Birth Registration Fact Sheet

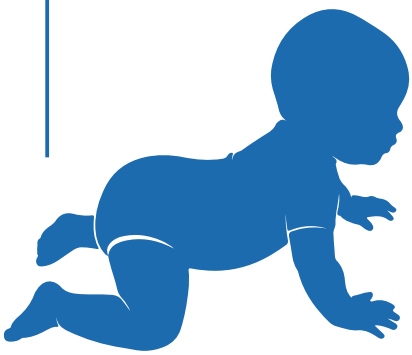
Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey 2023-24 Key Findings

Why birth registration matters

Birth registration officially records a child's birth, establishing legal identity and access to essential services. It protects children's rights and ensures they are recognised by the state. A birth certificate also safeguards children's rights by helping to prevent early marriage, child labour, and exploitation. Despite its importance, not all children are registered, with disparities often observed by age, place of residence, and socio-economic status. Strengthening birth registration systems is therefore critical to ensuring that every child is visible, protected, and able to fully participate in society.



National birth registration overall



57% of infants and young children (under age 5) had their births registered with civil authorities

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43% registered and possess birth certificate

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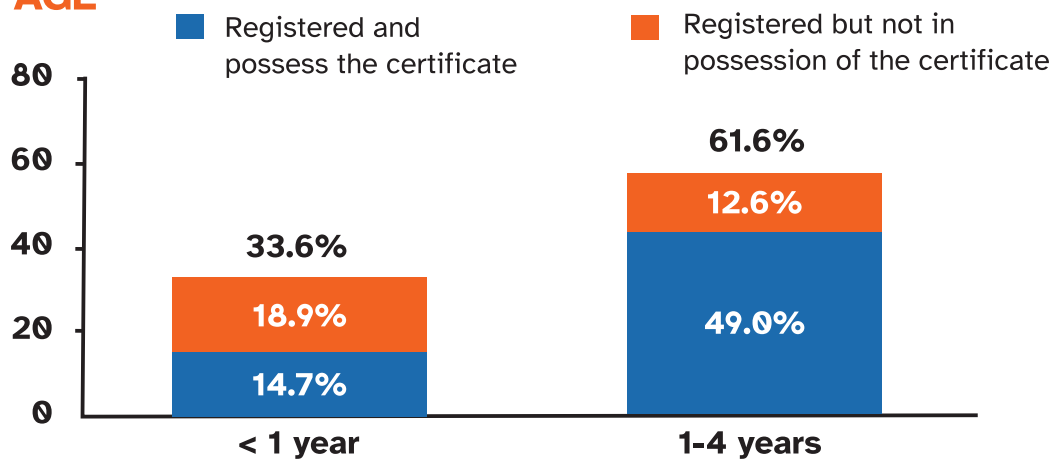
14% registered but not in possession of birth certificate

Breakdown by age and sex

- **33.6%** of infants under one year are registered, with **14.7%** registered and possessing a birth certificate and **18.9%** registered but not in possession of a certificate.
- Among children aged 1–4 years, **61.6%** are registered, with **49.0%** registered and possessing a birth certificate and **12.6%** registered but not in possession of a certificate.

Percentage of infants and young children(under age 5) whose births are registered

BY AGE



BY SEX

55.7%
Male registered

57.4%
Female registered

Infants (under 1 year) are less likely to be registered than children ages 1-4 years.

Breakdown by residence

Percentage of infants and young children (under age 5) whose birth are registered



URBAN

64.8%

registered

49.8% registered and possess the certificate

15.0% registered but not in possession of the certificate



RURAL

52.2%

registered

39.1% registered and possess the certificate

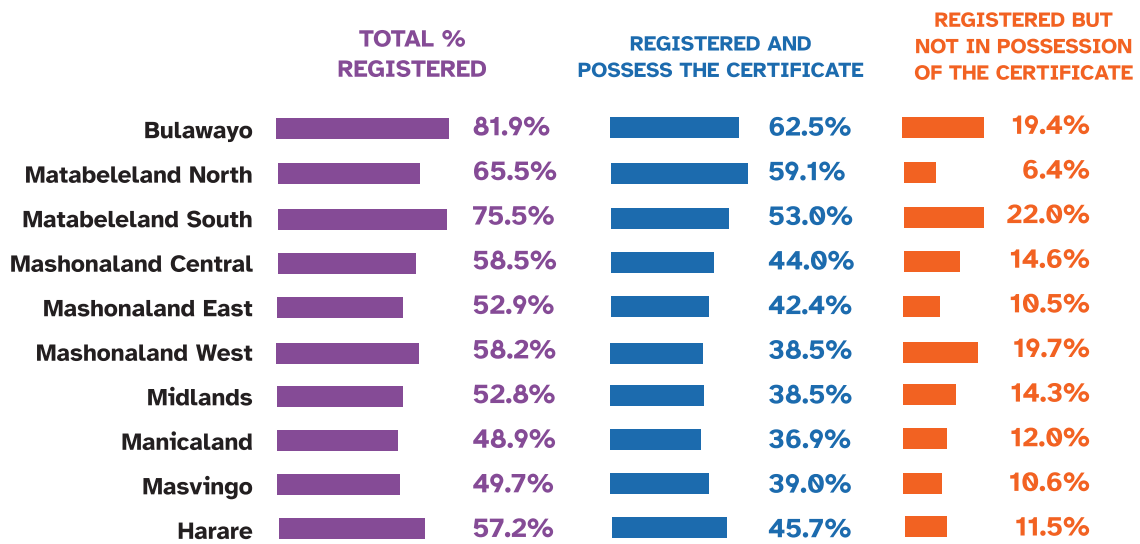
13.1% registered but not in possession of the certificate



Infants and young children in urban areas are more likely to be registered **(65%)** compared to those in rural areas **(52%)**.

Breakdown by province

Percentage of infants and young children (under age 5) whose births are registered





Birth registration varies widely by province, from **82%** in Bulawayo to **49%** in Manicaland

Breakdown by wealth quintile

Percentage of infants and young children (under age 5) whose births are registered

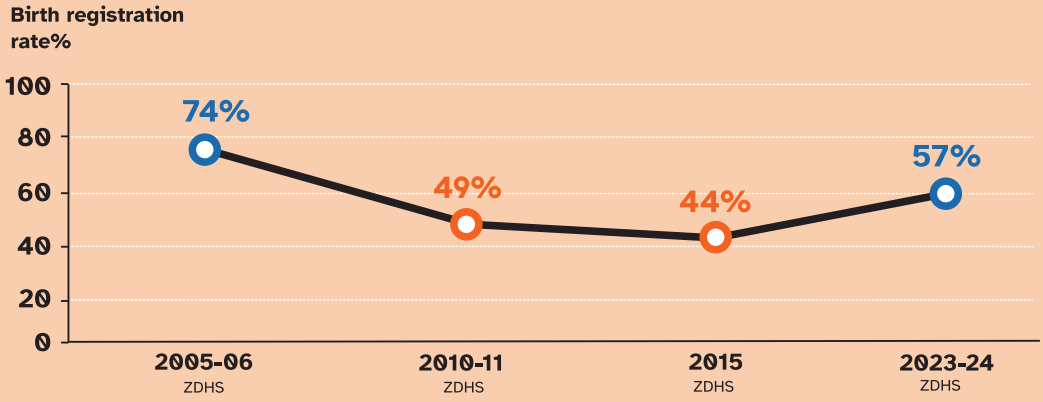
	TOTAL % REGISTERED	REGISTERED AND POSSESS THE CERTIFICATE	REGISTERED BUT NOT IN POSSESSION OF THE CERTIFICATE
Lowest	48.0%	34.8%	13.2%
Second	51.6%	37.2%	14.4%
Middle	53.5%	41.9%	11.6%
Fourth	58.1%	42.9%	15.2%
Highest	79.0%	64.5%	14.5%



Infants and young children in the highest wealth households are much more likely to be registered **(79%)** compared to those in the lowest wealth households**(48%)**.

Trend in birth registration rates over time

The trend in birth registration rates over time reflects significant fluctuations



Improvement in 2023-24
Birth registration rate improved to **57%** in 2023-24 -ZDHS

2005-06 (ZDHS) Birth registration stood at **74%**.

2010-11 (ZDHS) The rate declined sharply to **49%**.

2015 (ZDHS) The rate declined further to **44%**.

2023-24 (ZDHS) The rate improved to **57%**.

Appreciation goes to the following partners who have provided support to the ZDHS 2023-24

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE · UNDP · PRIMARY HEALTH CARE – A HEALTHY NATION – MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND CHILD CARE – ZIMBABWE · ZimStat Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency · HEALTH · UNFPA