

# Women feel unsafe waiting for clinics to open

Asivikelane Health data shows that two-thirds of women arrive at clinics before the doors open. They hope to be seen early, leaving enough hours in the day to go to work or take care of other duties. But high crime rates make waiting risky. **In Nelson Mandela Bay, almost a third of women who arrive at clinics before they open say they feel 'unsafe' or 'very unsafe' waiting.** At several clinics in this metro and in Buffalo City, patients are even forced to wait outside the premises. This is dangerous and undignified.

Women and individuals with babies rely heavily on clinics for routine care, visiting more frequently and spending more time there compared to others. This means they are most at risk. Their safety should be a priority.

## WHAT CAN CLINICS DO TO MAKE WOMEN SAFER?



### Actions to improve security:

- + Open the gates and allow waiting on the premises.
- + Provide security at clinics.
- + Increase outdoor lighting.
- + Work with clinic committees and community policing forums on crime prevention.



### Reducing long waiting lines can also help!

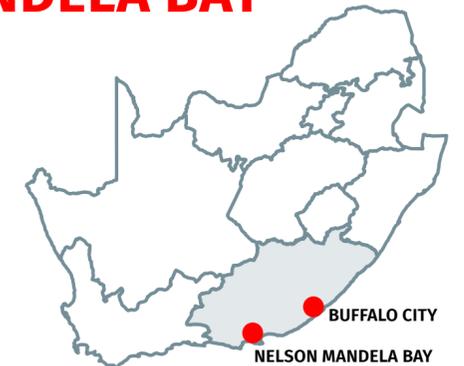
- + Use Community Healthcare Workers to manage queues.
- + Implement appointment systems.
- + Fix patient-record filing systems.
- + Clean clinics after hours to allow for earlier opening times.

## HOTSPOTS:

### 8 CLINICS WHERE WOMEN REPORT FEELING UNSAFE

#### NELSON MANDELA BAY

Kwazakhele  
Soweto  
Thanduxolo  
Tshangana  
Zwide  
New Brighton



#### BUFFALO CITY

Berlin  
Mpongo



Two out of three women arrive at clinics before the doors open