

POLOKWANE COUNCIL RAPID ASSESSMENT OF ADOLESCENT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (ASRHR)

JANUARY 2022



FACT SHEET

This fact sheet is a summary of the findings of the ASRHR Rapid Assessment undertaken in Polokwane Council as part of an eight-country study¹ from November 2019 to December 2020. The research aims to strengthen youth-led and focused efforts to promote ASRHR through gender and youth-responsive local governance. Gender Links South Africa conducted the study in 29 Centers of Excellence for Gender in Local Government.² In Polokwane, the study covered 4 clinics; 319 respondents: 53% young women and 47% young men (see table overleaf). This fact sheet should be read together with the South Africa and the Southern Africa ASRHR Rapid Assessment research pamphlets. Key findings include:

Accessibility

- Sixty-eight percent of respondents reported being within 10 km of a clinic.
- Responses to whether the clinics open after school were high at 86%.
- The majority (83%) of respondents said that clinics open during weekends.
- Seventy-eight percent of respondents said that the clinics had a comfortable waiting area. Buite Clinic (51%) had the least responses.
- None of the clinics charged fees for their services.

Quality of care

- Seventy-seven percent of respondents said they were treated with respect.
- Seventy-eight percent of young people indicated that there was privacy at the clinics.
- Eighty-two percent of respondents said they were treated with confidentiality. The responses

were varied, ranging from 42% at Mmotong Clinic to 93% at Mankweng Clinic.

- Only half (51%) of respondents said that the clinics did not require their parents to be present.
- Over two-thirds (66%) of young people indicated that health workers spent sufficient time with them.
- Over two-thirds (66%) of young people said they received appropriate information. Availability of information is a key component of ASRHR that gives young people a #Voice andChoice.

Sexual and reproductive health services

- Forty-five percent of young people requested contraceptives. The majority (89%) of those who requested contraceptives received them. Access to contraceptives is key to ensure that ASRH is prioritised.
- A third (30%) of young women requested a pregnancy test and 70% of them received it. Two percent of young women were pregnant at that time.
- At 26%, the overall demand for male circumcision, which has been shown to reduce the spread of HIV and AIDS, is relatively low. It is encouraging that all of those who requested male circumcision received an appointment.
- Only 8% of youth requested PREP while 7% requested post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP).
- A quarter (25%) of respondents requested an HIV test. A significant proportion (96%) of those who asked for this test received it.
- Only a third of respondents (34% overall) said health workers asked about their mental health. This is a concern, as ASRHR and mental health are closely linked.
- Thirty-seven percent of young people said that a follow-up appointment was set up whilst 39% of young people were referred to a relevant facility.

¹ Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

² Blouberg, Brandwag, D'Almeida, Dana Bay, Emfuleni, Friemersheim, Great Brak, Hartenbos, Herbertsdale, Joburg City-Orange Farm-Region G, Joburg City-Soweto-Region D, Joe Slovo, Kwanonqaba, Lepelle Nkumpi, Midvaal, Mogale City, Molemole, Mossel Bay, Polokwane, Sonskyn Valley, eThekweni Ward 101, eThekweni Ward 11, eThekweni Ward 26, eThekweni Ward 31, eThekweni Ward 34, eThekweni Ward 68, eThekweni Ward 98 (Umkomaas), eThekweni Ward 98 (Umnini).

FOR MORE INFORMATION go to:

<https://genderlinks.org.za/what-we-do/governance/local-action-for-voice-and-choice/>

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KEY DATA FROM THE RAPID ASSESSMENT OF ASRHR SERVICES IN POLOKWANE COUNCIL SOUTH AFRICA

Indicator	Polokwane	Buite Clinic	Mankweng Clinic	Mmotong Clinic	Seshego Zone 4 Clinic
Total sample	319	81	87	86	65
% female	53%	52%	55%	55%	51%
% gender non-conforming	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
% male	47%	48%	45%	45%	49%
Logistic information on health facilities					
Health facility within 10km from your home %	68%	53%	74%	62%	86%
The facility opens after school? %	86%	63%	95%	87%	100%
The facility opens on weekends? %	83%	51%	99%	86%	97%
The facility has a comfortable waiting and consultation area? %	78%	57%	93%	71%	95%
Does the facility charge a fee? %	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Average fee in USD	None	None	None	None	None
Quality of care					
Peer counsellors available %	70%	43%	88%	80%	65%
Young people treated with respect %	77%	85%	87%	55%	85%
Young people are treated without parent present %	54%	56%	36%	76%	46%
Young people have privacy %	78%	84%	89%	49%	92%
Young people have confidentiality %	78%	89%	93%	42%	91%
Health workers spend sufficient time with young people %	66%	73%	81%	42%	69%
Young people receive appropriate information %	66%	67%	83%	47%	70%
Sexual and reproductive health services (%)					
Maternal health					
% Young people who requested contraceptives	45%	36%	70%	29%	47%
% Young people who requested contraceptives that received contraceptives	89%	100%	92%	80%	80%
% Young women who requested a pregnancy test	30%	26%	35%	23%	82%
% Young women who received a pregnancy test	70%	91%	41%	82%	0%
% Young women who were pregnant	2%	5%	0%	4%	
% pregnant young women who requested ante-natal check-up	75%	50%		100%	
% pregnant young women who received ante-natal check-up	100%	100%		100%	
% pregnant women who requested prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT)	50%	0%		100%	
% pregnant women who requested PMTCT that received PMTCT	100%			100%	
% Young women who requested post-natal care	3%	5%	2%	0%	6%
% Young women who requested post natal care who received post-natal care	75%	100%	0%		100%
% Young women who requested help with breast feeding	5%	5%	2%	2%	12%
% Young women who requested that received help with breast feeding	75%	50%	0%	100%	100%
Menstrual health					
% Young women who requested pads	17%	0%	32%	24%	9%
% of those who requested pads that received pads	71%		79%	64%	67%
HIV and AIDS and STI					
% Young men who requested male circumcision	26%	21%	58%	3%	22%
% of those who requested male circumcision received an appointment	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
% youth who requested PREP	8%	1%	9%	15%	5%
% youth who received PREP	79%	100%	57%	92%	67%
% who requested post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)	7%	1%	6%	14%	8%
% of those who requested who received PEP	87%	100%	80%	92%	80%
% who requested HIV test	25%	25%	13%	17%	52%
% of those who requested who received HIV test	96%	100%	90%	86%	100%
% who requested STI test	14%	4%	6%	11%	42%
% who requested who received STI test	93%	100%	80%	88%	96%
% who requested anti-retrovirals (ARVs)	2%	1%	2%	1%	3%
% who requested who received ARVs	50%	100%	0%	100%	50%
% who said Health worker asked about mental health	34%	37%	33%	26%	40%