



The status of child care in the first 1000 days in South Africa

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Agenda

- ▶ What is child care?
- ▶ Can we measure child care?
- ▶ What do the indicators tell us?
- ▶ Can we trust the indicator data?
- ▶ How should we respond to the current situation?

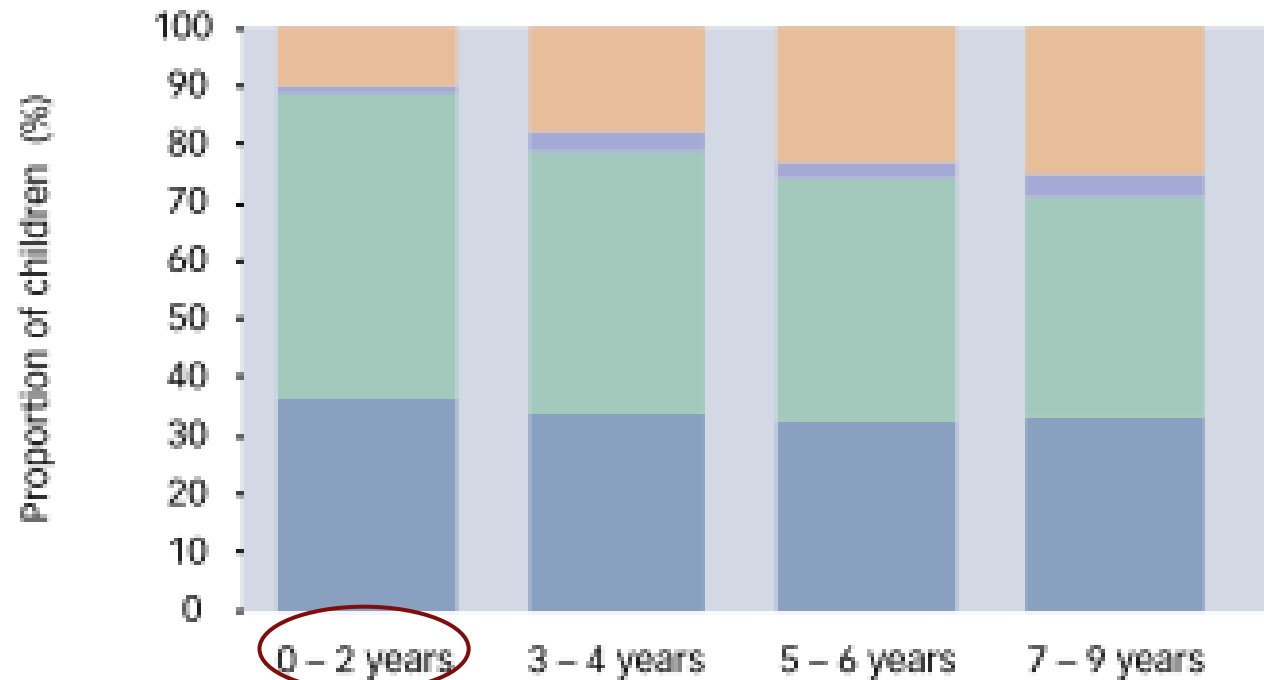
What is child care (in the first 1000 days) ?

- ▶ Being born alive
- ▶ Being born healthy
- ▶ Having a mother/father/caregiver
- ▶ Receiving shelter, food, warmth, ...
- ▶ Having birth registered
- ▶ Surviving the neonatal period and infancy
- ▶ Being protected from disease and ill health
- ▶ Being protected from abuse, neglect and exploitation
- ▶ Receiving love and play
- ▶ Opportunities for early learning (stimulation)

Can we measure child care (and what do the indicators tell us) ?

- ▶ Being born alive
- ▶ Being born healthy
- ▶ Having a mother/father care for you
- ▶ Receiving shelter, food, warmth, ...
- ▶ Having birth registered
- ▶ Surviving the neonatal period and infancy
- ▶ Being protected from disease and ill health
- ▶ Receiving love and play
- ▶ Being stimulated

Figure 1b: Child and parent co-residence for young children, 2011

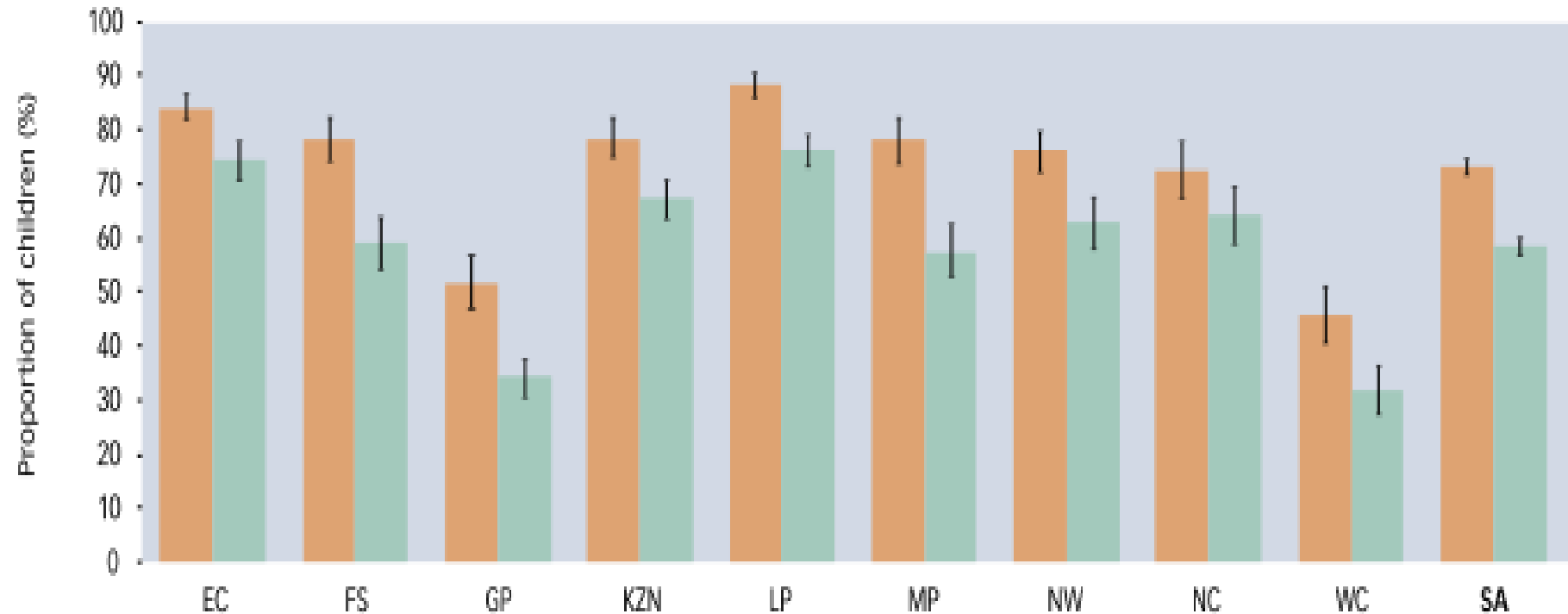


	0 – 2 years	3 – 4 years	5 – 6 years	7 – 9 years
Both parents	1,090,000	680,000	743,000	955,000
Mother only	1,549,000	897,000	938,000	1,081,000
Father only	48,000	64,000	64,000	117,000
Neither parent	294,000	358,000	528,000	721,000

Only a third of children live with both parents in South Africa

Figure 2a: Children living in income poverty, by province, 2003 & 2011

(“Lower bound” poverty line: Households with monthly per capita income less than R604, in 2011 Rands)



2003	84,2%	78,2%	51,7%	78,5%	88,1%	77,9%	76,1%	72,5%	45,6%	73,1%
	2,688,000	843,000	1,350,000	3,004,000	2,346,000	1,028,000	1,123,000	245,000	696,000	13,185,000
2011	74,2%	58,9%	34,1%	67,1%	76,1%	57,4%	62,7%	64,2%	31,8%	58,2%
	1,993,000	625,000	1,139,000	2,828,000	1,706,000	846,000	804,000	279,000	578,000	10,796,000

Sources: Statistics South Africa (2004; 2012) General Household Survey 2003; General Household Survey 2011. Pretoria: Stats SA.

Analysis by Katharine Hall, Children's Institute, UCT.

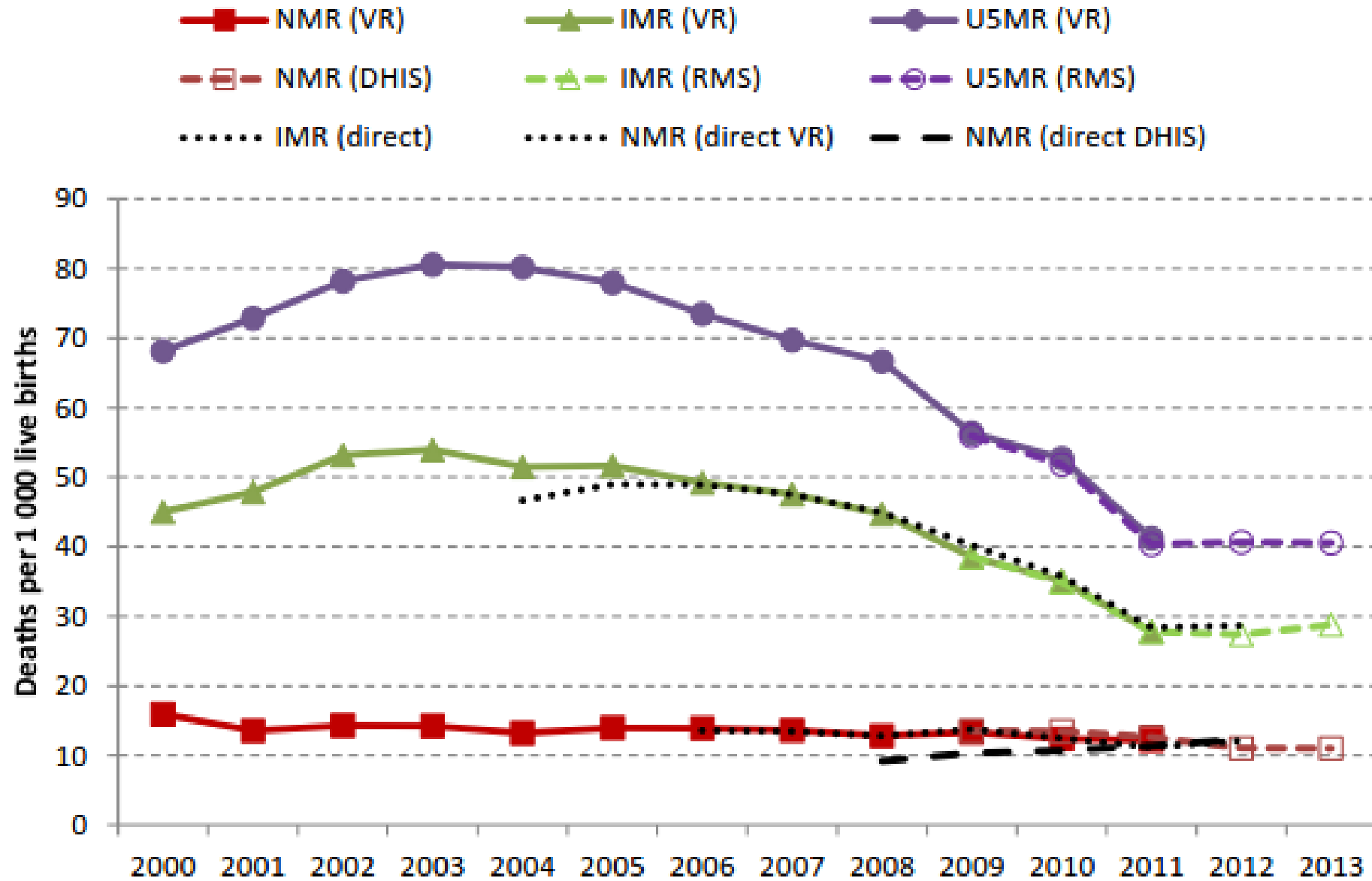


Figure 18: Under-5 mortality rate (U5MR) and infant mortality rate (IMR) from VR/RMS and neonatal mortality rate (NMR) from VR/DHIS, 2000-2013 (after adjusting for incompleteness)

How effective is coverage of existing child care services and activities ?

- ▶ Safe birth
- ▶ Breast-feeding
- ▶ Growth promotion
- ▶ Immunisation
- ▶ Developmental screening
- ▶ Vitamin A supplementation
- ▶ Deworming
- ▶ Child support grants

Child social support grants (millions)

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11 ¹	2011/12	2012/13 Projected	2013/14	% Growth per year
Thousands								
Type of grant								
Old-age	2 219	2 344	2 490	2 647	2 729	2 786	2 844	4.2%
War veterans	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	-17.7%
Disability	1 413	1 372	1 299	1 233	1 265	1 290	1 315	-1.2%
Foster care	443	476	489	554	613	709	820	10.8%
Care dependency	102	107	119	121	128	135	141	5.6%
Child support	8 196	8 765	9 381	10 336	10 977	11 303	11 589	5.9%
Total	12 375	13 066	13 779	14 892	15 713	16 223	16 709	5.1%

Can we trust the indicator data?

- ▶ Mortality
- ▶ Low birth weight and prematurity
- ▶ Immunisation
- ▶ Breastfeeding
- ▶ Child support grant

Are there things we do not know (nationally)?

- ▶ Nutrition
 - ▶ Hygiene (hand washing with soap)
 - ▶ Zinc delivery
- ▶ Developmental problems
- ▶ Who cares for young children?
- ▶ What opportunities for early learning (stimulation) provided?
- ▶ much more

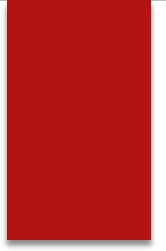
What's the problem?

- ▶ Inadequate and inequitable **coverage** of key services
- ▶ **Under-provided services** - food and nutrition, child care and early learning, parenting support
- ▶ **Exclusion** of vulnerable children – youngest, poorest and in under-serviced areas
- ▶ **Poor quality** linked to funding, poor qualifications and limited quality improvement

What barriers to effective child care service provision need to be overcome?

- ▶ A poor or absent legislative framework,
- ▶ Insufficient or no public funding,
- ▶ Poor governance, including institutional arrangements
- ▶ Inefficiencies
- ▶ Leadership
- ▶ Co-ordination

What are the opportunities for effective child care and how can they be realised?



Best good news for 2015?

STAATSKOERANT, 13 MAART 2015

No. 38558 3

GOVERNMENT NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

No. 204

13 March 2015

DRAFT EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICY”

An essential package for the first 2 years of life



Health Care

Child: Health care, HIV testing & treatment, de-worming , disability (DOH)

Mother: substance abuse, mental health, exposure to violence (DOH)

Nutrition

Growth monitoring, breastfeeding, Vit A, complementary & responsive feeding, nutrition counselling, supplementation when necessary (DOH)

Birth Registration & Social, Child Protection

CSG (SASSA), screen abuse & neglect (DOH, DSD)

Parent Support

Parent support and skill building (DOH)

Opportunities for learning

Home visits, community & facility groups (DOH), child minding (DSD)

- Birth registration
- Child Support Grants (DSD/SASSA)
- Large part of Health & Nutrition (DOH)

Already in place



- Nutrition support
- Screening, support & referral
- Maternal mental health, substance use, exposure to violence
- Child abuse, children with disabilities
- Centre- and programme-based early learning

Must be expanded or State supported



- Parent support
- Home, child minder and community opportunities for learning for young children (<2y)
- Community- and media-based promotion of child development, growth, health, safety and learning

New services needed



How does one rapidly expand the Essential Package?

International and local experience of achieving high coverage

- ▶ India: International Child Development Services (ICDS)
- ▶ USA: Early Head Start
- ▶ Britain: Sure Start
- ▶ Latin America: Chile, Colombia
- ▶ South Africa: Grade R



SureStart

Responsibilities of an ECD “agency”

- ▶ **Plan, coordinate & monitor** national programme of ECD
- ▶ **Support** key government departments
- ▶ **Develop** & support implementation of specific **programmes**
 - ▶ Nutrition support.
 - ▶ Parenting support
 - ▶ Early learning
- ▶ Establish high level **targets** and norms and standards
- ▶ Strengthen alignment of **budget** bids with the national ECD Policy

Priorities for ECD “agency”

- ▶ Home- and community-based support for children <2 years
- ▶ Expanded opportunities for learning for children 2-5 years
- ▶ Clear strategies to prevent stunting
- ▶ Support for children with developmental difficulties and disabilities
- ▶ Communication and public information about ECD

Infrastructure

- Service delivery
- Management

Human Resources

- Mother and Child health workers
- ECD practitioners
- Child minder supervisors
- ECD Management

Training

Monitoring, evaluation and quality control

ECD Agency

DOH: Pregnancy, Birth–2 years

- ▶ Pregnancy
 - ▶ 2 home visits (vulnerable mothers - <19, HIV+, substance abuse, mental ill-health, exposure to violence)
 - ▶ Clinic- and community-based mother support groups
- ▶ Birth to 2 Years
 - ▶ Home visits for 9 months to vulnerable mothers
 - ▶ Home visits to 9 months for vulnerable infants
 - ▶ Clinic- and community-based mother support groups, mother-baby early learning groups (e.g. WHO/UNICEF Care for Child Development)
- ▶ By whom?
 - ▶ New Mother & Baby Community Health Workers

DSD/DBE: Birth-2 and 2-5 Years

- ▶ Birth to 2 Years
 - ▶ Support to Child Minders
- ▶ 2 – 5 Years
 - ▶ Centre- and community-based early learning groups and parent supports
 - ▶ Backed-up by toy and book libraries
- ▶ By whom?
 - ▶ ECD practitioners
- ▶ Possibility of pre-Grade R year at 3.5 years

Conclusion

- ▶ Child care is very much on the national agenda
- ▶ The data we have is modestly robust, and limited, but indicates that our performance varies (from great to poor)
- ▶ Many of the key elements of an Essential Package are already in place, but require quality improvements
- ▶ The challenge now is to debate the currently proposed strategies and identify other (cost) effective strategies, and
- ▶ most importantly... get on with implementation