




BABIES MATTER

Annual Report
2019

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“In a child protection system that is
over-burdened and under
resourced, we aim to provide the
supportive link between the role
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are safe and protected.”

ABOUT US

The Shaken and Abused Babies Initiative (Babies Matter) is an organisation that was set up to protect victims of child abuse, by managing the protection, investigation and prosecution of their cases, between the relevant national departments.

The need arose during 2012, after two fatal incidents of child abuse rocked the province. The first, was of Baby Michael. Severely abused by his parents, Baby Michael became cerebral palsied and died of medical complications from the injuries. The second, was of Baby Wade, who died at 2 months of age, from the injuries he sustained at the hands of his parents.

Subsequently, our team, has been at the forefront of referrals made by hospital staff, social workers, police, and community members, where the most severe cases of child abuse are reported for investigation.

As a result of a large gap in the sufficient investigation and inter-departmental management of these cases, our mission has been to provide guidance of successful case management, and inter-departmental collaboration – which, we find, most often does not occur.

Our highly skilled team has provided training to the various departmental role players, guided medical staff, police, and social workers, in their investigation and collection of evidence, and is often called to provide expert evidence in court.

In a child protection system that is over-burdened and under resourced, we have aimed at providing the supportive link between the role players, that make sure our children are safe and protected.

Convened by the late Professor Lorna Jacklin, a neurodevelopmental specialist and paediatrician, who also headed up The Teddy Bear Clinic, and worked in the field of child abuse since the 1980's. Professor Jacklin convened a team of highly specialised experts and conceptualised The Shaken and Abused Babies Initiative, now known as Babies Matter. Our team has formed respected bonds with departmental stakeholders who have welcomed our position and input.

We are an organisation that works on the ground, with the communities and children who are most affected by the downfalls of our society, and saving our children, by supporting the departments that are mandated with their medical and legal care.

Our partnerships include collaborative advocacy and case management with Woman and Men Against Child Abuse and The Johannesburg Child Advocacy Forum. Our relationships also extend in collaboration with Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital, Barragwanath Hospital, Charlotte Maxeke, and The Teddy Bear Clinic, who provide much of the medical treatment that our children require.

In addition, we have a multitude of individual medical personnel; paediatricians, radiologists, ophthalmologists, neurosurgeons, social workers, forensic pathologists, and police officers- working within the various hospitals, police offices and social service organisations that receive our cases, or refer to our offices for oversight.

Our Team & Board of Directors



Luke Lamprecht

Child Protection
&
Development Specialist



Pieter van Niekerk

Attorney



Talia-Jade Magnes

Child Protection Specialist,
social worker,
& yogi



“One doesn’t simply choose to delve into the world of child protection. It is a place that you are called to. To be a part of a child’s life, is a privilege, and to hold their hand in the darkness, is an honour.”

– Talia-Jade Mages, Co-Director

“It is not what you do with children that matters, it is everything that you do ”

– Luke Lamprecht, Co-Director



Professor Lorna Barbra Jacklin (Patterson)



25 MARCH 1950 – 11 APRIL 2019

**“You live on
in me and
every thought
and deed
when I am
with, or
thinking of,
children.” –
Luke
Lamprecht**

During 2019, our organization suffered a devastating loss.

Our co-founding director, mother of the project, and its academic head, sadly passed away after a long struggle with cancer.

The loss of the powerhouse of a woman that she was, has left a deep sadness and gap in the organization, and in our hearts.

Our continued work is our contribution to keeping her legacy alive. There is so much to say about her and her career, especially her dual passions for child protection and development.

SAABI was one of her youngest intellectual and service delivery babies, and encompassed much of what she stood for; the optimal development of children, and the absolute imperative to protect the vulnerable and ensure they too can realise their full potential.

Without Professor Lorna Jacklin the child protection system would not be what it is today. We are forever, and eternally, grateful for the wealth of knowledge, experience, and inspiration she shared and passed on to us, who hold and continue her legacy.

Notes from Professor Jacklin's patients

Larna Jacklin
 (1) today I am telling
 you about my heroine
 Larna Jacklin. She
 was a neuro. She
 developed mental
 pediatrician, that
 mean she studies
 children with mental
 that they cant sit
 still

Prof
2) ~~Douglas~~ Tallin
worked with blind
children and she
opened the children's
disability centre
for them. In 1986
she started Teddy
bear clinic for children
who were hearing.

③ She started
a non profit
^{organizations}
~~organization~~ in South
Africa during her
captivity in 2008
^{she won} an award
for this year always

4. Not Jacklin worked at
Jabing gen hospital
and treated thousands
of patients. she taught
many doctors, including
my mom and dad.

50
sadly she died earlier
this year. She was a great
South African and a
amazing doctor who will
be missed.

“As an individual you can make a difference to someone’s life, I’m not special; there are many others like me. I’ve been very lucky to work with committed people who work out of a love for what they do.”

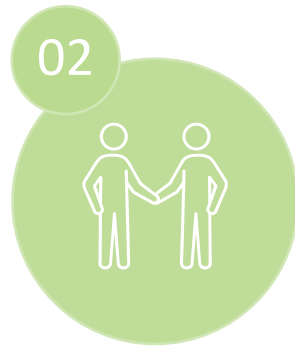
~Professor Lorna Jacklin

ORGANISATIONAL OBJECTIVES



01

Case
Management



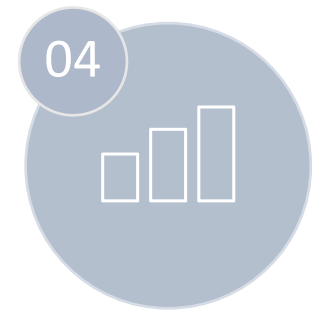
02

Training
&
Prevention



03

Advocacy



04

Research

01



CASE MANAGEMENT



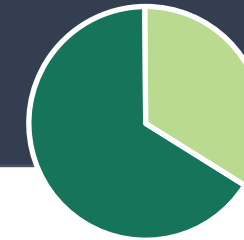
**Forensic
Consultancy in
33% of cases**



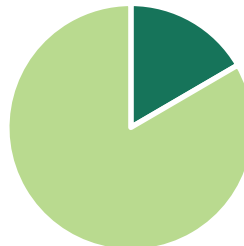
**Evidence in
court in 33% of
cases**



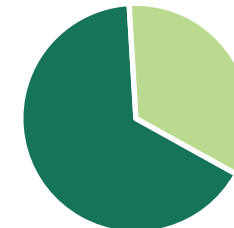
**Medical
Consultancy in
50% of cases**



**Children's
Court
Monitoring
in 66% of
cases**



**Tracing in
16% of
cases**



**Investigative
consultancy
in 66% of
cases**



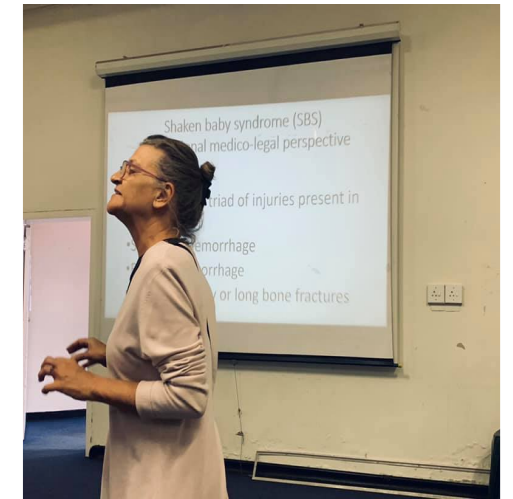
**Prosecutorial
Consultancy in 33%
of cases**

02



TRAINING & PREVENTION

During 2019,
Babies Matter held fourteen training
events, and was particularly active in the
development and training of multi-
disciplinary professionals on infant abuse
and abandonment protocols.



02



TRAINING & PREVENTION



Combined Protocol Training



MSC Findings Lecture



JPCCC In Service Training



Forensic Pathology



Babies Matter, Annual Child Protection Conference



Germiston Child Welfare, Child Protection Training



Paediatrics, Child Protection, Concealment of Birth & Murder



ProBono Children's Court Procedures



Pan African Child Trauma Conference



Charlotte Maxeke Paediatrics Protocols



JPCCC, Activating Child Protection Services



JPCCC Board Training



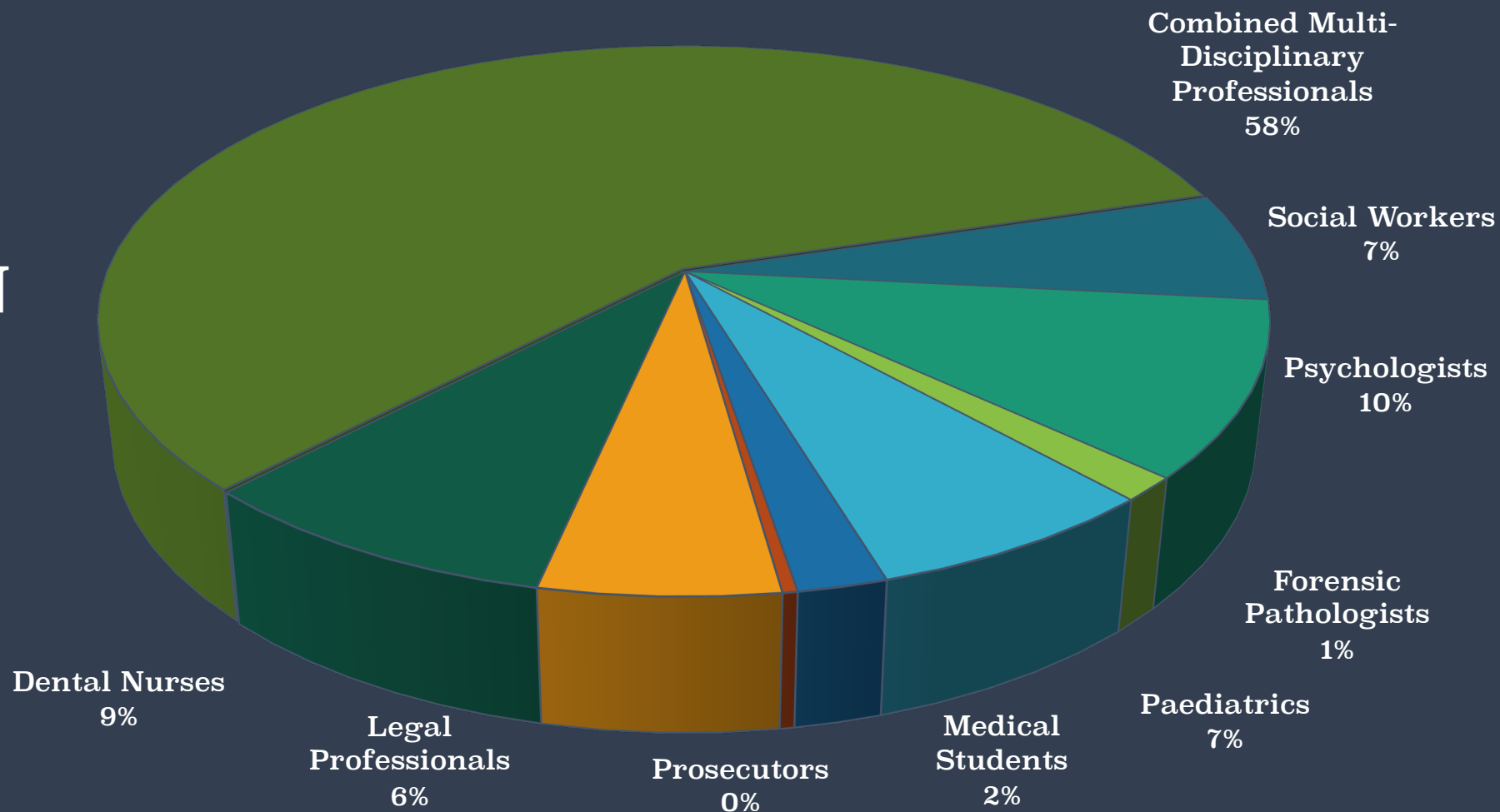
Baragwanath hospital, Department of Dentistry, Child Protection Training

02



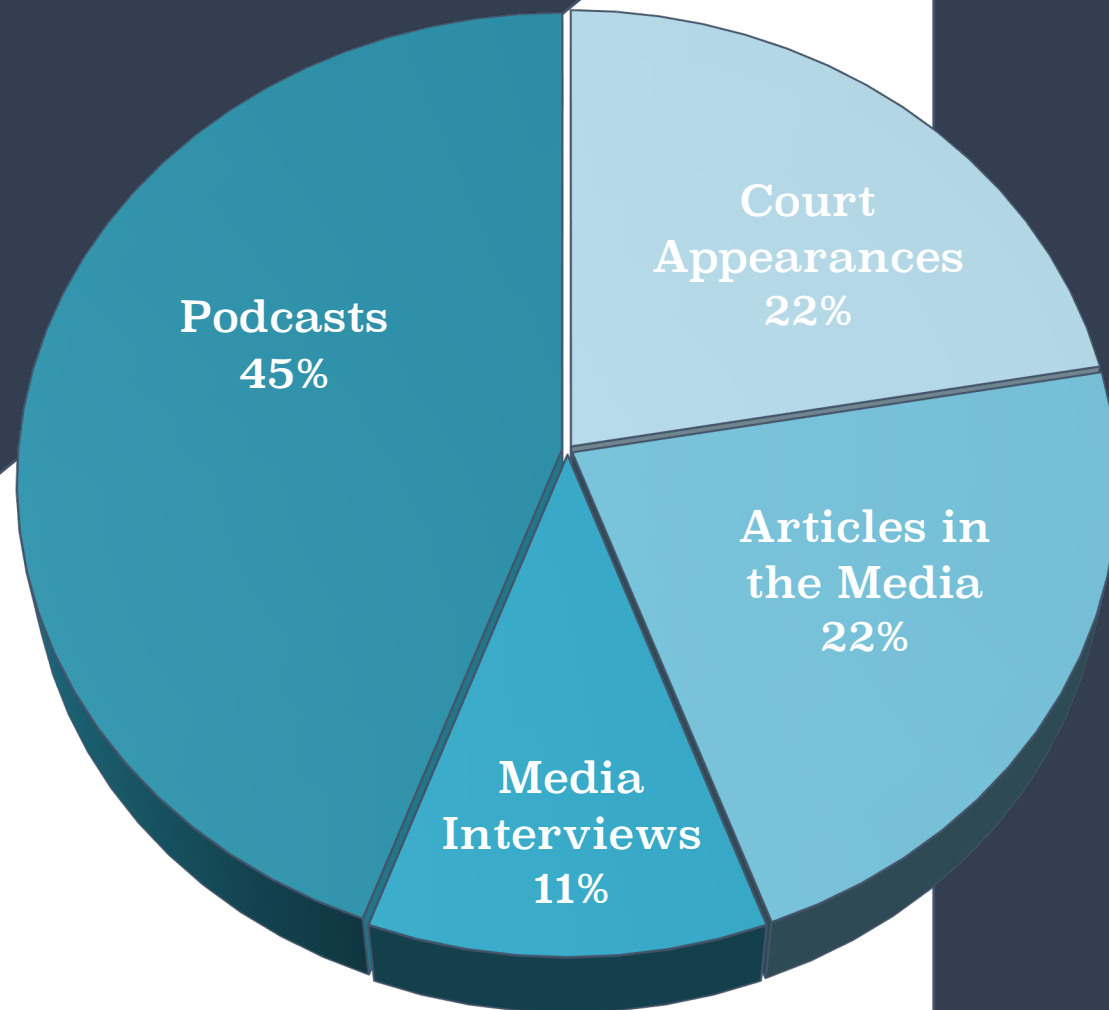
857 Professionals Trained

TRAINING & PREVENTION





ADVOCACY





DAILY MAVERICK HOME | SCORPIO OPINIONISTA ZAP

COVID-19
Online Resource &
News Portal

Opinionista • Robyn Wolfson Vorster • 13 June 2019

Is child abandonment really murder?



Family Planning

The sexual health and family planning research conducted by our Honours student, was completed in October, and presented in December 2019.

The research provided some great insight into the ideas and understandings of sexual health and reproduction amongst teenagers and young adults, living in the inner city of Johannesburg.

Ideas such as; girls pressurizing boys into sexual engagement as frequently as their counter parts, and the desire to engage in sex as a means of strengthening relationships or making themselves important in someone's life.

These insights and so many more are currently being explored further, and discussed across a panel of teaching experts in the sexual health and reproductive fields.

Together with this panel, our organisation has scheduled a Sexual & Reproductive Health Conference, that will take place in the third quarter of 2020.

This conference will include teenagers & young adults from various schools within Johannesburg, as well as from the various organisations in the inner city of Johannesburg.

Our organisation firmly believes that the first step to reducing levels of child abuse, is to address the issues and conceptions around sexual health, parenthood, and rearing children, as it is most often parents who do not plan to become parents, that become abusers.

Concealment of Births & Unmarked Graves MSC Findings

Completed by our co-director, Luke Lamprecht. This important research takes a look at South Africa's rate of infant mortality, and its high occurrence in the country.

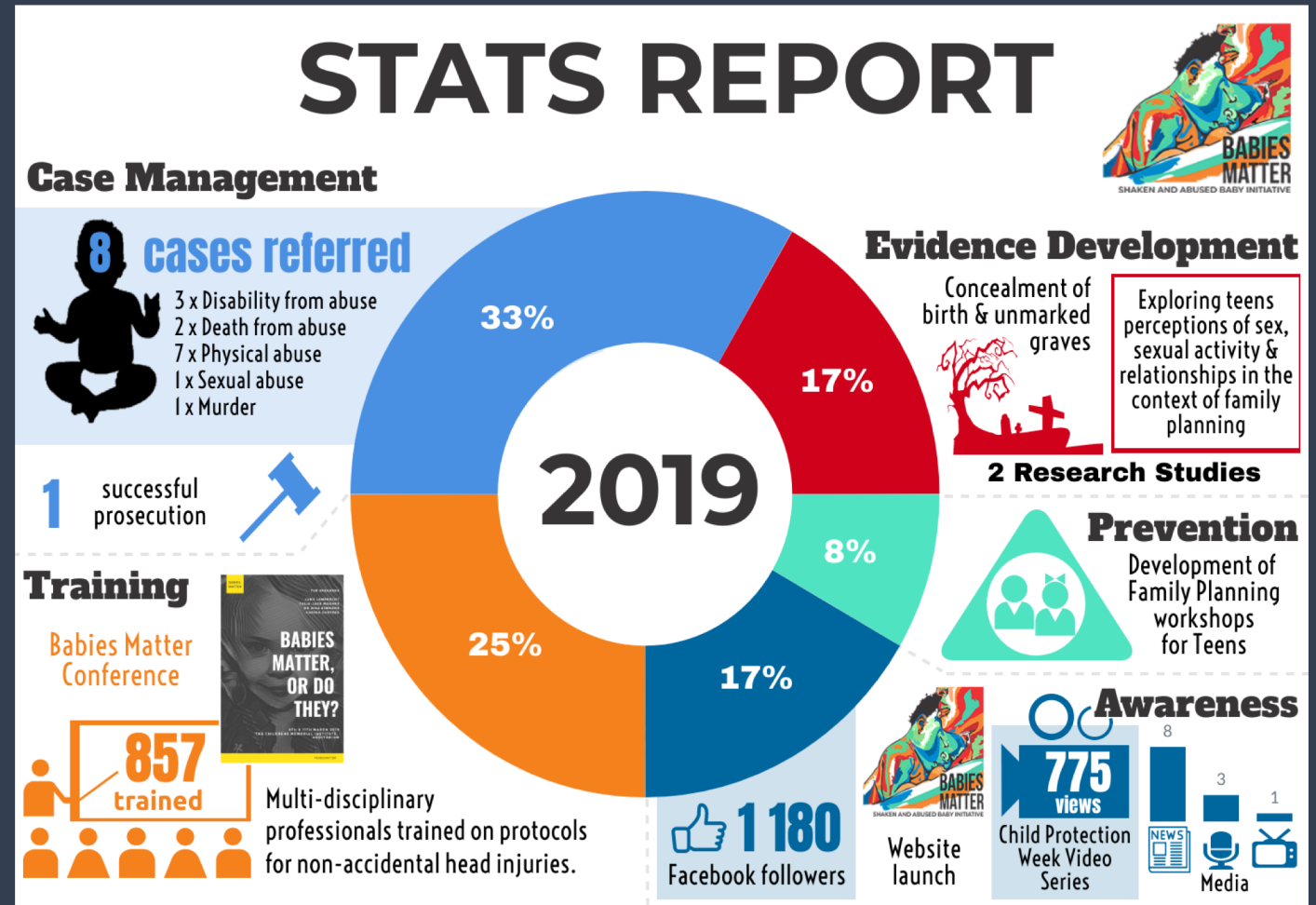
South Africa has the third highest per capita murder rate in the world (World Mapper, 2006). According to an annual local study, homicide accounts for 36% of all injury related deaths over all age groups, with the same study identifying blunt force trauma as the main cause of injury related deaths on children, from birth – 14 years of age (Donson, 2008). The study also indicated that blunt force trauma resulted in the deaths of 0.7% of children less than one year of age, and 1.0% of children between 1 – 4 years of age.

The murder of children is a significant problem in South Africa and most of the abuse related deaths are committed by those closest to children, and caregivers.

In the current statistics, and records from FPS and SAPS, there are children that have been murdered, and yet, are not recorded as having been murdered (Thornton, 2014), due to the lack of training and adequate administrative processing. This indicates that, in the current Forensic Pathology Service and South African Police Service systems, there are cases of infant and child murder that are missed, leaving perpetrators remaining in society, and children dying without justice

The findings in this research paper discuss and explore the realities and concepts of the systems in place that should be protecting our children.

Our Stats, In 2019.



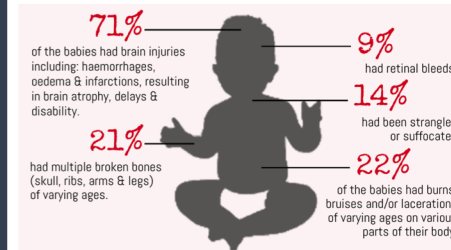
10 Years In Review.

STATS REPORT



Case Review (2010 - 2020)

SAABI received **184** referrals of suspected Non-Accidental Head Injury



94% of the cases referred to SAABI involved children under the age of 5 yrs

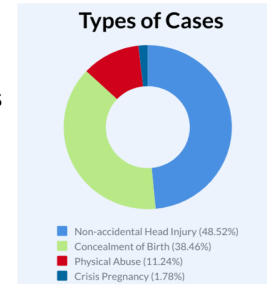
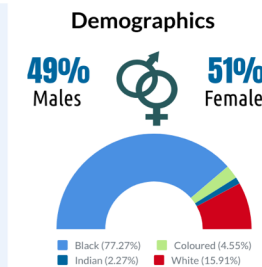
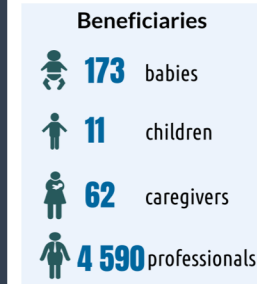


68% of the children died as a result of the abuse.

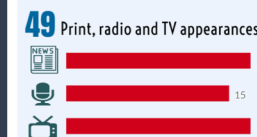
In approximately **30%** of the cases, the child's mother was the suspected perpetrator.



Reach & Outputs (2010 - 2020)



Awareness



Prevention

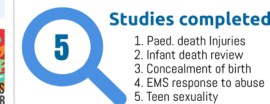
Family Planning Programme for Teens



Training



Evidence Dev.



Service Delivery

28 Active partnerships with key multi-disciplinary partners

SAABI protocols facilitated **436** interventions:



Case outcomes

59 babies received child protection services

Successful placement, custody & re-unification outcomes

3 Suspected perpetrators found guilty



Impact

SAABI has successfully developed supportive links between the multi-disciplinary professionals needed to provide the complex network of response and care services for child victims of non-accidental head injury. This has been achieved through the implementation of an evidence-based protocol, extensive cross-sector training and active advocacy and case management work.

A Glance at 2020



Family Planning

- Workshops for teens

Advocacy

- Child protection week
- 16 Days of Activism
- Media Interviews & Articles
-

Multi-disciplinary Training

- Child Protection Protocols
- Activating the child protection system

Case Management

- Medical Intervention
- SAPS investigation
- Court Evidence
- Statutory support

M&E

- Implementing an Electronic data Management System

To Our Funders,

Run entirely on funding, The Shaken & Abused Babies Initiative (Babies Matter), wouldn't be able to do the work that we do without the help and exceptional support of our dedicated funders.

Without you, our training, campaigns, advocacy & case management services would not be possible.

Our organisation is managed and run by highly skilled professionals, who, without you, would not be able to perform the tasks required to fulfil our mission.

Through training & case management, we have built supportive networks with over 28 multi-disciplinary partners across our region. Our connections with partners, since inception, have helped facilitate over 436 interventions across the board of child protection services.

We have trained an average of 4 470 multi-disciplinary professionals, and completed 5 research studies that have supported the evidence development of child protection in South Africa. Currently, we are the only organisation providing independent case management and training services, and we plan for our expansion and reach to grow year by year.

We hope that each year, as we grow, you will continue to grow with us, and together we can change the lives of South Africa's children.

CONTACT US



BABIES MATTER



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