

AN EXPLORATION
OF NUPTIALITY STATISTICS
AND IMPLIED MEASURES
IN SOUTH AFRICA

Report number: 03-01-25

COMMUNITY
SURVEY
2016



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Community Survey 2016

An exploration of nuptiality statistics and implied measures in South Africa

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PREFACE

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) has the mandate of collecting, processing and disseminating data with a view to inform the nation. One of the objectives of the National Development Plan is uniting South Africans of all races and classes around a common programme to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality. Nuptiality information is useful in the assessment of improved efforts for enhancing social cohesion countrywide. Another angle relating to the importance of such statistics lies in its association with internal migration, where spousal commitments tended to exacerbate such movements that were not observable during the past five decades. Although such a question has been linked to natural population growth through consistent fertility measures derived from married women, other social transformation trends are observable in line with same-sex marriages and increasing proportions of couples who prefer cohabitation to formal marriage. In addition, child-headed households that mushroomed as one of the effect of the HIV/AIDS scourge in recent years accompanied by mixed-race marriages in line with the dawn of the democratic era. Of importance is the quality of such statistics that are meant to inform planning on the part of government structures and departments. What also needs to be acknowledged is that administrative registers for such statistics are administered by the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) for registration of marriages, and by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ & CD) for registration of divorces, whilst Statistics South Africa performs the function of data processing and dissemination.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Risenga Maluleke', written over a horizontal dashed line.

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On one hand, findings of this report show that persons “ever married” in South Africa have been declining since 1996 to 2016 based on Census/ CS data. On the other hand, an increasing trend on persons who reported that they were “never married” is observable for the same years. As can be expected, proportions of the “never married” reflected a declining trend as age increases meaning as persons grow older the chances of remaining single changes. Males reflected higher proportions of “never married” compared to females for all the data collection years, namely, 1996, 2001, 2011 and 2016. Majority of black Africans reported to have been “never married” compared to whites with the least proportion of “never married” over time. This is supported by the results showing that persons who speak IsiZulu consistently had higher proportions of “never married” linked to all data sets over time followed by those speaking IsiNdebele while English speakers reflected lower proportions for such persons. Provincially, most of persons who reported that they were “never married” were mostly enumerated in KwaZulu-Natal and in Eastern Cape.

For married persons, age peaked between the ages of 35-39 years in both 1996 and 2001 and drops subsequently in 2011 and 2016. On the part of both males and females, there was decline for married persons from 1996 through 2016. In addition, females have lower proportions of married as compared to males. Of interest to note is that black Africans have lower proportions of married while whites have higher proportions of married persons as compared to other population groups.

In line with the purpose of measuring marriage and divorce rates for the year 2016 countrywide, administrative data collected by the Department of Home Affairs and the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development respectively were utilised. Marriages and divorces are both important phenomena that contribute towards building or breaking the fabric of families. As a result, marriage and divorce rates provide important indicators in family formation studies. In the case of South Africa, Western Cape Province reflected a higher crude marriage rate of 3.3 per 1000 population in 2016 compared to both Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces reflecting the lowest rate of approximately 2.0 marriage rate per 1000 population. Western Cape Province also leads in crude divorce rate with 1.0 divorces per 1000 population in the year 2016, while North West province had the lowest divorce rate of 0.1 divorces per 1000 population. Overall, crude divorce rate have been generally low in South Africa. It should be noted though that such data are not complete and ever questioned in the case of this country given high proportions of persons who are separated but still legally married owing to high costs of divorce relative to almost zero payment for any couple that seek to tie the knot legally.

Given that population censuses and sample surveys do not have a direct question on age at first marriage, Singulate Mean Age at Marriage (SMAM) was computed to produce average years spent as a single person. As can be expected, the SMAM is often higher for males compared to females. The SMAM was estimated at 32, 5 years for males and 29, 5 years for females. The aforementioned

estimates show an increasing trend from 1996 to 2016, as can be expected given the majority of population residing in urban areas.

Children ever born by a woman in her reproductive lifespan in the absence of contraceptive, sterility and abortion capture the lifetime fertility of a woman. Census 2011 and CS 2016 data sets contain statistics on children ever born and date of birth of the last child born used to derive births that occurred in the last 12 months before enumeration from women aged 12 years and older. On one hand, results show that as age increases the observed average parity increases, as can be expected. On the other hand, as education increases observed average parity decreases for both “never married” and “ever married” women. Those in non-urban areas have higher observed average parity compared to those in urban areas supporting evidence that urbanisation decreases fertility.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
ASDR	Age-specific divorce rates
ASMR	Age-specific marriage rates
BMR	Bureau of Market Research
CAP	Computer-assisted personal interviewing
CDR	Crude divorce rate
CMR	Crude marriage rate
CS 2016	Community Survey 2016
CS 2007	Community Survey 2007
DHA	Department of Home Affairs
DoJ & CD	Department of Justice and Constitutional Development
DU	Dwelling unit
EA	Enumeration area
GDR	General divorce rate
GMR	General marriage rate
HIV/AIDS	Human immunodeficiency virus
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMAM	Singulate mean age at marriage
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 The present status of nuptiality statistics provided by Stats SA

Historically, censuses and household surveys measuring population characteristics often include a question on marital status. Demographically, such statistics are used for measures of fertility, where married women are expected to reflect plausible fertility rates in line with conjugal rights. In addition, such statistics form the bases for family formation and dissolution studies that began to boom in the past 50 years worldwide. Notwithstanding, fertility declines in a number of African countries are associated with rural-to-urban migration. Arguments about the benefits of marriage on health and health related outcomes are extensively documented (Weeks, 2008; Robards, et al., 2012). Planning and policy formulation and monitoring of programmes call for information on the marital status of some specific groups, such as elderly widowed persons living alone, and the identification of vulnerable children, such as those in single-parent households where the parent is not working. Above all, statistics on marital status may be used in assessing current and future housing needs based on family formations in a specific locality.

Conceptually, marital status (also termed nuptiality) is a general term referring to the incidence of both marriage formation and dissolution through marriage, divorce, separation or widowhood in a population. Research has shown that both marriage formation and dissolution impact on fertility behaviour, educational attainment, place of residence and other life chances of individuals (Chamrathirong, 1980). On the other hand, one's marital status is the product of a number of factors that are at play at both individual and community levels. These factors range from ethnicity, population group and level of education to occupational status.

Nuptiality statistics are annually provided from administrative data collected by the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) and processed/analysed by Stats SA, and from enumerated data at the time of undertaking a Census or household survey. There are two fundamental differences between the aforementioned reports. Administrative data are collected and reported on, on an annual basis, approximately one to two years after registration of the event. Such nuptiality events may have occurred some years earlier, but what matters for the DHA is the year of registration, although the date of marriage is also provided in such data. In contrast, statistics on the date of marriage are preferable for the purpose of trend analysis for researchers.

On the part of cyclical statistics compiled from Census/household survey data, such a question is administered to persons aged 12 years and above for the overall years spent in adulthood. Issues of data quality are associated with the sensitivity for disclosing such information, proxy responses not being reliable and the complexities of living arrangements among different types of marital statuses, which are more relevant in urban areas, where about 64% of the population were residing in 2016 compared to about 54% in 1996 reflected from published data sets (Statistics South Africa).

Researchers have anecdotally cited outstanding patterns of nuptiality with large portions of “never married” adults in the case of this country. The present unexpected low proportions of persons who reported themselves as “ever married” led to the conceptualisation of numerous studies (Budlender, et al., 2004; Ziehl, 2001; Palamuleni, 2010). This notwithstanding, little information has ever been provided on long-term trends in the proportions of “never married” persons. In addition, the long history of labour migrants from neighbouring African countries coupled with the present scenario of circulation among SADC countries complicates such statistics (Garenne, 2016).

The aim of the report is to provide a comprehensive analysis of nuptiality statistics enumerated during Census/ CS 2016 over time. Effects of data deficiencies on such statistics are also highlighted. The relationship between marital status and observed average parities for women within the reproductive age group is explored using selected attributes. Further, the impact of including the seventh category, namely “single, but have been living together with someone as husband/wife/partner before” in the CS 2016 questionnaire on output data and analysis is explored.

The inclusion of an extra response category for persons who reported that they were “never married” for the first time in the CS 2016 Questionnaire is questioned by demographers and viewed as the source for the exaggerated proportion for that group when combined with those that reported being single. Even though Stats SA prioritize standardisation of questions between censuses and household surveys, the need to assess the impact on demographic trends arose. Stats SA acknowledges that CS 2016 provides an unexpected trend deviation that exaggerates the proportion of persons aged 15 and above who reported never having been married. Even so, the need to retain such categories is prioritized in line with data quality improvement, where such groups may have been lumped with either the “ever married” or the “never married” response categories. Even so, data errors cannot be denied for the Census time series as well.

1.2 Community Survey 2016

Community Survey 2016 (CS 2016) is the second intercensal survey conducted in a democratic South Africa after Community Survey 2007 (CS 2007). This household-based survey is one of the few available data sources providing data at local municipality level, which is the geographic tier tasked for planning. Provision of data at this level supports evidence-based decision-making that has become increasingly a best practice that many countries, including South Africa, embrace. CS 2016 results are thus critical in promoting optimal resource allocation and utilisation in all spheres of government in order to reduce poverty and vulnerability among South Africa’s most marginalised. Secondly, the development and implementation of policy and the implementation of legislature deem it necessary to have reliable statistics that inform the social, demographic and economic standing of the country.

The CS 2016 data were collected using the computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) system as opposed to the paper collection method used in all previous massive data collections by Stats SA. The new initiative in the organisation is a cost-cutting endeavour in data processing and a data quality enhancement measure. Eligible persons for enumeration were all persons present in the household(s)

of the sampled dwelling units on the reference night (midnight 6 March 2016 to 7 March 2016), including visitors. Members of the household who were absent overnight (for example, working, travelling, at entertainment or religious gatherings) but who returned the next day were also counted. For purposes of Stats SA, a household is a group of persons who live together, and provide for themselves jointly with food and other essentials for living, or a person who lives alone. Babies born before the reference night were also included in the count, the reason being that they were already born by the midnight of 6 to 7 March 2016. Members of the household who died after the reference night were counted in as “alive” during the midnight of the reference period. In contrast, those born after the reference night and those who died before the reference night were excluded.

A number of the processes that were piloted in Community Survey 2016 were new. These included the use of the CAPI system for collection and processing of data, and updated dwelling frame data captured from the Census 2011 listing process. Worth mentioning is the fact that the use of an existing updated dwelling frame for a large sample survey such as CS 2016 was the first of its kind in the case of Stats SA. The updated dwelling unit (DU) frame was constructed by the Geography Division using georeferenced spatial systems.

1.2.1 Sample design and size

The target population for CS 2016 was the non-institutional population residing in private dwellings in the country. The final sample size was 1 370 809 DUs sampled from a total of 93 427 enumeration areas (EAs) in the country. The sample is large enough to produce estimates at local municipal level. The EA frame was based on the Census 2011 information.

The sample design for CS 2016 was a stratified single-stage sample design. At EA level, all in-scope EAs were included in the sample and a sample of dwelling units was taken within each EA (i.e. there was no subsampling of EAs). In addition, very small EAs that form part of the target population were excluded from the frame to improve operational efficiency during the survey. EAs with less than eight DUs in the entire EA were excluded from the DU sampling frame.

1.2.2 Content development

The development and design processes of the CS 2016 questionnaire were informed by national priorities, global and continental emerging population issues embedded in the SDGs, the data needs of both existing and prospective users, and comparability with the previous censuses. Such a questionnaire was designed using the World Bank Survey Solutions application, which is an on-line based questionnaire design application. During the design, skipping patterns and validation rules were predetermined and embedded in the electronic questionnaire. Quality assurance in CS 2016 was largely automated and handled in two phases.

1.2.3 Data quality assessment processes

The first phase of quality assurance involved the electronic questionnaire being subjected to conditions and validation rules. This process eliminated unnecessary inconsistencies in the data during data collection. An additional automated quality assurance process was used during data collection where completed questionnaires were flagged as REJECTED or ACCEPTED, based on minimum processability rules. Any questionnaires submitted to the database that did not meet the set minimum rules were marked as REJECTED, and sent back to the fieldworker for verification and correction. For any record marked as REJECTED once, the running of the rejection was done at least four different times and on different dates. This was necessary for the fieldworker to try and correct mistakes before a particular questionnaire could be declared “Complete”.

1.3 Scope of the report

This report profiles various patterns of nuptiality, which provides insights into marital choices and variations by age group, sex, population group, urban/non-urban residence and level of education. In-depth analysis on nuptial patterns in response to socioeconomic strides that have been made since the inception of democracy in South Africa will enhance knowledge of the extent to which South Africans forego, postpone and dissolve marriage. In addition, the report shows the extent of marriage postponement which is measured through the singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM), computed from proportions of persons who had never been married at the time of the survey. Lastly, consistency between reported nuptiality status for women and average parities are provided in line with data quality assessment. Further, selected crude nuptiality measures are computed from administrative data collected by other government departments and processed by Stats SA.

1.4 Objectives of the report

The overall objective of this report is to provide nuptiality patterns and levels provided by Census 2011 and CS 2016 datasets with a view to inform the upcoming Census 2021 questionnaire inputs.

Specific objectives include:

- Provision of trend analysis for nuptiality measures
- To evaluate data quality using trend analysis of average parities for women whose aged are within the reproductive age group by reported nuptiality status
- To examine consistency in the estimated trends for SMAM

1.5 Data and methods

1.5.1 Data

The report utilises the Census time series data and the CS 2016 to provide the nuptiality patterns and levels in South Africa. Table 1.1 presents the question on marital status asked over time. Although the question remained the same across the censuses and CS 2016, the response categories have changed in each Census/survey. Studies have shown that reported data on marital status from censuses and

surveys are not free from enumerator biases and misreporting from respondents (Kalule-Sabiti, et al., 2007; Udjo, 2001). Therefore there is always a need to adapt the Census/survey questions based on lessons learned from previous censuses or surveys.

The Census 1996 category divorced/separated was separated to form two separate categories in the succeeding censuses and CS 2016. It is also important to note that some of the separated couples may still be legally married and therefore CS 2016 category stipulated this. The Census 2001 included a category called 'polygamous marriage' and has never been included in 2011 or 2016. For the CS 2016, the never married group was expanded into two groups to categorise single persons who were once coupled due to marriage or cohabitation against those that have ever been single to standardise Stats SA data from different household survey enumeration.

The question on marital status was applicable to all household members and institutionalised population for the censuses with the exception of Census 1996 where institutions population were excluded. For the purpose of this report, marital status has been grouped into five categories never married, married, widowed, divorced/separated and cohabiting for comparison across the censuses and CS 2016. The derived "ever married" group used in Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 combines the response category used in the CS 2016 questionnaire for persons who reported that were single, but have been living together with someone as husband/wife/partner before with those that reported married, living together, widowed, divorced and separated.

Table 1.1: Marital status questions asked in Census/ CS 2016

Census 1996	Census 2001	Census 2011	Community Survey 2016
What is this person's PRESENT marital status?	What is (the person's) PRESENT marital status?	What is (name's) PRESENT marital status?	What is (name's) PRESENT marital status?
1= Never married	1 = Married civil/religious	1 = Married	01 = Legally married (Include customary, traditional, religious etc.)
2= Married – civil	2= Married traditional/customary	2 = Living together like married partners	02 = Living together like husband and wife/partners
3= Married – traditional (customary)	3= Polygamous marriage	3 = Never married	03 = Divorced
4 = Living together with partner	4 = Living together like married partners	4 = Widower\widow	04 = Separated, but still legally married
5= Widower\widow	5 = Never married	5 = Separated	05 = Widowed
6= Divorced\separated	6 = Widower\widow	6 = Divorced	06 = Single, but have been living together with someone as husband/wife/partner before
	7 = Separated		07 = Single, and have never lived together with someone as husband/wife/partner before
	8 = Divorced		All persons age 12 years and older.

Source: Statistics South Africa

1.5.2 Methods of analysis

The analysis of data in this report is based on three previous censuses 1996, 2001 and 2011 including the Community Survey 2016. Analysis in Chapter 2 uses four data points in providing descriptive trend analysis on marital status for persons aged 15 years and older. Such tabulations include both frequencies and column percentages disaggregated by age, sex, population group, language and geographical location differentials are utilised. The purpose of Chapter 2 is to highlight changes in marital status patterns for two decades. Chapter 3 uses basic demographic measures such as crude rates and general rates to show levels of nuptiality in 2016 using administrative data on recorded nuptials collected by DHA and DoJ&CD (for registration of marriages and divorces respectively) and thereafter, processed by Stats SA.

Table 1.2 describes the methods used in chapter 3. The final analysis in Chapter 4 examines reported average parities against reported female nuptiality status. The rule of thumb is that women should be limited to give one birth 18 months after they completed their twelve's birthday (Moultrie, 2013). This is

due to the fact that average parities tends to be affected by errors such as omission and misreporting of number of children ever born and also by misclassification of women in certain age groups (United Nations, 1983) and, in some cases, average parities for women aged 40-44 and 45-49 may actually fall below that for women aged 35-39 even when there is no reason to suppose that fertility has been rising (UN, 1983). Table 1.2 also shows how the average parities were calculated. When omissions occur, the average parities fails to increase rapidly enough as age increases. In addition, we are also aware of misreporting errors based on the adoption effect on the part of black Africans that may distort birth intervals.

Table 1.2 Measures of nuptiality

Formulae	Description
$CMR = \frac{\text{Marriages}}{\text{Mid-year population}} \times 1000$	Crude Marriage Rate measures the number of marriages per 1000 persons in the Mid-year population
$GMR = \frac{\text{Marriages}}{\text{Mid-year population (15+)}} \times 1000$	General Marriage Rate measures the number of marriages in a year per 1000 mid-year population aged 15 years and older
$ASMR = \frac{\text{Marriages}_{(x)}}{\text{Mid-year population}_{(x)}} \times 1000$	Age Specific Marriage Rate measures the number of marriages (males / females) of age(x) per 1000 mid-year population of age(x).
$CDR = \frac{\text{Divorces}}{\text{Mid-year population}} \times 1000$	Crude Divorce Rate measures the number of divorces per 1000 mid-year population
$GDR = \frac{\text{Divorces}}{\text{Mid-year population (15+)}} \times 1000$	General Divorce Rate measures the number of divorces per 1000 mid-year population aged 15 years and older
$ASDR = \frac{\text{Divorces}_{(x)}}{\text{Mid-year population}_{(x)}} \times 1000$	Age Specific Divorce Rate measures the number of divorces (males / females) of age(x)) per 1000 mid-year population of age(x)
$SMAM = \frac{[(\sum_{i=15}^{49} S_i \times 5) + 1500] - [(\frac{\sum_{i=45}^{49} S_i + \sum_{j=50}^{54} S_j}{2}) \times 50]}{100 - (\frac{\sum_{i=45}^{49} S_i + \sum_{j=50}^{54} S_j}{2})}$ <p>Where S_i and S_j are proportions of females who are single at ages (i) and (j) respectively</p>	Singulate Mean Age at Marriage measures the average length of single life expressed in years among those who marry before the age of 50
$AP = \frac{CEB_{(i)}}{TF_{(i)}}$	<p>Where, AP= Average parity</p> <p>CEB =Total number of children ever born by a female in age group (i)</p> <p>TF=Total number of females at age group (i)</p> <p>(i) =Different female age groups from 15-19 up to 45-49</p>

1.6 Overview of chapter layout

Chapter 1 of the report provides the background and purpose and methodology of the report. Chapter 2 shows trend analysis focusing on background characteristics of persons aged 15 years and older by nuptiality status. Levels and measures of nuptiality (including SMAM) are presented in Chapter 3, while Chapter 4 examines measures of lifetime fertility for women by nuptiality status. Chapter 5 provides a summary of findings and some conclusion.

1.7 Caveats

It is widely known that responses on marital status are subjective and invalidated. For example, the “never married” category may have been overestimated by including persons who were cohabiting or involved in consensual unions but who, for some reason, still regard themselves as never having been married. This situation may be prevalent among black Africans whose partners have not yet paid bride price. Census data provide a cross-sectional view, since different cohorts may enter into marriage at different average ages. Overall, response biases and enumerator errors are beyond the scope of this report.

CHAPTER 2: BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS OF PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS and OLDER

2.1 Introduction

This chapter profiles background characteristics for persons aged 15 years and older by marital status. Background characteristics are important in understanding the population, and they provide some insights into analysis of findings for succeeding chapters that deal with the comparison of the SMAM and observed average parities. These characteristics provide clarity on observed and newly developing trends on marital status in South Africa. Marriage in South Africa is regulated by the Marriage Act, 1961 (Act No. 25 of 1961 as amended) which stipulates that the minimum age for acceptance of marriage is 15 years for girls and 18 years for boys. If minor children intend to get married, consent must be sought from the parent(s) or guardian or the Commissioner of Child Welfare.

Readers are cautioned to note that, owing to the big table's outputs for the selected differentials and marital status over time, only proportions are provided in this chapter for the purpose of trend analysis by marital status. Charts on proportions are presented in this chapter and all tabulations for marital status are provided by sex, age group, population group, language, geography type and province are provided in the appendix.

Table 2.1 shows the population distribution over time. The number of persons aged 0–14 increased from 13,8 million in 1996 to 16,9 million in 2016. Overall, across the censuses and CS 2016, over 60% of the population was aged 15 years and older. This is also the population at most likely to get married or other forms of unions. For most individuals marriage is a new beginning – the formation of a new family – and often it is an extension of the family and kinship network (National Bureau of Statistics, 2015). For the purpose of comparison across the censuses and CS 2016, and as explained in the introductory chapter, the marital status has been grouped into five categories, namely “Never married”; “Married”; “Widowed”; “Divorced/separated”; and “Cohabiting”.

Table 2.1: Population distribution by age group and sex

Enumeration year	Sex	0–14	15+	Total	0–14	15+	Total
		Number			%		
Census 1996	Male	6 859 085	12 406 550	19 265 634	35,6	64,4	100,0
	Female	6 907 359	13 920 386	20 827 744	33,2	66,8	100,0
	Total	13 766 443	26 326 936	40 093 379	34,3	65,7	100,0
Census 2001	Male	7 168 491	14 265 549	21 434 040	33,4	66,6	100,0
	Female	7 196 797	16 188 941	23 385 737	30,8	69,2	100,0
	Total	14 365 288	30 454 490	44 819 778	32,1	67,9	100,0
Census 2011	Male	7 637 042	17 551 749	25 188 791	30,3	69,7	100,0
	Female	7 463 048	19 118 722	26 581 769	28,1	71,9	100,0
	Total	15 100 089	36 670 471	51 770 560	29,2	70,8	100,0
CS 2016	Male	8 449 804	18 797 422	27 247 226	31,0	69,0	100,0
	Female	8 336 314	20 070 114	28 406 428	29,3	70,7	100,0
	Total	16 786 118	38 867 536	55 653 654	30,2	69,8	100,0

*Total excludes 490 194 cases with unspecified age
Source: Statistics South Africa

2.2 Trend analysis on marital status

Findings presented in Table 2.2 provide an overview of marital status over time for persons aged 15 years and older. The population has grown from 25,4 million in 1996 to 38,8 million in 2016. Over the nineteen-year period there has been a consistent increase in the proportion of persons who had never been married (single persons): from 47,7% in 1996, to 48,9% in 2001, 50,8% in 2011 and 56,5% in 2016. Over the same period, marriage has consistently declined: from 39,5% in 1996, to 34,5% in 2001, 32,0% in 2011, and finally 28,3% in 2016. In contrast, the proportion of cohabiting persons has increased from 5,0% in 1996 to 8,3% in 2016. The proportion of divorced and widowed persons decreased slightly overall. The number of widowed persons decreased from 5,0% to 4,6%, while those who were divorced/separated decreased from 2,8% to 2,3%.

Table 2.2: Distribution of persons aged 15 years and older by marital status

Marital status	*Census 1996		Census 2001		Census 2011		**CS 2016	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Never married	12 120 621	47,7	14 891 093	48,9	18 614 660	50,8	21 934 525	56,5
Married	10 035 028	39,5	10 509 820	34,5	11 736 736	32,0	10 986 710	28,3
Cohabiting	1 268 965	5,0	2 385 940	7,8	3 583 228	9,8	3 234 203	8,3
Widowed	1 281 924	5,0	1 799 803	5,9	1 824 916	5,0	1 786 135	4,6
Divorced/separated	722 165	2,8	867 835	2,8	910 931	2,5	903 995	2,3
Total	25 428 703	100,0	30 454 490	100,0	36 670 471	100,0	38 845 567	100,0

*Census 1996 total excludes 263 106 unspecified cases and 635 126 not applicable (institutionalised population)

**CS 2016 total excludes 21 969 cases unspecified marital status

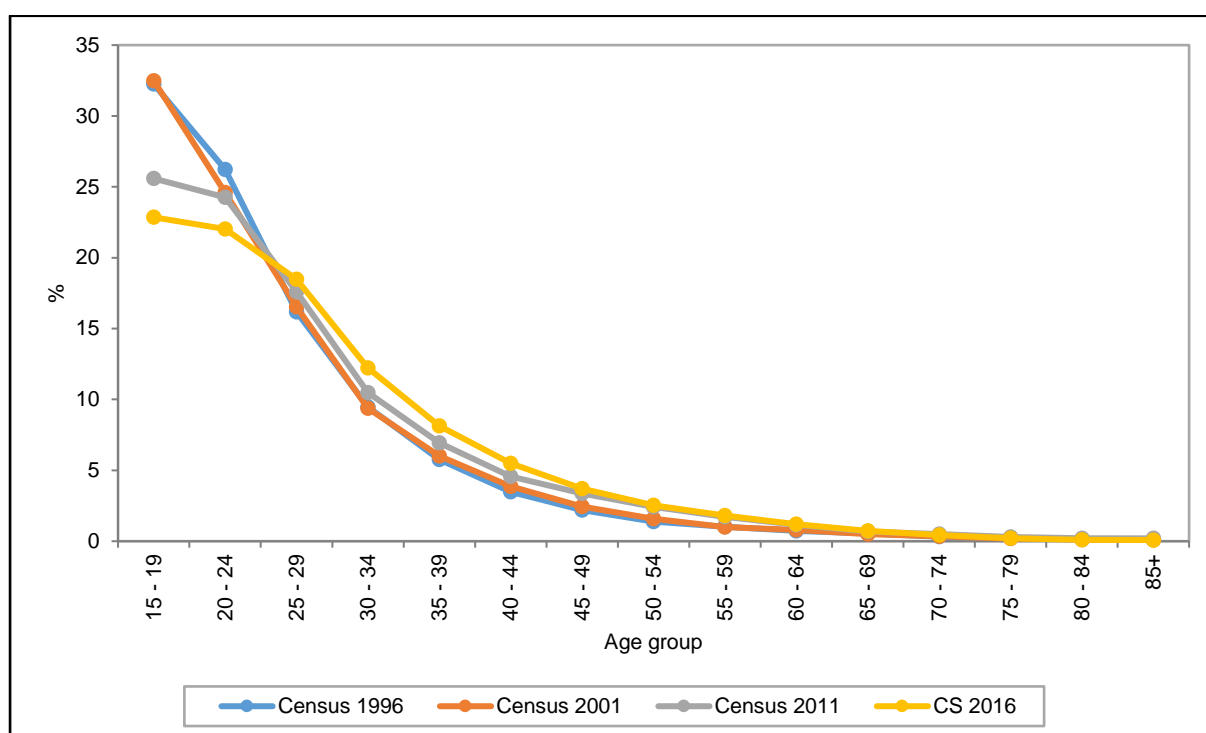
Source: Statistics South Africa

2.3 Trend analysis for persons who reported that they were never married

This section focuses on the proportions of the “never married” population aged 15 years and older by the selected differentials. Nationally, over 56% of the South African population had never been married in 2016. The reader is cautioned on the interpretation of “never married” in this analysis, as some of the persons who were cohabiting, separated and divorced may consider themselves as single at the time of the census or survey, and the enumerator would capture them as such.

2.3.1 Age group

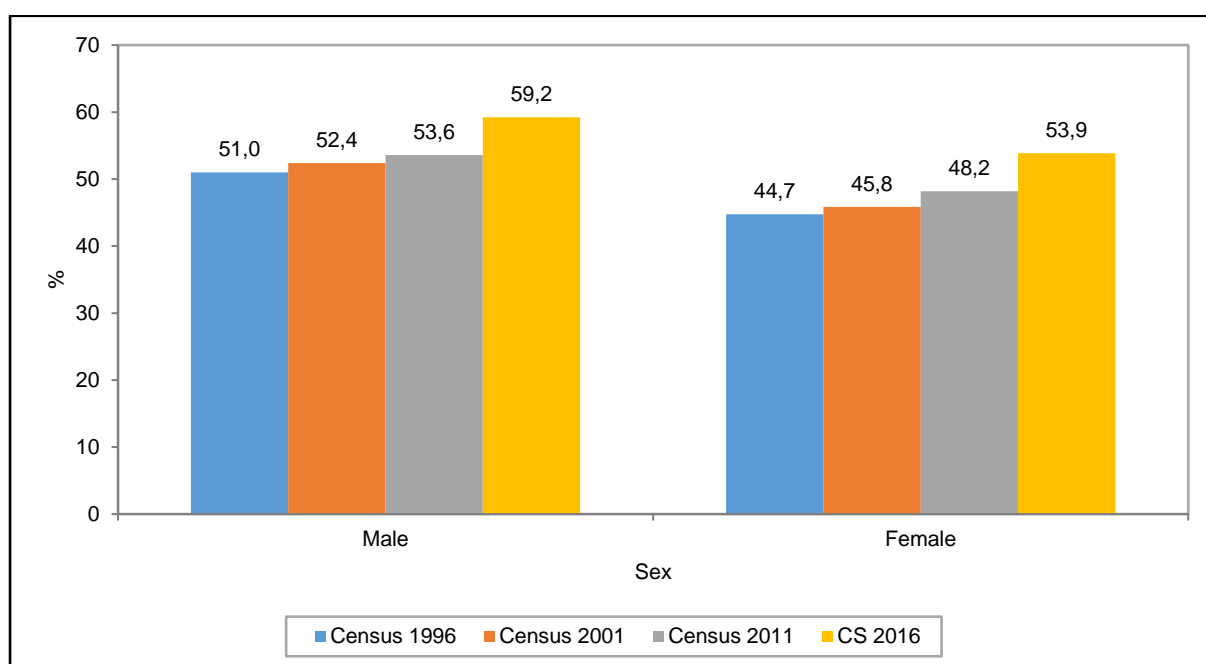
Figure 2.1 provides the percentage distribution in five-year age groups for the “never married” population aged 15 years and older over time. The “never married” population shows a smooth decline with increasing age, as can be expected. The proportion of those who never married for age group 15–19 was high in 1996 and 2001, and declined in 2011 and 2016. The number of persons who had never married and who were between ages 20 and 49 declined at a faster rate in 1996, 2001 and 2011 than in 2016.

Figure 2.1: Distribution of never married persons aged 15 years and older by age group

Source: Statistics South Africa

2.3.2 Sex

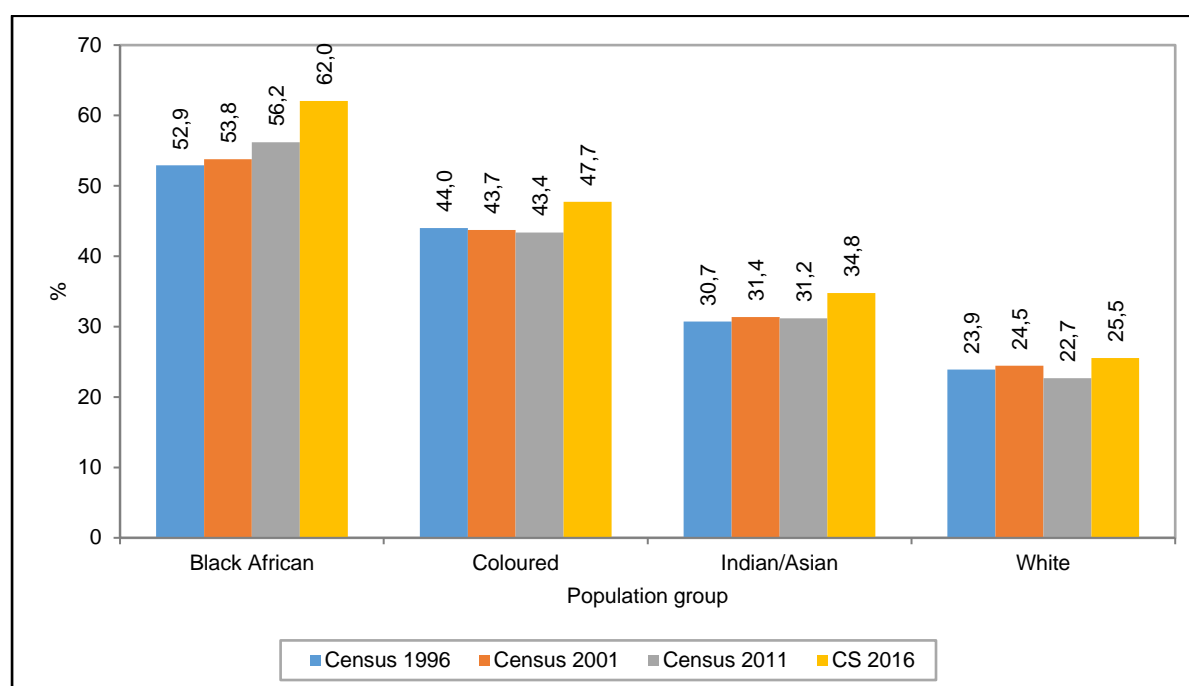
Proportions of the “never married” population aged 15 years and older by sex are presented in Figure 2.2. Generally, the proportion of the “never married” male population is higher than that of the corresponding female population, which in part is due to the higher age at which men marry as compared to women. The proportion of “never married” males grew steadily by 1 percentage point from 1996 until 2011, before a significant increase in 2016. A similar trend is observed for females (steady growth until 2011 and then a significant increase in 2016). In 2016, five percent more males were “never married” as compared to females. However, among the females, the proportion of those who had never married increased by almost 6,0% between 2011 and 2016.

Figure 2.2: Proportion of never married persons aged 15 years and older by sex

Source: Statistics South Africa

2.3.3 Population group

Figure 2.3 shows the differences among the population groups in South Africa regarding marital status. The “never married” black African population increased from 52,9% in 1996 to 62,0% in 2016. The “never married” proportion of the coloured population increased from 44,0% in 1996 to 47,7% in 2016. In the Indian/Asian population, the “never married” proportion increased from 30,7% in 1996 to 34,7% in 2016. Less than a quarter of the white population were never married across the censuses with a slight increase in 2016. Black Africans and coloureds were mostly “never married” as compared to the other population groups.

Figure 2.3: Proportion of never married persons aged 15 years and older by population group

*Census 2011 data exclude "Other" population group

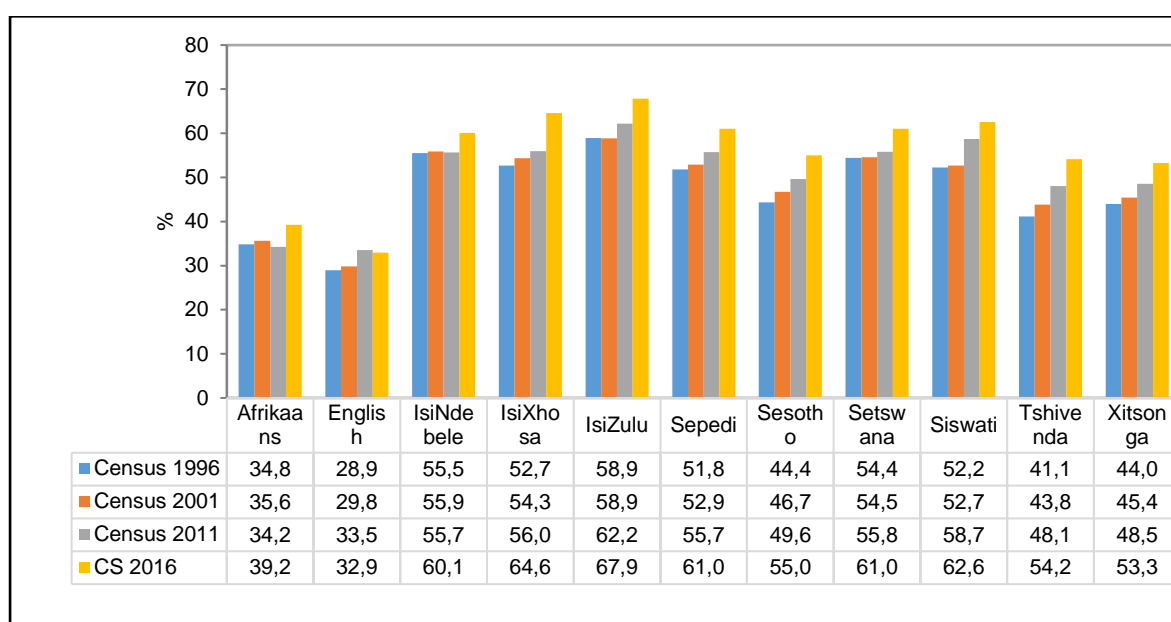
Source: Statistics South Africa

2.3.4 Language spoken in the household

Language is used as a proxy to ethnicity represented by the eleven official languages, namely English, isiZulu, isiXhosa, isiNdebele, Afrikaans, siSwati, Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, Tshivenda and Xitsonga, since the censuses and CS 2016 did not have a direct question on ethnicity. Readers are, however, cautioned that language as reported by households in some cases may not be the ethnicity of a person, as the language reported may be the one mostly spoken in the community (Marwick 1978 cited in (Sibanda & Zuberi, 2005)). Marriage, family formation or marriage dissolution is largely influenced by one's ethnicity because people of the same ethnicity share the same cultural practices.

Black Africans and coloureds had the highest proportions of “never married” persons; therefore, it is no surprise that Figure 2.4 shows persons speaking African languages have higher proportions of “never married” compared to Afrikaans and English speakers. The “never married” population amongst isiZulu speakers has increased from 58,9% in 1996 to 67,9% in 2016.

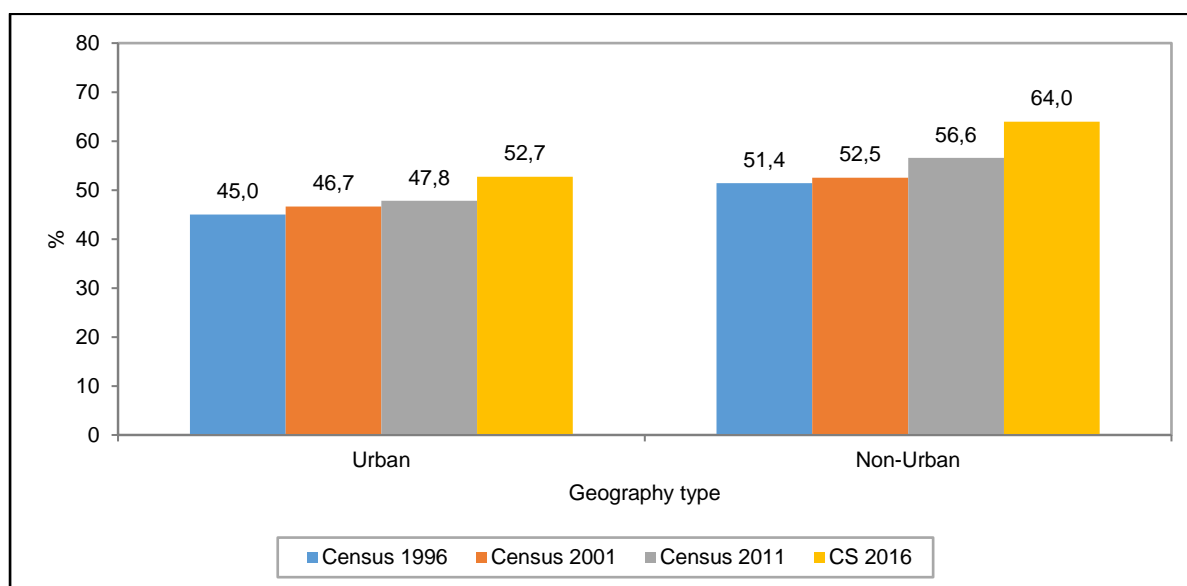
Figure 2.4: Proportion of never married persons aged 15 years and older by language



Source: Statistics South Africa

2.3.5 Geography type

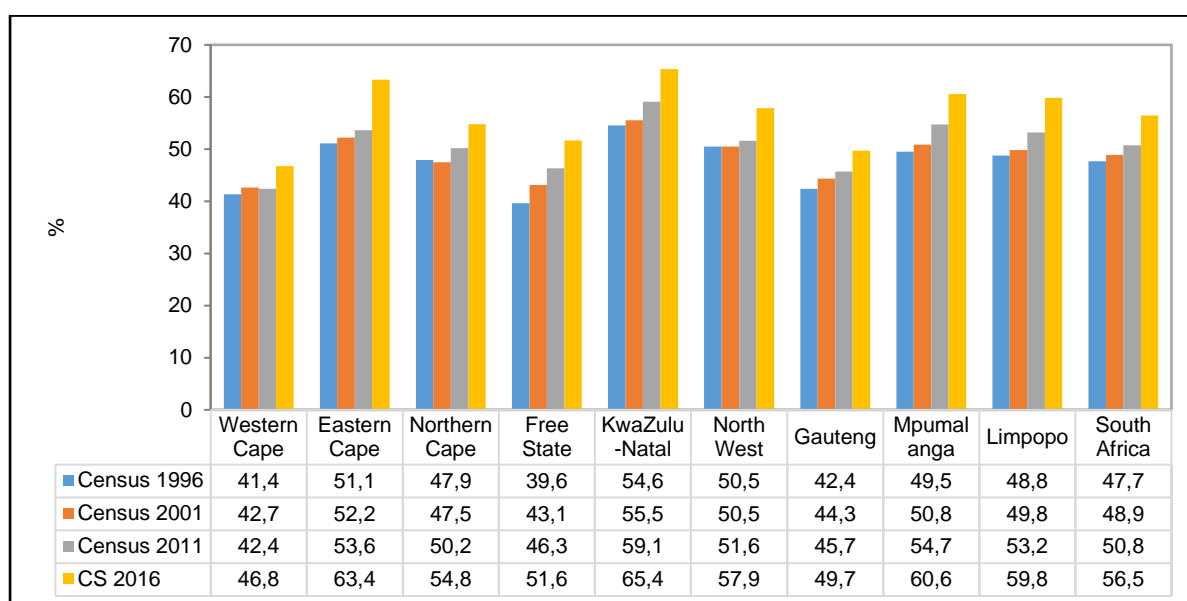
The findings in Figure 2.5 show an upward trend in the number of “never married” persons. Interestingly, the proportion of “never married” persons is highest in non-urban areas (over sixty percent) in 2016. In 1996, 51,4% of persons in non-urban areas were “never married” as compared to 45,0% in urban areas. The proportion of “never married” persons residing in urban areas has increased from 45,0% in 1996 to 52,7% in 2016.

Figure 2.5: Proportion of never married persons aged 15 years and older by geography type

Source: Statistics South Africa

2.3.6 Province of enumeration

The proportions of “never married” persons aged 15 years and older for each province are presented in Figure 2.6. Nationally, the proportion of “never married” persons has increased from 47,7% in 1996 to 56,5% in 2016. KwaZulu-Natal has the highest proportions of persons who have never been married over the nineteen-year period. In 1996, Free State had the lowest proportion of “never married” persons in the country; however, it increased from 39,6% in 1996 to 51,6% in 2016. Western Cape reported the lowest proportion of “never married” persons in 2016.

Figure 2.6: Proportion of never married persons aged 15 years and older by province

Source: Statistics South Africa

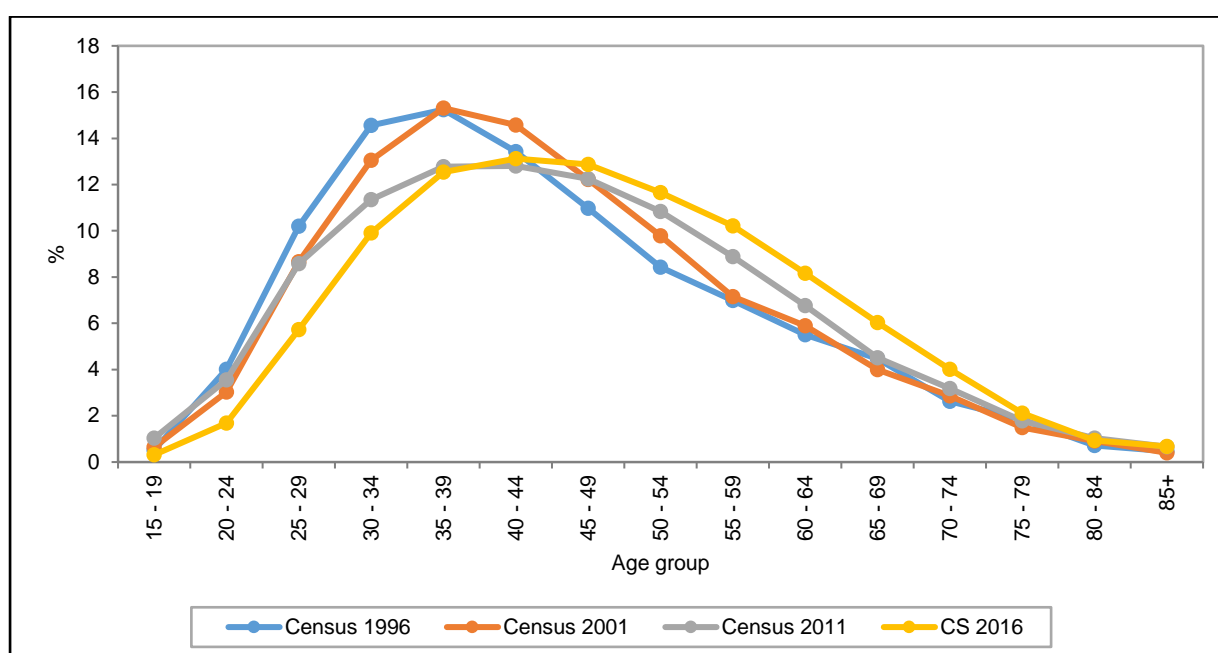
2.4 Trend analysis for persons who reported that they were married

This section presents the proportions of the married population aged 15 years and older by the selected differentials. Marriages are declining in South Africa as more and more people opt for cohabiting. In comparison to registered marriages, in 2015, there were 138 627 civil marriages registered at the Department of Home Affairs, which was a decline by 8,1% from the 150 852 marriages recorded in 2014. Over the period, 2003 to 2008 civil marriages have shown a fluctuating pattern in the total number of civil marriages, and thereafter there was a consistent decline (Statistics South Africa, 2015). Census and community survey data provide an opportunity for trend analysis of marriage in South Africa from 1996 to 2016 as reported by households.

2.4.1 Age group

The age distribution of married persons is presented in Figure 2.7. In general, the proportions of married persons increase with age and start to decline among the age group 45–49 years and older across the censuses and CS 2016. There is shift in the peak age for marriage, which was 35–39 in 1996 and 2001, and then shifted to the 40–44 age group in 2011 and 2016. For 2016, the proportion of married persons in age group 15–39 is lower than in 1996, 2001 and 2011, and higher beyond age 40. It could be expected, the number of marriages recorded is lowest among the age group 70 years and older.

Figure 2.7: Distribution of married persons aged 15 years and older by age group



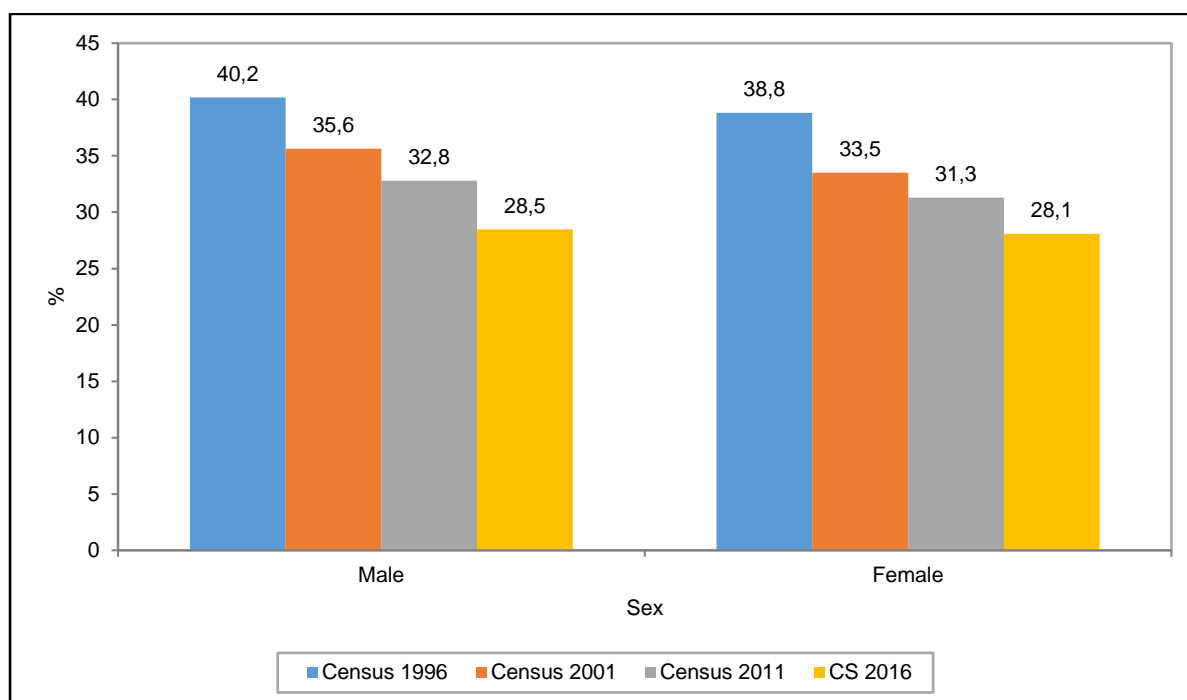
Source: Statistics South Africa

2.4.2 Sex

The proportions of married persons by sex are shown in Figure 2.8. The proportion of married males is higher compared to that of females. This may be ascribed to the fact that most women do not remarry

once widowed, separated or divorced. Both sexes show a downward trend in marriages, which suggests that marriages in South Africa are declining. The proportion of married females declined by eleven percentage points over the nineteen-year period, whilst that of males declined by twelve percent over the same period.

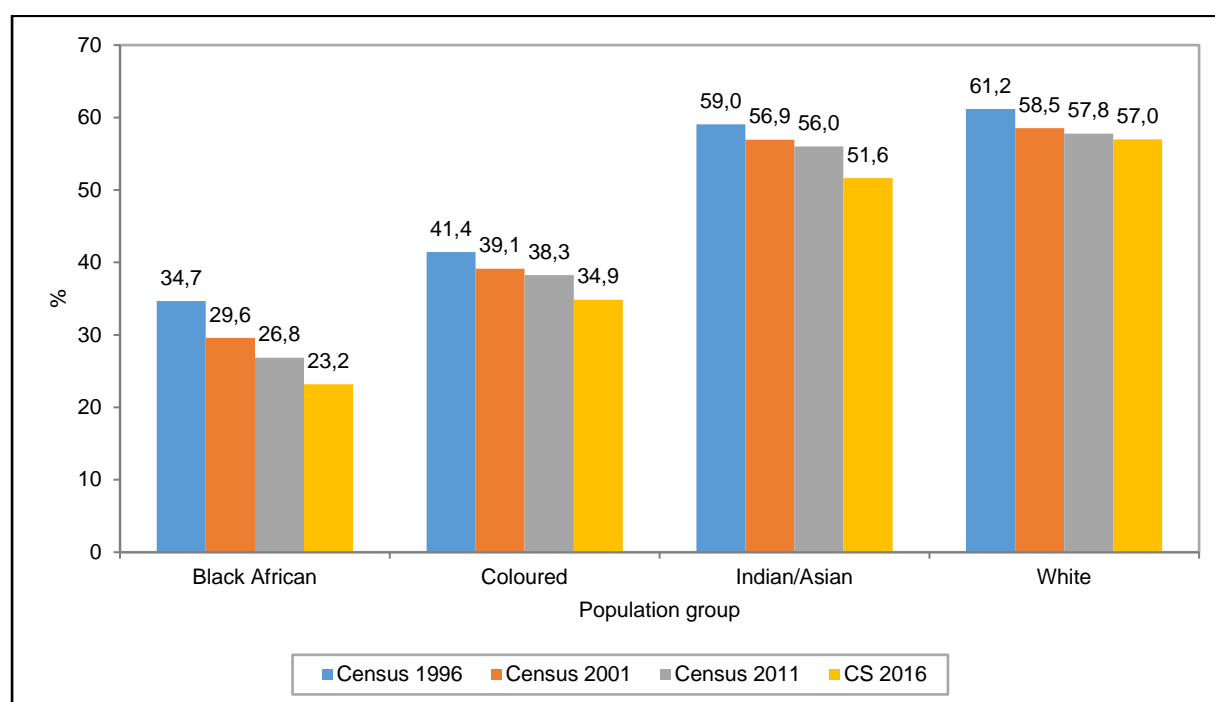
Figure 2.8: Proportion of married persons aged 15 years and older by sex



Source: Statistics South Africa

2.4.3 Population group

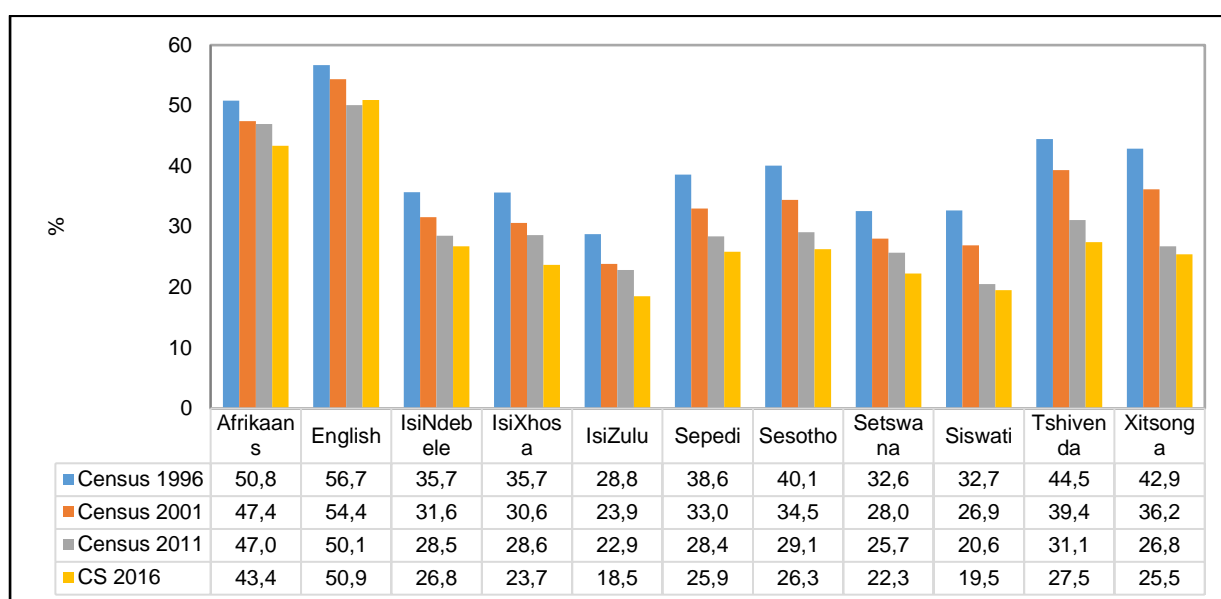
In 1996, 61,2% of whites reported that they were married; however, in 2016, only 57,0% of whites reported that they were married. All population groups show a decline in the number of married persons. Whites and Indians/Asians had the highest proportions of married persons compared to the black African and coloured population groups. The proportion of married black Africans has declined by twelve percent – from 34,7% in 1996 to 23,2% in 2016. Findings are presented in Figure 2.9.

Figure 2.9: Proportion of married persons aged 15 years and older by population group

*Census 2011 data exclude "Other" population group
 Source: Statistics South Africa

2.4.4 Language spoken in the household

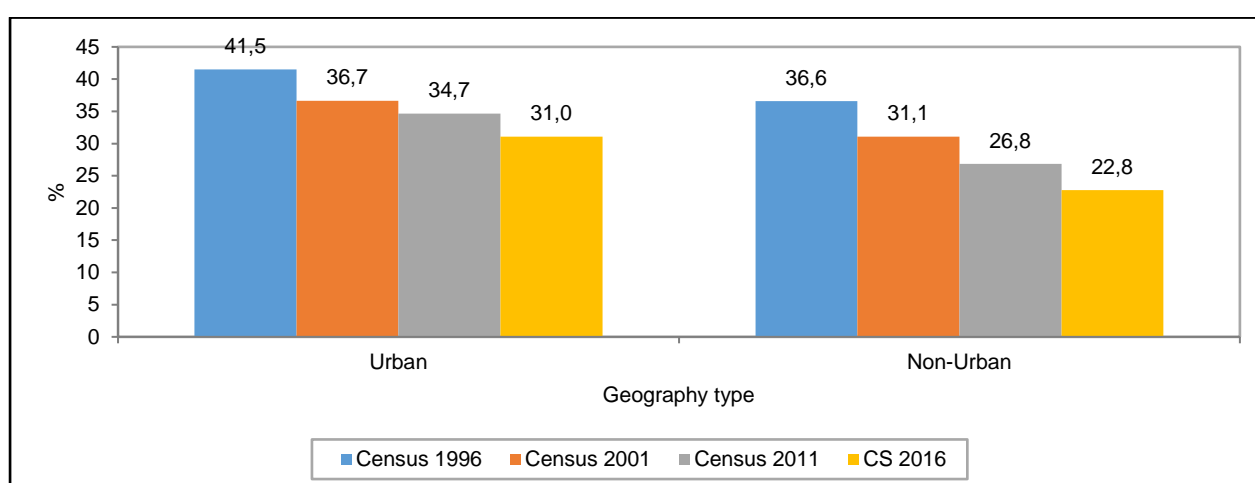
Figure 2.10 shows that the prevalence of marriage was high for Afrikaans and English speakers whilst low for those speaking other languages. Marriage for Tshivenda speakers declined from 44,5% in 1996 to 27,5% in 2016. However, Tshivenda speakers had the highest proportions of marriage among African language-speaking persons. IsiZulu, siSwati and Setswana speakers were among the lowest proportions of married persons in 2016.

Figure 2.10: Proportion of married persons aged 15 years and older by language

Source: Statistics South Africa

2.4.5 Geography type

Figure 2.11 shows a downward trend for marriages in urban and non-urban areas. There are more married persons in urban areas as compared to non-urban areas. In 2016, 31,0% of persons residing in urban areas were married as compared to 22,8% in non-urban areas. It is surprising that non-urban areas, which include traditional areas and farms, would have lower proportions of married persons, because customary marriages are recognised in South Africa and were reported to have increased by 14,7% in 2016, although there was a decline in the number of customary marriages between 2007 and 2014 (Statistics South Africa, 2015)

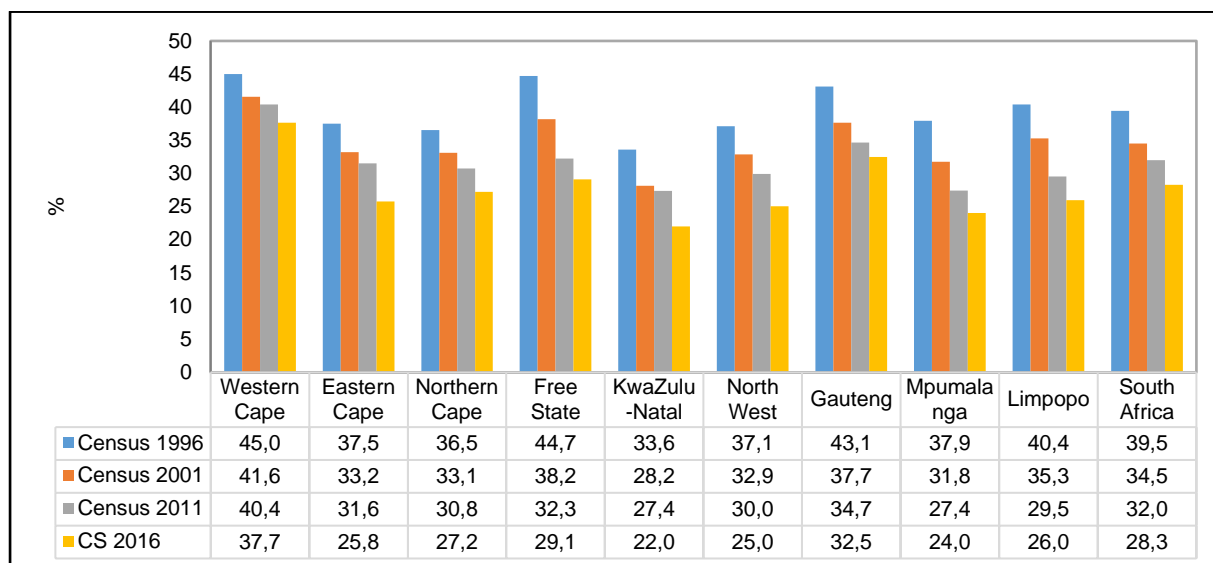
Figure 2.11: Proportion of married persons aged 15 years and older by geography type

Source: Statistics South Africa

2.4.6 Province of enumeration

In 2016, less than thirty percent of persons aged 15 years and older were married, as shown in Figure 2.12. In the Western Cape, 37,7% of the population were married in 2016, which is the highest proportion when compared to other provinces. Surprisingly, KwaZulu-Natal reported the lowest proportions of married persons in the province. The married population in Northern Cape decreased by three percent between 2011 and 2016 (from 30,8% to 27,2%).

Figure 2.12: Proportion of married persons aged 15 years and older by province



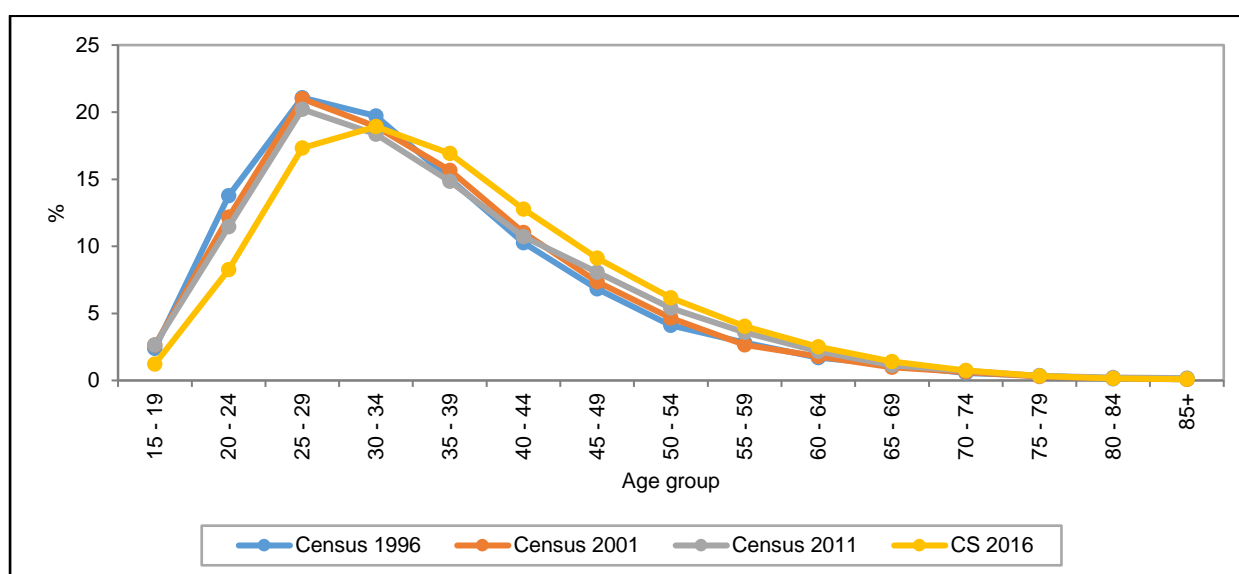
Source: Statistics South Africa

2.5 Trend analysis for persons who reported that they were cohabiting

This section presents the proportions of the cohabiting population aged 15 years and older by the selected differentials. Cohabitation, also referred to as a common law marriage, living together or a domestic partnership is not recognised as a legal relationship in the case of South African law. The rules of intestate succession as set out in the Intestate Succession Act, 1987, are clear on that. In the event of there being no valid will, the beneficiaries are, in the first instance, a spouse or descendants or both. In the event of there being no spouse or descendants, the estate devolves upon other more distant members of the bloodline¹.

Figure 2.13 shows that for 1996, 2001 and 2011, there is an upward trend in cohabiting from the age 15–29. These numbers begin to decline gradually as the population grows older. In the period 1996–2011, over nineteen percent of the population aged 25–29 were cohabiting; however, the highest proportions of cohabiting persons shifted to the age group 30–34 in 2016. This is consistent with the figures for 2016 that reflect some delay in committing to marriage and where marriages were shown to peak among persons in their forties as shown in Figure 2.7.

Figure 2.13: Distribution of cohabiting persons aged 15 years and older by age group



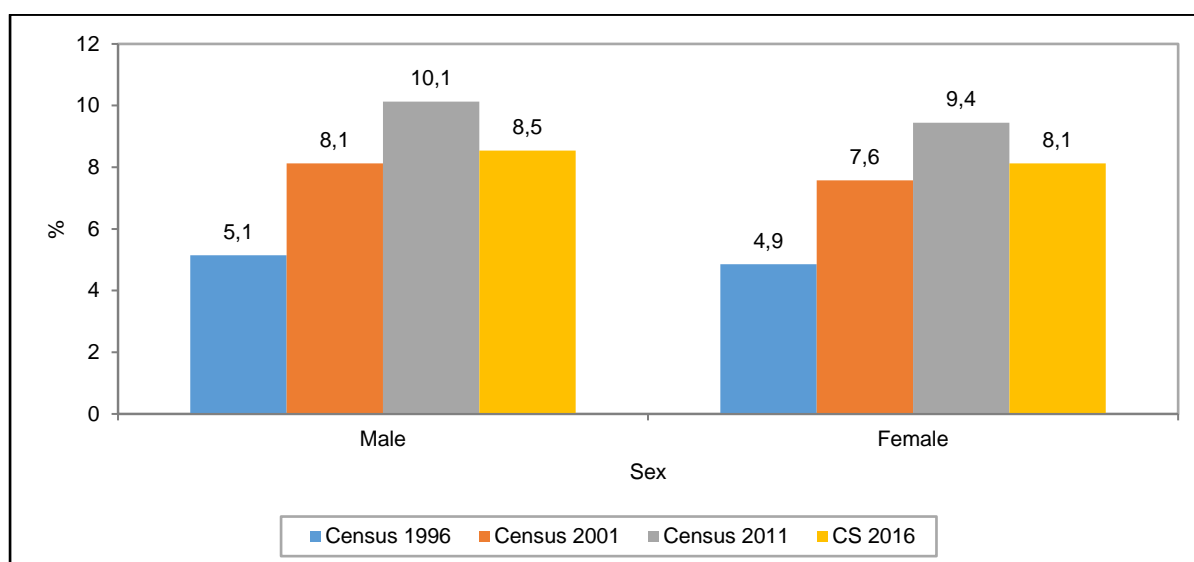
Source: Statistics South Africa

¹ <http://www.divorcelaws.co.za/the-law-on-cohabitation.html>

2.5.2 Sex

According to Figure 2.14, some slight differences in the proportions of cohabiting males and females are presented. Proportions reveal some fluctuations over the two decades period for both sexes. The proportion of males who reported that they were cohabiting declined slightly by two percent between 2011 and 2016 compared to that of females reflecting a one percent decline over the same period.

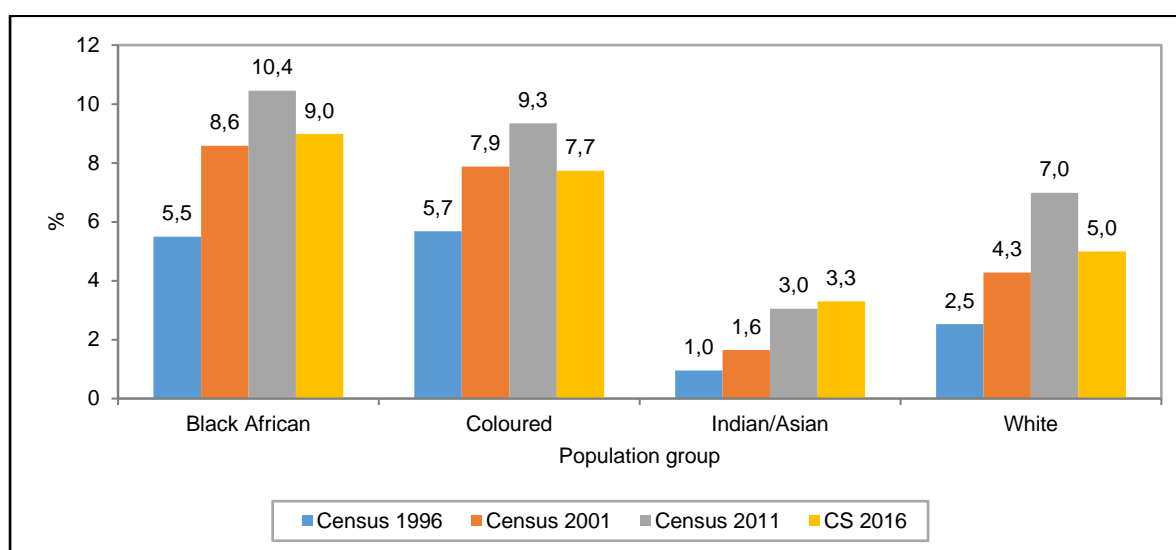
Figure 2.14: Proportion of cohabiting persons aged 15 years and older by sex



Source: Statistics South Africa

2.5.3 Population group

Figure 2.15 shows that black Africans, coloureds and whites had fluctuating proportions of persons cohabiting while the proportions of Indian/Asians increased over the nineteen-year period. The proportion of Indians/Asians who reported that they were cohabiting increased by two percentage points in two decades. Black Africans reflect highest proportions of cohabiting persons translating to three percentage point increase for the entire two decades period. This scenario is expected given the highest population count ever observed relative to other population groups in the case of this country. In addition, such phenomenon is linked to circulation mobility among neighbouring African countries.

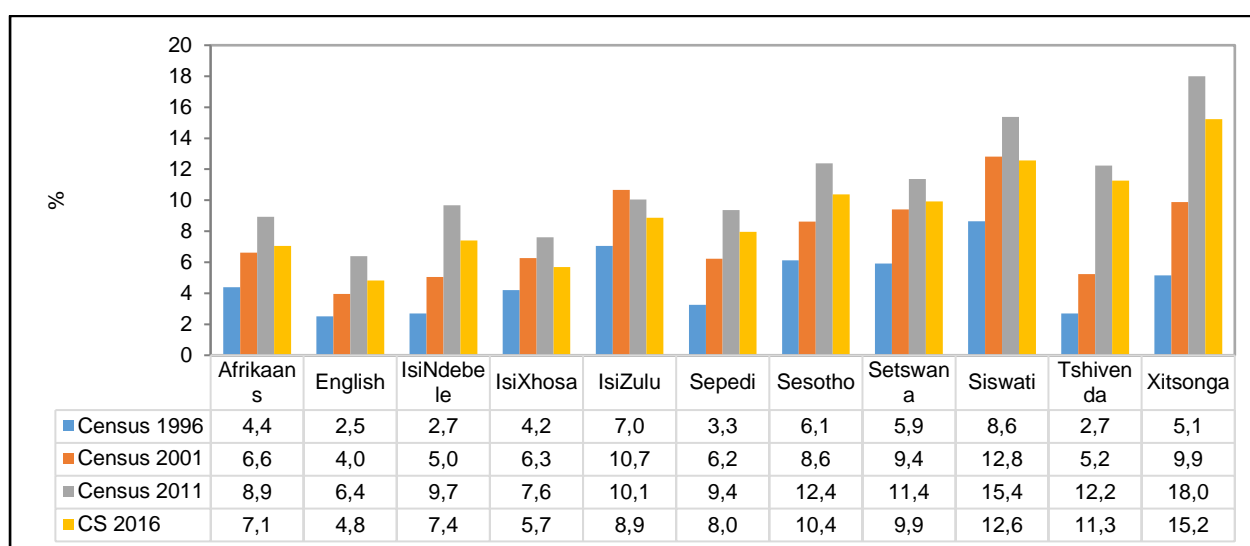
Figure 2.15: Proportion of cohabiting persons aged 15 years and older by population group

*Census 2011 data exclude "Other" population group

Source: Statistics South Africa

2.5.4 Language spoken in the household

Figure 2.16 shows that between 2011 and 2016, the number of cohabiting persons was highest amongst Xitsonga speakers, with a significant increase from 5,1% in 1996 to 15,2% in 2016. English and IsiXhosa speakers recorded the lowest proportions of persons who were cohabiting in 2016. English speakers consistently recorded the lowest proportion of cohabiting persons over the period 1996 to 2016. It should be noted though that there may be some association between persons who reported that they are mostly speaking the English language and better living conditions, thus affordable and may not seek partnerships for the purpose of affordability in cities.

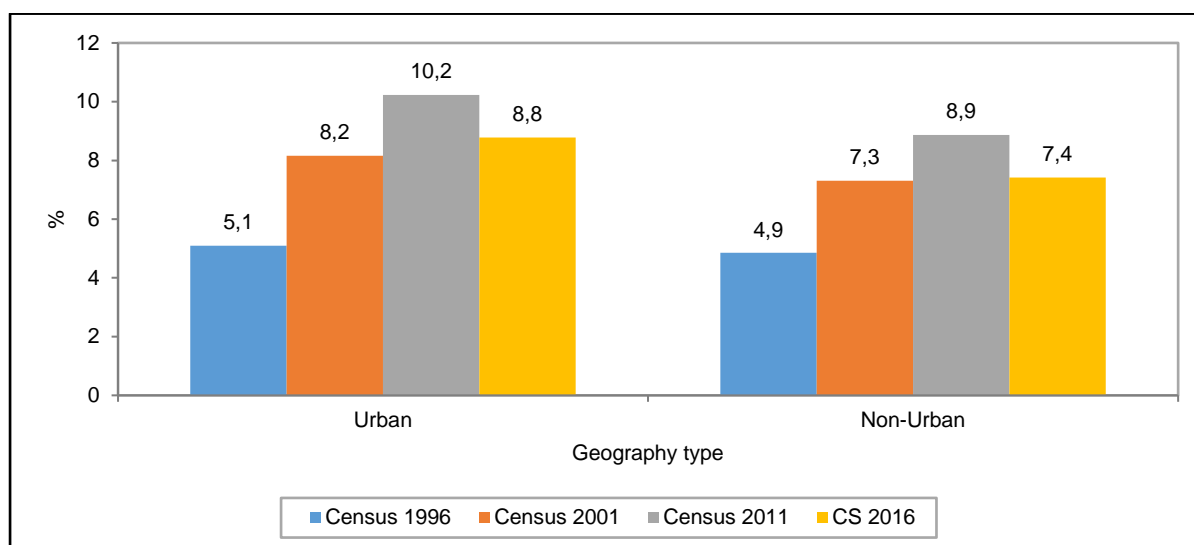
Figure 2.16: Proportion of cohabiting persons aged 15 years and older by language

Source: Statistics South Africa

2.5.5 Geography type

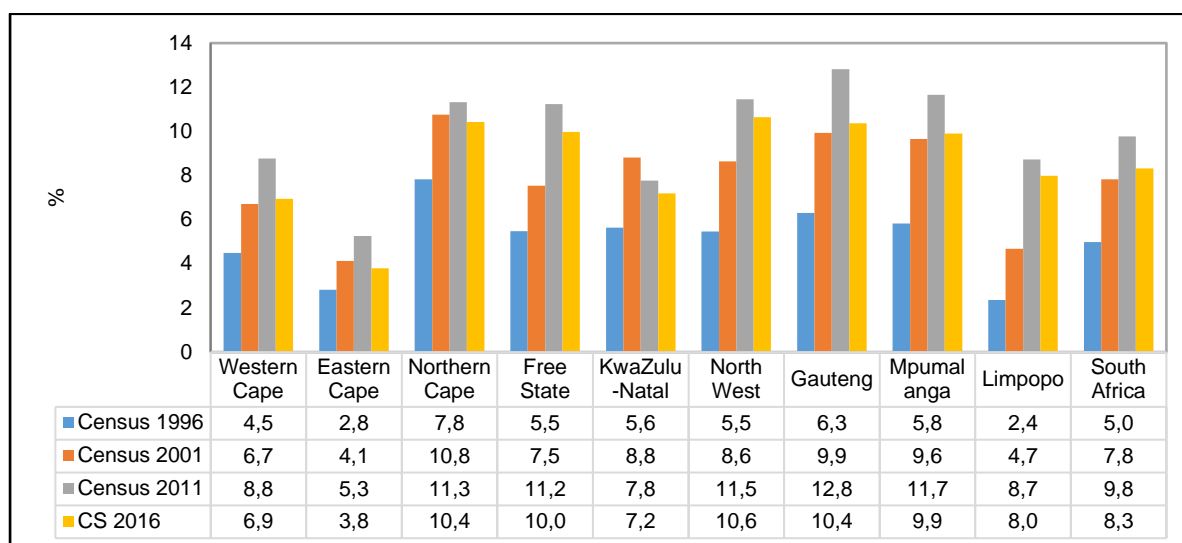
There were slight differences in proportions of cohabiting persons between those enumerated in urban and those enumerated in non-urban areas. In addition, an upward trend up to 2011 followed by an unexpected drop in 2016 is observable. One reason for this is sampling and non-sampling errors linked to the CS 2016 data. As can be expected, the upward increase from 1996 to 2016 presents an expected increase for both urban and non-urban population.

Figure 2.17: Proportion of cohabiting persons aged 15 years and older by geography type



2.5.6 Province of enumeration

Eastern Cape recorded the lowest proportion of cohabiting persons over time with the exception of 1996 where Limpopo recorded the lowest proportions, as it can be seen in Figure 2.18. Interestingly, Northern Cape was among the provinces with high proportions of cohabiting persons over time, probably as a result of lower response biases on that subject. In contrast, lower proportions of persons who reported that they were cohabiting over the two decades period are reflected for the Western Cape Province. Such statistics looks anomalous given the four big universities and three research centres that may easily be linked to such phenomena. Nonetheless, misreporting, proxy response at the time of enumeration and enumerator biases are not ruled out in the case of such highly urbanized population.

Figure 2.18: Proportion of cohabiting persons aged 15 years and older by province

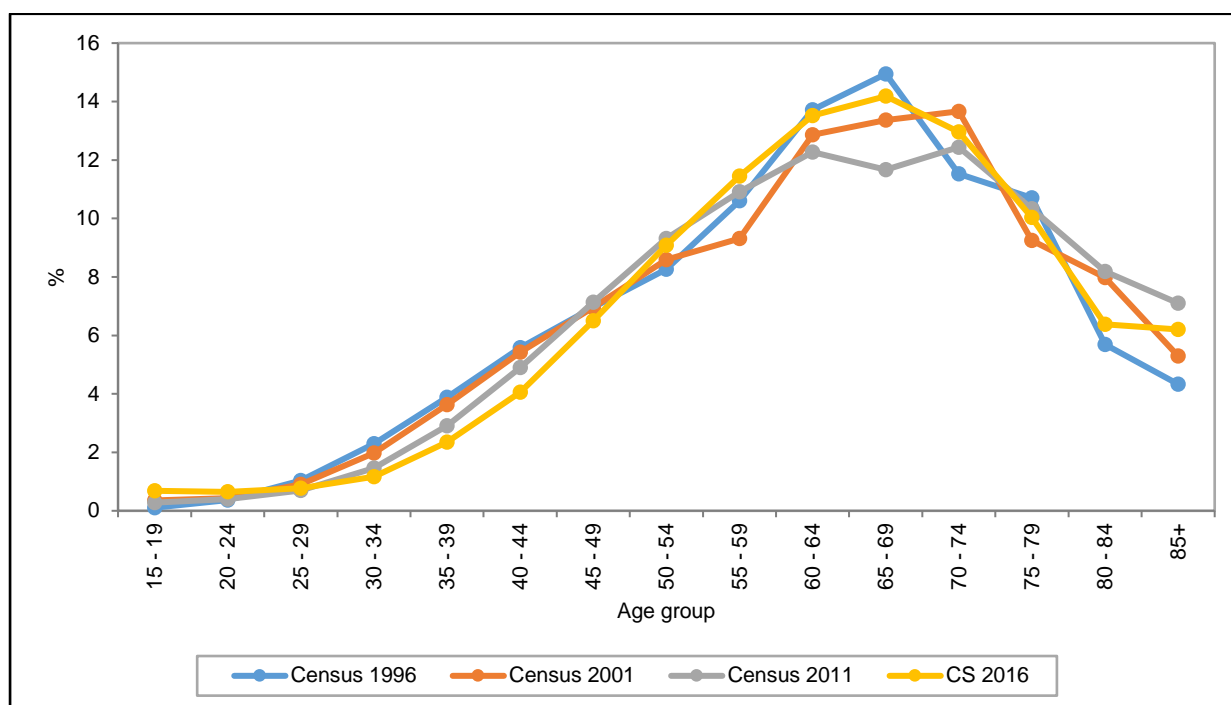
Source: Statistics South Africa

2.6 Trend analysis for persons who reported that they were widowed

This section presents the proportions of the widowed population aged 15 years and older by selected differentials. Widowhood is one of those human stages that may be difficult to report for some people. This scenario may be exacerbated by sensitivities of sharing personal information with young enumerators while not so sure about the confidentiality being preached by the statistical agency tasked to collect such data. This notwithstanding, South Africans would like to observe a somewhat upward trend for younger adults reporting widowhood given the recent HIV/ AIDS scourge within the two decades in question. Even so, recent efforts for combating it are expected to be shown in lower proportions for such population.

2.6.1 Age group

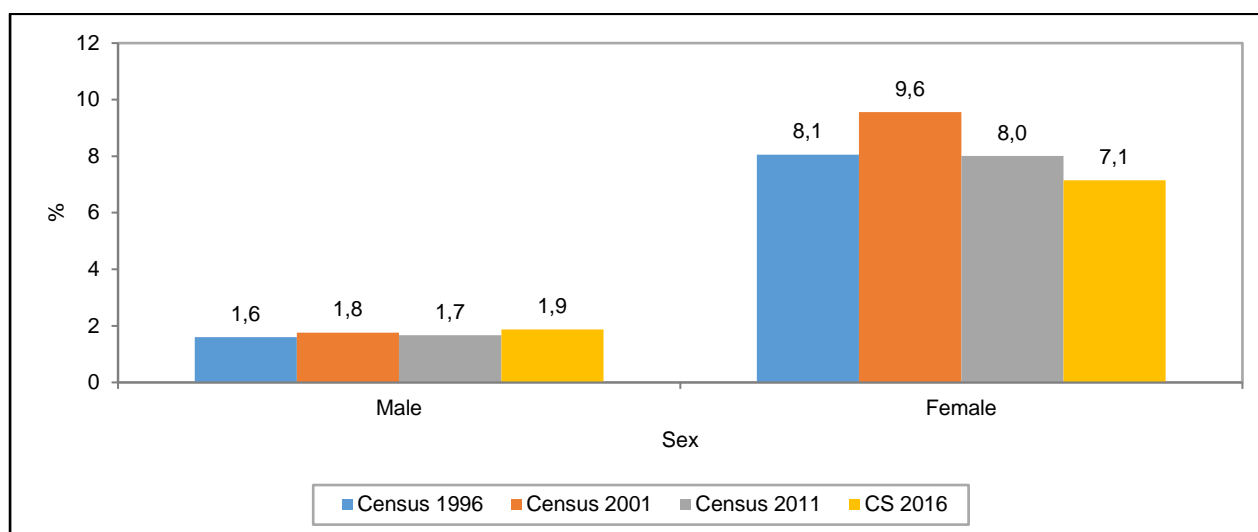
The age distribution of the population that reported being widowed is shown in Figure 2.19. Less than one percent of persons below the age of thirty experienced the death of a spouse. The graph shows an upward trend as age increases, peaking at age groups 65–69 and 70–74. This is to be expected, because survival rates usually decrease as age increases. However, the graphs show some fluctuations for persons sixty years and older.

Figure 2.19: Distribution of widowed persons aged 15 years and older by age group

Source: Statistics South Africa

2.6.2 Sex

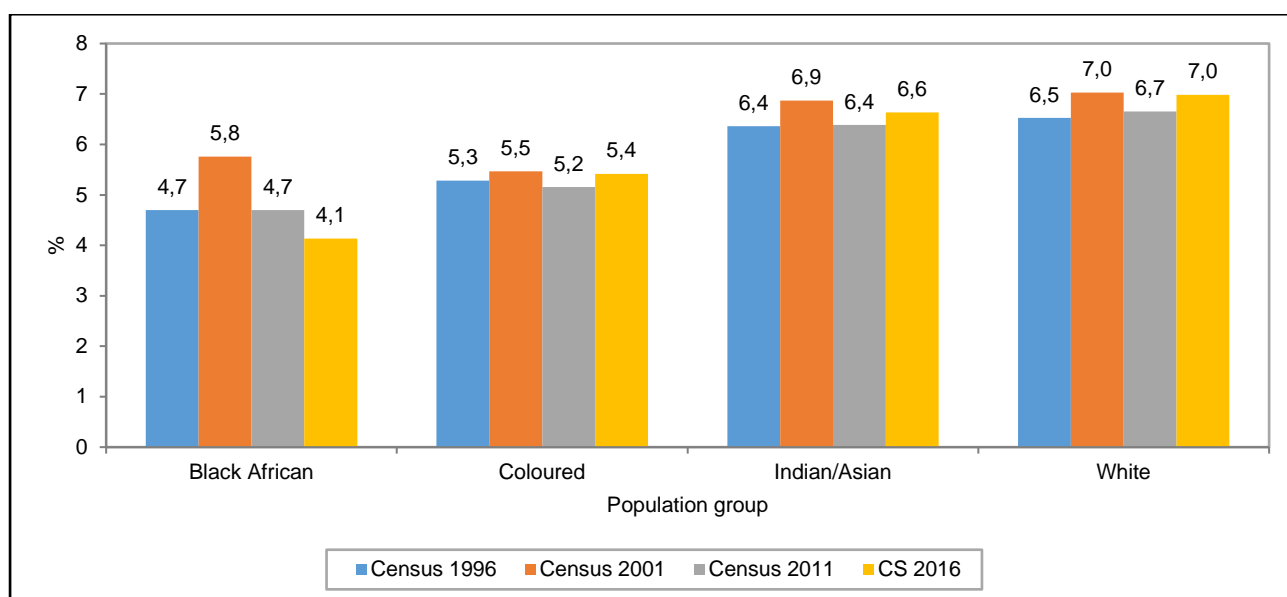
Widowhood is more prevalent amongst women because generally, women live longer than men. Life expectancy at birth for 2016 was estimated at 60,6 years for males and 66,1 years for females (Statistics South Africa, 2017). In Figure 2.20, it is shown that the proportion of widowed persons was highest among women. In 2001, almost ten percent of women aged 15 years and older were widowed as compared to two percent of men. There has been a decline in the number of widows (from 9,6% in 2001 to 7,1% in 2016), suggesting an increase in life expectancy for females in South Africa, as can be expected given the discussion in the introduction paragraph of this sub-section. Widowhood among males remains low (just under two percent over time), which could be attributed to them remarrying.

Figure 2.20: Proportion of widowed persons aged 15 years and older by sex

Source: Statistics South Africa

2.6.3 Population group

The white population presents higher proportions of the population that is widowed, as can be expected owing to higher median age relative to other population groups as well as longevity, as shown in Figure 2.21. This is in line with higher proportions of married persons linked to that population group. In 2016, 6,6% of Indians/Asians reported that they were widowed. Black Africans had the lowest proportion of the widowed population in 1996, 2011 and 2016, as can be expected. Some fluctuations in the proportion of widowed population across the population groups is observable over time.

Figure 2.21: Proportion of widowed persons aged 15 years and older by population group

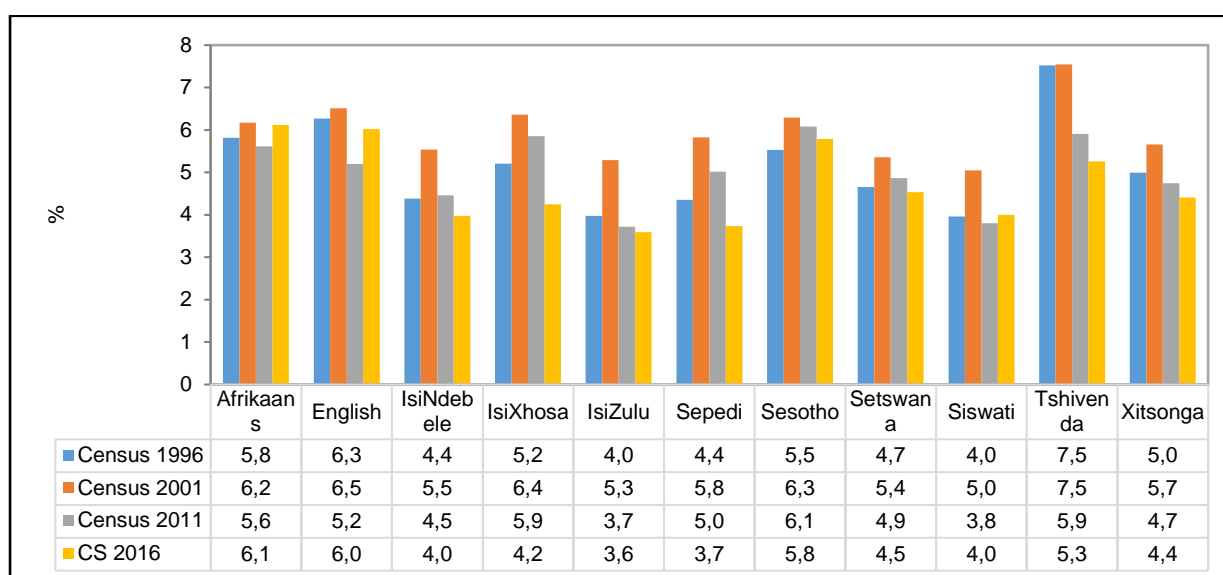
*Census 2011 data exclude "Other" population group

Source: Statistics South Africa

2.6.4 Language spoken in the household

Statistics on language spoken have been contested by many data users in recent years. One reason for this is the fact that traditional languages have been abandoned in the democratic era in favour of this particular language. Figure 2.22 shows that between 1996 and 2001, Tshivenda speakers had the highest levels of widowed persons. However, by 2016, this number has dropped significantly. IsiZulu and Sepedi speakers recorded the lowest proportions of widowed persons in 2016, while Tshivenda, Afrikaans and English speakers were higher.

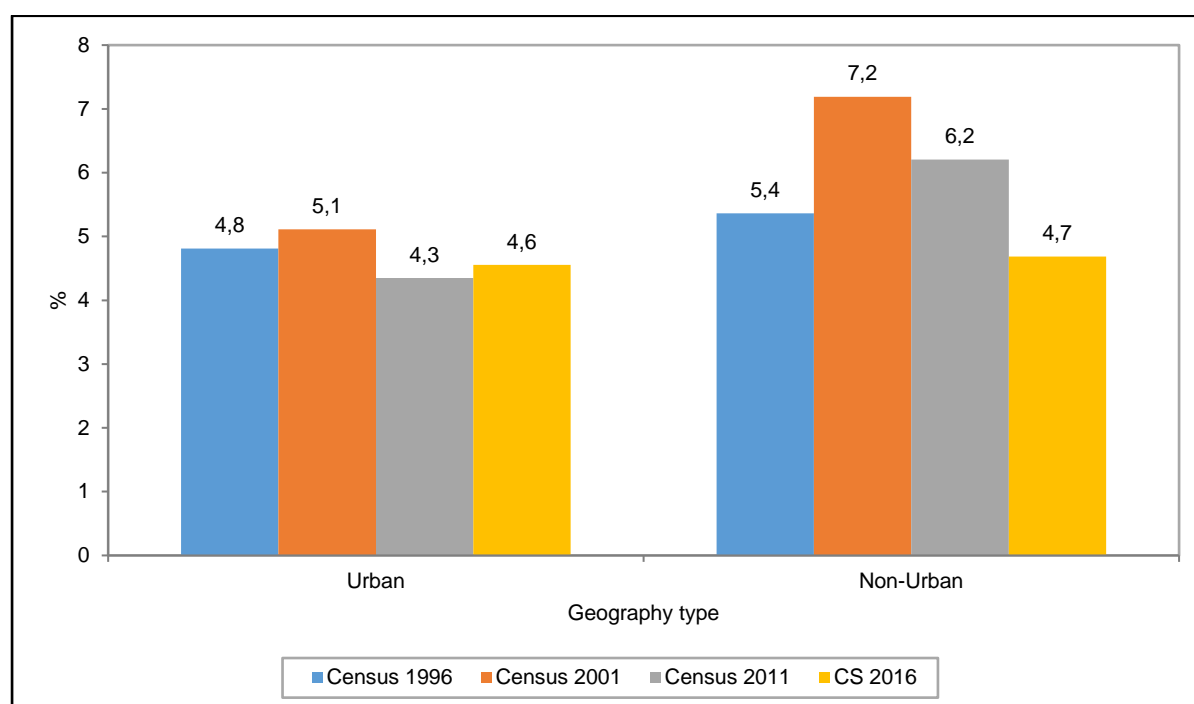
Figure 2.22: Proportion of widowed persons aged 15 years and older by language



Source: Statistics South Africa

2.6.5 Geography type

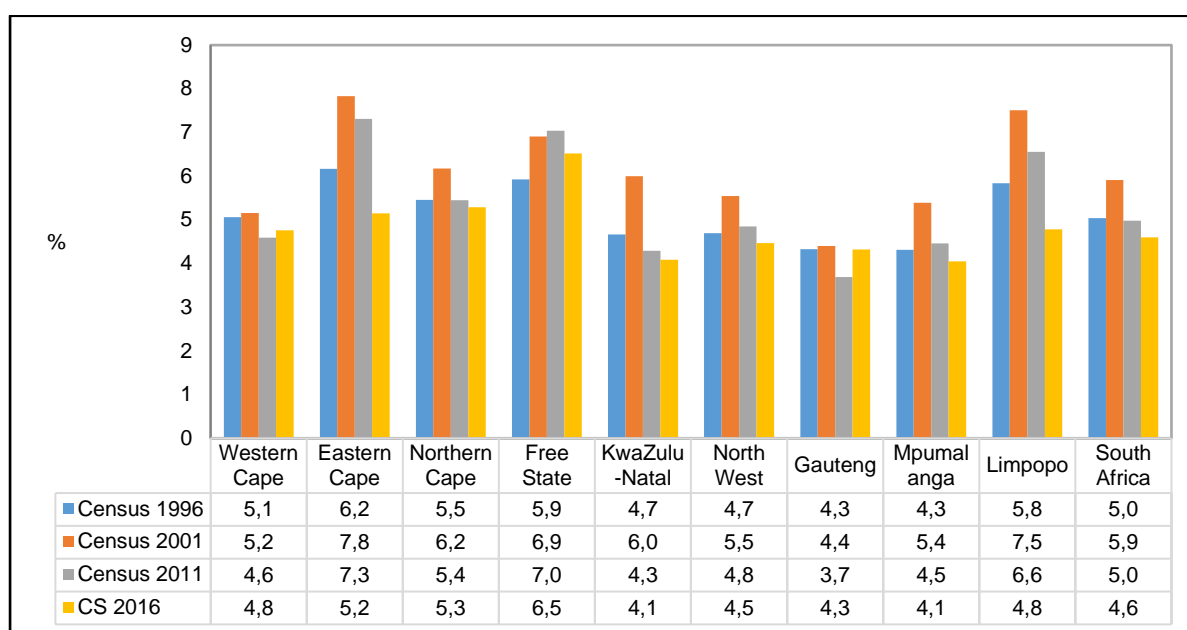
The findings in Figure 2.23 show that from 1996 to 2011, the widowed population is highest among non-urban dwellers, as can be expected. The proportion of widowed population in non-urban areas declined by two percent between 2011 and 2016. Non-urban areas may not have easy access to health services, which may lead to higher mortality rates as compared to urban areas.

Figure 2.23: Proportion of widowed persons aged 15 years and older by geography type

Source: Statistics South Africa

2.6.6 Province of enumeration

A provincial comparison of the widowed population is shown in Figure 2.24. Overall, the proportions of the widowed population has slightly decreased over time (from 5,0% in 1996 to 4,6% in 2016). The proportions of the widowed population were highest for Free State, Northern Cape, Limpopo and Eastern Cape over the nineteen-year period, whilst Mpumalanga, Gauteng and Western Cape had the lowest.

Figure 2.24: Proportion of widowed persons aged 15 years and older by province

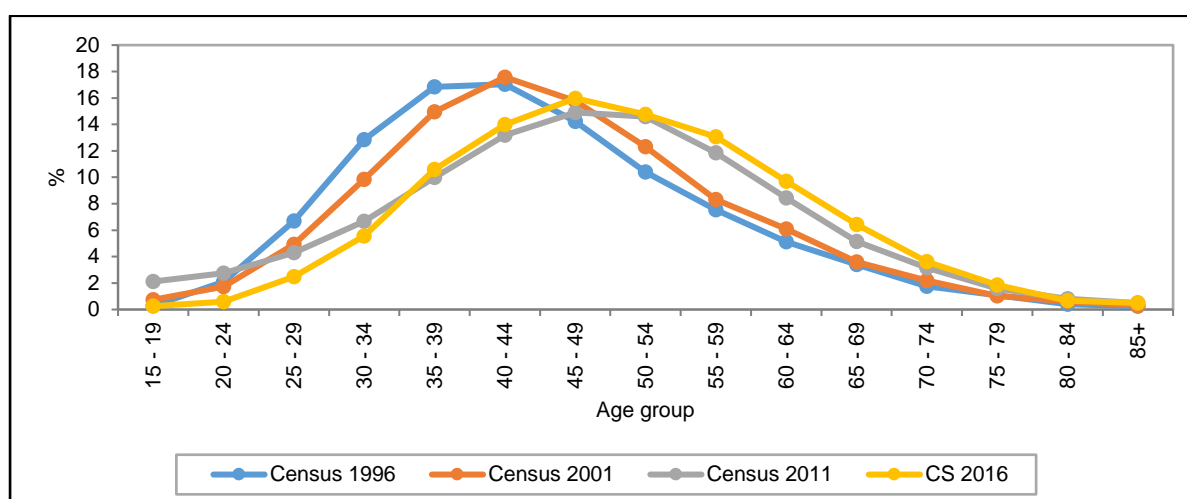
Source: Statistics South Africa

2.7 Trend analysis for persons who reported that they were divorced/separated

This section presents the proportions of the divorced or separated population aged 15 years and older by selected differentials. Although there were some fluctuations in the divorce data from the government registers between 2003 and 2010, it was noticeable that divorces reported show an increase from 2011 onwards (Statistics South Africa, 2015). Expected is that there should also be an upward trend presented in enumerated data.

2.7.1 Age group

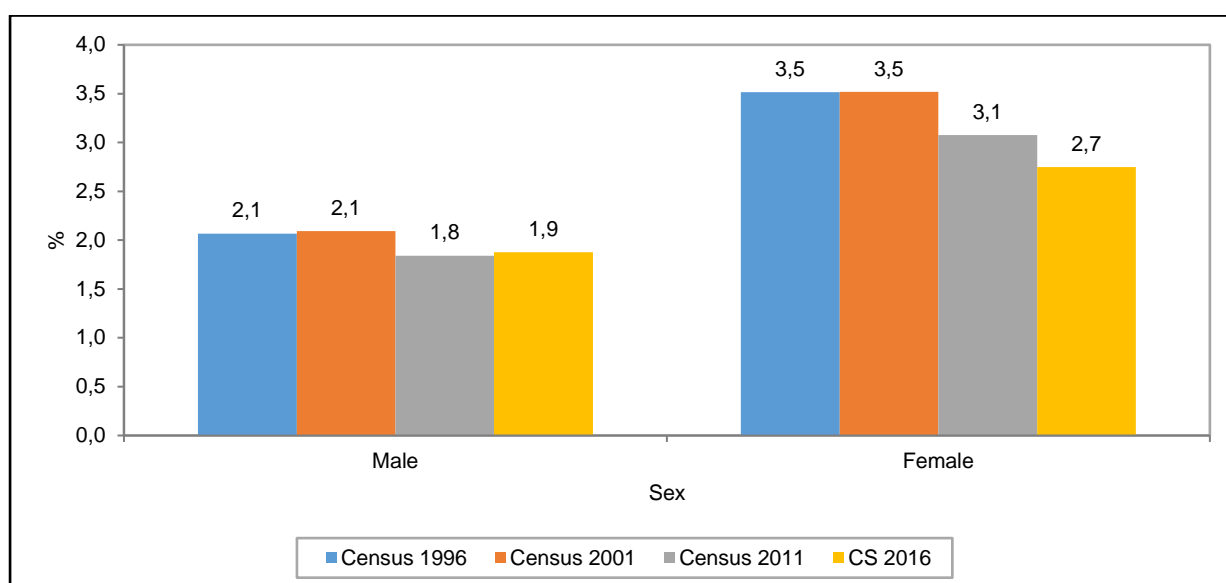
Divorces by age group follow a similar pattern over time. Results in Figure 2.25 show that the number of persons who reported that they were divorced or separated increases with age and starts to decline among persons aged 50 years and older. In 1996 and 2001, the number of divorces or separations started to decline among persons aged 40–44 years and older, whilst in 2011 and 2016, the decline starts at age 45–49 years.

Figure 2.25: Distribution of divorced/separated persons aged 15 years and older by age group

Source: Statistics South Africa

2.7.2 Sex

The findings presented in Figure 2.26 show that the female population recorded higher proportions of divorced or separated persons as compared to those for males, who are more likely to remarry than female divorcees. In 2016, divorced or separated females constituted 2,7% of the female population aged 15 years and older as compared to 1,9% for males. The proportions of divorced or separated persons are decreasing in line with the observed decline in the number of marriages in South Africa.

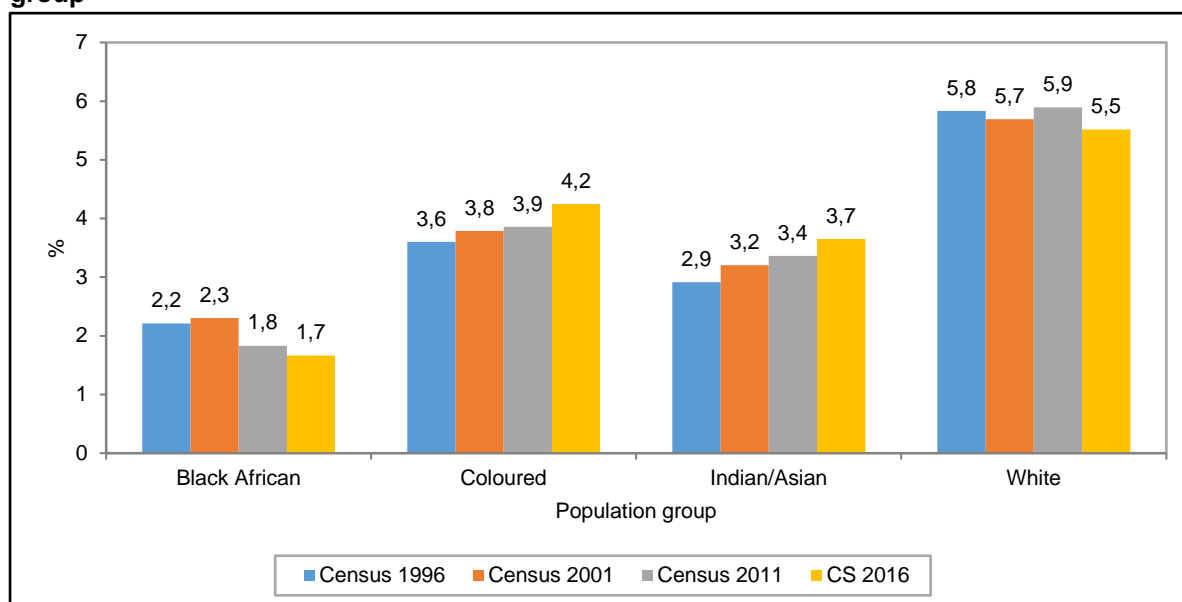
Figure 2.26: Proportion of divorced/separated persons aged 15 years and older by sex

Source: Statistics South Africa

2.7.3 Population group

As can be seen in Figure 2.27, it is to be expected that whites would have the higher proportions of divorced or separated persons since they are more likely to be married compared to other population groups. Figure 2.27 shows that the proportion of divorced or separated persons has slightly dropped between 2011 and 2016 for black Africans and whites, whereas that of the coloured and Indian/Asian populations has increased over the same period.

Figure 2.27: Proportion of divorced/separated persons aged 15 years and older by population group

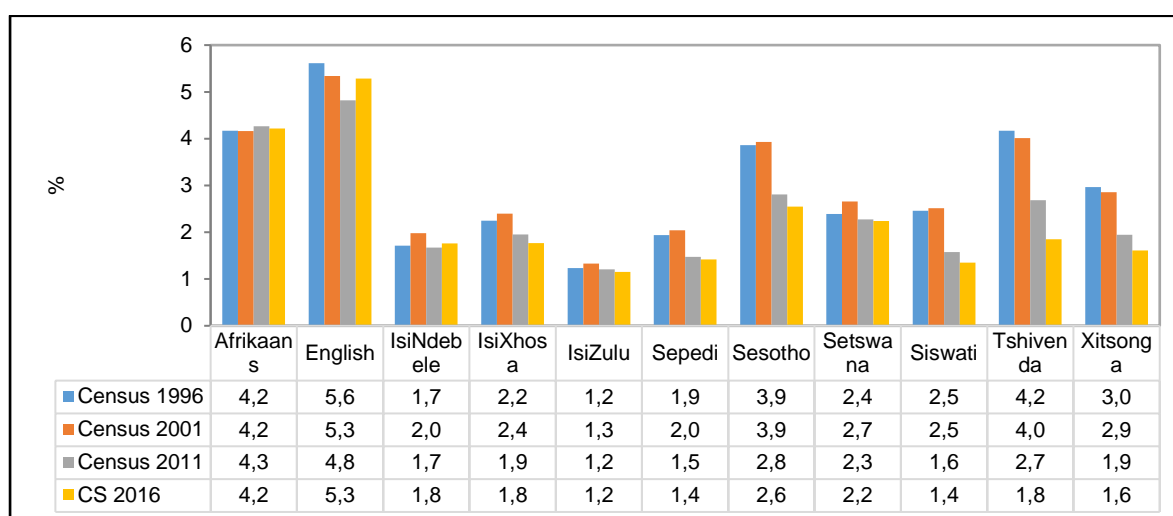


*Census 2011 data exclude "Other" population group

Source: Statistics South Africa

2.7.4 Language spoken in the household

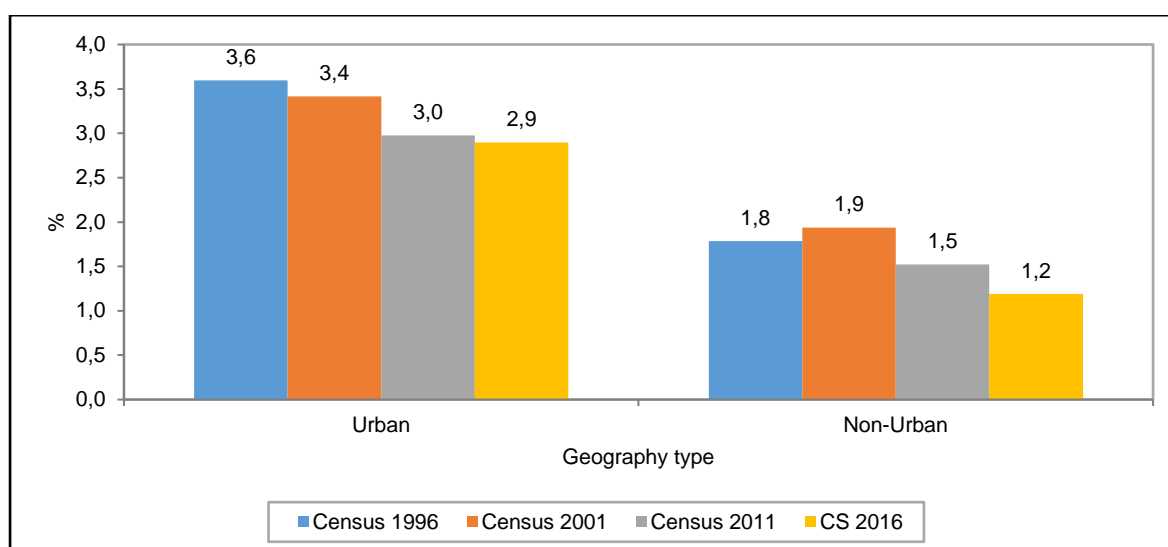
Figure 2.28 shows that the number of divorces or separation were higher among English and Afrikaans speakers. The number of divorces or separations had declined among Tshivenda speakers (from 4,2% in 1996 to 1,8% in 2016). The number of divorces or separations among Afrikaans and Zulu speakers has remained more or less constant over time.

Figure 2.28: Proportion of divorced/separated persons aged 15 years and older by language

Source: Statistics South Africa

2.7.5 Geography type

Figure 2.29 shows that the proportions of divorced or separated persons were higher in urban areas than in non-urban areas, as can be expected. However, proportions of divorces or separations reflect a slight declining trend in both urban and non-urban areas. Urban dwellers constituted 2,9% of the population that was divorced in 2016. Divorces or separations declined by 0,6 percentage points in non-urban areas over the nineteen-year period.

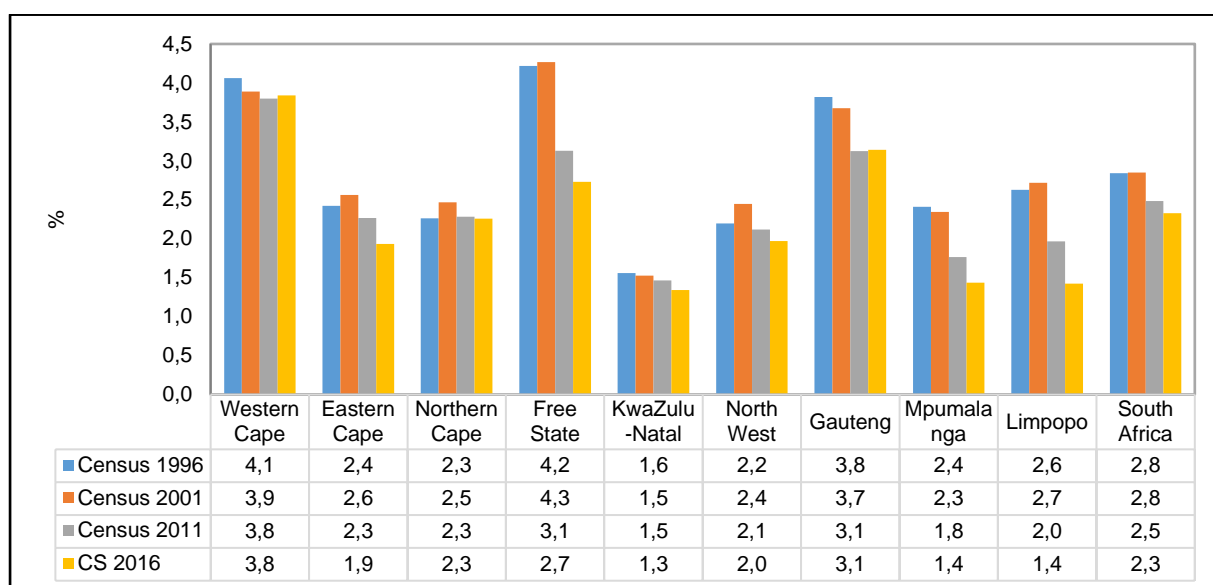
Figure 2.29: Proportion of divorced/separated persons aged 15 years and older by geography type

Source: Statistics South Africa

2.7.6 Province of enumeration

Results on proportions of persons who reported that they were either divorced or separated shown in Figure 2.30 presents a downward trend for all provinces over time. Western Cape, Free State and Gauteng had the highest proportions of divorces or separations in South Africa. These numbers are also higher than the national average, which ranged between 2,8 % and 2,3% over the nineteen-year period. KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo were among the provinces with the lowest divorce or separation proportions for the population aged 15 years and older.

Figure 2.30: Proportion of divorced/separated persons aged 15 years and older by province



Source: Statistics South Africa

2.8 Conclusion

The proportions of “never married” men and women continue to increase over time, with the rate of increase among men faster than that for women. The number of “never married” women increased significantly between 2011 and 2016. This may be due to the efforts by government to provide opportunities for women in education and employment. In terms of population groups, black Africans and coloureds are more likely to be “never married” than other population groups. KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga recorded the highest proportions of “never married” persons in 2016.

Age at marriage peaked at age group 35–39 in both 1996 and 2001, but the peak shifted to age group 40–44 in 2011 and 2016. As far as the sex of those who were married is concerned, the data indicate that throughout the years, more males than females were married, which may be attributed to the fact that women tend not to remarry once widowed or divorced. The white and Indian/Asian population groups recorded the highest proportions of married couples compared to the black African and coloured population groups. Western Cape and Gauteng had the highest proportions of married couples in 2016.

Cohabitation is more common for couples under the age of 30 and is largely preferred by males rather than females. Cohabitation is more prevalent in urban areas than in non-urban areas. In 2016, North West reported the highest prevalence of cohabitation, followed by Northern Cape and Gauteng. The province with the smallest prevalence of cohabitation in 2016 was Eastern Cape.

Widowhood is more prevalent among women than among men. This is attributable to the fact that women tend to live longer than men and are more likely than men not to remarry. The white population group and the Indian/Asian population group recorded a higher proportion of widows than other population groups. The provinces that recorded the highest proportion of widows are Free State, Northern Cape and Eastern Cape.

Divorces peaked at age group 35–39 in 1996. For 2001, the largest number of divorces occurred among age group 40–44, and in 2011 and 2016, the 45–49 year age group recorded the largest number of divorces. The prevalence of divorces is more common in urban areas and among the white population group.

CHAPTER 3: LEVELS AND MEASURES OF NUPTIALITY

3.1. Introduction

Nuptiality refers to marriage as a demographic phenomenon, including the rate at which it occurs, the characteristics of persons united in marriage, and the dissolution of such unions through separation, divorce, widowhood and annulment (Haupt, et al., 2011). This chapter provides an analysis of nuptiality levels using administrative data through crude and general rates; it further utilises all three time series Census data sets as well as the CS 2016 data set for the computation of SMAM.

3.2. Measures of nuptiality

Most sections of this report analysed nuptiality based on information collected from censuses and community survey. This section however, analysis data on registered marriages, unions and divorces from the DHA. The marriages in this regard are civil marriages, customary marriages and civil unions, which are all recognised in terms of South African law.² Divorces refers to those that declared by courts in 2016 and are from registered marriages data of different years. Despite the datasets that were collected in 2016 for marriages and divorces, it should be noted that the datasets are not related or linked in either way. Therefore, the computation of marriage and divorce rates is based on the 2016 mid-year population rather than the community survey.

In total, Table 3.1 shows that 144 821 registered marriages in South Africa were documented in 2016, which is lower when compared to the 173 215 marriages in 2011. The number of civil and customary marriages dropped by 0,3% and 0,2% in 2016, respectively, while civil unions increased by 0,4% over the same period.

Table 3.1: Distribution of registered marriages by marriage type

Type of marriage	Number		Percentage	
	2011	2016	2011	2016
Civil marriage	167 264	139 512	96,6	96,3
Civil union	867	1 331	0,5	0,9
Customary marriage	5 084	3 978	2,9	2,7
Total marriages	173 215	144 821	100,0	100,0

Source: Statistics South Africa

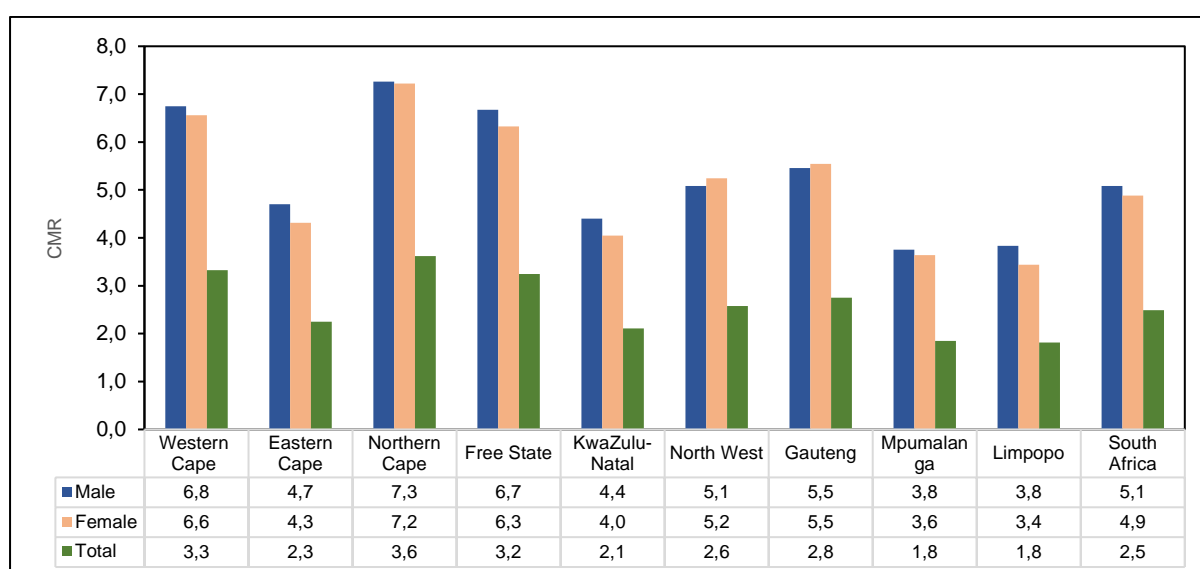
3.2.1 Crude and general marriage rate

Figure 3.1 shows the crude marriage rate (CMR) of South Africa by province and sex. The CMR measures the number of marriages for every 1 000 persons in the population. It should be noted that

²Act No. 25 of 1961, Act No. 120 of 1998 and Act No. 17 of 2006

the CMR does not take into account the age limit or marital status of each person in the population. The overall results show that in 2016, 2,5 marriages occurred for every 1 000 persons among the mid-year population of South Africa. The results by province further show that fewer marriages were reported in Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces (each with 1,8 marriages for every 1 000 persons in their mid-year populations), followed by Eastern Cape (2,3) and KwaZulu-Natal (2,1). Therefore, the crude marriage rate of each of these provinces was lower as compared to that of South Africa. The sex variation shows that 5,1 marriages occurred for every 1 000 males in a mid-year population of males as compared to 4,9 marriages that occurred for every 1 000 females in a mid-year population of females in South Africa. The crude marriage rate of females was slightly higher than that of males in North West at 5,2 and 5,1, respectively, while that of Gauteng was similar for both males and females at 5,5 per 1 000 males or females in their mid-year population in the province.

Figure 3.1: Distribution of population by province, sex and crude marriage rate

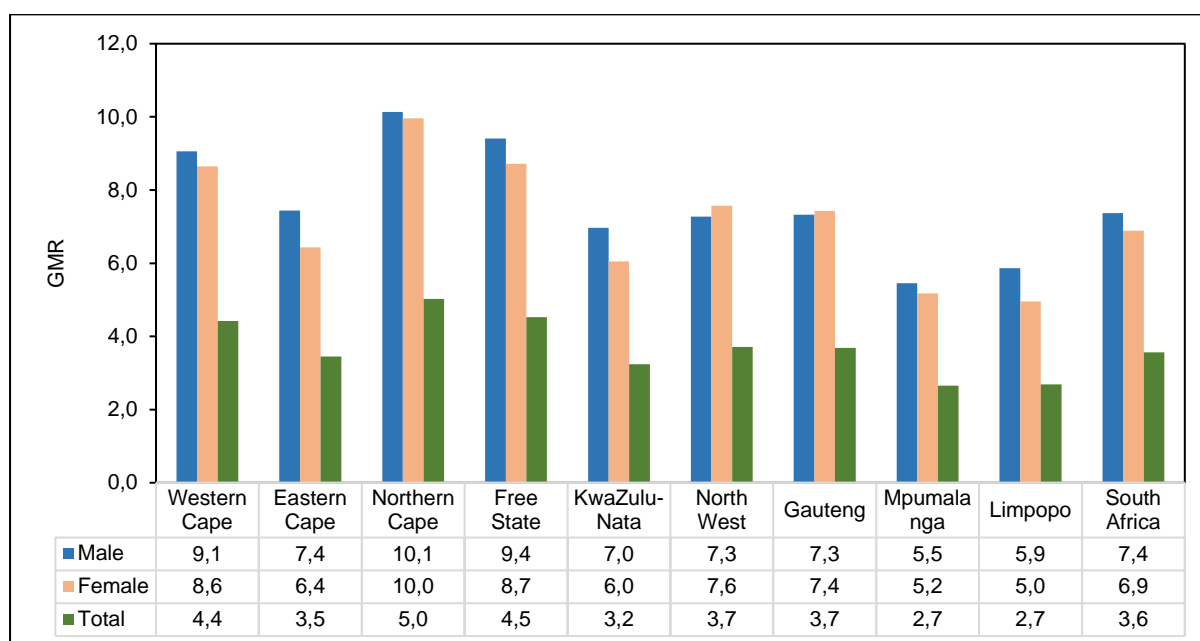


Source: Statistics South Africa

3.2.2 General marriage rate

The general marriage rate (GMR) of South Africa in 2016 was 3,6 marriages per 1 000 mid-year population aged 15 years and older. The GMR measures the rate at which marriages occurred in a year per 1 000 persons among a population aged 15 years and older. In general, the GMR in Figure 3.2 shows a similar pattern to that of CMR in Figure 3.1. The value of GMR by province shows that more marriages were reported across all provinces except Mpumalanga, Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape, in which each have a GMR lower than that of South Africa. Still with the exception of North West Province and Gauteng Province males have higher GMR compared to females in all other provinces. The Northern Cape Province had a higher GMR for both males and females compared to other provinces with about 10 marriages occurred per 1 000 population aged 15 years and older in each sex. Northern Cape Province was then followed by the Free State Province with 9.4 marriages for males and 8.7 marriages for females per 1000 population aged 15 years and older.

Figure 3.2: Distribution of population aged 15 years and older by province, sex and general marriage rate

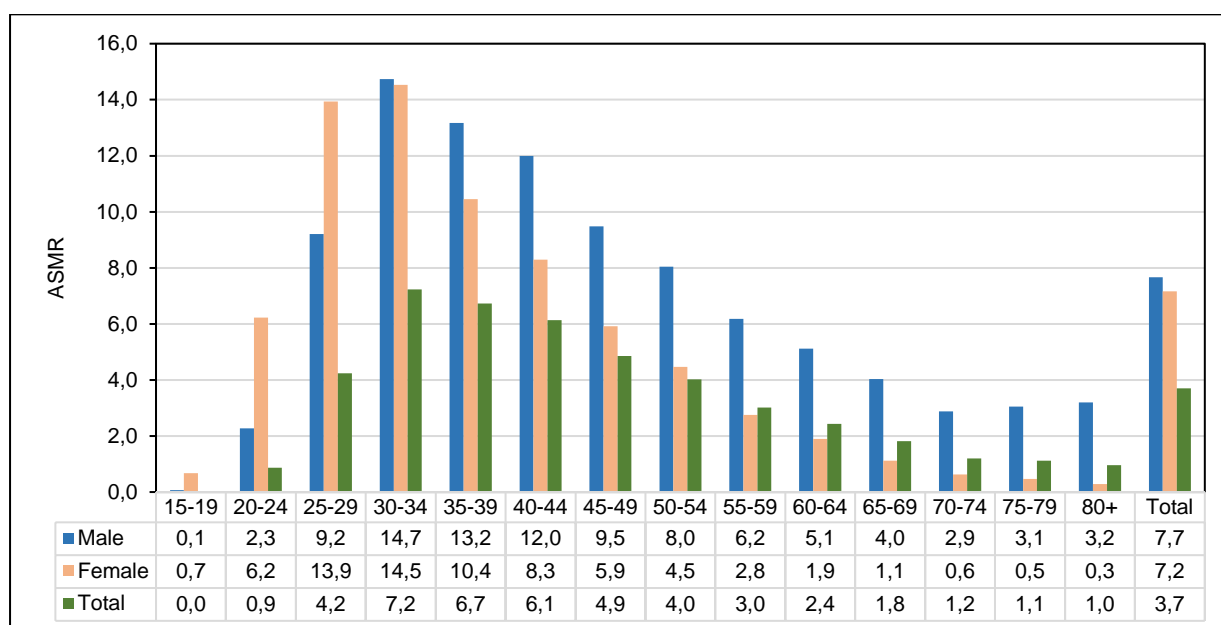


Source: Statistics South Africa

3.2.3 Age-specific marriage rate

Figure 3.3 below shows the age-specific marriage rate (ASMR) for South Africa in 2016 by sex and age group. The ASMR measures the number of marriages per 1 000 males or females in a particular age group. It is interesting to note that female marriages start earlier than that of females. The female ASMR is higher from the age of 15-29 years compared to that of males. However, the ASMR pattern changes as male peaks from the age of 30 years and above and remains higher for males throughout the older years compared to females. For both sexes ASMR peaked at age group 30–34 years old, with ASMR fairly distributed at 14,1 and 14,0 per 1 000 marriages, respectively. Lastly, the results show that ASMR for both males and females increases with age and starts to decline once a person reaches the age of 35 years and older.

Figure 3.3: Distribution of population aged 15 years and older by sex and age-specific marriage rate



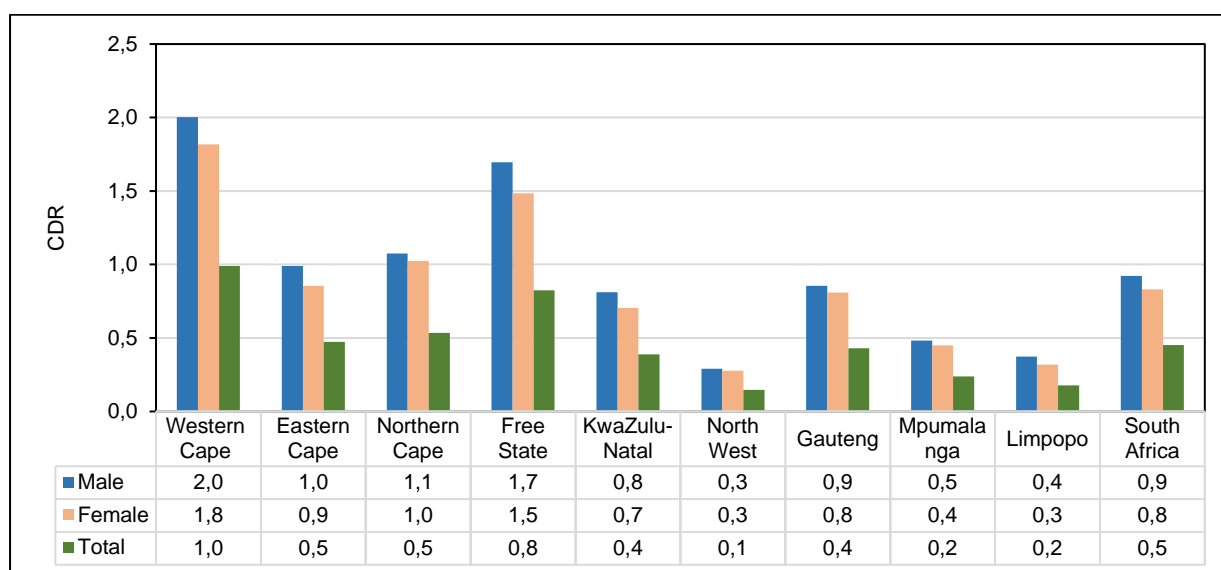
Source: Statistics South Africa

3.2.4 Crude divorce rate

The crude divorce rate (CDR) is the indicator that shows the rate at which divorces occur per 1 000 persons in mid-year population. It is crude since its computation considers every person in the whole population regardless of age and marital status. The main problem with the CMR is that it does not reveal the number of marriages that end up in divorces (Preston & McDonald, 1979).

According to the 2016 Stats SA report on marriages and divorces, there were 25 326 divorces in South Africa (Statistics South Africa, 2018). The results in Figure 3.4 show that the crude divorce rate of South Africa was 0,5 per 1 000 persons in mid-year population. The provincial variation indicates higher crude divorce rates for Western Cape (1,0) and Free State (0,8) as compared to those of other provinces. Therefore, with regard to sex, the crude divorce rate is higher among males as compared to females. This pattern is observed across all provinces except North West, in which both males and females have the same crude divorce rate of 0,3 divorces per 1 000 persons in mid-year population of both males and females altogether.

Figure 3.4: Distribution of population by province, sex and crude divorce rate



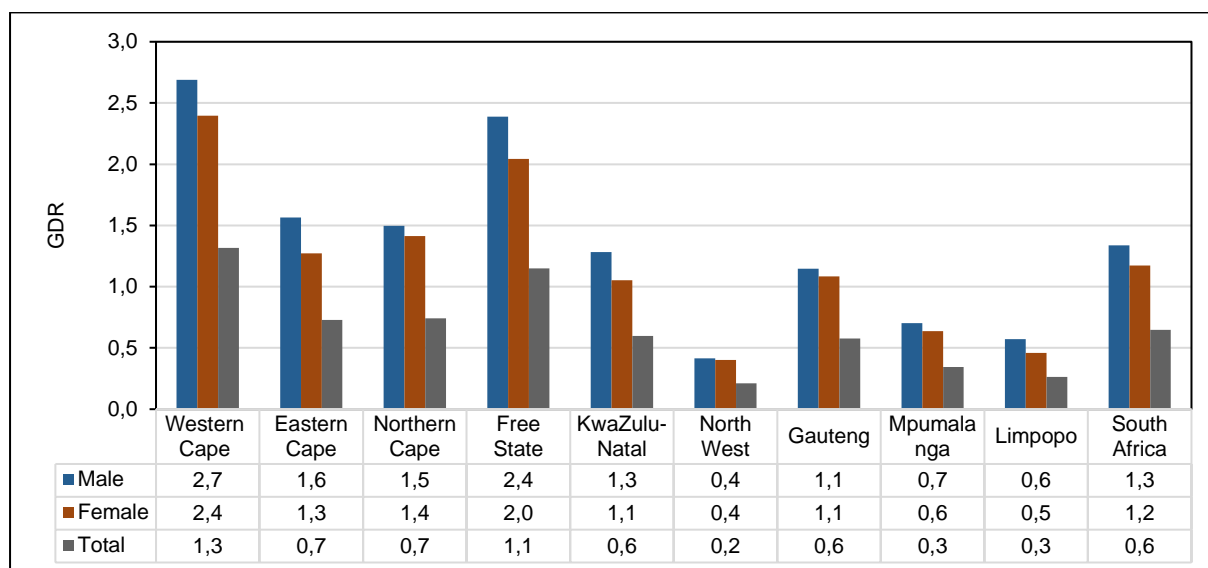
Source: Statistics South Africa

3.2.5 General divorce rate

The general divorce rate (GDR) measures the number of divorces per 1 000 persons in the population aged 15 years and older. Unlike the CDR, this does not include children who are younger than 15 years of age in its computation; however, the main problem with this indicator is that it includes persons who have never been married, those who are divorced as well as those who have been widowed, even though these persons (never been married or widowed) are not at risk of being divorced.

The results in Figure 3.5 shows that the GDR of South Africa in 2016 was 0,6 divorces per 1 000 persons in mid-year population aged 15 years and older. The provincial variation shows that the general divorce rate was higher in Western Cape (1,3 per 1000), followed by Free State (1,1 per 1000). The value of this rate also differs by sex. In South Africa, there was about 1,3 divorces per 1 000 males in mid-year population of males aged 15 years and older as compared to 1,2 divorces per 1 000 females in mid-year population of females aged 15 years and older. Generally, the results show that more divorces occurred at a higher rate among males compared to females. This is observed across all provinces except Gauteng and North West, where the number of divorces was equally distributed for both males and females.

Figure 3.5: Distribution of population aged 15 years and older by province, sex and general divorce rate

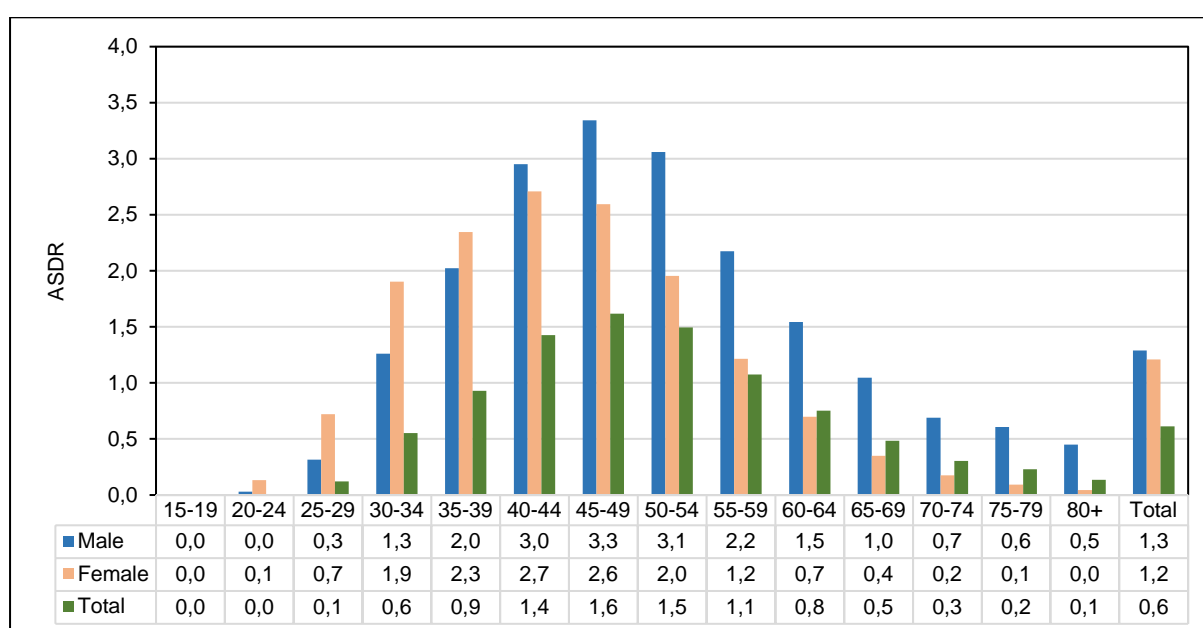


Source: Statistics South Africa

3.2.6 Age-specific divorce rate

Figure 3.6 shows the age-specific divorce rate (ASDR) by sex in South Africa. The computation of this indicator is similar to that of the GDR, although this is more age specific. Generally, the results show that the majority of divorces occurred among males as compared to females. Many divorces occurred among both males and females between the ages of 40 and 54 years. Divorce among males peaked at ages 45–49 with 3,3 divorces observed per 1 000 males in the mid-year population of males of the same cohort, while the majority of divorces among females occurred at ages 40–44 with 2,7 divorces per 1 000 females in the mid-year population of females of the same age group.

Figure 3.6: Distribution of population aged 15 years and older by sex and age-specific divorce rate



Source: Statistics South Africa

3.3 SMAM by selected differentials

SMAM is one of the indices used in describing and analysing marital behaviour in a given society. This is because population censuses and sample surveys do not have direct questions on age at first marriage. Consequently, to estimate the mean age at marriage, indirect methods have to be applied using data on marital status and age. SMAM, originally developed by Hajnal, 1953a), is the most commonly used measure of mean age at marriage; it is defined as a measure of the average number of years spent by a cohort of males or females among those who eventually marry before turning 50 years. Some studies have shown that age at first marriage in South Africa has been gradually increasing over the years; such increases are largely attributed to the rapid urbanisation and educational development in the country (Palamuleni & Palamuleni, 2011).

An examination of age at first marriage of the different subgroups sheds some light on variations in years lived in bachelorhood and spinsterhood, and how delays in marriage affect other

sociodemographic aspects of life such as the fertility of a particular group. A variety of social and economic conditions is known to either encourage or discourage spending more time in celibacy (Weeks, 2008). For instance, in many African societies, entry into union used to be a custom highly regarded, and in most cases it was inevitable, making bachelorhood and spinsterhood exceptional and inexcusable (Locoh, 1988).

In such circumstances, society expectations had an influence on age at entry into union/marriage for both males and females. Sex variations in age at marriage favour females marrying earlier compared to their male counterparts. Such gender differences were partly attributed to marriage customs such as bride wealth, which is a custom that many African ethnic groups embrace and to date, continue to value greatly, which more often than not result in a delay in marriage as African men strive to meet this obligation. In turn, the delay in a male's entry into union/marriage contributed to wide gaps in age differences between spouses, making Africa one of the world's regions with the highest age difference compared to other regions (Locoh, 1988). However, within African sub regions, entry into union/marriage and spouse age differences differ greatly and continue to evolve (Garenne, et al., 2011). Research has shown that Southern African countries and South Africa in particular are highly characterised by late marriages, low marriage rates and exceptional proportion of persons who never marry (Garenne, et al., 2011). This subsection examines SMAM by selected sociodemographic differentials in South Africa from the Census 1996, 2001, 2011 and CS 2016.

3.3.1 SMAM by sex at national level

SMAM has always tended to be higher for males than females. Overall, the latest data (2016) show that SMAM was 32,5 years for males and 29,5 years for females. Notwithstanding, data in South Africa show that SMAM has increased for both sexes in the last three decades. For males, it increased from 30,1 years to 32,5 years between 1996 and 2016, while for females it increased from 27,7 years to 29,5 years over the same period (see Table 3.2). Furthermore, the level of increase has been higher among males than among females, leading to an increase in the gap in SMAM between males and females in 2016 (3 years) compared to 1996 (2,4 years). This suggests that over time, men in South Africa are marrying women much younger than what they are.

3.3.2 SMAM by sex and population group

Table 3.2 shows the SMAM for South Africa by sex and population group for the 1996, 2001 and 2011 censuses and the 2016 Community Survey. Because of our past of institutionalised racial segregation as a country, population group remains one of the key demographic determinants in South Africa. Udjo (2001) reported a very late mean age at marriage among black Africans and coloureds compared to a moderately high one among whites and Indians.

Overall, the results showed increasing SMAM for male in all the four population groups. The female profile showed an upward trend in SMAM for the Indian/Asian and white population groups, while that of the black African and coloured population groups almost remained unchanged between 1996 and

2011, and then significantly increased in 2016. Furthermore, Table 3.2 shows that among the different population groups, SMAM for black African males remained the highest at 32,9 years in 2016, and that it has gradually increased since 1996. Similarly, the SMAM for coloured males increased from 28 years in 1996 to 31 years in 2016, while that of their white counterparts remained the lowest at 28,2 years in 2016 compared to 26,6 years two decades earlier. A similar trend is seen among the females; SMAM among black African females gradually increased from 28,3 years in 1996 while remaining nearly unchanged in 2001 (28,6 years) and 2011 (28,3 years) and finally increasing to 29,6 years in 2016. SMAM for females from other population groups showed a similar trajectory over the same period with that of white females remaining lowest at 25,3 years in 2016, showing a single year increase since 1996.

Table 3.2: SMAM by sex and population group

Population group	Census 1996		Census 2001		Census 2011		CS 2016	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Black African	30,9	28,3	31,6	28,6	31,8	28,3	32,9	29,6
Coloured	28,0	27,0	28,9	27,2	29,6	27,3	31,0	28,7
Indian/Asian	26,6	23,4	27,5	24,4	28,5	25,4	30,4	27,2
White	26,6	24,3	27,3	25,0	27,5	25,1	28,2	25,3
South Africa	30,1	27,7	30,9	28,1	31,2	28,0	32,5	29,5

Source: Statistics South Africa

3.3.3 SMAM by sex and educational attainment

Research has shown that there is a positive relationship between marriage delay and socioeconomic opportunities (Chamratrithirong, 1980; Nobles & Buittenheim, 2008). Among the socioeconomic opportunities is educational attainment. The differentials in SMAM due to educational attainment among males and females are shown in Table 3.3. The results show that persons with no formal education, or with a primary and/or secondary education had a higher SMAM for males compared to those with a tertiary education. This pattern of delayed marriage among these subgroups is quite unusual and is not consistent with various existing theoretical explanations and some findings elsewhere (Chamratrithirong, 1980) where it was found that the effect of education on age at marriage was greatest at the highest levels of educational attainment. In general, data show that SMAM increased with education; SMAM was the lowest among males with a higher education at 28,3 and 30,9 years in 1996 and 2016, respectively. Furthermore, female SMAM was the lowest among those with higher education in 1996 (26,8 years) and those with completed primary in 2016 (27,4 years). This suggests that on average, males with a post-secondary qualification tended to marry at a younger age while the opposite is true for their female counterparts.

Furthermore, regarding the difference in age between the sexes at the time of their first marriage, all persons registered an increase, irrespective of their educational attainment level. However, persons with higher levels of education spent fewer years in bachelorhood, while those with completed primary

or lower levels of education spent fewer years in spinsterhood compared to those with other levels of education in 2016.

Table 3.3: SMAM by sex and educational attainment

Educational attainment	Census 1996		Census 2001		Census 2011		CS 2016	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
No schooling	30,5	26,9	31,5	27,3	31,0	26,3	32,5	28,6
Some primary	30,7	27,1	31,3	27,1	31,9	26,5	33,2	27,6
Completed primary	30,3	27,2	30,9	27,0	31,3	26,1	32,5	27,4
Some secondary	30,4	28,1	31,2	28,3	31,6	27,9	33,0	29,1
Completed secondary	30,1	28,6	31,1	29,7	31,7	29,7	33,0	30,6
Higher	28,3	26,8	29,8	28,2	30,2	27,8	30,9	28,9
South Africa	30,1	27,7	30,9	28,1	31,2	28,0	32,5	29,5

Source: Statistics South Africa

3.3.4 SMAM by sex and geography type

Figure 3.7 shows that the SMAM for non-urban areas has been always higher than that of urban areas in respect of both males and females. In 1996, the SMAM for males in urban areas was 29,7 years compared to 30,6 years in non-urban areas, indicating an urban–non-urban difference of 0,9 years. Notwithstanding, the urban–non-urban difference had more than doubled by 2016 (2 years), during which time the SMAM for males had risen to 32 years in urban areas and 34 years in non-urban areas. A similar trend is observed among females, where the SMAM was 28,8 years in urban areas and 30,9 years in non-urban areas in 2016, showing a gap of 2,1 years.

Figure 3.7: SMAM by sex and geography type



Source: Statistics South Africa

3.3.5 SMAM by sex and province of enumeration

Table 3.4 shows the SMAM at provincial and national level. Generally, the SMAM has always tended to be higher for males than females. As such, the national profile showed that in 2016, the SMAM was 32,5 years for males and 29,5 years for females. Notwithstanding, data in South Africa show that the SMAM has increased for both sexes in the last three decades; for males, it increased from 30,1 years to 32,5 years between 1996 and 2016, while for females it increased from 27,7 years to 29,5 years over the same period. Furthermore, the level of increase has been higher amongst males than amongst females, leading to an bigger increase in the gap in SMAM between males and females in 2016 (3 years) compared to 1996 (2,4 years). This suggests that over time, men in South Africa are marrying women much younger than what they are, and confirms what research elsewhere has shown, namely that females marry earlier when compared to males. Results also show that generally, both South African men and women tend to marry late (Garenne, et al., 2011; Palamuleni, 2010).

Provincial variations in the SMAM were apparent in all the censuses/surveys. Results indicate that the SMAM has gradually increased in all the provinces in the two decades between 1996 and 2016 for both

sexes. In 2016, the SMAM remained the highest Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, with an average of 35 and 31 years for males and females, respectively. This figure was also higher than the national average of 33 years (males) and 30 years (females). For the same period, Western Cape and Gauteng, the two most urbanised provinces in the country, had the lowest SMAM at an average of 31 and 28 years for males and females, respectively.

Table 3.4: SMAM by sex and province

Province	Census 1996		Census 2001		Census 2011		CS 2016	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Western Cape	28,8	27,1	29,5	27,4	29,7	27,1	31,1	28,5
Eastern Cape	31,8	28,0	32,7	28,7	32,6	29,0	34,5	30,8
Northern Cape	29,6	27,8	30,5	28,1	31,0	28,3	31,4	29,1
Free State	28,0	26,1	29,4	26,9	30,3	27,3	31,5	28,8
KwaZulu-Natal	31,9	29,7	32,5	30,2	33,2	30,6	34,8	32,0
North West	30,3	28,2	31,5	28,7	31,5	28,3	32,2	29,3
Gauteng	29,4	26,8	30,2	26,9	30,2	25,9	31,4	27,9
Mpumalanga	29,7	27,3	30,9	27,9	31,9	28,3	32,5	29,6
Limpopo	30,0	26,7	30,9	27,8	31,8	28,9	32,5	29,1
South Africa	30,0	27,7	30,9	28,1	31,2	28,0	32,5	29,5

Source: Statistics South Africa

3.3.6 SMAM for women aged 15–50 years by total children ever born

Table 3.5 shows the SMAM for South African females aged between 15 and 50 years by total children ever born for the years 1996–2016. There is a universal consensus among population scientists that age at marriage greatly influences fertility, especially in conservative societies where childbearing is preceded by marriage (Nag & Singhal, P., 2013). Consequently, (Bongaarts, 1982) included age at marriage as one of the four proximate determinants of fertility. Nevertheless, young South African women have one of the highest prevalence of premarital fertility in the world. (Nzimande, 2005) reported that premarital fertility was around 58% in South Africa compared to 0,6% in Ethiopia.

Table 3.5: SMAM for females aged 15–50 years by children ever born

Total children ever born	Census 1996	Census 2001	Census 2011	CS 2016
1	27,3	27,5	27,8	28,9
2	24,2	24,1	24,6	25,7
3	22,8	22,3	23,3	24,1
4	22,2	21,7	23,7	24,1
5+	22,7	22,8	20,4	19,9
South Africa	25,8	26,0	26,4	27,9

Source: Statistics South Africa

The results indicate that the mean age at marriage for females who have ever given birth increased from 25,8 years in 1996 to 27,9 years in 2016. Furthermore, these results show that total children ever born declined as age at marriage increased, which suggests an inverse relationship between age at marriage and fertility. Simply put, this suggests that women who marry at a later age tend to have fewer babies.

3.4 Conclusion

This chapter profiled the levels and measures of nuptiality in South Africa. In 2016, the CMR of South Africa was at 2,5 marriages per 1 000 persons in a mid-year population. The provincial variations showed that Limpopo and Mpumalanga were the only two provinces that both recorded a CRM of 1,8 marriages, which was the lowest as compared to the CMR of other provinces in the country. Generally, with regard to sex, the CMR of males was higher than that of females, and this phenomenon was observed across almost all provinces except North West and Gauteng. The CMR for females in North West was higher than that of males, while in Gauteng the distribution was similar for both sexes. Furthermore, the overall GMR was at 3,6 marriages per 1 000 persons aged 15 years and older in a mid-year population. The provincial results displayed a lower GMR for Mpumalanga and Limpopo (each with 2,7 marriages per 1 000 persons aged 15 years and older), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (3,2) and Eastern Cape (3,5). The comparison by sex showed a higher GMR for males across nearly all provinces except North West and Gauteng, with females having a higher GMR of 7,6 and 7,4 respectively, as compared to their male counterparts. The ASMR was at 3,7 marriages per 1 000 persons aged 15 years and older in a mid-year population. This was higher for age groups 25–29 and 50–54, and lower for age groups below 25 years and age groups over 55 years. Furthermore, the peak for both males and females was at age group 30–34.

Regarding divorce, the CDR was higher in both Western Cape and Free State. Sex disparities showed that more divorces took place among males as compared to females. This was apparent across all provinces except North West, where the number of divorces was more or less equal for both sexes. The GDR showed a similar pattern, and more divorces were recorded in Western Cape and Free State

than in any other province. The number of divorces among males was higher as compared to females, except for Gauteng and North West. Lastly, the ASDR showed that the majority of divorces occurred among males as compared to females. The number of divorces for males peaked at age group 45–49, while among females the number of divorces peaked at age group 40–44.

The findings regarding the SMAM showed that over time (1996–2016), there was an upward trend for both males and females, although the gap in the SMAM between males and females widened to 3 years in 2016 as compared to 2,4 years in 1996. The variation by population group also indicated an upward trend in the SMAM for males over the 20-year period. However, in the same period, the SMAM among females increased steadily for whites and Indians/Asians, while for black Africans and coloureds, it remained stagnant until 2011 before it increased again in 2016. In terms of educational attainment, the results indicated that males with a higher education tend to marry at a young age, with the SMAM ranging between 28,3 years in 1996 and 30,9 years in 2016. However, the results further showed that females who have completed their primary education marry at a young age as compared to those with other levels of education, with their SMAM declining from 27,2 years in 1996 to 26,1 years in 2011 before rising to 27,4 years in 2016. The geographical location has indicated higher a SMAM for non-urban areas as compared to urban areas. This was observed for both sexes since 1996. This is also confirmed at provincial level, as the most urbanised provinces of Western Cape and Gauteng recorded an SMAM of 31 and 28 years for males and females, respectively, which is lower than the SMAM of other provinces, particularly for 2016. Finally, with regard to children ever born, the results showed that the number of children born declines as the SMAM increases. The reason for this could be that females who marry at an older age tend to give birth to fewer children as compared to those who marry earlier in their lives.

CHAPTER 4: NUPTIALITY STATUS FOR WOMEN WHO REPORTED AT LEAST ONE CHILD

4.1. Introduction

Marital status is important to any study of fertility to the extent that it affects three stages of reproduction, namely, intercourse, conception and parturition (Vanden Heuvel & McDonald, P, 1994). Evidence for an increasing SMAM for both sexes against declining fertility measures was discussed in the previous chapter. This chapter serves the purpose of providing data quality issues on the part of reported marital status for women in line with the effect of an additional response category in the CS 2016 Questionnaire highlighting an exaggeration of never married persons. Even so, many analysts do believe the existence of such women given living circumstances observed in urban areas. While such an additional category sought to close some gap for such persons, it is also seen as exaggerating the percentage distribution for single women.

The source for such changes is mainly due to some observed gap by Stats SA analysts and data users reporting gaps in previously collected data items at the time of conducting user consultations. On the part of Stats SA procedures, upon use of some alternative sequence of questioning or additional response categories by one household survey, the standard rule is such that all other household surveys should follow suit mainly for the purpose of enabling comparison between data sets. Continuing with the response categories used in the CS 2016 Questionnaire is preferable for closing the gap for misreporting brought about by lumping varying marital status into one broad category, thus the trend analysis of percentage of women who reported their varying marital status over time in at different age groups over time in Figure 4.1a, Figure 4.1b, Figure 4.1c, Figure 4.1.d, Figure 4.1e, Figure 4.1f, Figure 4.1g.

Given the complexities of living arrangements observed mostly in urban areas in the case of this country as anecdotally explained in many research papers, the importance of tabulating such statistics by urban and non-urban status is seen as valuable. As can be expected, proportions of women within the reproductive age group who reported that they were single tended to decrease with increasing ages over time compared to those that reported being in some marital relationship. Such scenarios are more pronounced for urban dwellers relative to rural/ tribal area residence. In contrast, proportions of women who reported that they were living together with someone as a spouse show an increasing trend overtime, more pronounced for those enumerated in urban areas relative to those enumerated in non-urban areas as shown in all seven charts by age group of women.

Figure 4.1a: Distribution of females aged 15-19 years old by marital status

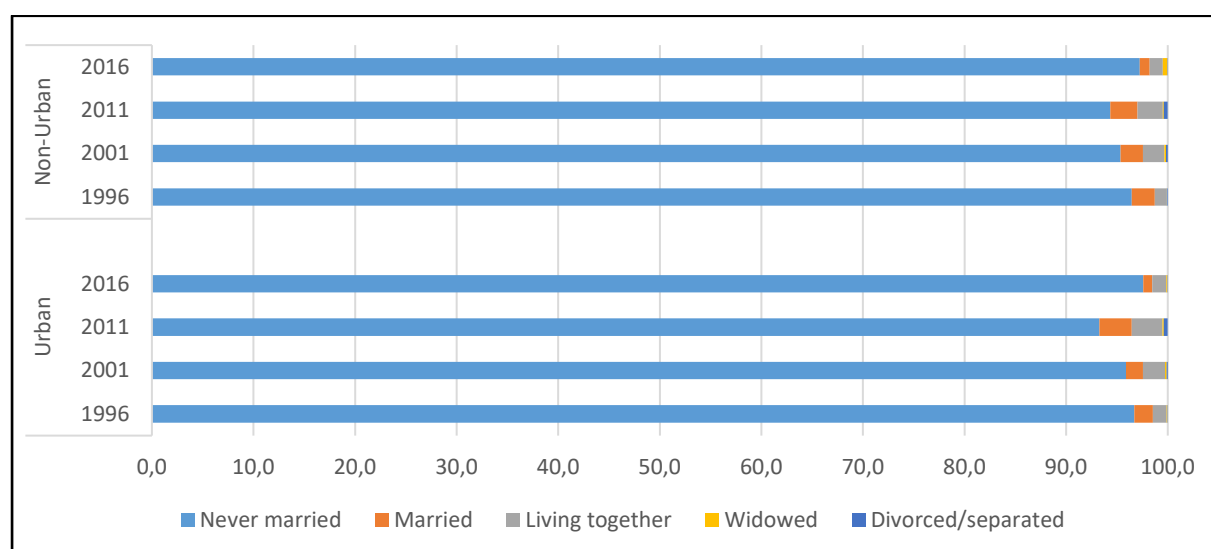


Figure 4.1b: Distribution of females aged 20-24 years old marital status

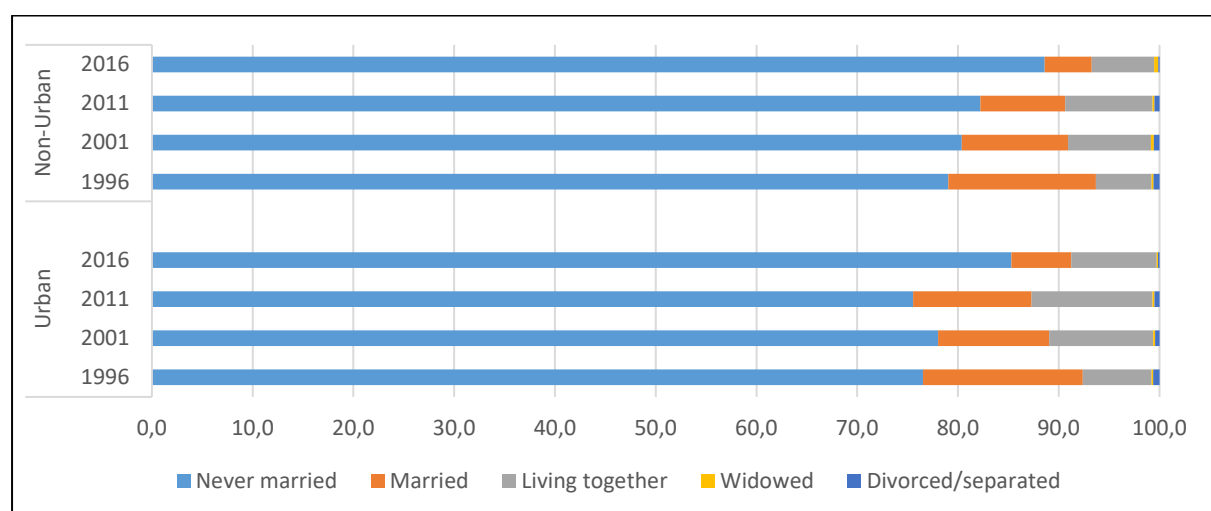


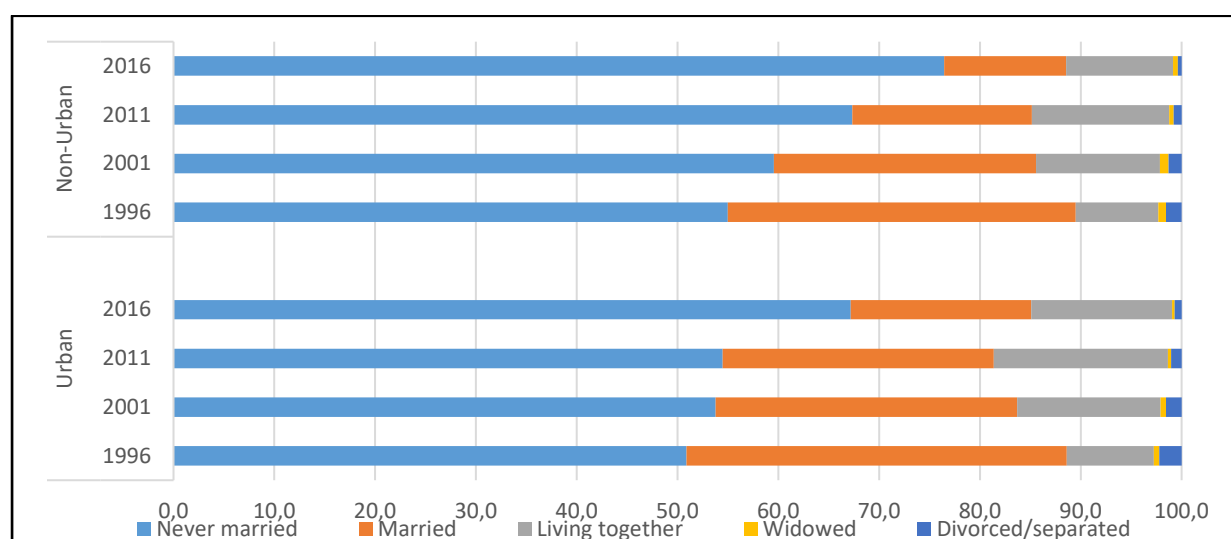
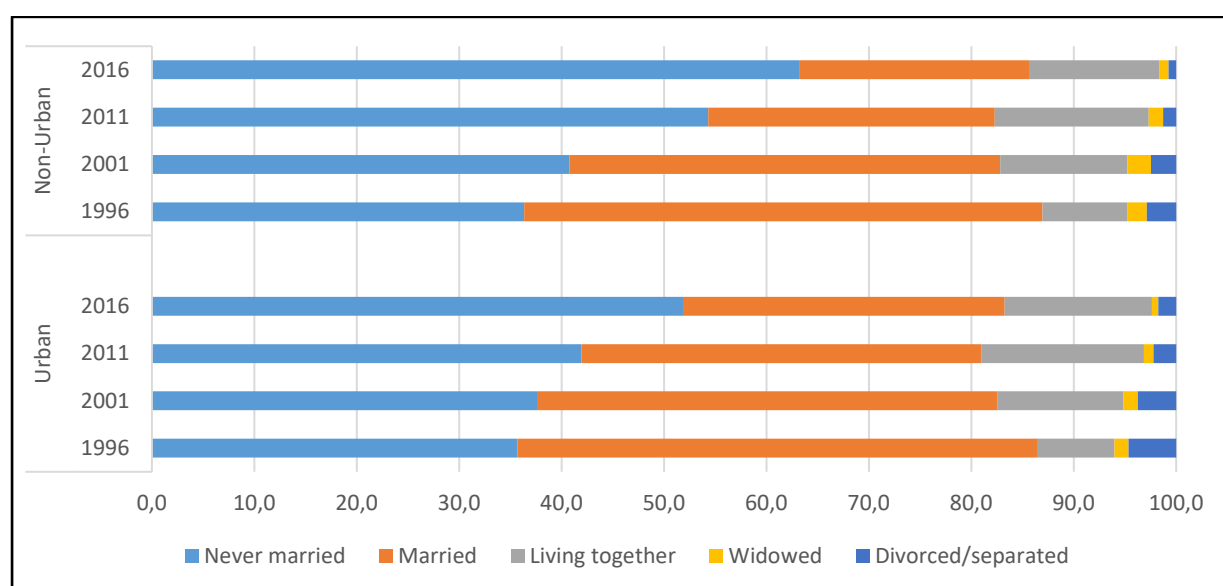
Figure 4.1c: Distribution of females aged 25-29 years old by marital status**Figure 4.1d: Distribution of females aged 30-34 years old by marital status**

Figure 4.1e: Distribution of females aged 35-39 years old by marital status

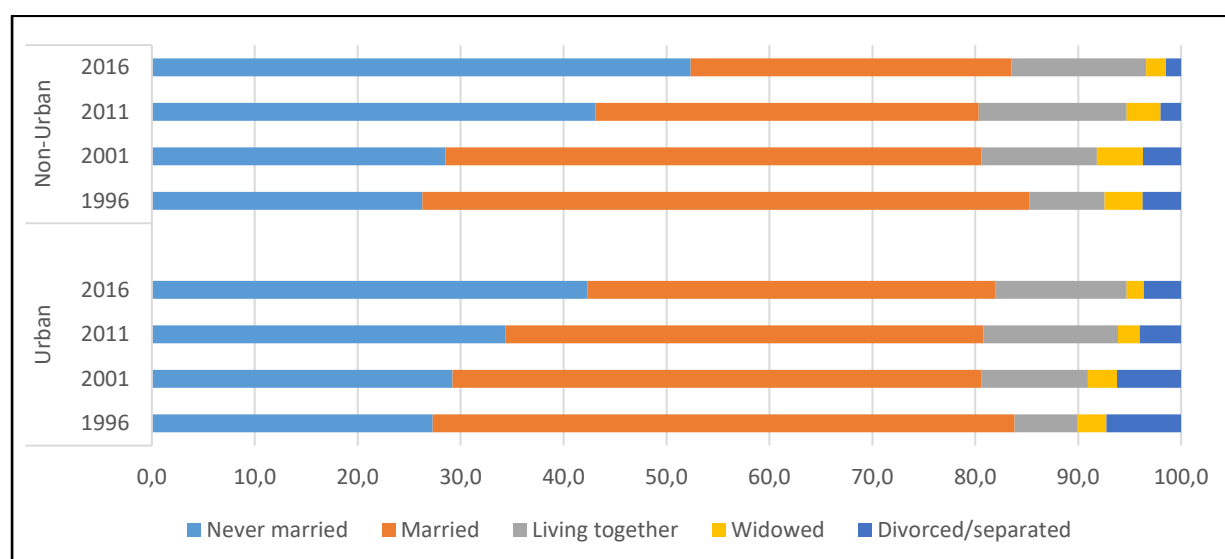


Figure 4.1f: Distribution of females aged 40-44 years old by geography type and marital status

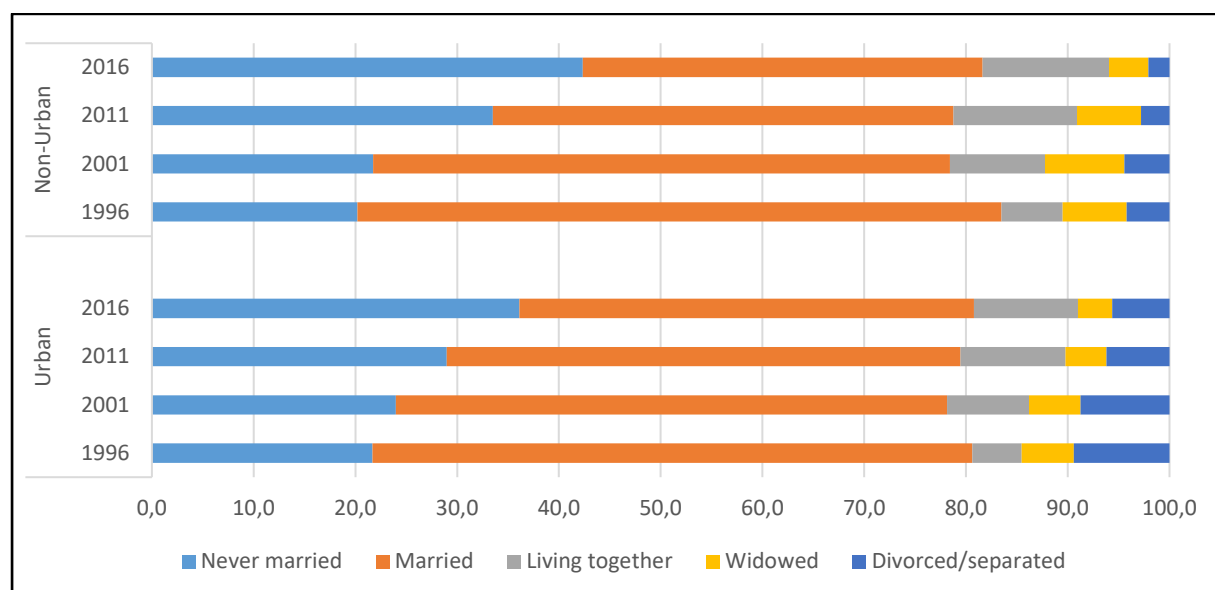
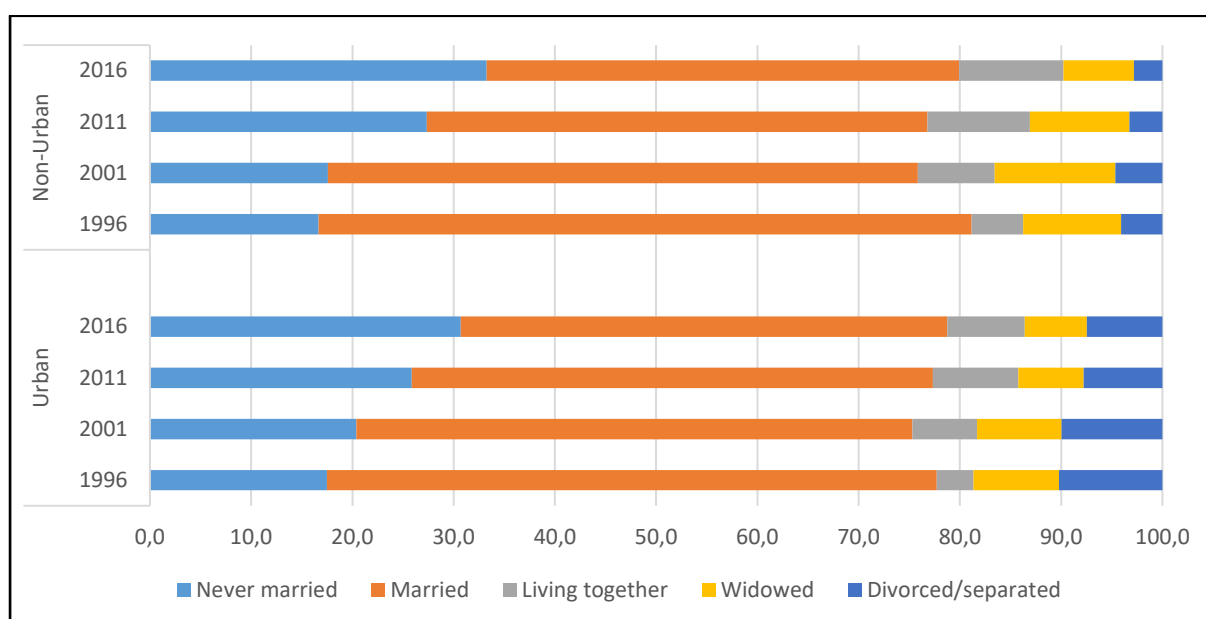
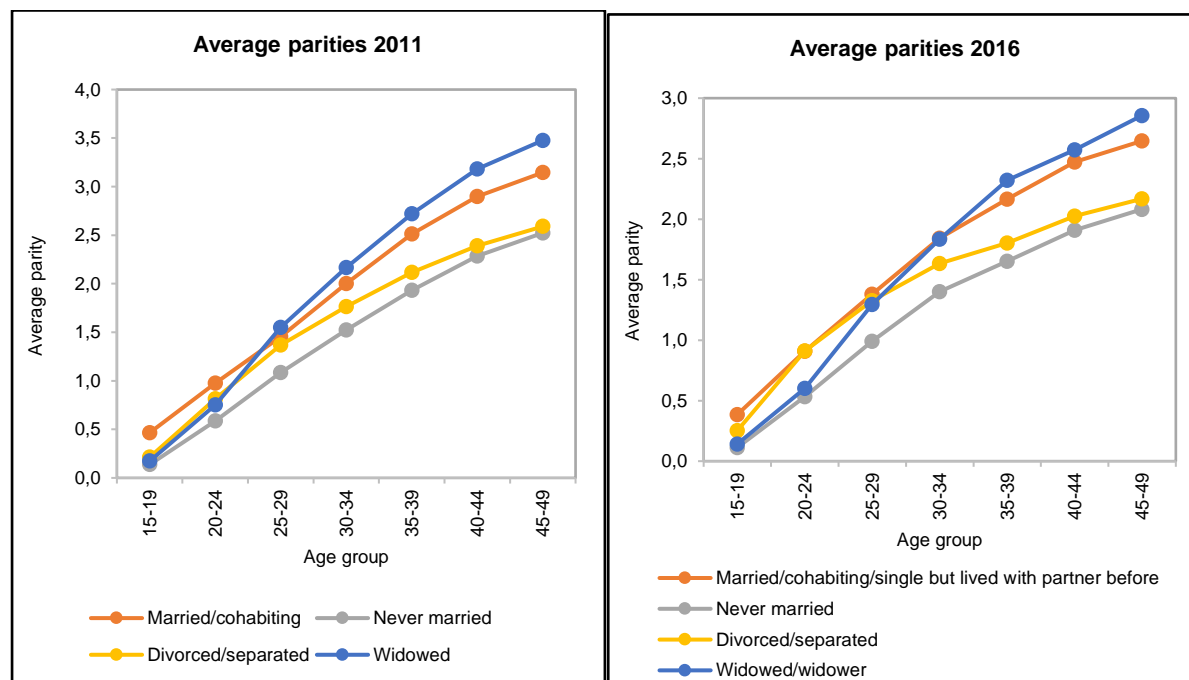


Figure 4.1g: Distribution of females aged 45-49 years old by marital status

4.2 Quality of output data on observed average parities by marital status

As alluded to in the introductory chapter, the number of children ever born to a woman captures the lifetime fertility of a woman. Since the observed average parities are calculated based on children ever born, their results can be inaccurate due to errors such as omission and misreporting of number of children reported or classification of women in certain age groups (United Nations, 1983). During CS 2016 data editing, the rule of thumb proposed by (Moultrie, 2013) was applied to correct such implausible parities. The rule limits women to having one birth after 18 months from age 12. Therefore, the information for women who reported having more children than allowed was treated as information missing. This quality assessment warrants that data on children ever born can be used to derive indicators.

Figure 4.2 shows the observed average parities by marital status of women aged 15 to 49 years old in both census 2011 and CS 2016 respectively. The results show that average parities increase with the age of a woman. The marital status patterns show that the highest average parities are among women who are widowed followed by those that are married, divorced and never married respectively. This is evidently noticeable among women aged 30 to 49 years old and the pattern is similar in both census 2011 and CS 2016 altogether. However, in both 2011 and 2016, the only noticeable difference is among married and divorced women from ages 15 to 25 years old. In 2011, the average parities of married women is higher as compared to that of divorced women while the profile in 2016 shows slightly no difference in terms of average parities among women who are married and divorced from ages 15 to 25 years old.

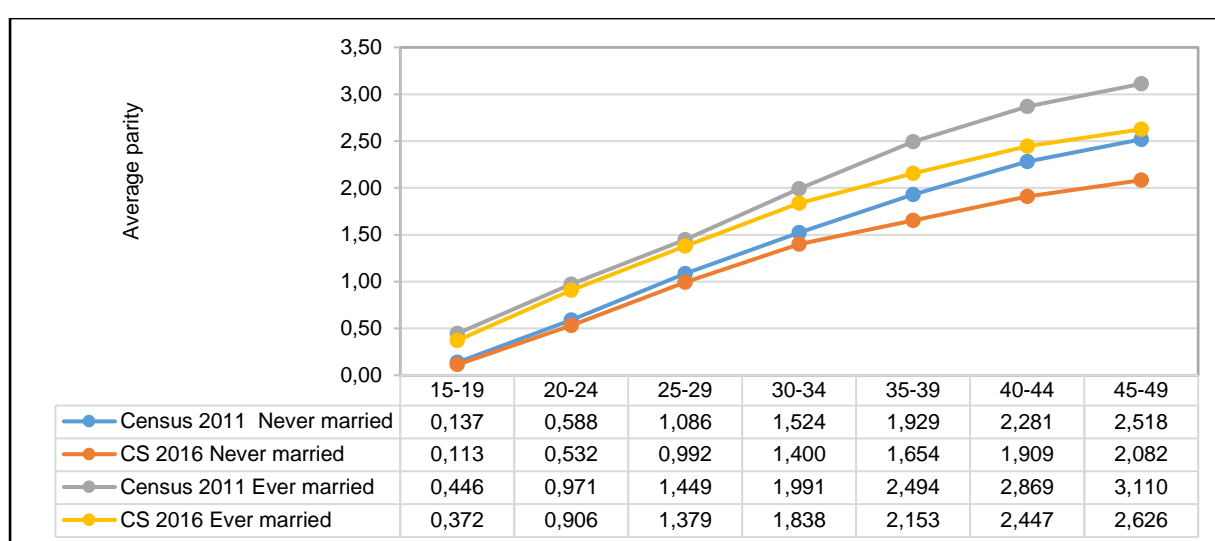
Figure 4.2: Distribution of females aged 15-49 years old by observed average parities and marital status

4.3 Observed average parities by selected differentials

4.3.1 Age

Figure 4.3 presents differences in observed average parities for never married women and ever married women by age groups for both census 2011 and CS 2016. The results clearly shows that the “never married” women have lower average parities compared to the “ever married” women in all age groups. However, for both groups of women average parity increases with age with the women aged 45-49 years with the higher parities compared to other age groups. For both “ever married” and “never married” women the CS 2016 had lower average parities compared to census 2011.

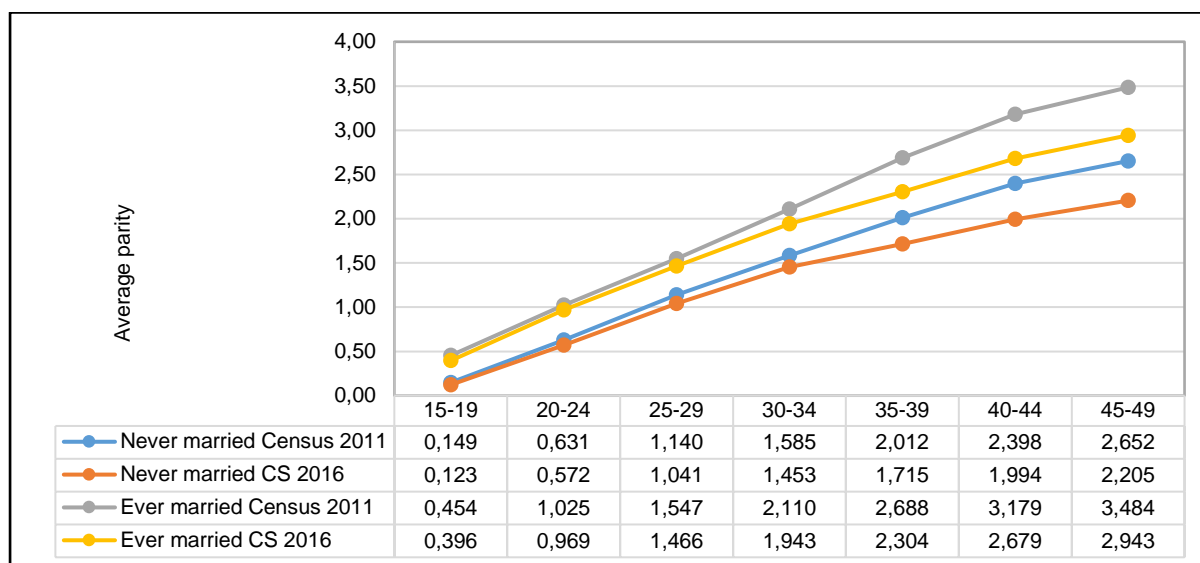
Figure 4.3: Distribution of never married and ever married women by observed average parities



Source: Statistics South Africa

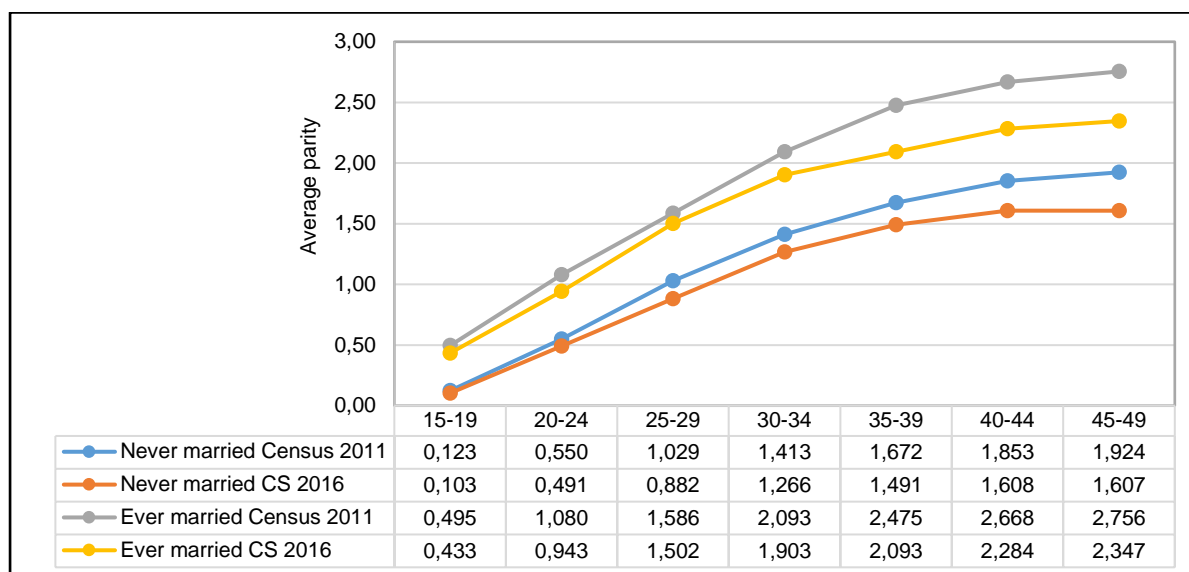
4.3.2 Population group

Average parities for never married and ever married black African women in South Africa is presented in figure 4.4 by age groups. For “never married” black African women, average parities increase with age. It can be noted that from the younger ages 15-29 years average parities for the black African “never married” women does not show much difference for both census 2011 and CS 2016. However, the curve start to diverge between the ages of 30-34 upwards. The “ever married” black African women also show a similar pattern for average parities.

Figure 4.4: Distribution of never married and ever married black African women by observed average parities

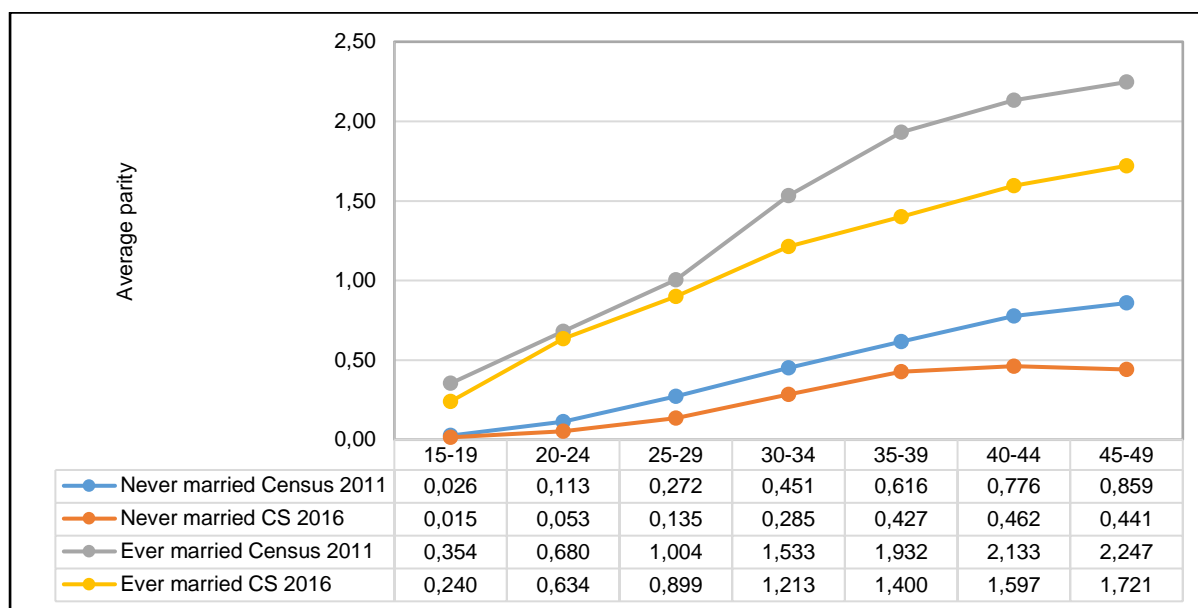
Source: Statistics South Africa

Figure 4.5 presents observed average parities for “never married” and “ever married” coloured women in South Africa. The average parity for coloured women was less than 3 for both “never married” and “ever married” women in both years 2011 and 2016. The highest average parity for “ever married” women was 1.9 for women between the ages of 45-49 years in 2011 while for 2016 it was 1.608 for women between the ages of 40-44 years. There is a visible difference on the curve for average parity of coloured “ever married” women for 2011 and 2016 from the young ages 15-19 upwards. The CS 2016 had lower average parity compared to the census 2011. While the “never married” have lower average parity compared to “ever married” women for the coloured population. For coloured “never married” women, average parity was higher for women between the ages of 45-49 years in both years 2011 and 2016. The difference in average parities for “never married” women in the two years starts to show on the curve from 25-29 years upwards.

Figure 4.5: Distribution of never married and ever married coloured women by observed average parities

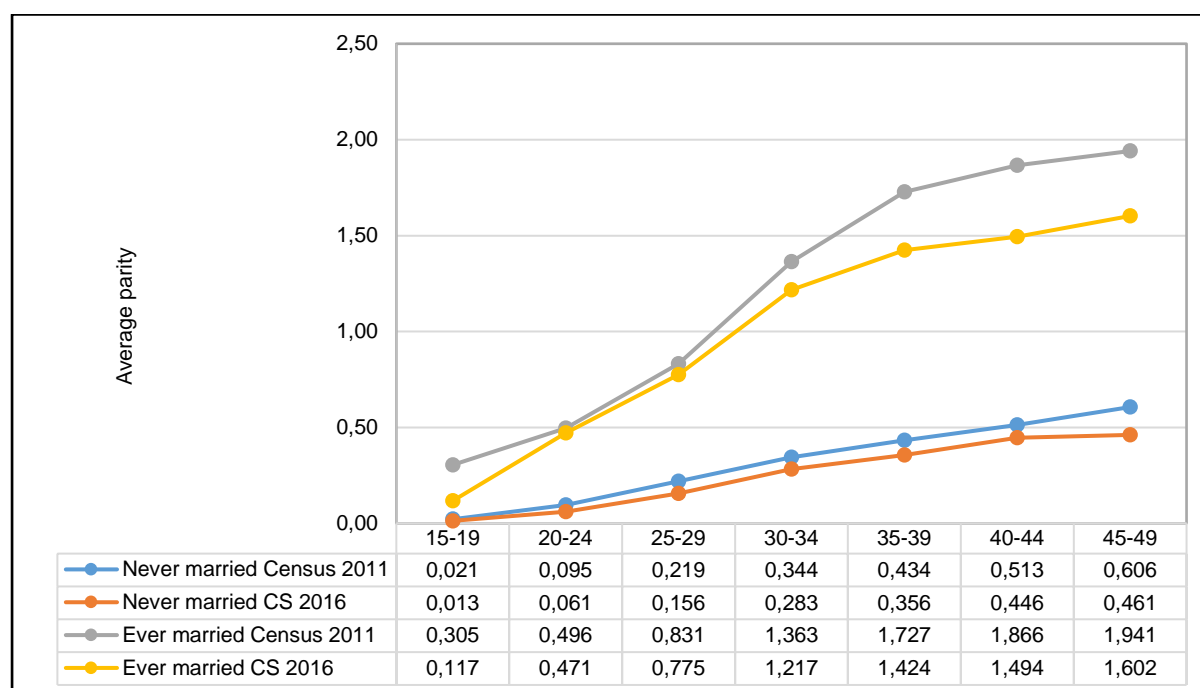
Source: Statistics South Africa

Figure 4.6 shows the average parity for Indian/Asian women by age groups in 2011 and 2016. In general, the average parity for Indian/Asian women was less than 2.5 for both years. The curve show a visible difference between “never married” and “ever married” Indian/Asian women in average parity. The “never married” Indian/Asian women had less than 1 average parity for both census 2011 and CS 2016 in all age groups. For “ever married” Indian/Asian women the highest average parity was 2.2 in 2011 for women between the ages of 45-49 years while for 2016 it was 1.7 in the same age group.

Figure 4.6: Distribution of never married and ever married Indian/ Asian women by observed average parities

Source: Statistics South Africa

The average parity for white women in general was less than 2 which is lowest compared to other population groups. Figure 4.7 further indicates that “never married” white women consistently had lower average parity for both years in all age groups. A higher 0.6 average parity is only noted amongst those 45-49 years in 2011. However, the difference in parities for 2011 and 2016 is very little amongst white “never married” women. The white “ever married” women had slightly higher average parity compared to the “never married” which is consistent with the pattern in other population groups. “Ever married” white women between the ages of 45-49 years had higher average parity 1,9 for 2011 and 1,6 for 2016. The difference in parities for the two years is noticeable from the ages 30-34 upwards with 2016 visibly lower in those age groups compared to 2011.

Figure 4.7: Distribution of never married and ever married white women by observed average parities

Source: Statistics South Africa

4.3.3 Geography type

Table 4.1 illustrates average parities for “never married” and “ever married” women by type of geography and age groups. The “never married” women in non-urban have higher average parities compared to those in urban areas in all age groups for the census 2011 and CS 2016. A similar pattern is also noted for the “ever married” women. As noted earlier the CS 2016 shows lower average parities for both urban and non-urban women.

Table 4.1: Distribution of never married and ever married women by geography type and observed average parities

Age group	Never married				Ever married			
	Urban		Non-urban		Urban		Non-urban	
	Census 2011	CS 2016	Census 2011	CS 2016	Census 2011	CS 2016	Census 2011	CS 2016
15-19	0,116	0,092	0,163	0,140	0,436	0,347	0,460	0,400
20-24	0,501	0,456	0,733	0,653	0,901	0,848	1,149	1,015
25-29	0,957	0,888	1,311	1,164	1,335	1,289	1,796	1,591
30-34	1,363	1,278	1,804	1,601	1,829	1,705	2,454	2,163
35-39	1,736	1,536	2,267	1,903	2,256	2,002	3,101	2,600
40-44	2,060	1,796	2,697	2,162	2,526	2,233	3,666	3,018
45-49	2,273	1,946	2,983	2,393	2,673	2,327	4,009	3,348

Source: Statistics South Africa

4.3.4 Education attainment

Table 4.2 shows the average parities of women who have never been married as well as those that have “ever married” by level of education. Generally, the results show higher average parities among women with no schooling followed by those with secondary and higher education respectively. This pattern is true for both census and community survey for women who have never married and “ever married” across all age groups. According to some studies, it has been proven that lower fertility rates are highly associated with educated women (Kim, 2016).

Table 4.2: Distribution of never married and ever married women by observed average parities and highest level of education

	Education attainment	Enumeration year	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
Never married	No schooling	Census 2011	0,1551	0,8645	1,3842	1,8933	2,4417	2,7865	2,9456
		CS 2016	0,1265	0,7525	1,1779	1,6437	1,9804	2,3047	2,4949
	Secondary	Census 2011	0,1350	0,6042	1,1335	1,5545	1,8950	2,1737	2,3199
		CS 2016	0,1125	0,5479	1,0407	1,4306	1,6719	1,8780	1,9860
	Higher	Census 2011	0,1220	0,2802	0,5919	0,9272	1,2409	1,4745	1,5782
		CS 2016	0,0980	0,2626	0,5672	0,9370	1,1237	1,3697	1,4479
Ever married	No schooling	Census 2011	0,5415	1,2937	1,9165	2,5814	3,2068	3,6194	3,8185
		CS 2016	0,5299	1,1669	1,7238	2,2684	2,7087	3,1160	3,3017
	Secondary	Census 2011	0,4237	0,9717	1,4979	2,0177	2,4555	2,7495	2,8658
		CS 2016	0,3476	0,9175	1,4277	1,8736	2,1591	2,3902	2,4971
	Higher	Census 2011	0,5016	0,5224	0,8908	1,4746	1,9495	2,1981	2,2953
		CS 2016	0,2829	0,4514	0,8698	1,4060	1,7488	1,9676	2,0289

Source: Statistics South Africa

4.4 Conclusion

This Chapter analysed the results on average parities by marital status categories for both Census 2011 and CS 2016 respectively. Generally, the average parities showed that they increase with age of a woman and this was consistent in both 2011 and 2016. The marital status patterns showed that women who have “never married” had the lowest average parities as compared to widowed or married women from ages 15 to 49 years old. Therefore, in terms of comparability, the results for both census 2011 and CS 2016 were plausible as far as marital status and average parities are concerned. This was in line with what is anticipated concerning fertility patterns of women in relation to their marital status. Furthermore with regard to education, the average parities decrease for both “never married” and “ever married” women as highest level of education increases. Lastly, those in non-urban areas have a higher average parities as compared to those in urban areas and this supports evidence that urbanisation decreases fertility.

CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY of FINDINGS and CONCLUSION

5.1 Summary of descriptive analysis on nuptiality trends

This Chapter provides a summary of the main findings from Chapter 2, 3 and 4; the over view of what the data shows in terms of consistency in measures of nuptiality and that of children ever born. The second Chapter profiled nuptiality patterns in South Africa using the basic descriptive analysis from Census 1996, 2001, 2011 and CS 2016. Chapter 3 utilised a combination of data sets to provide nuptiality rates and age a first marriage in South Africa. For the rates administrative data for the year 2016 was used based on registered nuptials. While an indirect method to analyse age at first marriage was conducted using census 1996, 2001, 2011 and CS 2016 data. Chapter 4 used the Census 2011 and CS 2016 data to compute average parities for women in their reproductive age groups 15-49 years.

The finding in Chapter 2 provide an outstanding situation of nuptiality in South Africa by sociodemographic characteristics. In general, all surveys used show that marriage has been declining in South Africa while there is an increase of those “never married” from 1996 to 2016. This finding support evidence found by the marriages and divorces reported (Statistics South Africa, 2018) showing that registered civil and customary marriages have been declining in South Africa from the year 2008 to 2016. However, for those who are married in South Africa higher proportions are between the ages of 35-39, are males, belong to the white population group, and live in urban areas. While being never married declines with age. Males, black Africans, IsiZulu speakers and persons residing in non-urban areas had higher proportions of “never married”. A possible explanation for black Africans reported to have higher proportions of the “never married” could be that provided by (Kalule-Sabiti, et al., 2007) who noted that the quality of marital status reported by black Africans and coloureds may be poor due to the lack of understanding of the concept among the respondents who fail to classify themselves correctly into the categories of marital status. Moreover, paying of bride price in Zulu communities and other African communities has become too commercialised and expensive for men to marry. A study by (Posel & Rudwick, 2014) found evidence that even though isiZulu speakers would have liked to get married, expensive bride price and high unemployment rates were some of the factors that contributed to the increase in the “never married” population amongst the Zulu people.

Similar to the pattern of persons married in South Africa, trend analysis shows that persons “cohabiting” has been declining. While characteristics of person “cohabiting” are young adults between the ages of 25-29 years, males, black Africans and those who speak Xitsonga in the households. Of interest to note is that “cohabiting” starts to decline after 30-34 years. Whether or not “cohabiting” leads to marriage or dissolution it is not clear. Several studies have shown that a number of new marriages were reported to have cohabited prior to their first marriage (Bramlett & Mosher, 2002; Kennedy & Bumpass, 2008; Smock, et al., 2013). While other scholars report that there is a strong relationship between cohabitation and marital dissolution. However, the relationship between cohabitation and marital instability is argued to be complex and depended on a number of factors such as age, race and plans for the marriage (Stanley, et al., 2010; Stanley, et al., 2006; Kamp Dush, et al., 2003).

Persons widowed in South Africa have been declining since 1996 to 2016 and the proportions remains low compared to other marital statuses. Females, white population group, persons who speak Tshivenda in their household, and those residing in non-urban areas were the persons reported to have higher proportions of being widowed. The results further showed that widowhood is higher amongst persons aged 65-69 years and 70-74 years which suggested an increased life expectancy at birth. Moreover, these may be attributable to government interventions into health programmes in the country that may have helped with the prevention of HIV/AIDS transmission from mother to child, and many people have access to antiretroviral treatment, which has contributed to an increase in life expectancy since 2007 in South Africa (Statistics South Africa, 2017). Marital dissolution (those divorced or separated) is common among persons between the ages of 45-49 years since 2011 to 2016. This however, has shown a slight decline from 2.8% in 1996 to 2.3% in 2016. Females, white population group and persons residing in urban areas were those with higher proportions of marital dissolution in South Africa.

5.2 Consistency in the estimated trends for SMAM

The SMAM show that it has been increasing since 1996 to 2016 for both males and females in South Africa. A higher SMAM throughout the years is noted amongst black Africans while Indian/Asian and white population groups had lower SMAM interchangeably in those years. The results of the SMAM suggest that men tend to delay marriage in South Africa at all levels. The results from CS 2016 show that on average males' get married 3 years later than females. Interestingly, persons with higher education in South Africa tend to marry earlier compared to those with lower educational attainment such as (no schooling, primary and secondary education). In 2016 those with higher educational attainment on average males got married at 30.9 years compared to 33 years of those with secondary education while females on average go married at 28.9 years compared to 30.6 years of those who completed secondary education only. People in KwaZulu-Natal province had the highest SMAM compared to other provinces in South Africa. Finally, with regard to children ever born, the results showed that the number of children declines as the SMAM increases, as can be expected.

5.3 Average parities for women within the reproductive age group

Average parities for both "never married" and "ever married" women by sociodemographic characteristics using both Census 2011 and CS 2016 were estimated. As can be expected, results show that as age increases, the average parity also increases. In contrast, as educational attainment increases, average parity decreases for both "never married" and "ever married" women. Those in non-urban areas have a higher average parity compared to those in urban areas, which supports evidence that urbanisation decreases fertility.

5.4 Conclusion

Virtually all types of analyses undertaken reveal the usability of enumerated data for nuptiality statistics, although not without slight deviations from what is expected. The departure of trend analysis from enumerated data on divorces from those analysed by using administrative records is a cause for concern. In essence, the trend reflected on administrative data for registered divorces was found to be increasing between 2011 and 2016 compared to a declining from the two enumeration projects linked to those years. This notwithstanding, it is accepted that such a question may carry some biases, given sensitivities about personal information disclosure as well as the proxy response bias. On the part of registered divorces, data are dependent on those that have finalized their process and exclude those that are still in it as well as those that are only physically divorced.

The impact of including an extra response category on the nuptiality question in the CS 2016 questionnaire was found to have affected output data on the proportion of “never married” persons. Even so, it is also accepted that such data may be more accurate than those that excluded such a category, given the advanced status of urbanisation observable in the country enhancing cohabitation mainly for those aged 25-34 as revealed by enumerated data.

Generally, the results have confirmed that the higher the education for women within the reproductive age group goes with lower fertility. Likewise, it has been confirmed that urbanisation links with lower fertility. Therefore, while Stats SA has the responsibility of consulting stakeholders and data users on each of the questions asked in Census / household survey question, data users are always welcome to use preferred statistical methods in developing truncating factors at the time of need.

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APPENDIX

Table A1: Distribution of never married persons aged 15 years and older by age group

Age group	Census 1996		Census 2001		Census 2011		CS 2016	
15–19	3 909 147	32,3	4 838 318	32,5	4 763 052	25,6	5 012 230	22,9
20–24	3 179 757	26,2	3 663 106	24,6	4 514 876	24,3	4 829 420	22,0
25–29	1 960 660	16,2	2 464 205	16,5	3 275 436	17,6	4 051 931	18,5
30–34	1 147 607	9,5	1 396 897	9,4	1 952 358	10,5	2 680 675	12,2
35–39	697 684	5,8	894 461	6,0	1 292 083	6,9	1 783 223	8,1
40–44	420 914	3,5	574 210	3,9	852 031	4,6	1 205 486	5,5
45–49	264 986	2,2	365 261	2,5	628 436	3,4	811 923	3,7
50–54	167 281	1,4	236 923	1,6	450 324	2,4	558 048	2,5
55–59	124 402	1,0	150 163	1,0	319 611	1,7	396 671	1,8
60–64	88 865	0,7	118 302	0,8	213 285	1,1	264 773	1,2
65–69	65 088	0,5	73 199	0,5	127 613	0,7	158 647	0,7
70–74	38 237	0,3	50 772	0,3	93 687	0,5	95 073	0,4
75–79	28 373	0,2	28 015	0,2	56 638	0,3	45 887	0,2
80+	27 618	0,2	37 260	0,3	75 230	0,4	40 539	0,2
Total	12 120 621	100,0	14 891 093	100,0	18 614 660	100,0	21 934 525	100,0

Source: Statistics South Africa

Table A2: Distribution of married persons aged 15 years and older by age group

Age group	Census 1996		Census 2001		Census 2011		CS 2016	
15–19	52 858	0,5	67 925	0,6	121 262	1,0	34 201	0,3
20–24	402 895	4,0	318 093	3,0	416 706	3,6	185 776	1,7
25–29	1 023 434	10,2	910 697	8,7	1 007 774	8,6	629 310	5,7
30–34	1 461 330	14,6	1 371 354	13,0	1 331 416	11,3	1 089 076	9,9
35–39	1 529 336	15,2	1 608 526	15,3	1 499 920	12,8	1 377 480	12,5
40–44	1 347 822	13,4	1 531 972	14,6	1 503 142	12,8	1 441 847	13,1
45–49	1 101 796	11,0	1 284 796	12,2	1 437 158	12,2	1 414 243	12,9
50–54	845 851	8,4	1 028 498	9,8	1 271 571	10,8	1 280 562	11,7
55–59	701 039	7,0	752 203	7,2	1 042 289	8,9	1 122 935	10,2
60–64	552 655	5,5	619 918	5,9	794 172	6,8	896 879	8,2
65–69	448 969	4,5	419 530	4,0	529 789	4,5	662 445	6,0
70–74	263 159	2,6	301 046	2,9	373 481	3,2	440 641	4,0
75–79	184 310	1,8	157 171	1,5	209 160	1,8	232 937	2,1
80+	119 573	1,2	138 092	1,3	198 895	1,7	178 378	1,6
Total	10 035 028	100,0	10 509 820	100,0	11 736 736	100,0	10 986 710	100,0

Source: Statistics South Africa

Table A3: Distribution of widowed persons aged 15 years and older by age group

Age group	Census 1996		Census 2001		Census 2011		CS 2016	
15–19	1 371	0,1	6 397	0,4	5 106	0,3	12 254	0,7
20–24	4 720	0,4	7 827	0,4	7 347	0,4	11 540	0,6
25–29	13 232	1,0	16 289	0,9	12 684	0,7	13 732	0,8
30–34	29 457	2,3	35 559	2,0	26 631	1,5	20 915	1,2
35–39	49 779	3,9	65 247	3,6	53 051	2,9	42 023	2,4
40–44	71 504	5,6	97 642	5,4	89 465	4,9	72 502	4,1
45–49	89 147	7,0	125 195	7,0	130 104	7,1	116 055	6,5
50–54	105 887	8,3	154 558	8,6	169 958	9,3	162 270	9,1
55–59	135 947	10,6	167 542	9,3	199 086	10,9	204 487	11,4
60–64	175 796	13,7	231 561	12,9	223 849	12,3	241 456	13,5
65–69	191 581	14,9	240 623	13,4	212 943	11,7	253 341	14,2
70–74	147 782	11,5	245 977	13,7	227 024	12,4	231 547	13,0
75–79	137 234	10,7	166 496	9,3	188 576	10,3	179 267	10,0
80+	128 488	10,0	238 890	13,3	279 091	15,3	224 745	12,6
Total	1 281 924	100,0	1 799 803	100,0	1 824 916	100,0	1 786 135	100,0

Source: Statistics South Africa

Table A4: Distribution of divorced/separated persons aged 15 years and older by age group

Age group	Census 1996		Census 2001		Census 2011		CS 2016	
15–19	2 070	0,3	6 455	0,7	19 402	2,1	2 306	0,3
20–24	15 061	2,1	15 078	1,7	25 072	2,8	5 285	0,6
25–29	48 413	6,7	42 740	4,9	39 193	4,3	22 533	2,5
30–34	92 755	12,8	85 319	9,8	60 746	6,7	50 149	5,5
35–39	121 596	16,8	129 832	15,0	90 999	10,0	95 697	10,6
40–44	123 053	17,0	152 486	17,6	120 121	13,2	126 304	14,0
45–49	102 802	14,2	136 946	15,8	135 796	14,9	144 435	16,0
50–54	75 183	10,4	106 804	12,3	132 826	14,6	133 476	14,8
55–59	54 545	7,6	72 186	8,3	108 052	11,9	118 118	13,1
60–64	36 959	5,1	52 898	6,1	76 875	8,4	87 620	9,7
65–69	24 610	3,4	31 297	3,6	46 840	5,1	58 111	6,4
70–74	12 664	1,8	19 036	2,2	28 765	3,2	32 636	3,6
75–79	7 722	1,1	8 981	1,0	14 445	1,6	16 781	1,9
80+	4 732	0,7	7 778	0,9	11 799	1,3	10 545	1,2
Total	722 165	100,0	867 835	100,0	910 931	100,0	903 995	100,0

Source: Statistics South Africa

Table A5: Distribution of cohabiting persons aged 15 years and older by age group

Age group	Census 1996		Census 2001		Census 2011		CS 2016	
15–19	30 172	2,4	62 626	2,6	94 656	2,6	39 846	1,2
20–24	174 750	13,8	290 420	12,2	410 541	11,5	267 096	8,3
25–29	267 533	21,1	501 009	21,0	724 229	20,2	560 349	17,3
30–34	250 156	19,7	451 772	18,9	657 858	18,4	611 897	18,9
35–39	190 603	15,0	373 704	15,7	531 714	14,8	547 550	16,9
40–44	130 241	10,3	263 155	11,0	383 859	10,7	412 690	12,8
45–49	86 700	6,8	175 181	7,3	288 788	8,1	294 804	9,1
50–54	52 150	4,1	111 237	4,7	193 610	5,4	199 138	6,2
55–59	35 859	2,8	63 173	2,6	128 370	3,6	130 764	4,0
60–64	21 660	1,7	42 615	1,8	77 587	2,2	81 159	2,5
65–69	14 732	1,2	23 277	1,0	40 620	1,1	45 959	1,4
70–74	6 881	0,5	14 638	0,6	25 375	0,7	24 300	0,8
75–79	4 638	0,4	6 874	0,3	12 447	0,3	11 169	0,3
80+	2 890	0,2	6 257	0,3	13 574	0,4	7 482	0,2
Total	1 268 965	100,0	2 385 940	100,0	3 583 228	100,0	3 234 203	100,0

Source: Statistics South Africa

Table A6: Distribution of persons aged 15 years and older by marital status and sex

Marital status	Census 1996			Census 2001			Census 2011			CS 2016		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Number												
Never married	6 053 625	6 066 996	12 120 621	7 471 707	7 419 386	14 891 093	9 401 302	9 213 358	18 614 660	11 124 844	10 809 680	21 934 525
Married	4 770 681	5 264 347	10 035 028	5 083 928	5 425 892	10 509 820	5 756 224	5 980 511	11 736 736	5 352 263	5 634 447	10 986 710
Cohabiting	611 139	657 825	1 268 965	1 159 910	1 226 030	2 385 940	1 778 122	1 805 106	3 583 228	1 603 591	1 630 611	3 234 203
Widowed	189 475	1 092 449	1 281 924	251 678	1 548 125	1 799 803	293 127	1 531 789	1 824 916	352 042	1 434 093	1 786 135
Divorced/separated	245 375	476 789	722 165	298 326	569 509	867 835	322 974	587 957	910 931	352 687	551 309	903 995
Total	11 870 296	13 558 407	25 428 703	14 265 549	16 188 941	30 454 490	17 551 749	19 118 722	36 670 471	18 785 428	20 060 140	38 845 567
Percentage												
Never married	51,0	44,7	47,7	52,4	45,8	48,9	53,6	48,2	50,8	59,2	53,9	56,5
Married	40,2	38,8	39,5	35,6	33,5	34,5	32,8	31,3	32,0	28,5	28,1	28,3
Cohabiting	5,1	4,9	5,0	8,1	7,6	7,8	10,1	9,4	9,8	8,5	8,1	8,3
Widowed	1,6	8,1	5,0	1,8	9,6	5,9	1,7	8,0	5,0	1,9	7,1	4,6
Divorced/separated	2,1	3,5	2,8	2,1	3,5	2,8	1,8	3,1	2,5	1,9	2,7	2,3
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: Statistics South Africa

Table A7: Distribution of persons aged 15 years and older by marital status and population group

Enumeration year	Marital status	African/Black		Coloured		Indian/Asian		White	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
*Census 1996	Never married	10 019 819	52,9	1 011 450	44,0	226 692	30,7	784 608	23,9
	Married	6 569 061	34,7	952 542	41,4	435 737	59,0	2 006 363	61,2
	Cohabiting	1 040 450	5,5	130 655	5,7	7 028	1,0	82 924	2,5
	Widowed	889 304	4,7	121 456	5,3	46 957	6,4	213 902	6,5
	Divorced/separated	418 954	2,2	82 746	3,6	21 510	2,9	191 292	5,8
	Total	18 937 588	100,0	2 298 849	100,0	737 923	100,0	3 279 089	100,0
Census 2001	Never married	12 563 974	53,8	1 209 183	43,7	267 442	31,4	850 494	24,5
	Married	6 907 424	29,6	1 081 253	39,1	485 635	56,9	2 035 507	58,5
	Cohabiting	2 005 305	8,6	217 765	7,9	14 020	1,6	148 849	4,3
	Widowed	1 345 744	5,8	151 068	5,5	58 594	6,9	244 397	7,0
	Divorced/separated	537 769	2,3	104 699	3,8	27 350	3,2	198 017	5,7
	Total	23 360 215	100,0	2 763 969	100,0	853 041	100,0	3 477 265	100,0
Census 2011**	Never married	15 902 853	56,2	1 433 484	43,4	320 745	31,2	865 461	22,7
	Married	7 592 412	26,8	1 263 730	38,3	575 993	56,0	2 205 132	57,8
	Cohabiting	2 956 831	10,4	308 560	9,3	31 344	3,0	266 473	7,0
	Widowed	1 328 883	4,7	170 421	5,2	65 673	6,4	253 769	6,7
	Divorced/separated	517 635	1,8	127 394	3,9	34 573	3,4	224 817	5,9
	Total	28 298 613	100,0	3 303 589	100,0	1 028 328	100,0	3 815 651	100,0
CS 2016	Never married	18 896 751	62,0	1 708 679	47,7	376 928	34,8	952 167	25,5
	Married	7 055 430	23,2	1 247 682	34,9	559 597	51,6	2 124 002	57,0
	Cohabiting	2 735 587	9,0	276 644	7,7	35 779	3,3	186 194	5,0
	Widowed	1 259 828	4,1	193 943	5,4	71 913	6,6	260 451	7,0
	Divorced/separated	506 866	1,7	151 901	4,2	39 575	3,7	205 653	5,5
	Total	30 454 463	100,0	3 578 848	100,0	1 083 790	100,0	3 728 467	100,0

NB: *Census 1996 total excludes 175 254 unspecified cases for population group **Census 2011 total excludes "Other" population group (224 290)

Table A8: Distribution of persons aged 15 years and older by marital status and language, Census 1996

Marital status	Afrikaans	English	IsiNdebele	IsiXhosa	IsiZulu	Sepedi	Sesotho	Setswana	SiSwati	Tshivenda	Xitsonga
	Number										
Never married	1 370 092	726 305	204 337	2 274 300	3 288 035	1 108 315	902 129	1 144 225	309 814	202 568	460 181
Married	1 999 959	1 421 969	131 557	1 540 798	1 606 908	825 719	815 600	685 410	194 048	219 060	448 539
Cohabiting	228 814	157 249	16 138	224 638	221 904	93 105	112 434	97 782	23 487	37 026	52 199
Widowed	164 045	140 808	6 306	97 084	68 710	41 496	78 481	50 178	14 567	20 528	31 014
Divorced/separated	172 718	62 725	9 904	181 659	393 099	69 633	124 422	124 481	51 216	13 254	53 823
Total	3 935 628	2 509 057	368 242	4 318 479	5 578 656	2 138 268	2 033 067	2 102 076	593 133	492 437	1 045 756
	Percentage										
Never married	34,8	28,9	55,5	52,7	58,9	51,8	44,4	54,4	52,2	41,1	44,0
Married	50,8	56,7	35,7	35,7	28,8	38,6	40,1	32,6	32,7	44,5	42,9
Widowed	5,8	6,3	4,4	5,2	4,0	4,4	5,5	4,7	4,0	7,5	5,0
Divorced/separated	4,2	5,6	1,7	2,2	1,2	1,9	3,9	2,4	2,5	4,2	3,0
Living together	4,4	2,5	2,7	4,2	7,0	3,3	6,1	5,9	8,6	2,7	5,1
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: Statistics South Africa

Table A9: Distribution of persons aged 15 years and older by marital status and language, Census 2001

Marital status	Afrikaans	English	IsiNdebele	IsiXhosa	IsiZulu	Sepedi	Sesotho	Setswana	SiSwati	Tshivenda	Xitsonga
Number											
Never married	1 571 618	850 472	272 653	2 803 047	4 077 472	1 431 042	1 160 052	1 383 066	400 907	282 512	594 350
Married	2 094 233	1 549 871	154 077	1 581 237	1 653 010	893 635	855 760	710 990	204 829	253 742	473 323
Widowed	272 484	185 616	27 019	328 067	366 300	157 623	156 221	135 909	38 386	48 609	74 005
Divorced/separated	183 817	152 128	9 678	123 520	92 170	55 256	97 641	67 319	19 107	25 842	37 318
Cohabiting	291 955	112 726	24 619	323 747	738 866	168 312	214 345	238 581	97 495	33 767	129 157
Total	4 414 106	2 850 813	488 046	5 159 618	6 927 818	2 705 868	2 484 019	2 535 864	760 724	644 472	1 308 153
Percentage											
Never married	35,6	29,8	55,9	54,3	58,9	52,9	46,7	54,5	52,7	43,8	45,4
Married	47,4	54,4	31,6	30,6	23,9	33,0	34,5	28,0	26,9	39,4	36,2
Widowed	6,2	6,5	5,5	6,4	5,3	5,8	6,3	5,4	5,0	7,5	5,7
Divorced/separated	4,2	5,3	2,0	2,4	1,3	2,0	3,9	2,7	2,5	4,0	2,9
Cohabiting	6,6	4,0	5,0	6,3	10,7	6,2	8,6	9,4	12,8	5,2	9,9
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: Statistics South Africa

Table A10: Distribution of persons aged 15 years and older by marital status and language, Census 2011

Marital status	Afrikaans	English	IsiNdebele	IsiXhosa	IsiZulu	Sepedi	Sesotho	Setswana	SiSwati	Tshivenda	Xitsonga
Number											
Never married	1 783 350	1 267 855	433 374	3 098 048	4 834 862	1 760 092	1 352 501	1 581 031	514 514	396 904	772 674
Married	2 447 307	1 896 584	222 182	1 585 499	1 778 373	897 080	794 275	728 864	180 247	256 708	426 236
Widower/widow	292 425	196 886	34 702	324 042	289 256	158 511	165 821	137 881	33 321	48 781	75 593
Separated/divorced	222 378	182 569	13 025	107 902	93 952	46 542	76 553	64 543	13 798	22 174	30 939
Cohabiting	465 133	241 693	75 284	420 937	781 942	295 429	337 642	322 226	134 827	101 089	286 442
Total	5 210 593	3 785 588	778 566	5 536 429	7 778 384	3 157 655	2 726 793	2 834 545	876 706	825 656	1 591 884
Percentage											
Never married	34,2	33,5	55,7	56,0	62,2	55,7	49,6	55,8	58,7	48,1	48,5
Married	47,0	50,1	28,5	28,6	22,9	28,4	29,1	25,7	20,6	31,1	26,8
Widower/widow	5,6	5,2	4,5	5,9	3,7	5,0	6,1	4,9	3,8	5,9	4,7
Separated/divorced	4,3	4,8	1,7	1,9	1,2	1,5	2,8	2,3	1,6	2,7	1,9
Cohabiting	8,9	6,4	9,7	7,6	10,1	9,4	12,4	11,4	15,4	12,2	18,0
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Table A11: Distribution of persons aged 15 years and older by marital status and language, CS 2016

Marital status	Afrikaans	English	IsiNdebele	IsiXhosa	IsiZulu	Sepedi	Sesotho	Setswana	SiSwati	Tshivenda	Xitsonga
Number											
Never married	2 021 763	1 182 627	381 288	4 046 073	6 131 399	2 229 416	1 738 719	2 081 286	598 350	489 818	877 482
Married	2 233 413	1 829 487	169 708	1 483 581	1 673 492	946 103	832 019	760 935	186 692	248 526	419 094
Widower/widow	315 387	216 296	25 196	265 962	324 063	136 460	182 992	154 671	38 223	47 524	72 525
Separated/divorced	217 287	189 721	11 156	110 660	104 143	51 826	80 652	76 453	12 930	16 711	26 473
Cohabiting	363 826	173 010	47 001	355 839	801 409	290 985	328 072	338 785	120 145	101 852	250 757
Total	5 151 675	3 591 141	634 349	6 262 114	9 034 506	3 654 790	3 162 454	3 412 129	956 339	904 431	1 646 330
Percentage											
Never married	39,2	32,9	60,1	64,6	67,9	61,0	55,0	61,0	62,6	54,2	53,3
Married	43,4	50,9	26,8	23,7	18,5	25,9	26,3	22,3	19,5	27,5	25,5
Widower/widow	6,1	6,0	4,0	4,2	3,6	3,7	5,8	4,5	4,0	5,3	4,4
Separated/divorced	4,2	5,3	1,8	1,8	1,2	1,4	2,6	2,2	1,4	1,8	1,6
Cohabiting	7,1	4,8	7,4	5,7	8,9	8,0	10,4	9,9	12,6	11,3	15,2
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: Statistics South Africa

Table A12: Distribution of persons aged 15 years and older by marital status and geography type

Geography type	Census 1996			Census 2001			Census 2011			CS 2016		
	Urban	Non-urban	Total	Urban	Non-urban	Total	Urban	Non-urban	Total	Urban	Non-urban	Total
Number												
Never married	6 657 764	5 462 857	12 120 621	8 759 493	6 131 600	14 891 093	11 595 902	7 018 758	18 614 660	13 650 309	8 284 216	21 934 525
Married	6 146 176	3 888 852	10 035 028	6 881 863	3 627 957	10 509 820	8 407 262	3 329 473	11 736 736	8 039 563	2 947 147	10 986 710
Cohabiting	753 523	515 442	1 268 965	1 532 505	853 435	2 385 940	2 482 638	1 100 589	3 583 228	2 273 987	960 215	3 234 203
Widowed	712 202	569 722	1 281 924	960 119	839 684	1 799 803	1 054 654	770 263	1 824 916	1 179 439	606 695	1 786 135
Divorced/separated	532 460	189 705	722 165	641 540	226 295	867 835	722 146	188 785	910 931	750 041	153 955	903 995
Total	14 802 125	10 626 578	25 428 703	18 775 519	11 678 971	30 454 490	24 262 602	12 407 869	36 670 471	25 893 339	12 952 229	38 845 567
Percentage												
Never married	45,0	51,4	47,7	46,7	52,5	48,9	47,8	56,6	50,8	52,7	64,0	56,5
Married	41,5	36,6	39,5	36,7	31,1	34,5	34,7	26,8	32,0	31,0	22,8	28,3
Cohabiting	5,1	4,9	5,0	8,2	7,3	7,8	10,2	8,9	9,8	8,8	7,4	8,3
Widowed	4,8	5,4	5,0	5,1	7,2	5,9	4,3	6,2	5,0	4,6	4,7	4,6
Divorced/separated	3,6	1,8	2,8	3,4	1,9	2,8	3,0	1,5	2,5	2,9	1,2	2,3
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: Statistics South Africa

Table A13: Distribution of persons aged 15 years and older by marital status and province, Census 1996

Marital status	Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo	South Africa
Number										
Never married	1 098 881	1 831 173	300 276	684 548	2 851 103	869 894	2 334 937	931 594	1 218 216	12 120 621
Married	1 195 932	1 344 507	228 930	772 431	1 755 212	639 493	2 375 533	714 105	1 008 884	10 035 028
Cohabiting	119 260	101 097	49 037	94 656	294 659	94 216	347 508	109 585	58 947	1 268 965
Widowed	134 381	221 036	34 216	102 288	243 715	80 871	238 367	81 200	145 851	1 281 924
Divorced/separated	107 879	86 790	14 185	72 867	81 419	37 833	210 230	45 329	65 632	722 165
Total	2 656 333	3 584 603	626 644	1 726 790	5 226 109	1 722 306	5 506 575	1 881 813	2 497 530	25 428 703
Percentage										
Never married	41,4	51,1	47,9	39,6	54,6	50,5	42,4	49,5	48,8	47,7
Married	45,0	37,5	36,5	44,7	33,6	37,1	43,1	37,9	40,4	39,5
Cohabiting	4,5	2,8	7,8	5,5	5,6	5,5	6,3	5,8	2,4	5,0
Widowed	5,1	6,2	5,5	5,9	4,7	4,7	4,3	4,3	5,8	5,0
Divorced/separated	4,1	2,4	2,3	4,2	1,6	2,2	3,8	2,4	2,6	2,8
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: Statistics South Africa

Table A14: Distribution of persons aged 15 years and older by marital status and province, Census 2001

Marital status	Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo	South Africa
Number										
Never married	1 402 593	2 080 173	319 849	808 914	3 463 543	1 037 346	3 164 890	1 097 851	1 515 933	14 891 093
Married	1 367 031	1 323 607	223 069	716 332	1 756 511	675 478	2 688 092	685 930	1 073 770	10 509 820
Cohabiting	220 712	164 187	72 499	141 522	549 500	177 580	709 047	208 349	142 544	2 385 940
Widowed	169 454	311 700	41 576	129 673	374 408	113 992	313 958	116 405	228 639	1 799 803
Divorced/separated	127 844	102 072	16 620	80 106	95 358	50 242	262 265	50 588	82 738	867 835
Total	3 287 634	3 981 739	673 613	1 876 546	6 239 320	2 054 637	7 138 253	2 159 124	3 043 625	30 454 490
Percentage										
Never married	42,7	52,2	47,5	43,1	55,5	50,5	44,3	50,8	49,8	48,9
Married	41,6	33,2	33,1	38,2	28,2	32,9	37,7	31,8	35,3	34,5
Cohabiting	6,7	4,1	10,8	7,5	8,8	8,6	9,9	9,6	4,7	7,8
Widowed	5,2	7,8	6,2	6,9	6,0	5,5	4,4	5,4	7,5	5,9
Divorced/separated	3,9	2,6	2,5	4,3	1,5	2,4	3,7	2,3	2,7	2,8
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: Statistics South Africa

Table A15: Distribution of persons aged 15 years and older by marital status and province, Census 2011

Marital status	Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo	South Africa
Number										
Never married	1 848 583	2 355 937	401 766	902 164	4 130 324	1 274 907	4 280 827	1 520 608	1 899 544	18 614 660
Married	1 762 397	1 386 580	246 217	627 892	1 912 924	739 668	3 244 766	761 894	1 054 396	11 736 736
Cohabiting	382 134	231 070	90 632	218 602	542 529	282 952	1 199 651	323 878	311 780	3 583 228
Widowed	200 194	321 375	43 610	137 095	299 668	119 766	345 336	123 874	233 998	1 824 916
Divorced/separated	165 621	99 599	18 262	60 922	102 337	52 296	292 751	49 005	70 137	910 931
Total	4 358 929	4 394 562	800 488	1 946 675	6 987 781	2 469 589	9 363 331	2 779 260	3 569 856	36 670 471
Percentage										
Never married	42,4	53,6	50,2	46,3	59,1	51,6	45,7	54,7	53,2	50,8
Married	40,4	31,6	30,8	32,3	27,4	30,0	34,7	27,4	29,5	32,0
Cohabiting	8,8	5,3	11,3	11,2	7,8	11,5	12,8	11,7	8,7	9,8
Widowed	4,6	7,3	5,4	7,0	4,3	4,8	3,7	4,5	6,6	5,0
Divorced/separated	3,8	2,3	2,3	3,1	1,5	2,1	3,1	1,8	2,0	2,5
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: Statistics South Africa

Table A16: Distribution of persons aged 15 years and older by marital status and province, CS 2016

Marital status	Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo	South Africa
Number										
Never married	2 170 898	2 873 872	472 274	1 051 784	4 715 669	1 522 549	5 007 800	1 803 856	2 315 823	21 934 525
Married	1 748 766	1 168 812	234 776	593 315	1 588 518	658 776	3 272 979	715 568	1 005 200	10 986 710
Cohabiting	322 230	172 344	89 860	203 196	518 274	279 964	1 044 664	294 710	308 961	3 234 203
Widowed	220 796	233 721	45 580	132 708	294 866	117 558	435 271	120 616	185 019	1 786 135
Divorced/separated	178 288	87 658	19 450	55 584	96 852	51 849	316 429	42 765	55 121	903 995
Total	4 640 979	4 536 407	861 939	2 036 586	7 214 178	2 630 696	10 077 144	2 977 514	3 870 125	38 845 567
Percentage										
Never married	46,8	63,4	54,8	51,6	65,4	57,9	49,7	60,6	59,8	56,5
Married	37,7	25,8	27,2	29,1	22,0	25,0	32,5	24,0	26,0	28,3
Cohabiting	6,9	3,8	10,4	10,0	7,2	10,6	10,4	9,9	8,0	8,3
Widowed	4,8	5,2	5,3	6,5	4,1	4,5	4,3	4,1	4,8	4,6
Divorced/separated	3,8	1,9	2,3	2,7	1,3	2,0	3,1	1,4	1,4	2,3
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: Statistics South Africa

Table A17: Distribution of females by age group , marital status and geography type

Age group	Marital status	Census 1996			Census 2001			Census 2011			CS 2016		
		Urban	Non-Urban	Total	Urban	Non-urban	Total	Urban area	Non-urban	Total	Urban	Non-urban	Total
15 - 19	Never married	929 093	1 044 735	1 973 827	1 241 659	1 176 696	2 418 355	1 302 645	1 045 803	2 348 448	1 386 469	1 095 524	2 481 993
	Married	17 593	24 693	42 287	21 725	26 920	48 645	44 170	29 609	73 780	12 872	10 719	23 592
	Living together	12 977	12 227	25 203	28 102	26 248	54 350	42 095	27 564	69 659	19 324	14 664	33 987
	Widowed	464	513	977	1 837	1 711	3 547	1 888	1 229	3 118	1 676	4 920	6 596
	Divorced/separated	578	1 050	1 628	1 477	2 269	3 745	5 567	4 334	9 901	519	635	1 153
	Total	960 705	1 083 218	2 043 922	1 294 799	1 233 843	2 528 642	1 396 366	1 108 539	2 504 905	1 420 860	1 126 462	2 547 321
20 - 24	Never married	837 948	701 745	1 539 693	1 024 951	708 629	1 733 580	1 315 826	771 220	2 087 046	1 400 448	886 319	2 286 767
	Married	173 585	130 039	303 624	144 952	93 073	238 026	205 136	78 965	284 102	97 621	46 623	144 245
	Living together	74 761	49 079	123 839	135 560	72 372	207 931	209 137	81 402	290 539	139 472	61 975	201 447
	Widowed	1 863	1 775	3 637	2 683	2 583	5 266	3 126	1 587	4 714	2 050	4 043	6 094
	Divorced/separated	6 665	5 220	11 886	5 488	4 939	10 427	8 779	4 717	13 496	2 202	1 224	3 426
	Total	1 094 821	887 858	1 982 679	1 313 635	881 595	2 195 230	1 742 004	937 892	2 679 896	1 641 793	1 000 184	2 641 978
25 - 29	Never married	544 240	372 543	916 783	700 127	436 915	1 137 043	941 128	531 514	1 472 641	1 143 728	695 968	1 839 697
	Married	403 533	233 931	637 464	389 770	190 641	580 411	464 383	140 662	605 045	304 860	110 212	415 073
	Living together	92 312	55 510	147 822	185 363	90 184	275 546	297 952	107 536	405 487	238 209	96 533	334 742
	Widowed	5 831	5 045	10 875	6 889	6 194	13 084	5 929	3 590	9 520	4 147	4 190	8 337
	Divorced/separated	23 719	10 561	34 280	20 148	9 582	29 730	17 779	6 162	23 942	11 713	3 463	15 177
	Total	1 069 635	677 589	1 747 224	1 302 298	733 516	2 035 814	1 727 171	789 464	2 516 635	1 702 658	910 367	2 613 025
30 - 34	Never married	349 784	219 217	569 001	429 038	246 613	675 651	580 324	331 069	911 392	782 498	479 463	1 261 961
	Married	497 177	305 161	802 338	513 369	254 511	767 880	540 101	170 391	710 492	473 930	169 613	643 543
	Living together	73 986	50 216	124 202	140 186	75 185	215 370	219 361	91 604	310 965	217 130	96 556	313 686
	Widowed	13 585	11 237	24 822	16 058	13 867	29 925	12 906	8 646	21 552	9 281	6 608	15 889
	Divorced/separated	45 495	17 303	62 798	42 619	14 967	57 587	30 664	7 739	38 403	26 480	5 645	32 124
	Total	980 026	603 134	1 583 161	1 141 269	605 143	1 746 412	1 383 356	609 449	1 992 804	1 509 319	757 884	2 267 204
35 - 39	Never married	228 855	134 031	362 885	308 364	163 787	472 150	416 722	235 135	651 857	592 846	283 712	876 557
	Married	474 777	300 923	775 700	542 953	299 088	842 041	563 413	203 250	766 663	554 988	168 987	723 975

Age group	Marital status	Census 1996			Census 2001			Census 2011			CS 2016		
		Urban	Non-Urban	Total	Urban	Non-urban	Total	Urban area	Non-urban	Total	Urban	Non-urban	Total
	Living together	51 463	37 134	88 597	109 177	64 361	173 538	158 105	78 425	236 530	178 306	70 906	249 212
	Widowed	23 314	18 831	42 145	29 775	25 765	55 540	25 868	17 923	43 791	23 546	10 520	34 065
	Divorced/separated	60 923	19 022	79 946	65 729	21 266	86 995	48 670	10 909	59 579	50 455	7 928	58 383
	Total	839 332	509 941	1 349 274	1 055 998	574 266	1 630 264	1 212 778	545 642	1 758 420	1 400 141	542 052	1 942 193
40 - 44	Never married	146 456	84 537	230 993	214 861	106 575	321 436	307 754	162 199	469 953	423 539	197 149	620 688
	Married	398 036	264 986	663 021	485 146	277 599	762 745	536 232	219 258	755 490	523 767	182 898	706 665
	Living together	32 763	25 179	57 943	72 302	45 869	118 172	109 516	58 840	168 355	120 036	57 854	177 890
	Widowed	34 657	26 422	61 079	45 294	38 137	83 432	42 899	30 481	73 380	39 391	17 929	57 320
	Divorced/separated	63 394	17 572	80 965	78 321	21 727	100 049	65 630	13 482	79 112	66 054	9 660	75 714
	Total	675 305	418 696	1 094 001	895 925	489 908	1 385 832	1 062 031	484 260	1 546 291	1 172 787	465 490	1 638 277
45 - 49	Never married	90 442	55 899	146 341	144 433	72 343	216 776	246 382	129 004	375 386	307 582	139 796	447 378
	Married	311 761	216 213	527 973	389 149	239 544	628 693	490 678	233 170	723 849	481 625	196 043	677 668
	Living together	18 956	17 111	36 067	45 221	31 174	76 395	80 253	47 660	127 912	76 692	43 315	120 007
	Widowed	43 660	32 388	76 048	59 237	48 929	108 166	61 593	46 355	107 948	61 589	29 346	90 935
	Divorced/separated	52 835	13 697	66 532	70 589	19 156	89 746	74 069	15 379	89 448	74 683	11 782	86 466
	Total	517 654	335 308	852 961	708 630	411 146	1 119 776	952 976	471 567	1 424 543	1 002 171	420 282	1 422 453
Total	Never married	3 126 816	2 612 707	5 739 523	4 063 433	2 911 558	6 974 991	5 110 780	3 205 944	8 316 724	6 037 110	3 777 930	9 815 040
	Married	2 276 461	1 475 946	3 752 407	2 487 065	1 381 375	3 868 440	2 844 115	1 075 306	3 919 421	2 449 664	885 095	3 334 759
	Living together	357 218	246 455	603 673	715 911	405 392	1 121 303	1 116 419	493 030	1 609 448	989 169	441 803	1 430 972
	Widowed	123 374	96 211	219 585	161 773	137 186	298 959	154 209	109 813	264 022	141 680	77 556	219 236
	Divorced/separated	253 609	84 425	338 034	284 372	93 906	378 278	251 158	62 722	313 880	232 106	40 337	272 443
	Total	6 137 478	4 515 745	10 653 222	7 712 554	4 929 418	12 641 971	9 476 681	4 946 813	14 423 494	9 849 730	5 222 721	15 072 451

Table A18: Distribution of women (15–49) by parity and age of women, Census 2011

Parity	15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49
0	1 527 716	1 017 578	566 391	290 751	188 325	137 200	118 294
1	291 576	898 301	846 408	492 473	300 345	206 532	170 264
2	34 802	296 807	600 123	588 898	498 577	389 005	313 890
3	6 197	59 514	208 317	312 162	359 106	325 900	287 990
4	1 025	14 840	60 334	121 759	182 705	201 407	198 588
5	0	4 284	15 771	41 096	79 329	105 206	117 067
6	0	1 583	7 044	16 581	37 209	56 220	69 561
7	0	0	3 728	6 289	15 229	27 314	37 390
8	0	0	1 312	3 955	8 321	14 838	21 537
9	0	0	0	2 205	3 998	7 537	10 881
10	0	0	0	898	2 328	4 425	6 667
11	0	0	0	211	1 252	2 314	3 296
12	0	0	0	0	687	1 651	2 416
13	0	0	0	0	127	936	1 428
14	0	0	0	0	0	587	969
15	0	0	0	0	0	195	628
16	0	0	0	0	0	0	422
17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parity unstated	582 689	311 077	166 272	91 585	63 123	49 734	49 657
Number of children not consistent with age of the mother	6 553	8 798	6 725	3 407	2 061	1 073	686
Total	2 450 560	2 612 782	2 482 424	1 972 271	1 742 720	1 532 074	1 411 629
Total children	383 873	1 760 737	3 070 651	3 505 573	3 981 631	4 121 774	4 171 214
Proportion unknown	0,2405	0,1224	0,0697	0,0482	0,0374	0,0332	0,0357
Proportion childless	0,6234	0,3895	0,2282	0,1474	0,1081	0,0896	0,0838
Observed average parity	0,1566	0,6739	1,2370	1,7774	2,2847	2,6903	2,9549
Births in the last 12 months	142 185	293 308	278 341	190 104	112 563	38 582	8 409
Age-specific fertility rate (ASFR)	0,0580	0,1123	0,1121	0,0964	0,0646	0,0252	0,0060
ASFR per 1 000 women	58	112	112	96	65	25	6

Source: Statistics South Africa

Table A19: Distribution of women (15–49) by parity and age of women, CS 2016

Parity	15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49
0	2 249 428	1 434 228	883 009	546 320	406 817	300 920	255 051
1	269 736	881 680	844 754	529 020	335 807	229 555	172 992
2	22 193	268 848	603 132	654 662	534 925	422 236	330 515
3	1 787	45 142	210 061	350 775	381 266	337 113	288 351
4	370	5 921	49 979	125 161	171 845	183 389	178 016
5	0	743	10 600	38 123	64 550	87 505	94 693
6	0	149	2 393	11 235	24 247	40 199	49 396
7	0	0	398	2 991	9 176	17 318	23 402
8	0	0	105	879	3 159	7 557	11 412
9	0	0	0	260	1 080	3 207	5 559
10	0	0	0	92	438	1 501	2 594
11	0	0	0	0	72	518	1 081
12	0	0	0	0	107	178	592
13	0	0	0	0	0	64	232
14	0	0	0	0	0	27	175
15	0	0	0	0	0	0	77
16	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
17	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Unspecified	2 099	1 714	1 974	1 741	2 163	1 313	1 671
Do not know	3 527	5 035	7 841	6 665	7 512	6 513	7 343
Total	2 549 139	2 643 461	2 614 246	2 267 924	1 943 164	1 639 113	1 423 173
Total children	320 961	1 583 101	2 952 102	3 680 566	3 810 750	3 732 245	3 538 038
Proportion unknown	0,002	0,003	0,004	0,004	0,005	0,005	0,006
Proportion childless	0,8824	0,5426	0,3378	0,2409	0,2094	0,1836	0,1792
Observed average parity	0,1259	0,5989	1,1292	1,6229	1,9611	2,2770	2,4860
Births in the last 12 months	122 371	266 135	260 475	201 511	115 298	42 165	6 579
Age-specific fertility rate (ASFR)	0,048	0,101	0,100	0,089	0,059	0,026	0,005
ASFR per 1 000 women	48	101	100	89	59	26	5

Source: Statistics South Africa