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Preface

This statistical release presents information on South Africa's recorded live birth occurrences and registrations for 2020. It also provides information on live birth occurrences and registrations from 1997 to 2019 to show trends and patterns in recorded live births. The release is based on live births recorded on the national birth registration system at the Department of Home Affairs.

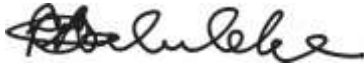
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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Civil registration is the recording of vital events in a person's life (e.g., birth, marriage, death) and is a fundamental function of the national government. Birth registration establishes an individual's existence and legal identity at birth and before the law and must be performed even if the time frame given by laws has expired. Having a legal identity and the related proof such as name, nationality, proof of age, are important human rights and enables individuals to exercise their rights (e.g., to vote) and enjoy various government, social, and private services.

Over and above the basic function of allocating legal status, data produced from the civil registration system generates continuous statistics on population dynamics and provides key indicators for the country. Vital statistics produced from registration of vital events are crucial for policy-making and for individuals concerned, registration of vital events create inclusive societies, ensures proper delivery of public services and realisation and protection of basic human rights. The availability of comprehensive, accurate and up-to-date vital statistics depends on the level of development of civil registration (World Bank, 2018). Having an effective civil registration and vital statistics system (CRVS) is critical for planning and monitoring programmes across several sectors. Yet, over 110 low- and middle-income countries have deficient CRVS systems. (World Bank, 2018). In 47 African countries, civil registration systems do not have fully functional systems for recording vital statistics and have failed to provide real-time data. (Economic Commission for Africa, 2017).

Registration of vital events has greatly improved in South Africa, due to concerted efforts from the government and a number of key stakeholders. These investments into increasing birth registration produced a number of indirect benefits, one of which is timely registration of births. This uptake was partly driven by the desire of mothers and fathers (as well as families) to access certain benefits including government social grants and registration of children in schools, which requires a birth certificate. Births statistics are also an essential data source for monitoring population health, identifying health priorities and planning (Bradshaw et al, 1998). Ideally such information is obtained from a well-established system of vital registrations. Although, quality and coverage improvements have occurred over time, research still points to a number of quality issues within the birth data (Stats SA, 2007). Timeliness of reporting, omission of sections of the population and missing information, with father's information the most pervasive are still among key weaknesses in the data.

In South Africa, the right to birth registration is enshrined in the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1992 (Act No. 51 of 1992) amended as the Births and Deaths Registration Amendment Act, 2010 (Act No. 18 of 2010). According to the Amendment Act all children born in South Africa must be registered within 30 days of birth. However, where the notice of a birth is given after the expiration of 30 days, it is still possible to register it, provided reasons for non-compliance are provided (DHA, 2014). After birth registration is completed, a birth certificate is issued to the applicant.

With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic and the rapid rise in infections, the National Government enforced a nation-wide lockdown for 21 days with effect from midnight on Thursday 26 March 2020, and this was further extended by two more weeks. During this period only services necessary for the response to the pandemic were exempted from the lockdown. Individuals were not allowed to leave their homes except under strictly controlled circumstances, such as to seek medical care and food supplies (DIRCO, 2020). Accordingly, only limited services were offered by the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) and birth registrations did not form part of these as of 27 March 2020. With the easing of lockdown regulations, DHA was able to offer essential civic services, albeit limited, and birth registration services resumed on 1 May 2020 although in some offices no services were offered at all. This situation weakened the systems' ability to perform core functions of "continuous, permanent, compulsory, universal recording of the occurrence and characteristics of vital events pertaining to the population". The disruption and lack of continuity of service delivery such as birth registration, depicted the vulnerability of civil registration system and the need for innovative solutions.

1.2 Objectives of this statistical release

This statistical release has two main objectives:

- To present information on births that occurred in 2020 which were registered at the DHA between January 2020 and February 2021
- To show a historical pattern of birth occurrence and registration from 1998 to 2020.

2. Data and methods

2.1 Data source

The production of this statistical release is based on recorded live births data obtained from the DHA. It covers current birth registrations and occurrences of live births for 2020 recorded for a period of 14 months (from January 2020 to February 2021). Furthermore, it covers information for late birth registrations that occurred in 2019 and earlier years, but were captured between January 2020 and February 2021. Birth registrations at the DHA are divided into five sub-categories depending on the age of the child which are then saved into five different sub-files. The sub-files include births registered: (i) within 30 days; (ii) after 30 days up to 365 days; (iii) within one to 14 years; (iv) within 15 years and older; as well as (v) births registered at health facilities.

Table 1 shows the total number of birth registrations for the 2019 and 2020 reporting periods. It further shows how birth registrations were combined to arrive at the final birth registrations for analyses. The table indicates that 1 238 260 births were registered between January 2019 and February 2020 and from these, 61 102 registrations have to be subtracted as they were late registrations for the earlier years. Furthermore, 125 937 had to be subtracted for births registered in January to February 2020 as these were 2020 births which were already registered when data was requested from DHA.

For the 2020 period, Stats SA received 1 109 803 birth registration data from DHA. A total of 34 756 were births that occurred earlier than 2020 but were only registered in January and February of 2020. Finally, 71 740 births were removed from 2020 birth registrations as they were 2021 births and will be included in the 2021 recorded live births publication. The final number of births that occurred in 2020 and were registered in the period 01 January 2020 and 28 February 2021 in South Africa was 1 003 307.

Table 1: Birth registrations, 2019–2020

2019	Number of birth registrations
Total births registered January 2019 to February 2020	1,238,260
Less births for 2018 and earlier years registered in January to February 2019	61,012
	1 177 248
Less 2020 births registered in January to February 2020	125,937
	1,051,311
2020	
Total births registered January 2020 to February 2021	1,109,803
Less births for 2019 and earlier years registered in January to February 2020	34,756
	1 075 047
Less 2021 births registered in January to February 2021	71,740
	1,003,307

2.2 Assessment of the quality of data

2.2.1 Completeness of birth registration

Completeness of birth registration cannot be over-emphasized as a measure of the quality of vital statistics data. It is further an important assessment of the effectiveness, efficiency and functioning of the Department of Home Affairs, which is mandated to maintain the birth register and has invested considerable effort in improving its vital registration system. Of importance to note is that in 2010, the DHA ramped up efforts to increase births registration within 30 days of occurrence through raising awareness levels, introducing penalties for late registrations and establishing satellite units for birth and death registration in health facilities.

There are various methods that can be applied to measure the completeness of birth registrations from the vital statistics system. One method is the synthetic cohort P/F method suggested by Zlotnik together with Hill. Conversely, Hill applied it on the data from several countries as an alternative to the Brass P/F ratio method (1964). The method presumes that cumulated age specific fertility rates for every known age is equivalent to the average number of children ever born by a woman at a 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 maintained at 88,6% for the intercensal period 2011–2016. The completeness will be reviewed once Census 2022 data becomes available.

2.2.2 Timeliness of birth registration

In terms of the Births and Deaths Registration Amendment Act (Act No. 18 of 2010), a birth must be registered within 30 days of occurrence (Republic of South Africa, 2010). Table 2 shows that birth registration within 30 days has been increasing from 2016 to 2019. In 2020, however, there was a 9,2% decline in early registrations compared to 2019. To contain the spread and mitigate the negative impact of the coronavirus, national lockdown regulations such as travel restrictions and closure of DHA offices disrupted continuity of services such as birth registration. This resulted in an increase in late registrations of birth after the lapse of 30 days but before end of the year, rising from 12,6% in 2019 to 24,7% in 2020. This was due to the easing of lockdown regulations. Late birth registrations for those aged 1–14 years constituted 3,1% of all registrations, whereas registrations of birth for persons aged 15 years and older constituted 1,3% both depicting the lowest levels since 2016. These continued declines are indicative of the successes of the DHA's efforts to strengthen early registration through raising awareness and expediting birth registrations in line with legislation.

Table 2: Distribution of birth registrations by the number of days it took to register the birth: 2016-2020

Number of days/years	Number of birth registrations					Percentage*					Cumulative percentage*				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
0-30 days	732,672	768,418	803,286	840,746	710,814	75.6	77.7	79.6	80.0	70.8	75.6	77.7	79.6	80.0	70.8
31-364 days	169,495	151,145	143,260	132,367	248,209	17.5	15.3	14.2	12.6	24.7	93.1	92.9	93.8	92.6	95.6
1-14 years	40,234	45,271	39,219	50,580	31,332	4.2	4.6	3.9	4.8	3.1	97.2	97.5	97.7	97.4	98.7
15 years and older	27,014	24,484	23,300	27,618	12,952	2.8	2.5	2.3	2.6	1.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

2.2.3 Year-on-year changes in birth registration

Table 3 shows information on annual percentage changes in the number of births registered by age in days or years for the period 2016 to 2020. Throughout these years, except in the 2019-2020 period, increases were observed in the number of births registered within 30 days, while decreases were observed in the number of births registered after 30 days. This gives an indication of improvements in timely registration of births over time. In the period 2016–2017, a 4,9 % increase was observed, followed by 4,5% during 2017-2018 and a 4,7% increase during 2018-2019, however, there was a significant decline of 15,5% in the 2019-2020 period, and as mentioned before, this decline can be attributed to COVID-19 and the associated lockdowns which affected registrations. Regarding births registered from 31 to 364 days, the year to year percentage changes are all negative, except the 2019-2020 period, which signifies a decline in the number of days it took to register the birth. A 10,8% decrease was observed between 2016 and 2017 declining to 5,2% in 2017–2018 and followed by a decrease of 7,6% in 2018-2019. During the 2019-2020 period late registration of births from 31 to 364 days increased by 87.5%. The year on year percentage changes indicate decreases in the births registered at 1–14 years (38,1%) and 15 years and older (53,1%) for the years 2019–2020.

Table 3: Year on year changes in the number of days/years it took to register the birth: 2016-2020

Number of days/years	Number of birth registrations					Percentage changes			
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
0-30 days	732,672	768,418	803,286	840,746	710,814	4.9	4.5	4.7	-15.5
31-364 days	169,495	151,145	143,260	132,367	248,209	-10.8	-5.2	-7.6	87.5
1-14 years	40,234	45,271	39,219	50,580	31,332	12.5	-13.4	29.0	-38.1
15 years and older	27,014	24,484	23,300	27,618	12,952	-9.4	-4.8	18.5	-53.1
Total	969,415	989,318	1,009,065	1,051,311	1,003,307	2.1	2.0	4.2	-4.6

2.3 Data analysis

This release includes descriptive analyses using both bivariate and univariate analyses. Additionally, it also includes trends or patterns of median ages at birth together with cross-tabulations. Analyses 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.

The appendices include information on, current or late registrations of births by district municipality, birth occurrences by province and age of a mother, birth occurrences by district municipality from 2016–2020 and birth occurrences by sex and month for the years 1994–2020.

3. Birth registrations

3.1 Trends in birth registration

The Department of Home Affairs (DHA) registers birth occurrences during a specific year regardless of when they occurred. The total number of birth registrations consist 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). This statistical publication reports on the total number of birth registrations registered at the DHA offices between 1998 and 2020. It is the combination of both current registrations and late registrations.

Table 4 below shows that birth registrations in South Africa have steadied at more than a million births each year from 1998 to 2015. Less than a million births were registered in years 2016 and 2017, rising again to 1 003 307 in 2020. To date, the highest number of birth registrations were recorded in the year 2003 with a total 1 677 415 registrations, and of these, just under two-thirds (62,9%) were late registrations. Late birth registrations decreased consistently from 77,5% in 1998 to as low as 8,1% in 2018. There was however a slight increase in 2019 and 2020 to 9,2% and 10,4%, respectively.

Table 4: Birth registrations by status of registration, South Africa: 1998–2020

Year of registration	Number of birth registrations			Percentages		
	Total	Current	Late	Total	Current	Late
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
2018	1 009 065	927 113	81 952	100.0	91.9	8.1
2019	1 051 311	954 532	96 779	100.0	90.8	9.2
2020	1 003 307	899 303	104 004	100.0	89.6	10.4

Figure 1 provides information on birth registrations for the period 1998 to 2020 classified by status of registration. Total birth registrations increased sharply between 1998 and 2003, but decreased persistently until 2007, when a slight increase was observed between 2008 and 2010. The number of births registered declined consistently from 2011 to 2016, but the trend shifted in 2017 as the birth registration increased slightly from the 2016 level and continued to rise until 2019 declining again in 2020.

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 1998 to 2003. In 2004, late and current registrations were equivalent. In the second pattern, current birth registrations experienced an upward trend and were consistently higher than late registrations for the rest of the years 2005 to 2020. It is also worth noting that in the more recent years (2011 to 2020) the gap between late and current registrations has increased, with 2018 having the widest gap between current and late birth registrations.

Figure 1: Birth registrations by status of registration, South Africa: 1998–2020

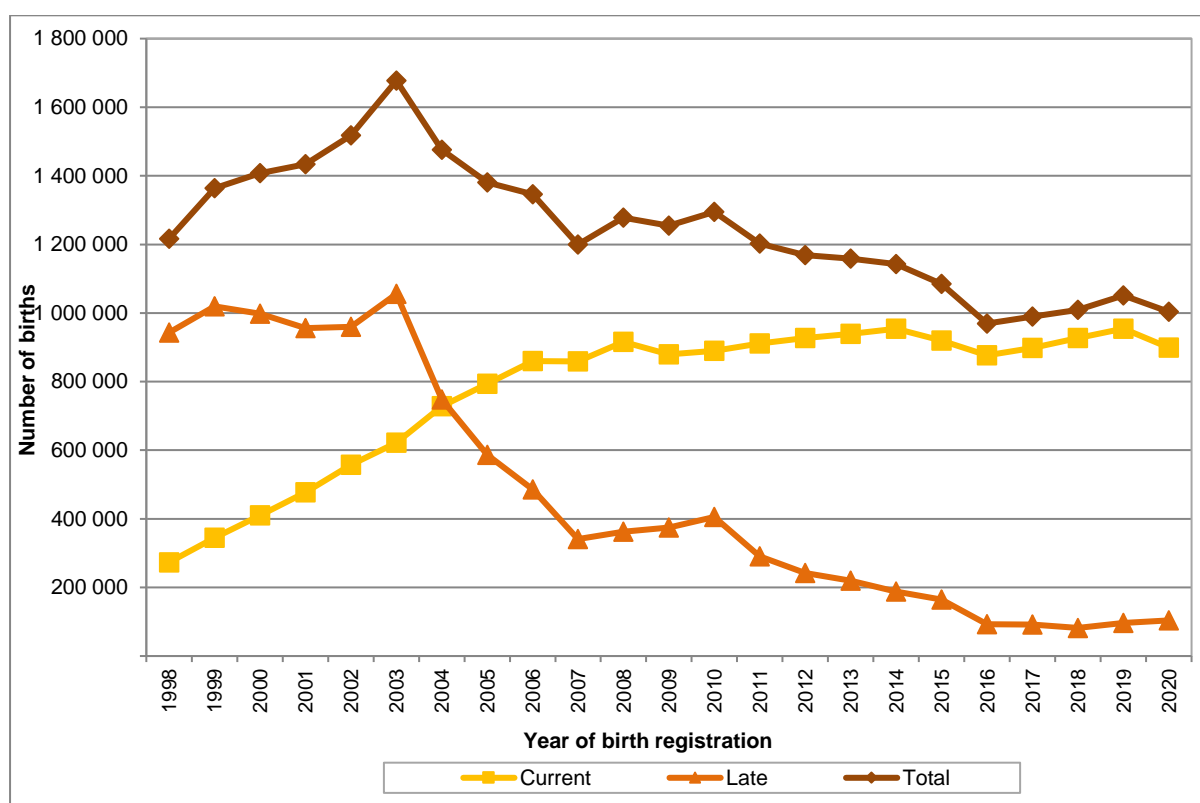
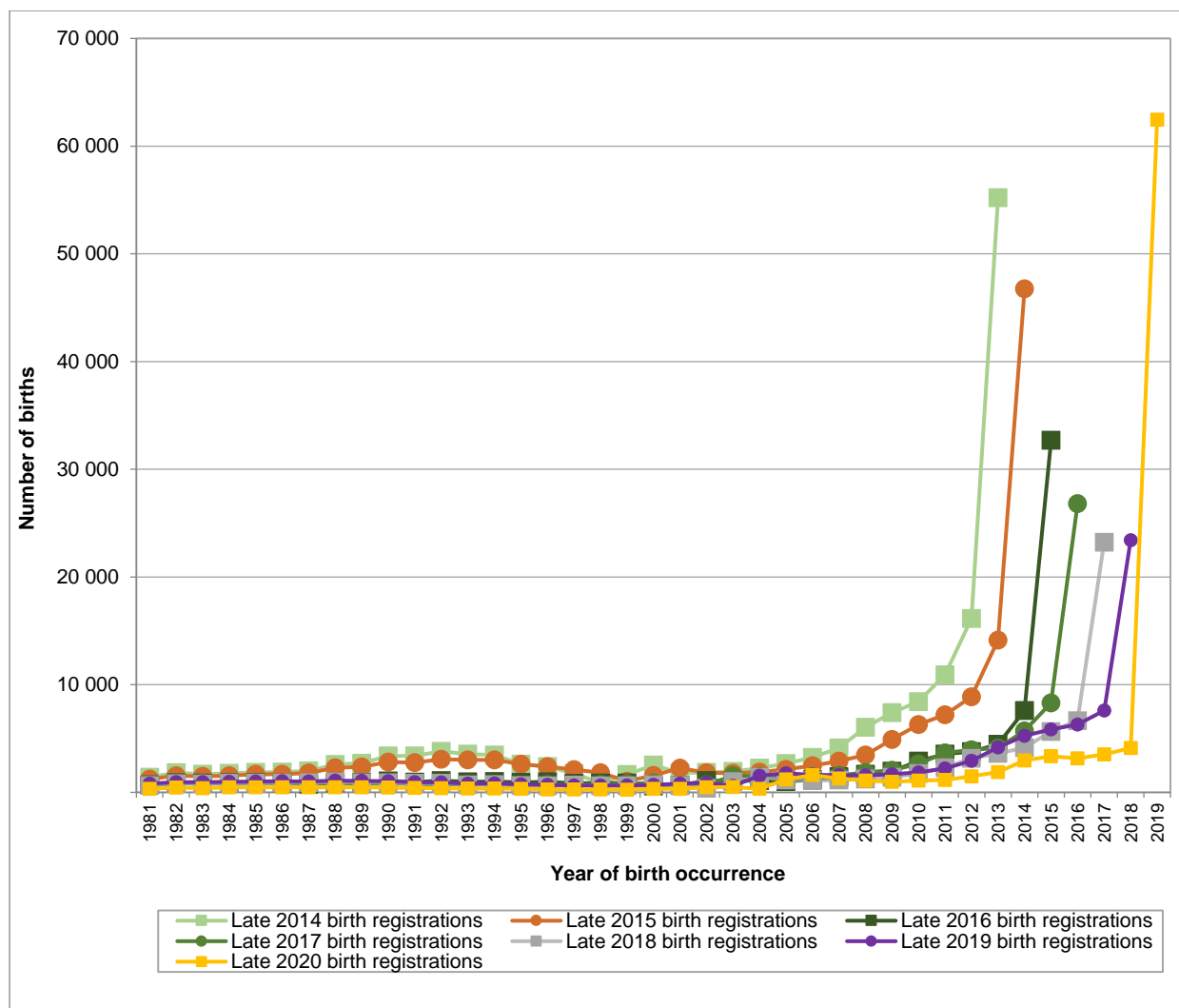


Figure 2 presents the overall number of late birth registrations registered between 2014 and 2020 for births that occurred during the years 1981 to 2019. Generally, the figure shows that for most of the years, late registrations were highest in the year preceding the reporting year. Furthermore, the 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 successful 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.

Figure 2: Late birth registrations by year of birth, South Africa: 1981–2020



3.2 Birth registrations by selected variables

3.2.1 Age of the mother

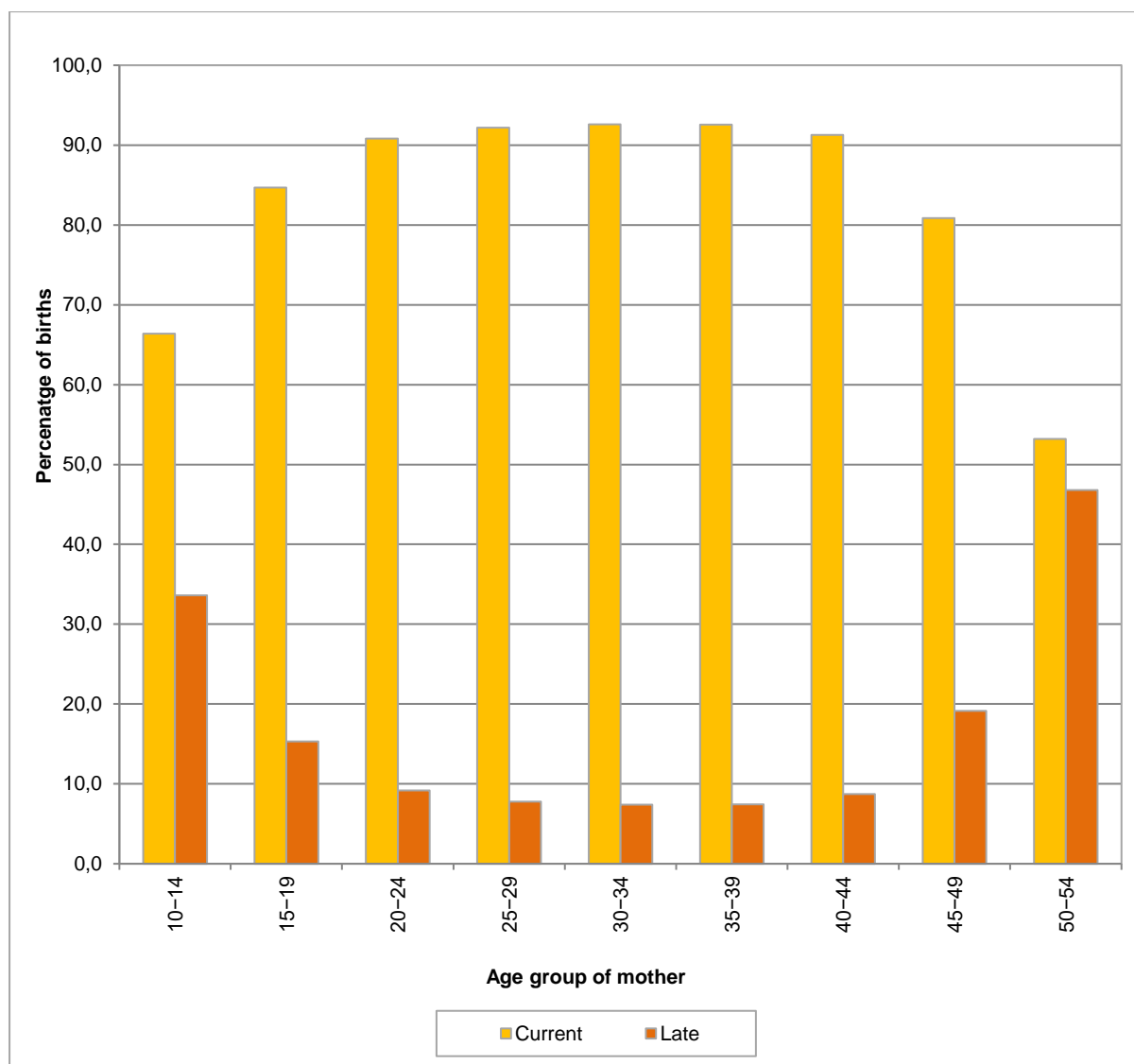
The notice of birth form (DHA-24) has a dedicated section for recording details of the biological mother of the child and includes information such as date of birth which is used to calculate the age of the mother at the time of giving birth. The form also makes provision for the inclusion of details 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 2020 the percentage of births with no information on the biological father was 64%. Due to the high number of cases with missing biological father information, the age information reported in this section will only cover demographic background of mothers which is better reported.

Table 5 below describes the number and percentage distribution of registered births by age of the mother and status of registration. For mothers aged 10–19 years, just over three quarters of births were registered within the year of birth occurrence. Mothers aged 30–34 years, and those aged 35–39 years had almost 93% of their births registered within the year of occurrence. The lowest number of births (359) occurred for mothers in the 50–54-year-old age group, which is to be expected when the fertility patterns of the country are taken into consideration. The unspecified or age category outside 10–54 years shows a high percentage of late registrations (84,3%). 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 mother and status of registration, South Africa: 2020

Age of mother	Number of birth registrations			Percentage		
	Total	Current	Late	Total	Current	Late
10–14	4 013	2 665	1 348	100,0	66,4	33,6
15–19	108 114	91 580	16 534	100,0	84,7	15,3
20–24	236 609	214 875	21 734	100,0	90,8	9,2
25–29	254 320	234 514	19 806	100,0	92,2	7,8
30–34	213 521	197 713	15 808	100,0	92,6	7,4
35–39	128 179	118 687	9 492	100,0	92,6	7,4
40–44	36 715	33 527	3 188	100,0	91,3	8,7
45–49	3 310	2 689	621	100,0	81,2	18,8
50–54	359	196	163	100,0	54,6	45,4
Unspecified/outside the 10–54 age range	18 167	2 857	15 310	100,0	15,7	84,3
Total	1 003 307	899 303	104 004	100,0	89,6	10,4

Figure 3 shows the proportion of birth registrations by registration status and age of the mother. Current birth registrations were higher than late birth registrations for all age groups. Current birth registrations increased with an increase in mother's age until age group 35–39 years, thereafter current birth registrations decrease with an increase in age. Worth noting is that in previous years, mothers aged 10–14 years registered births late, however, in 2019 and 2020, current birth registrations surpassed late birth registrations.

Figure 3: Birth registrations by age of mother and status of registration, South Africa: 2020

3.2.2 Province of birth registration

The DHA provides information on the office where a birth was registered and Stats SA uses this information to create district municipality and province of birth registration. It must be noted that for persons 15 years and older, the majority of registrations are allocated to the City of Tshwane metropolitan municipality in Gauteng province (DHA Head office), which is where late registrations from 15 years and above are processed.

Figure 4A, shows the distribution of all births registered in 2020 by province of registration and registration status. Registration status is divided into four categories namely: current registrations (0–30 days and 31–364 days) and late registrations split by births registered after one year but before 15 years, as well as births registered from 15 years of age.

The highest number of births were registered in Gauteng (228 299) followed by KwaZulu-Natal (205 781) then Limpopo (132 893) while the lowest numbers of birth registrations were observed in Northern Cape (23 540) and Free State (46 265) which is also in line with the population sizes of these provinces. For all the provinces, there were more births registered within 0–30 days than in the 31–364 days category.

Appendix B provides analysis of total birth registrations by year of birth occurrence and status of registration, province and district municipality. In 2020, the top five district municipalities based on population size, had the highest number of total birth registrations. Out of the total registrations, the highest number of births were registered in the City of Tshwane in Gauteng (71 555), Ekurhuleni in Gauteng (63 062), City of Johannesburg (61 809) in Gauteng, City of Cape Town in Western Cape (59 038), and eThekweni in KwaZulu-Natal (58 253) which are all metropolitan district municipalities. The top three lowest birth registrations were in Central Karoo in Western Cape (1 410), Namakwa in Northern Cape (1 495) and Xhariep in Free State (1 763). Of the 1 003 307 total births registered, 899 303 were current birth registrations and 104 004 were late birth registrations.

For current birth registrations at district level, the five metropolitan municipalities still had the highest number of current birth registrations, however, Ekurhuleni (56 853) recorded the highest number of current birth registrations followed closely by City of Johannesburg (55 417), City of Cape Town (54 384), City of Tshwane (54 233) and eThekweni (51 902). Amongst non-metropolitan districts, Ehlanzeni in Mpumalanga had the highest number of current birth registrations with 45 187 registrations followed by Vhembe in Limpopo with 30 121 current birth registrations.

For late registrations, the City of Tshwane had the highest number of late birth registrations with 17 322 registrations followed by eThekweni with 6 351 and Ekurhuleni 6 209. These figures must be interpreted with caution as this can also be a reflective function of the population size in each of these municipalities. The City of Tshwane has the largest number of late registrations as most of the late registrations for those aged 15 years and older were processed in Tshwane regional office.

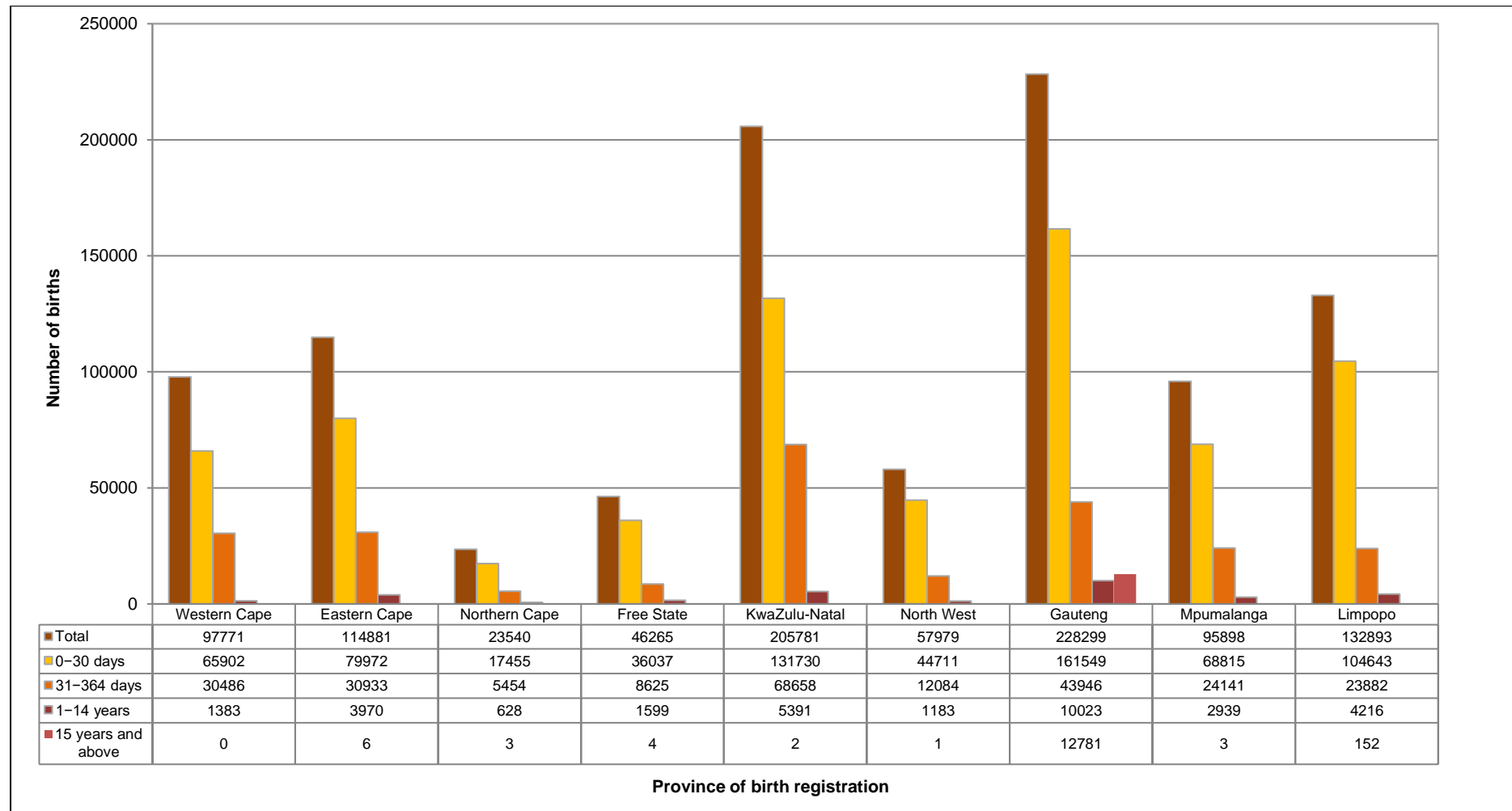
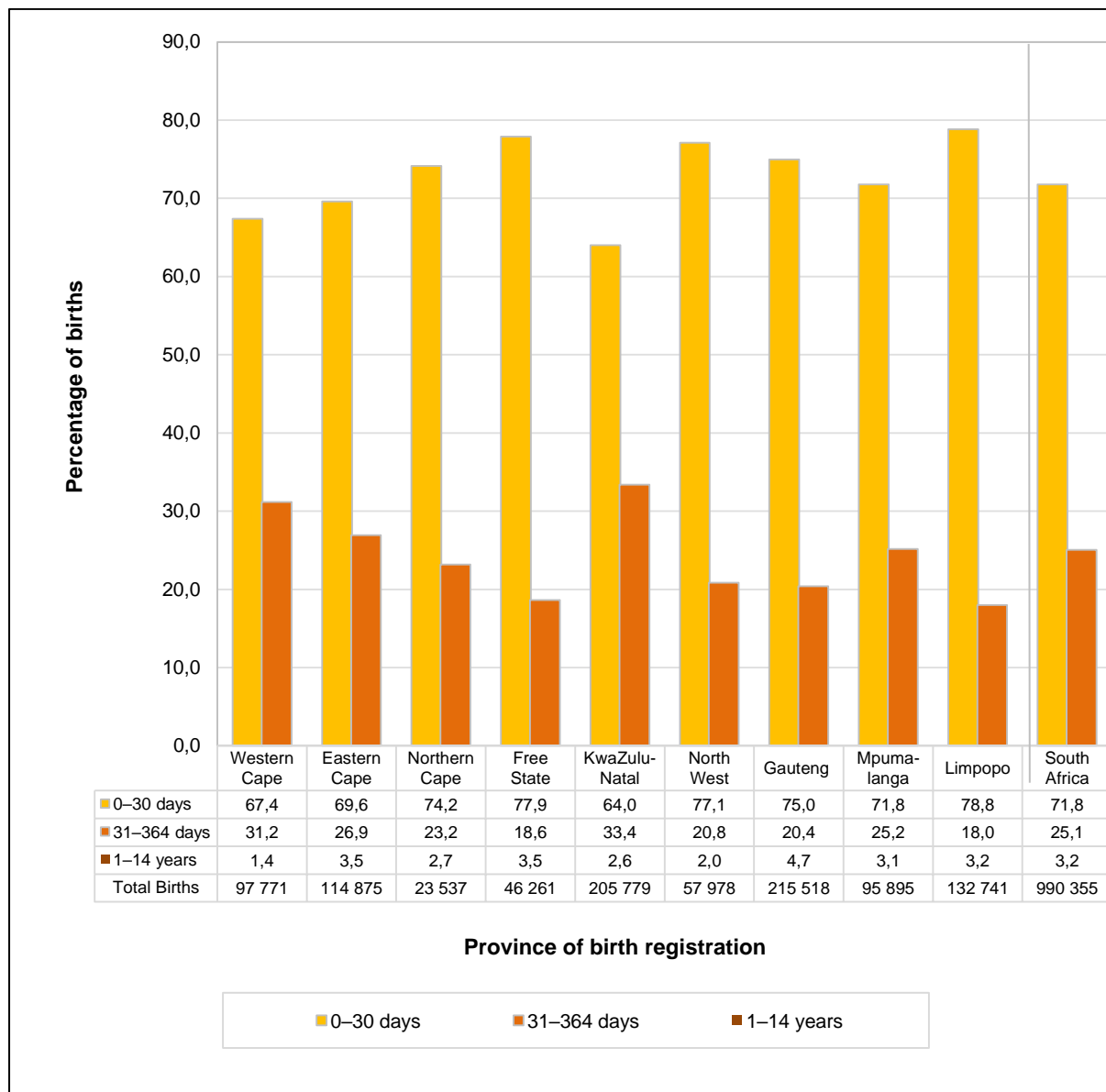
Figure 4A: Birth registrations by province of birth registration and status of registration, South Africa: 2020

Figure 4B shows the percentage distribution of 990 355 registered birth occurrences for 2020 by province of birth registration and status of registration. A total of 12 952 was removed in the analysis as these were birth registrations for those aged 15 years and older for which are all supposed to be registered at the head office in Gauteng (Pretoria). The figure shows that Limpopo (78,8%) is in the lead in registrations of birth within 30 days. It is closely followed by Free State (77,9%) and North West (77,1%). The province with the lowest proportion of birth registration within 30 days was KwaZulu-Natal (64%).

Figure 4B: Birth registrations by province of birth registration and status of registration, South Africa: 2020

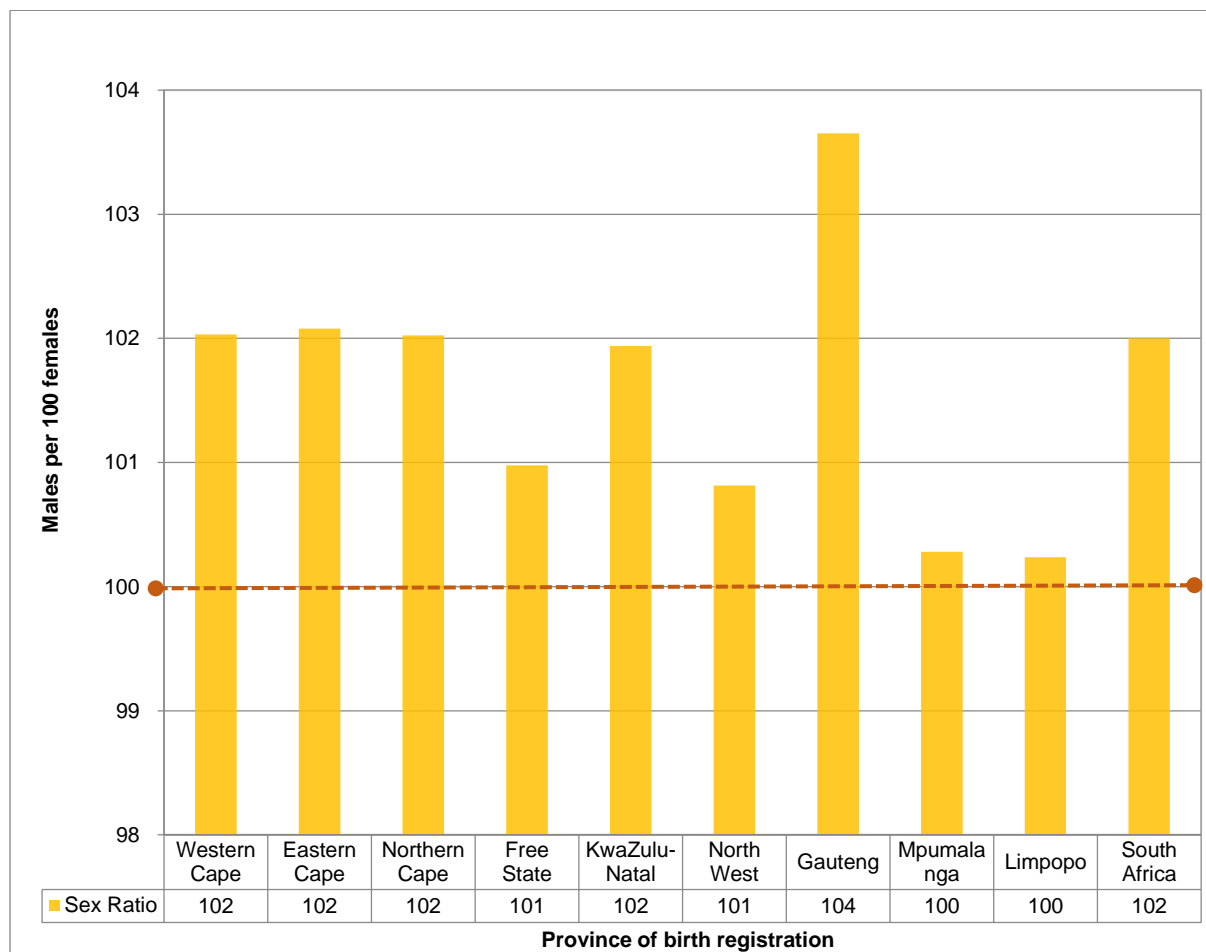


3.2.3 Sex of the child

The sex ratio of birth registrations is defined as the number of male births per 100 female births in a population. A ratio of 100 indicates an equal number of male births for every female birth, whereas a number less than 100 indicates relatively more female births and a number above 100 indicates more male births.

Figure 5 shows the sex ratios of 2020 birth occurrences by province of birth registration. South Africa had a sex ratio of 102 males per 100 females indicating that there were more male birth registrations than female birth registrations in 2020. Four out of nine provinces had a sex ratio of 102 male birth registrations per 100 female birth registrations. These were Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. Gauteng had the highest sex ratio at 104, whereas Mpumalanga and Limpopo had the lowest sex ratio at 100 male birth registrations per 100 female birth registrations. Further information on total registrations by sex, status of registration, province and district municipality for the year 2020 is provided in Appendix C.

Figure 5: Sex ratios* by province of birth registration, South Africa: 2020



*Sex ratios have been rounded off.

4. Birth occurrences

This section reports on birth occurrences based on the year of birth captured in the electronic birth registration system up to 28 February 2021 (the 28 February is the processing phase cut-off date by Stats SA in any given year) and birth occurrences extracted as a print-out from the national population register on 30 June 2021. Birth occurrences are all births that occur in a specific year and that have been registered with the Department of Home Affairs (DHA). They pertain to the year in which the birth actually occurred (year of birth) irrespective of whether the registration is current or late.

The birth register is continuously updated, this fact is demonstrated in Table 6 below, which shows total birth occurrences as at 28 February 2021, and updated birth occurrences as at 01 July 2021 for the period 1997 to 2020. It is observed that by 31 December 2020 a total of 899 303 births that occurred in 2020 were registered, increasing to 987 159 by 01 July 2021. This indicates that the national birth register was updated by 87 856 births that occurred in 2020. The abnormal decline observed in 2019 in the number of birth occurrences recorded between 28 February 2021 and 01 July 2021, (both tables 6 & 7) is noted. At the time of publication, Stats SA could not establish the cause of the decline, even after enquiring with the DHA.

Table 6: Birth occurrences by year of birth and reference period, South Africa: 1997–2020

Year of birth occurrence	Birth occurrences	Updated birth occurrences
	(as at 28 Feb. 2021)	(as at 01 Jul. 2021)
1997	658 509	969 473
1998	908 643	952 896
1999	939 228	968 711
2000	938 281	981 174
2001	932 620	963 924
2002	920 953	974 397
2003	929 690	969 514
2004	1 018 653	1 027 918
2005	1 065 948	1 069 556
2006	1 094 555	1 100 458
2007	1 081 144	1 086 451
2008	1 100 419	1 110 430
2009	1 037 838	1 059 138
2010	1 028 674	1 032 441
2011	1 037 711	1 041 302
2012	1 033 820	1 041 577
2013	1 026 605	1 028 222
2014	1 026 824	1 031 174
2015	975 401	979 994
2016	919 353	921 311
2017	932 090	934 159
2018	954 638	959 453
2019	1 016 988	977 121
2020	899 303	987 159
Average over 24 years	1 020 778	1 050 781

4.1 Birth occurrences as at 28 February 2020

Table 7 shows the number of births that occurred over the years 2000 to 2020 classified by year of birth occurrence and year of birth registration. For each year, births registered within occurrence year and births registered later than the occurrence year are shown. The figures in bold indicate all births that were registered within the year of occurrence, while the rest represent late birth registrations, indicating the year in which the late registration occurred. The 'Total' row shows the updated number of births registered as at end of February 2021.

Over the 21-year period covered in the analysis, birth occurrences have been improving with time. The total number of births that occurred and were registered in 2020 was 899 303. This number is expected to increase in the next report because it only refers to births registered within the year of occurrence. The number of birth occurrences for a particular year increases due to continuous updating of the national birth register with either late registrations or births that were not processed in time to reach Stats SA during the 2021 processing phase. The number of 2019 birth occurrences registered by 28 July 2020 was 906 499; however, due to updating of birth registrations for births that occurred in 2019 but were registered late, the number of birth occurrences for 2019 increased to 1 016 988 by 28 February 2021. The decline in the number of registrations between 28 February 2021 and 01 July 2021 will hopefully be addressed in the 2021 publication when updated data is obtained.

The table further shows that the highest number of late registrations was registered during the year immediately following the year of birth occurrence. Additionally, late registrations have been decreasing over time, with increases in birth registration during the year of occurrence.

Table 7: Birth occurrences (as at end of February 2020) by year of birth occurrence and year of birth registration, South Africa: 2000–2020

Year of birth registration	Year of birth occurrence																				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
2000	409 707																				
2001	192 410	477 489																			
2002	118 600	218 256	557 573																		
2003	77 256	94 588	194 204	621 887																	
2004	43 503	48 197	63 234	165 662	728 283																
2005	24 807	23 798	27 701	43 404	150 546	793 788															
2006	26 516	24 057	26 042	34 601	54 941	154 331	860 263														
2007	14 158	15 200	16 766	20 009	26 769	42 569	126 358	858 866													
2008	8 327	8 722	11 378	14 085	17 869	23 732	40 554	128 336	915 674												
2009	5 128	5 072	6 053	8 322	11 793	14 208	19 510	31 885	101 743	879 707											
2010	3 450	3 535	3 844	4 852	7 623	10 566	13 736	19 323	30 164	91 064	889 691										
2011	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	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	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	2 531	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	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	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	749	465	699	1 218	1 206	1 148	1 239	1 350	1 585	1 768	2 233	3 153	3 220	3 532	5 032	7 355	25 885	849 918			
2018	814	755	384	1 313	1 671	1 331	1 296	1 367	1 512	1 677	2 155	2 797	3 865	4 197	4 834	6 605	7 595	71 050	879 273		
2019	576	685	713	429	1 543	1 353	1 349	1 289	1 322	1 438	1 539	1 869	2 465	3 522	4 308	4 912	5 394	6 580	70 214	906 499	
2020	434	442	633	669	326	1 622	1 882	1 600	1 344	1 245	1 385	1 491	1 969	2 546	3 910	4 287	4 044	4 542	5 151	110 489	899 303
Total	938 281	932 620	920 953	929 690	1 018 653	1 065 948	1 094 555	1 081 144	1 100 419	1 037 838	1 028 674	1 037 711	1 033 820	1 026 605	1 026 824	975 401	919 353	932 090	954 638	1 016 988	899 303

4.2 Birth occurrences registered within 30 days from date of birth

Timely birth registration is mandated in the Births and Deaths Registration Amendment Act (Act No. 18 of 2010), which stipulates that all births must be registered within 30 days from date of occurrence (Republic of South Africa, 2010). In an effort to encourage timely registration of births, the DHA has set up satellite offices in some hospitals and health facilities throughout the country to facilitate registration of births immediately after occurrence. This is an effort to ensure that parents do not leave a hospital or health care facility without registering the birth of their child and receiving a birth certificate. The DHA has also instituted punitive measures for parents who register a birth after the stipulated period such as requiring a proof of birth affidavit and another affidavit giving reasons for late registration. Even if registration of births is anchored in a legal framework, if there is lack of oversight or enforcement of the legal framework, birth registration requirement can be undermined (WHO, 2013). Progress towards adherence to this requirement is demonstrated in the tabulation of month of birth occurrence by month of birth registration.

Table 8 below presents the distribution of births that occurred in 2020 and registered within 30 days, by month of birth occurrence and month of birth registration. On average, about 45 000 births that occurred within the last thirty days are registered in any given year. Table 8 shows a marked deviation from this pattern during 2020, the average number of birth registered within thirty days declined to just around 34 000. A few months stands out in relation to fewer number of births presented to the DHA for registration within 30 days, in April only 820 births were registered, and this coincides with the hard lockdown instituted by government between the period 26 March 2020 and April 2020, when the country was placed at level 5 lockdown and most services were closed (including DHA offices) to stem the rising COVID-19 pandemic cases. The second unusual pattern observed in the 2020 data in terms of the lowest birth occurrences registered within the 30-day timeframe was for October and November 2020 with 17 153 and 16 409 births registered respectively during these two months. The highest number of birth occurrences that were registered within the 30-day timeframe was for January (53 644), followed by February (47 352) and March (45 091).

Table 8: Number of births registered within 30 days of occurrence by month of birth occurrence and month of birth registration, South Africa: 2020

Month of birth registration	Month of birth occurrence												Total
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
January	53,644												53,644
February	21,857	47,352											69,209
March		23,146	45,091										68,237
April			801	820									1,621
May				38,130	38,773								76,903
June					28,572	37,585							66,157
July						27,808	37,932						65,740
August							26,370	36,023					62,393
September								27,934	41,397				69,331
October									17,632	17,153			34,785
November										14,425	16,409		30,834
December											22,929	36,481	59,410
January												27,017	27,017
Total	75,501	70,498	45,892	38,950	67,345	65,393	64,302	63,957	59,029	31,578	39,338	63,498	685,281

4.2.1 Age of the mother, for births occurring in 2020

Maternal age at childbirth has been shown to correlate positively with numerous child outcomes which are policy-relevant. Additionally, reference is often made based on maternal age in the interpretation of fertility levels and trends and other health related outcomes. Form DHA-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.

Table 9 shows the distribution of births occurring in 2020 by age of the mother. As observed from previous years, most births occurred to women aged 25–29 years (26,1%), closely followed by those aged 20–24 years (23,9%), and then those aged 30–34 years (21,9%). Births occurring in these age groups (20–34 years) represent 72% of all births that occurred and were registered in 2020. Just above 10% of births occurred to older adolescents aged 15–19; while 0,3% of births occurred to younger adolescents in the 10–14 age range. Mothers aged 40 and older accounted for almost 4% of births, while just 0,3% births had unspecified age.

Additional information, providing the number of births by age of mother for the past five years (2016–2020), is provided in Appendix D.

Table 9: Number and percentage of births by age of mother, South Africa: 2020

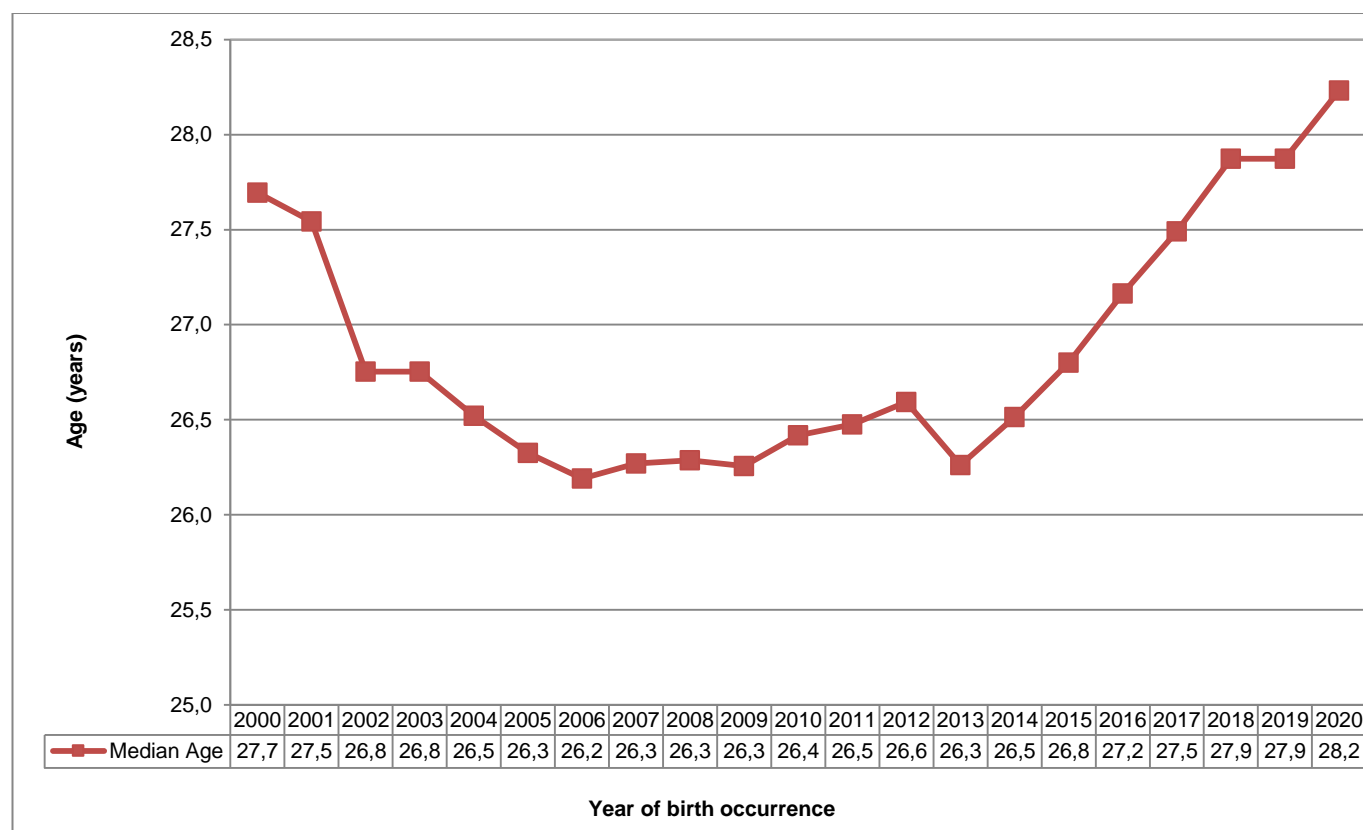
Age of mother	Number of birth occurrences	Percentage
10–14	2 665	0,3
15–19	91 580	10,2
20–24	214 875	23,9
25–29	234 514	26,1
30–34	197 713	22,0
35–39	118 687	13,2
40–44	33 527	3,7
45–49	2 689	0,3
50–54	196	0,0
Unspecified/outside the 10–54 age range	2 857	0,3
Total	899 303	100,0

4.2.2 Median age of mother from 2000 to 2020

The median ages of the mothers for births occurring between 2000 and 2020 are shown in Figure 6. The median age of the mothers is the exact age that divides the mothers into two numerically equal groups; that is, half the mothers are younger than this age and the other half are older. In essence, the median age at birth specifies how early or late births occur within a population. The figure shows that on average, the median ages of mothers for the years 2000 to 2020 ranged from 26 to 28 years.

In the years between 2000 and 2006 the median age decreased from 27,7 years to 26,2. From 2007 to 2009 the median age of mothers stabilised to around 26,3 years thereafter increasing to 26,6 years by 2012. There was a slight decline in median ages to 26,3 years in 2013 and thereafter increased yearly, reaching 27,9 in 2018 and 2019. A slight increase is observed for 2020 at 28,2 years.

Figure 6: Median age of mother by year of birth, South Africa: 2000–2020



4.2.3 Provincial distribution of births 2020

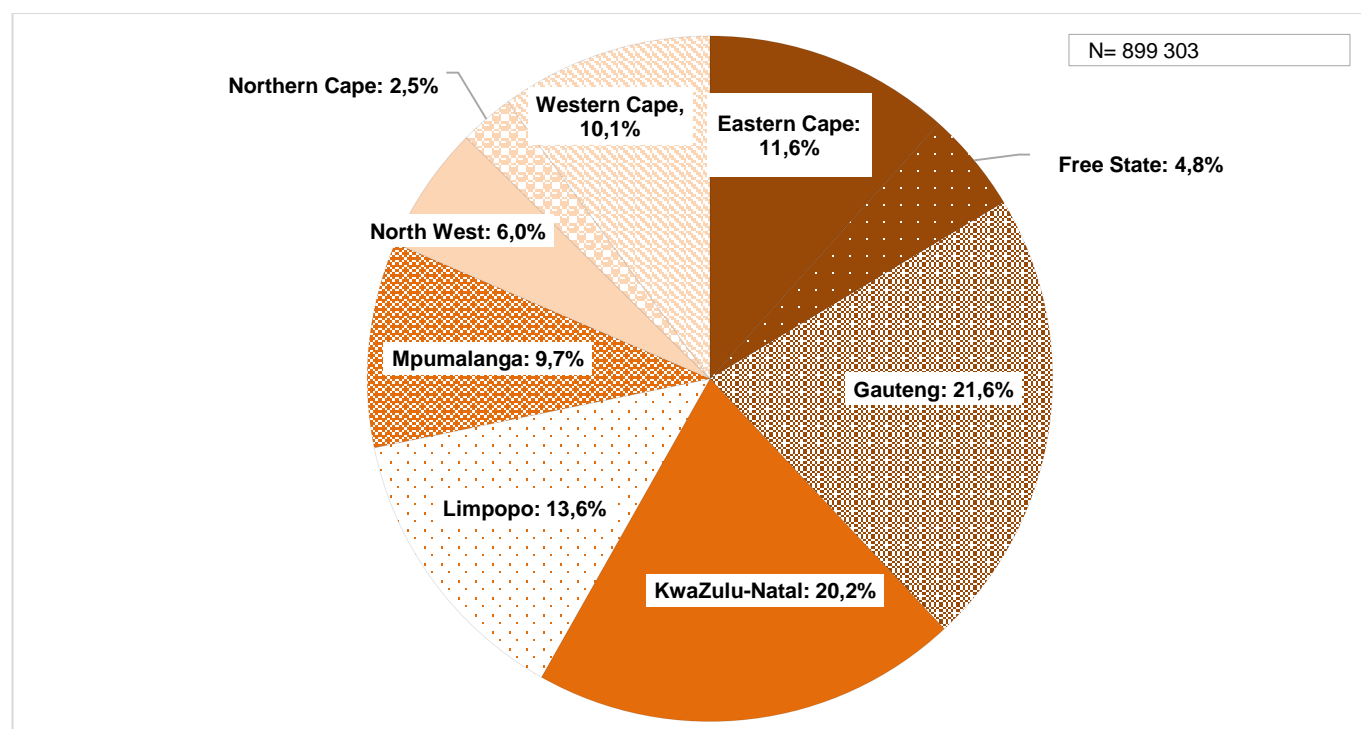
Figure 7 presents the distribution of 2020 birth occurrences by province of birth registration. The information excludes unspecified province of birth registrations. Generally, birth registrations remain higher in the most populated provinces in South Africa. The highest proportion of births was registered in Gauteng, followed by KwaZulu-Natal, at 21,6% and 20,2% respectively. Northern Cape and Free State reflected the lowest proportions of birth registrations at 2,5% and 4,8% respectively.

Further information on birth occurrences by province and age of mother is provided in Appendix E. The results show that Gauteng had the highest number of births amongst women in the age group 25–29 years and KwaZulu-Natal had the highest number of birth occurrences in age group 20–24 years. Overall, Northern Cape reflected the lowest birth occurrences across all age groups. The highest number of births occurring to teen mothers were recorded in KwaZulu-Natal (640), followed closely by Limpopo (536) and Eastern Cape (517).

Appendix F shows a detailed distribution of birth occurrences by province and district municipality of birth registration for the years 2016 to 2020. The results indicate that birth occurrences were highest in Gauteng each year for the

period 2016 to 2020 followed by KwaZulu-Natal in the same period. This is indicative of the population of South Africa, as these two provinces are the most populated. Information on district municipalities shows that the metropolitan municipalities continue to dominate as the top five district municipalities with regard to the highest number of birth occurrences in the five-year period.

Figure 7: Birth occurrences by province of birth registration, South Africa: 2020*



*Excluding births with unspecified province of birth registration

4.3 Birth occurrences as at 01 July 2021

This sub-section reports on birth occurrences extracted from the national birth register on the 1st of July 2021 categorised by sex of the child and year of birth as a way of providing the most recent data available before publication. Table 10 presents information on the number of birth occurrences by birth year and sex. The total number of birth occurrences per year, as shown in the table indicates that a total of 21 276 873 million births occurred and were registered in South Africa between 2000 and 2020 with an average of 1 013 184 births per year over the 21-year period. The table further shows that the highest number of birth occurrences was observed in 2008, and the lowest in 2016, this has been the case for the past four years.

4.3.1 Sex of the child

Table 10 shows that over the 21-year period (2000 to 2020), sex ratios ranged between 100 and 102 male births per 100 female births. In 2000 to 2002, the sex ratio of birth occurrences was 100, indicating equal male and female births, but this might also reflect the quality of reporting in those earlier years. For the years 2003 to 2009, the sex ratio was at 101 male births per 100 female births, signifying slightly more males than females. Since 2010, the sex ratios have been at 102 male births per 100 female births.

Table 10: Birth occurrences (as at 1st of July 2021) by year of birth and sex, South Africa: 2000–2020

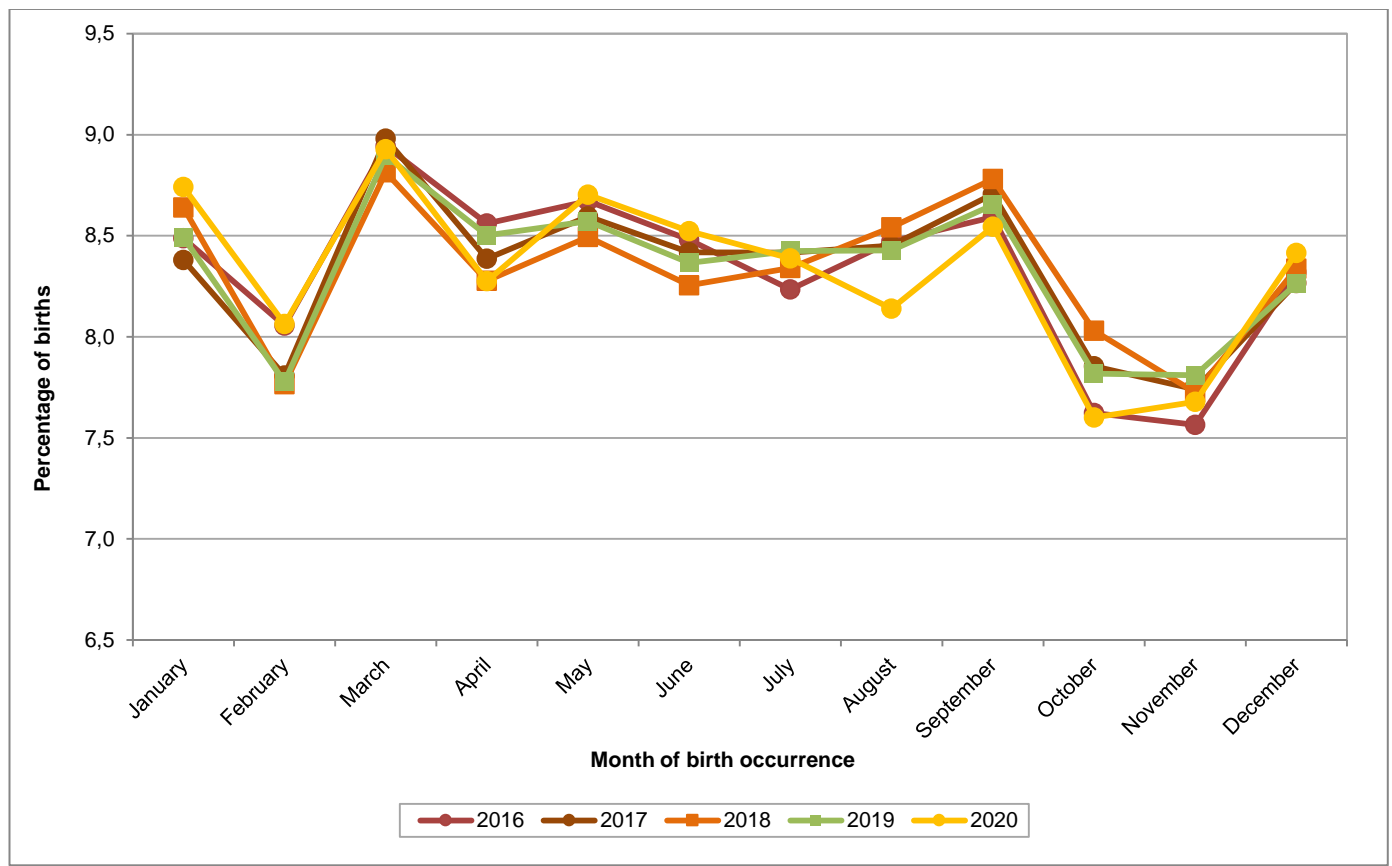
Year	Total	Male	Female	Sex ratio
2000	981174	491435	489739	100
2001	963924	482766	481158	100
2002	974397	487830	486567	100
2003	969514	486925	482589	101
2004	1027918	516700	511218	101
2005	1069556	538052	531504	101
2006	1100458	552654	547804	101
2007	1086451	546875	539576	101
2008	1110430	558471	551959	101
2009	1059138	533186	525952	101
2010	1032441	520839	511602	102
2011	1041302	525192	516110	102
2012	1041577	525433	516144	102
2013	1028222	518877	509345	102
2014	1031174	520253	510921	102
2015	979994	493846	486148	102
2016	921311	465443	455868	102
2017	934159	471300	462859	102
2018	959453	484532	474921	102
2019	977121	492976	484145	102
2020	987159	497988	489171	102
Total	21 276 873	10 711 573	10 565 300	101

4.3.2 Month of birth as at 01 July 2021

The percentage distribution of birth occurrences from 2016 to 2020 classified by month of birth (updated as of 01 July 2021) is shown in Figure 8. In general, over the five-year period, the pattern of birth occurrences by month and year of birth was somewhat uniform, with the highest proportion of births occurring during the month of March. This suggests that over the five years, a higher proportion of birth occurrences were likely to be conceived during June or July. The second most common month of birth occurrence was January, a departure from the previous trend, where September was the second highest month. Another observed departure from normal trends is the lowest proportion of births, over the last few years this was associated with the month of November, in 2020 this is shown in October. There was also a slightly atypical dip in occurrences for the month of August in 2020.

Detailed information on the number of birth occurrences from 1994 to 2020 by month of birth and sex is provided on Appendices.

Figure 8: Percentage distribution of birth occurrences as at 1st of July 2021 by year and month of birth, South Africa: 2016–2020



4.4 Baby forenames and surnames in South Africa, 2020

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

One of the many ways in which language and culture go hand in hand concerns the naming process (de Klerk & Bosch; 1996). Names not only aid in the construction of identity, but also concretise a people's collective memory by recording the circumstances of their experiences (Fitzpatrick; 2012). South Africa is a country with a variety of cultures and religions and this has a profound influence on baby naming. African baby names are given for reason, relevance and purpose. However, de Klerk & Bosch; (1996) found that in post-apartheid South Africa, naming patterns are in a process of change.

Table 11 shows the number distribution of the top ten baby forenames and surnames for 2020. In general, the popular baby forenames for males and females reflect positive hopes for the child, express beliefs and are inspired by positive connotations of both love and acceptance. Melokuhle was the most popular forename for both males and females, whilst Lethabo and Lubanzi were the second and third most common forenames for males. For females Amahle and Enzokuhle were the second and third leading forenames in 2020. For middle names, the most popular choices for females were Precious, Princess and Angel. Amongst males Junior, Blessing and Gift were the top three popular middle names. This order for middle names has remained the same since 2017. Table 11 further shows that for both sexes, Dlamini was the most common baby surname in 2020, closely followed by Ndlovu and then Nkosi. It is worth noting that as in previous years, nine of the surnames were from Nguni clans, namely isiZulu, isiXhosa, isiNdebele and siSwati. Mokoena which featured as the sixth most popular surname was the only non-Nguni surname.

Appendix H presents detailed information on the top ten baby first names and surnames for births which occurred and were registered in 2020 by province of registration. The distribution of male first names shows that as in the previous year, Lethabo was the most common male baby name for Northern Cape, Free State, North West and Gauteng and was third in Limpopo. Junior was the most common second name in eight of the nine provinces, except for KZN where it was the fourth most common second name.

Amongst female baby first names, Melokuhle was the most common first name for babies born in Western Cape and Mpumalanga. Warona was the most popular in Northern Cape and North West. Amohelang in Free State. Precious was the preferred second name in five of the nine provinces. Northern Cape, Free State, North West, Gauteng and Limpopo. Lisakhanya was the preferred female baby name in KZN, while Lesedi and Tshegofatso were the most common baby names for females in Gauteng and Limpopo, respectively.

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

Table 11: Number distribution of top ten baby forenames and surnames, South Africa, 2020

Rank	Male				Female				Both sexes	
	First: Forename	Number	Second: Forename	Number	First: Forename	Number	Second: Forename	Number	Surname	Number
1	Melokuhle	3 187	Junior	10 424	Melokuhle	4 347	Precious	4 775	Dlamini	7 608
2	Lethabo	3 139	Blessing	4 910	Amahle	2 523	Princess	4 164	Ndlovu	7 033
3	Lubanzi	3 029	Gift	4 036	Enzokuhle	2 370	Angel	3 029	Nkosi	6 896
4	Enzokuhle	2 871	Prince	2 974	Lisakhanya	2 327	Blessing	2 952	Khumalo	6 464
5	Banele	2 793	Lubanzi	1 990	Lethabo	2 319	Faith	2 443	Sithole	5 501
6	Junior	2 323	Banele	1 577	Omphile	2 300	Hope	2 375	Mokoena	4 451
7	Lethokuhle	2 196	Innocent	1 572	Lesedi	2 236	Melokuhle	1 861	Mkhize	4 302
8	Ayabonga	2 105	Melokuhle	1 506	Okuhle	2 225	Amahle	1 634	Gumede	4 056
9	Siyabonga	1 972	Enzokuhle	1 337	Lethokuhle	2 222	Okuhle	1 517	Mthembu	3 979
10	Omphile	1 857	Bandile	1 288	Rethabile	2 094	Grace	1 453	Mahlangu	3 896

5. Concluding remarks

Legal identity is considered as the basic characteristic of an individual's identity conferred through birth registration and the issuance of a certificate by an authorised civil registration authority. Birth registration data are essential for planning and implementing development policies and programmes, particularly the National Development Plan (NDP) in South Africa; Agenda 2063 at regional level; and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) at international level.

The 2020 statistical release provided information on birth registrations and occurrences in South Africa for 2020. In addition, information for the period 1997 to 2020 was examined to review trends on birth registrations and occurrences. A total of 1 003 307 births were registered in 2020, reflecting a 48 004 decrease from 1 051 311 births registered in 2019. The negative impact of COVID-19 and national lockdown regulations such as closure of DHA offices resulted in a 9,2% decline in registration within 30 days and an increase in late registrations of birth after the lapse of 30 days but before end of the year, rising from 12,6% in 2019 to 24,7% in 2020. The months of April, October and November show slowdown in registrations within the first 30 days of birth, this pattern deviates from past observed number of births registered within 30 days after occurrence

Differentials in births by sex showed that there were slightly more male births than female births with a sex ratio of 102 male birth registrations per 100 female birth registrations. Further analysis by age of the mother reflects higher proportions of births among women aged 20–34 years, accounting for 72% of all births in 2020 while teenage mother (aged 10-19) accounted for almost 10% of births. Provincial distributions show that as observed in previous years, the highest number of birth occurrences were in Gauteng (21,6%) and KwaZulu-Natal (20,2%). Northern Cape (2,5%) and Free State (4,8%) had the lowest proportion of registered birth occurrences. A similar pattern was observed in 2020 where more births occurred in the months of March (8,9%) and the least number of births occurred in November (7,6%).

At national level, the most popular name amongst both baby girls and boys was Melokuhle. Junior and Precious were common second names for boys and girls respectively. Dlamini followed by Ndlovu and Nkosi were still the top three most common surname amongst babies born and registered in 2020 as was the case in previous years.

Although the completeness of birth registration has improved, advent of COVID-19 pandemic affected improvement observed in previous years in the number of births registered within 30 days of birth. It is hoped that as the pandemic recedes further improvements will continue. Quality and content of birth registration information collected remains a concern, particularly information pertaining to fathers is still a challenge, even in 2020, 64% of births did not contain information on fathers which means information about the natural fathers remain relatively unknown.

The efforts to improve birth registration coverage in South Africa must be go beyond the provision of information on legal identity. This data can be an important tool for evaluating maternal child health programmes and giving valuable insight into the behaviour of fertility in the country. The creation of satellite units in health facilities with maternity units provide an opportunity to improve registration within 30 days. These initiative must be expanded and embraced by all stakeholders involved in the civil registration and vital statistics system for the country to reap long term benefits of complete birth registration.


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Appendices

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

DHA-24



Allocated Identity Number:

NOTICE OF BIRTH

[Births and Deaths Registration Act 51 of 1992]
Regulation No 5

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

Date of application: YYYY MM DD ☐ Registration within 30 Days ☐ Registration after 30 Days

A. DETAILS OF THE CHILD

Surname:

Forenames in full:

Date of birth: YYYY MMMMMMMM DD (write month in full) Gender:

Place of birth: City/Town: Province:

Country of birth:

Are the parents of the child married to each other? ☐ If Yes, nature of marriage: ☐ Civil ☐ Customary ☐ Civil Union ☐ Religious: Specify

Date of marriage: YYYY MM DD If Yes, enclose a certified copy of the marriage certificate

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

B. DETAILS OF FATHER (PARENT A)

Identity number (passport if foreigner): Date of birth: YYYY MM DD

Present surname:

Maiden surname:

Forenames in full:

Place of birth: City/Town: Country of birth:

Citizenship: Permanent/Temporary permit no.:

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

Identity number (passport if foreigner): Date of birth: YYYY MM DD

Present surname:

Maiden surname:

Forenames in full:

Place of birth: City/Town: Country of birth:

Citizenship: Permanent/Temporary permit no.:

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

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

Initials and surname	Signature

Identity number (passport if foreigner): Date: YYYY MM DD

Mother's consent to the acknowledgement of paternity

Initials and surname	Signature

Identity number (passport if foreigner): Date: YYYY MM DD

E. DETAILS OF THE LEGAL GUARDIAN/SOCIAL WORKER*

*Compulsory if notice is not given by the parent

Identity number (passport if foreigner): Date of birth: YYYY MM DD

Social Workers' Case No.:

Surname:

Forenames in full:

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

Initials and surname	Signature	Date	Y Y Y Y	M M	D D
		Place			

Relationship to the child: ☐ Father (Parent A) ☐ Mother (Parent B) ☐ Legal guardian ☐ Social worker

G. FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY - OFFICE OF ORIGIN

NOTICE OF BIRTH RECEIVED BY:

Identity number											
Surname											
First name											
Persal number											

Stat		Birth	
I	O	S	M

Office stamp - Office of origin

DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED WITH THIS APPLICATION: PLEASE TICK ☒

Birth Registration within 30 Days:

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

Birth Registration after 30 Days, additional documents:

- ☐ Proof of Paternity

If foreign birth, additional documents:

- ☐ Certified copy of the Foreign birth certificate of the child
- ☐ Citizenship determination form BI-529 (SA Parent)
- ☐ Citizenship determination form BI-529 (Child)

Online verification performed and printouts attached for following persons:

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

Date Y Y Y Y M M D D

Signature _____

H. APPLICATION VERIFIED

Date Y Y Y Y M M D D

I hereby declare that I have verified the application and registration

Initials and surname _____

Signature

Identity number

Persal number

Appendix B1: Total birth registrations for 2020 by year of birth occurrence, province and district municipality*

Province and district municipality	Grand Total	2020 (current)	Late registrations					
			Total	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015 and below
Total	1,003,307	899,303	104,004	62,456	4,105	3,516	3,148	30,779
Western Cape								
Cape Winelands (Boland)	15,730	14,718	1,012	843	12	34	34	89
Central Karoo	1,410	1,307	103	83	2	2	3	13
City of Cape Town	59,038	54,384	4,654	3,860	103	105	131	455
Eden	9,476	8,867	609	473	26	14	25	71
Overberg	5,285	4,899	386	332	2	4	10	38
West Coast	6,832	6,205	627	502	19	17	21	68
Total	97,771	90,380	7,391	6,093	164	176	224	734
Eastern Cape								
Alfred Nzo	16,546	14,954	1,592	1,083	76	78	48	307
Amathole	11,948	11,267	681	402	40	28	23	188
Buffalo City	12,942	12,219	723	601	16	22	12	72
Chris Hani	13,064	11,917	1,147	711	45	49	43	299
Joe Gqabi (Ukhahlamba)	5,319	4,767	552	327	34	23	30	138
Nelson Mandela Bay	17,700	15,921	1,779	1,223	78	62	72	344
O.R.Tambo	30,983	27,775	3,208	1,895	172	143	119	879
Sarah Baartman (Cacadu)	6,379	5,663	716	488	42	33	30	123
Total	114,881	104,483	10,398	6,730	503	438	377	2,350
Northern Cape								
Frances Baard	8,973	8,333	640	479	37	18	27	79
John Taolo Gaetsewe	4,938	4,766	172	132	9		5	26
Namakwa	1,495	1,439	56	51	1		2	2
Pixley ka Seme	3,600	3,347	253	186	12	16	7	32
Z F Mgcawu (Siyanda)	5,445	4,858	587	279	23	25	15	245
Total	24,451	22,743	1,708	1,127	82	59	56	384
Free State								
Fezile Dabi	8,029	7,189	840	364	41	40	31	364
Lejweleputswa	9,886	9,235	651	320	24	32	36	239
Mangaung	13,241	12,650	591	402	24	17	19	129
Thabo Mofutsanyane	13,346	12,297	1,049	633	54	47	52	263
Xhariep	1,763	1,526	237	143	7	13	10	64
Total	46,265	42,897	3,368	1,862	150	149	148	1,059

*District municipality that has since been renamed post 1994, previous name in brackets

Appendix B1: Total birth registrations for 2020 by year of birth occurrence, province and district municipality* (concluded)

Province and district municipality	Grand Total	2020 (current)	Late registrations					
			Total	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015 and below
Total	1,003,307	899,303	104,004	62,456	4,105	3,516	3,148	30,779
KwaZulu-Natal								
Amajuba	8,341	7,439	902	729	36	37	15	85
Hary Gwala (Sisonke)	10,580	9,616	964	837	24	15	15	73
Ugu	13,888	12,308	1,580	1,250	72	65	42	151
Zululand	19,646	17,040	2,606	1,834	220	129	99	324
eThekweni	58,253	51,902	6,351	5,411	213	143	119	465
iLembe	11,874	9,915	1,959	1,568	108	75	38	170
uMgungundlovu	16,154	14,529	1,625	1,222	44	85	70	204
uMkhanyakude	18,446	16,105	2,341	1,706	184	106	73	272
uMzinyathi	14,292	12,361	1,931	1,674	83	42	22	110
uThukela	13,902	12,395	1,507	1,257	64	39	30	117
uThungulu	20,405	17,676	2,729	2,171	146	102	62	248
Total	205,781	181,286	24,495	19,659	1,194	838	585	2,219
North West								
Bojanala	22,660	21,459	1,201	929	51	35	30	156
Dr Kenneth Kaunda	13,060	12,000	1,060	608	88	55	52	257
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	10,250	9,535	715	514	43	50	18	90
Ngaka Modiri Molema	11,098	10,548	550	453	14	12	10	61
Total	57,068	53,542	3,526	2,504	196	152	110	564
Gauteng								
City of Johannesburg	61,809	55,417	6,392	3,763	484	350	317	1,478
City of Tshwane	71,555	54,233	17,322	2,733	266	223	208	13,892
Ekurhuleni	63,062	56,853	6,209	3,878	239	264	270	1,558
Sedibeng	15,307	14,393	914	767	29	14	18	86
West Rand	16,566	13,661	2,905	835	110	138	157	1,665
Total	228,299	194,557	33,742	11,976	1,128	989	970	18,679
Mpumalanga								
Ehlanzeni	49,789	45,187	4,602	2,602	164	220	183	1,433
Gert Sibande	20,887	18,861	2,026	1,515	58	62	38	353
Nkangala	25,222	23,196	2,026	1,717	17	27	48	217
Total	95,898	87,244	8,654	5,834	239	309	269	2,003
Limpopo								
Capricorn	28,640	27,482	1,158	850	46	38	44	180
Greater Sekhukhune	24,430	23,178	1,252	819	43	55	43	292
Mopani	28,444	25,675	2,769	1,751	82	80	74	782
Vhembe	34,556	30,121	4,435	2,574	207	177	188	1,289
Waterberg	16,823	15,715	1,108	677	71	56	60	244
Total	132,893	122,171	10,722	6,671	449	406	409	2,787

Appendix B2: Total birth registrations for 2020 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	1,003,307	710,814	248,209	31,332	12,952	100.0	70.8	24.7	3.1	1.3
Western Cape										
Cape Winelands (Boland)	15,730	11,177	4,377	176	0	100.0	71.1	27.8	1.1	0.0
Central Karoo	1,410	1,059	329	22	0	100.0	75.1	23.3	1.6	0.0
City of Cape Town	59,038	38,508	19,691	839	0	100.0	65.2	33.4	1.4	0.0
Eden	9,476	7,280	2,038	158	0	100.0	76.8	21.5	1.7	0.0
Overberg	5,285	3,866	1,362	57	0	100.0	73.2	25.8	1.1	0.0
West Coast	6,832	4,012	2,689	131	0	100.0	58.7	39.4	1.9	0.0
Total	97,771	65,902	30,486	1,383		100.0	67.4	31.2	1.4	0.0
Eastern Cape										
Alfred Nzo	16,546	11,769	4,221	556	0	100.0	71.1	25.5	3.4	0.0
Amathole	11,948	8,844	2,794	310	0	100.0	74.0	23.4	2.6	0.0
Buffalo City	12,942	9,323	3,482	137	0	100.0	72.0	26.9	1.1	0.0
Chris Hani	13,064	9,113	3,490	455	6	100.0	69.8	26.7	3.5	0.0
Joe Gqabi (Ukhahlamba)	5,319	3,501	1,558	260	0	100.0	65.8	29.3	4.9	0.0
Nelson Mandela Bay	17,700	12,674	4,419	607	0	100.0	71.6	25.0	3.4	0.0
O.R.Tambo	30,983	20,478	9,119	1,386	0	100.0	66.1	29.4	4.5	0.0
Sarah Baartman (Cacadu)	6,379	4,270	1,850	259	0	100.0	66.9	29.0	4.1	0.0
Total	114,881	79,972	30,933	3,970	6	100.0	69.6	26.9	3.5	0.0
Northern Cape										
Frances Baard	8,973	6,595	2,191	187	0	100.0	73.5	24.4	2.1	0.0
John Taolo Gaetsewe	4,938	3,829	1,059	50	0	100.0	77.5	21.4	1.0	0.0
Namakwa	1,495	1,246	240	9	0	100.0	83.3	16.1	0.6	0.0
Pixley ka Seme	3,600	2,621	900	79	0	100.0	72.8	25.0	2.2	0.0
Z F Mgcawu (Siyanda)	5,445	3,822	1,302	318	3	100.0	70.2	23.9	5.8	0.1
Total	24,451	18,113	5,692	643	3	100.0	74.1	23.3	2.6	0.0
Free State										
Fezile Dabi	8,029	5,737	1,788	503	1	100.0	71.5	22.3	6.3	0.0
Lejweleputswa	9,886	7,821	1,728	334	3	100.0	79.1	17.5	3.4	0.0
Mangaung	13,241	11,242	1,798	201	0	100.0	84.9	13.6	1.5	0.0
Thabo Mofutsanyane	13,346	10,210	2,676	460	0	100.0	76.5	20.1	3.4	0.0
Xhariep	1,763	1,027	635	101	0	100.0	58.3	36.0	5.7	0.0
Total	46,265	36,037	8,625	1,599	4	100.0	77.9	18.6	3.5	0.0

Appendix B2: Total birth registrations for 2020 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						100.0	80.0	12.6	4.8	2.6
KwaZulu-Natal										
Amajuba	8,341	6,031	2,116	194	0	100.0	72.3	25.4	2.3	0.0
Hary Gwala (Sisonke)	10,580	7,637	2,806	137	0	100.0	72.2	26.5	1.3	0.0
Ugu	13,888	9,239	4,290	359	0	100.0	66.5	30.9	2.6	0.0
Zululand	19,646	13,073	5,665	907	1	100.0	66.5	28.8	4.6	0.0
eThekweni	58,253	38,327	18,884	1,042	0	100.0	65.8	32.4	1.8	0.0
iLembe	11,874	5,593	5,855	426	0	100.0	47.1	49.3	3.6	0.0
uMgungundlovu	16,154	10,410	5,329	415	0	100.0	64.4	33.0	2.6	0.0
uMkhanyakude	18,446	11,592	6,140	714	0	100.0	62.8	33.3	3.9	0.0
uMzinyathi	14,292	8,460	5,530	302	0	100.0	59.2	38.7	2.1	0.0
uThukela	13,902	9,030	4,591	281	0	100.0	65.0	33.0	2.0	0.0
uThungulu	20,405	12,338	7,452	614	1	100.0	60.5	36.5	3.0	0.0
Total	205,781	131,730	68,658	5,391	2	100.0	64.0	33.4	2.6	0.0
North West										
Bojanala	22,660	17,349	5,014	297	0	100.0	76.6	22.1	1.3	0.0
Dr Kenneth Kaunda	13,060	10,258	2,271	530	1	100.0	78.5	17.4	4.1	0.0
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	10,250	8,133	1,884	233	0	100.0	79.3	18.4	2.3	0.0
Ngaka Modiri Molema	11,098	8,313	2,677	108	0	100.0	74.9	24.1	1.0	0.0
Total	57,068	44,053	11,846	1,168	1	100.0	77.2	20.8	2.0	0.0
Gauteng										
City of Johannesburg	61,809	46,188	12,547	3,074	0	100.0	74.7	20.3	5.0	0.0
City of Tshwane	71,555	45,684	10,945	2,210	12,716	100.0	63.8	15.3	3.1	17.8
Ekurhuleni	63,062	45,713	14,883	2,459	7	100.0	72.5	23.6	3.9	0.0
Sedibeng	15,307	12,176	2,928	203	0	100.0	79.5	19.1	1.3	0.0
West Rand	16,566	11,788	2,643	2,077	58	100.0	71.2	16.0	12.5	0.4
Total	228,299	161,549	43,946	10,023	12,781	100.0	70.8	19.2	4.4	5.6
Mpumalanga										
Ehlanzeni	49,789	37,456	10,246	2,084	3	100.0	75.2	20.6	4.2	0.0
Gert Sibande	20,887	14,410	5,942	535	0	100.0	69.0	28.4	2.6	0.0
Nkangala	25,222	16,949	7,953	320	0	100.0	67.2	31.5	1.3	0.0
Total	95,898	68,815	24,141	2,939	3	100.0	71.8	25.2	3.1	0.0
Limpopo										
Capricorn	28,640	24,267	4,055	318	0	100.0	84.7	14.2	1.1	0.0
Greater Sekhukhune	24,430	20,617	3,345	425	43	100.0	84.4	13.7	1.7	0.2
Mopani	28,444	21,698	5,656	1,005	85	100.0	76.3	19.9	3.5	0.3
Vhembe	34,556	25,218	7,313	2,003	22	100.0	73.0	21.2	5.8	0.1
Waterberg	16,823	12,843	3,513	465	2	100.0	76.3	20.9	2.8	0.0
Total	132,893	104,643	23,882	4,216	152	100.0	78.7	18.0	3.2	0.1
Total	1,003,307	710,814	248,209	31,332	12,952	100.0	70.8	24.7	3.1	1.3

Appendix C: Total birth registrations for 2020 by registration status, sex, province and district municipality*

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	1,003,307	506,264	497,043	959,023	483,140	475,883	31,332	15,662	15,670	12,952	7,462	5,490
Western Cape												
Cape Winelands (Boland)	15,730	7,943	7,787	15,554	7,853	7,701	176	90	86	-	-	-
Central Karoo	1,410	698	712	1,388	687	701	22	11	11	-	-	-
City of Cape Town	59,038	29,872	29,166	58,199	29,428	28,771	839	444	395	-	-	-
Eden	9,476	4,841	4,635	9,318	4,760	4,558	158	81	77	-	-	-
Overberg	5,285	2,581	2,704	5,228	2,560	2,668	57	21	36	-	-	-
West Coast	6,832	3,442	3,390	6,701	3,369	3,332	131	73	58	-	-	-
Total	97,771	49,377	48,394	96,388	48,657	47,731	1,383	720	663			
Eastern Cape												
Alfred Nzo	16,546	8,425	8,121	15,990	8,142	7,848	556	283	273	-	-	-
Amathole	11,948	5,987	5,961	11,638	5,830	5,808	310	157	153	-	-	-
Buffalo City	12,942	6,656	6,286	12,805	6,598	6,207	137	58	79	-	-	-
Chris Hani	13,068	6,633	6,435	12,603	6,383	6,220	455	244	211	6	2	4
Joe Gqabi (Ukhahlamba)	5,319	2,707	2,612	5,059	2,583	2,476	260	124	136	-	-	-
Nelson Mandela Bay	17,700	8,895	8,805	17,093	8,609	8,484	607	286	321	-	-	-
O.R.Tambo	30,983	15,511	15,472	29,597	14,847	14,750	1,386	664	722	-	-	-
Sarah Baartman (Cacadu)	6,379	3,221	3,158	6,120	3,084	3,036	259	137	122	-	-	-
Total	114,885	58,035	56,850	110,905	56,076	54,829	3,970	1,953	2,017	6	2	4
Northern Cape												
Frances Baard	8,973	4,548	4,425	8,786	4,465	4,321	187	83	104	-	-	-
John Taolo Gaetsewe	4,938	2,452	2,486	4,888	2,430	2,458	50	22	28	-	-	-
Namakwa	1,495	758	737	1,486	752	734	9	6	3	-	-	-
Pixley ka Seme	3,600	1,813	1,787	3,521	1,777	1,744	79	36	43	-	-	-
Z F Mgcawu (Siyanda)	5,447	2,752	2,695	5,124	2,596	2,528	318	153	165	3	1	2
Total	24,453	12,323	12,130	23,805	12,020	11,785	643	300	343	3	1	2
Free State												
Fezile Dabi	8,030	3,997	4,033	7,525	3,751	3,774	503	245	258	1	-	1
Lejweleputswa	9,888	4,965	4,923	9,549	4,799	4,750	334	163	171	3	1	2
Mangaung	13,241	6,678	6,563	13,040	6,579	6,461	201	99	102	-	-	-
Thabo Mofutsanyane	13,346	6,743	6,603	12,886	6,522	6,364	460	221	239	-	-	-
Xhariep	1,763	865	898	1,662	812	850	101	53	48	-	-	-
Total	46,268	23,248	23,020	44,662	22,463	22,199	1,599	781	818	4	1	3

Appendix C: Total birth registrations for 2020 by registration status, sex, province and district municipality* (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	1,003,307	506,264	497,043	959,023	483,140	475,883	31,332	15,662	15,670	12,952	7,462	5,490
KwaZulu-Natal												
Amajuba	8,341	4,158	4,183	8,147	4,052	4,095	194	106	88	-	-	-
Hary Gwala (Sisonke)	10,580	5,414	5,166	10,443	5,337	5,106	137	77	60	-	-	-
Ugu	13,888	7,075	6,813	13,529	6,889	6,640	359	186	173	-	-	-
Zululand	19,646	9,989	9,657	18,738	9,522	9,216	907	466	441	1	1	-
eThekweni	58,253	29,460	28,793	57,211	28,916	28,295	1,042	544	498	-	-	-
iLembe	11,874	5,969	5,905	11,448	5,764	5,684	426	205	221	-	-	-
uMgungundlovu	16,154	8,147	8,007	15,739	7,925	7,814	415	222	193	-	-	-
uMkhanyakude	18,446	9,275	9,171	17,732	8,908	8,824	714	367	347	-	-	-
uMzinyathi	14,292	7,210	7,082	13,990	7,054	6,936	302	156	146	-	-	-
uThukela	13,902	6,893	7,009	13,621	6,740	6,881	281	153	128	-	-	-
uThungulu	20,405	10,288	10,117	19,790	9,962	9,828	614	325	289	1	1	-
Total	205,781	103,878	101,903	200,388	101,069	99,319	5,391	2,807	2,584	2	2	
North West												
Bojanala	22,660	11,285	11,375	22,363	11,148	11,215	297	137	160	-	-	-
Dr Kenneth Kaunda	13,061	6,587	6,474	12,529	6,311	6,218	530	275	255	1	-	1
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	10,250	5,208	5,042	10,017	5,092	4,925	233	116	117	-	-	-
Ngaka Modiri Molema	11,098	5,595	5,503	10,990	5,540	5,450	108	55	53	-	-	-
Total	57,069	28,675	28,394	55,899	28,091	27,808	1,168	583	585	1		1
Gauteng												
City of Johannesburg	61,809	31,177	30,632	58,735	29,637	29,098	3,074	1,540	1,534	-	-	-
City of Tshwane	76,927	42,549	34,378	56,629	28,723	27,906	2,210	1,110	1,100	12,716	7,344	5,372
Ekurhuleni	63,064	31,710	31,354	60,596	30,468	30,128	2,459	1,235	1,224	7	5	2
Sedibeng	15,307	7,745	7,562	15,104	7,644	7,460	203	101	102	-	-	-
West Rand	16,598	8,422	8,176	14,431	7,360	7,071	2,077	1,004	1,073	58	26	32
Total	233,705	121,603	112,102	205,495	103,832	101,663	10,023	4,990	5,033	12,781	7,375	5,406
Mpumalanga												
Ehlanzeni	49,792	24,889	24,903	47,702	23,874	23,828	2,084	1,012	1,072	3	-	3
Gert Sibande	20,887	10,394	10,493	20,352	10,134	10,218	535	260	275	-	-	-
Nkangala	25,222	12,736	12,486	24,902	12,592	12,310	320	144	176	-	-	-
Total	95,901	48,019	47,882	92,956	46,600	46,356	2,939	1,416	1,523	3		3
Limpopo												
Capricorn	28,640	14,360	14,280	28,322	14,197	14,125	318	163	155	-	-	-
Greater Sekhukhune	24,455	12,217	12,238	23,962	11,951	12,011	425	223	202	43	18	25
Mopani	28,475	14,349	14,126	27,354	13,755	13,599	1,005	509	496	85	54	31
Vhembe	34,571	17,233	17,338	32,531	16,240	16,291	2,003	971	1,032	22	7	15
Waterberg	16,823	8,437	8,386	16,356	8,189	8,167	465	246	219	2	2	-
Total	132,964	66,596	66,368	128,525	64,332	64,193	4,216	2,112	2,104	152	81	71

Appendix D: Birth occurrences by year of birth and age of the mother, 2016–2020*

Age of the mother	Year of birth occurrence				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
10–14	2 463	2 023	1 810	3 440	2 665
15–19	122 844	109 505	96 714	111 875	91 580
20–24	233 956	235 527	242 444	249 622	214 875
25–29	233 696	240 808	251 928	262 540	234 514
30–34	190 274	195 964	205 450	215 274	197 713
35–39	100 369	105 266	114 958	124 533	118 687
40–44	30 547	31 281	32 589	33 809	33 527
45–49	2 112	2 268	2 606	2 526	2 689
50–54	152	181	220	143	196
Unspecified/outside 10–54 age range	2 940	9 267	5 919	13 226	2 857
Total	919 353	932 090	954 638	1 016 988	899 303

Appendix E: Birth occurrences by province of birth registration and age of mother, 2020*

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	272	7 574	19 903	24 756	21 623	12 610	3 168	221	19	234	90 380
Eastern Cape	451	12 743	27 571	25 528	20 786	12 552	3 701	335	36	780	104 483
Northern Cape	74	3 036	5 651	5 683	4 675	2 730	787	55	6	46	22 743
Free State	121	4 134	10 232	11 310	9 724	5 574	1 604	113	5	80	42 897
KwaZulu-Natal	527	21 070	48 356	46 322	36 626	21 509	5 876	496	49	455	181 286
North West	131	5 893	13 134	13 831	11 178	6 968	2 083	142	7	175	53 542
Gauteng	318	12 948	38 168	53 543	49 793	30 249	8 392	616	30	500	194 557
Mpumalanga	294	10 497	22 374	22 153	17 792	10 531	2 968	251	12	372	87 244
Limpopo	477	13 685	29 486	31 388	25 516	15 964	4 948	460	32	215	122 171
Total	2 665	91 580	214 875	234 514	197 713	118 687	33 527	2 689	196	2 857	899 303

**Unspecified or outside the 10–54 age range.

Appendix F: Birth occurrences by year of birth and province and district municipality of birth registration, 2016–2020*

Province and district municipality	Year of birth				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total - South Africa	919,353	932,090	954,638	1,016,988	899,303
Western Cape					
Cape Winelands	12,906	13,623	14,105	13,618	14,718
Central Karoo	1,165	1,173	1,192	1,308	1,307
City of Cape Town	63,259	65,034	65,419	70,080	54,384
Eden	8,709	9,230	9,412	9,794	8,867
Overberg	3,737	3,909	4,044	4,656	4,899
West Coast	5,386	4,999	4,954	6,527	6,205
Total	95,162	97,968	99,126	105,983	90,380
Eastern Cape					
Alfred Nzo	14,038	18,972	14,127	15,577	14,954
Amathole	10,361	11,246	11,150	12,039	11,267
Buffalo City	14,500	17,773	15,086	15,118	12,219
Chris Hani	11,610	11,695	12,187	13,000	11,917
Joe Gqabi (Ukhahlamba)	4,719	2,718	4,784	5,077	4,767
Nelson Mandela Bay	17,227	17,358	17,351	18,704	15,921
O.R.Tambo	27,521	23,170	29,036	30,726	27,775
Sarah Baartman (Cacadu)	5,337	5,676	5,448	5,736	5,663
Total	105,313	108,608	109,169	115,977	104,483
Northern Cape					
Frances Baard	8,800	9,136	9,463	9,120	8,333
John Taolo Gaetsewe	5,328	5,226	5,389	5,516	4,766
Namakwa	1,519	1,572	1,671	1,617	1,439
Pixley ka Seme	2,914	2,997	3,103	3,241	3,347
Z F Mgcawu (Siyanda)	4,758	4,997	4,987	5,271	4,858
Total	23,319	23,928	24,613	24,765	22,743
Free State					
Fezile Dabi	7,073	7,536	7,801	7,610	7,189
Lejweleputswa	9,599	10,041	9,411	9,612	9,235
Mangaung	15,865	15,805	15,968	16,469	12,650
Thabo Mofutsanyane	12,664	13,256	13,361	13,798	12,297
Xhariep	1,343	1,458	1,554	1,977	1,526
Total	46,544	48,096	48,095	49,466	42,897

*Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 28 February 2021.

Appendix F: Birth occurrences by year of birth and province and district municipality of birth registration, 2016–2020* (concluded)

Province and district municipality	Year of birth				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total - South Africa	919,353	932,090	954,638	1,016,988	899,303
KwaZulu-Natal					
Amajuba	8,749	8,682	9,037	9,779	7,439
Hary Gwala (Sisonke)	9,354	8,798	9,329	10,455	9,616
Ugu	13,283	13,292	13,668	14,934	12,308
Zululand	16,706	17,264	17,688	19,893	17,040
eThekweni	59,202	59,189	60,218	65,906	51,902
iLembe	9,767	10,161	11,061	12,821	9,915
uMgungundlovu	14,658	15,225	15,773	17,704	14,529
uMkhanyakude	14,872	14,270	18,196	18,084	16,105
uMzinyathi	12,977	12,791	13,570	14,996	12,361
uThukela	12,649	12,291	12,686	14,452	12,395
uThungulu	18,285	18,183	19,246	21,009	17,676
Total	190,502	190,146	200,472	220,033	181,286
North West					
Bojanala	22,871	18,750	16,756	23,114	21,459
Dr Kenneth Kaunda	12,311	12,743	12,873	13,814	12,000
Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati	9,503	9,472	9,880	10,750	9,535
Ngaka Modiri Molema	11,068	15,753	16,693	11,588	10,548
Total	55,753	56,718	56,202	59,266	53,542
Gauteng					
City of Johannesburg	60,960	60,512	60,095	62,116	55,417
City of Tshwane	58,760	65,022	60,470	63,158	54,233
Ekurhuleni	56,529	59,635	61,808	66,299	56,853
Sedibeng	14,827	15,340	16,756	15,235	14,393
West Rand	14,174	8,309	12,942	14,858	13,661
Total	205,250	208,818	212,071	221,666	194,557
Mpumalanga					
Ehlanzeni	39,690	40,407	38,142	43,669	45,187
Gert Sibande	16,107	16,662	19,762	18,680	18,861
Nkangala	20,853	20,629	21,316	23,211	23,196
Total	76,650	77,698	79,220	85,560	87,244
Limpopo					
Capricorn	28,532	26,726	30,650	31,251	27,482
Greater Sekhukhune	23,338	26,155	25,742	25,922	23,178
Mopani	22,850	22,659	25,780	26,580	25,675
Vhembe	30,547	31,016	28,660	33,896	30,121
Waterberg	15,550	12,783	14,709	16,442	15,715
Total	120,817	119,339	125,541	134,091	122,171
Unspecified	43	771	129	181	

*Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 28 February 2021.

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

Year	Month	Male	Female	Total
1994	January	41,940	41,480	83,420
	February	37,957	37,560	75,517
	March	41,700	41,303	83,003
	April	42,283	42,316	84,599
	May	41,040	40,755	81,795
	June	42,649	42,697	85,346
	July	40,052	39,478	79,530
	August	41,805	41,606	83,411
	September	46,102	45,628	91,730
	October	40,326	39,884	80,210
	November	37,893	37,967	75,860
	December	43,172	42,818	85,990
	Total	496,919	493,492	990,411
1995	January	41,201	40,947	82,148
	February	36,194	35,932	72,126
	March	40,385	40,071	80,456
	April	38,445	38,555	77,000
	May	40,288	39,641	79,929
	June	41,656	41,093	82,749
	July	39,270	39,511	78,781
	August	41,030	40,475	81,505
	September	45,123	45,014	90,137
	October	39,036	39,312	78,348
	November	36,983	36,820	73,803
	December	41,748	41,243	82,991
	Total	481,359	478,614	959,973
1996	January	42,898	42,921	85,819
	February	37,963	37,517	75,480
	March	41,431	41,704	83,135
	April	40,218	39,564	79,782
	May	40,800	40,688	81,488
	June	43,077	42,588	85,665
	July	40,524	40,478	81,002
	August	41,927	41,554	83,481
	September	46,288	46,110	92,398
	October	39,814	39,071	78,885
	November	36,940	37,042	73,982
	December	42,473	41,888	84,361
	Total	494,353	491,125	985,478

*Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 01 July 2021.

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

Year	Month	Male	Female	Total
1997	January	41,981	41,834	83,815
	February	37,391	37,293	74,684
	March	42,759	42,630	85,389
	April	39,890	40,184	80,074
	May	39,920	39,981	79,901
	June	41,056	41,356	82,412
	July	40,665	40,480	81,145
	August	40,733	40,946	81,679
	September	45,141	44,619	89,760
	October	38,797	38,216	77,013
	November	36,176	35,741	71,917
	December	40,862	40,822	81,684
	Total	485,371	484,102	969,473
1998	January	41,096	41,374	82,470
	February	37,306	37,234	74,540
	March	42,088	41,879	83,967
	April	39,059	39,590	78,649
	May	40,064	39,581	79,645
	June	40,478	40,367	80,845
	July	39,337	38,888	78,225
	August	39,820	40,196	80,016
	September	44,347	44,016	88,363
	October	38,160	38,060	76,220
	November	35,498	35,251	70,749
	December	39,557	39,650	79,207
	Total	476,810	476,086	952,896
1999	January	40,190	40,320	80,510
	February	35,973	35,685	71,658
	March	41,474	41,725	83,199
	April	41,053	41,289	82,342
	May	41,512	41,628	83,140
	June	41,770	41,773	83,543
	July	40,145	39,931	80,076
	August	40,624	40,476	81,100
	September	44,656	44,344	89,000
	October	38,478	38,794	77,272
	November	37,335	36,593	73,928
	December	41,570	41,373	82,943
	Total	484,780	483,931	968,711

*Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 01 July 2021.

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

Year	Month	Male	Female	Total
2000	January	43,021	42,865	85,886
	February	40,107	39,737	79,844
	March	43,121	43,074	86,195
	April	40,759	40,843	81,602
	May	41,475	41,737	83,212
	June	41,974	41,721	83,695
	July	40,353	40,332	80,685
	August	41,128	40,609	81,737
	September	44,126	43,867	87,993
	October	39,019	38,734	77,753
	November	36,748	36,812	73,560
	December	39,604	39,408	79,012
	Total	491,435	489,739	981,174
2001	January	43,587	43,349	86,936
	February	37,031	37,266	74,297
	March	42,625	42,229	84,854
	April	40,471	40,353	80,824
	May	40,940	41,191	82,131
	June	40,362	40,763	81,125
	July	39,795	39,183	78,978
	August	39,861	39,905	79,766
	September	43,392	42,963	86,355
	October	38,303	38,682	76,985
	November	36,624	36,072	72,696
	December	39,775	39,202	78,977
	Total	482,766	481,158	963,924
2002	January	43,550	43,173	86,723
	February	38,309	38,170	76,479
	March	41,415	41,790	83,205
	April	39,529	39,799	79,328
	May	40,833	41,100	81,933
	June	41,547	41,261	82,808
	July	40,947	41,208	82,155
	August	41,006	40,042	81,048
	September	44,571	44,019	88,590
	October	39,145	39,587	78,732
	November	36,632	36,326	72,958
	December	40,346	40,092	80,438
	Total	487,830	486,567	974,397

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

Year	Month	Male	Female	Total
2003	January	42,834	42,377	85,211
	February	37,963	37,775	75,738
	March	43,345	43,201	86,546
	April	40,801	40,419	81,220
	May	41,465	41,022	82,487
	June	41,074	40,721	81,795
	July	39,914	39,542	79,456
	August	40,329	40,160	80,489
	September	44,827	44,105	88,932
	October	38,500	38,445	76,945
	November	35,804	35,461	71,265
	December	40,069	39,361	79,430
	Total	486,925	482,589	969,514
2004	January	43,040	42,225	85,265
	February	39,555	38,579	78,134
	March	43,142	42,839	85,981
	April	41,610	41,046	82,656
	May	42,514	42,411	84,925
	June	43,246	43,059	86,305
	July	43,485	42,855	86,340
	August	44,901	44,275	89,176
	September	48,542	48,299	96,841
	October	41,906	41,673	83,579
	November	40,586	40,422	81,008
	December	44,173	43,535	87,708
	Total	516,700	511,218	1,027,918
2005	January	45,929	44,766	90,695
	February	41,293	40,826	82,119
	March	46,850	46,759	93,609
	April	45,015	44,832	89,847
	May	46,947	46,341	93,288
	June	45,742	45,787	91,529
	July	44,718	44,238	88,956
	August	44,951	43,997	88,948
	September	47,304	46,824	94,128
	October	41,933	41,116	83,049
	November	41,444	40,699	82,143
	December	45,926	45,319	91,245
	Total	538,052	531,504	1,069,556

*Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 01 July 2021.

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

Year	Month	Male	Female	Total
2006	January	47,795	47,368	95,163
	February	43,065	43,090	86,155
	March	47,958	47,978	95,936
	April	46,028	45,923	91,951
	May	47,854	47,214	95,068
	June	47,020	46,587	93,607
	July	46,060	45,732	91,792
	August	46,190	46,045	92,235
	September	50,015	49,807	99,822
	October	43,771	43,195	86,966
	November	41,723	40,674	82,397
	December	45,175	44,191	89,366
	Total	552,654	547,804	1,100,458
2007	January	48,709	48,307	97,016
	February	42,449	41,624	84,073
	March	48,127	47,432	95,559
	April	46,529	46,322	92,851
	May	47,883	47,736	95,619
	June	46,488	45,399	91,887
	July	45,753	45,488	91,241
	August	45,145	44,693	89,838
	September	48,047	47,279	95,326
	October	42,065	41,137	83,202
	November	40,585	40,159	80,744
	December	45,095	44,000	89,095
	Total	546,875	539,576	1,086,451
2008	January	48,011	47,430	95,441
	February	45,069	44,413	89,482
	March	48,963	48,872	97,835
	April	46,428	46,185	92,613
	May	46,339	46,016	92,355
	June	46,036	45,453	91,489
	July	46,932	46,903	93,835
	August	47,319	46,319	93,638
	September	50,797	49,670	100,467
	October	43,366	43,359	86,725
	November	42,334	41,464	83,798
	December	46,877	45,875	92,752
	Total	558,471	551,959	1,110,430

*Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 01 July 2021.

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

Year	Month	Male	Female	Total
2009	January	48,174	47,299	95,473
	February	42,449	42,009	84,458
	March	48,190	47,497	95,687
	April	43,974	43,709	87,683
	May	44,797	44,906	89,703
	June	45,123	44,266	89,389
	July	44,351	44,176	88,527
	August	44,335	43,724	88,059
	September	46,952	46,223	93,175
	October	41,094	39,988	81,082
	November	39,991	39,136	79,127
	December	43,756	43,019	86,775
	Total	533,186	525,952	1,059,138
2010	January	45,074	44,376	89,450
	February	40,361	39,739	80,100
	March	46,015	45,118	91,133
	April	43,093	42,584	85,677
	May	43,683	42,722	86,405
	June	43,908	43,298	87,206
	July	44,443	43,552	87,995
	August	44,262	43,040	87,302
	September	47,172	45,938	93,110
	October	40,554	40,134	80,688
	November	39,089	38,463	77,552
	December	43,185	42,638	85,823
	Total	520,839	511,602	1,032,441
2011	January	43,300	42,540	85,840
	February	41,393	40,378	81,771
	March	48,117	46,848	94,965
	April	43,689	43,516	87,205
	May	45,783	45,236	91,019
	June	44,327	43,687	88,014
	July	43,787	42,698	86,485
	August	44,033	43,277	87,310
	September	46,637	45,679	92,316
	October	40,677	40,804	81,481
	November	40,552	39,472	80,024
	December	42,897	41,975	84,872
	Total	525,192	516,110	1,041,302

*Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 01 July 2021.

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

Year	Month	Male	Female	Total
2012	January	46,108	45,208	91,316
	February	42,041	41,431	83,472
	March	46,444	45,869	92,313
	April	44,707	44,069	88,776
	May	45,751	45,067	90,818
	June	44,080	43,240	87,320
	July	43,877	43,328	87,205
	August	44,352	43,234	87,586
	September	45,687	44,762	90,449
	October	40,017	39,535	79,552
	November	39,042	38,312	77,354
	December	43,327	42,089	85,416
	Total	525,433	516,144	1,041,577
2013	January	45,651	44,520	90,171
	February	40,769	39,616	80,385
	March	45,664	45,405	91,069
	April	43,495	42,697	86,192
	May	43,935	43,251	87,186
	June	43,097	42,173	85,270
	July	43,659	43,089	86,748
	August	43,987	43,235	87,222
	September	45,534	45,076	90,610
	October	40,251	38,927	79,178
	November	39,302	38,466	77,768
	December	43,533	42,890	86,423
	Total	518,877	509,345	1,028,222
2014	January	44,889	44,153	89,042
	February	40,798	40,091	80,889
	March	46,789	45,869	92,658
	April	43,952	43,416	87,368
	May	45,176	44,545	89,721
	June	44,032	42,997	87,029
	July	43,752	43,019	86,771
	August	43,315	42,666	85,981
	September	46,485	45,411	91,896
	October	40,373	39,447	79,820
	November	38,339	37,847	76,186
	December	42,353	41,460	83,813
	Total	520,253	510,921	1,031,174

*Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 01 July 2021.

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

Year	Month	Male	Female	Total
2015	January	45,450	44,357	89,807
	February	39,938	39,565	79,503
	March	45,416	44,661	90,077
	April	42,258	41,361	83,619
	May	42,029	41,873	83,902
	June	41,615	41,272	82,887
	July	40,969	40,506	81,475
	August	40,335	39,777	80,112
	September	42,944	42,204	85,148
	October	36,952	36,081	73,033
	November	36,064	35,403	71,467
	December	39,876	39,088	78,964
	Total	493,846	486,148	979,994
2016	January	39,756	38,441	78,197
	February	37,479	36,729	74,208
	March	41,743	40,658	82,401
	April	39,730	39,135	78,865
	May	40,141	39,744	79,885
	June	39,362	38,760	78,122
	July	38,071	37,791	75,862
	August	39,240	38,816	78,056
	September	40,051	39,107	79,158
	October	35,667	34,558	70,225
	November	35,245	34,441	69,686
	December	38,958	37,688	76,646
	Total	465,443	455,868	921,311
2017	January	39,582	38,695	78,277
	February	36,665	36,271	72,936
	March	42,262	41,622	83,884
	April	39,549	38,791	78,340
	May	40,556	39,738	80,294
	June	39,740	38,895	78,635
	July	39,524	39,092	78,616
	August	40,060	38,885	78,945
	September	41,032	40,304	81,336
	October	36,948	36,424	73,372
	November	36,673	35,639	72,312
	December	38,709	38,503	77,212
	Total	471,300	462,859	934,159

*Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 01 July 2021.

Appendix G.8: Total births occurrences by sex and month, 2018-2020*

Year	Month	Male	Female	Total
2018	January	42,209	40,690	82,899
	February	37,581	36,927	74,508
	March	42,504	42,057	84,561
	April	40,160	39,257	79,417
	May	41,022	40,476	81,498
	June	39,919	39,282	79,201
	July	40,321	39,694	80,015
	August	41,431	40,516	81,947
	September	42,516	41,734	84,250
	October	38,960	38,089	77,049
	November	37,332	36,782	74,114
	December	40,577	39,417	79,994
	Total	484,532	474,921	959,453
2019	January	41982	40983	82,965
	February	38314	37677	75,991
	March	43899	43024	86,923
	April	41765	41314	83,079
	May	42086	41668	83,754
	June	41159	40588	81,747
	July	41503	40812	82,315
	August	41461	40890	82,351
	September	42723	41827	84,550
	October	38845	37550	76,395
	November	38579	37734	76,313
	December	40660	40078	80,738
	Total	492,976	484,145	977,121
2020	January	43671	42616	86,287
	February	40315	39276	79,591
	March	44534	43603	88,137
	April	41243	40449	81,692
	May	43355	42556	85,911
	June	42022	42109	84,131
	July	41670	41136	82,806
	August	40497	39857	80,354
	September	42634	41715	84,349
	October	37878	37155	75,033
	November	38374	37431	75,805
	December	41795	41268	83,063
	Total	497,988	489,171	987,159

*Figures include updated birth occurrences as at 01 July 2021.

Appendix H: Number distribution of 2020 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	338	Junior	644	Melokuhle	410	Grace	319	Jacobs	787
	2	Noah	254	John	232	Othalive	262	Rose	268	Williams	767
	3	Lundanele	240	James	208	Mia	216	Faith	267	Adams	721
	4	Luke	234	Luke	174	Ava	200	Hope	203	Abrahams	638
	5	Othalive	229	Joshua	146	Yamihle	192	Elizabeth	170	Davids	572
	6	Joshua	214	Daniel	129	Riley	185	Angel	142	Hendricks	526
	7	Luphawu	207	Noah	126	Leah	183	Joy	137	Petersen	436
	8	Melokuhle	204	Liam	114	Alunamda	164	Melokuhle	114	Van Wyk	434
	9	Elijah	197	Matthew	112	Iyana	155	Lee	106	Smith	411
	10	Mason	197	Lee	110	Faith	151	Mia	103	Daniels	409
Eastern Cape	1	Enzokuhle	727	Junior	514	Enzokuhle	669	Othalive	155	Jacobs	234
	2	Othalive	565	Gift	138	Melokuhle	667	Angel	144	Williams	225
	3	Melokuhle	492	Othalive	138	Othalive	641	Melokuhle	140	Booi	207
	4	Alunamda	475	Lubanzi	132	Alunamda	556	Princess	136	Madikizela	196
	5	Likuwe	460	Likuwe	125	Iminathi	493	Alunamda	129	Klaas	161
	6	Kungawo	438	Enzokuhle	124	Likuwe	340	Iminathi	112	Dyantyi	152
	7	Kungentando	423	Alunamda	104	Lethokuhle	293	Precious	112	Ndamase	150
	8	Lubanzi	390	Prince	104	Kungentando	288	Likuwe	107	Diko	142
	9	Lingomso	322	Luphawu	92	Misokuhle	271	Faith	100	Smith	140
	10	Luphawu	317	Melokuhle	87	Lingomso	263	Enzokuhle	94	Plaatjies	137
Northern Cape	1	Lethabo	96	Junior	351	Warona	89	Precious	98	Van Wyk	304
	2	Leano	63	Gift	76	Remofilwe	79	Faith	66	Louw	247
	3	Refentse	63	Jayden	64	Omolemo	74	Warona	64	Jacobs	191
	4	Junior	58	Prince	43	Reatlegile	73	Princess	63	Cloete	170
	5	Amogelang	53	Blessing	39	Rethabile	56	Hope	44	Olyn	142
	6	Katlego	51	John	35	Mphoentle	50	Grace	38	Booyesen	115
	7	Warona	50	Vincent	35	Omaatla	48	Lerato	33	Modise	98
	8	Jayden	47	Warona	34	Lesedi	45	Blessing	30	Swarts	90
	9	Ofentse	46	Johannes	31	Lethabo	44	Elizabeth	29	Beukes	89
	10	Ethan	45	Lethabo	31	Reneilwe	44	Larona	27	Coetzee	86

Appendix H: Number distribution of 2020 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	Lethabo	525	Junior	995	Amohelang	363	Precious	483	Mokoena	1 212
	2	Amohelang	400	Blessing	351	Omphile	309	Blessing	332	Mofokeng	1 096
	3	Katleho	355	Gift	188	Rethabile	299	Princess	265	Motaung	477
	4	Letlotlo	328	Prince	181	Lesedi	294	Warona	171	Moloi	467
	5	Kamohelo	271	Innocent	166	Lethabo	290	Lethabo	131	Radebe	393
	6	Bokang	269	Lethabo	156	Relebohile	283	Grace	116	Tshabalala	380
	7	Lesedi	268	Letlotlo	147	Naledi	280	Innocentia	103	Mosia	229
	8	Omolemo	266	Lesedi	118	Oratilwe	279	Bophelo	101	Motloung	227
	9	Bokamoso	253	Vincent	107	Bonolo	254	Naledi	100	Tsotetsi	221
	10	Atlehang	248	Bophelo	102	Omolemo	250	Lesedi	91	Nhlapo	217
KwaZulu-Natal	1	Lubanzi	1 759	Lubanzi	1 281	Lisakhanya	1 607	Lisakhanya	936	Dlamini	4 749
	2	Melokuhle	1 202	Ayabonga	821	Asemahle	1 301	Asemahle	871	Mkhize	3 378
	3	Ayabonga	1 196	Banele	761	Melokuhle	991	Emihle	758	Khumalo	3 334
	4	Banele	1 137	Junior	758	Emihle	985	Ziyanda	737	Ndlovu	3 290
	5	Enzokuhle	1 127	Melokuhle	749	Enzokuhle	890	Okuhle	720	Gumede	3 000
	6	Bandile	878	Bandile	717	Ziyanda	860	Melokuhle	605	Ngcobo	2 943
	7	Lethokuhle	833	Enzokuhle	681	Okuhle	847	Enzokuhle	578	Mthembu	2 744
	8	Bayanda	825	Bayanda	663	Zanokuhle	791	Esihle	560	Zulu	2 419
	9	Ndalwenhle	784	Siphosethu	544	Esihle	767	Luthando	541	Buthelezi	2 407
	10	Hlelolwenkosi	782	Nkazimulo	526	Ayabonga	657	Amahle	527	Sithole	2 172
North West	1	Lethabo	510	Junior	790	Warona	451	Precious	388	Molefe	493
	2	Refentse	336	Blessing	238	Reatlegile	351	Princess	263	Modise	326
	3	Warona	267	Gift	208	Omolemo	340	Warona	229	Moeng	177
	4	Reatlegile	264	Prince	191	Remofilwe	310	Blessing	185	Mogapi	158
	5	Omolemo	247	Warona	140	Rethabile	271	Faith	121	Tau	156
	6	Amogelang	237	Lethabo	140	Onthatile	263	Hope	107	Mongale	138
	7	Bokamoso	228	Letlotlo	80	Olerato	246	Omolemo	87	Mogorosi	133
	8	Ofentse	224	Omogolo	78	Amogelang	236	Angel	77	Mogale	131
	9	Kamogelo	221	Innocent	77	Kaboentle	228	Remofilwe	76	Mooketsi	124
	10	Omogolo	212	Omolemo	73	Lesedi	226	Reatlegile	74	Mokoena	118

Appendix H: Number distribution of 2020 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	995	Junior	2 181	Lesedi	843	Precious	1 176	Nkosi	1 390
	2	Bokamoso	636	Blessing	1 208	Melokuhle	835	Princess	1 141	Mokoena	1 372
	3	Omphile	633	Gift	991	Lethabo	809	Blessing	799	Mahlangu	1 255
	4	Lesedi	568	Prince	748	Amahle	711	Angel	642	Sithole	1 254
	5	Ofentse	565	Lethabo	497	Omphile	678	Hope	580	Ndlovu	1 203
	6	Thato	558	Siyabonga	390	Naledi	588	Faith	559	Khumalo	1 175
	7	Siyabonga	557	Njabulo	331	Onthatile	582	Lethabo	412	Baloyi	1 120
	8	Banele	550	Lesedi	324	Rethabile	572	Amahle	396	Dlamini	1 068
	9	Melokuhle	531	Mpho	304	Bokamoso	544	Lesedi	382	Mofokeng	1 007
	10	Junior	508	Banele	287	Tshegofatso	517	Melokuhle	369	Tshabalala	974
Mpumalanga	1	Blessing	443	Junior	1 034	Melokuhle	816	Princess	792	Nkosi	3 027
	2	Banele	424	Blessing	886	Amahle	597	Angel	490	Mahlangu	1 727
	3	Junior	397	Gift	565	Minenhle	439	Precious	464	Khoza	1 479
	4	Melokuhle	366	Prince	550	Lethokuhle	387	Melokuhle	386	Mathebula	1 209
	5	Siphosethu	364	Jayden	311	Okuhle	387	Amahle	344	Mnisi	1 038
	6	Nkosenhle	359	Innocent	305	Thandolwethu	361	Hope	334	Ndlovu	977
	7	Siyabonga	354	Quinton	304	Hlelokuhle	342	Faith	293	Mokoena	890
	8	Nkazimulo	348	Siyabonga	240	Enzokuhle	323	Okuhle	270	Shabangu	819
	9	Bandile	329	Siphosethu	230	Princess	303	Minenhle	245	Maseko	817
	10	Ayabonga	295	Banele	229	Zanokuhle	269	Thandolwethu	239	Ngwenya	790
Limpopo	1	Ofentse	622	Junior	2 297	Tshegofatso	586	Precious	1 294	Baloyi	1 654
	2	Phenyo	588	Blessing	1 492	Amogelang	572	Blessing	1 183	Maluleke	1 448
	3	Katlego	564	Gift	1 135	Lethabo	562	Angel	726	Chauke	1 385
	4	Amogelang	559	Prince	501	Rethabile	547	Faith	694	Ngobeni	1 160
	5	Tshegofatso	558	Innocent	362	Omphile	531	Hope	647	Malatji	1 136
	6	Lethabo	550	Jayden	349	Keabetswe	531	Princess	642	Mathebula	947
	7	Junior	549	Quinton	274	Ofentse	510	Pretty	421	Mudau	776
	8	Mpho	537	Brilliant	263	Kelebogile	468	Happiness	375	Nkuna	617
	9	Kamogelo	511	Praise	251	Lesedi	439	Pearl	309	Mohlala	569
	10	Blessing	495	Success	230	Onthatile	372	Fortunate	254	Ndou	556

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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