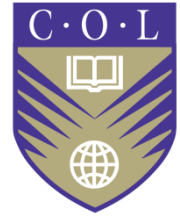


Gender Profile: South Africa



General

Total male population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 6,859,518
Total female population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 6,815,185

Total male population over 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 17,134,079
Total female population over 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 17,566,863

Health

Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births (2010) (CIA, 2015): 300
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (2014) (CIA, 2015): 40.61

Under-five mortality rate for males: NA
Under-five mortality rate for females: NA

Births attended by a skilled health professional: NA

Prevalence of HIV among males aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 14.5%
Prevalence of HIV among females aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 20.2%

Life expectancy for men (2012) (WHO, 2015): 56
Life expectancy for women (2012) (WHO, 2015): 62

Education

Male youth literacy rate, ages 15–24 (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 98.50%
Female youth literacy rate, ages 15–24 (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 99.27%

Male adult literacy rate, ages 15+ (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 94.96%
Female adult literacy rate, ages 15+ (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 92.59%

Male adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015):
90.29%

Female adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015):
90.67%

Male gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015):
100.29%

Female gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015):
103.48%

Male gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2007) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 58.07%
Female gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2007) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 52.61%

Percentage of graduates from tertiary education who are female: NA

Students enrolled in engineering, construction and manufacturing tertiary education programs who are female: NA

Teachers in primary education who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 79%

Teachers in secondary education who are female (2009) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 54.8%

Teachers in tertiary education who are female: NA

Economic Activity

Males over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 59%

Females over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 47%

Men who have an account in a formal financial institution (World Economic Forum, 2013): 56%

Women who have an account in a formal financial institution (World Economic Forum, 2013): 51%

Decision-Making

Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament (World Bank, 2014): 42%

Human Rights

Girls married before 15 (2013) (Girls Not Brides 2015): 1%

Females married between 15 and 19 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 4%

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime: NA

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner or a non-partner during their lifetime: NA

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Gender Gaps

Health

- The World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Report 2013 notes that women on maternity leave (which is up to four months) are entitled to a maximum of 60% of their normal wages (p. 339).

- According to a 2011 report by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, “Some 6 million people [in South Africa] are living with HIV/AIDS and 60 percent are female.” In addition, “[A]n HIV-positive pregnant woman in South Africa is six times more likely to die than a non-HIV-infected woman. Rates of maternal mortality have quadrupled in South Africa in recent years” (Fleischman, 2011, p. 2).
- The same publication cited a 2011 report by Human Rights Watch “outlining the physical, verbal, and other abuses of maternity patients, especially HIV-positive women, by health care workers in South Africa, which contribute to the increasing maternal mortality rate in the country” (Fleischman, 2011, p. 10).
- A nationwide study published in 2010 found that female household heads were more likely to be HIV positive than male household heads (17.9% and 13.1%, respectively) (Shisana, Rice, Zungu, & Zuma, 2010).

Education

- Rural black women are less likely to be educated than other groups of South African women; 23% of rural black women have had no education and 28% are illiterate, which is more than double the rate of illiteracy amongst other South African women (Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania, 2014).

Economic

- Women in South Africa are on average 30% poorer than men (Rogan, 2014).
- A 2012 study of the gender wage gap in South Africa found that in terms of median real annual earnings, Black females earned 98.2% of their male counterparts, coloured females 85.8%, Asian 75.0%, and white 75.0% (Ncube, 2012, p. 46).

Decision-Making

- Voluntary quota systems to increase women’s political participation have not resulted in the desired effect, namely, 50% women’s representation in decision-making positions by 2015 (Commission for Gender Equality, 2011, p. 1). The Commission for Gender Equality (a South African constitutional entity) and the country’s Independent Electoral Commission convened a “national party dialogue” on 15 April 2011 “to deliberate on the responsiveness of political parties’ manifestos and campaigns to issues relating to gender equality and the enhancement of the status of women. Under scrutiny as well was political parties’ promotion of gender equality and women’s representation, through their practice and party lists, and commitment to the principle of 50/50 representation” (p. 1–2). The meeting established that “[a]ll parties were in agreement that the greatest challenge remains the legacy of patriarchy, in overcoming entrenched attitudes and perception relating to women’s leadership. This prevents parties from putting forward women candidates, prevents women from standing for nomination, and men and women from voting for women candidates” (p. 5).

Human Rights

- Current figures on gender-based violence in South Africa are difficult to locate. As of 1999, South Africa had the world’s highest prevalence of homicides committed against women by an intimate partner:

a woman was killed by an intimate partner in South Africa every six hours. The mortality rate from intimate partner violence (IPV) was 8.8 per 100,000 women per year (Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Center to End Violence Against Women, 2009).

- Rape is severely under-reported in South Africa; only one in nine survivors of rape report the crime to authorities (Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Center to End Violence Against Women, 2009).
- One 1999 study among 1,394 South African men in three Cape Town municipalities, aged 20 and older, with an average age of 39, revealed that 44% admitted to perpetrating violence against their partners, and 15.3% admitted to perpetrating sexual violence in the last 10 years (Abrahams, Jewkes, & Laubsher, 1999).

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