**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION 1265**

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**1265. Ms H S Boshoff (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

What were the (a) repetition and (b) drop-out rates in (i) Grade 7, (ii) Grade 8 and (iii) Grade 9 in each (aa) province and (bb) district for each of the academic years since 1 January 2012? NW1365E

1. **Percentage of learners repeating a grade by province and year**

Currently, the best source of data available for estimating repetition rates is STATS SA’s General Household Survey (GHS). The most recent data is from 2016. The repetition rates per grade, year and province are shown below. Note that this is a nationally representative sample survey, and the figures presented below are therefore *estimates* rather than exact census type information. The sample is not designed to provide representative statistics per education district, and therefore this information is not available. For 2016, the estimated national repetition rate was 7.6% in grade 7, 11.0% in grade 8, and 11.9% in grade 9.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Province** | **Grade 7** | **Grade 8** | **Grade 9** |
| **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** |
| Western Cape | 4.4 | 6.0 | 4.9 | 5.8 | 5.9 | 9.6 | 3.8 | 7.6 | 10.2 | 6.3 | 8.7 | 14.7 | 9.8 | 14.4 | 15.4 |
| Eastern Cape | 7.8 | 7.9 | 8.4 | 9.5 | 7.5 | 11.9 | 11.3 | 7.6 | 13.7 | 5.8 | 10.0 | 11.2 | 14.7 | 11.1 | 4.7 |
| Northern Cape | 7.7 | 10.3 | 10.0 | 21.1 | 12.8 | 8.0 | 8.6 | 10.6 | 17.2 | 12.0 | 6.5 | 13.0 | 22.3 | 18.1 | 9.2 |
| Free State | 4.7 | 14.2 | 12.0 | 13.1 | 16.5 | 8.5 | 7.9 | 11.3 | 18.1 | 18.4 | 13.9 | 22.7 | 26.9 | 29.9 | 22.1 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 5.8 | 6.0 | 4.1 | 6.3 | 7.5 | 7.4 | 8.7 | 10.0 | 5.9 | 11.0 | 9.7 | 13.2 | 9.0 | 6.9 | 7.7 |
| North West | 14.6 | 10.4 | 8.9 | 13.5 | 10.8 | 13.8 | 4.8 | 10.0 | 17.7 | 20.1 | 16.5 | 31.2 | 19.5 | 21.0 | 23.7 |
| Gauteng | 3.5 | 4.9 | 3.1 | 3.6 | 5.0 | 8.3 | 4.4 | 9.1 | 6.5 | 8.2 | 13.9 | 8.4 | 11.4 | 8.9 | 7.9 |
| Mpumalanga | 7.9 | 14.7 | 12.8 | 10.5 | 8.6 | 19.3 | 19.4 | 18.8 | 24.4 | 18.7 | 19.4 | 15.6 | 23.2 | 21.0 | 17.1 |
| Limpopo | 7.7 | 7.9 | 8.8 | 7.8 | 5.9 | 8.9 | 10.2 | 7.0 | 17.2 | 11.7 | 27.4 | 24.5 | 32.9 | 24.1 | 16.6 |
| **South Africa** | **6.5** | **7.9** | **6.8** | **7.9** | **7.6** | **10.3** | **8.6** | **9.8** | **12.3** | **11.0** | **15.0** | **16.2** | **17.3** | **14.8** | **11.9** |

Source: General Household Survey (GHS), DBE own calculation

1. **Drop-out rate**

Similarly, the best available *estimates* of drop-out rates by grade are derived using GHS data. The table below shows the drop-out rates and survival rates for 2 different age cohorts, those born during 1987-1989 (and surveyed between 2011-2013) and those born during 1990-1992 (and surveyed between 2014-2016). These two cohorts provide a justifiable comparison across time, because the individuals would have been the same age when surveyed (between 22 and 26 years old). The specific cohorts were chosen, because individuals aged 22 – 26 years old would have been old enough to have completed school at the time when the GHS data was collected, and we will therefore be able to gauge what percentage of them finished their schooling at which grades. The survival rates in the table show the percentage of individuals who reached each grade. The rate was then converted to show the number of individuals, out of a 1000 individuals who reached each grade. It was then also possible to calculate the percentage of all individuals reaching particular grades who then drop out before attaining the next grade.

Note that for several years the data has been combined for this analysis in order to ensure that there are sufficient sample sizes in each of the cells. It is also important to note that whilst this method provides the most reliable estimates of drop-out rates by grade, it does not reflect the drop-out that happened in a particular year – the data may have been collected from 22-26 year-olds between 2014-2016 but those youths may have dropped out of school in an earlier year.

**Interpretation focusing on 2014-2016**:

An estimated 0.7% of these youths in 2014-2016 reported to have not even completed Grade 1. Grade 12: 51.5% of this cohort attained Grade 12. It was also calculated that 26% of those with Grade 11 (NB: not of all youths) dropped-out before attaining Grade 12. Similarly, the drop-out rates for grade 7, 8 and 9 were 3.1%, 4.6% and 9.5% respectively.

Drop-out rates for each grade are also reported by province using the same methodology in the tables below, for both the 2011-2013 combined period and the 2014-2016 combined period. It is worth noting that in general the survival rates improved in the more recent period.

**Survival rates and drop-out rates, associated with each grade**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|   | **2011-2013** | **2014-2016** |
|   | **Survival Rate** | **Survival per 1000** | **Percentage dropping out with this Grade attained** | **Survival Rate** | **Survival per 1000** | **Percentage dropping out with this Grade attained** |
| Total cohort | 100% |   |   | 100% |   |   |
| No schooling |   | 1000 | 0.7% |   | 1000 | 0.7% |
| Grade 1 | 99.3% | 993 | 0.4% | 99.3% | 993 | 0.1% |
| Grade 2 | 98.9% | 989 | 0.5% | 99.1% | 991 | 0.2% |
| Grade 3 | 98.4% | 984 | 0.4% | 98.9% | 989 | 0.5% |
| Grade 4 | 98.0% | 980 | 0.7% | 98.4% | 984 | 0.5% |
| Grade 5 | 97.3% | 973 | 1.0% | 97.9% | 979 | 0.8% |
| Grade 6 | 96.3% | 963 | 1.5% | 97.1% | 971 | 1.5% |
| Grade 7 | 94.9% | 949 | 3.1% | 95.7% | 957 | 3.1% |
| Grade 8 | 92.0% | 920 | 5.2% | 92.7% | 927 | 4.6% |
| Grade 9 | 87.2% | 872 | 9.0% | 88.5% | 885 | 9.5% |
| Grade 10 | 79.4% | 794 | 17.1% | 80.0% | 800 | 15.5% |
| Grade 11 | 65.8% | 658 | 26.0% | 67.6% | 676 | 23.8% |
| Grade 12 | 48.6% | 486 |  | 51.5% | 515 |  |

**Data Source:** General Household Survey, DBE own calculation

**Drop-out rates, associated with each grade by province 2014-2016**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **No schooling** | **Grade 1** | **Grade 2** | **Grade 3** | **Grade 4** | **Grade 5** | **Grade 6** | **Grade 7** | **Grade 8** | **Grade 9** | **Grade 10** | **Grade 11** |
| Western Cape | 1.0% | 0.1% | 0.2% | 0.4% | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.8% | 3.1% | 4.7% | 9.9% | 16.9% | 22.3% |
| Eastern Cape | 0.9% | 0.2% | 0.4% | 1.3% | 1.1% | 1.9% | 3.0% | 5.0% | 6.9% | 13.7% | 23.8% | 35.0% |
| Northern Cape | 1.8% | 0.4% | 0.0% | 0.4% | 0.5% | 1.1% | 2.3% | 4.0% | 8.8% | 14.0% | 19.3% | 23.0% |
| Free State | 0.9% | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.4% | 0.8% | 1.8% | 3.4% | 5.2% | 12.5% | 17.1% | 21.5% |
| Kwazulu-Natal | 0.7% | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.5% | 0.6% | 0.8% | 0.8% | 2.5% | 4.1% | 7.8% | 13.3% | 25.3% |
| North West | 1.4% | 0.2% | 0.5% | 0.3% | 0.7% | 0.9% | 2.1% | 2.5% | 6.3% | 14.5% | 20.2% | 22.6% |
| Gauteng | 0.4% | 0.0% | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.3% | 0.2% | 0.8% | 2.0% | 2.6% | 5.0% | 10.4% | 17.6% |
| Mpumalanga | 0.5% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.3% | 0.5% | 1.5% | 1.6% | 3.7% | 2.9% | 8.1% | 16.6% | 28.7% |
| Limpopo | 0.6% | 0.1% | 0.2% | 0.7% | 0.6% | 0.8% | 2.5% | 4.3% | 7.3% | 15.6% | 19.3% | 28.4% |

**Data Source:** General Household Survey, DBE own calculation

**Note:** data for 2014-2016 pooled together to overcome small sample errors

**INTERPRETATION**: This means that 28.4% of 22-26 year-olds in Limpopo who completed Grade 11 dropped-out before attaining Grade 12.

**Drop-out rates, associated with each grade by province 2011-2013**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **No schooling** | **Grade 1** | **Grade 2** | **Grade 3** | **Grade 4** | **Grade 5** | **Grade 6** | **Grade 7** | **Grade 8** | **Grade 9** | **Grade 10** | **Grade 11** |
| Western Cape | 0.4% | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.1% | 0.2% | 0.5% | 0.8% | 2.7% | 5.5% | 11.1% | 21.1% | 23.1% |
| Eastern Cape | 0.7% | 0.4% | 0.8% | 1.3% | 1.2% | 2.3% | 3.6% | 5.2% | 10.0% | 13.3% | 23.5% | 40.6% |
| Northern Cape | 1.5% | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.6% | 1.9% | 0.8% | 1.4% | 4.6% | 10.3% | 14.1% | 20.7% | 19.4% |
| Free State | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.2% | 0.2% | 1.0% | 0.4% | 1.9% | 2.8% | 4.9% | 12.7% | 19.1% | 20.3% |
| Kwazulu-Natal | 0.5% | 0.6% | 0.6% | 0.7% | 0.8% | 0.9% | 1.1% | 2.4% | 4.0% | 7.5% | 15.2% | 23.2% |
| North West | 1.8% | 0.7% | 0.4% | 0.5% | 0.8% | 1.9% | 2.3% | 5.4% | 6.1% | 10.1% | 19.2% | 27.3% |
| Gauteng | 0.6% | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.1% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.8% | 1.7% | 2.8% | 4.8% | 12.0% | 22.2% |
| Mpumalanga | 1.2% | 0.1% | 0.6% | 0.2% | 0.9% | 1.2% | 1.4% | 2.9% | 6.5% | 8.9% | 16.3% | 29.4% |
| Limpopo | 1.1% | 0.5% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 1.3% | 1.3% | 4.3% | 5.2% | 12.6% | 22.5% | 33.4% |

**Data Source:** General Household Survey, DBE own calculation

**Note:** data for 2011-2013 pooled together to overcome small sample errors