

# New data on prevalence of GBV in SA to help inform interventions

TEARS Foundation's research report, titled **A call to Action to Prioritise GBV in South Africa** reveals precise statistics of locations and profiles of GBV incidences in South Africa, using its Help-at-your-finger-tips USSD helpline data. The report covers a four-year period, from January 2020 to December 2023. The findings are based on 53,004 calls received over the four-year period, which excludes the calls that were not completed, wished to remain anonymous, and could not be captured for the sake of pure accuracy. The data focusses primarily on time series analysis, location of calls, frequency of calls from the same number, and prevalence of calls during certain times of the year such as school or public holidays.

## Number of calls by time of day



**4,250**

Most calls were received at noon



The most active period was between **19:00 - 22:00\***



Most **emergency** calls were received between **13:00 - 16:00\*\***



## Call Trends

The findings include that the largest number of calls were received on

- SUNDAYS 8,541
- TUESDAYS 8,524
- MONDAYS 8,332

The most **emergency calls** were received on

- SUNDAYS 1,144
- TUESDAYS 1,000
- WEDNESDAYS 990

**November** is the most active with a total number of calls of **9,078**, followed by **December - 8,325** and **September - 7,029**



## Trends by calendar year and month

### ● 2020 - 2022

The average number of calls per month for 2020 is **1,293** and then **decreases by 38% to 804**, whereafter it **increases with 43% to 1,153 in 2022**.

### ● 2023

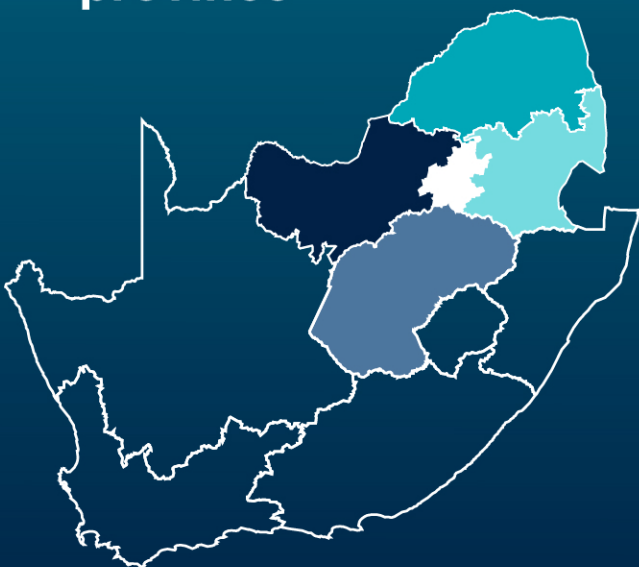
An average of **1,167 calls per month** was shown, an **increase of just over 1% year-on-year**.

### ● 2020 and 2021

The highest numbers were received during **November/December/January**.

*Most of the peaks shown are associated with TEARS Foundation's media initiatives and campaigns*

## Calls by province



## Calls per 100,000 people

- LIMPOPO 104 calls
- MPUMALANGA 97 calls
- NORTH WEST 103 calls
- GAUTENG 93 calls
- FREE STATE 99 calls

The northern provinces have the highest call rates, with the **Western Cape**, the third most populous province, the **lowest at a call rate of 51 calls per 100,000 people.\*\*\***

## Call rates by district

Gauteng is represented by three districts, Limpopo and Mpumalanga with two each and North West and the Northern Cape with one each.

- **FREE STATE**  
Lejweleputswa has the highest call rate of 215
- **GAUTENG**  
Sedibeng follows with 191
- **LIMPOPO**  
Capricorn, call rates higher than 100 per 100,000 population
- **NORTH WEST**  
Bojanala, call rates higher than 100 per 100,000 population

## Call rates by municipalities

- **Matjhabeng in the Free State** has the highest prevalence of GBV in the country at a **call rate of 304**.
- This is followed by **Rustenburg in the North West Province (262)**, and **Emfuleni in Gauteng (223)**.
- **Polokwane also has a call rate higher than 200**.

## Call rates by metropolitan municipalities

- The **City of Johannesburg has the highest call rate (94)**, followed closely by the **City of Tshwane (90)**.
- **Nelson Mandela Bay has the lowest rate of 52**.

\* Active period refers to the number of calls received during a specific period.

\*\* Emergency calls refer to the second option available on TEARS Foundation's USSD service, which offers immediate assistance to those who are in a life-threatening situation.

\*\*\* Call rate refers to the number of calls per 100,000 individuals of the population.

