.

Table 7: Birth occurrences (as at end of February 2018) by year of birth occurrence and year of birth registration, South Africa: 1995–2017

Year of birth registration	Year of Birth Occurrence																						
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
1995	260 880																						
1996	89 566	295 719																					
1997	54 198	93 807	309 723																				
1998	59 942	70 261	105 766	273 180																			
1999	80 362	92 276	104 453	146 055	344 700																		
2000	78 122	92 269	102 179	114 781	178 516	409 707																	
2001	65 682	79 095	87 285	96 809	116 374	192 410	477 489																
2002	36 685	58 125	73 665	86 859	98 553	118 600	218 256	557 573															
2003	73 845	69 465	68 289	69 795	72 533	77 256	94 588	194 204	621 887														
2004	44 477	41 014	38 700	41 372	42 511	43 503	48 197	63 234	165 662	728 283													
2005	28 386	25 341	23 240	23 162	24 996	24 807	23 798	27 701	43 404	150 546	793 788												
2006	18 034	18 217	17 623	19 518	21 911	26 516	24 057	26 042	34 601	54 941	154 331	860 263											
2007	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										
2008	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									
2009	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								
2010	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							
2011	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						
2012	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					
2013	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				
2014	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			
2015	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		
2016	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	
2017	665	728	705	717	820	860	569	709	1 535	1 488	1 342	1 446	1 578	1 863	2 046	2 636	3 663	3 938	4 118	5 709	8 319	26 811	897 750
Total	934 304	976 027	966 645	907 106	937 708	936 568	930 842	919 233	927 596	1 015 395	1 061 836	1 090 235	1 077 116	1 096 519	1 033 756	1 023 998	1 032 064	1 026 239	1 016 926	1 014 449	960 561	903 246	897 750

4.2 Birth occurrences registered within 30 days from date of birth

The World Health Organization advocates for a functional civil registration that is up-to-date and reliable for evidence based decision making (World Health Organization [WHO], 2013). The South African Births and Deaths Act No. 18 of 2010 also includes a declaration about timely birth registration. It stipulates that a birth must be registered within 30 days from the date of occurrence (Republic of South Africa, 2010). Registration of a birth after 30 days is considered a late registrations and additional requirements apply. As a measure to enforce registration of a birth within 30 days, parents that register their children after the 30-day period, but within a period of a year, will be liable for a penalty fee.

Table 8 shows the distribution of births by month of birth occurrence and month of birth registration. This provides information on assessing and evaluating adherence progress towards the 30 days legislation. The table shows that a total of 768 418 births that occurred in 2017 were registered within 30 days from date of occurrence. Proportionally, 85,6% births which occurred in 2017 were registered within the 30-day period. This is a slight improvement from 83,6 % witnessed in 2016.

March had the highest number of births (68 751) that were registered within the 30-day time frame followed by the month of September (67 472) then May (65 966). However, this does not necessarily mean that parents whose babies' births occurred in March and September were more compliant to the 30 days legislation as there were also more birth occurrences in March and September compared to other months.

Table 8: Number of births registered within 30 days of occurrence by month of birth occurrence and month of birth registration, South Africa: 2017

Month of birth registration	Month of birth occurrence												
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
January	42 579												42 579
February	21 119	40 350											61 469
March	83	20 272	50 506										70 861
April			18 245	37 670									55 915
May				26 061	46 406								72 467
June					19 560	43 882							63 442
July						20 920	43 754						64 674
August							20 711	45 718					66 429
September								19 617	44 091				63 708
October									23 381	43 339			66 720
November										18 164	43 289		61 453
December											16 783	37 292	54 075
January												24 626	24 626
Total	63 781	60 622	68 751	63 731	65 966	64 802	64 465	65 335	67 472	61 503	60 072	61 918	768 418

Age of the mother for births occurring in 2017

Form BI-24 makes provision for the inclusion of the mother's details making it possible to derive the mother's age at birth of her child. The age of the mother is a useful variable for the study of fertility and its differentials. Maternal age is also important for developing maternal and child health policies and planning for the provision of health care services. The distribution of births occurring in 2017 by age of the mother is presented in Table 9 below. Women aged 25–29 had the highest percentage of births (26,2%) closely followed by those aged 20–24 (25,5%), and those aged 30–34 (21,3%). After the age 30 years, the number of births decrease with an increase in age and this is expected as fecundity decreases as women grow older.

Appendix D on page 40 provides additional information for the number of births by age of mother for the past five years (2013–2017), updated for late registrations up to 28 February 2018 while information on birth occurrences for 2017 by age of mother and province of birth registration is presented in Appendix E (see page 40).

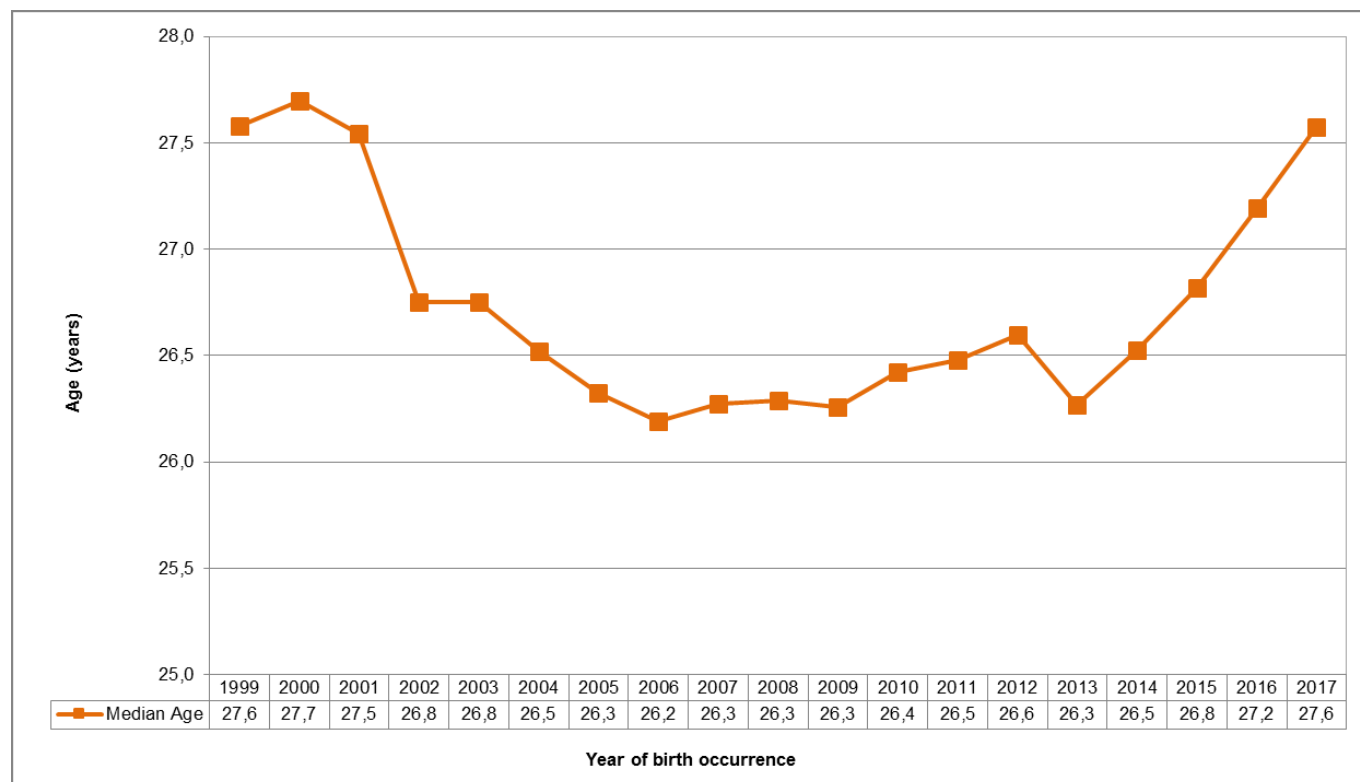
Table 9: Number and percentage of births by age of mother, South Africa: 2017

Age of mother	Number of birth occurrences	Percentage
10–14	1 302	0,1
15–19	97 143	10,8
20–24	228 936	25,5
25–29	235 466	26,2
30–34	191 418	21,3
35–39	102 565	11,4
40–44	30 318	3,4
45–49	2 122	0,2
50–54	155	0,0
Unspecified/outside the 15–54 age range	8 325	0,9
Total	897 750	100,0

Median age of mother from 1999 to 2017

The median age of mothers in any given year refers to the separation of mothers into two equal groups where one group is younger than the median age and the other group is older. A higher median age indicates that, on average, childbearing occurs at older ages and vice versa for a lower median age. Figure 6 shows the median ages of mothers for births occurring between 1999 and 2017 (updated with late registrations). The figure shows that on average the median ages of mothers for the years 1999 to 2017 ranged from 26 to 28 years.

The median age decreased consistently from 27,7 years (2000) to 26,8 years in 2002 and remained at 26,8 years in 2003. Thereafter it continued to decrease to 26,2 years in 2006. The highest median age was 27,7 years observed in 2000 and lowest was 26,2 years observed in 2006. The median age of mothers for all births registered in 2017 was 27,6 years. This is slightly higher than the median age observed in 2016 which was 27,2 years. The pattern observed between 2013 to 2017 shows a steady increase in median ages at birth for the mothers from 26,3 years in 2013 to a high of 27,6 years in 2017.

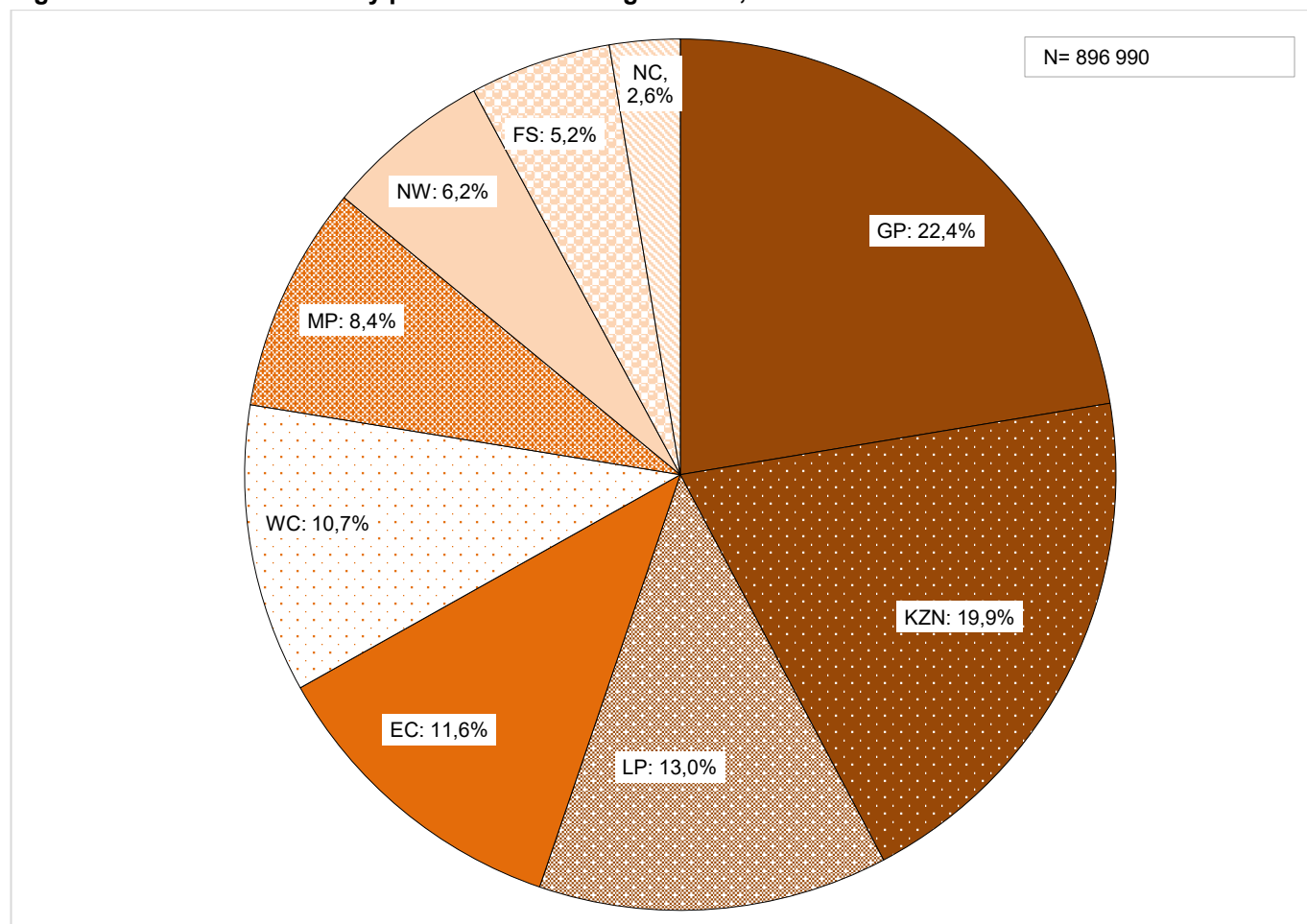
Figure 6: Median age of the mother by year of birth, South Africa: 1999–2017

Provincial distribution of births 2017

Figure 7 on page 25 shows the distribution of births that occurred in 2017 by province of birth registration. The information excludes births where the province of birth registration was not specified. The highest proportion of births were registered in Gauteng (22,4%) followed closely by KwaZulu-Natal (19,9%). The lowest proportions of births were registered in Northern Cape (2,6%) and Free State (5,2%). The patterns are similar to those recorded for 2016.

Appendix E on page 40 presents further information on birth registration by province and age of mother. Information on Appendix E shows that in 2017, there were 1 302 teenage mothers, almost half being from Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal combined. The age category with highest the births per province was Gauteng with 56 137 births for age group 25–29 years followed by KwaZulu-Natal with 50 807 births for age group 20–24 years.

Additional information on the distribution of birth registration by province and district municipality of birth registration is provided in Appendix F (see page 41). The period covered for analysis is 2013–2017. Birth registrations were highest in Gauteng for all the years in this period and were lowest for all the years for Northern Cape. In the five year period, the highest number of birth registrations were at metropolitan municipalities. Both registrations were highest for City of Tshwane in 2013, City of Johannesburg in 2014 and 2015 while the highest births were registered in the City of Cape Town for the years 2016 and 2017.

Figure 7: Birth occurrences by province of birth registration, South Africa: 2017

* Excluding births with unspecified province of birth registration.

4.3 Birth occurrences as at 30 July 2018

This sub-section provides birth occurrences by sex and year of birth as indicated in the national birth register as at 30 July 2018. Table 10 on page 26 shows that a total of about 24 million births that occurred between 1995 and 2017 were registered in the national birth register. On average, over the 24-year period there was a total of 964 018 births per year. The number of birth occurrences ranged between a low of 906 375 to a high of 1 106 410, with the lowest number occurring in 2016 and the highest in 2008. It should be noted that since the figures from the population register vary each time data are extracted, the number of birth occurrences for the various years would change when data are extracted at a later date.

Sex of the child

The overall number of birth occurrences by year of birth, sex and citizenship from the year 1995–2017 is provided in Table 10. Sex ratio at birth refers to the number of boys born alive per 100 girls born alive. Generally, there were slightly more male births than female births between 1995 and 2017. Sex ratios were between 100 and 102 male births per 100 female births during these entire observation periods.

Table 10: Birth occurrences (as at 30 July 2018) by sex and year of birth, South Africa: 1995–2017

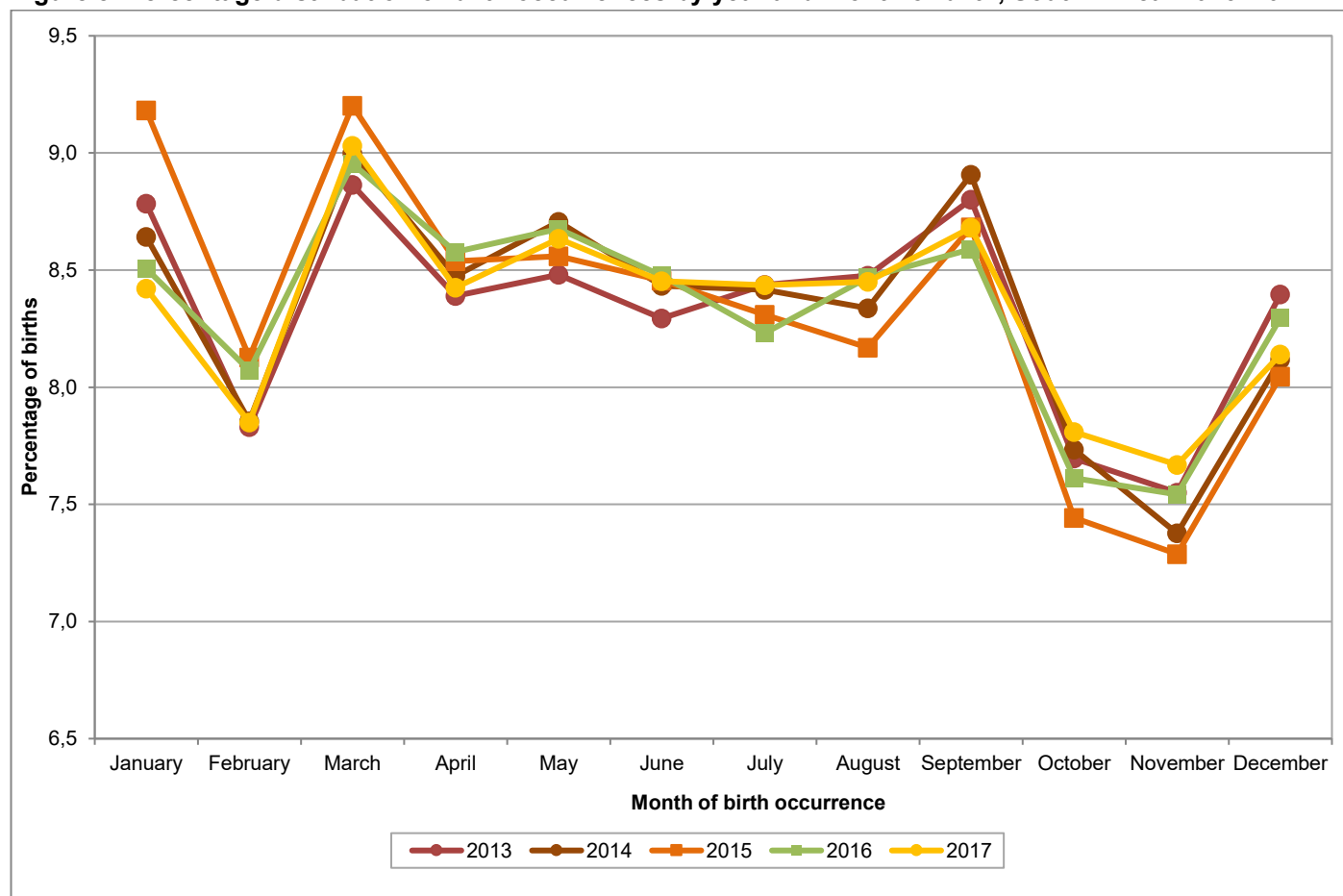
Year	Total	Male	Female	Sex ratio
1995	958 253	480 463	477 790	101
1996	983 881	493 489	490 392	101
1997	967 897	484 549	483 348	100
1998	951 255	475 933	475 322	100
1999	967 076	483 907	483 169	100
2000	979 332	490 532	488 800	100
2001	962 057	481 844	480 213	100
2002	972 259	486 811	485 448	100
2003	967 374	485 794	481 580	101
2004	1 024 189	514 720	509 469	101
2005	1 065 792	536 115	529 677	101
2006	1 095 488	550 172	545 316	101
2007	1 082 189	544 753	537 436	101
2008	1 106 410	556 505	549 905	101
2009	1 055 065	531 159	523 906	101
2010	1 027 874	518 604	509 270	102
2011	1 035 976	522 533	513 443	102
2012	1 034 528	521 860	512 668	102
2013	1 019 005	514 256	504 749	102
2014	1 019 495	514 357	505 138	102
2015	966 162	486 875	479 287	102
2016	906 375	457 770	448 605	102
2017	913 499	460 774	452 725	102
Total	24 049 922	12 089 706	11 960 216	101

Month of birth as at 30 July 2018

Figure 8 shows the percentage distribution of birth occurrences by year of birth occurrence (2013–2017) and month of birth updated as at 02 July 2018. It is observed that the pattern of birth occurrences by month and year of birth was largely similar over the five years. The highest proportions of births occurred during the month of March for all the years except in 2015, where both March and January had the highest percentages (both at 9,2%), while November had the lowest percentage of birth occurrences for all five years.

Appendices G–G7 on pages 43–50 present detailed information on birth occurrences from 1993 to 2017 by month of birth and sex.

Figure 8: Percentage distribution of birth occurrences by year and month of birth, South Africa: 2013–2017



4.4 Baby forenames and surnames in South Africa, 2017

Every child born has a right to a name from birth according to section 28 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act No. 108 of 1996), (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 one of the most distinctive markers of individuality and are a prerequisite for the issuing of a birth certificate (Republic of South Africa, 1992). In South Africa, just as with most of the African countries, traditional African names often have unique stories behind them. From the day or time a baby is born to the circumstances surrounding the birth, several factors influence the names parents choose for their children (Vivian de Klerk & Barbara Bosch, 1996). Whichever ethnic group you look at, these local names reveal a wealth of information about the bearer.

Table 11 shows the distribution of the top ten baby first names, middle names and surnames in South Africa for the year 2017. The previous releases looked at baby names irrespective of whether the name was a first or middle name. For this statistical release, the table looked at both first and middle names. The table shows that the most popular first for males was Enzokuhle followed by Lethabo then Melokuhle. For middle names Junior, followed by Blessing and Gift were the most common. Amongst females, the first three most common first names were Enzokuhle, Melokuhle then Amahle while for middle names, it was Precious, Princess and Angel, in that order. Enzokuhle, Melokuhle and Amogelang were in the top five for both sexes. All the top ten first names for both sexes were of native languages. The most popular middle names in 2017 are generally expressions of pride, joy, thankfulness and appear to be religiously influenced for example, Precious, meaning affectingly concerned with elegant or refined behaviour.

Dlamini was the most common surname for both sexes followed by Nkosi and Ndlovu. All the top ten baby surnames were generally the Nguni clans with the exception of Mokoena which ranked sixth.

Detailed provincial information on the top ten baby first names and surnames is presented on Appendix H on page 55–53 by province of birth registration. The distribution of male first names show that Enzokuhle was the most common baby first name amongst male babies in Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal while it came fourth amongst male babies in Western Cape. Amogelang and Amohelang were the most common male baby names in Limpopo and Free State respectively. Amogelang was the second most common first name amongst male babies born in the North West province. Blessing was the most common male baby name in Mpumalanga while it was Lethabo for North West and Northern Cape. Junior was the most common second name in seven of the nine provinces with the exceptions being KwaZulu-Natal where it was Lubanzi and Mpumalanga where it was Blessing.

Amongst female baby first names, Lethabo was the most common first names for babies born in Gauteng and Limpopo, Amogelang in North West, Amohelang in Free State, Enzokuhle in KwaZulu-Natal, Mia in Western Cape, Iminathi in Eastern Cape, Melokuhle in Mpumalanga and Reatlegile in Northern Cape. Lethabo and Amohelang were the most common baby names in 2017 for both sexes.

In terms of baby surnames, Jacobs was the most common baby surname both in both Eastern Cape and Western Cape while it was Nkosi for both Gauteng and Mpumalanga. For the other provinces, Van Wyk was the most common baby surname in Northern Cape, Baloyi in Limpopo, Mokoena in Free State, Dlamini in KwaZulu-Natal and Molefe in the North West province.

Table 11: Number distribution of top ten baby forenames and surnames, South Africa: 2017

Rank	Male				Female				Both sexes	
	First name	Number	Middle name	Number	First name	Number	Middle name	Number	Surname	Number
1	Enzokuhle	2 832	Junior	9 196	Enzokuhle	2 587	Precious	5 355	Dlamini	6 243
2	Lethabo	2 824	Blessing	4 694	Melokuhle	2 456	Princess	3 925	Nkosi	5 735
3	Melokuhle	2 487	Gift	3 735	Amahle	2 260	Angel	3 351	Ndlovu	5 573
4	Lubanzi	2 293	Prince	2 941	Lethabo	2 243	Blessing	2 631	Khumalo	5 263
5	Amogelang	2 164	Innocent	1 763	Amogelang	2 089	Faith	2 259	Sithole	4 440
6	Siyabonga	2 147	Lubanzi	1 353	Omphile	2 078	Hope	2 215	Mokoena	3 871
7	Bandile	1 976	Bandile	1 277	Lesedi	2 059	Grace	1 456	Mkhize	3 681
8	Junior	1 969	Enzokuhle	1 173	Rethabile	2 045	Pretty	1 361	Mahlangu	3 354
9	Bokamoso	1 877	Melokuhle	1 155	Luthando	1 919	Amahle	1 311	Ngcobo	3 310
10	Mpho	1 818	Siyabonga	1 147	Thandolwethu	1 784	Luthando	1 278	Mthembu	3 289

5. Concluding remarks

Birth registration systems are not only a source of legal documentation and empowerment for individuals, but also generate crucial statistical evidence for economic, social and health decision-making. Birth statistics provide the foundation for policy and programme development and implementation, and a platform for the delivery of social protection services to the population. The statistics also bolster the capacity of national, district and local municipality administrative levels to deliver services by helping to identify what interventions are needed in the country and by whom, as well as contribute to efforts to promote equality, equity and inclusive sustainable development.

This statistical release provided information on birth occurrences and registrations for births that occurred in 2017 and were registered at the Department of Home Affairs (DHA). This release also outlined emerging patterns and trends in the occurrence and registration of births spanning a 23-year period (1995–2017). A total of 989 318 births were registered in 2017. Current births, which occurred in 2017 accounted for 90,7% of the total birth registrations while late birth registrations which are the births for 2016 and earlier years accounted for 9,3% of the total births registered in 2017. The total birth registrations for 2017 increased by 2,1% from the 969 415 total birth registrations observed for 2016. Over the 23-year period the pattern of birth registrations was characterised by higher late registrations than current registrations between 1995 and 2004. However, since 1999 late birth registrations decreased consistently from 74,7% to 50,7% in 2004. From 2005 onwards, a reverse pattern was observed when most birth registrations were registered during the year of birth occurrence rather than later. In 2005, 57,5% of total births were current births and this proportion increased markedly, reaching a high of 90,7% in 2017.

The provincial distribution of births for 2017 shows that Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal had the highest proportions of births registered with the lowest proportions observed in Free State and Northern Cape. In 2017, timely registration of births was noted, as the majority of births (77,7%) were registered within the 30 days stipulated by the legislative framework. District variations indicated that Namakwa (92,1%), John Taolo Gaetsewe (91,4%) and Mangaung (91,4%) had the highest proportions of births registered in line with the legislation timeframe. The top three districts demonstrating low levels of timely or law compliant birth registrations were: iLembe (51,8%), uMzinyathi (56,6%) and uThungulu (63,2%) – all in KwaZulu-Natal province.

An analysis of births by age of the mother indicated that age group 25–29 years accounted for the highest number of total birth registrations, followed by 20–24 years and 30–34 years. Mothers aged 30–34 years had the highest proportion (95,5%) of births registered within the year of occurrence, closely followed by 25–29 years (95,1%) and 35–39 (94,7%). At the national level, proportionally more male births were registered than female births (102 male birth registrations per 100 female birth registrations).

Overall, in 2017, the highest birth occurrences were observed in March, May and September indicating conception during the months of June, August and December. In 2017, the first names appeared to be grounded in the ethnic group and native language of the babies' parents while both first and middle names expressed feelings of joy, pride and thankfulness. The most popular first name for males wereENZOKUHLE, LETHABO and MELOKUHLE while for females the top three popular first names wereENZOKUHLE, MELOKUHLE and AMAHLE. In general, the first names indicated unisex naming of babies. In terms of middle names for males the most common were Junior, Blessing and Gift whereas Precious, Princess and Angel were the most common for females. At the national level Dlamini was the most popular surname for both sexes followed by Nkosi and Ndlovu. Differentials by province indicated that Jacobs was the most common baby surname both in both Eastern Cape and Western Cape, Nkosi in both Gauteng and Mpumalanga, Van Wyk in Northern Cape, Baloyi in Limpopo, Mokoena in Free State, Dlamini in KwaZulu-Natal and Molefe in the North West.

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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
<div> <div>Initials and surname</div> <div>Signature</div> </div>		Place			
Relationship to the child:	<input type="checkbox"/> Father (Parent A)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother (Parent B)	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal guardian	<input type="checkbox"/> 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
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M	M
---	---

D	D
---	---

I hereby declare that I have verified the application and registration

Initials and surname

Signature

Identity number

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Persal number

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Appendix B: Total birth registrations for 2017 by year of birth occurrence, province and district municipality*

Province and district municipality	Grand Total	2017 (current)	Late registrations					
			Total	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012 and below
Total	989 318	897 750	91 568	26 811	8 319	5 709	4 118	46 611
Western Cape								
Cape Winelands	13 826	13 354	472	207	66	53	40	106
Central Karoo	1 201	1 156	45	18	11	3	5	8
City of Cape Town	66 367	63 800	2 567	1 275	350	270	168	504
Eden	9 377	9 062	315	172	42	19	19	63
Overberg	4 079	3 855	224	66	35	29	26	68
West Coast	5 115	4 770	345	188	38	31	20	68
Total	99 965	95 997	3 968	1 926	542	405	278	817
Eastern Cape								
Alfred Nzo	20 883	18 230	2 653	729	295	244	201	1 184
Amathole	12 608	11 070	1 538	298	185	170	110	775
Buffalo City	18 236	17 468	768	242	125	77	41	283
Cacadu	5 920	5 340	580	234	57	45	46	198
Chris Hani	12 703	11 178	1 525	368	176	140	128	713
Joe Gqabi	2 806	2 475	331	95	34	28	34	140
Nelson Mandela Bay Metro	17 829	16 717	1 112	472	114	101	70	355
O.R.Tambo	24 908	21 847	3 061	772	403	286	206	1 394
Total	115 893	104 325	11 568	3 210	1 389	1 091	836	5 042
Northern Cape								
Frances Baard	9 293	8 957	336	120	51	33	25	107
John Taolo Gaetsewe	5 295	5 162	133	48	20	11	14	40
Namakwa	1 592	1 550	42	21	5	7	2	7
Pixley ka Seme	3 062	2 843	219	105	24	19	13	58
Siyanda	5 153	4 890	263	73	37	23	19	111
Total	24 395	23 402	993	367	137	93	73	323
Free State								
Fezile Dabi	7 974	7 353	621	188	79	60	41	253
Lejweleputswa	10 375	9 832	543	167	63	70	30	213
Mangaung	16 303	15 559	744	236	89	73	61	285
Thabo Mofutsanyane	13 772	12 942	830	218	97	71	52	392
Xhariep	1 706	1 361	345	53	28	18	21	225
Total	50 130	47 047	3 083	862	356	292	205	1 368

Appendix B: Total birth registrations for 2017 by year of birth occurrence, province and district municipality* (concluded)

Province and district municipality	Grand Total	2017 (current)	Late registrations					
			Total	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012 and below
Total	989 318	897 750	91 568	26 811	8 319	5 709	4 118	46 611
KwaZulu-Natal								
Amajuba	9 050	8 199	851	426	142	51	43	189
eThekweni	61 413	55 992	5 421	2 466	886	492	360	1 217
iLembe	10 402	9 170	1 232	626	164	107	71	264
Sisonke	9 005	8 371	634	291	71	55	32	185
Ugu	13 793	12 595	1 198	563	150	87	60	338
uMgungundlovu	15 744	14 523	1 221	539	127	93	55	407
uMkhanyakude	15 207	13 232	1 975	732	273	190	124	656
uMzinyathi	13 276	11 867	1 409	777	165	99	57	311
uThukela	12 718	11 441	1 277	599	166	110	78	324
uThungulu	19 110	16 894	2 216	1 070	293	184	133	536
Zululand	18 195	16 172	2 023	927	280	155	122	539
Total	197 913	178 456	19 457	9 016	2 717	1 623	1 135	4 966
North West								
Bojanala	19 330	18 421	909	304	142	73	63	327
Dr Kenneth Kaunda	12 979	12 291	688	253	81	46	49	259
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	9 683	9 182	501	234	54	47	28	138
Ngaka Modiri Molema	16 046	15 498	548	330	67	31	28	92
Total	58 038	55 392	2 646	1 121	344	197	168	816
Gauteng								
City of Johannesburg	61 989	57 855	4 134	1 606	402	300	199	1 627
City of Tshwane	91 803	62 923	28 880	1 882	501	336	246	25 915
Ekurhuleni	61 522	57 406	4 116	1 565	469	324	217	1 541
Sedibeng	16 198	14 835	1 363	361	104	100	66	732
West Rand	7 945	7 707	238	238				
Total	239 457	200 726	38 731	5 652	1 476	1 060	728	29 815
Mpumalanga								
Ehlanzeni	41 114	39 407	1 707	796	180	131	108	492
Gert Sibande	17 623	15 886	1 737	594	236	213	116	578
Nkangala	21 045	20 076	969	600	68	54	44	203
Total	79 782	75 369	4 413	1 990	484	398	268	1 273
Limpopo								
Capricorn	27 509	26 133	1 376	626	223	136	102	289
Greater Sekhukhune	27 073	25 747	1 326	510	184	114	95	423
Mopani	23 014	22 170	844	352	85	58	43	306
Vhembe	32 447	30 009	2 438	806	274	176	137	1 045
Waterberg	12 904	12 217	687	346	108	66	50	117
Total	122 947	116 276	6 671	2 640	874	550	427	2 180
Unknown	798	760	38	27	0	0	0	11

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

Appendix B1: Total birth registrations for 2017 by registration status, province and district municipality*

Province and District Municipality	Number of birth registrations					Percentages				
	Total	0–30 Days	31–364 Days*	1–14 Years	From Age 15	Total	0–30 Days	31–364 Days	1–14 Years	From Age 15
Total: South Africa	989 318	768 418	151 145	45 271	24 484	100,0	77,7	15,3	4,6	2,5
Western Cape										
Cape Winelands	13 826	11 956	1 574	296	0	100,0	86,5	11,4	2,1	0,0
Central Karoo	1 201	1 029	144	28	0	100,0	85,7	12,0	2,3	0,0
City of Cape Town	66 367	57 689	7 300	1 378	0	100,0	86,9	11,0	2,1	0,0
Eden	9 377	8 401	808	168	0	100,0	89,6	8,6	1,8	0,0
Overberg	4 079	3 580	330	169	0	100,0	87,8	8,1	4,1	0,0
West Coast	5 115	3 720	1 214	181	0	100,0	72,7	23,7	3,5	0,0
Total	99 965	86 375	11 370	2 220	0	100,0	86,4	11,4	2,2	0,0
Eastern Cape										
Alfred Nzo	20 883	15 462	3 340	2 081	0	100,0	74,0	16,0	10,0	0,0
Amathole	12 608	10 076	1 200	1 330	2	100,0	79,9	9,5	10,5	0,0
Buffalo City	18 236	16 568	1 085	579	4	100,0	90,9	5,9	3,2	0,0
Cacadu	5 920	4 193	1 326	401	0	100,0	70,8	22,4	6,8	0,0
Chris Hani	12 703	9 590	1 869	1 239	5	100,0	75,5	14,7	9,8	0,0
Joe Gqabi	2 806	1 981	566	259	0	100,0	70,6	20,2	9,2	0,0
Nelson Mandela Bay Metro	17 829	14 465	2 655	709	0	100,0	81,1	14,9	4,0	0,0
O.R.Tambo	24 908	18 709	3 741	2 456	2	100,0	75,1	15,0	9,9	0,0
Total	115 893	91 044	15 782	9 054	13	100,0	78,6	13,6	7,8	0,0
Northern Cape										
Frances Baard	9 293	8 345	697	251	0	100,0	89,8	7,5	2,7	0,0
John Taolo Gaetsewe	5 295	4 842	361	92	0	100,0	91,4	6,8	1,7	0,0
Namakwa	1 592	1 466	101	25	0	100,0	92,1	6,3	1,6	0,0
Pixley ka Seme	3 062	2 392	537	133	0	100,0	78,1	17,5	4,3	0,0
Siyanda	5 153	4 465	479	208	1	100,0	86,6	9,3	4,0	0,0
Total	24 395	21 510	2 175	709	1	100,0	88,2	8,9	2,9	0,0
Free State										
Fezile Dabi	7 974	6 959	529	485	1	100,0	87,3	6,6	6,1	0,0
Lejweleputswa	10 375	9 182	790	403	0	100,0	88,5	7,6	3,9	0,0
Mangaung	16 303	14 903	844	556	0	100,0	91,4	5,2	3,4	0,0
Thabo Mofutsanyane	13 772	12 048	1 060	664	0	100,0	87,5	7,7	4,8	0,0
Xhariep	1 706	1 168	227	310	1	100,0	68,5	13,3	18,2	0,1
Total	50 130	44 260	3 450	2 418	2	100,0	88,3	6,9	4,8	0,0

Appendix B1: Total birth registrations for 2017 by registration status, province and district municipality*...concluded

Province and District Municipality	Number of birth registrations					Percentages				
	Total	0–30 Days	31–364 Days	1–14 Years	From Age 15	Total	0–30 Days	31–364 Days	1–14 Years	From Age 15
Total: South Africa	989 318	768 418	151 145	45 271	24 484	100,0	77,7	15,3	4,6	2,5
KwaZulu-Natal										
Amajuba	9 050	6 295	2 224	529	2	100,0	69,6	24,6	5,8	0,0
Sisonke	9 005	6 697	1 923	385	0	100,0	74,4	21,4	4,3	0,0
Ugu	13 793	9 460	3 599	734	0	100,0	68,6	26,1	5,3	0,0
Zululand	18 195	11 634	5 277	1 284	0	100,0	63,9	29,0	7,1	0,0
eThekweni	61 413	42 373	15 699	3 340	1	100,0	69,0	25,6	5,4	0,0
iLembe	10 402	5 388	4 283	731	0	100,0	51,8	41,2	7,0	0,0
uMgungundlovu	15 744	11 175	3 808	761	0	100,0	71,0	24,2	4,8	0,0
uMkhanyakude	15 207	9 685	4 112	1 409	1	100,0	63,7	27,0	9,3	0,0
uMzinyathi	13 276	7 519	4 963	794	0	100,0	56,6	37,4	6,0	0,0
uThukela	12 718	8 623	3 291	804	0	100,0	67,8	25,9	6,3	0,0
uThungulu	19 110	12 087	5 668	1 355	0	100,0	63,2	29,7	7,1	0,0
Total	197 913	130 936	54 847	12 126	4	100,0	66,2	27,7	6,1	0,0
North West										
Bojanala	19 330	17 049	1 621	660	0	100,0	88,2	8,4	3,4	0,0
Dr Kenneth Kaunda	12 979	11 528	944	507	0	100,0	88,8	7,3	3,9	0,0
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	9 683	8 182	1 182	319	0	100,0	84,5	12,2	3,3	0,0
Ngaka Modiri Molema	16 046	14 316	1 475	255	0	100,0	89,2	9,2	1,6	0,0
Total	58 038	51 075	5 222	1 741	0	100,0	88,0	9,0	3,0	0,0
Gauteng										
City of Johannesburg	61 989	51 933	7 217	2 821	18	100,0	83,8	11,6	4,6	0,0
City of Tshwane	91 803	56 085	8 300	3 027	24 391	100,0	61,1	9,0	3,3	26,6
Ekurhuleni	61 522	49 471	9 210	2 831	10	100,0	80,4	15,0	4,6	0,0
Sedibeng	16 198	13 469	1 674	1 053	2	100,0	83,2	10,3	6,5	0,0
West Rand	7 945	6 654	1 282	9	0	100,0	83,8	16,1	0,1	0,0
Total	239 457	177 612	27 683	9 741	24 421	100,0	74,2	11,6	4,1	10,2
Mpumalanga										
Ehlanzeni	41 114	34 560	5 534	1 016	4	100,0	84,1	13,5	2,5	0,0
Gert Sibande	17 623	12 801	3 589	1 231	2	100,0	72,6	20,4	7,0	0,0
Nkangala	21 045	15 905	4 744	384	12	100,0	75,6	22,5	1,8	0,1
Total	79 782	63 266	13 867	2 631	18	100,0	79,3	17,4	3,3	0,0
Limpopo										
Capricorn	27 509	22 995	3 651	856	7	100,0	83,6	13,3	3,1	0,0
Greater Sekhukhune	27 073	23 323	2 799	951	0	100,0	86,1	10,3	3,5	0,0
Mopani	23 014	19 587	2 863	563	1	100,0	85,1	12,4	2,4	0,0
Vhembe	32 447	25 229	5 370	1 831	17	100,0	77,8	16,6	5,6	0,1
Waterberg	12 904	10 610	1 875	419	0	100,0	82,2	14,5	3,2	0,0
Total	122 947	101 744	16 558	4 620	25	100,0	82,8	13,5	3,8	0,0
Unknown	798	596	191	11	0	100,0	74,7	23,9	1,4	0,0
Total	989 318	768 418	151 145	45 271	24 484	100,0	77,7	15,3	4,6	2,5

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

Appendix C: Birth registrations by registration status, sex, province and district municipality, 2017*

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	989 318	500 916	488 402	897 750	452 686	445 064	67 084	33 765	33 319	24 484	14 465	10 019
Western Cape												
Cape Winelands	13 826	7 057	6 769	13 354	6 813	6 541	472	244	228	0	0	0
Central Karoo	1 201	589	612	1 156	565	591	45	24	21	0	0	0
City of Cape Town	66 367	33 649	32 718	63 800	32 334	31 466	2567	1315	1252	0	0	0
Eden	9 377	4 823	4 554	9 062	4 677	4 385	315	146	169	0	0	0
Overberg	4 079	2 098	1 981	3 855	1 983	1 872	224	115	109	0	0	0
West Coast	5 115	2 540	2 575	4 770	2 375	2 395	345	165	180	0	0	0
Total	99 965	50 756	49 209	95 997	48 747	47 250	3 968	2 009	1 959	0	0	0
Eastern Cape												
Alfred Nzo	20 883	10 530	10 353	18 230	9 196	9 034	2653	1334	1319	0	0	0
Amathole	12 608	6 343	6 265	11 070	5 588	5 482	1536	755	781	2	0	2
Buffalo City	18 236	9 108	9 128	17 468	8 748	8 720	764	358	406	4	2	2
Cacadu	5 920	3 030	2 890	5 340	2 723	2 617	580	307	273	0	0	0
Chris Hani	12 703	6 389	6 314	11 178	5 620	5 558	1520	764	756	5	5	0
Joe Gqabi	2 806	1 430	1 376	2 475	1 272	1 203	331	158	173	0	0	0
Nelson Mandela Bay Metro	17 829	8 933	8 896	16 717	8 362	8 355	1112	571	541	0	0	0
O.R.Tambo	24 908	12 511	12 397	21 847	10 989	10 858	3059	1521	1538	2	1	1
Total	115 893	58 274	57 619	104 325	52 498	51 827	11 555	5 768	5 787	13	8	5
Northern Cape												
Frances Baard	9 293	4 744	4 549	8 957	4 586	4 371	336	158	178	0	0	0
John Taolo Gaetsewe	5 295	2 701	2 594	5 162	2 631	2 531	133	70	63	0	0	0
Namakwa	1 592	807	785	1 550	783	767	42	24	18	0	0	0
Pixley ka Seme	3 062	1 556	1 506	2 843	1 445	1 398	219	111	108	0	0	0
Siyanda	5 153	2 615	2 538	4 890	2 500	2 390	262	114	148	1	1	0
Total	24 395	12 423	11 972	23 402	11 945	11 457	992	477	515	1	1	0
Free State												
Fezile Dabi	7 974	3 989	3 985	7 353	3 686	3 667	620	303	317	1	0	1
Lejweleputswa	10 375	5 263	5 112	9 832	4 981	4 851	543	282	261	0	0	0
Mangaung	16 303	8 301	8 002	15 559	7 915	7 644	744	386	358	0	0	0
Thabo Mofutsanyane	13 772	6 963	6 809	12 942	6 562	6 380	830	401	429	0	0	0
Xhariep	1 706	858	848	1 361	670	691	344	187	157	1	1	0
Total	50 130	25 374	24 756	47 047	23 814	23 233	3 081	1 559	1 522	2	1	1

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

Appendix C: Birth registrations by registration status, sex, province and district municipality, 2017* (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	989 318	500 916	488 402	897 750	452 686	445 064	67 084	33 765	33 319	24 484	14 465	10 019
KwaZulu-Natal												
Amajuba	9 050	4 671	4 379	8 199	4 221	3 978	849	450	399	2	0	2
Sisonke	9 005	4 563	4 442	8 371	4 247	4 124	634	316	318	0	0	0
Ugu	13 793	6 966	6 827	12 595	6 373	6 222	1 198	593	605	0	0	0
Zululand	18 195	9 195	9 000	16 172	8 136	8 036	2 023	1 059	964	0	0	0
eThekweni	61 413	30 917	30 496	55 992	28 195	27 797	5 420	2 722	2 698	1	0	1
iLembe	10 402	5 314	5 088	9 170	4 692	4 478	1 232	622	610	0	0	0
uMgungundlovu	15 744	7 796	7 948	14 523	7 195	7 328	1 221	601	620	0	0	0
uMkhanyakude	15 207	7 810	7 397	13 232	6 796	6 436	1 974	1 014	960	1	0	1
uMzinyathi	13 276	6 764	6 512	11 867	6 036	5 831	1 409	728	681	0	0	0
uThukela	12 718	6 506	6 212	11 441	5 841	5 600	1 277	665	612	0	0	0
uThungulu	19 110	9 694	9 416	16 894	8 540	8 354	2 216	1 154	1 062	0	0	0
Total	197 913	100 196	97 717	178 456	90 272	88 184	19 453	9 924	9 529	4	0	4
North West												
Bojanala	19 330	9 639	9 691	18 421	9 185	9 236	909	454	455	0	0	0
Dr Kenneth Kaunda	12 979	6 522	6 457	12 291	6 208	6 083	688	314	374	0	0	0
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	9 683	4 938	4 745	9 182	4 700	4 482	501	238	263	0	0	0
Ngaka Modiri Molema	16 046	8 038	8 008	15 498	7 775	7 723	548	263	285	0	0	0
Total	58 038	29 137	28 901	55 392	27 868	27 524	2 646	1 269	1 377	0	0	0
Gauteng												
City of Johannesburg	61 989	31 130	30 859	57 855	29 035	28 820	4 116	2 087	2 029	18	8	10
City of Tshwane	91 803	48 402	43 401	62 923	31 735	31 188	4 489	2 252	2 237	24 391	14 415	9 976
Ekurhuleni	61 522	30 772	30 750	57 406	28 638	28 768	4 106	2 127	1 979	10	7	3
Sedibeng	16 198	8 159	8 039	14 835	7 484	7 351	1 361	673	688	2	2	
West Rand	7 945	4 089	3 856	7 707	3 964	3 743	238	125	113	0	0	0
Total	239 457	122 552	116 905	200 726	100 856	99 870	14 310	7 264	7 046	24 421	14 432	9 989
Mpumalanga												
Ehlanzeni	41 114	20 611	20 503	39 407	19 751	19 656	1 703	858	845	4	2	2
Gert Sibande	17 623	8 751	8 872	15 886	7 873	8 013	1 735	877	858	2	1	1
Nkangala	21 045	10 496	10 549	20 076	10 041	10 035	957	446	511	12	9	3
Total	79 782	39 858	39 924	75 369	37 665	37 704	4 395	2 181	2 214	18	12	6
Limpopo												
Capricorn	27 509	13 933	13 576	26 133	13 243	12 890	1 369	687	682	7	3	4
Greater Sekhukhune	27 073	13 556	13 517	25 747	12 880	12 867	1 326	676	650	0	0	0
Mopani	23 014	11 553	11 461	22 170	11 154	11 016	843	399	444	1	0	1
Vhembe	32 447	16 338	16 109	30 009	15 135	14 874	2 421	1 195	1 226	17	8	9
Waterberg	12 904	6 546	6 358	12 217	6 205	6 012	687	341	346	0	0	0
Total	122 947	61 926	61 021	116 276	58 617	57 659	6 646	3 298	3 348	25	11	14
Unknown	798	420	378	760	404	356	38	16	22	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, 2013–2017*

Age of the mother	Year of birth occurrence				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
10–14	3 449	2 867	3 018	1 938	1 302
15–19	162 143	154 919	137 850	116 962	97 143
20–24	272 631	268 139	249 415	231 153	228 936
25–29	254 209	256 247	243 064	231 246	235 466
30–34	186 301	194 799	191 751	188 273	191 418
35–39	100 446	102 745	101 554	99 140	102 565
40–44	29 828	30 638	30 137	30 023	30 318
45–49	2 128	2 061	2 101	2 013	2 122
50–54	271	176	155	130	155
Unspecified/outside 10–54 age range	5 520	1 858	1 516	2 368	8 325
Total	1 016 926	1 014 449	960 561	903 246	897 750

* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 28 February 2018.

Appendix E: Birth occurrences by province of birth registration and age of the mother, 2017*

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	143	8 517	22 618	26 070	23 094	11 695	2 985	173	12	690	95 997
Eastern Cape	346	15 160	28 752	24 945	19 741	10 849	3 458	309	26	739	104 325
Northern Cape	29	3 031	6 243	5 962	4 565	2 628	699	49	7	189	23 402
Free State	28	4 376	12 162	13 235	9 771	5 236	1 476	100	4	659	47 047
KwaZulu-Natal	264	24 655	50 807	44 362	34 266	17 638	5 195	324	25	920	178 456
North West	42	5 590	14 609	14 714	11 269	6 595	1 915	144	13	501	55 392
Gauteng	141	13 301	42 999	56 137	50 461	26 645	7 456	462	20	3104	200 726
Mpumalanga	205	10 155	19 812	19 316	14 908	7 710	2 410	179	15	659	75 369
Limpopo	103	12 264	30 721	30 558	23 204	13 464	4 695	379	33	855	116 276
Unspecified	1	94	213	167	139	105	29	3	0	9	760
Total	1 302	97 143	228 936	235 466	191 418	102 565	30 318	2 122	155	8 325	897 750

* 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, 2013–2017*

Province and district municipality	Year of birth				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total - South Africa	1 022 579	1 030 554	1 026 849	1 035 149	897 750
Western Cape					
Cape Winelands	13 615	14 196	13 632	12 821	13 354
Central Karoo	1 296	1 271	1 299	1 152	1 156
City of Cape Town	64 095	67 741	66 300	62 814	63 800
Eden	10 380	9 659	9 118	8 630	9 062
Overberg	3 510	4 032	3 154	3 698	3 855
West Coast	5 812	5 825	5 828	5 325	4 770
Total	98 708	102 724	99 331	94 440	95 997
Eastern Cape					
Alfred Nzo	14 811	16 534	15 078	13 666	18 230
Amatole	12 012	12 529	11 387	10 208	11 070
Buffalo City	16 133	16 071	15 852	14 369	17 468
Cacadu	5 827	6 104	5 776	5 181	5 340
Chris Hani	14 084	13 492	12 264	11 277	11 178
Joe Gqabi	5 584	5 903	5 368	4 588	2 475
Nelson Mandela Bay Metro	19 510	18 675	17 084	16 884	16 717
O.R. Tambo	33 547	33 465	31 676	26 822	21 847
Total	121 508	122 773	114 485	102 995	104 325
Northern Cape					
Frances Baard	9 206	9 119	9 291	8 696	8 957
John Taolo Gaetsewe	6 047	6 101	5 842	5 307	5 162
Namakwa	1 763	1 630	1 709	1 515	1 550
Pixley ka Seme	3 329	3 350	3 079	2 874	2 843
Siyanda	4 835	5 152	4 994	4 709	4 890
Total	25 180	25 352	24 915	23 101	23 402
Free State					
Fezile Dabi	7 838	9 577	7 516	6 932	7 353
Lejweleputswa	11 387	9 860	10 529	9 496	9 832
Mangaung	15 936	16 922	16 057	15 719	15 559
Thabo Mofutsanyane	14 432	14 466	13 203	12 475	12 942
Xhariep	2 105	1 927	1 615	1 293	1 361
Total	51 698	52 752	48 920	45 915	47 047

* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 28 February 2018.

Appendix F: Birth occurrences by year of birth and province and district municipality of birth registration, 2013–2017 (concluded)*

Province and district municipality	Year of birth				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total - South Africa	1 022 579	1 030 554	1 026 849	1 035 149	897 750
KwaZulu-Natal					
Amajuba	9 042	9 319	8 942	8 587	8 199
eThekweni	8 762	10 757	11 206	11 395	55 992
iLembe	16 503	16 207	14 982	13 017	9 170
Sisonke	19 738	18 546	17 290	15 546	8 371
Ugu	69 887	67 314	59 803	55 672	12 595
uMgungundlovu	6 606	8 103	8 483	9 336	14 523
uMkhanyakude	17 598	16 928	16 613	14 590	13 232
uMzinyathi	17 098	16 176	14 262	14 434	11 867
uThukela	14 419	13 992	13 089	12 554	11 441
uThungulu	13 705	13 937	13 808	12 857	16 894
Zululand	22 459	22 472	20 126	17 613	16 172
Total	215 817	213 751	198 604	185 601	178 456
North West					
Bojanala	27 423	26 773	24 718	22 691	18 421
Dr Kenneth Kaunda	11 716	13 034	13 093	12 124	12 291
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	10 163	9 923	9 411	9 435	9 182
Ngaka Modiri Molema	10 361	10 111	10 155	10 947	15 498
Total	59 663	59 841	57 377	55 197	55 392
Gauteng					
City of Johannesburg	73 025	71 581	69 645	59 451	57 855
City of Tshwane	73 810	65 876	61 237	57 748	62 923
Ekurhuleni	52 337	56 711	54 467	55 393	57 406
Sedibeng	16 757	16 732	15 318	14 636	14 835
West Rand	9 977	10 156	9 829	13 794	7 707
Total	225 906	221 056	210 496	201 022	200 726
Mpumalanga					
Ehlanzeni	42 469	43 620	38 464	39 126	39 407
Gert Sibande	16 381	16 944	16 423	15 859	15 886
Nkangala	23 546	23 773	21 956	20 691	20 076
Total	82 396	84 337	76 843	75 676	75 369
Limpopo					
Capricorn	31 167	30 922	29 962	28 244	26 133
Greater Sekhukhune	25 106	23 670	23 180	23 121	25 747
Mopani	24 197	24 097	24 724	22 630	22 170
Vhembe	31 055	32 952	31 993	29 975	30 009
Waterberg	17 306	17 705	16 364	15 286	12 217
Total	128 831	129 346	126 223	119 256	116 276
Unspecified	7 219	2 517	3 367	43	760

* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 28 February 2018.

** Foreign births are reflected in the district of birth registration.

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

Year	Month	Male	Female	Total
1994	January	41 846	41 385	83 231
	February	37 892	37 492	75 384
	March	41 613	41 221	82 834
	April	42 183	42 240	84 423
	May	40 944	40 680	81 624
	June	42 558	42 611	85 169
	July	39 965	39 414	79 379
	August	41 735	41 534	83 269
	September	46 026	45 548	91 574
	October	40 238	39 810	80 048
	November	37 826	37 882	75 708
	December	43 105	42 743	85 848
	Total	495 931	492 560	988 491
1995	January	41 123	40 869	81 992
	February	36 122	35 859	71 981
	March	40 302	39 986	80 288
	April	38 384	38 492	76 876
	May	40 209	39 578	79 787
	June	41 582	41 025	82 607
	July	39 208	39 459	78 667
	August	40 953	40 398	81 351
	September	45 041	44 963	90 004
	October	38 964	39 242	78 206
	November	36 911	36 744	73 655
	December	41 664	41 175	82 839
	Total	480 463	477 790	958 253
1996	January	42 827	42 859	85 686
	February	37 902	37 477	75 379
	March	41 352	41 640	82 992
	April	40 135	39 506	79 641
	May	40 730	40 621	81 351
	June	43 007	42 510	85 517
	July	40 459	40 411	80 870
	August	41 845	41 512	83 357
	September	46 210	46 047	92 257
	October	39 749	39 007	78 756
	November	36 878	36 976	73 854
	December	42 395	41 826	84 221
	Total	493 489	490 392	983 881

* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 30 July 2018.

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

Year	Month	Male	Female	Total
1997	January	41 919	41 766	83 685
	February	37 312	37 238	74 550
	March	42 696	42 551	85 247
	April	39 838	40 117	79 955
	May	39 870	39 907	79 777
	June	40 976	41 298	82 274
	July	40 596	40 411	81 007
	August	40 676	40 861	81 537
	September	45 065	44 575	89 640
	October	38 721	38 161	76 882
	November	36 093	35 706	71 799
	December	40 787	40 757	81 544
	Total	484 549	483 348	967 897
1998	January	41 012	41 319	82 331
	February	37 254	37 178	74 432
	March	42 006	41 827	83 833
	April	38 997	39 526	78 523
	May	39 978	39 523	79 501
	June	40 405	40 297	80 702
	July	39 266	38 825	78 091
	August	39 742	40 133	79 875
	September	44 268	43 951	88 219
	October	38 087	37 985	76 072
	November	35 442	35 181	70 623
	December	39 476	39 577	79 053
	Total	475 933	475 322	951 255
1999	January	40 138	40 249	80 387
	February	35 907	35 622	71 529
	March	41 418	41 655	83 073
	April	40 976	41 229	82 205
	May	41 437	41 569	83 006
	June	41 694	41 698	83 392
	July	40 067	39 873	79 940
	August	40 548	40 420	80 968
	September	44 580	44 283	88 863
	October	38 396	38 751	77 147
	November	37 278	36 522	73 800
	December	41 468	41 298	82 766
	Total	483 907	483 169	967 076

* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 30 July 2017.

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

Year	Month	Male	Female	Total
2000	January	42 923	42 801	85 724
	February	40 036	39 671	79 707
	March	43 038	43 006	86 044
	April	40 687	40 768	81 455
	May	41 410	41 640	83 050
	June	41 900	41 620	83 520
	July	40 294	40 245	80 539
	August	41 047	40 542	81 589
	September	44 041	43 778	87 819
	October	38 978	38 644	77 622
	November	36 656	36 751	73 407
	December	39 522	39 334	78 856
	Total	490 532	488 800	979 332
2001	January	43 516	43 262	86 778
	February	36 965	37 196	74 161
	March	42 532	42 176	84 708
	April	40 379	40 298	80 677
	May	40 867	41 102	81 969
	June	40 286	40 692	80 978
	July	39 727	39 114	78 841
	August	39 804	39 812	79 616
	September	43 323	42 864	86 187
	October	38 221	38 616	76 837
	November	36 540	35 985	72 525
	December	39 684	39 096	78 780
	Total	481 844	480 213	962 057
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 30 July 2017.

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

Year	Month	Male	Female	Total
2003	January	42 751	42 281	85 032
	February	37 879	37 717	75 596
	March	43 264	43 123	86 387
	April	40 727	40 354	81 081
	May	41 410	40 955	82 365
	June	41 007	40 672	81 679
	July	39 838	39 468	79 306
	August	40 255	40 068	80 323
	September	44 710	44 013	88 723
	October	38 390	38 367	76 757
	November	35 698	35 375	71 073
	December	39 865	39 187	79 052
	Total	485 794	481 580	967 374
2004	January	42 905	42 113	85 018
	February	39 419	38 484	77 903
	March	42 986	42 720	85 706
	April	41 476	40 928	82 404
	May	42 364	42 304	84 668
	June	43 079	42 938	86 017
	July	43 344	42 711	86 055
	August	44 761	44 121	88 882
	September	48 377	48 148	96 525
	October	41 733	41 513	83 246
	November	40 411	40 262	80 673
	December	43 865	43 227	87 092
	Total	514 720	509 469	1 024 189
2005	January	45 760	44 607	90 367
	February	41 166	40 702	81 868
	March	46 703	46 641	93 344
	April	44 886	44 715	89 601
	May	46 797	46 210	93 007
	June	45 626	45 647	91 273
	July	44 566	44 106	88 672
	August	44 808	43 863	88 671
	September	47 128	46 643	93 771
	October	41 751	40 949	82 700
	November	41 253	40 512	81 765
	December	45 671	45 082	90 753
	Total	536 115	529 677	1 065 792

* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 30 July 2017.

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

Year	Month	Male	Female	Total
2006	January	47 598	47 172	94 770
	February	42 882	42 902	85 784
	March	47 749	47 757	95 506
	April	45 824	45 711	91 535
	May	47 662	47 035	94 697
	June	46 753	46 357	93 110
	July	45 866	45 550	91 416
	August	45 987	45 852	91 839
	September	49 832	49 588	99 420
	October	43 584	42 971	86 555
	November	41 533	40 511	82 044
	December	44 902	43 910	88 812
	Total	550 172	545 316	1 095 488
2007	January	48 467	48 103	96 570
	February	42 287	41 463	83 750
	March	47 957	47 259	95 216
	April	46 366	46 139	92 505
	May	47 713	47 571	95 284
	June	46 305	45 221	91 526
	July	45 585	45 324	90 909
	August	44 995	44 521	89 516
	September	47 878	47 081	94 959
	October	41 895	40 967	82 862
	November	40 426	40 007	80 433
	December	44 879	43 780	88 659
	Total	544 753	537 436	1 082 189
2008	January	47 830	47 252	95 082
	February	44 902	44 258	89 160
	March	48 815	48 710	97 525
	April	46 284	46 022	92 306
	May	46 170	45 863	92 033
	June	45 871	45 270	91 141
	July	46 763	46 722	93 485
	August	47 143	46 134	93 277
	September	50 609	49 472	100 081
	October	43 223	43 190	86 413
	November	42 180	41 325	83 505
	December	46 715	45 687	92 402
	Total	556 505	549 905	1 106 410

* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 30 July 2017.

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

Year	Month	Male	Female	Total
2009	January	48 002	47 133	95 135
	February	42 313	41 870	84 183
	March	48 040	47 317	95 357
	April	43 822	43 542	87 364
	May	44 624	44 735	89 359
	June	44 955	44 096	89 051
	July	44 178	44 007	88 185
	August	44 155	43 559	87 714
	September	46 756	46 030	92 786
	October	40 928	39 827	80 755
	November	39 826	38 988	78 814
	December	43 560	42 802	86 362
	Total	531 159	523 906	1 055 065
2010	January	44 890	44 194	89 084
	February	40 197	39 561	79 758
	March	45 829	44 916	90 745
	April	42 920	42 397	85 317
	May	43 533	42 537	86 070
	June	43 724	43 116	86 840
	July	44 250	43 338	87 588
	August	44 085	42 858	86 943
	September	46 951	45 727	92 678
	October	40 351	39 924	80 275
	November	38 889	38 285	77 174
	December	42 985	42 417	85 402
	Total	518 604	509 270	1 027 874
2011	January	43 093	42 358	85 451
	February	41 224	40 176	81 400
	March	47 892	46 661	94 553
	April	43 447	43 300	86 747
	May	45 581	45 037	90 618
	June	44 116	43 446	87 562
	July	43 580	42 455	86 035
	August	43 793	43 048	86 841
	September	46 394	45 418	91 812
	October	40 445	40 573	81 018
	November	40 318	39 244	79 562
	December	42 650	41 727	84 377
	Total	522 533	513 443	1 035 976

* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 30 July 2017.

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

Year	Month	Male	Female	Total
2012	January	45 838	44 956	90 794
	February	41 784	41 205	82 989
	March	46 188	45 599	91 787
	April	44 423	43 809	88 232
	May	45 434	44 797	90 231
	June	43 791	42 953	86 744
	July	43 567	43 004	86 571
	August	44 010	42 940	86 950
	September	45 340	44 440	89 780
	October	39 718	39 228	78 946
	November	38 753	38 013	76 766
	December	43 014	41 724	84 738
	Total	521 860	512 668	1 034 528
2013	January	45 303	44 209	89 512
	February	40 485	39 307	79 792
	March	45 263	45 057	90 320
	April	43 137	42 361	85 498
	May	43 558	42 856	86 414
	June	42 719	41 796	84 515
	July	43 290	42 684	85 974
	August	43 572	42 804	86 376
	September	45 063	44 621	89 684
	October	39 878	38 543	78 421
	November	38 868	38 069	76 937
	December	43 120	42 442	85 562
	Total	514 256	504 749	1 019 005
2014	January	44 439	43 671	88 110
	February	40 396	39 689	80 085
	March	46 301	45 442	91 743
	April	43 449	42 959	86 408
	May	44 696	44 059	88 755
	June	43 482	42 499	85 981
	July	43 263	42 542	85 805
	August	42 849	42 147	84 996
	September	45 934	44 878	90 812
	October	39 866	38 979	78 845
	November	37 848	37 352	75 200
	December	41 834	40 921	82 755
	Total	514 357	505 138	1 019 495

* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 30 July 2017.

Appendix G.7: Total birth occurrences by sex and month, 2015–2017*

Year	Month	Male	Female	Total
2015	January	44 895	43 818	88 713
	February	39 492	39 028	78 520
	March	44 836	44 068	88 904
	April	41 710	40 786	82 496
	May	41 413	41 288	82 701
	June	41 027	40 661	81 688
	July	40 349	39 932	80 281
	August	39 730	39 191	78 921
	September	42 323	41 562	83 885
	October	36 371	35 536	71 907
	November	35 500	34 914	70 414
	December	39 229	38 503	77 732
	Total	486 875	479 287	966 162
2016	January	39 190	37 910	77 100
	February	36 936	36 222	73 158
	March	41 079	40 080	81 159
	April	39 162	38 584	77 746
	May	39 481	39 158	78 639
	June	38 707	38 119	76 826
	July	37 444	37 153	74 597
	August	38 578	38 176	76 754
	September	39 393	38 463	77 856
	October	35 020	33 971	68 991
	November	34 580	33 782	68 362
	December	38 200	36 987	75 187
	Total	457 770	448 605	906 375
2017	January	38 908	38 022	76 930
	February	36 026	35 686	71 712
	March	41 546	40 953	82 499
	April	38 894	38 069	76 963
	May	39 829	39 037	78 866
	June	39 000	38 217	77 217
	July	38 739	38 323	77 062
	August	39 146	38 049	77 195
	September	39 995	39 313	79 308
	October	35 889	35 447	71 336
	November	35 548	34 508	70 056
	December	37 254	37 101	74 355
	Total	460 774	452 725	913 499

* Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 30 July 2017.

Appendix H: Number distribution of 2017 top ten baby forenames and surnames by province of birth registration

Province of Birth Registration	Rank	Male				Female				Both Sexes	
		First: Forename	Number	Second: Forename	Number	First: Forename	Number	Second: Forename	Number	Surname	Number
Western Cape	1	Liam	443	Junior	708	Mia	298	Grace	316	Jacobs	933
	2	Joshua	298	John	296	Alunamda	250	Rose	274	Williams	885
	3	Noah	294	Joshua	190	Leah	248	Faith	239	Adams	739
	4	Enzokuhle	252	James	179	Iminathi	217	Hope	223	Abrahams	676
	5	Kungawo	249	Luke	169	Khayone	201	Elizabeth	184	Dauids	585
	6	Luke	237	David	154	Ava	200	Angel	151	Hendricks	566
	7	Caleb	217	Daniel	153	Melokuhle	197	Jade	136	Petersen	492
	8	Alunamda	215	Matthew	134	Emily	179	Joy	120	Daniels	453
	9	Matthew	214	Liam	133	Enzokuhle	177	Lee	120	Booyesen	445
	10	Mason	208	William	122	Othalive	164	Leigh	115	Smith	440
Eastern Cape	1	Enzokuhle	567	Junior	456	Iminathi	591	Angel	171	Jacobs	245
	2	Alunamda	556	Gift	132	Alunamda	580	Precious	156	Booi	236
	3	Kungawo	507	Alunamda	119	Enzokuhle	546	Alunamda	146	Williams	223
	4	Iminathi	369	Prince	109	Khayone	423	Princess	121	Madikizela	183
	5	Khayone	364	Enzokuhle	106	Melokuhle	373	Iminathi	115	Klaas	171
	6	Lingomso	351	Khayone	105	Kungawo	328	Enzokuhle	110	Smith	167
	7	Melokuhle	321	Kungawo	102	Lingomso	299	Faith	106	Jack	164
	8	Likuwe	307	Blessing	89	Olothando	261	Grace	97	Plaatjies	153
	9	Luphawu	271	Lunje	87	Likuwe	259	Khayone	92	Diko	140
	10	Oyintando	261	Lubanzi	83	Linomtha	254	Hope	87	Dyantyi	140
Northern Cape	1	Lethabo	120	Junior	294	Reatlegile	84	Precious	118	Van Wyk	377
	2	Amogelang	81	Gift	66	Remofilwe	66	Faith	68	Louw	274
	3	Jayden	64	Johannes	56	Resego	58	Princess	63	Cloete	201
	4	Katlego	59	Joshua	47	Tshegofatso	58	Warona	43	Jacobs	173
	5	Junior	58	Jayden	42	Warona	58	Hope	42	Olyn	127
	6	Ofentse	50	Innocent	41	Omogolo	56	Elizabeth	33	Visagie	116
	7	Liam	48	John	33	Omolemo	54	Lerato	32	Beukes	104
	8	Lebogang	44	Prince	33	Amogelang	50	Grace	31	Modise	103
	9	Kutlwano	43	Warona	33	Lesedi	48	Angel	30	Swartz	94
	10	Kamogelo	42	Blessing	31	Omaatla	48	Angela	29	Booyesen	90

Appendix H: Number distribution of 2017 top ten baby forenames and surnames by province of birth registration (continued)

Province of Birth Registration	Rank	Male				Female				Both Sexes	
		First: Forename	Number	Second: Forename	Number	First: Forename	Number	Second: Forename	Number	Surname	Number
Free State	1	Amohelang	496	Junior	1 012	Amohelang	430	Precious	550	Mokoena	1 274
	2	Katleho	485	Blessing	364	Rethabile	379	Princess	294	Mofokeng	1 199
	3	Kamohelo	382	Innocent	250	Relebohile	371	Blessing	291	Motaung	519
	4	Bokamoso	372	Gift	203	Bokamoso	365	Innocentia	156	Moloi	511
	5	Lethabo	364	Prince	184	Karabo	327	Grace	125	Tshabalala	467
	6	Bokang	322	Johannes	138	Bonolo	306	Portia	113	Radebe	411
	7	Lesedi	277	Vincent	136	Omphile	298	Lethabo	95	Mosia	247
	8	Mpho	268	Lethabo	115	Lesedi	284	Faith	86	Motloung	241
	9	Siyabonga	258	David	98	Naledi	282	Patricia	85	Tsotetsi	235
	10	Lehlohonolo	252	Joseph	96	Boitumelo	232	Bonolo	83	Nhlapo	228
KwaZulu-Natal	1	Enzokuhle	1 844	Lubanzi	1 097	Enzokuhle	1 657	Luthando	897	Dlamini	4 411
	2	Lubanzi	1 697	Enzokuhle	919	Luthando	1 169	Enzokuhle	850	Mkhize	3 261
	3	Melokuhle	1 354	Junior	914	Asemahle	1 065	Zekhethelo	801	Ndlovu	3 218
	4	Bandile	1 236	Bandile	856	Esihle	1 003	Ziyanda	771	Khumalo	3 203
	5	Ayabonga	985	Melokuhle	751	Melokuhle	977	Okuhle	753	Ngcobo	2 960
	6	Bayanda	921	Bayanda	726	Emihle	965	Esihle	703	Gumede	2 722
	7	Banele	804	Ayabonga	586	Okuhle	926	Amahle	665	Mthembu	2 565
	8	Lethokuhle	787	Samkelo	549	Alwande	899	Angel	631	Zulu	2 342
	9	Samkelo	707	Banele	519	Ziyanda	894	Asemahle	620	Buthlezi	2 226
	10	Alwande	680	Philasande	516	Amahle	863	Emihle	603	Sithole	2 042
North West	1	Lethabo	446	Junior	739	Amogelang	376	Precious	466	Molefe	458
	2	Amogelang	365	Blessing	253	Remofilwe	357	Princess	268	Modise	346
	3	Oratile	286	Gift	210	Reatlegile	354	Blessing	184	Mogapi	158
	4	Bokamoso	280	Prince	196	Olerato	291	Warona	126	Tau	150
	5	Ofentse	278	Lethabo	107	Rethabile	283	Faith	103	Mogale	147
	6	Kamogelo	273	Johannes	101	Tshegofatso	280	Angel	102	Moeng	142
	7	Katlego	265	Innocent	96	Omolemo	250	Hope	96	Khumalo	127
	8	Omphile	258	Warona	85	Warona	231	Olerato	80	Motsamai	122
	9	Refentse	244	Daniel	77	Rorisang	222	Elizabeth	78	Phiri	120
	10	Reatlegile	242	Joseph	71	Reneilwe	218	Lesedi	77	Mogorosi	118

Appendix H: Number distribution of 2017 top ten baby forenames and surnames by province of birth registration (concluded)

Province of Birth Registration	Rank	Male				Female				Both Sexes	
		First: Forename	Number	Second: Forename	Number	First: Forename	Number	Second: Forename	Number	Surname	Number
Gauteng	1	Lethabo	989	Junior	2 162	Lethabo	879	Precious	1 554	Nkosi	1 472
	2	Siyabonga	827	Blessing	1 317	Lesedi	831	Princess	1 238	Mokoena	1 322
	3	Bokamoso	717	Gift	1 111	Amogelang	749	Angel	856	Mahlangu	1 257
	4	Amogelang	709	Prince	848	Omphile	678	Blessing	842	Sithole	1 217
	5	Thato	670	Lethabo	431	Rethabile	665	Faith	641	Ndlovu	1 131
	6	Mpho	661	Siyabonga	417	Amahle	641	Hope	632	Khumalo	1 112
	7	Ofentse	642	Innocent	357	Naledi	625	Grace	397	Baloyi	1 071
	8	Omphile	619	Mpho	327	Bokamoso	619	Lesedi	379	Mofokeng	994
	9	Karabo	604	Njabulo	312	Siphesihle	605	Lethabo	355	Dlamini	972
	10	Kamogelo	596	Sibusiso	311	Tshegofatso	602	Elizabeth	352	Tshabalala	919
Mpumalanga	1	Blessing	453	Blessing	899	Melokuhle	577	Princess	794	Nkosi	2 602
	2	Siyabonga	418	Junior	884	Amahle	458	Angel	616	Mahlangu	1 535
	3	Melokuhle	392	Prince	585	Minenhle	431	Precious	602	Khoza	1 191
	4	Siphosethu	370	Gift	512	Thandolwethu	377	Hope	308	Mathebula	956
	5	Junior	322	Innocent	355	Siphesihle	343	Faith	291	Mnisi	863
	6	Bandile	316	Quinton	241	Lethokuhle	310	Innocentia	249	Ndlovu	772
	7	Banele	286	Siyabonga	208	Sphesihle	297	Amahle	240	Ngwenya	709
	8	Njabulo	284	Brilliant	207	Luthando	265	Minenhle	231	Mokoena	708
	9	Siyamthanda	272	Siphosethu	206	Princess	255	Melokuhle	229	Maseko	693
	10	Siyanda	261	Siyamthanda	191	Angel	227	Pearl	213	Shabangu	658
Limpopo	1	Amogelang	655	Junior	2 020	Lethabo	650	Precious	1 400	Baloyi	1 458
	2	Lethabo	605	Blessing	1 365	Amogelang	608	Blessing	1 007	Maluleke	1 288
	3	Kamogelo	594	Gift	1 045	Tshegofatso	559	Angel	712	Chauke	1 220
	4	Katlego	586	Prince	496	Kamogelo	508	Faith	611	Ngobeni	1 075
	5	Mpho	562	Innocent	359	Rethabile	472	Hope	587	Malatji	982
	6	Ofentse	528	Emmanuel	307	Omphile	449	Princess	567	Mathebula	823
	7	Blessing	497	Given	285	Karabo	417	Pretty	453	Mudau	710
	8	Phenyo	496	Johannes	260	Ofentse	410	Happiness	290	Nkuna	599
	9	Junior	472	Brilliant	252	Katlego	406	Maria	273	Ndou	588
	10	Thapelo	469	Bright	207	Lesedi	386	Prudence	246	Mohlala	552

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.

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