

MEDIA STATEMENT

To: Editors & Health Journalists
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FINAL 2026 NEW YEAR BABIES STATISTICS

Pretoria: The Department of Health is pleased to announce that a total of **1669** babies were safely delivered on the first day of the year 2026 (New Year's Day) across the country's public health facilities. This is an increase from **1448** deliveries recorded last year this time. One of the first babies of the year was born at Mowbray Maternity Hospital in the Western Cape at 00:00, weighing 3.8 kg, to proud mother Geneva Claasen.

The Department congratulates all mothers and remind them to ensure the babies are protected from childhood diseases and injury by getting immunised and by being careful at home. The Department is committed to travel side by side with mothers and caregivers to ensure all children receive the nurturing care they need to develop best.

Meanwhile, the Department is concerned about an increase in teen mothers. More than 160 teenage girls are amongst mothers who delivered bundles of joy this year, compared to just over 80 teen mothers recorded in 2025 New Year's Day.

The Department calls for stronger collaboration with government, NGOs and other societal stakeholders including parents to implement various health interventions targeted at girls and young women together with their counterparts, to increase uptake of sexual and mental health services offered at various settings including Youth Friendly Zones located within primary health centres or clinics designed to provide safe, youth-friendly spaces with confidential health services to empower them, and offer alternatives for healthier futures.

Breakdown of births per province

Province	Boy child	Girl Child	Total
Eastern Cape	89	119	208
Gauteng	198	198	396
Free State	36	36	72
Limpopo	110	124	234
KwaZulu-Natal	167	167	334
Mpumalanga	63	78	141
North West	41	61	102
Northern Cape	28	22	50
Western Cape	66	66	132
TOTAL	798	871	1669

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