Counted and Visible

Bridging the data gap: women 50 years and older

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Imperatives

Agenda 2030: 'leaving no-one behind' and 'reaching the furthest behind first''.

Life expectancy increases – longer life but also potentially longer time of dependency and need.

Ultimate ideal is active and healthy ageing for all.

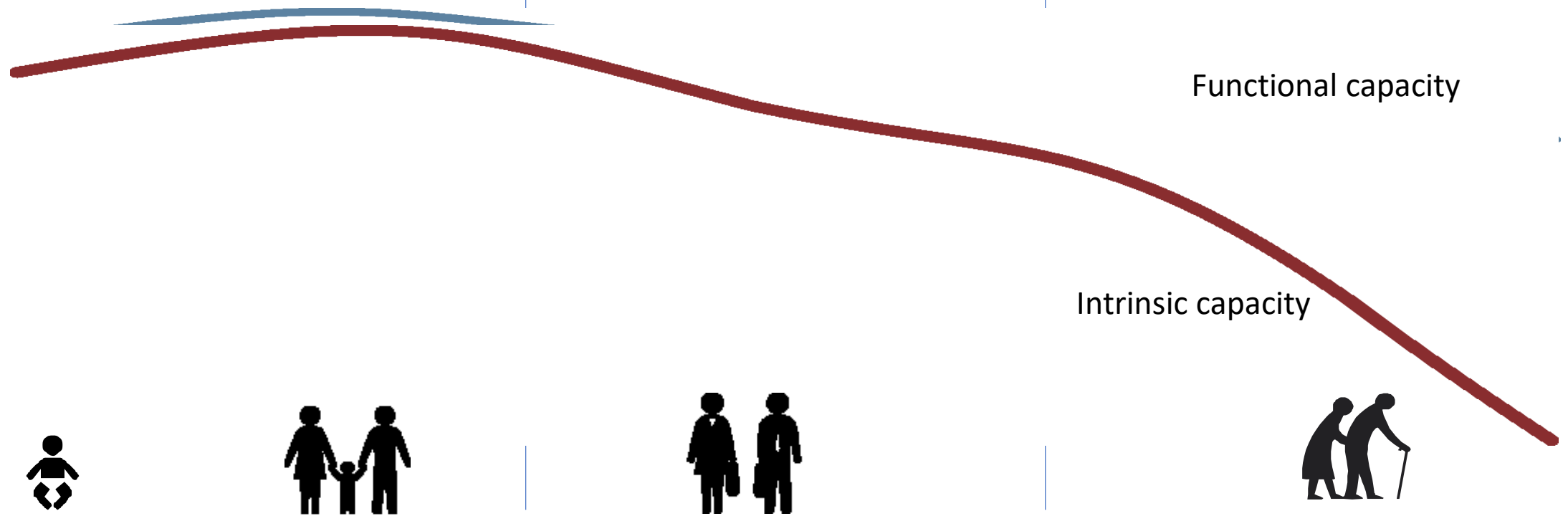Variation between regions and countries in when demographic transition takes place.

Mismatch between development assistance for health and health problems in that most interventions are aimed at persons 45 years and younger (Skirbekk et al. 2017)
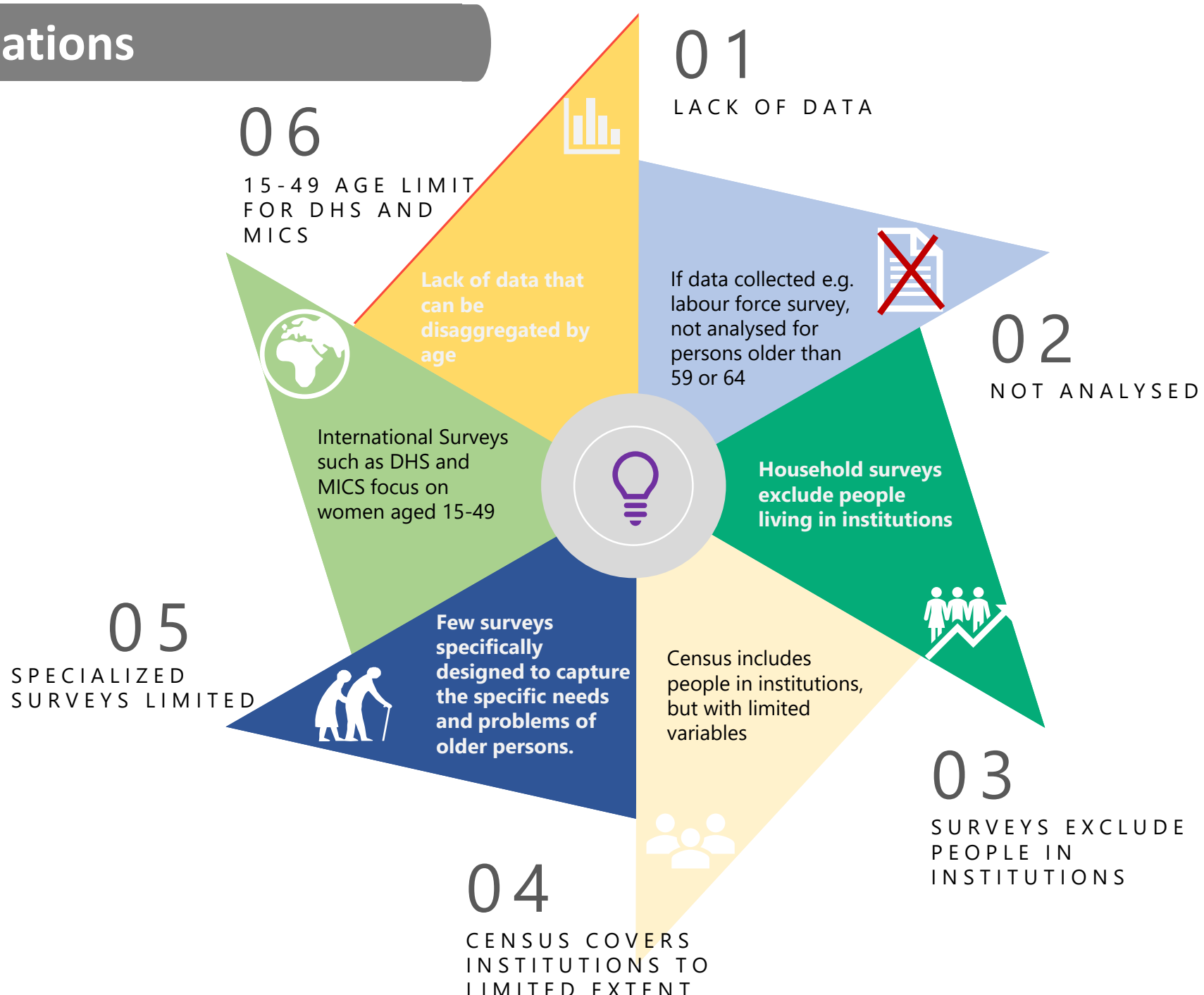
WHO healthy ageing trajectories and the life cycle

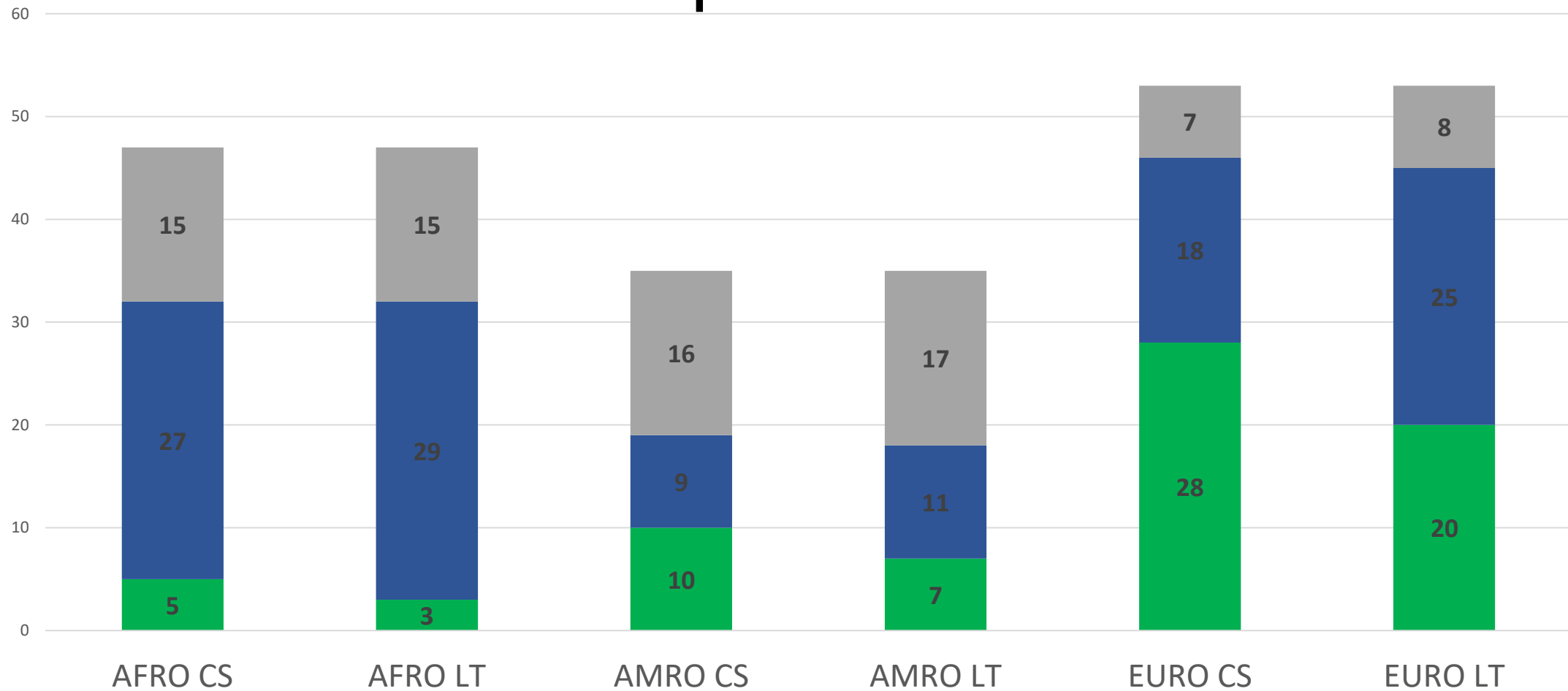

High and stable capacity | Declining capacity | **Significant loss of capacity**

Functional capacity

Intrinsic capacity

Data Limitations

01 LACK OF DATA

Lack of data that can be disaggregated by age

02 NOT ANALYSED

If data collected e.g. labour force survey, not analysed for persons older than 59 or 64

Household surveys exclude people living in institutions

03 SURVEYS EXCLUDE PEOPLE IN INSTITUTIONS

Census includes people in institutions, but with limited variables

04 CENSUS COVERS INSTITUTIONS TO LIMITED EXTENT

Few surveys specifically designed to capture the specific needs and problems of older persons.

05 SPECIALIZED SURVEYS LIMITED

International Surveys such as DHS and MICS focus on women aged 15-49

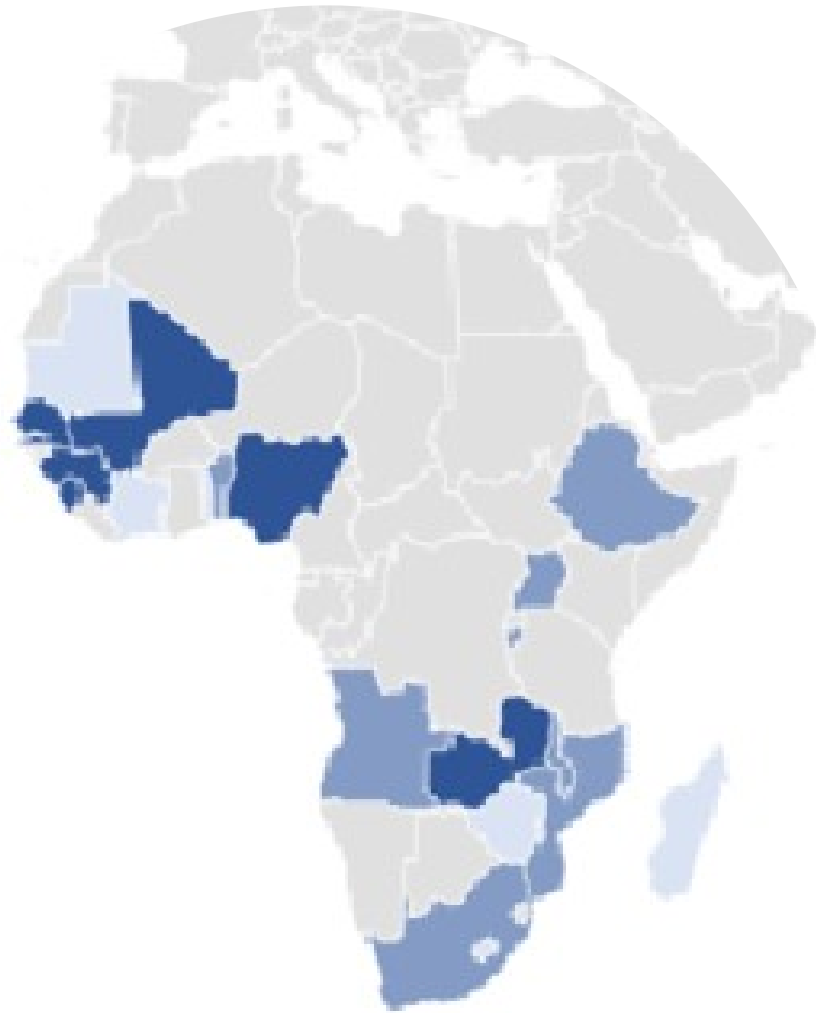**06 15-49 AGE LIMIT FOR DHS AND MICS**

Number of countries in WHO regions with Cross sectional and longitudinal data on older persons
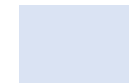

For more information: www.who.int/ageing/commit-action/measuring-progress/en/

Countries that conducted and published DHS or MICS reports 2015-2019
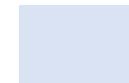
Only MICS

Only DHS

DHS and MICS

Only women 15-49 years???

Countries that conducted and published DHS or MICS reports 2015-2019
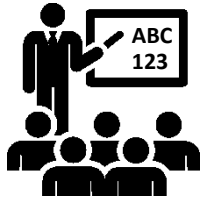
Only MICS

Only DHS

DHS and MICS

Non-sampling errors: age measurement

Accuracy of biological age as per respondent's records (CRVS)

Low levels of numeracy and literacy – inaccurate responses to questions on age

Content and phrasing of the question – a combination of date of birth provides much better quality data than only age

Data collection methods (proxy versus self reporting and household record method)

Overcoming the gaps: Examples from Africa

Include — Include age as a variable in all national collections without upper age caps e.g. labour force surveys and income and expenditure surveys.

Analyse — Analyze existing data that do not have age caps and publish disaggregated data e.g. Women Count supported work in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.
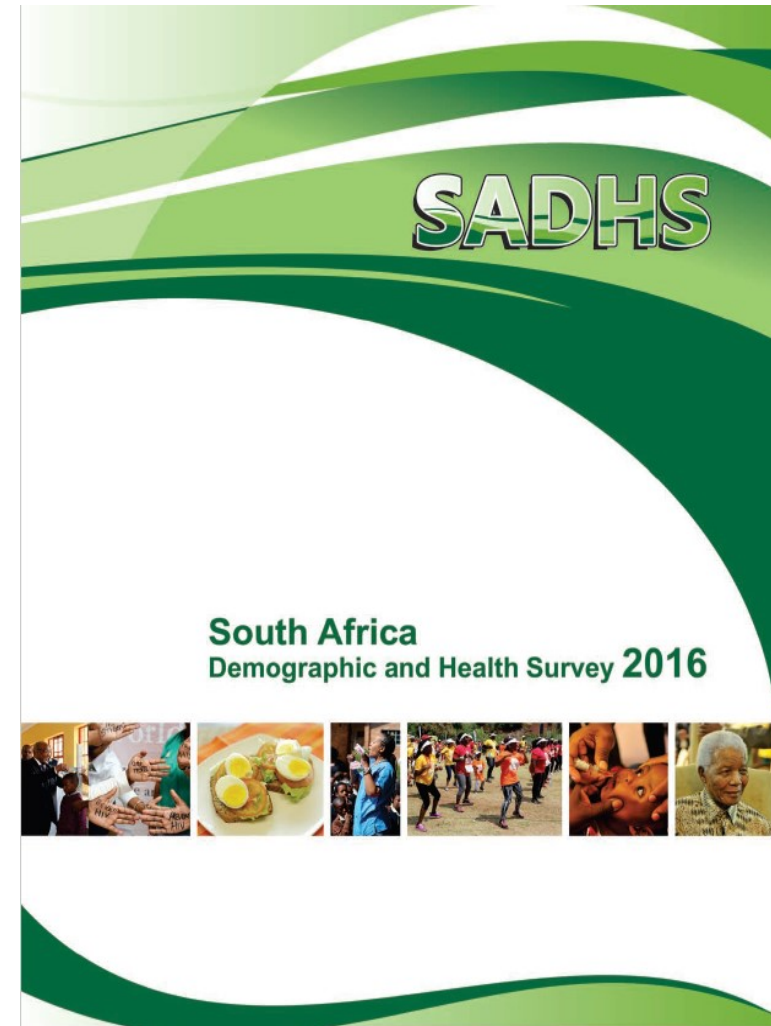
Remove — Remove age caps for international collections such as the MICS and DHS. The DHS in South Africa did not have a age cap.

Ensure — Ensure that non-sampling errors related to age measurement are minimised

South Africa Demographic and Health Survey

- 1998, 2003, 2016 no age cap on the men's and women's modules

- Adult health module included females 50+ and males 60+

- Bio markers included females 50+ and males 60+

- Additional costs estimated at 24% more of survey costs if age limit was kept at below 50 years for women and below 60 years for men

Data from administrative sources

CIVIL AND VITAL REGISTRATION

HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

SOCIAL SERVICES

SOCIAL SECURITY

CLINICAL DATA

PERSONAL DATA

Sources Consulted

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Oxford Institute of Population ageing. https://www.ageing.ox.ac.uk/publications.

Skirbekk et al. 2017. Vast Majority Of Development Assistance For Health Funds Target Those Below Age Sixty. Health Affairs 36(5) data from 2013.

South Africa DHS 2016. South Africa Demographic and Health Survey.
Report https://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-fr337-dhs-final-reports.cfm

Titchfield City Group on Ageing and Age Disaggregated Data 2019, Update on Work Strand 3, Conceptual and Analytical framework.
https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/events/second-official-meeting-of-the-titchfield-city-group-on-ageing-and-age-disaggregated-data/

UNICEF MICS surveys. Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys. https://mics.unicef.org/surveys

Sources Consulted (cont)

University of Southampton, 2019. Developing a toolkit to monitor the implementation of the Madrid International Action plan on ageing. https://www.unescap.org/resources/developing-toolkit-monitor-implementation-madrid-international-plan-action-ageing-context

WHO 2019. Mid term review of the implementation of the Global strategy and action plan on ageing and health. www.who.int/ageing/commit-action/measuring-progress/en/

WHO 2015. World Report on Ageing and Health 2015 https://www.who.int/ageing/events/world-report-2015-launch/en/

WHO 2016. Global Strategy and Action Plan on Ageing and Health 2016. https://www.who.int/ageing/global-strategy/en/

Thank You

More information: https://data.unwomen.org/women-count