

Broad overview of the *South African Child Gauge*[™] 2012

The *South African Child Gauge* is published annually by the Children's Institute, University of Cape, to monitor government and civil society's progress towards realising children's rights. This issue focuses on children and inequality.

The *South African Child Gauge* is divided into three parts:

PART ONE: Children and law reform

Part one discusses recent legislative developments affecting children. This issue comments on litigation and law reform in relation to the Children's Act; the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act; the Social Assistance Act regulations; the National Health Act; and the Traditional Courts Bill. See pages 14 – 19.

PART TWO: Children and inequality: Closing the gap

Part two presents 10 essays – the first four essays set the scene by defining children's equality rights and explaining the nature and extend of inequality, the spatial dimensions of child deprivation in South Africa, and the impact of place, care and migration on children's lives. The following five essays outline the potential of particular policies and programmes to reduce inequalities amongst South Africa's children, including social grants, early childhood development services, access to health care, HIV treatment and prevention services, and access to quality education. The final essay reflects on emerging opportunities and challenges, and critical considerations for policy. See pages 22 – 77.

PART THREE: Children Count – the numbers

Part three updates a set of key indicators on children's socio-economic rights and provides commentary on the extent to which these rights have been realised. The indicators are a special subset selected from the website www.childrencount.ci.org.za. See pages 80 – 105.