

## 7 School health

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Strengthening school health services represents one of the four strands of primary health care re-engineering; thus extending school health coverage represents an important health sector outcome. Integrated School Health Programme (ISHP) services will also be part of the initial National Health Insurance (NHI) service benefits with the NHI White Paper stating that: “The school health service programme will be expanded to all primary schools in South Africa. In the medium to long term all children in Grades 1–12 will be screened and referred for follow-up care from relevant professionals in both the public and private sectors including any assistive devices.”<sup>a</sup>

The Integrated School Health Programme focuses on providing health education, screening learners, and the provision of specific interventions including mass deworming (in quintile 1 to 3 schools) and human papillomavirus (HPV) immunisation of Grade 4 girls. School health teams currently aim to screen learners once in each of the four educational phases with particular emphasis on the foundation phase (focusing on Grade 1s) and the senior phase (focusing on Grade 8s). The School Grade 1 and Grade 8 screening coverage is therefore used to monitor performance of the ISHP at district, provincial and national levels, and is included in the national and provincial Departments of Health Annual Performance Plans.<sup>b</sup>

Correct measurement of coverage relies on the availability of accurate denominator data. This means that updated data on schools and learner numbers should be imported into the DHIS annually. However, challenges have been experienced with obtaining validated data; as a result denominator data from 2013/14 is still being used to calculate coverage rates.

Until 2013/14, screening coverage targets included only learners in quintile 1 and 2 schools. More recently coverage targets have included learners attending all public schools (quintiles 1 to 5 and special schools). However, school health teams are still expected to prioritise learners in quintile 1 and 2 schools, and one would therefore expect that coverage would be higher in these schools than in quintile 3, 4 and 5 schools. In reviewing these data, it should be also noted that the quintile classification is based on that provided by the National Department of Basic Education – the classification of some schools is disputed and may in some instances be adjusted at provincial and/or district level.

### 7.1 School Grade 1 screening coverage

The School Grade 1 screening coverage measures the proportion of Grade 1 learners who have been screened by school health teams as part of the ISHP. It is calculated by dividing the number of Grade 1 learners screened by the total number of Grade 1 learners, expressed as percentage. Data on screening coverage are available for each school, and at sub-district, district and provincials levels.

#### National overview

The national Grade 1 screening coverage target for 2016/17 was 28%. This target was met with 33% of Grade 1 learners being screened. Nationally coverage has increased each year since 2013/14, albeit at a modest rate (see Table 1).

**Table 1: School Grade 1 screening coverage, 2013/14–2016/17**

	Learners screened (N)	Total learners (N)	Screening coverage (%)
2013/14	201 824	1 175 390	17.2
2014/15	272 343	1 175 390	23.2
2015/16	339 474	1 175 256	28.9
2016/17	387 646	1 175 256	33.0

Source: DHIS.

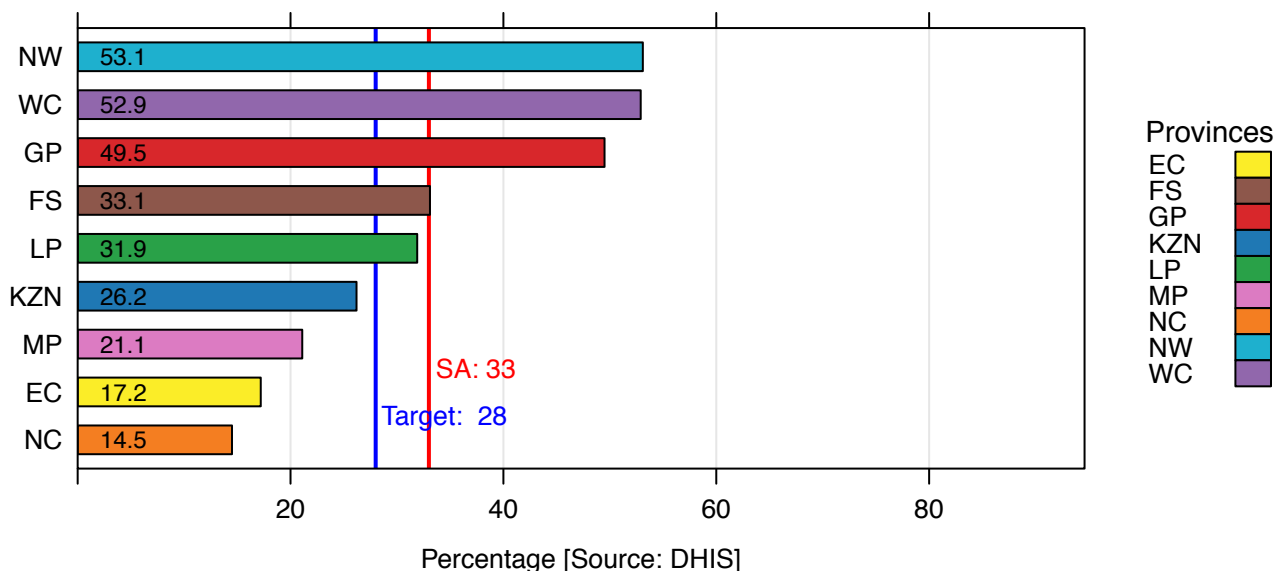
a National Department of Health. National Health Insurance for South Africa: towards Universal Health Coverage. White Paper. Pretoria: National Department of Health, 2017.

b National Department of Health. Annual Performance Plan 2017/18 – 2019/20. ISBN: 978-0-621-45207-5. Pretoria: National Department of Health, 2016.

### Provincial overview

Provincial figures for 2016/17 are shown in Figure 1. Five provinces reported coverage above the national target of 28%. These were North West (NW) (53.1%), Western Cape (WC) (52.9%), Gauteng (GP) (49.5%), Free State (FS) (33.1%) and Limpopo (LP) (31.9%). Four provinces did not achieve the national target with two provinces reporting coverage below 20% (Eastern Cape (EC) (17.2%) and Northern Cape (NC) (14.5%)). There was wide variation in provincial coverage with the best performing province (North West) reporting coverage 3.5 times higher than that reported by the worst performing province (Northern Cape).

**Figure 1: School Grade 1 screening coverage by province, 2016/17**



Provincial coverage for the past three years is shown in Table 2. Coverage has in general increased on a year-on-year basis in all provinces, although there is wide variation in both the baseline coverage and the rate of increase. One exception is the Eastern Cape where coverage dropped from 19.0% in 2015/16 to 17.2% in 2016/17. Gauteng reported the highest absolute increase in coverage between 2015/16 and 2016/17 (11.7% which represents an additional 22 519 learners), although Mpumalanga (MP) and Free State reported higher percentage increases (58.6% and 33.7% respectively, compared with 31% in Gauteng). It should be noted that the two best performing provinces (North West and Western Cape) reported very small increases in coverage between 2015/16 and 2016/17.

**Table 2: School Grade 1 screening coverage by province**

	2014/15			2015/16			2016/17		
	Learners screened (N)	Total learners (N)	Coverage (%)	Learners screened (N)	Total learners (N)	Coverage (%)	Learners screened (N)	Total learners (N)	Coverage (%)
Eastern Cape	26 531	197 378	13.4	37 431	197 039	19.0	33 854	197 039	17.2
Free State	16 176	66 292	24.4	16 413	66 292	24.8	21 969	66 292	33.1
Gauteng	59 553	191 563	31.1	72 376	191 563	37.8	94 895	191 563	49.5
KwaZulu-Natal	55 529	268 438	20.7	59 218	268 182	22.1	70 393	268 182	26.2
Limpopo	32 158	145 069	22.2	42 808	145 069	29.5	46 332	145 069	31.9
Mpumalanga	12 243	98 753	12.4	13 157	98 909	13.3	20 784	98 909	21.1
Northern Cape	3 194	28 248	11.3	3 645	28 248	12.9	4 085	28 248	14.5
North West	29 064	76 005	38.2	40 319	76 005	53.0	40 321	76 005	53.1
Western Cape	37 895	103 644	36.6	54 107	103 949	52.1	55 013	103 949	52.9
South Africa	272 343	1 175 390	23.2	339 474	1 175 256	28.9	387 646	1 175 256	32.0

Source: DHIS.

### District overview

District coverage ranged from 86.0% in Dr K Kaunda (NW) to 0% in Namakwa (NC), with 28 districts achieving the national target of 28% (Figure 2). This included all six districts in the Western Cape, four of the five districts in Gauteng and three out of four districts in North West. Only one of the five Northern Cape districts (Pixley Ka Seme) reached the target, with three districts reporting coverage of less than 5% (Namakwa (0%), JT Gaetsewe (0.3%) and ZF Mgcawu (4.8%)).

Coverage in 2016/17 increased in 31 districts, and decreased in 20 districts when compared with that reported in 2015/16 (Namakwa (NC) provided no services in both years). All districts in Gauteng reported improved coverage, whilst coverage fell in seven of the eight districts in Eastern Cape.

Five districts more than doubled coverage between 2015/16 and 2016/17. These were: Central Karoo (WC) from 7.6% to 63.8%; Amajuba (KwaZulu-Natal (KZN)) from 16.3% to 58.1%; Sarah Baartman (EC) from 11.8% to 36.0%; Nkangala (MP) from 12.4% to 28.8%; and eThekweni (KZN) from 9.2% to 20.1%.

As noted above, coverage declined in 20 districts. Substantial declines (more than 30%) were noted in a number of districts, namely JT Gaetsewe (NC) from 7.8% to 0.3%, ZF Mgcawu (NC) from 18.2% to 4.8%, Alfred Nzo (EC) from 11.3% to 6.1%, OR Tambo (EC) from 16.5% to 10.3%, iLembe (KZN) from 30.0% to 18.9% and RS Mompoti (NW) from 40.0% to 26.7%.

Wide intra-provincial variation has previously been noted, and this was once more apparent. Provincial coverage together with the districts with the highest and lowest coverage in each province is shown in Table 3.

**Map 1: School Grade 1 screening coverage by district, 2016/17**

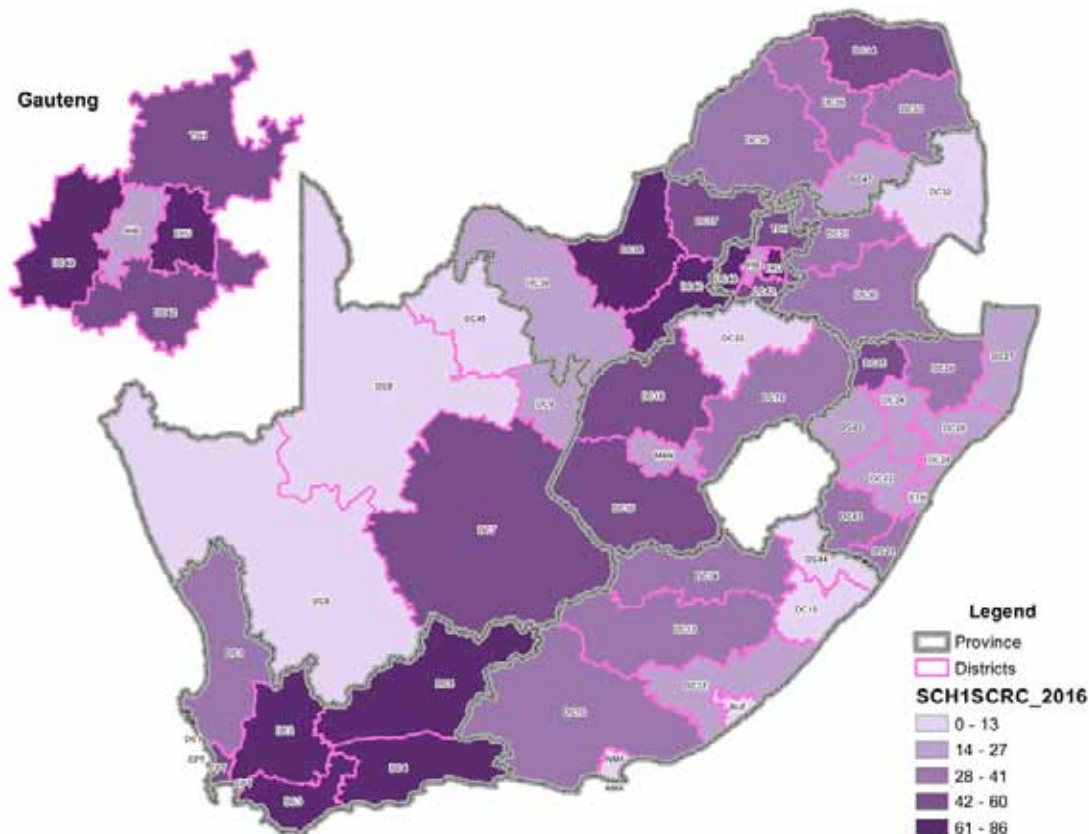
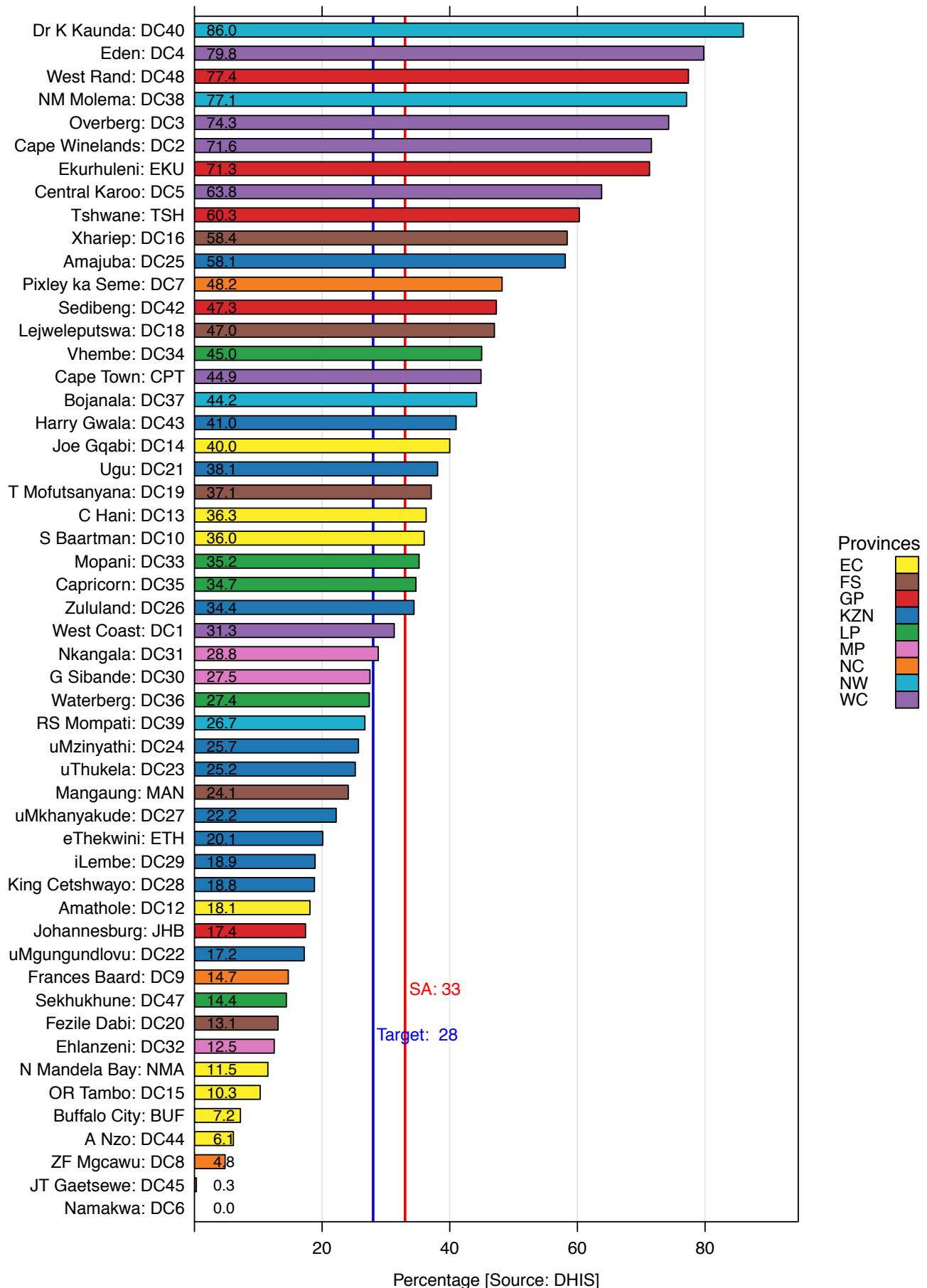


Figure 2: School Grade 1 screening coverage by district, 2016/17



**Table 3: Districts with highest and lowest School Grade 1 screening coverage, by province, 2016/17**

Provincial coverage %		Highest district coverage %		Lowest district coverage %	
Eastern Cape	17.2	Joe Gqabi	40.0	Alfred Nzo	6.1
Free State	33.1	Xhariep	58.4	Fezile Dabi	13.1
Gauteng	49.5	West Rand	77.4	Johannesburg	17.4
KwaZulu-Natal	26.2	Amajuba	58.1	uMgungundlovu	17.2
Limpopo	31.9	Vhembe	45.0	Sekhukhune	14.4
Mpumalanga	21.1	Nkangala	28.8	Ehlanzeni	12.5
Northern Cape	53.1	Pixley Ka Seme	48.2	Namakwa	0
North West	14.5	Dr K Kaunda	86.0	RS Mompoti	26.7
Western Cape	52.9	Eden	79.8	West Coast	31.3

Source: DHIS.

A total of 11 sub-districts reported coverage of 0% (this includes the six sub-districts in Namakwa). An additional three sub-districts reported coverage of less than 1%, whilst ten additional sub-districts reported coverage of between 1% and 5%. These sub-districts are shown in Table 4. Whilst many of the sub-districts (SD), for example, those in Namakwa (NC) and ZF Mgcawu (NC) are in sparsely populated rural areas (where learner numbers are low and a different model may be required), the list includes sub-districts with substantial numbers of Grade 1 learners such as Nyandeni Health SD (18 145 learners) and Bushbuckridge SD (15 796 learners).

**Table 4: Sub-districts where < 5% of Grade 1s were screened, 2016/17**

Province	District	Sub-district
Eastern Cape	OR Tambo	Nyandeni SD (1.5%)
Free State	Fezile Dabi	Metsimaholo SD (0.6%)
KwaZulu-Natal	King Cetshwayo	Ntambanana SD (1.9%), Mthonjaneni SD (4.6%)
	uMgungundlovu	Impendle SD (0.7%)
Limpopo	Sekhukhune	Makhuduthamaga SD (1.9%)
	Waterberg	Bela-Bela SD (0%)
Mpumalanga	Ehlanzeni	Bushbuckridge SD (4.6%)
	Gert Sibande	Dipaleseng SD (0%), Msukaligwa SD (4.1%)
Northern Cape	JT Gaetsewe	Gamagara SD (0%), Joe Morolong SD (0%), Ga-Segonyana SD (0.8%)
	Namakwa	Hantam SD (0%), Kamiesberg SD (0%), Karoo Hoogland SD (0%), Khâi-Ma SD (0%), NamaKhoi SD (0%), Richtersveld SD (0%)
	ZF Mgcawu	Kgatelopele SD (0%), Tsantsabane SD (1.4%), !KharaHais SD (3.6%), !Kheis SD (3.9%)
Western Cape	Cape Town	Klipfontein SD (3.6%)

Source: DHIS.

In order to understand the extent to which the most disadvantaged learners are receiving services, information on coverage of school quintiles is presented in Table 5, Table 6 and Table 7.

During 2016/17, almost 30% of learners who were screened were from quintile 3 schools, with 22.4% and 23.3% coming from quintile 1 and 2 schools, respectively. Coverage was also highest in quintile 3 schools (38.2%) followed by quintile 4 (34.9%) and quintile 2 schools (33.2%). Coverage in quintile 1 schools was only 28.4%.

This situation differs from that reported in 2015/16 when both the proportion of learners screened and the screening coverage were approximately equal across school quintiles 1 to 3.

**Table 5: School Grade 1 screening coverage by school quintile for South Africa, 2015/16–2016/17**

	Total learners (N)	Proportion of total learners %	2015/16			2016/17		
			Learners screened (N)	Proportion of learners screened (%)	Coverage (%)	Learners screened (N)	Proportion of learners screened	Coverage (%)
Quintile 1	305 829	26.0	87 246	25.7	28.6	86 751	22.4	28.4
Quintile 2	272 089	23.1	83 439	24.6	30.7	90 438	23.3	33.2
Quintile 3	300 633	25.6	86 869	25.6	28.9	114 743	29.6	38.2
Quintile 4	160 283	13.6	49 050	14.4	30.6	55 952	14.4	34.9
Quintile 5	120 135	10.2	25 454	7.5	21.2	33 305	8.6	27.7
Quintile unknown	16 418	1.4	7 416	2.2	-	6 457	1.7	-
South Africa	1 175 387	100.0	339 474	100.0	28.9	387 646	100.0	33.0

Source: DHIS.

## Section A: School health

Coverage by school quintile at provincial levels (Table 6) shows that only three provinces screened more than half of learners in quintile 1 schools. These were North West (72.1%), KwaZulu-Natal (53.2%) and Gauteng (51.0%). All provinces except North West and Free State had highest coverage amongst learners in quintile 3 schools, suggesting that learners in quintile 1 and 2 schools were not being adequately prioritised.

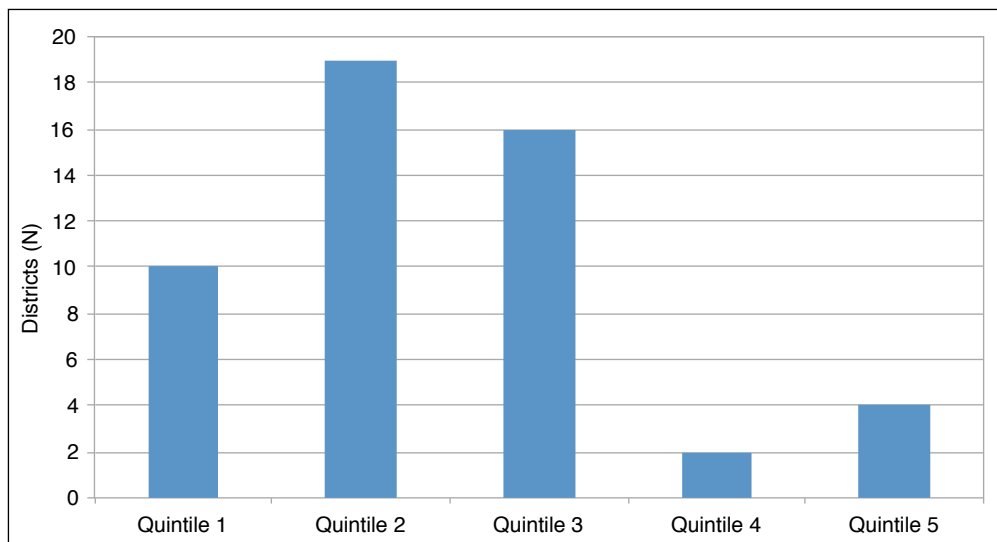
**Table 6: School Grade 1 screening coverage by school quintile by province, 2016/17**

	Quintile 1		Quintile 2		Quintile 3		Quintile 4		Quintile 5		Quintile unknown	All	
	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)
Eastern Cape	7 249	10.3	8 333	21.4	17 572	23.4	261	5.8	101	1.4	338	33 854	17.2
Free State	8 414	39.8	7 824	47.5	4 874	29.1	578	10.8	57	1.0	222	21 969	33.1
Gauteng	13 141	51.0	13 802	50.6	30 580	58.9	21 779	47.4	14 227	38.0	1 366	94 895	49.5
KwaZulu-Natal	17 394	53.2	19 330	45.5	21 046	55.8	8 051	58.9	4 352	35.8	220	70 393	53.1
Limpopo	11 932	27.6	14 411	28.7	13 325	31.3	2 728	18.7	781	16.5	3 155	46 332	26.2
Mpumalanga	6 675	18.7	9 016	21.1	2 685	36.2	1 652	23.2	353	6.5	403	20 784	21.1
Northern Cape	715	10.8	1 503	20.0	1 347	21.7	403	8.1	117	4.0	0	4 085	14.5
North West	12 556	72.1	6 906	60.2	13 362	61.0	6 758	46.3	498	42.6	241	40 321	52.9
Western Cape	8 675	25.0	9 313	35.1	9 952	37.3	13 742	33.7	12 819	21.8	512	55 013	31.9
South Africa	86 751	28.4	90 438	33.2	11 4743	38.2	55 952	34.9	33 305	27.7	6 457	38 7646	33.0

Source: DHIS.

In the majority of districts coverage was highest in quintile 2 (19 out of 51 districts) and quintile 3 (16 out of 51 districts) schools (Figure 3). Four districts reported highest coverage in quintile 5 schools, although it should be noted that this usually represented screening of a small number of learners with more learners in lower quintiles being screened in these districts.

**Figure 3: Number of districts with highest district coverage in each quintile**



Source: DHIS.

Table 7: School Grade 1 screening coverage by school quintile by district, 2016/17

	Quintile 1		Quintile 2		Quintile 3		Quintile 4		Quintile 5		Quintile unknown	All	
	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)
<b>Eastern Cape</b>													
Alfred Nzo	1 111	5.9	419	5.0	290	10.0	0	0	-	-	29	1 849	6.1
Amathole	1 533	15.7	1 843	22.5	1 687	17.2	0	0	0	0	54	5 117	18.1
Buffalo City	0	0	0	0	1 186	10.3	0	0	0	0	0	1 186	7.2
Chris Hanani	2 046	21.6	2 688	43.0	4 769	48.4	19	5.1	0	0	38	9 560	36.3
Joe Gqabi	558	19.8	1 230	39.9	2 544	54.5	0	0	0	0	72	4 404	40.0
Nelson Mandela Bay	0	0	40	24.5	2 357	12.3	213	22.4	101	2.6	76	2 787	11.5
OR Tambo	2 001	6.9	1 803	17.6	1 236	14.2	0	0.0	0	0	69	5 109	10.3
Sarah Baartman	-	-	310	24.9	3 503	40.6	29	9.2	0	0	0	3 842	36.0
<b>Free State</b>													
Fezile Dabi	458	22.1	563	16.3	491	11.0	0	0	0	0	-	1 512	13.1
Lejweleputswa	2 421	54.4	2 879	62.2	1 392	52.4	3	0.7	0	0	-	6 695	47.0
Mangaung	1 122	42.1	1 550	42.5	1 133	26.0	259	8.4	0	0	-	4 064	24.1
Thabo Mofutsanyana	3 801	36.9	1 555	49.1	1 372	31.3	227	23.2	57	13.7	169	7 181	37.1
Xhariep	612	37.8	1 277	80.9	486	54.5	89	41.4	-	-	53	2 517	58.4
<b>Gauteng</b>													
Ekurhuleni	1 920	54.7	3 452	91.1	12 783	72.4	10 270	68.3	7 848	73.8	776	37 049	71.0
Johannesburg	711	11.2	1 967	15.5	4 439	32.3	2 678	15.6	825	7.4	204	10 824	17.4
Sedibeng	1 616	48.6	1 134	50.8	2 764	43.6	1 261	57.8	1 006	43.5	10	7 791	47.3
Tshwane	7 121	66.4	4 998	79.0	6 593	71.9	5 168	65.9	3 829	33.0	376	28 085	60.3
West Rand	1 773	95.8	2 251	102.0	4 001	80.2	2 402	66.3	719	42.1	0	11 146	77.4
<b>KwaZulu-Natal</b>													
Amajuba	469	50.4	1 711	70.7	2 978	62.3	1 520	50.1	345	37.7	0	7 023	58.1
eThekweni	0	0.0	732	20.6	6 160	32.3	3 987	16.6	2 028	12.1	22	12 929	20.1
Harry Gwala	2 355	44.5	2 717	37.7	438	38.7	523	48.5	43	26.9	14	6 090	41.0
iLembe	882	17.9	1 319	27.3	913	19.8	18	0.9	28	8.9	0	3 160	18.9
King Cetshwayo	1 081	14.1	790	9.4	2 090	30.9	355	13.3	914	40.0	0	5 230	18.8
Ugu	1 347	32.7	3 524	38.2	1 834	44.7	326	19.5	627	46.1	144	7 802	38.1
uMgungundlovu	273	15.9	841	22.3	2 321	23.8	152	4.1	2 44	7.3	0	3 831	17.2
uMkhanyakude	2 950	26.4	2 095	20.0	343	17.9	-	0.0	-	-	0	5 388	22.2
uMzinyathi	3 410	29.7	660	15.7	381	24.8	374	22.0	67	23.6	40	4 932	25.7
uThukela	823	18.1	1 804	35.6	1 756	21.7	632	38.9	56	8.3	0	5 071	25.2
Zululand	3 804	34.7	3 137	37.9	1 832	34.1	164	16.8	0	0.0	0	8 937	34.4
<b>Limpopo</b>													
Capricorn	1 607	24.6	5 370	39.8	2 111	29.1	1 095	39.6	489	43.2	175	10 847	34.7
Mopani	5 299	37.1	1 468	28.2	2 925	40.1	585	23.9	7	1.1	274	10 558	35.2
Sekhukhune	2 591	12.3	397	18.1	68	4.4	-	-	0	0.0	1 683	4 739	14.4
Vhembe	1 338	41.8	5 798	46.5	7 705	43.1	422	30.5	51	13.7	584	15 898	45.0
Waterberg	1 097	42.9	1 378	17.9	516	29.7	626	41.2	234	17.6	439	4 290	27.4
<b>Mpumalanga</b>													
Ehlanzeni	2 006	10.4	2 691	14.3	149	10.4	751	21.1	0	0.0	0	5 597	12.5
Gert Sibande	3 391	27.1	3 503	34.1	-	0.0	123	10.1	135	6.9	0	7 152	27.5
Nkangala	1 278	33.0	2 822	20.8	2 536	42.9	778	33.1	218	10.9	403	8 035	28.8
<b>Northern Cape</b>													
Frances Baard	245	14.8	149	6.4	678	23.8	202	17.8	26	2.9	0	1 300	14.7
JT Gaetsewe	0	0.0	0	0.0	20	1.2	-	-	0	0.0	0	20	0.3
Namakwa	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0	0
Pixley Ka Seme	391	71.7	1 345	56.1	557	58.0	201	18.6	25	10.4	0	2 519	48.2
ZF Mgcawu	79	14.3	9	0.7	92	15.4	0	0.0	66	8.6	0	246	4.8
<b>North West</b>													
Bojanala Platinum	3 195	52.5	1 132	35.4	4 989	41.4	2 640	51.0	0	0.0	0	11 956	44.2
Dr K Kaunda	2 108	73.8	1 828	87.3	4 919	94.0	3 493	81.3	384	87.3	241	12 973	86.0
RS Mompoti	4 920	50.0	2 536	41.4	2 027	60.7	140	11.0	114	24.8	0	9 737	45.9
NM Molema	2 333	48.3	1 410	37.4	1 427	43.1	485	66.9	-	-	0	5 655	44.7

## Section A: School health

	Quintile 1		Quintile 2		Quintile 3		Quintile 4		Quintile 5		Quintile unknown	All	
	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)
Western Cape													
Cape Town	345	49.5	3 477	41.7	3 935	40.9	10 600	47.8	10 941	44.8	121	29 419	44.9
Cape Winelands	3 933	75.5	2 616	95.7	2 077	136.5	1 136	49.2	776	26.9	0	10 538	71.6
Central Karoo	231	54.1	111	50.0	570	74.1	0	0.0	66	84.6	0	978	63.8
Eden	2 310	86.5	1 937	71.3	1 704	78.7	1 372	74.6	962	69.5	310	8 595	79.8
Overberg	842	83.8	580	67.3	1 302	77.0	466	87.6	53	13.8	81	3 324	74.3
West Coast	1 014	50.0	592	100.3	364	66.4	168	6.0	21	2.3	0	2 159	31.3

Source: DHIS.



## 7.2 School Grade 8 screening coverage

The School Grade 8 screening coverage measures the proportion of Grade 8 learners who have been screened by school health teams as part of the Integrated School Health Programme. It is calculated by dividing the number of Grade 8 learners screened by the total number of Grade 8 learners.

### National overview

The national target for 2016/17 was that 12% of Grade 8 learners would be reached; this target was exceeded with 19.8% of Grade 8 learners being screened.

### Provincial overview

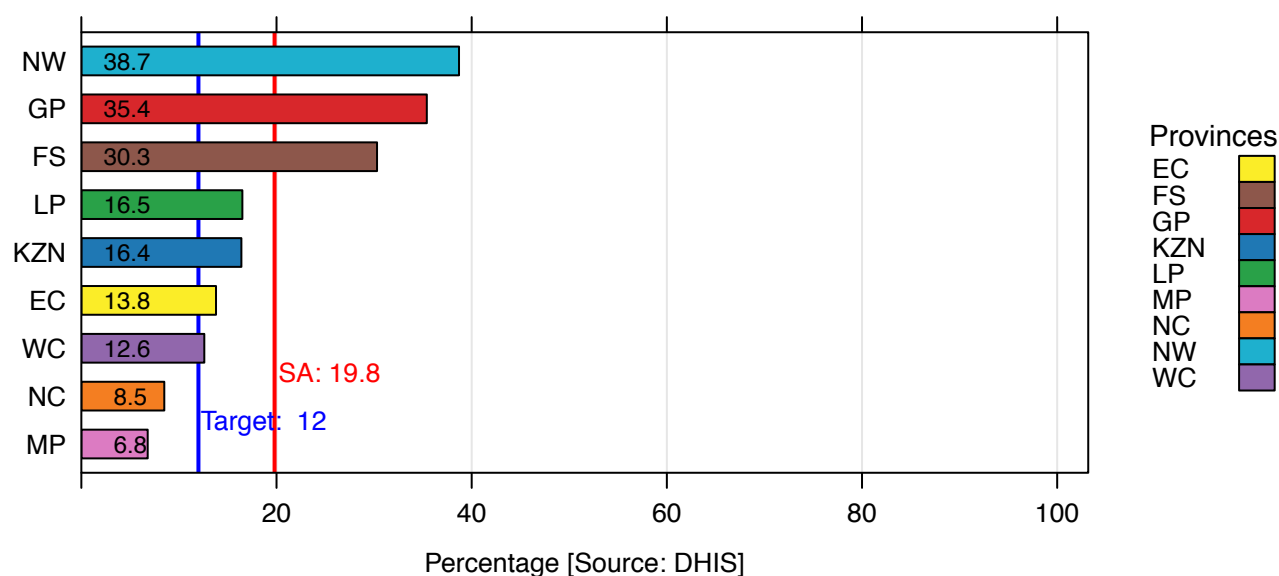
Provincial figures for 2016/17 are shown in Table 8 and Figure 4. All but two provinces reported coverage above the national target of 12%. North West (38.7%), Gauteng (35.4%) and Free State (30.3%) reported the highest coverage, whilst Mpumalanga (6.8%) and Northern Cape (8.5%) did not achieve the national target. There was wide variation in provincial coverage with the best performing province (North West) reporting coverage more than five times higher than that reported by the worst performing province.

**Table 8: School Grade 8 screening coverage by province, 2016/17**

	Learners screened (N)	Total learners (N)	Coverage (%)
Eastern Cape	18 801	136 216	13.8
Free State	14 559	47 971	30.3
Gauteng	51 003	143 884	35.4
KwaZulu-Natal	36 527	222 596	16.4
Limpopo	19 197	116 610	16.5
Mpumalanga	5 856	86 146	6.8
Northern Cape	1 841	21 628	8.5
North West	223	57 668	38.7
Western Cape	9 364	74 423	12.6
South Africa	179 476	907 142	19.8

Source: DHIS.

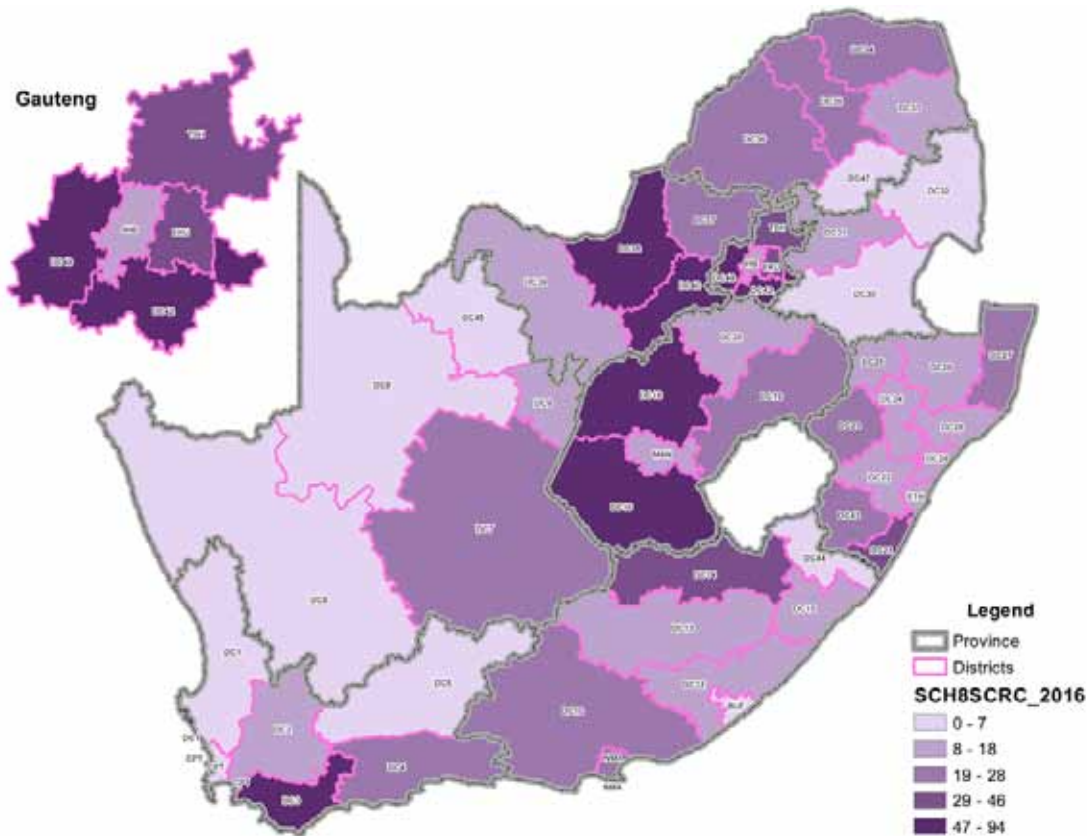
**Figure 4: School Grade 8 screening coverage by province, 2016/17**



**District overview**

District coverage (Map 2 and Figure 5) ranged from 93.8% in NM Molema (NW) to 0% (Namakwa (NC), Central Karoo (WC) and West Coast (WC)). In addition to these three district which provided no screening, a further three districts reported negligible coverage (JT Gaetsewe (NC) 0.3%, Buffalo City (EC) 0.3% and ZF Mgcawu (NC) 1.2%). Thirty-five districts achieved the national target of 12%. This included all five districts in Free State and all four districts in North West. Most districts in Gauteng (four out of five), Limpopo (four out of five) and KwaZulu-Natal (9 out of 11) achieved the target, whilst none of the districts in Mpumalanga reached the target.

**Map 2: School Grade 8 screening coverage by district, 2016/17**



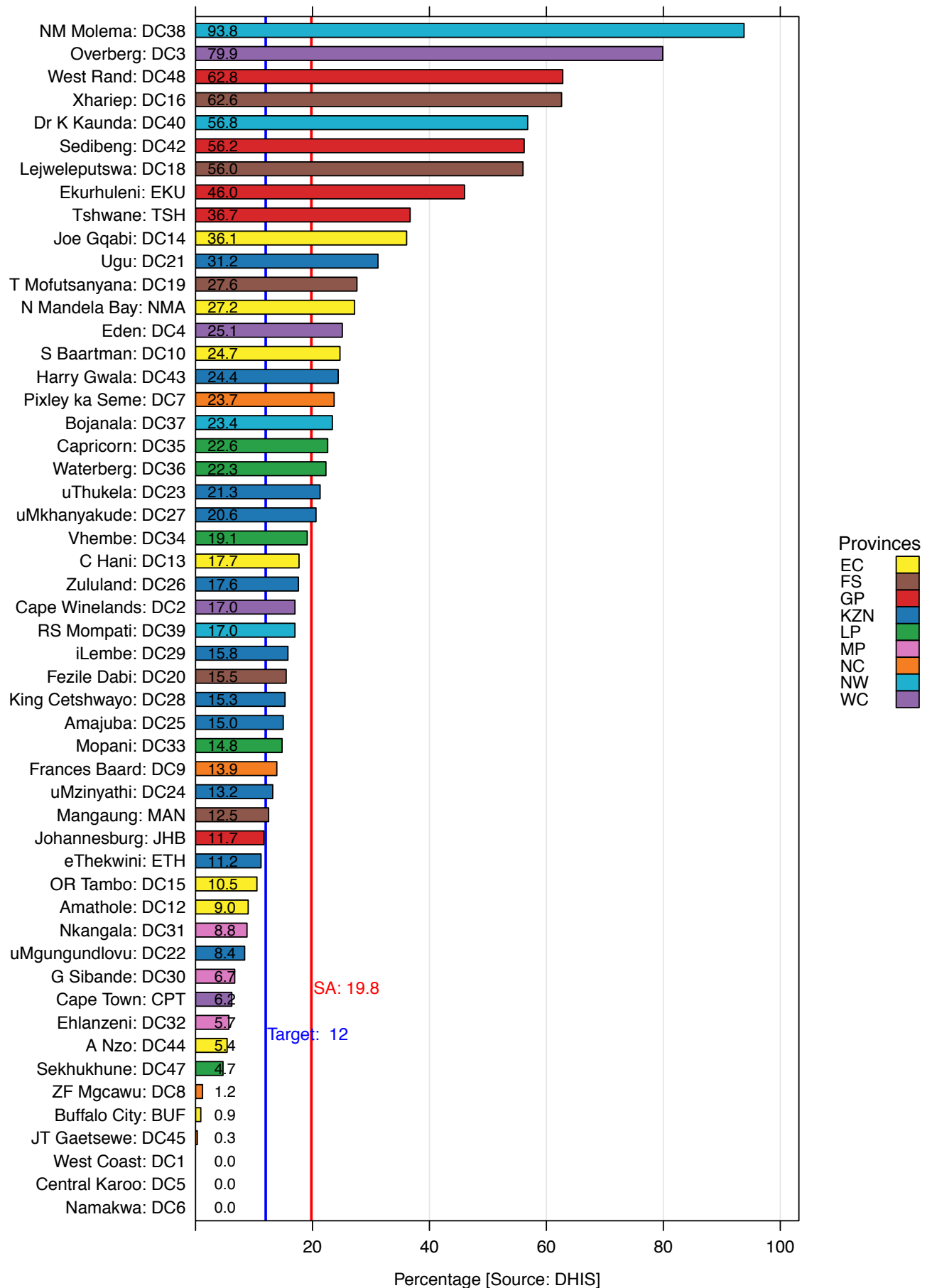
Provincial coverage together with the districts with the highest and lowest coverage in each province is shown in Table 9. As with Grade 1 screening coverage, wide intra-provincial variation was apparent. In most instances the reasons for districts in the same province with similar demographic and resource profiles displaying such variation in coverage are not immediately apparent.

**Table 9: Districts with highest and lowest School Grade 8 screening coverage, by province, 2016/17**

Provincial coverage (%)	District with highest coverage (%)	District with lowest coverage (%)
Eastern Cape	Joe Gqabi 36.1	Buffalo City 0.9
Free State	Xhariep 62.6	Mangaung 12.5
Gauteng	West Rand 62.9	Johannesburg 11.7
KwaZulu-Natal	Ugu 31.2	uMgungundlovu 8.4
Limpopo	Capricorn 22.6	Sekhukhune 4.7
Mpumalanga	Nkangala 8.8	Ehlanzeni 5.7
Northern Cape	Pixley Ka Seme 23.7	Namakwa 0
North West	NM Molema 93.8	RS Mompoti 17.0
Western Cape	Overberg 79.9	West Coast and Central Karoo 0

Source: DHIS.

Figure 5: School Grade 8 screening coverage by district, 2016/17



## Section A: School health

Sixty-four sub-districts reported Grade 8 screening coverage of less than 5%. This included 36 sub-districts where no screening was done (14 of these sub-districts were in districts with no coverage), six sub-districts with coverage below 1% and 22 sub-districts with coverage between 1% and 5%. These sub-districts are shown in Table 10.

**Table 10: Sub-districts where less than 5% of Grade 8s were screened, 2016/17**

Province	District	Sub-district
Eastern Cape	Alfred Nzo	Maluti SD (0%)
	Buffalo City	Buffalo City SD (0.9%)
	Chris Hani	Ngcobo SD (3.0%)
	OR Tambo	Nyandeni SD (0.2%), King SabataDalindyebo SD (4.8%)
Free State	Thabo Mofutsanyana	Nketoana SD (3.9%)
Gauteng	Johannesburg	Johannesburg F SD (2.5%), Johannesburg B SD (3%)
	Tshwane	Tshwane 4 SD (0%)
KwaZulu-Natal	Harry Gwala	KwaSani SD (3.3%)
	iLembe	KwaDukuza SD (1%)
	King Cetshwayo	Mthonjaneni SD (0%)
	uMgungundlovu	Impendle SD (5%), Mkhambathini SD (8%), uMshwathi SD (2%), uMngeni SD (3.4%)
	uThukela	Indaka SD (4.6%)
	uMkhanyakude	Mtubatuba SD (0%)
	uMzinyathi	Nquthu SD (0%)
Limpopo	Sekhukhune	Ephraim Mogale SD (0%), Fetakgomo SD (0%), Makhuduthamaga SD (0%)
	Waterberg	Mookgophong SD (0%)
Mpumalanga	Ehlanzeni	ThabaChweu SD (0%), Bushbuckridge SD (0%), Mbombela SD (0%)
	Gert Sibande	Dipaleseng SD (0%), Mkhondo SD (0%), Pixley Ka Seme SD (0%), Msukaligwa SD (0.5%), Lekwa SD (1.8%)
	Nkangala	Emakhazeni SD (2.7%), Steve Tshwete SD (4.2%), Thembisile Hani SD (4.8%)
Northern Cape	J T Gaetsewe	Gamagara SD (0%), Ga-Segonyana SD (0%), Joe Morolong SD (0.7%)
	Namakwa (no services)	Hantam SD (0%), Kamiesberg SD (0%), Karoo Hoogland SD (0%), Khâi-Ma SD (0%), NamaKhoi SD (0%), Richtersveld SD (0%)
	Pixley Ka Seme	Renosterberg SD (0%)
	ZF Mgcawu	!Kheis SD (0%), Kai !Garib SD (0%), Kgatelopele SD (0%), Tsantsabane SD (0%), !KharaHais SD (2.1%)
North West	Bojanala Platinum	Moses Kotane SD (4.3%)
Western Cape	Cape Town	Cape Town Northern SD (0%), Klipfontein SD (1%), Khayalitsha SD (1.3%), Cape Town Southern SD (2%), Mitchells Plain SD (2.2%), Cape Town Western SD (3.6%)
	Central Karoo (no services)	Beaufort West SD (0%), Laingsburg SD (0%), Prince Albert SD (0%)
	West Coast (no services)	Bergrivier SD (0%), Cederberg SD (0%), Matzikama SD (0%), Saldanha Bay SD (0%), Swartland SD (0%)

Source: DHIS.

In order to understand the extent to which the most disadvantaged learners are receiving services, information on coverage of school quintiles is presented in Table 11, Table 12 and Table 13.

Almost 30% of learners who were screened were from quintile 3 schools, with 21.2% and 25.1% coming from quintile 1 and 2 schools, respectively. Coverage was highest in quintile 3 schools (23.0%) followed by quintile 2 (22.4%) and quintile 4 schools (20.3%). Coverage in quintile 1 schools was only 18.2%.

**Table 11: School Grade 8 screening coverage by school for South Africa, 2016/17**

	All learners (N)	Proportion of all learners (%)	Learners screened (N)	Proportion of learners screened (%)	Coverage (%)
Quintile 1	210 283	23.2	38 317	21.3	18.2
Quintile 2	201 750	22.2	45 108	25.1	22.4
Quintile 3	226 096	24.9	52 055	29.0	23.0
Quintile 4	141 411	15.6	28 696	16.0	20.3
Quintile 5	115 371	12.7	11 666	6.5	10.1
Quintile unknown	12 231	1.3	3 634	2.0	18.2
South Africa	907 142	100	179476	100	19.8

Source: DHIS.

Coverage by school quintile at provincial level (Table 12) shows that most provinces achieved higher coverage in quintile 1 and 2 schools compared with quintile 3 to 5 schools. Two provinces (Limpopo and North West) reported the highest coverage in quintile 5, although it should be noted that many more learners in lower quintiles were screened.

**Table 12: School Grade 8 screening coverage by school quintile by province, 2016/17**

	Quintile 1		Quintile 2		Quintile 3		Quintile 4		Quintile 5		Quintile unknown	All	
	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)
Eastern Cape	3 644	7.9	4 129	15.4	9 413	18.9	1 308	26.3	274	3.6	33	18 801	13.8
Free State	5 975	36.0	5 082	53.6	2 986	24.5	366	11.6	26	0.4	124	14 559	30.3
Gauteng	6 919	48.0	9 222	51.0	15 879	43.4	10 293	26.1	6 795	21.4	1 895	51 003	35.4
KwaZulu-Natal	8 332	18.5	10 778	19.8	9 541	16.7	5 980	16.3	1 697	5.9	199	36 527	16.4
Limpopo	3 967	11.6	6 657	20.1	5 234	17.5	1 557	16.1	817	21.6	965	19 197	16.5
Mpumalanga	2 132	7.3	2 377	6.6	443	6.0	765	9.9	0	0.0	139	5 856	6.8
Northern Cape	357	7.0	869	18.4	352	7.8	253	5.7	10	0.3	-	1 841	8.5
North West	4 330	31.2	5 105	42.3	5 889	41.6	6 238	39.4	721	43.4	45	22 328	38.7
Western Cape	2 661	47.5	889	13.3	2 318	16.3	1 936	10.0	1 326	4.8	234	9 364	12.6
South Africa	38 317	18.2	45 108	22.4	52 055	23.0	28 696	20.3	11 666	10.1	3 634	179 476	19.8

Source: DHIS.

**Table 13: School Grade 8 screening coverage by school quintile by district, 2016/17**

	Quintile 1		Quintile 2		Quintile 3		Quintile 4		Quintile 5		Quintile unknown	All	
	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)
Eastern Cape													
Alfred Nzo	390	3.0	582	9.4	208	7.5	0	0.0	-	-	5	1 185	5.4
Amathole	361	5.5	623	11.4	722	10.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	16	1 722	9.0
Buffalo City	-	-	0	0.0	99	1.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	99	0.9
Chris Hani	671	11.1	670	16.4	1 734	28.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	3 075	17.7
Joe Gqabi	527	23.8	900	37.8	1 339	50.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	2 766	36.1
Nelson Mandela Bay	-	-	54	64.3	2 983	27.2	1 129	107.3	274	6.9	12	4 452	27.2
OR Tambo	1 695	9.1	1 204	15.4	620	8.7	179	13.6	0	0.0	0	3 698	10.5
Sarah Baartman	-	-	96	35.0	1 708	27.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	1 804	24.7
Free State													
Fezile Dabi	878	41.8	446	20.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	1 324	15.5
Lejweleputswa	2 215	60.9	2 429	105.2	1 308	45.2	58	241.7	0	0.0	0	6 010	56.0
Mangaung	68	3.8	647	29.8	497	18.5	193	11.6	0	0.0	0	1 405	12.5
Thabo Mofutsanyana	2 015	25.0	1 074	54.1	844	28.7	93	8.5	26	5.1	0	4 052	27.6
Xhariep	799	79.6	486	60.8	337	46.9	22	10.0	0	0.0	124	1 768	62.6
Gauteng													
Ekurhuleni	2 650	175.5	3 369	81.8	5 530	51.9	3 359	26.1	3 319	34.7	211	18 438	46.0
Johannesburg	0	0.0	1 355	18.9	1 970	20.9	626	4.7	769	8.6	406	5 126	11.7
Sedibeng	888	91.5	1 943	87.8	2 570	48.9	890	53.6	183	8.7	525	6 999	56.2
Tshwane	2 814	38.0	1 489	50.6	2 968	44.1	3 827	44.7	1 239	13.4	753	13 090	36.7
West Rand	567	106.0	1 066	64.4	2 841	62.9	1 591	52.2	1 285	66.0	0	7 350	62.8
KwaZulu-Natal													
Amajuba	173	29.9	547	23.7	400	10.9	543	17.7	0	0.0	0	1 663	15.0
eThekweni	39	18.6	167	8.0	2 728	17.4	2 973	15.0	272	1.6	16	6 195	11.2
Harry Gwala	531	17.9	1 840	27.5	414	21.6	72	18.3	92	83.6	0	2 949	24.4
iLembe	736	20.6	851	25.7	621	13.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	2 208	15.8
King Cetshwayo	304	6.8	385	5.2	1 031	21.5	1 151	43.6	475	19.0	0	3 346	15.3
Ugu	1 264	33.3	2 324	31.3	1 364	33.8	425	38.2	146	10.5	15	5 538	31.2
uMgungundlovu	73	8.7	384	10.5	848	10.9	123	3.8	0	0.0	168	1 596	8.4
uMkhanyakude	1 909	27.8	1 587	19.4	50	3.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	3 546	20.6
uMzinyathi	1 054	12.5	273	7.5	20	1.5	478	37.8	138	89.6	0	1 963	13.2
uThukela	410	10.3	1 210	39.4	1 239	19.0	0	0.0	574	49.7	0	3 433	21.3
Zululand	1 839	19.6	1 210	18.4	826	16.0	215	11.3	0	0.0	0	4 090	17.6

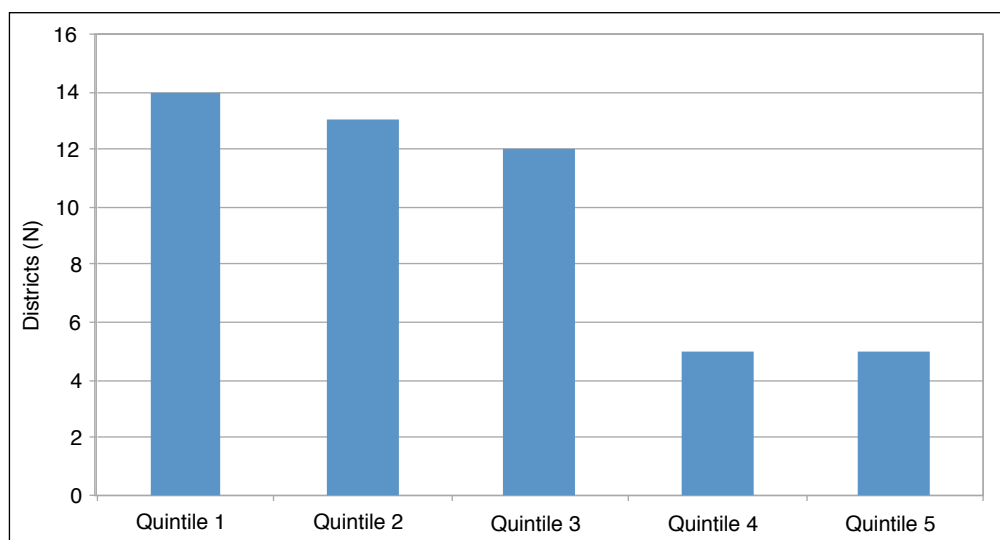
## Section A: School health

	Quintile 1		Quintile 2		Quintile 3		Quintile 4		Quintile 5		Quintile unknown	All	
	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)	Learners screened (N)	Learners screened (N)	Rate (%)
Limpopo													
Capricorn	911	19.0	2 219	21.2	1 135	16.3	1 040	34.1	764	51.2	0	6 069	22.6
Mopani	1 406	14.1	569	13.4	1 313	21.9	220	8.1	0	0.0	0	3 508	14.8
Sekhukhune	455	3.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	-	-	653	1 108	4.7
Vhembe	481	20.2	2 804	25.8	2 231	15.8	274	10.9	0	0.0	0	5 790	19.1
Waterberg	714	38.4	1 065	17.8	555	48.1	23	1.8	53	4.1	312	2 722	22.3
Mpumalanga													
Ehlanzeni	625	3.6	953	5.8	0	0.0	765	17.9	0	0.0	0	2 343	5.7
Gert Sibande	916	10.4	519	5.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	1 435	6.7
Nkangala	591	19.9	905	8.8	443	7.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	139	2 078	8.8
Northern Cape													
Frances Baard	315	24.9	239	15.6	161	7.4	220	27.4	10	1.0	0	945	13.9
JT Gaetsewe	0	0.0	0	0.0	17	1.0	-	-	0	0.0	0	17	0.3
Namakwa	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Pixley Ka Seme	32	9.7	630	34.1	133	43.0	33	4.0	0	0.0	0	828	23.7
ZF Mgcau	10	2.3	0	0.0	41	14.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	51	1.2
North West													
Bojanala Platinum	1 342	35.9	809	20.2	1 296	19.8	1 159	18.2	404	53.2	0	5 010	23.4
Dr K Kaunda	238	31.1	301	28.1	1 123	68.2	4 127	61.5	266	49.4	45	6 100	56.8
RS Mompoti	1 803	27.7	3 423	77.5	2 275	73.5	866	41.9	51	14.1	0	8 418	51.0
NM Molema	947	33.3	572	22.3	1 195	41.8	86	12.3	-	-	0	2 800	31.2
Western Cape													
Cape Town	0	0.0	0	0.0	73	1.0	1 256	10.6	1 301	5.9	234	2 864	6.2
Cape Winelands	1 170	49.9	368	17.3	354	21.5	137	4.7	0	0.0	0	2 029	17.0
Central Karoo	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Eden	758	47.9	486	74.0	489	20.5	186	11.9	25	1.6	0	1 944	25.1
Overberg	733	156.6	35	41.7	1 402	82.8	357	86.4	0	0.0	0	2 527	79.9
West Coast	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0

Source: DHIS.

Coverage by school quintile at district level is shown in Table 13 and Figure 6. Twenty-seven districts reported the highest coverage in quintile 1 and 2 schools.

**Figure 6: Number of districts with highest district coverage in each school quintile**



Source: DHIS.

### Key findings

- ◆ National targets for Grade 1 and Grade 8 screening coverage were achieved, and there is evidence that coverage is increasing. Despite this only one third of Grade 1 and just under one fifth of Grade 8 learners were screened, suggesting that further investment will be required if school health services are to reach all learners as outlined in the NHI White Paper.<sup>a</sup>
- ◆ There was wide variation between provinces for both Grade 1 and Grade 8 screening rates. Grade 1 screening rates increased in all provinces between 2014/15 and 2015/16, and between 2015/16 and 2016/17. One exception was the Eastern Cape where screening rates fell from 19.0% to 17.2%. The low (and declining) screening rate in the Eastern Cape is of concern, particularly given that the province is home to 19% of Grade 1 learners in Q1 and Q2 schools.
- ◆ Wide intra-provincial variation was also apparent for coverage of both Grade 1 and Grade 8. Only one district screened no Grade 1s, whilst three districts screened no Grade 8s. Coverage of less than 5% was reported in 24 and 64 sub-districts for Grade 1s and Grade 8s, respectively.
- ◆ Districts do not appear to be adequately targeting learners in quintile 1 and quintile 2 schools. This was especially apparent with regards to Grade 1 screening. Anecdotal reports suggest that school health teams preferentially visit schools which are closer and more accessible to where they are based, especially when they are reliant on shared transport (these schools are often Q3 to 5 schools). School Health Teams are also usually allocated to a sub-district and only visit schools in that sub-district; however this allocation may not be accurately aligned with the distribution of quintile 1 and 2 schools in the district.

### Recommendations

- ◆ Whilst in some instances school health coverage could be improved through more rational and efficient planning and scheduling of ISHP services, rapid scale-up as envisaged in the NHI White Paper will require substantial additional investment. Mechanisms for ensuring that increased resources are allocated to school health services need to be developed and implemented.
- ◆ Better planning and monitoring of school health services is required at all levels, and provinces need to play a greater role in ensuring that school health services are being provided in all sub-districts and that adequate screening rates are being achieved. In particular, provinces and districts need to ensure that they are reaching the most disadvantaged learners (those in quintile 1 and 2 schools). This needs to be monitored on a regular basis at national, provincial and district levels.
- ◆ Different models of providing school health services should be considered, particularly in sparsely populated areas (such as districts like Namakwa and Central Karoo which reported the lowest coverage during 2016/17). In these areas it is more practical for learners to be seen by PHC nurses (either in their schools or at the local facility). This model is already being used in a number of sparsely populated areas and has the potential to significantly improve coverage in these areas without additional resources
- ◆ Closer collaboration is required with managers responsible for data management in the NDBE. The most immediate task is to ensure that denominators and school quintile classification are updated to allow for more accurate monitoring of screening coverage. In the medium term linkages with the South African Schools Administration and Management Systems (SA-SAMS)<sup>c</sup> should be explored. This system already contains individual learner profiles, and can be used to track both individual learners and cohorts of learners. Inclusion of data on a learners' health status and school health record (including whether they have been screened and received any referral services that are needed) would facilitate improved monitoring and evaluation of the impact of school health services.

c National Department of Basic Education. What is SA-SAMS? Pretoria, NDBE. No date.