

Editor's note

The current publishing contract with MedPharm expired and has been the subject of protracted negotiations for its renewal since November 2018. Despite the greater visibility achieved by publishing the SAJCN on the Taylor and Francis environment, the cost-effectiveness of the current financing model used is being reviewed with the aim of attaining improved cost outcomes. The negotiations are on going and the information provided is being discussed by the SAJCN's Editorial Board and, once completed, new proposals will also be discussed with the SAJCN's Management Board before a final decision is made.

The findings of the latest General Household Survey¹ were released in May 2019. The report is rich in its findings and highlights the pleasing points of the progress achieved since 2002 but it also, at the same time, raises points of concern regarding the priorities that appear to remain elusive and in need of greater and urgent attention. In particular and in relation to children, "one-fifth of children did not live with either biological parent; Early Childhood Development (ECD)

services are restricted; although educational attendance has improved, outcomes are not ideal and access to post-school education is limited; while two-thirds of learners attend no-fee schools, lack of money still contributes to dropping out; educational attainment continues to improve; social grants remain a vital safety net, particularly in the poorest provinces; housing projects are not reducing the percentage of households in informal dwellings; despite early gains in the provision of water, provision slowed down notably after 2014, and access to improved sanitation seems to have stagnated at around 80%, and the last 20% seem to be hardest to achieve".

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References:

1. Statistics South Africa. Statistical Release: General Household Survey. 2018. Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa. <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0318/P03182018.pdf>.