

FACT SHEET
THE STATE OF YOUTH IN SOUTH AFRICA
A MULTI-YEAR PERSPECTIVE

THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: DIRECTORATE FOR POLICY AND RESEARCH

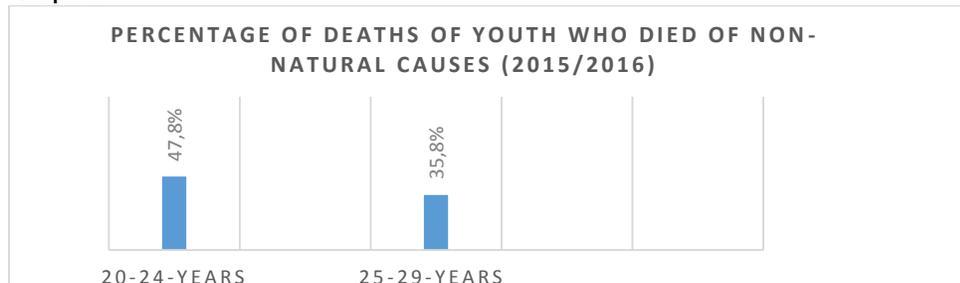
THE ECONOMY AND THE YOUTH IN SOUTH AFRICA

- The Western Cape (WC) is home to **2,1 million** youth between the ages of 15 and 34 years.ⁱ The Census 2011 data indicated that 13% of these youth (approximately 277 160) may be classified as 'not in employment, education or training' (NEETs).ⁱⁱ
- However, the official unemployment rate for WC youth aged 15 – 24 years was **41%** in 2011. When discouraged work-seekers are included this rate increases to **52%**.ⁱⁱⁱ
- In addition, more than 60% of the unemployed youth do not have a Matric certificate.^{iv}
- A 2018 Western Cape Study indicated that while many young people struggle to finish secondary schooling; only **48%** of youth aged 20 – 24 have completed matric or matric equivalent.^v
- Only **28%** of 18 to 24-year-old WC youth attend college or university.^{vi}
- Provincial studies continue to highlight the negative impact of violent crime, substance abuse and gangsterism on the socialisation of young people. This coupled with the weak South African economy and the lack of employment opportunities has led to high demand for services to youth, but too few services to meet existing demands.^{vii}

MORBIDITY AND THE YOUTH

- Nationally: In 2016, 44,7% of all deaths recorded, were of non-natural^{viii} causes, in the 15-19-year age range.^{ix}

Graph 1:



- The number of deaths of children and youth by province (according to clear and disaggregated age categories) has not been determined. An overall percentage of **24,3%** of overall deaths is recorded in the age range of **15-44 years of age**, in the **Western Cape**.^x
- In the Western Cape, a 2013 study indicated that injury-related deaths, which are included in records of non-natural deaths, accounted for almost **60%** of all deaths in older children and adolescents aged 5-17 years;

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- A high number of intentional injury deaths was recorded, particularly those due to interpersonal violence (homicide) in males between the ages of 15 and 35.^{xi}
- Interpersonal violence and road injuries were the top two causes of death among male youth (aged 15 – 24) between 2010 – 2013.^{xii}
- HIV and TB were the leading causes of death among female youth of the same age during this period.^{xiii}

YOUTH IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW

- Persons aged 18 to 35 years accounted for 57,5% of the total who committed sexual offences.^{xiv}
- The age group 13 to 17 years (adolescents) shows the third highest number of sexual offenders.^{xv}
- While the passage and implementation of the 2010 Child Justice Act has been strongly welcomed as a significant improvement for ensuring the proper treatment of young people who come into conflict with the law, the lack of reliable statistical information in this area is a serious concern.^{xvi}
- Government's reports on children in the child justice system (CJS) show that the number of children coming into the system had dropped significantly since the commencement of the Act. The reasons for this are unclear.^{xvii}
- Although fewer children in the CJS appears to be positive, there is concern that children are not receiving services.^{xviii}
- A 2015/2016 report on the implementation of the Child Justice Act indicated that:
 - There has been a decline in preliminary inquiries conducted with children in conflict with the law since 2013/2014.^{xix}
 - There was a **15,4%** decrease in the number of preliminary inquiries conducted with children in conflict with the law, from 2012/2013 to 2013/2014.
 - There was a further **5%** decrease in the number of preliminary inquiries conducted with children in conflict with the law, from 2014/2015 to 2015/2016.^{xx}
- A joint investigation into the causes of the above trends indicated that:
 - There was a decrease in the number of charges that was registered by the SAPS over the years;
 - There was a decline in the number of assessments conducted by probation officers;
 - There was a decrease in the number of children entering the child justice system.^{xxi}
- Before 2015/2016, it the DoJ&CD was not obliged to record the ages of children who committed an offence.^{xxii} The collection of this data only commenced in 2015/2016, yielding the following results:

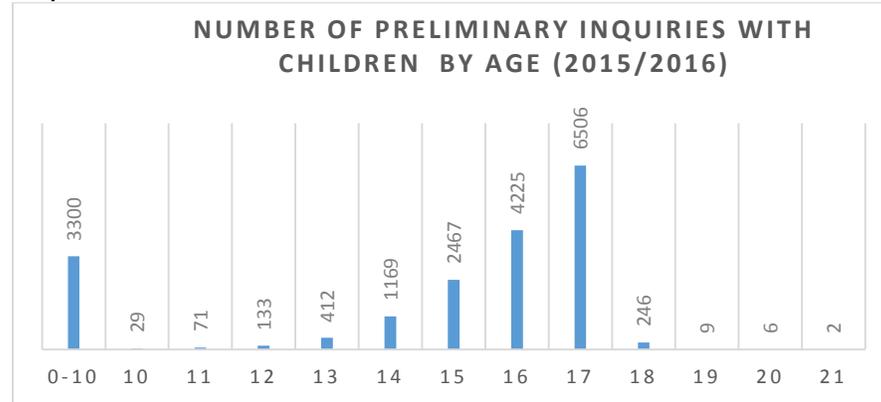
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Graph 2:

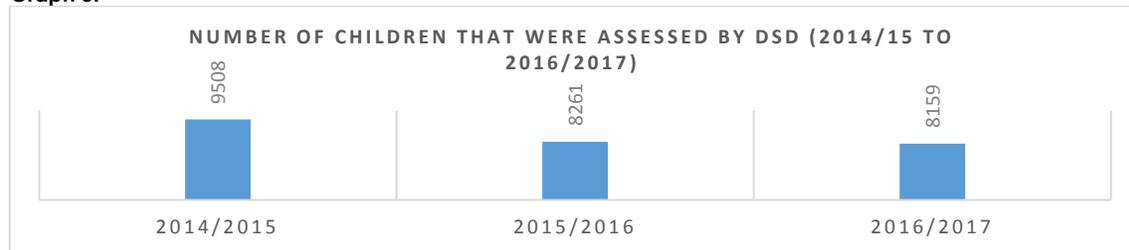


- During 2015/2016, the following number of preliminary inquiries were conducted with children:
- Since a preliminary inquiry must be held with every child who has committed an offence (except where the matter has been diverted by a prosecutor; and the charge has been withdrawn); children are at increasing risk, and seemingly more vulnerable, between the ages of 14 and 17 years old.^{xxiii} Programmes to build the resilience in children at risk should therefore be intensified in respect of these age groups.

ASSESSMENTS

- The number of children in conflict with the law that was assessed by the Department of Social Development decreased over the period 2014 to 2017.^{xxiv}

Graph 3:



- There was a 13% decrease in children in conflict with the law assessed from 2014/2015 to 2015/2016.^{xxv}
- There was further a **1,2% decrease** in children in conflict with the law assessed from 2015/2016 to 2016/2017.^{xxvi}

DIVERSION

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- Nationally, by the end of the 2014/2015 financial year, of the 3 880 children in conflict with the law who were referred to diversion, 59,7% (2 355) completed the programme.
- At the end of the 2015/2016 financial year, there was a **32,9%** attrition rate from diversion programmes. Out of the 3 555 children in conflict with the law, who were referred to diversion, **67,1%** (2 384) **completed the programme**.
- At the end of the 2016/2017 financial year, there was a **28,5%** attrition rate from diversion programmes, out of the 3 460 children in conflict with the law, who were referred to diversion, **71,5%** **completed the programme** (2 474).^{xxvii}

Table 1:

National rate of attendance of diversion programmes			
Year	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017
No. of children Referred	3 880	3 555	3 460
Children who completed the programme	59.70%	67,1%	71,5%
Attrition rate	40.30%	32.90%	28.50%

- The **number of children** in conflict with the law that were **referred for diversion decreased** over the period **2014 to 2017**:
- There was an **8,3% decrease** in children in conflict with the law referred to diversion from 2014/2015 to 2015/2016.
- There was further a **2,6% decrease** in children in conflict with the law referred to diversion from 2015/2016 to 2016/2017.^{xxviii}

DETENTION

- A 2015 report indicated that the number of children (14 - 17 years) sentenced to imprisonment has been remarkably reduced.^{xxix}
- In May 2018, out of a **total of 11 770** awaiting trial detainees in the Western Cape:
 - 7,8%** were juveniles (18-20 years old) (918 in total);
 - 24,4%** were youth (21-25 years old) (2 872 in total).^{xxx}
- In June 2018, out of a **total of 11 601** detainees:
 - 7,5%** were juveniles (18-20 years old) (866 in total);
 - 25%** were youth (21-25 years old) (2 848 in total).^{xxxi}

Table 2:

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Children in conflict with the law awaiting trial in secure care centers			
Year	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017
No. of Children	1 566	1 401	1 705

YOUTH SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT

- In May 2018, out of a total of **18 195** sentenced offenders in Western Cape prisons:
 - **2,5%** were juveniles (18-20 years old) (455 in total);
 - **16,5%** were youth (21-25 years old) (3 000 in total).^{xxxii}
- In June 2018, out of a total of **18 250** sentenced offenders:
 - **2,5%** were juveniles (18-20 years old) (465 in total);
 - **16,4%** were youth (21-25 years old) (2,984 in total).^{xxxiii}

YOUTH VICTIMISATION

- A 2017 Study highlights that globally, levels of violence against young people are worryingly high. More than 50% of children reported experienced some form of physical, sexual, emotional violence or neglect in the 2016/2017 year.^{xxxiv}
- Violence during childhood has been shown to have a negative impact on brain development and well-documented adverse health and social consequences, including increased risk of later mental health disorders, sexually transmitted infection, substance use, obesity, poor academic outcomes and psychosocial well-being.^{xxxv}
- In the 2017 **Global** Study, for young people in the 19-year age range:
 - 13% of all girls reported physical and emotional violence by intimate or dating partners during that year;
 - Past-year sexual violence from intimate and dating partners was reported by about 5% to 7% of girls aged 18 and 19 years.
- **National** studies also show that between 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015, 16,1% of young people interviewed (aged 15-17 years) reported experiencing emotional violence, with girls reporting higher rates than boys.^{xxxvi}
- Childline SA received 1,104 reports of neglect of children for the 2014/2015 period.^{xxxvii}
- In 2014/2015:
 - **23,1%** of young people reported exposure to family violence;^{xxxviii}

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- **19,7%** reported persistent bullying;
 - **19,2%** had been attacked without a weapon; and
 - **15,9%** had been attacked with a weapon.
- In 2011/2012 (the most recent figures available), SAPS reported that over **23,000** children were physically assaulted with almost half of them suffering grievous bodily harm.^{xxxix}
 - **20%** of children report an experience of sexual abuse **before the age of 18**.^{xi}
 - Studies indicate a positive correlation between witnessing and experiencing violence in the family as children, and the later perpetration of domestic violence in youth and adulthood. Overall, evidence tells us that early intervention in respect of child victims of domestic violence is the best way of preventing the onset of violent behaviour.^{xli}
 - Young boys witnessing of abuse against their mothers has been identified as the most consistent risk factor for perpetrating domestic violence later in life. ^{xlii}
 - SAPS **Western Cape** crime statistics reveal that adolescents (aged 13 to 17 years) account for 5,8% of the total victims of crime in the province.^{xliii}
 - Children of Primary School age (6 to 12 years old) make up 1% of the total victims of crime in the province;^{xliv}
 - Of the main forms of crime perpetrated against children and adolescents is robbery: this occurs on their way to school or returning home, where they are robbed of pocket money, cell phones and even lunches. They are also at risk when running errands for caregivers on their way to and from local shops.^{xlv}
 - Children aged:
 - 1 to 7 years, account for **6,6%** of the total victims of sexual offences;^{xlvi}
 - 8 to 13 years, account for **17%** of the total victims of sexual offences;^{xlvii} and
 - 14 to 17 years, account for **16,1%** of the total victims of sexual offences. ^{xlviii}

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The following table indicates rape victimisation by age:

Table 3:

	Victimisation of females (Rape)	Victimisation of males (Rape)
Age	Percentage	Percentage
0-5	3,1%	7,8%
6-10	7,8%	25,9%
11-17	22,3%	20,5%
18-25	30,4%	20,0%
26-35	23,6%	15,1%
36-45	8,1%	6,3%
46-55	3,6%	2,7%
56-65	0,8%	1,5%
66+	0,3%	0,2%

- Females aged 18 to 25 years appear to be at greater risk of female rape victimisation than other age categories;^{xlix}
- Males aged 6 to 10 years appear to be at greater risk of male rape victimisation than other age categories.^l

NOTES

ⁱ Department of Social Development Annual Report 2016/2017.

ⁱⁱ Ibid.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid.

^{iv} Ibid.

^v De Lannoy, A., Fortuin, A., Mpofu-Mketwa, T., Mudiriza, G., Ngcowa, S., Storme, E. and Smith, C. (2018). "Unpacking the Lived Realities of Western Cape Youth: Exploring the well-being of young people residing in five of the most deprived areas in the Western Cape Province". Department of the Premier: Western Cape Government, and Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit, University of Cape Town: Cape Town. [Online] Available at https://www.westerncape.gov.za/sites/www.westerncape.gov.za/files/youth_well_being_wc_lowres.pdf. Accessed on 20 June 2018.

^{vi} De Lannoy, et al., 2018, Ibid.

^{vii} Department of Social Development Annual Report 2016/2017.

^{viii} Non-natural causes relate to deaths caused by violence and accidents. See StatsSA, 2016 at p20. They relate to all deaths that were not attributable, or may not have been attributable to natural causes. Such deaths are subjected to medico-legal investigation as stipulated by the Inquest Act (Act No. 58 of 1959). This requires that an autopsy must be undertaken to ascertain the cause of death.

^{ix} StatsSA (2018) "Mortality and causes of death in South Africa, 2016: Findings from death notification". StatsSA: Pretoria.

^x Ibid.

^{xi} Department of Health (2013) "Western Cape Mortality Profile 2013". Western Cape Government: Cape Town.

^{xii} De Lannoy, et al., 2018, Ibid.

^{xiii} Ibid.

^{xiv} SAPS Western Cape, Annual Report (2016/2017).

^{xv} Ibid.

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- ^{xvi} South African Alternate Report Coalition (2015) Alternate Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in response to South Africa's Combined 2nd, 3rd and 4th Periodic Country Report on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, at p17. [Online] Accessed on 12 June 2018. Available at: http://www.centreforchildlaw.co.za/images/ARCCRSA_Alternate_Report_-_31_October_2015.pdf.
- ^{xvii} Ibid.
- ^{xviii} Ibid.
- ^{xix} Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ&CD), "The implementation of the Child Justice Act, 2008 (Act 75 of 2008) Annual Report (2015/2016).
- ^{xx} Ibid.
- ^{xxi} Ibid.
- ^{xxii} Ibid.
- ^{xxiii} Ibid.
- ^{xxiv} Department of Social Development Annual Report 2016/2017.
- ^{xxv} Ibid.
- ^{xxvi} Ibid.
- ^{xxvii} Ibid.
- ^{xxviii} Ibid.
- ^{xxix} South African Alternate Report Coalition (2015) Alternate Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in response to South Africa's Combined 2nd, 3rd and 4th Periodic Country Report on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, at p17. [Online] Accessed on 12 June 2018. Available at: http://www.centreforchildlaw.co.za/images/ARCCRSA_Alternate_Report_-_31_October_2015.pdf.
- ^{xxx} Department of Correctional Services, 2018.
- ^{xxxi} Ibid.
- ^{xxxii} Ibid.
- ^{xxxiii} Ibid.
- ^{xxxiv} Devries, K., L. Knight, M. Petzold, K.R. Gannett, L. Maxwell, A. Williams et al. (2016) "Who Perpetrates Violence against Children? A Global Systematic Analysis of Age and Sex-specific Data Global Health Action. [Online] Accessed on 12 June 2018. Available at: http://www.knowviolenceinchildhood.org/images/pdf/Devries_et_al_%202017_Who_perpetrates_violence_against_children_BMJ_Paediatrics_Open.pdf.
- ^{xxxv} Devries, K., L. Knight, M. Petzold, K.R. Gannett, L. Maxwell, A. Williams et al., 2016, Ibid.
- ^{xxxvi} South African Alternate Report Coalition (2015) Alternate Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in response to South Africa's Combined 2nd, 3rd and 4th Periodic Country Report on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, at p15. [Online] Accessed on 12 June 2018. Available at: http://www.centreforchildlaw.co.za/images/ARCCRSA_Alternate_Report_-_31_October_2015.pdf.
- ^{xxxvii} South African Alternate Report Coalition, 2015, Ibid, at p15.
- ^{xxxviii} Ibid..
- ^{xxxix} South African Alternate Report Coalition (2015) Alternate Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in response to South Africa's Combined 2nd, 3rd and 4th Periodic Country Report on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, at p15. [Online] Accessed on 12 June 2018. Available at: http://www.centreforchildlaw.co.za/images/ARCCRSA_Alternate_Report_-_31_October_2015.pdf.
- ^{xl} South African Alternate Report Coalition (2015) Alternate Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in response to South Africa's Combined 2nd, 3rd and 4th Periodic Country Report on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. [Online] Accessed on 12 June 2018, at p14. Available at: http://www.centreforchildlaw.co.za/images/ARCCRSA_Alternate_Report_-_31_October_2015.pdf
- ^{xli} Nagia-Luddy, F., and Mathews, S. (2011) "Service responses to the co-victimisation of mother and child: Missed opportunities in the prevention of domestic violence: Experiences from South Africa". South African Medical Research Council: Cape Town, at p6. [Online] Accessed on 12 June 2018. Available at: http://preventgbv africa.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Service_responses_to_co-victimisation_of_mother_and_child_2011.pdf
- ^{xlii} Abrahams and Jewkes, 2005; Frank, 2006 in Nagia-Luddy and Mathews, 2011, *ibid*.
- ^{xliii} SAPS Western Cape, Annual Report (2016/2017).
- ^{xliv} Ibid.
- ^{xlv} Ibid.
- ^{xlvi} Ibid.
- ^{xlvii} Ibid.
- ^{xlviii} Ibid.
- ^{xlix} SAPS Western Cape, Annual Report (2016/2017).
- ^l Ibid.