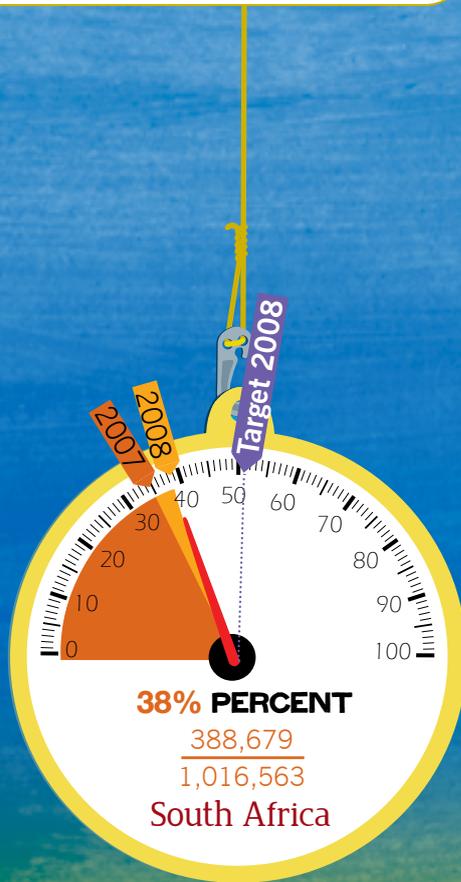


9. Income support

The proportion of children under one year who receive the Child Support Grant.



What do these figures mean for children

Poverty relief is an important part of the national response to HIV and AIDS. The Child Support Grant (CSG) is an unconditional cash transfer for poor children under the age of 15 years. In 2009 the grant amount is set at R240 per month, and increases every year. This helps many families, but there are a large number of children under the age of one year who still do not receive the grant.

This indicator measures grant uptake in children under the age of one year. Early access to grants helps caregivers to provide young children with better health care and nutrition, which is vital for healthy growth and development. These children will, in most cases, continue to access the grant, at least through early childhood.

In mid-2006, 30% of children under the age of one year were accessing the CSG. This figure increased to 35% in mid-2007 and to 38% in 2008. This increase was in spite of no changes to targeting criteria over this period. Improvements in grant uptake therefore reflect improvements in service access and/or delivery.

However, there is a lot more that needs to be done to improve early access to grants for young children. In 2008, 38% of children under one year were accessing the grant, but about 60% of children would probably have qualified for it. According to the NSP target for CSG uptake, approximately 51% of all children under the age of one year should have been accessing the grant by 2008.

Grant uptake varies across provinces, with the highest rates of uptake in the poorest provinces. This is an indication of good targeting.

Technical notes

Numerator: Number of Child Support Grants disbursed to caregivers of children under one year.

Data source: South African Social Security Agency (SASSA): SOCPEN, July 2007 & July 2006

Denominator: Number of children under the age of one year.

Data source: Statistics South Africa: General Household Surveys 2007 & 2006; Statistics South Africa: 2008 Mid-term estimates in single years; Centre for Actuarial Research: ASSA2003 (national population only)

Strengths and limitations of data

A limitation of the General Household Survey is that young children, especially babies, are regularly under-counted (although a comparison of StatsSA and ASSA model estimates indicate that this is less of a problem in recent years).

This indicator does not directly show the proportion of eligible infants who receive the CSG. This is because estimates of income eligibility would be unreliable for such a small sub-population (i.e. for children under the age of one year).

The proportion of all children under 1 year in receipt of CSG in 2007 and 2008

