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Press Statement

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) subscribes to the specification of the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) and publishes the population estimates for the country annually. The estimates cover all the residents of South Africa at the 2007 mid-year and are based on the latest available boundary information from the Demarcation Board.

A revised set of national and provincial estimates from 2001 to 2007 and a description of the Statistics South Africa estimation methodology are also available on the Statistics South Africa website.

- The 2007 mid-year population is estimated at approximately 47,9 million of which approximately 24,3 million (51%) is female.
- Kwazulu-Natal has the largest share of the South African population. About 21% of the population lives in this province.
- Nationally, life expectancy at birth is estimated at approximately 49 years for males and 52 years for females. KwaZulu-Natal has the lowest life expectancy at birth while the Western Cape has the highest.
- Fertility has declined from an average of 2,9 children per woman in 2001 to 2,7 children by 2007.
- There has been concern about the impact of HIV on mortality. The estimated overall HIV-prevalence rate is approximately 11%. The HIV positive population is estimated at approximately 5,3 million. The HIV prevalence rates for women in their reproductive ages estimate are estimated at approximately 20%.
- The infant mortality rate (IMR) is estimated at 45,2 per 1000.