

In October 1996, the first non-racial, nationwide census in South Africa's history was conducted. For the first time in a quarter of a century, the census included all South Africans in every part of the country. The results of Census '96 thus provided a comprehensive picture of the entire population.

Due to its full-scale coverage, Census '96 highlighted numerous inequalities ignored in previous censuses. These included areas such as access to services. By showing the interaction between demographic, economic, social and political factors, Census '96 provides indispensable information for effective policy formulation and development planning.

The aim of this report is to give a picture of youth in South Africa based on an analysis of Census '96 data.

Demarcation and enumeration

In preparation for Census '96, the country was first divided into 86 000 little clusters of 100-200 households called enumerator areas (EAs). These enumerator areas covered suburbs, townships, informal settlements, farms and tribal villages. Close to 100 000 enumerators were employed to collect information by means of questionnaires. Enumerators visited people in their homes, and in hostels, prisons and other institutions. The homeless were also enumerated. In total, more than nine million households were visited.

Questionnaires

Whereas in earlier censuses questionnaires were printed only in English and Afrikaans, the Census '96 questionnaire was made available in all the eleven official languages of South Africa. Respondents in each household could select the language of their choice when supplying information, by interview or by filling out the form.

Different questionnaires were used to accommodate different situations. There were questionnaires for:

- **Households**

This type of questionnaire was designed to obtain information on persons who belonged to a household on census night. Information requested included the age, educational status and access to services of all persons in the household.

- **Hostels**

This questionnaire in the form of a summary book was designed specifically for people living in hostels, e.g. mine compounds or hostels of local authorities. The supervisor or hostel manager was required to list all the households and persons living in the hostel. The people themselves supplied information on separate personal questionnaires.

- **Institutions and homeless persons**

This questionnaire was designed to obtain information on the type of institution and a list of the inmates.

This questionnaire contained a small sub-set of only seven questions as against the approximate 50 questions in the household and personal questionnaires.

A special questionnaire was designed for homeless persons and this was administered during a sweep on census night. In order to facilitate coding and data entry, results obtained during this type of enumeration were later transcribed to standard enumerator books for special enumeration.

Adjusting for undercount

In certain instances, households or individuals could have been missed, resulting in an undercount, or counted twice, resulting in an overcount. Immediately after enumeration, a nationwide post-enumeration survey (PES) was undertaken. This served as a 'post-mortem' to estimate the percentage of undercount or overcount.

One per cent of the total number of census enumerator areas (EAs) countrywide was sampled for the PES. Skilled enumerators from Statistics South Africa re-listed the households within these EAs and later revisited them to check the count.

The results from this exercise were compared with those from the wider census by matching households and individuals. Accordingly, an adjustment of 10,6% for undercount was made.

Chapter outline of the remainder of the report

In the second chapter, the report focuses on the demographic background of the youth in South Africa. The chapter gives a breakdown of youth by population group, province, urban–rural distribution, first language, and sex.

In the third chapter, marital status and childbearing among youth are examined.

Education is the theme of the fourth chapter. The chapter highlights important issues on the educational status of youth in South Africa. Topics dealt with include the level of enrolment in educational institutions, and the highest educational achievement of those attending or not attending educational institutions.

The last two chapters deal with the labour market in South Africa in relation to the youth.

First, in chapter five, labour statistics are analysed to identify the level of employment among youth in South Africa. The analysis looks at employment sectors, occupational status and monthly income.

In chapter six, the rate of unemployment (using an expanded definition) among the youth in South Africa is discussed. Differences in the unemployment rate in the nine provinces, according to the urban–rural divide, are highlighted. The chapter concludes with a discussion of other factors that affect the differences in unemployment among youth. These include sex, population group and the level of education.