

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION: 1609

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 01 NOVEMBER 2024 (INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 18)

Mrs M O Clarke (DA) to ask the Minister of Health:

- (1) Since the reply to question 1198 on 18 April 2023, in each year, what is the breakdown of the (a) number of children who died in public health facilities in each province, (b) reason(s) for each death and (c) number of deaths that were due to unnatural causes;
- (2) what is the (a) total number of children who died in public health facilities in each province from 1 January 2023 to date, (b) detailed breakdown of the reason(s) for each death and (c) total number of deaths that were due to unnatural causes?

NW1988E

REPLY:

Official statistics on the number of deaths and causes of death based on death registration are released by Statistics South Africa on an annual basis with 2020 being the most recent year for which these statistics have been reported.

As part of efforts to reduce deaths in young children the Department of Health monitors the number of deaths in children under five years of age in all public health facilities. Aggregated data on common causes of deaths in children under-five years of age (diarrhoea and pneumonia) as well as data on underlying causes such as severe and moderate acute malnutrition, are collected routinely through the District Health Information System (DHIS). These numbers were previously provided in the response to Question 1198 and updated figures for 2023 and 2024 are provided below.

- (a) The number of child deaths (under-five years) recorded in each province since 1st January 2023 is shown in the table below.

	2023	2024
Eastern Cape	2 567	1 685
Free State	1 293	883
Gauteng	4 217	3 083
KwaZulu-Natal	4 150	2 741
Limpopo	2 577	1 849
Mpumalanga	1 568	1 055
Northern Cape	495	384
North West	1 171	812
Western Cape	1 157	917
South Africa	19 195	13 409

Source: District Health Information System, Extracted 8th November 2024

- (b) Data on cause of deaths of individuals forms part of that individual's personal medical record and cannot be released without the permission of the individual's next of kin. Aggregated data on common causes of deaths in children and underlying conditions for each province since 1st January 2023 are shown in the table below.

	Pneumonia	Diarrhoea	Moderate Acute Malnutrition	Severe Acute Malnutrition
Eastern Cape	215	197	23	190
Free State	135	42	6	121
Gauteng	263	175	54	172
KwaZulu-Natal	341	236	99	265
Limpopo	198	145	26	230
Mpumalanga	147	84	54	61
Northern Cape	46	36	8	49
North West	40	47	33	47
Western Cape	57	32	1	18
South Africa	1 442	994	304	1 153

Source: District Health Information System, Extracted 8th November 2024

- (c) Statistics South Africa is responsible for reporting on all unnatural deaths. The reported data (up to 2020) and are shown in the table below.

	Non-natural deaths	% under-5 deaths
2013	2 452	7.0%
2014	2 496	7.3%
2015	2 509	7.9%
2016	2 364	8.3%
2017	2 024	7.9%
2018	2 199	8.4%
2019	2 252	8.2%
2020	2 024	8.0%

Source: Statistics South Africa

END.