

MEDIA STATEMENT

To: Editors & Health Journalists
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DEPARTMENT WELCOMES 2025 NEW YEAR BABIES

Pretoria: The Department of Health welcomes the safe delivery of over 650 babies delivered in public health facilities across the country between midnight (00h00) and 17h00 on the first day of the year 2025. The Department urges parents and caregivers to keep these bundles of joy up-to-date with all child health care services including immunisation to ensure they receive the care they need to survive and thrive. These services are provided free in the public health facilities.

The Department is however concerned with teenage girls who continue to be counted amongst these mothers, including a 12-year-old teenage mother who delivered healthy baby in Frontier Hospital in the Eastern Cape. The Department welcomes swift response by the Eastern Cape Health MEC, Ntandokazi Capa to initiate the investigation into the circumstances which resulted in the pregnancy of this first youngest mother of the year. This follows a similar action taken in Limpopo which led to the arrest of a man who allegedly impregnated 13 year-old girl. The Department appeals to families and members of the communities to cooperate with health officials and other authorities during such investigations by reporting any suspected rape, especially against girls and young women to law enforcement agencies.

Breakdown of births per province

Province	Boy child	Girl Child	Total
Easten Cape	56	62	118
Gauteng	105	98	203
Free State	*	*	24
Limpopo	9	10	19
KwaZulu-Natal	51	80	131
Mpumalanga	38	29	67
North West	22	19	41
Northern Cape	6	12	18
Western Cape	19	13	32

* This number is subject to change as more births are being recorded throughout the day.

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