

Children Count – *Abantwana Babalulekile*



Monitoring the situation of children in South Africa by developing, tracking and presenting child-centered statistics for multiple audiences

This ongoing project provides time series statistics on the status of children in South Africa. It is intended as a resource for policy-makers, practitioners, researchers, the media and all those tracking the realisation of human rights, and children's rights in particular. Using the best possible sources of information, including large national household surveys, administrative and modelled data, 40 child-centred indicators monitor:

- Demography (child population figures, parental co-residence, orphaning rates and child-headed households);
- Income poverty (poverty headcount rates, adult unemployment, access to social grants for children – including monthly updates on the number of child grants disbursed);
- Education (school attendance, gender parity, accessibility of schools, pupil-teacher ratios, basic service provision in schools);
- Health (HIV prevalence, voluntary counseling and testing amongst pregnant women and access to treatment by pregnant women and children, teenage pregnancy, child mortality and immunisation rates);
- Nutrition (child hunger, stunting, micro-nutrient deficiency);
- Living environments (housing type, overcrowding, access to adequate water, sanitation and electricity).

Selected indicators are published in the annual *South African Child Gauge* (see p. 33). The full set of indicators is available on www.childrencount.ci.org.za, where users can download fact sheets and briefs, and work interactively with the data. For instance, bar charts and trend graphs, tables and maps for different years can be created, by province, sex, age and population group.

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