**EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT**

**South Africa**

### Demographics
- Population: 59,308,690
- Annual births: 1,172,060
- Children under 5: 5,764,945 (10%)
- Under-five mortality: 34/1,000

### Threats to Early Childhood Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threat</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maternal mortality</td>
<td>119/100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low birthweight</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child poverty</td>
<td>no data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent discipline</td>
<td>no data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young mothers (births by 18y)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preterm births</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under-five stunting</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate supervision</td>
<td>no data</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Young children at risk of poor development

- 2005: 52%
- 2010: 39%
- 2015: 38%

At risk in 2005, 2010 and 2015, using a composite indicator of under-five stunting or poverty.

### Risk by sex and residence

- No data

### Lifetime cost of growth deficit in early childhood

- Estimate in terms of % loss of annual adult wage

- Children with functional difficulty

- Children developmentally on-track

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**Support and services for early childhood development:**

**Nurturing care**

Parents and caregivers need a facilitating environment of laws, policies, services and community support to assist them in providing their young children with nurturing care.

**Facilitating environments**

**Health**
- Treatment for HIV+ pregnant women: 95%
- Careseeking for child pneumonia: 88%
- Antenatal care (4 or more visits): 76%
- Postnatal visits: 84%

**Early learning**
- Early stimulation at home: no data
- Playthings at home: no data
- Children’s books in the home: no data
- Attendance in early childhood education: 48%
- Early stimulation at home

**Nutrition**
- Early initiation of breastfeeding: 67%
- Exclusive breastfeeding: 32%
- Minimum acceptable diet: 23%

**Responsive caregiving**
- Public information about ECD
- Parental mental health
- Parent support (groups, home visits)
- Quality child day care

**Security and safety**
- Birth registration: 89%
- Positive discipline: no data
- Basic drinking water: 93%
- Basic sanitation: 76%

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**International conventions**

- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption

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**DETAILED COUNTRY DATA SOURCES AND FOOTNOTES CAN BE FOUND IN THE MASTER DATABASE AT NURTURING-CARE.ORG**