



Teen pregnancies or teen abuse

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HST/CHAI hosted webinar

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Teen pregnancies or teen abuse

All teen pregnancies should be unwanted

All teen pregnancies should be considered abuse

Risks of early sexual debut

HIV

STI

Mental illness

Human
papilloma
virus

Sexual &
gender-based
violence

Substance
use/abuse

Impact of teen pregnancies (Wall-Weiler et al, 2016)

Teenage births result in health consequences; children are more likely to be born pre-term, have lower birth weight, and higher neonatal mortality, while mothers experience greater rates of post-partum depression and are less likely to initiate breastfeeding.

Teenage mothers are less likely to complete high school, are more likely to live in poverty, and have children who frequently experience health and developmental problems.

**Population and number of deliveries & terminations,
adolescents 10-19, 2017/18 to 2021/22 (public sector)**

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22*	% increase 2017/18 to 2021/22
<i>Mid-year population 10-14</i>	2546451	2628874	2689346	2769793	2806206	10.2
<i>Mid-year population 15-19</i>	2304256	2372843	2316027	2371690	2439133	5.9
<i>Mid-year population 10-19</i>	4850707	5001717	5005373	5141483	5245339	8.1
<i>Number of deliveries 10–14-year-old</i>	2726	3527	3870	4053	2226*	63.3
<i>Number of deliveries 15-19 year old</i>	114329	121059	127028	134267	70656*	23.6
<i>Number of deliveries 10-19 year old</i>	117055	124586	130898	138320	72882*	24.5
<i>Terminations 10-19</i>	12896	14441	16301	13972	7211*	11.8
<i>Pregnancies 10-19 (Deliveries plus terminations)</i>	129951	139027	147199	152292	80093*	23.3
<i>Delivery rate 10-14 year per 1000</i>	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	
<i>Delivery rate 15-19 year per 1000</i>	49.6	51.0	54.8	55.6	57.9	
<i>Delivery rate 10-19 year per 1000</i>	24.1	24.7	25.8	26.6	27.8	
<i>Pregnancy Rate 10-19 per 1000</i>	26.8	27.8	29.4	29.6	30.5	

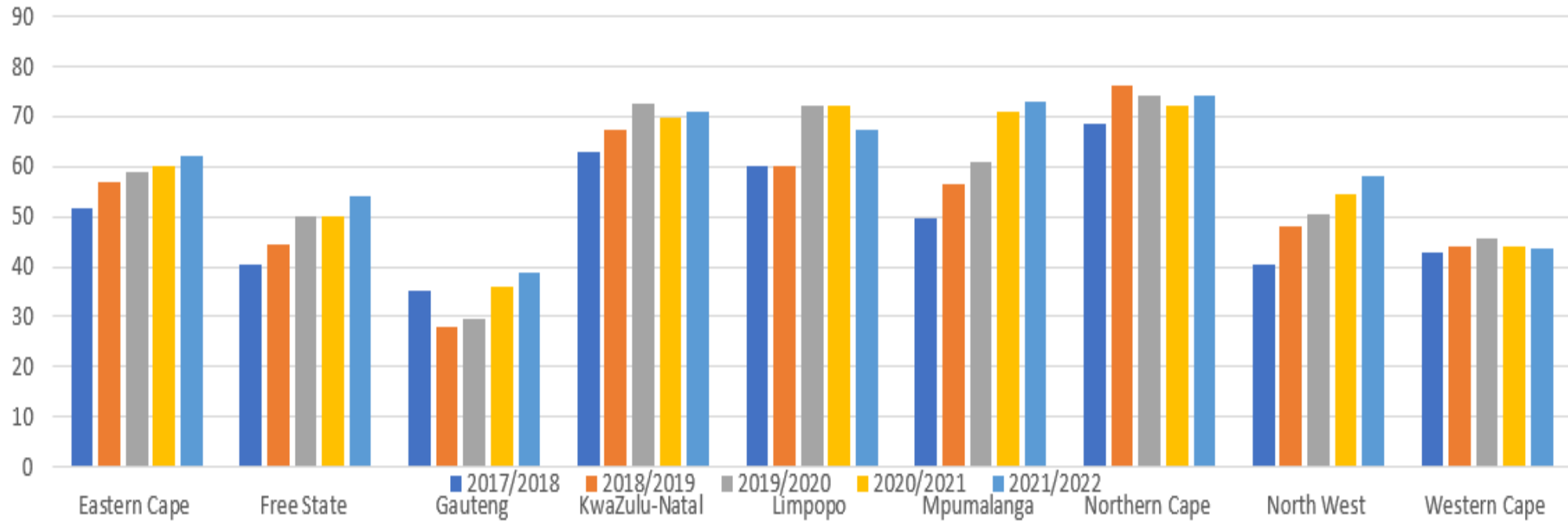


Delivery numbers and rates per 1000 females 15-19 in the public sector, by province by year

		17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22*	% Change 2017/18 to 21/22(extrapolated)
Eastern Cape	Delivery numbers	15114	16742	17211	17740	9531*	26.1
	Delivery rates per 1000	51.7	57.1	59.0	60.1	62.1	
Free State	Delivery numbers	4832	5618	6054	6206	3430*	42.0
	Delivery rates per 1000	40.3	44.6	50.1	50.0	54.2	
Gauteng	Delivery numbers	17315	14501	15251	19316	10574*	22.1
	Delivery rates per 1000	35.3	27.9	29.7	36.2	39.0	
KwaZulu-Natal	Delivery numbers	31893	34442	35467	34578	18204*	14.2
	Delivery rates per 1000	62.9	67.2	72.7	69.7	71.0	
Limpopo	Delivery numbers	15860	16210	18363	18893	9176*	15.7
	Delivery rates per 1000	60.0	60.3	72.1	72.0	67.2	
Mpumalanga	Delivery numbers	9652	11229	11786	13879	7267*	50.6
	Delivery rates per 1000	49.5	56.6	61.0	71.1	72.8	
Northern Cape	Delivery numbers	3447	3942	3870	3871	2005*	16.3
	Delivery rates per 1000	68.5	76.2	74.2	72.1	74.3	
North West	Delivery numbers	6107	7700	7922	8806	4838*	58.4
	Delivery rates per 1000	40.6	47.9	50.3	54.6	58.1	
Western Cape	Delivery numbers	10109	10675	11104	10978	5631*	11.4
	Delivery rates per 1000	43.0	44.0	45.5	43.9	43.7	
South Africa	Delivery numbers	114329	121059	127028	134267	70656*	23.6
	Delivery rates per 1000	49.6	51.0	54.8	56.6	57.9	

rate

Rate 15-19 deliveries per 1000 females



Teenage births and pregnancies in South Africa 2017 to 2021 – a reflection of a troubled country (Barron et al, 2021)

“Important features from the provincial level data were that on the whole birth rates in rural provinces such as Limpopo, Mpumalanga and the Eastern Cape were much higher than in more urbanised provinces such as the Western Cape and Gauteng.

Very disturbingly the birth rates in adolescent girls in the rural provinces increased at a much faster rate than in the urbanised provinces where the rates were relatively stable, thus accentuating the differences”

Predictors of teen pregnancy

A systematic review of the predictors of pregnancy among young people in sub-Saharan Africa found that the most common predicting factors of teenage pregnancy included sexual coercion or pressure from male partners, low or incorrect use of contraceptives, lack of parental communication and support, or poor parenting, low socioeconomic status, economic constraints, low income or lack of employment opportunities and low educational expectations and school dropout.

Gunawardena N, Fantaye AW, Yaya S. Predictors of pregnancy among young people in sub-Saharan Africa: a systematic review and narrative synthesis. *BMJ Global Health* 2019;4:e001499. [doi:10.1136/bmjgh-2019-001499](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2019-001499)

Health-e News (2022)

- Lack of youth-friendly clinics in KZN a major turnoff

Soul City (2022)

- The National Department of Health established Youth Zones in clinics across the country. These are time slots dedicated to youth-friendly health services such as abortion, birth control as well as HIV testing and treatment.
- Despite this mandate, adolescents and youth attendees of the event lamented on continued stigma and discrimination at facilities.

Conclusions

- ▶ Very high rates of teen pregnancies in South Africa
- ▶ Major impact on teens, their futures
- ▶ Teen pregnancies or teen abuse?
- ▶ COVID-19 increased rates (lockdown, limited access to contraceptives)
- ▶ Need to focus on interventions that work
 - ▶ Youth Zones - dedicated space for youth but...
 - ▶ Youth friendly/youth responsive services?
 - ▶ Role of communities & families?
 - ▶ Role of schools?