# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO. 1770**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 06 MAY 2022**

**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 16)**

**Ms B S Masango (DA) to ask the Minister of Health:**

What (a) total number of children have died nationally in public hospitals as a result of malnutrition and/or starvation and (b) is the total breakdown in each province?

###### NW2099E

**REPLY:**

As part of the Integrated Management of childhood disease services, two Data Elements are monitored for malnutrition deaths. These Data Elements are:

* Moderate acute malnutrition death under 5 years

* Severe acute malnutrition death under 5 years

1. The total number of children who have died nationally in public hospitals as a result of malnutrition in the past three years is as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Data Element** | **FY 2019/20** | **FY 2020/21** | **FY 2021/22** |
| Moderate acute malnutrition death under 5 years | 166 | 207 | 238 |
| Severe acute malnutrition death under 5 years | 868 | 568 | 771 |
| **Total (National)** | **1034** | **775** | **1009** |

The above table shows a drop in malnutrition deaths in 2020/21, however, the 2021/22 deaths are similar to the pre-COVD-19 deaths of 2019/20.

1. The Total breakdown in each province is as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Data Element** | **Province** | **FY 2019/20** | **FY 2020/21** | **FY 2021/22** |
| Moderate acute malnutrition death under 5 years | Eastern Cape Province | 24 | 20 | 20 |
|  | Free State Province | 21 | 7 | 8 |
|  | Gauteng Province | 34 | 45 | 45 |
|  | KwaZulu-Natal Province | 33 | 83 | 81 |
|  | Limpopo Province | 27 | 13 | 21 |
|  | Mpumalanga Province | 11 | 24 | 29 |
|  | Northern Cape Province | 0 | 8 | 11 |
|  | North West Province | 14 | 6 | 19 |
|  | Western Cape Province | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Severe acute malnutrition death under 5 years | Eastern Cape Province | 149 | 72 | 127 |
|  | Free State Province | 65 | 50 | 86 |
|  | Gauteng Province | 94 | 75 | 120 |
|  | KwaZulu-Natal Province | 176 | 164 | 187 |
|  | Limpopo Province | 124 | 70 | 82 |
|  | Mpumalanga Province | 60 | 52 | 59 |
|  | Northern Cape Province | 38 | 21 | 33 |
|  | North West Province | 154 | 56 | 62 |
|  | Western Cape Province | 8 | 8 | 15 |
|  | **Total (National)** | **1034** | **775** | **1009** |

END.