# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO. 1198**

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**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 12)**

**Mrs M O Clarke (DA) to ask the Minister of Health:**

What is the (a) total number of children who died in public health facilities in each province since 1 January 2013, (b) detailed breakdown of the reasons for each death and (c) number of deaths that were due to unnatural causes? **NW1339E**

**REPLY:**

1. Total number of children (0 – 59 months ) who died in public health facilities in each province since 1 January 2013 to December 2022 (ten years period)

Table1: Children who died in public health facilities by provincesince 1 January 2013 to December 2022 (ten years period)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Organisation unit name** | **Value** |
| Eastern Cape | 25 189 |
| Free State | 10 189 |
| Gauteng | 38 243 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 38 711 |
| Limpopo | 24 744 |
| Mpumalanga | 14 226 |
| Northern Cape | 5 107 |
| North West | 10 300 |
| Western Cape | 1. 736 |

*Source DHIS*

(b) Detailed breakdown of the reasons for each death

Provision of individual cause of children’s death to the house contravenes section35 of the Protection of personal information Act (POPIA), aggregated data on common causes of deaths in children are diarrhoea and pneumonia, including the underlying causes such as severe and moderate acute malnutrition, are collected routinely through the district health information system.

Table 2: Causes and underlying causes of deaths from 1st January 2013 to 31st December 2022

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Data name** | **TOTA**L |
| Pneumonia death under 5 years | **10,216** |
| Diarrhoea death under 5 years | **9491** |
| Moderate acute malnutrition death under 5 years | **1410** |
| Severe acute malnutrition death under 5 years | **11172** |

*Source DHIS*

(c) Number of deaths that were due to unnatural causes?

Number of child deaths due to unnatural causes in public health facilities may not project accurate picture across the country as final causes are documented following the forensic report analysis. Statistics South Africa, Home Affairs and South African Police Service provides accurate information as shown in the table below.

Table 7: Non-natural deaths from 2013 to 2018

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Non-natural deaths** | **% under-5 deaths** |
| 2013 | 2 452 | 7.0 |
| 2014 | 2 496 | 7.3 |
| 2015 | 2 509 | 7.9 |
| 2016 | 2 364 | 8.3 |
| 2017 | 2 0 4 | 7.9 |
| 2018 | 2 199 | 8.4 |

*Source: StatsSA*

END.