Crimes against women in South Africa, an analysis of the phenomenon of GBV and femicide

An overview of the prevalence of crimes against women in the country and the conditions that exacerbate GBV leading to femicide.

Stats SA
Sustainable Development Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by 2030

Target

Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
DEFINITIONS OF FEMICIDE

Femicide is generally understood to involve intentional murder of women because they are women.

Femicide is usually perpetrated by men, but sometimes female family members may be involved.

Most cases of femicide are committed by partners or ex-partners, and involve ongoing abuse in the home, threats or intimidation, sexual violence or situations where women have less power or fewer resources than their partner.

Source: Understanding and addressing violence against women, https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/77421/WHO_RHR_12.38_eng.pdf;jsessionid=3CB8AE9E80879B540E0A6DF5888BEF5F?sequence=1
Approximately 51.1% (30.5 million) of the population of South Africa is female.

South Africa’s population, mid-2020

(30.5M) 51.1% Female

(29.1M) 48.9% Male

59.62 million
EC has the highest proportion of elderly (60+) at 11.4% whilst Gauteng has the highest proportion of Youth and Adults (15-59).

Population by age category and province, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elderly (60+) within each province</th>
<th>Children under 15 within each province</th>
<th>Youth and Adult</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LP</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>39.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>36.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KZLN</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>35.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>28.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WC</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>27.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Youth and Adult:

- EC: 52.0%
- Gauteng: 67.0%

Youth and Adult (

Youth and Adult: 51.8%

Youth and Adult:

Youth and Adult: 52.0%

Youth and Adult: 67.0%
Economic Vulnerability

SA Women have higher unemployment rates and higher levels of poverty
Official Unemployment Rate
30,1% (+1,0 % Point Change Q/Q)

Expanded Unemployment Rate
39,7% (+1,0 % Point Change Q/Q)

7,1 million
people were unemployed in Q1:2020
An increase of 344 000 q/q

10,8 million
people were unemployed in Q1:2020
An increase of 416 000 q/q

Expanded Definition includes the following
- Official unemployment (searched and available) 7,1 M
- Available to work but are/or
  • Discouraged work-seekers 2,9 M
  • Have other reasons for not searching 0,8 M

Source: QLFS Q1 2020
Black African women are the most vulnerable with an unemployment rate of over 30%.

**Official unemployment rate by population group and sex**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Group</th>
<th>Both sexes</th>
<th>Black African</th>
<th>Coloured</th>
<th>Indian/Asian</th>
<th>White</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unemployment Rate by Population Group</strong></td>
<td>30.1%</td>
<td>33.8%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Black African</th>
<th>Coloured</th>
<th>Indian/Asian</th>
<th>White</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Male Unemployment Rate by Population Group</strong></td>
<td>28.3%</td>
<td>31.6%</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Female Unemployment Rate by Population Group</strong></td>
<td>32.4%</td>
<td>36.5%</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Black African women are the most vulnerable with an unemployment rate of over 30%.

Source: QLFS Q1 2020
In both Q1: 2019 and Q1: 2020, more than four in every ten young females (15-34) were not in employment, education or training (NEET). Over 8,5 million (41,7%) out of 20,4 million young people aged 15-34 years were NEET.
Threshold of absolute deprivation. The amount of money required to purchase the minimum required daily energy intake.

Food Poverty Line

R561

*Austere threshold below which one has to choose between food and important non-food items.*

Upper-Bound Poverty Line

R1227

*Threshold of relative deprivation below which people cannot afford the minimum desired lifestyle by most South Africans.*

Lower-Bound Poverty Line

R810

*Based on April 2019 prices*

Source: National Poverty Lines
Money-metric Poverty headcounts in 2015

In 2015, more than a quarter of the population were living below the food poverty line.

Upper-Bound Poverty Line

- Poor - 55.5%
- Non Poor - 45.5%

Provides an unambiguous threshold of relative deprivation below which people cannot afford the minimum lifestyle desired by most South Africans.

Lower-Bound Poverty Line

- Poor - 40.0%
- Non Poor - 60.0%

Provides an austere threshold below which one has to choose between food and important non-food items.

Food Poverty Line

- Poor - 25.2%
- Non Poor - 74.8%

Is the Rand value below which individuals are unable to purchase or consume enough food to supply them with minimum per-capita-per-day energy requirement for good health.

Source: Living Conditions Survey
Females remain more disadvantaged than males consistently recording a higher headcount, gap and severity measures at each point in time; however, the difference between the sexes is narrowing.

Source: Living Conditions Survey 2015
39.2% of female-headed households in SA do not have an employed household member.

Households without and employed household member by sex of household head, 2018

Source: Marginal Groups Indicator Report 2018
Nationally, 43% of children lived with mothers only, while one third (33.8%) lived with both parents.

**Percentage of children living arrangements, 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province (Code)</th>
<th>Lived with neither</th>
<th>Lived with mother</th>
<th>Lived with both</th>
<th>Lived with father</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WC</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>34.3%</td>
<td>53.7%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GP</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>37.2%</td>
<td>48.9%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>44.8%</td>
<td>34.8%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>44.7%</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSA</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
<td>43.1%</td>
<td>33.8%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
<td>41.2%</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LP</td>
<td>22.8%</td>
<td>47.8%</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KZN</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td>49.8%</td>
<td>21.8%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
<td>41.7%</td>
<td>21.8%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: GHS 2018
Experience of violence
Almost 50% of the assaults were committed by someone close such as a friend or acquaintance (22%), a spouse or intimate partner (15%), a relative or other household member (13%). About 29% of the assaults were committed by unknown persons.

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey 2018/19
One in five (21%) partnered women has experienced physical violence by a partner (Ever Experienced).

Experience of violence by any partner, women 18+ years

- Physical violence: 21%
  - Ever Experienced: 8%
  - In the past 12 months: 2%
- Sexual violence: 6%
  - Ever Experienced: 6%
  - In the past 12 months: 2%

Source: SADHS 2016
Women who are **divorced or separated** were more likely than other women to have experienced physical violence or sexual violence (Ever Experienced)

**Experience of Violence by Marital Status, women 18+ years**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marital Status</th>
<th>Physical Violence</th>
<th>Sexual Violence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Divorced/separated</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living together</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widowed</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never married</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: SADHS 2016*
The prevalence of physical violence was greater among less-educated women than those with secondary education or higher.

Experience of physical violence by any partner, women 18+ years by educational attainment

Source: SADHS 2016
The prevalence of physical and sexual violence decreased with the wealth quintile.

Domestic Violence by Wealth Quintiles, women 18+ years

- **In Past 12 Months**
  - Lowest Wealth Quintile: 11% Physical violence, 4% Sexual violence
  - Highest Wealth Quintile: 2% Physical violence, 2% Sexual violence

- **Ever Experienced**
  - Lowest Wealth Quintile: 29% Physical violence, 8% Sexual violence
  - Highest Wealth Quintile: 12% Physical violence, 4% Sexual violence

Source: SADHS 2016
Experience of physical violence by any partner, women 18+ years by province

- **Eastern Cape**: 6.7% physical violence, 31.6% sexual violence
- **North West**: 11.8% physical violence, 29.4% sexual violence
- **Mpumalanga**: 7.0% physical violence, 26.4% sexual violence
- **Free State**: 7.5% physical violence, 21.4% sexual violence
- **Western Cape**: 11.8% physical violence, 21.2% sexual violence
- **Northern Cape**: 4.5% physical violence, 18.7% sexual violence
- **Gauteng**: 8.0% physical violence, 17.7% sexual violence
- **Limpopo**: 5.1% physical violence, 14.4% sexual violence
- **KwaZulu-Natal**: 3.1% physical violence, 13.7% sexual violence

- Ever experienced sexual violence
- Ever experienced physical violence
A larger proportion of females felt unsafe walking alone at night in their neighbourhoods compared to males.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feels of safety when walking alone in areas of residence when it is dark, by gender</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Unsafe</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Bit Unsafe</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairly Safe</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Safe</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey 2018/19
WIDENING GULF IN HOUSEHOLDS SATISFACTION BETWEEN POLICE SERVICES AND HOW COURTS GENERALLY DEAL WITH PERPETRATORS OF CRIME

Percentage of households satisfied with the police or the courts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Police</th>
<th>Courts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>63.9%</td>
<td>41.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>59.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td>54.2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: VOCS 2017/18

stats sa
Department: Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
Thank You