

Bridging the Gap: SOUTH AFRICA COUNTRY PROFILE

Mapping Gender Data Availability in Africa

Bridging the Gap: Mapping Gender Data Availability in Africa traces the availability and quality of data for 104 gender-relevant indicators across six key domains: health, education, economic empowerment, political participation, human security, and environment. The study covers 15 African countries.

National strategies in South Africa highlight the importance of sex-disaggregated data for achieving inclusive development. Frequent surveys have produced recent observations for most indicators. And strong support for civil registration and vital statistics systems has produced relatively high rates of birth registration.

Like many other countries in this study, South Africa's gender data remain incomplete. Few indicators exist on human security, particularly at the international level. More sex disaggregation is needed across all domains.

South Africa lacks data on key aspects of women's lives

Bridging the Gap assesses indicators published online between 2010 and 2018 in international databases and in national databases maintained by the Statistics South Africa and other official sources. Gaps were identified in four dimensions.



AVAILABILITY

South Africa's national databases include **62 out of the 104 gender indicators**.



DISAGGREGATION

16 gender indicators lack sex disaggregation in South Africa's national databases.



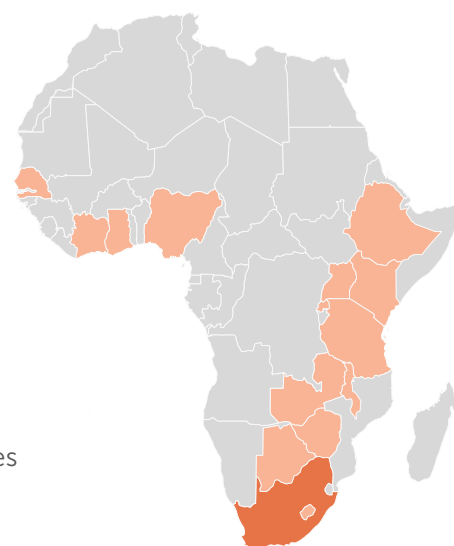
ADHERENCE TO STANDARDS

26 published gender indicators in South Africa's national databases do not conform to internationally recommended definitions.



TIMELINESS

6 indicators in South Africa's national databases have no published observations since 2015.



The 15 African countries included in this study.

Opportunities to improve gender data in South Africa

Closing gender data gaps requires time, resources, and capacity. But there is a path to an improved gender data ecosystem:



Publish indicators on human security, particularly on crime and violence, that conform to international standards with appropriate disaggregation. Along with filling gaps in national databases, particular focus is needed on improving the availability of indicators in international databases.



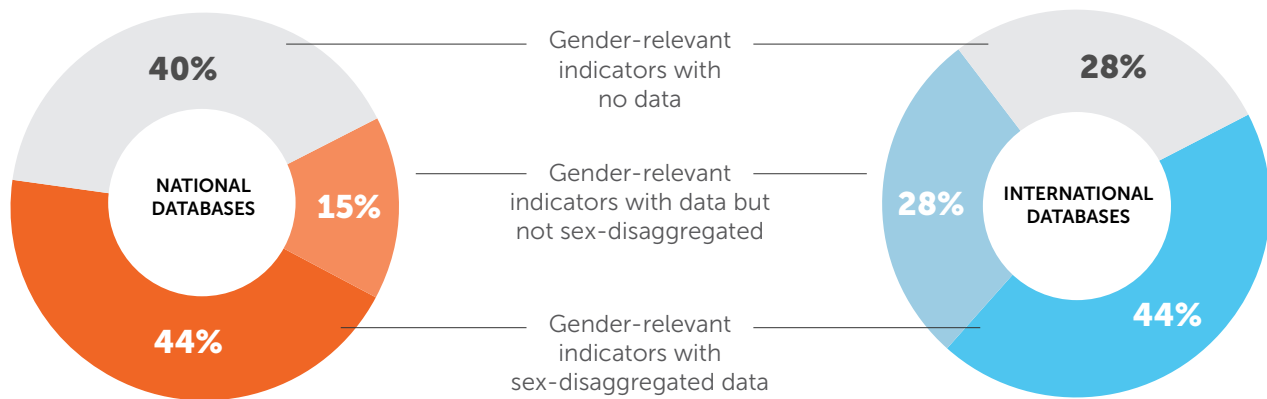
Improve the sex disaggregation for indicators on economic opportunities and health in international databases. While data for many of these indicators exist, they lack necessary sex disaggregation.



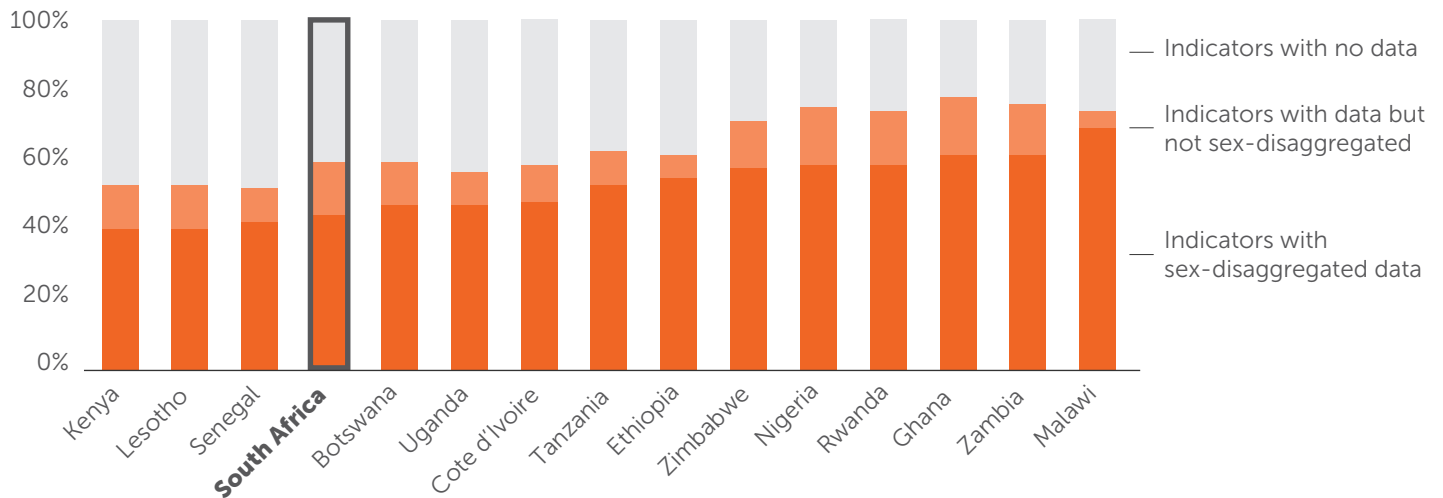
Harness available administrative data as a primary source of information on education to improve the availability of sex-disaggregated education indicators that conform to international standards.

A closer look at gender data gaps

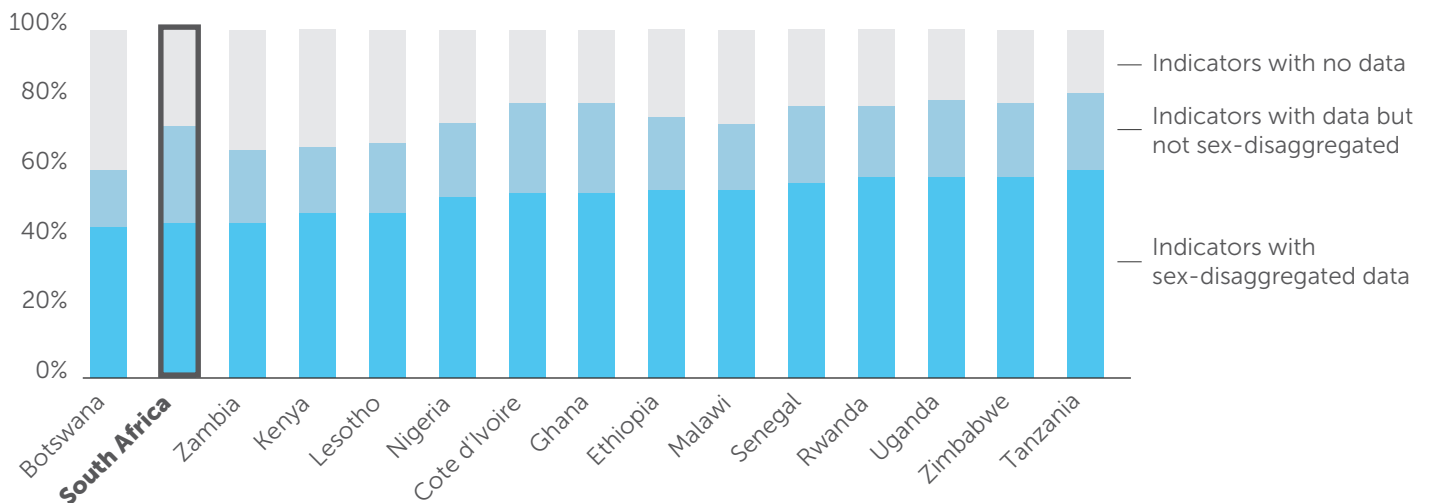
This study assesses data in both national and international databases. South Africa's national databases lack data for 40 percent of the gender indicators reviewed. Databases maintained by international organizations have better coverage of South Africa's gender indicators, but 28 percent are still missing.



South Africa publishes a low number of gender indicators in **national databases** compared to other countries included in the study.

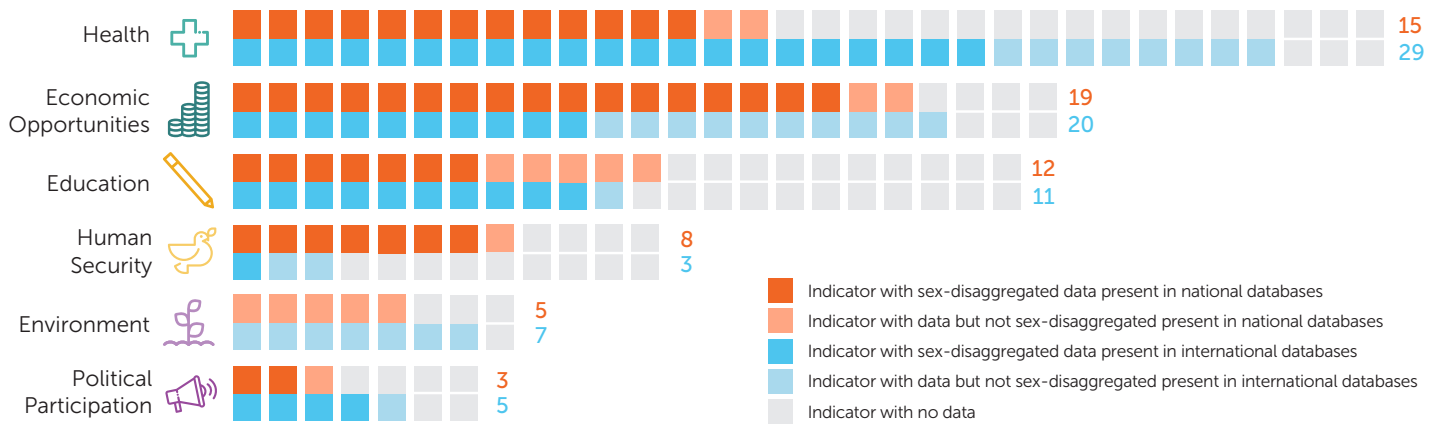


South Africa also publishes a low number of gender indicators in **international databases** compared to other countries included in the study.

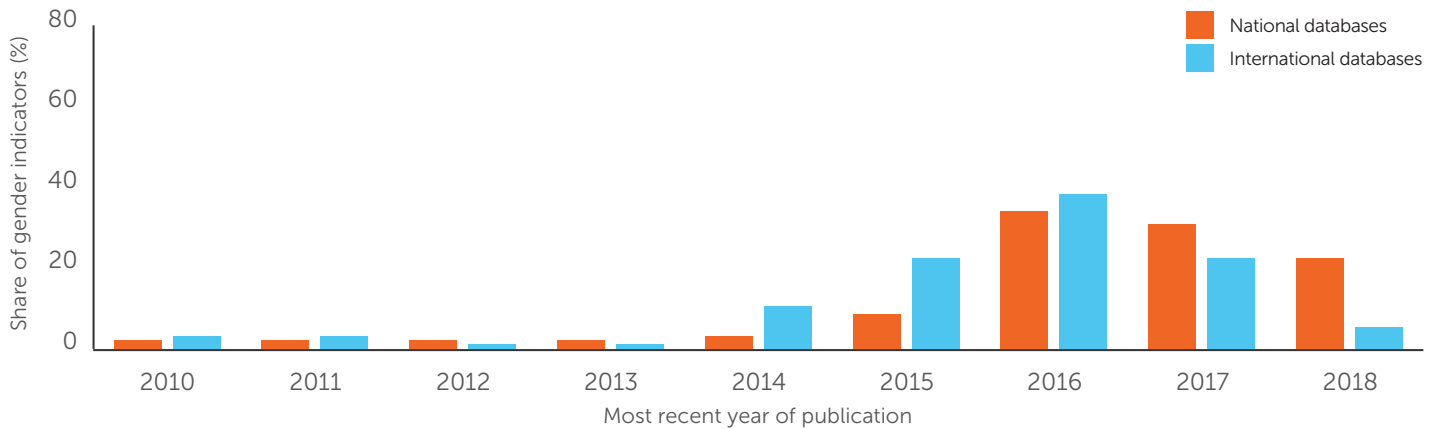


Data availability and timeliness

Economic opportunity indicators have the highest overall availability of data in South Africa, but there are large gaps in sex-disaggregated data in international databases. There are almost no human security indicators in international databases. There are no sex-disaggregated data for any environmental indicator.

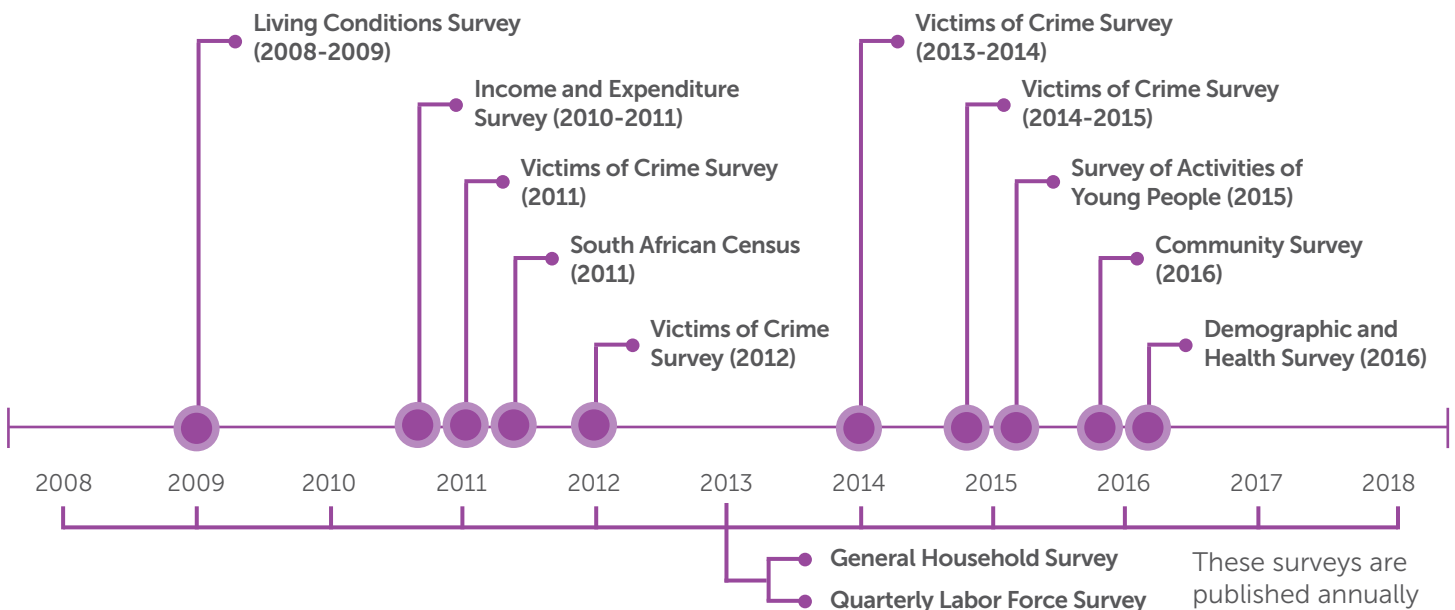


Ten percent of gender indicators in South Africa’s national databases have no published observations since 2015.



Core systems to produce gender data

Many of the gender indicators in South Africa are produced through surveys. Although South Africa has conducted a number of surveys from which gender indicators can be derived, many gaps remain in its national and international databases. South Africa has scheduled its next population and housing census for 2021.



Civil registration and vital statistics provide basic demographic and health information. This is especially important for women and children as the data are foundational and help to unleash opportunities and combat discrimination and exclusion.

National sources in South Africa provide birth registration rate data. The birth registration rate was estimated at 89 percent in 2018. No data on birth registration are available at the international level for South Africa, as it does not participate in Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS).

89% Birth registration rate in South Africa

Source: Statistics South Africa, Recorded live births, 2018, <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0305/P03052018.pdf>

Assessments of South Africa's data ecosystem

Indexes of open data, statistical capacity, and gender equality provide a more complete picture of South Africa's statistical and legislative environment.



* Percentile rank among 120 countries worldwide with scores.

Vertical orange line: Highest score for a Sub-Saharan African country

Plans, partnerships, and political support for gender data

South Africa is taking steps to improve data availability by mainstreaming gender data into national plans, engaging in partnerships, and mobilizing finances.

- South Africa's **Voluntary National Review** report acknowledges a number of complex challenges related to data production for the SDGs. It draws attention to the lack of disaggregation by sex and age for crime statistics.
- In the **Strategic Plan 2015/2016-2019/2020**, Statistics South Africa announces the introduction of a new series of publications on gender and vulnerable groups. It also emphasizes its commitment to strengthening its Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system through a strategic initiative to self-assess CRVS systems.
- The **National Development Plan 2030** for South Africa acknowledges the absence of sex-disaggregated data for the implementation of interventions at municipal levels.
- South Africa has funded and organized the **African Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD)** since 2005. Five of these annual symposiums have prioritized CRVS as a theme for discussion.

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