



Living in Northern Cape

Selected findings of
the 1995 October
household survey

CSS

Central Statistics

**Central Statistics
Private Bag X44
Pretoria 0001**

**274 Schoeman Street
Pretoria**

Users enquiries: (012) 310-8600

Fax : (012) 310-8500

Main switchboard: (012) 310-8911

E-mail: info@css.pwv.gov.za

CSS website: <http://www.css.gov.za>

Living in Northern Cape

Selected findings of the 1995 October household survey

**Central Statistics
1998**

**Dr FM Orkin
Head**

Published by Central Statistics
Private Bag X44
Pretoria
0001

ISBN 0-621-27944-7

© Copyright, 1998.

Data from this publication may be applied or processed, provided Central Statistics (CSS) is acknowledged as the source of the original data; that it is specified that the application and/or analysis is the result of the user's independent processing of the data; and that neither the basic data nor any reprocessed version or application thereof may be sold or offered for sale in any form whatsoever.

Authors: Herman Matlala
Survey Statistician
Household Surveys
CSS

James Serwadda-Luwaga
Deputy Director
Household Surveys
CSS

Welcome Sekwati
Editor
Publishing, Marketing
and User Information Services
CSS

The detailed statistical tables on which this publication is based are available as 'October household survey', CSS statistical release **P0317** (South Africa as a whole), and **P0317.1** to **P0317.9** (the nine provinces). These can be ordered from Central Statistics, Pretoria, in both printed and electronic format.

Other CSS reports in this series:

Living in South Africa. Selected findings of the 1995 October household survey (1996)
Earning and spending in South Africa. Selected findings of the 1995 income and expenditure survey (1997)
Living in Gauteng. Selected findings of the 1995 October household survey (1997)
Living in KwaZulu-Natal. Selected findings of the 1995 October household survey (1998)
Living in Free State. Selected findings of the 1995 October household survey (1998)
Living in Mpumalanga. Selected findings of the 1995 October household survey (1998)
Living in Northern Province. Selected findings of the 1995 October household survey (1998)
Living in Eastern Cape. Selected findings of the 1995 October household survey (1998)
Living in Western Cape. Selected findings of the 1995 October household survey (1998)
Living in North West. Selected findings of the 1995 October household survey
(forthcoming, 1998)

Preliminary estimates of the size of the South African population, based on the population census conducted in October 1996, were issued by the CSS in July 1997. These indicate that there are fewer people (37,9 million) in the country, and that urbanisation (55%) has been more rapid, than was previously realised.

The new census numbers may have an effect on some of the weights and raising factors that were used in this report, since these are presently based on projections of population and household size to 1995, using the 1991 census estimates as baseline.

The new CSS management believes that the model used to adjust the actual count of people found in the 1991 census probably overestimated population growth rates in the country, hence overestimating the size of the population and number of households.

The number of people, the number of households and the percentages reported here will therefore probably need to be modified at a later date when the CSS has more complete information about household size and distribution of the population by population group and age from Census '96. Nevertheless, these overall trends should be accepted as indicative of the broad patterns in households in South Africa in general, and Northern Cape in particular, during 1995.

Contents

	Page
Section 1: Introduction	
Background	1
The research process	2
The questionnaire design	2
Drawing a sample	2
The fieldwork	3
Data capture	3
Weighting the sample	4
Data analysis and report writing	4
Comparison with 1994 data	4
Section 2: The main findings regarding individuals	
Introduction to Northern Cape	7
The population of Northern Cape	8
Age distribution	13
Education	18
Employment and unemployment in Northern Cape	19
The economically active population	19
The unemployed	19
The employment	23
The economic sector	26
Employment in the informal sector	27
Section 3: The main findings regarding households	
Types of dwellings in which households live	31
Access to facilities and services	34
Access to electricity	35
Access to piped water	36
Sanitation	37
Telephones	38
Access to health-care facilities	39
Household income	40
Safety and security	42
Section 4: Disability	
Section 5: Conclusion	

List of Figures

	Page
Figure 1: Population of South Africa by province	8
Figure 2: Population of South Africa by province and race	9
Figure 3: Population of Northern Cape by race	10
Figure 4: Population of South Africa in urban and non-urban areas by province	11
Figure 5: Population of Northern Cape by urban/non-urban areas and race	12
Figure 6: Age profile of the population of Northern Cape by gender	13
Figure 7: Age distribution of the coloured population by gender in Northern Cape	14
Figure 8: Age distribution of Africans by gender in Northern Cape	15
Figure 9: Age distribution of whites by gender in Northern Cape	16
Figure 10: Population of Northern Cape by age and race	17
Figure 11: Level of education by race and gender among those aged 20 years living in Northern Cape.	18
Figure 12: Unemployment rates in Northern Cape by race and gender: strict definition compared with expanded definition	20
Figure 13: Unemployment rates in Northern Cape by population group and gender among the economically active population	21
Figure 14: Distribution of the unemployed in Northern Cape by age, race and gender	22
Figure 15: Occupations of employed Africans in Northern Cape by gender	23
Figure 16: Occupation of employed coloureds in Northern Cape by gender	24
Figure 17: Occupation of employed whites (N=51 000) by gender	25
Figure 18: Economic sector of employer among all those who are working in Northern Cape	26
Figure 19: Workers for own account in the informal sector in Northern Cape by gender and population group	27
Figure 20: Workers of own account in the informal sector in Northern Cape by economic sector and gender	28
Figure 21: Workers for own account in the informal sector in Northern Cape by occupation and gender	29
Figure 22: Types of dwellings in which urban/non-urban African households in Northern Cape live	32
Figure 23: Size of dwelling in Northern Cape by race of head of household	33
Figure 24: Average household size in Northern Cape by race in urban and non-urban areas	34
Figure 25: Source of energy for lighting in urban and non-urban households in Northern Cape	35
Figure 26: Source of energy for cooking in urban and non-urban African households in Northern Cape	36

Figure 27: Where water for drinking is obtained in urban and non-urban African households in Northern Cape	37
Figure 28: Type of sanitation used among African households in urban and non-urban areas	38
Figure 29: Source of health-care for households by race	39
Figure 30: Percentage of households in Northern Cape in each annual income quintile by race and gender	41
Figure 31: Feeling safe in one's neighbourhood by race and gender of the head household in Northern Cape	42
Figure 32: Feeling safe inside one's home by race of head of household in Northern Cape	43
Figure 33: Disability by race and gender	45

Section 1

Introduction

Background

South Africa's first democratically-elected government has committed itself to improved living conditions for the population. The extent of change required in the country generally, and in Northern Cape in particular, to bring about improved living conditions, can best be measured through household surveys. The programme of annual October household surveys (OHS) of the Central Statistical Service (CSS) provides detailed information about the living conditions and life circumstances of all South Africans.

However, a programme of household surveys makes it possible not only to describe the situation in a country at a given point in time, but also to measure change in people's life circumstances as and when new government policies are implemented. This is one of the major aims of the OHS programme.

This report concerns South Africa's smallest province in population size (approximately 0,7 million people), but the largest one in area (362 000 square kilometres or 30% of the country's land mass). The province's population density is approximately two people per square kilometre compared, for example, to 375 people per square kilometre in Gauteng. Most of the population (73%) lives in small towns.

The main economic activities in the province involve mining and quarrying (25%), community, social and personal services (20%), and trade, catering and accommodation (15%). There is very little manufacturing activity (4%).

The first comprehensive CSS household survey was conducted in October 1993. It was repeated, with modifications to the questionnaire, in 1994 and 1995. The former 'TBVC states' (Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei) were originally excluded for the OHS but, from 1994 onwards, the entire country was included.

This report is a summary of the findings of the 1995 OHS. It paints a demographic, social and economic picture of life in Northern Cape and, where appropriate, compares this to the country as a whole.

The research process

The following steps constituted the research process for the 1995 OHS:

- Questionnaire design
- Drawing of a sample
- Fieldwork
- Data capture
- Weighting of the sample
- Data analysis
- Report writing

Each step is discussed in more detail below.

Questionnaire design

The 1995 OHS questionnaire, in the same vein as previous ones, contains questions about the household as a whole, as well as on all individual members. In the household section, questions are asked about type of dwelling (dwellings) in which the household lives; access to facilities such as electricity, tap water, toilets and regular refuse removal; access to health and social welfare services; and the safety and well-being of the household.

In the section completed for each individual in the household, questions are asked on age, gender, education, marital status, migration, use of health services, economic activity, unemployment, employment and self-employment. Questions are also asked on births and deaths in the household, but these are not discussed in the present report.

Drawing a sample

In the 1995 OHS, information was obtained from 30 000 households nationally, and 1 430 households in Northern Cape.

- Altogether, 143 enumerator area (EAs) were drawn for the sample of Northern Cape, and ten households were visited in each EA. This was an improvement compared with 1994, when only 1 000 EA were drawn nationally and information was obtained from 30 households per EA.
- The 1995 sample was stratified by province, urban and non-urban areas and race.
- The 1991 population census was used as a frame for drawing the sample. For more details of how the sample was drawn, the reader is referred to the national report on the OHS.¹

¹ Hirschowitz, R and Orkin, FM (1996), *Living in South Africa. Selected findings of the 1995 October household survey*, Central Statistics, Pretoria, 1995.

When implementing the sampling plan for the 1995 OHS, certain difficulties were experienced in the field. Enumerators were not always clear about the exact boundaries of a particular EA. In addition, the fieldwork for the 1995 OHS coincided with the demarcation exercise that was being undertaken to establish new EA boundaries for the 1996 population census. As a consequence, during fieldwork for the OHS, the boundaries used for the 1991 census and those for the new 1996 census were sometimes confused. These problems were taken into account in the weighting procedures, as discussed in a later part of this chapter.

The fieldwork

Information was collected through face-to-face interviews in which fieldworkers administered a questionnaire to a responsible person in each household.

The fieldwork of the 1995 OHS was combined with the fieldwork of an income and expenditure survey (IES), used primarily for calculating weights for household purchases for the consumer price index. The same households were visited for both the OHS and the IES. The fieldworkers first administered the OHS questionnaire, and then returned at a later date to administer the questionnaire for the IES.

Problems were, however, experienced in returning to the same household, particularly in informal settlements and rural areas, where addresses were not available, and where demarcation of the EA or listing of households had not been undertaken for the 1991 census. These problems were solved, as far as possible, during the data-capture process by matching responses to common questions in the two surveys.

Data capture

Data capture of both the 1995 OHS and the IES took place at the head office of the CSS. This process involved linking the information contained in the 1995 OHS with that contained in the IES. The linking of the two data sets was regarded as an important exercise, because details concerning household income and expenditure patterns (IES) could be added to details about education, employment and overall life circumstances (OHS), thus giving a more comprehensive socio-economic description of life in South Africa.

However, difficulties were encountered when attempting to link the two data sets. For example, information in the OHS on type of dwelling, household income and access to services did not always coincide with the IES data. These problems were generally solved by identifying the incompatibilities and adjusting the data within head office, but sometimes revisits to households had to be made. The linking of the two data sets caused considerable delays in data capture.

Weighting the sample

Data concerning households were weighted by the estimated number of households in the country in the various provinces, according to the proportions found in urban and non-urban areas, and by the race of the head of the household. First, the data on individuals were weighted, and then the weight assigned to the head of household was used as the weight for the household.

Data on individuals within households were weighted by age, race and gender, according to CSS population estimates of the population living in urban and non-urban areas in the nine provinces.

The original aim was to weight the data by magisterial district, but this was not possible because of the EA boundary problems previously described. Boundary problems could only be overcome by weighting the sample to a higher level, namely the provincial level.

All further discussions in this report are based on weighted figures.

The preliminary estimates of the population size, based on the 1996 census, indicate that there are fewer people in South Africa than was previously believed, and that urbanisation has been more rapid than anticipated. As a result, proportions and numbers in this report may need to be revised when final estimates from Census '96 are released (September 1998).

Data analysis and report writing

The data were made available for report writing as a series of tables and cross-tabulations. This summary report is based on these tables, as are the companion reports on South Africa as a whole, and the other provinces.

Comparison with 1994 data

The CSS is still grappling with sampling issues raised by attempts to use the incomplete sampling frame generated by the 1991 population census.

Since different methodologies were used for drawing the sample in 1994 and 1995, and since diverse problems were encountered as a result of these varying sampling techniques, the 1994 and 1995 OHS data sets are not directly comparable in all respects. They are essentially separate snapshots of different parts of the country during two consecutive years. However, there are similarities between these two surveys when looking at overall broad patterns. For example, access to water and toilet facilities remains problematic in non-urban areas in both surveys.

Unemployment rates are high in both surveys, and the proportion of Africans in elementary occupations such as cleaning and garbage removal is similar in the two surveys. Subsequent surveys using a more accurate sampling frame on the basis of which to draw samples, and the standardisation of methodology for sampling, will enable the CSS to compare household survey results over time.

In this report, however, we have avoided making comparisons between 1994 and 1995 as we cannot calculate whether variations in answers are due to genuine developmental changes, to sampling error, or to other sources of error such as misunderstanding of questions. As more household surveys are conducted over time, however, it should become increasingly possible to compare the data, particularly if the 1996 population census yields a better sampling frame.

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE

Section 2

The main findings regarding individuals

Introduction to Northern Cape

Bordering the cold Atlantic Ocean, Northern Cape is a province of extremes: the lowest and highest temperatures in the country, the lowest rainfall, the smallest population (2% of the total population of South Africa) and the lowest population density (2,0 persons per square kilometre). But the surface area (361 830 square kilometres) is the largest of the nine provinces comprising 30% of the total area of the country (1 219 090 square kilometres).

The population distribution in both Northern Cape as well as Western Cape slightly differs with that of the other provinces in the country. These are the only provinces where coloureds are in the majority, compared to the other provinces, where Africans form the majority population group. In Northern Cape, 53% (approximately 397 200 people) are coloureds, compared to the African population of 30%.

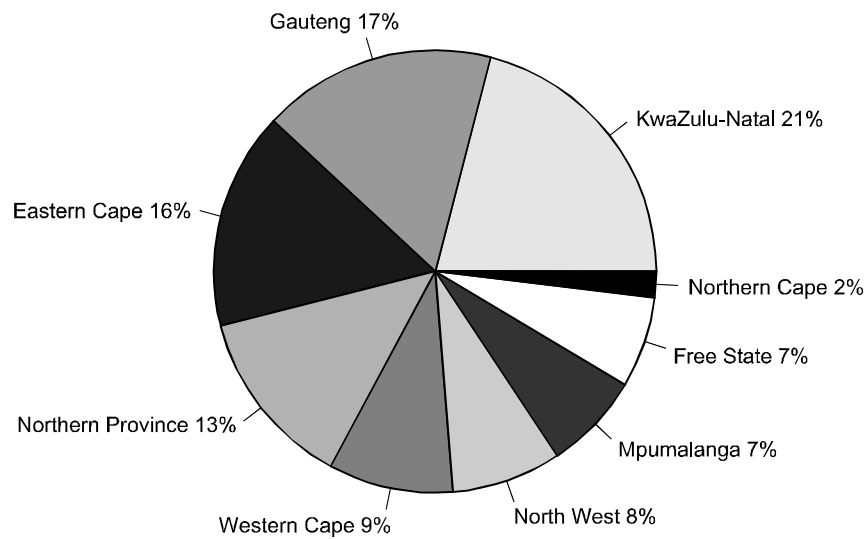
Afrikaans is the most widely-spoken language in the province, with 70 per cent (475 842) of the population using it as their home language. This is followed by Setswana, with 19 per cent (136 985 speakers) and isiXhosa with six per cent (44 700 speakers).

With a life expectancy calculated at 62,7 years, the inhabitants of Northern Cape have the third highest life expectancy of all the provinces. This is based on the Human Development Index, calculated by the CSS for South Africa and its provinces for the years 1980 and 1991. On this index, the average life expectancy for the entire population of South Africa is 62,8 years, with the Western Cape having the highest life expectancy of the provinces (67,7 years), followed by Gauteng (66,0 years) and Northern Cape.

The index also indicates an adult literacy rate of 80% for Northern Cape in 1991 compared with 82% for the entire country. On the relative ranking of the HDI, Northern Cape compares well with countries such as Mexico and Romania.

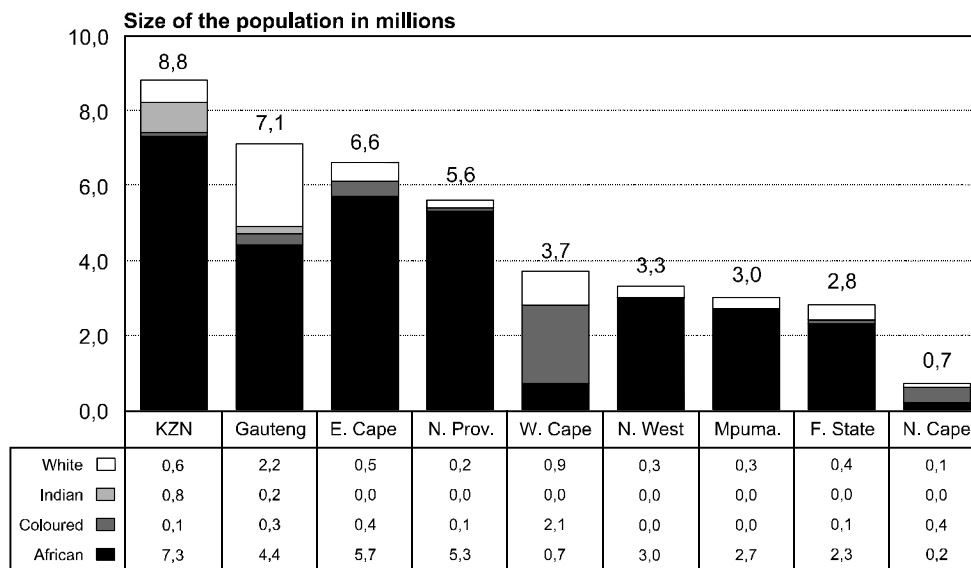
The population of Northern Cape

Northern Cape has the smallest population of all South Africa's provinces (0,7 million people). As indicated in Figure 1, this makes up only two per cent of South Africa's entire population.



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 1: Population of South Africa by province



Source: October household survey, 1995

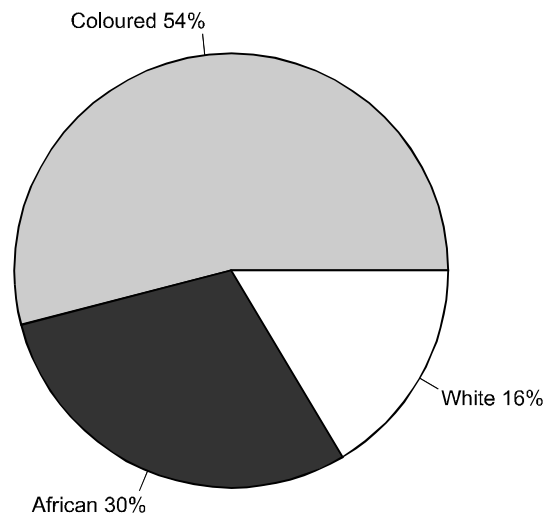
Figure 2: Population of South Africa by province and race

With a surface area covering 361 830 square kilometres, (30% of the total area of the country or 1 219 090 square kilometres), Northern Cape is the largest of all provinces. But the population density in the province of two people per square kilometre is substantial lower than the national density (33,8 people per square kilometre), and is also the lowest of all the provinces.

Figure 2 shows that the population in the province consists of rather few people, with more than half of the population of the Northern Cape being coloured, while Africans constitute the second largest group of people in the province.

The population distribution in Northern Cape is not typical of South Africa as a whole. Figure 3 indicates that, of the 741 000 people resident in Northern Cape in 1995, a total of 399 000 (54%) were coloured. The African population, totalling about 0,2 million or 30% of the entire population of this province, constituted the second largest group. This is contrary to the population distribution picture observable in all the other provinces (excluding Western Cape) and nationally, where Africans are in the majority.

Figure 3 further shows that whites living in Northern Cape total 16% (122 000) of the province's population.

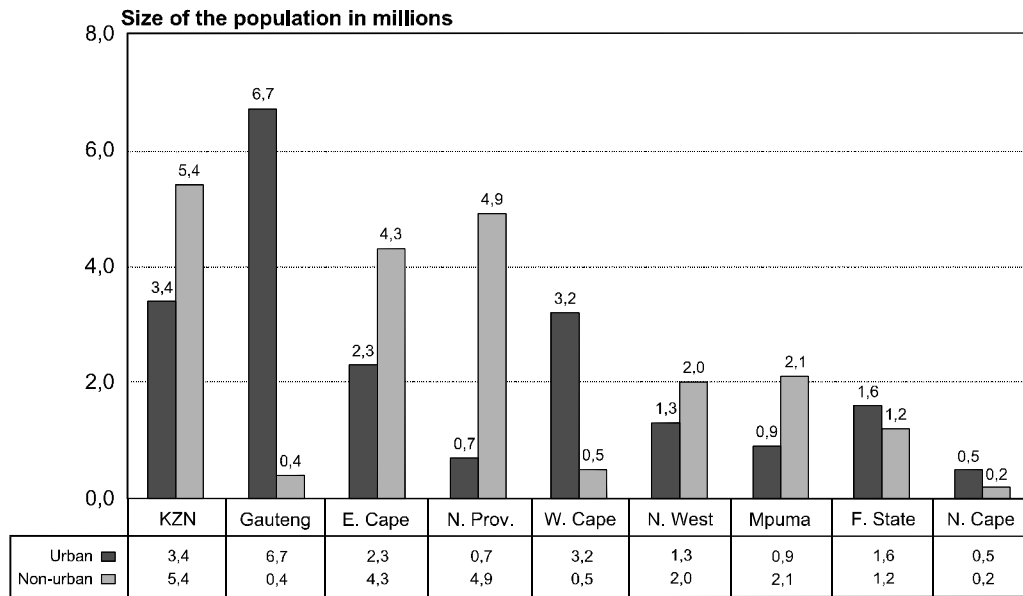


Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 3: Population of Northern Cape by race

Numbering only about a thousand people, the Indian population of Northern Cape constitutes far fewer than 1% of the total population of the province. Because of this, and the small sample size, analysis of this population group in Northern Cape has not been undertaken in this report. However, in calculating totals, the Indian population has been included.

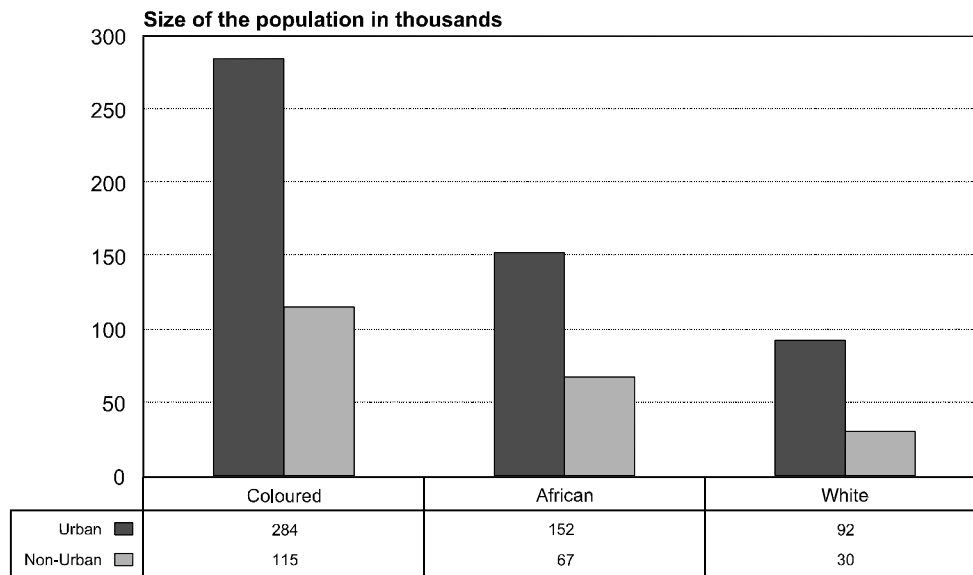
Lying third after Gauteng (95%) and Western Cape (87%) on the urbanisation scale, Northern Cape has an urban population of 0,5 million people – more than 71% of its inhabitants (see Figure 4). By way of comparison, the Eastern Cape and Northern Province – the least urbanised provinces – have 35% and 11% of total population living in urban areas, respectively. The picture of urbanisation in Northern Cape also differs markedly from the national urban/non-urban population distribution.



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 4: Population of South Africa in urban and non-urban areas by province

Nationally, and in the provinces, whites tend to be the most urbanised, followed by coloureds and then Africans. This pattern is followed in Northern Cape (see Figure 5), where 92 000 out of the white population of 122 000 (75%) are urbanised. Amongst the coloured population, 284 000 of a total of 399 000 people (71%) live in urban areas, with the proportion of Africans living in urban areas in Northern Cape being 69% (152 000 of a total of 219 000 people).

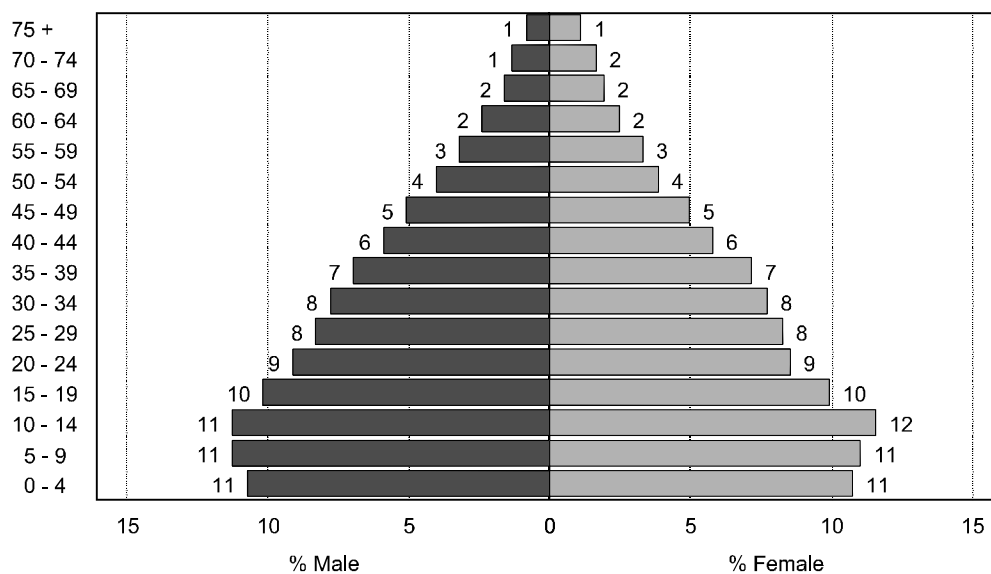


Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 5: Population of Northern Cape by urban/non-urban areas and race

Age distribution

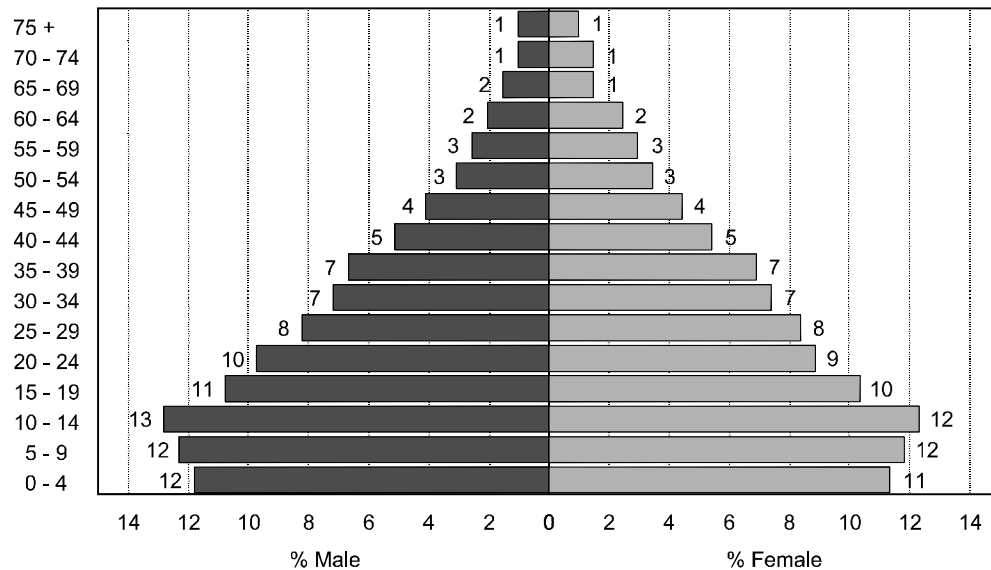
Figure 6 indicates that the population in Northern Cape is typical of a country in transition between developed and developing status, with 33% of its inhabitants below the age of 15 years, and 5% above 65 years. There is a relatively high proportion of children and a small proportion of senior citizens. This compares well with the age distribution of the country as a whole, where 36% of the population are under the age of 15 and 4% over the age of 65. There are indications, however, of a smaller proportion of children below five years of age (11%) compared with the proportion of children in the age category 5-14 (22%).



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 6: Age profile of the population of Northern Cape by gender

With regard to the coloured population in Northern Cape, Figure 7 shows a decline in the proportion of children aged nine years or younger compared to those aged 10-14 years. While boys and girls in the 10-14 age category constitute about 13% and 12% of all males and females respectively, boys and girls in the age group 0-4 constitute only 12% and 11% respectively. The 1% drop in both males and females may suggest a decline in the birth rate in the population. After the age 15-19 years, however, the proportion of people in each age category starts to decrease with increasing age. There is a particularly sharp decrease in the proportion of those in the age group 40-44 years, compared to the proportion aged 35-39 years.



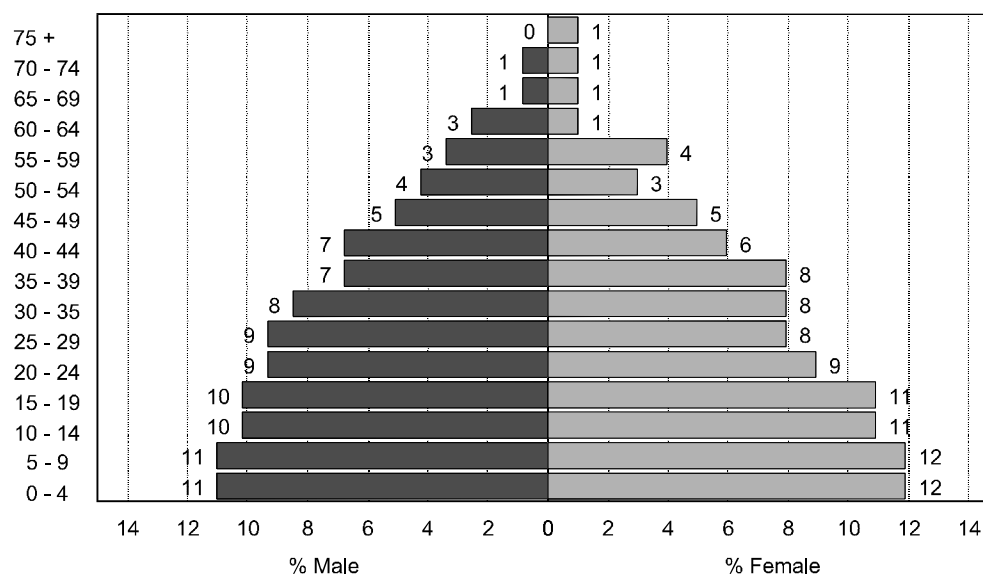
Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 7: Age distribution of the coloured population by gender in Northern Cape

This apparent decline in birth rate may be indicative of a demographic transition between developing and developed countries.

Regarding the African population in Northern Cape, Figure 8 depicts an age pyramid more typical of a developing population. Approximately 11% of males and 12% of females were found in the age category of 0-4 years and also in the category 5-9 years.

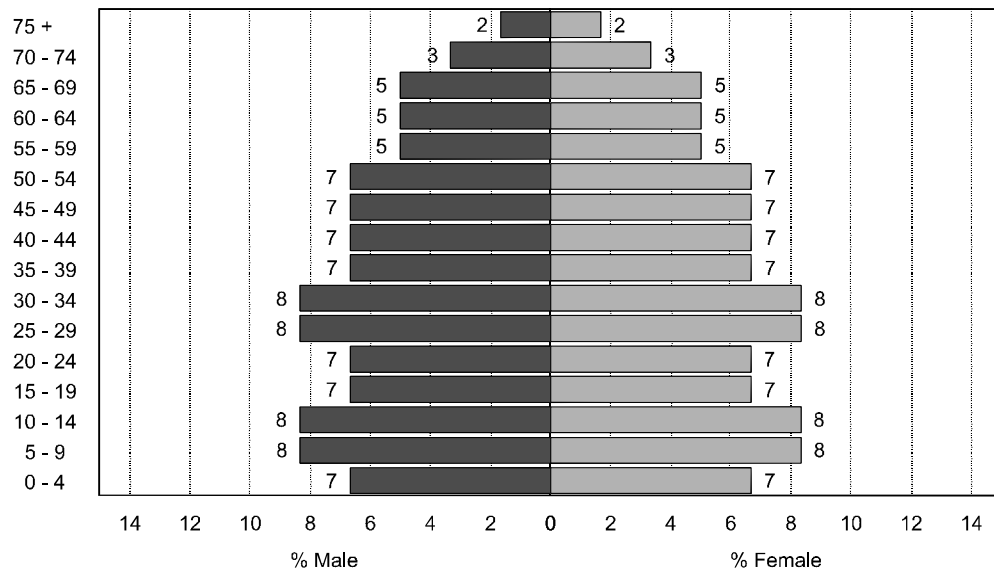
However, this proportion is decreasing with increasing age. There are proportionately few in age category 65 years or more (2% of males and 3% of females).



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 8: Age distribution of Africans by gender in Northern Cape

The age distribution of the white population in Northern Cape differs from that of both the coloured and the African population, with Figure 9 showing an age distribution which is more typical of an industrialised country. There are relatively few children, and a relatively large proportion of those aged 65 or more (20% of both males and females).



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 9: Age distribution of whites by gender in Northern Cape

The ageing white population is clearly indicated in Figure 10. Here we see that, among those aged 65 years or more years, 37% are white. But among those aged 15 to 64 years, only 17% are white, decreasing to 13% among those aged 5-14 years, and even further to ten percent among those aged 0-4 years.

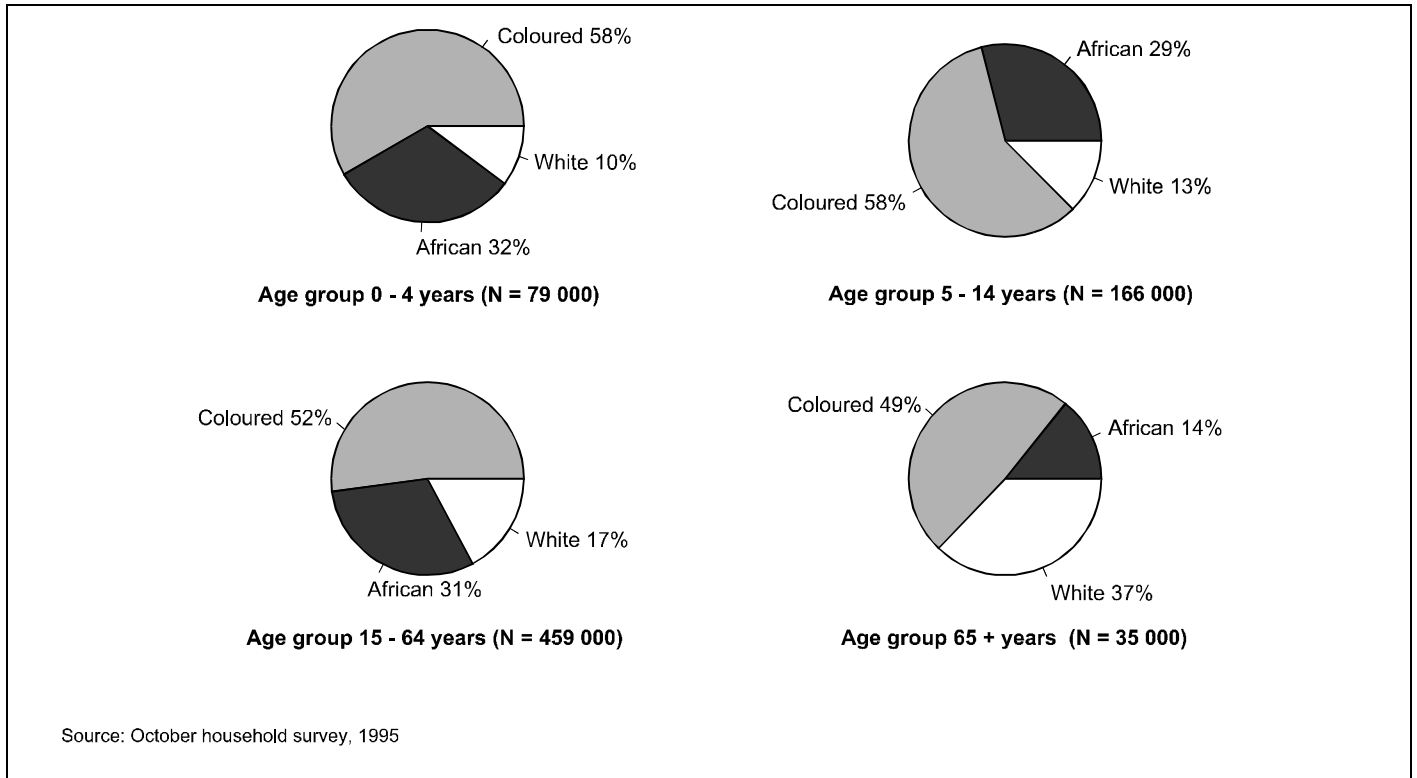


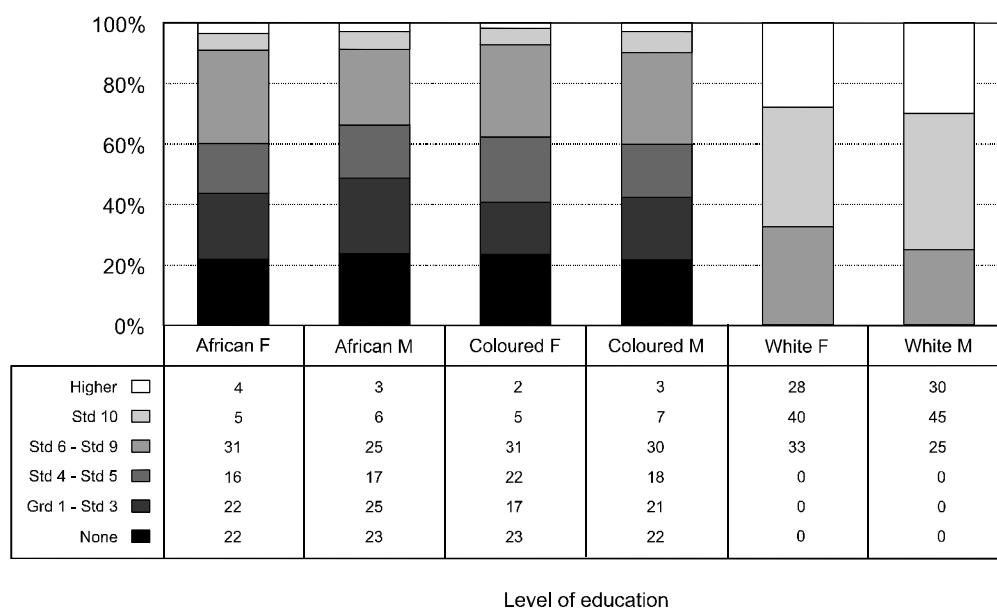
Figure 10: Population of Northern Cape by age and race

Education

Education levels in Northern Cape are generally rather low. Approximately 79% of the entire adult population (aged 20 years and older) of Northern Cape did not have Standard 10 in 1995. Of this proportion, approximately 93% were coloured or African. At a national level, approximately 71% of the entire adult population did not have Standard 10. Education levels in Northern Cape are therefore lower than in South Africa as a whole.

Figure 11 shows that the level of education amongst those aged 20 years or more living in Northern Cape differs widely by race. One of the factors contributing greatly to this phenomenon is the legacy of apartheid and its discriminatory education policies. On the other hand, education also varies by gender. In Figure 11, females across racial boundaries are shown as having slightly lower levels of education compared to males.

Among all those aged 20 years or more in Northern Cape, both Africans and coloureds tend to be poorly educated. For example, 23% of Africans and coloureds, or almost one in every four, had no formal education at all. Figure 11 indicate that almost equal proportions of African males (23%) and females (22%), and coloured males (22%) and females (23%), have no formal education at all.



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 11: Level of education by race and gender among those aged 20 years living in Northern Cape

Among African and coloured males (3% for each) and females (4% and 2% respectively), only a small proportion have attained post-school qualifications, but

about 6% of African males and females have attained post-school qualification at a national level.

In comparison with population groups in Northern Cape, a large proportion of whites have a higher level of education. Almost 29% of all whites aged 20 and above have some secondary schooling, with a highest qualification of Standard 9. A further 44% of the entire population of adult whites have Standard 10 as their highest qualification. At the upper end of the education scale, almost all whites aged 20 years or more (98%) have received at least some secondary education (Standard 6 or higher), while 30% of white males and 28% of white females in this age group have obtained post-school qualifications.

Employment and unemployment in Northern Cape

The economically active population

The term 'economically active' refers to all those who are available for work. It includes both the employed and the unemployed. People who are not available for work – for example those under the age of 15 years, students, scholars, housewives or homemakers, retired people, pensioners, disabled people and others who are permanently unable to work – are excluded from the definition of the economically active population.

In October 1995, there were 496 000 people aged 15 years or older in Northern Cape. Of these, approximately 211 000 (43%) said that they were not economically active and about 285 000 people (57%) said that they were. Of these economically active people, 208 000 (73%) said that they were gainfully employed, either in formal or informal work, while 77 000 (27%) indicated that they were unemployed.

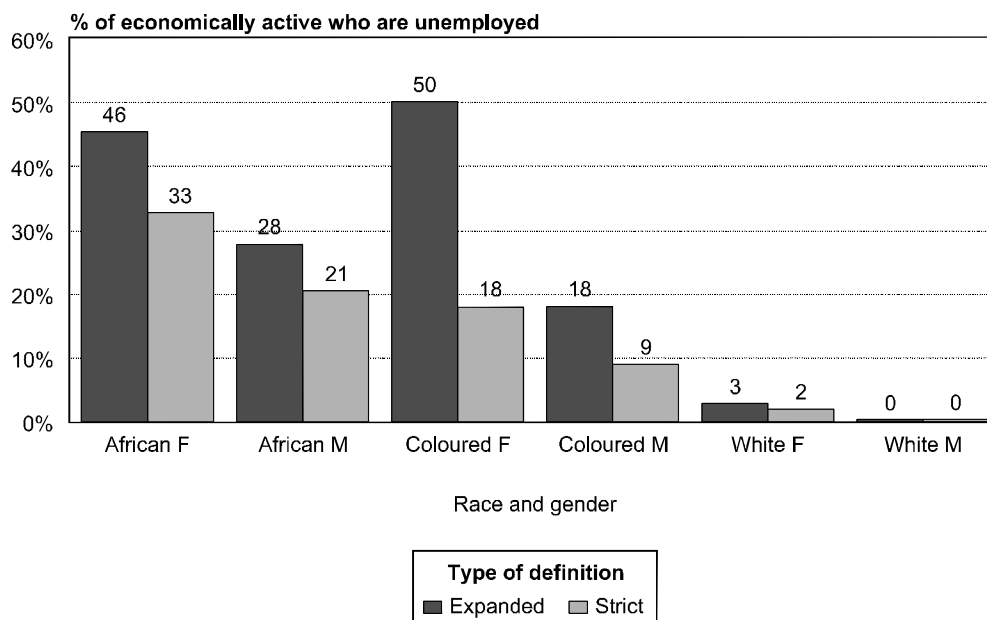
Nationally, about 46% of the population aged 15 years and older said that they were not economically active and about 54% said that they were. Of these economically active people, about 71% said that they were gainfully employed, either in formal or informal work, while 29% indicated that they were unemployed.

The unemployed

At least two definitions of unemployment are used in South Africa – strict and expanded. Both include people who are aged 15 years or older, who are not employed, but who are available for work. But a requirement of the first or strict definition is that a given individual has taken specific steps to seek employment in the four weeks prior to a given point in time. The second or expanded definition focuses on the desire to work, irrespective of whether or not the person has taken active steps to find work.

According to the 1995 October household survey, 19% of this population in Northern Cape was found to be unemployed, using the strict definition compared with 27% using the expanded definition. The unemployment rate among Africans was 25% using strict definition and 34% using the expanded definition. The proportion of unemployed whites is very low and it is similar when using the strict definition and the expanded definition (approximately 1% in both cases). At a national level, Africans are most likely to be unemployed using both the expanded definition (37%) and the strict one (22%), followed by coloureds with 22% and 16%, using the expanded and strict definition respectively.

Figure 12 compares the unemployment rates among males and females of the various population groups of Northern Cape, using the strict and expanded definition. It indicates that 46% of African women could be counted as being unemployed when using the expanded definition, compared with 33% when using the strict definition. Likewise, 50% of coloured women could be counted as being unemployed when using the expanded definition, compared with 18% when using the strict one.



Source: October household survey, 1995

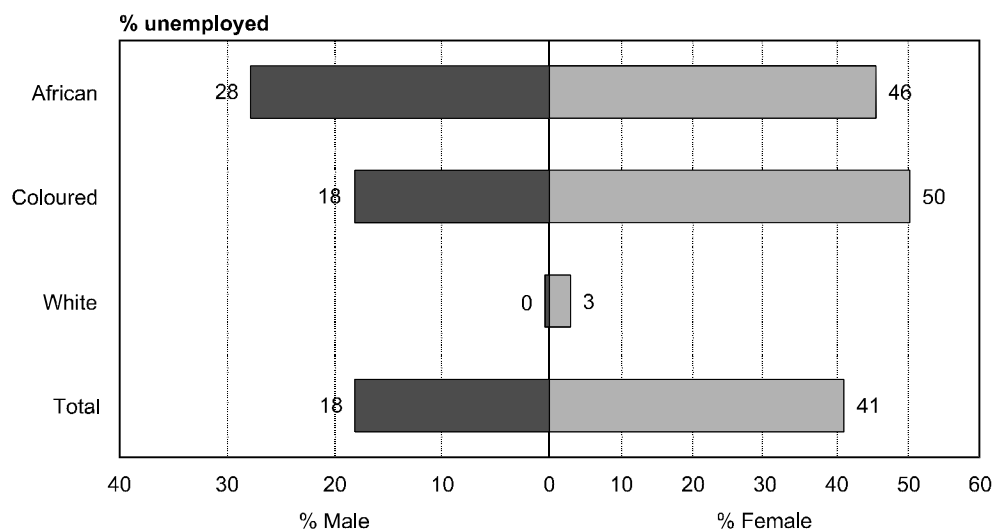
Figure 12: Unemployment rates in Northern Cape by race and gender: strict definition compared with expanded definition

Nationally, the picture is similar for Africans: 47% of African women could be counted as being unemployed when using the expanded definition and 27% when using the strict one. However, proportionately fewer coloured women (28%) could be counted as being unemployed when using the expanded definition. Women are more likely than men to say that they have been unable to look for work in the four weeks' period prior to a given point in time (in this case, the OHS interview).

It has been widely recognised that the strict definition is too limited in the present South African context, where employment opportunities are extremely limited, and many unemployed people have ceased to look for work actively. Transport and other costs entailed in job seeking, often with negative results, have discouraged people from going out and seeking work. In other words, there are people who would readily accept work but who have given up seeking it, because it is often too costly to do so. This applies particularly to African and coloured women in Northern Cape.

The unemployment rate is consequently defined by the CSS in terms of the expanded definition. It is the proportion of people in the economically active population who are not in paid employment or self-employment at a given point in time, but who are available for work or other income-generating activities, and who want to be employed or self-employed. The following graphs and analysis are consequently based on the expanded definition of unemployment.

Figure 13 shows the unemployment rates among males and females in Northern Cape by race. It reveals that economically active coloured women are most likely to be unemployed (50%) followed by African women (46%). Among economically active men, Africans are mostly affected (28%). When we compare unemployment in the other provinces, the unemployment rate is highest in the Eastern Cape for economically active males (36%), while it is highest in Northern Province for economically active women (52%). It is lowest in Western Cape for both males (14%) and females (25%). Northern Cape falls in the middle with 18% for economically active men and 41% for economically active women.



• Both those who are working and those who are available for work

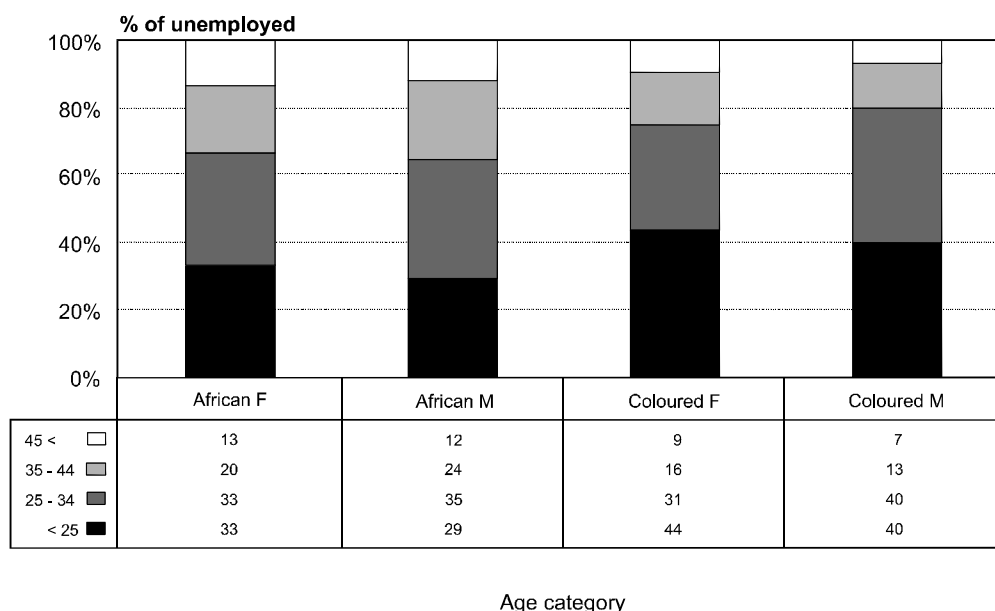
Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 13: Unemployment rates in Northern Cape by population group and gender among the economically active population

Unemployment tends to be higher in non-urban areas in most of South Africa's provinces (the largely-urbanised Western Cape being the major exception). In non-urban areas, unemployment is highest in Eastern Cape (49%), followed by Northern Province (45%) and KwaZulu-Natal (43%). It is lowest in Western Cape (4%), followed by Gauteng (10%), and Northern Cape (13%).

In urban areas countrywide, unemployment is higher in Northern Cape (35%), which is characterised by the predominance of small towns providing services for commercial agriculture, than metropolitan areas. This is followed by Eastern Cape (34%) and Free State (32%). It is lowest in Western Cape (21%) and Gauteng (22%).

Figure 14 examines the distribution of the unemployed in Northern Cape within race and gender by four age groups. It indicates that, among the unemployed, young coloureds predominate: 80% of coloured unemployed males and 75% of unemployed coloured females are younger than 35 years of age, compared to 64% of unemployed African males and 66% of unemployed African females.



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 14: Distribution of the unemployed in Northern Cape by age, race and gender

The number of unemployed African and coloured youth could, at least in part, be the result of anti-apartheid protests and upheavals of the late 1970s and 1980s. This period was characterised by seriously disrupted education, with many not completing schooling and, as a result, struggling particularly hard to find employment.

The employed

The type of work done by employed people in Northern Cape varies by race and gender. Figure 15 shows that, amongst employed Africans, 60% of males and 72% of females are working in elementary occupations such as cleaning, garbage collecting and agricultural labour. A further 16% of African males are in more-skilled artisan and crafts sector, and an additional 14% of African males are in operator, assembler and related occupations. Almost one in 50 (2%) of African males, and three in 50 (6%) of African females, are in semi-professional occupations.



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 15: Occupations of employed Africans in Northern Cape by gender

Figure 16 shows that, amongst unemployed coloureds, a large proportion of both males (60%) and females (68%) are still found in elementary occupations, but there is some slight movement amongst males into more-skilled artisan and craft (17%) and sales and service (8%) jobs.

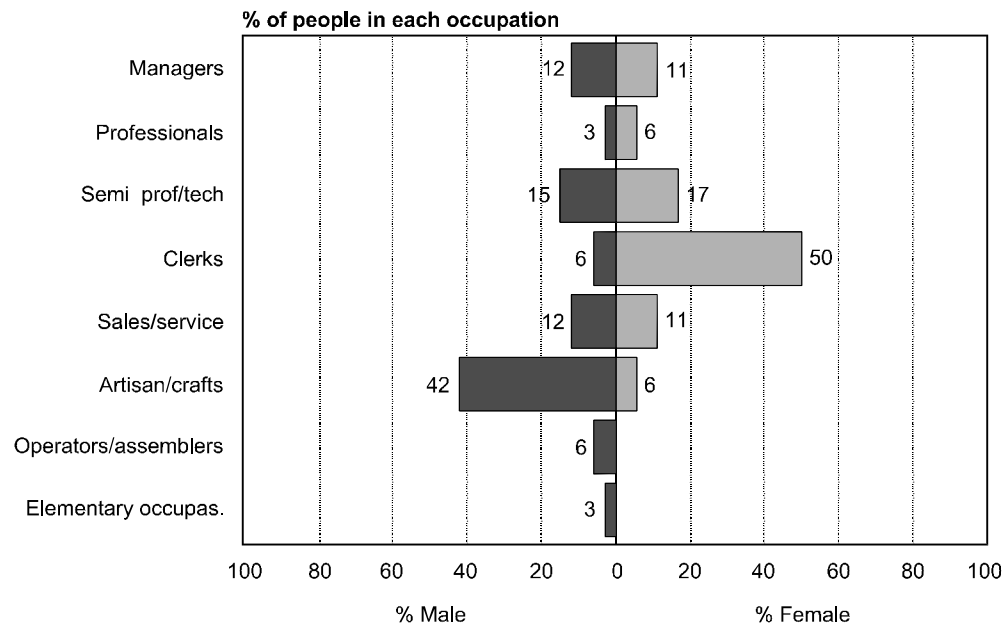


Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 16: Occupation of employed coloureds in Northern Cape by gender

Amongst coloured females, there is a slight move into sales and service jobs (10%), even though 68% remain in elementary occupations. As with Africans, an extremely small proportion of coloured women (3%) is found in professional occupations and 2% of coloured males is found in managerial occupations.

Figure 17 indicates that white males tend to be found in four main categories: 42% in skilled artisan and craft jobs, 15% in the semi-professional occupations, 12% in sales and service and 12% in managerial jobs. White females are found largely in clerical occupations (50%).

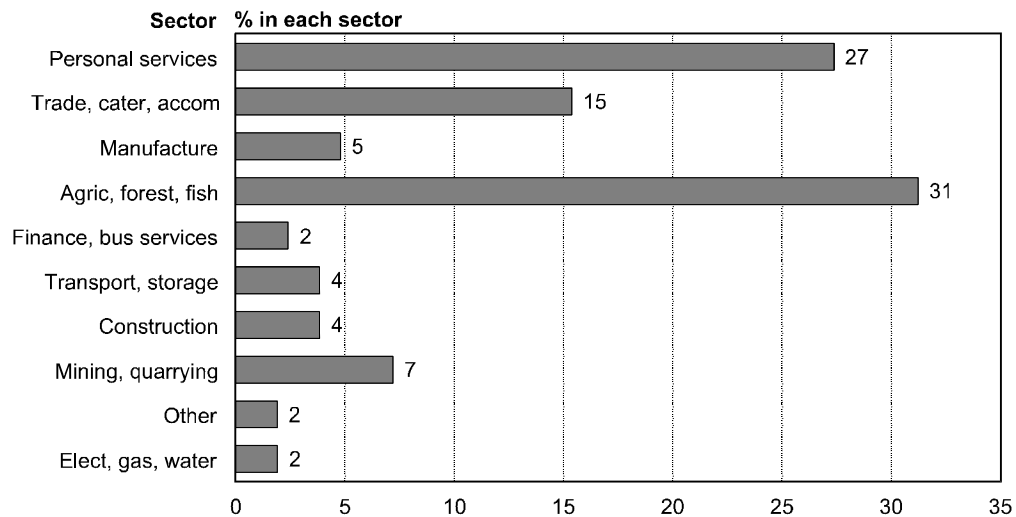


Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 17: Occupation of employed whites (N=51 000) by gender

The economic sector

A large proportion of those employed in the Northern Cape's formal economic sector (31%) are found in agriculture, while (27%) work in the personal services sector, 15% in trade, catering and accommodation, and 7% in the mining and quarrying sector (Figure 18).



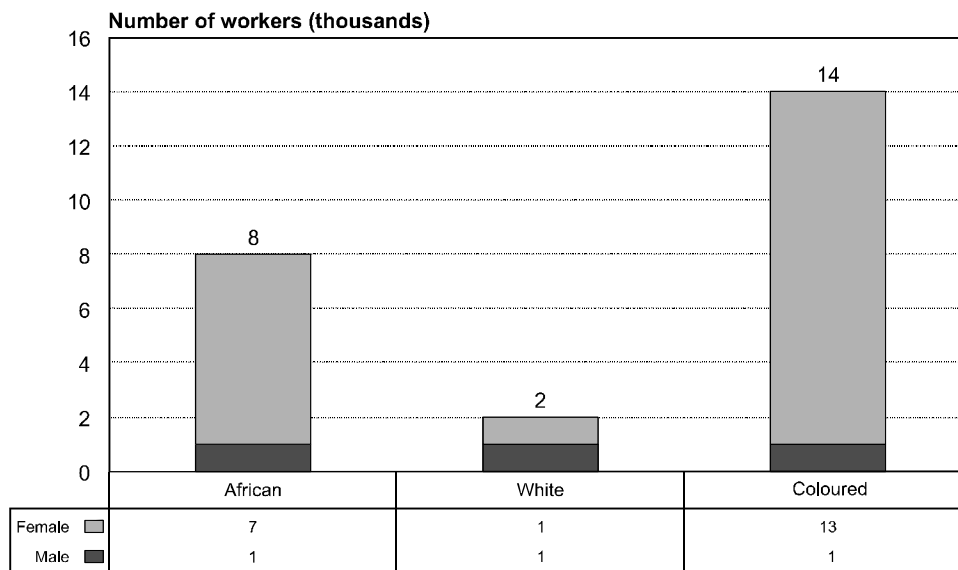
Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 18: Economic sector of employer among all those who are working in Northern Cape

Nationally, there is definite shift away from jobs being found in the primary and secondary industries towards jobs found in tertiary industries. Almost 31% of South Africans work in the personal services sector; 17% work in trade, catering and accommodation; while only 15% work in manufacturing and 13% in agriculture.

Employment in the informal sector

The informal sector of Northern Cape is a growing source of employment. Approximately 29 000 people work in this sector, of whom 25 000 work for their own account. Eighty-eight percent of informal sector workers for own account are women (domestic workers are included as informal workers for own account). Figure 19 indicates that 93% of coloured and 88% of African workers for own account in the informal sector are women.



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 19: Workers for own account in the informal sector in Northern Cape by gender and population group

Work in the informal sector tends to cluster into distinct economic sectors. For example, Figure 20 shows that nine in every ten women for own account workers in the informal sector (90%) are found in personal services; 5% are found in trade, catering and accommodation; and a further 5% are found in the agricultural sector. Five in every ten men (50%) working for their own account in the informal sector are found in trade, catering and accommodation, and the other five in every ten men are in the agricultural, forestry and fishing sectors.

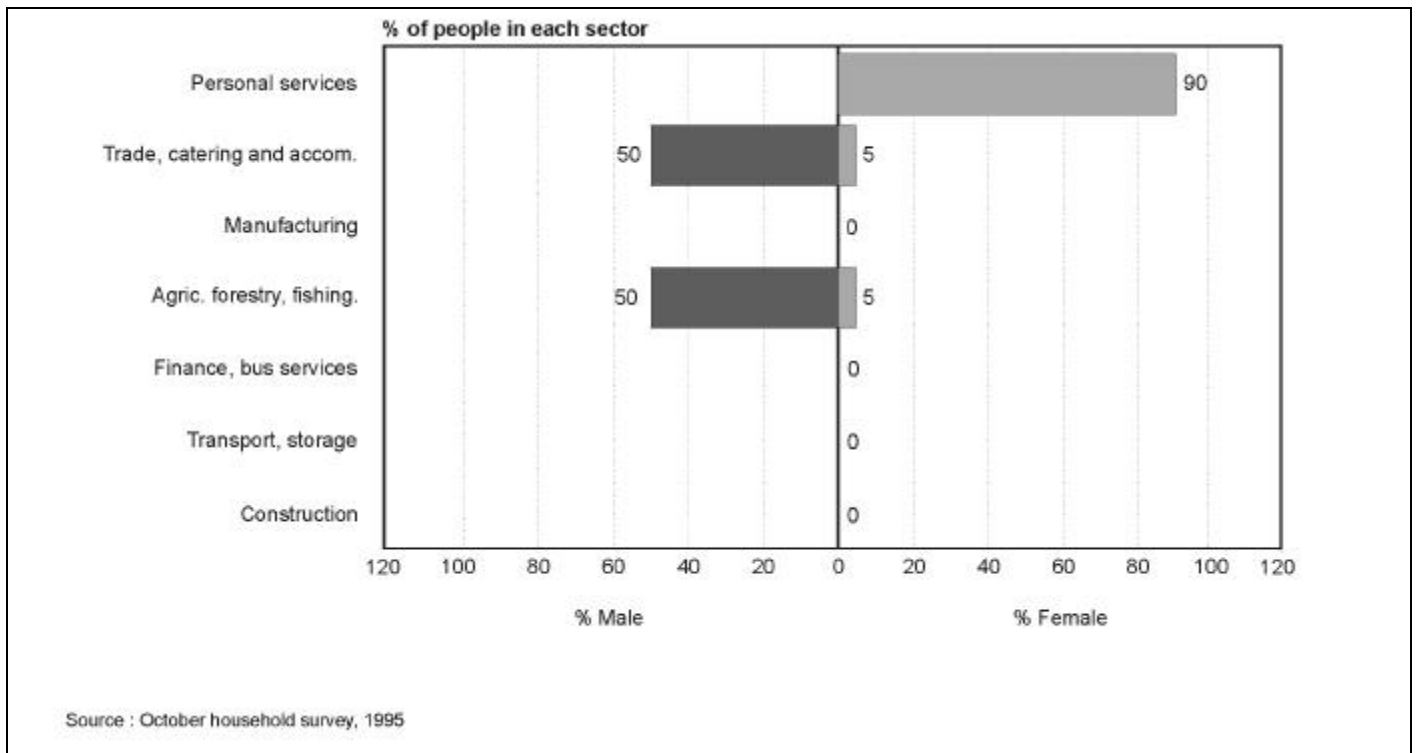


Figure 20: Workers of own account in the informal sector in Northern Cape by economic sector and gender

At a national level, more than three-quarters of women for own account workers in the informal sector (77%) are found in the personal services sector, while four in every ten men (40%) are found in the trade, catering and accommodation sector. Relatively few males (9%) and females (5%) are in small-scale informal manufacturing.

Figure 21 shows that all females (100%) in the informal sector said they were in elementary informal occupations such as street vending, domestic work and scavenging, while males are found in more diverse occupations, for example artisan and craft activities (40%). One in five males (20%) described themselves as managers, 20% as sales and service workers and 20% as elementary workers.

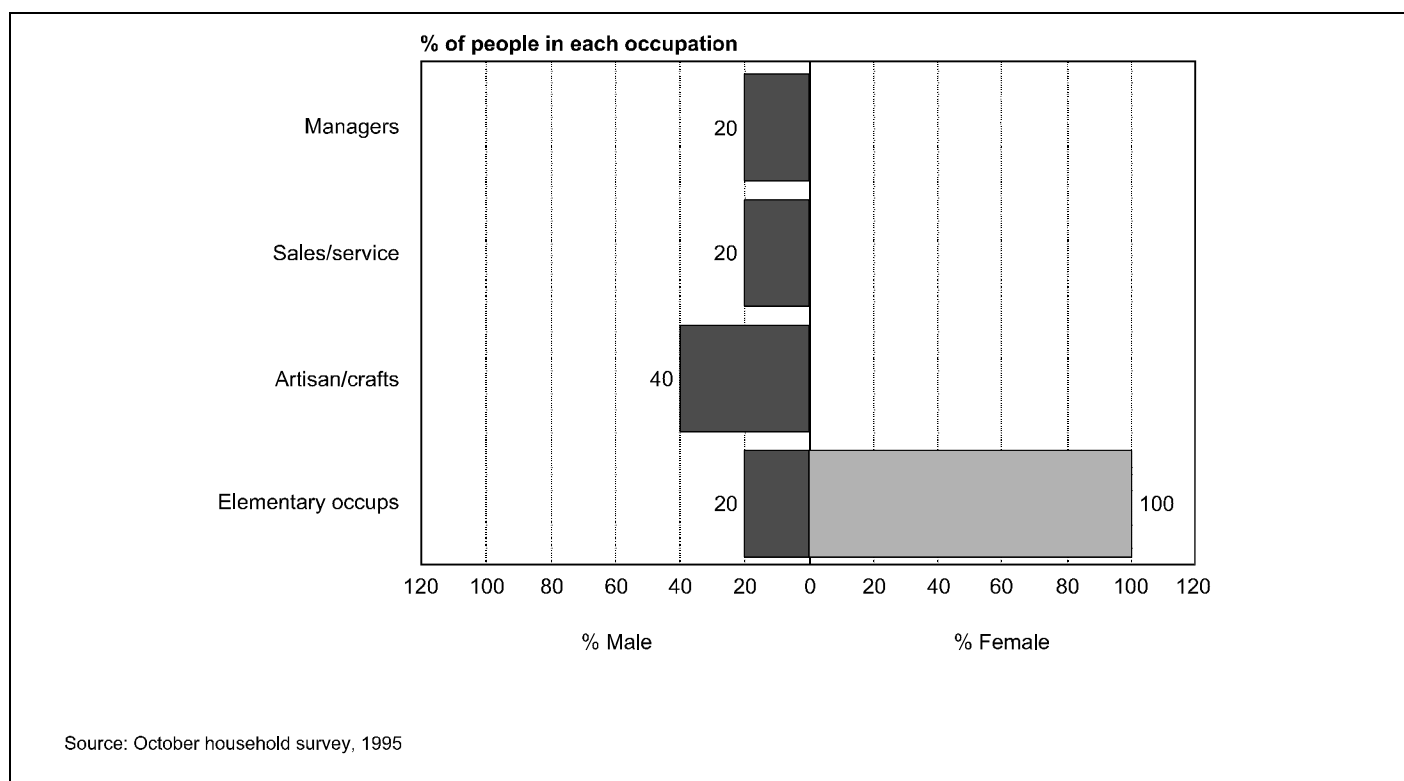


Figure 21: Workers for own account in the informal sector in Northern Cape by occupation and gender

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE

Section 3

Main findings regarding households

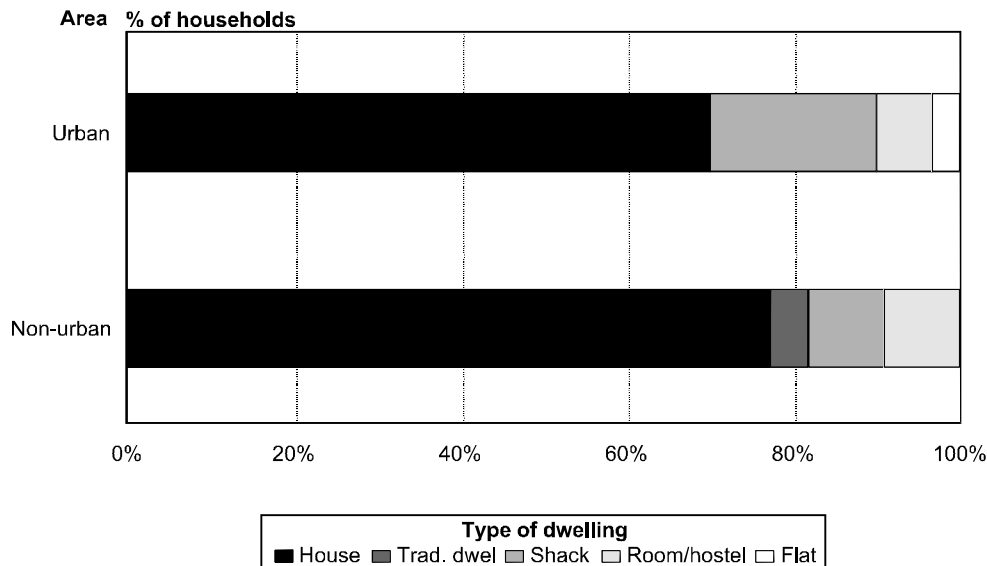
Types of dwellings in which households live

It is estimated that there are approximately 741 000 people in Northern Cape, living in 190 000 households. Some 65% of these households are found in urban areas, while 81% of households in the province live in formal brick structures such as a house, a flat or a backyard room. Nationally, 73% of households are found in formal brick structures.

This distribution of dwellings among households varies by race. Among Africans, 72% of households live in formal brick structures, while 17% live in shacks, 7% in hostels or single rooms in a building and 2% in traditional dwellings. Among coloureds, 88% of households live in formal brick structures, increasing to 100% among whites.

The average estimated value of a dwelling occupied by an African household in Northern Cape is R8 000 compared to R14 000 for coloured, and R91 000 for white households.

Among Africans in Northern Cape, Figure 22 shows that the type of dwelling in which households live varies according to urban and non-urban areas. Up to 19% of the dwellings occupied by African households in urban areas are shacks, while just under 5% of the dwellings occupied in non-urban areas are traditional.

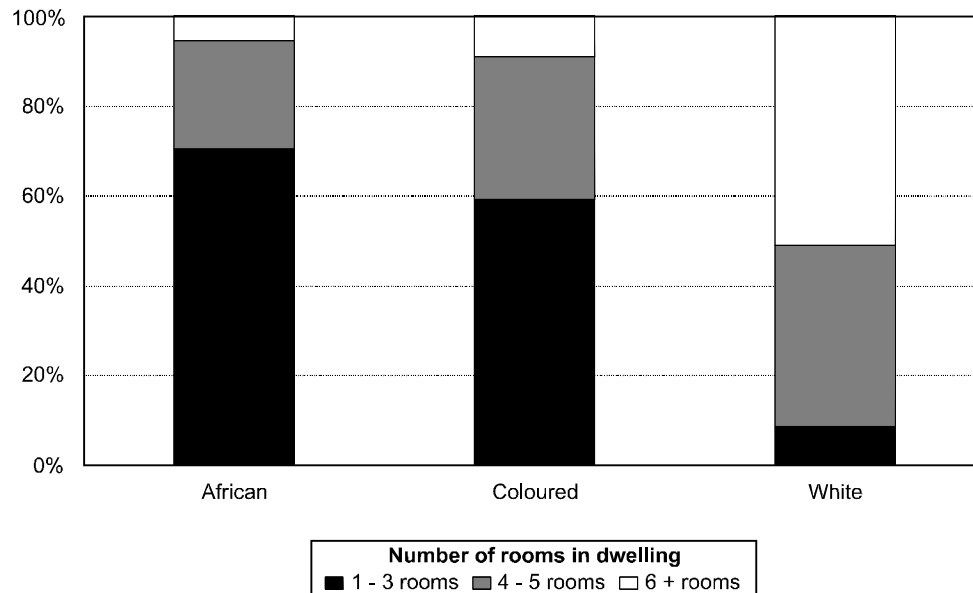


Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 22: Types of dwellings in which urban/non-urban African households in Northern Cape live

At a national level, 16% of dwellings in urban areas are shacks, while 38% of dwellings in non-urban areas are traditional dwellings.

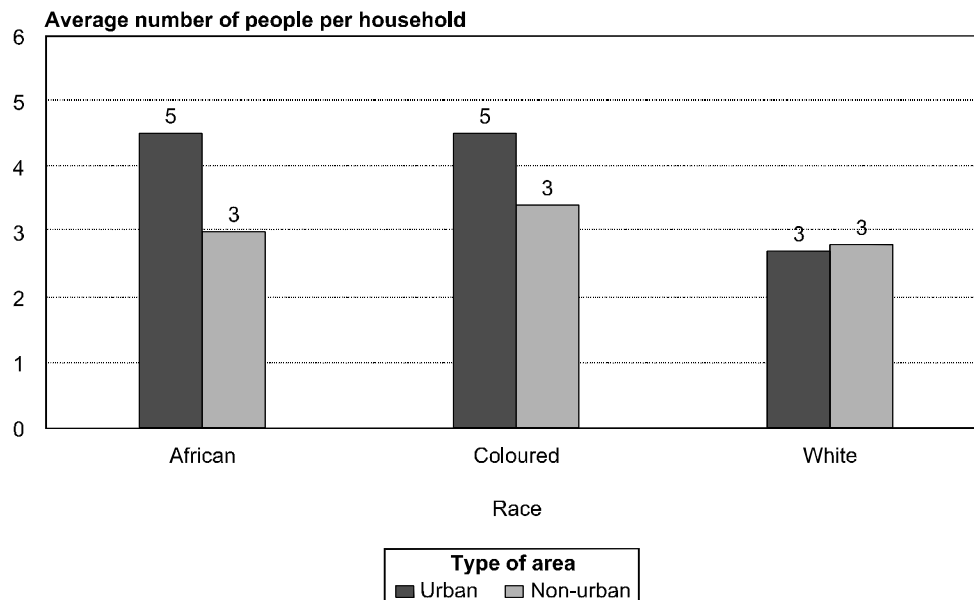
As Figure 23 indicates, not only the type of the dwelling but also its size varies by race. As many as 94% of African and 91% of the coloured households live in dwellings containing five or fewer rooms (including kitchens but excluding bathrooms), compared to 52% of white households.



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 23: Size of dwelling in Northern Cape by race of head of household

When looking at the number of people per household, Figure 24 indicates that, on average, there are three persons per African or coloured household in non-urban areas and five persons per household in urban areas. We should remember, however that most people in the province live in small towns, whilst the rural areas are very sparsely populated.



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 24: Average household size in Northern Cape by race in urban and non-urban areas

The type of roofing of the housing varies by type of dwelling. About 77% of the dwellings have corrugated iron roofs and over 17% in the province have asbestos roofing. The prevalence of asbestos roofing also varies by type of dwelling. The highest prevalence of asbestos roofing is among the 'townhouse/cluster house' category (46%).

Access to facilities and services

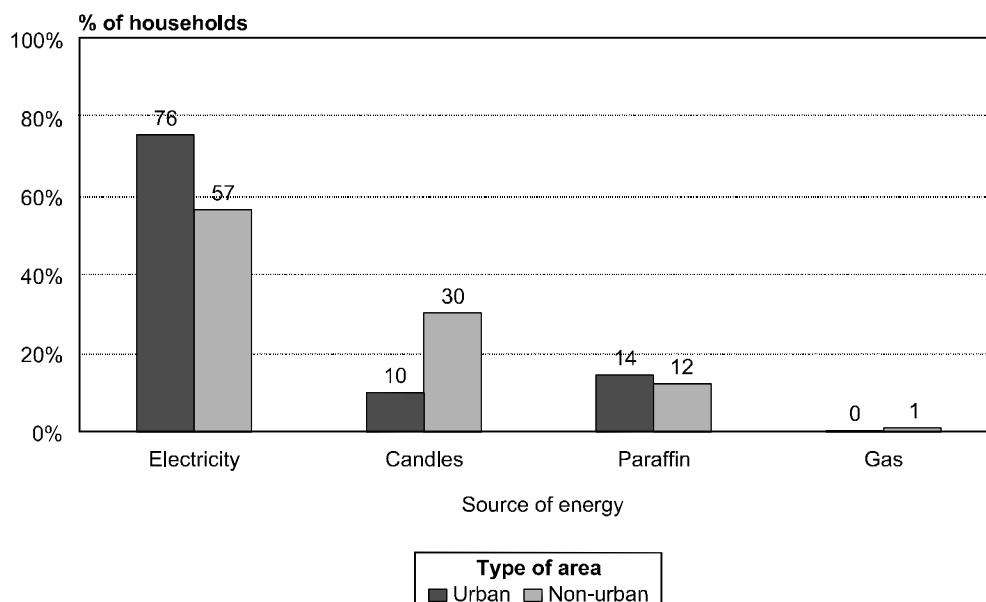
Access to facilities and services such as piped water in the dwelling and electricity varies according to population group, but urban/non-urban discrepancies are also noteworthy.

Access to electricity

Electricity for lighting is unevenly distributed by race. About 64% of coloured households use electricity as their main source of energy for lighting, as against 65% of African, and 99% of white households.

At a national level, 51% of all African households use electricity for lighting as against 84% of coloured and 99% of white households.

Among African households, there are marked urban/non-urban differences as far as access to electricity for lighting is concerned. Figure 25 indicates that up to 76% of African households in the province's urban areas use electricity as their main source of energy for lighting, but the percentage drops down to 57% for non-urban African households.



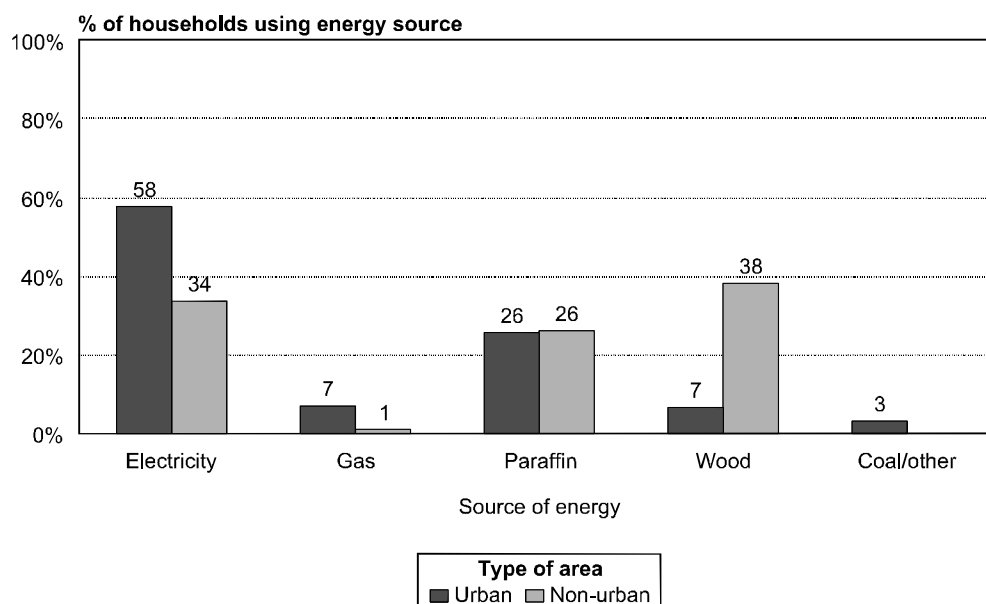
Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 25: Source of energy for lighting in urban and non-urban households in Northern Cape

There is, however, a significant reliance on candles for lighting. Among non-urban African households, 30% use candles for lighting. It is noteworthy that less than 15% of the African households (urban or non-urban) use paraffin for lighting.

At a national level, 81% of African households in urban areas make use of electricity as the main source of lighting, as against 24% in non-urban areas. Half of the non-urban households use candles for lighting (48%), and a further 24% use paraffin.

Electricity stands out as the main source of energy used by urban households for cooking in Northern Cape. About 58% of African households in urban areas use electricity for cooking. However, only 34% of non-urban African households have access to electricity as a main source of energy for cooking. The most important source of energy for cooking among the non-urban African households is wood. Thirty-eight percent of African households use wood as the main source of energy for cooking, followed by paraffin at 26% (see Figure 26). Just over a quarter (26%) of African households, both in urban and non-urban areas, depend on paraffin as a source of energy for cooking.



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 26: Source of energy for cooking in urban and non-urban African households in Northern Cape

At a national level, 71% of African household in urban areas use electricity for cooking, compared with only 16% in non-urban areas. More than half (55%) of non-urban African households use wood and 20% use paraffin for cooking purposes. About 19% of African households, both in urban and non-urban areas, depend on paraffin as a source of energy for cooking.

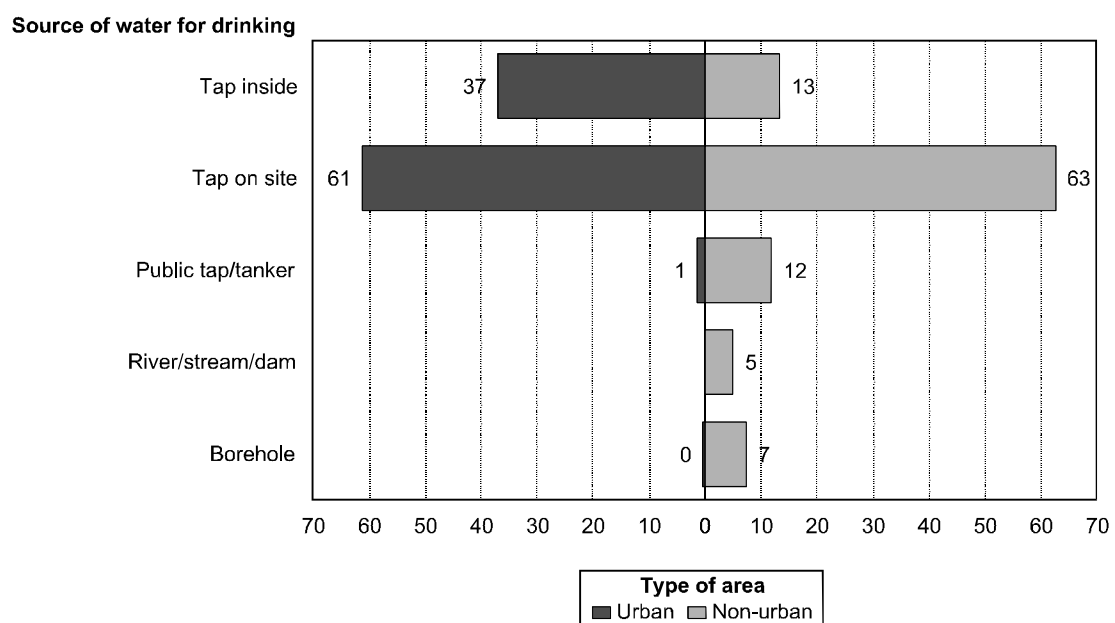
Access to piped water

There are significant differences in the levels of access to piped water among the different population groups. Only 27% of African households in Northern Cape obtain domestic water for drinking purposes from a tap inside their dwelling, compared to 74% for coloureds and 98% for whites.

At national level, only 33% of African households, compared with 72% of coloured, and 97% of white households, have the use of running tap water inside the dwelling for drinking purposes.

The source of water for drinking varies with the area of residence. Among Africans, 37% of the urban households obtain their drinking water from a tap inside the dwelling while only 13% of the non-urban African households enjoy this privilege. About 61% of urban and 63% of non-urban African households obtain their water for drinking from a tap on site. In non-urban areas, about 12% of African households use a public tap or tanker as their source of water for drinking.

At a national level, 56% of African households in urban areas have a tap inside the dwelling, while a further 34% have a tap on site. In non-urban areas, only 12% of African households have a tap inside the dwelling, and a further 21% have a tap on site.



Source: October household survey, 1995

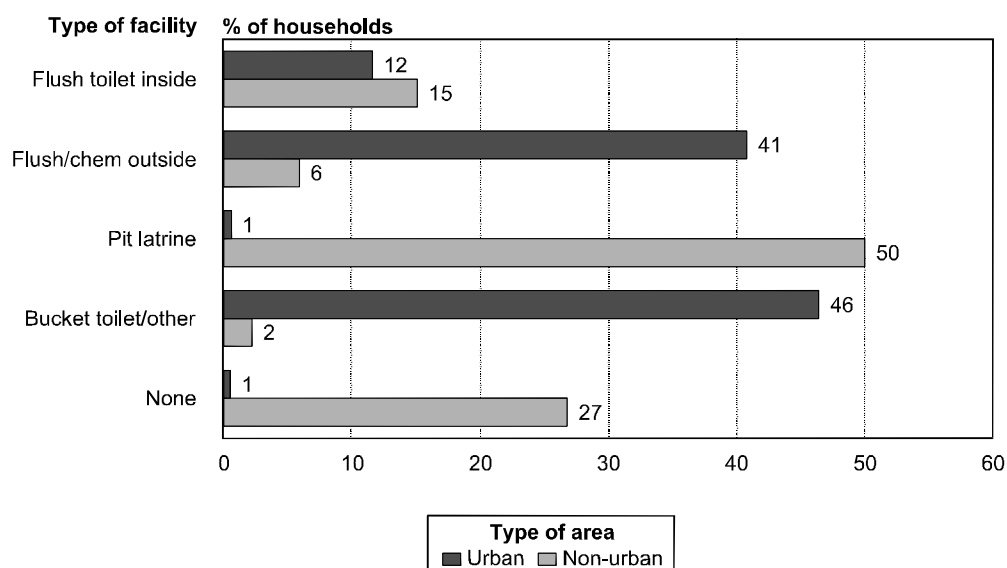
Figure 27: Where water for drinking is obtained in urban and non-urban African households in Northern Cape

Sanitation

The type of sanitation facility also varies by population group and according to area of residence. In general, only 44% of the dwellings occupied by households in Northern Cape have a toilet facility inside the dwelling and up to 7% of the households have no sanitation at all.

About 13% of African households and 35% of coloured households have access to a flush toilet inside the dwelling, compared to 98% of white households; 12% of African households and 8% of coloured households have no sanitation facilities, compared to only 1% of white households.

Among Africans, only 12% of the households in urban areas and 15% of households in non-urban areas have access to a flush toilet inside the dwelling. About 41% of urban African households have access to a flush or chemical toilet outside the dwelling, while up to 46% of the households make use of a bucket toilet (Figure 28). In the non-urban areas, half (50%) of the African households have access to a pit latrine while 27% of households do not have a sanitation facility.



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 28: Type of sanitation used among African households in urban and non-urban areas

Telephones

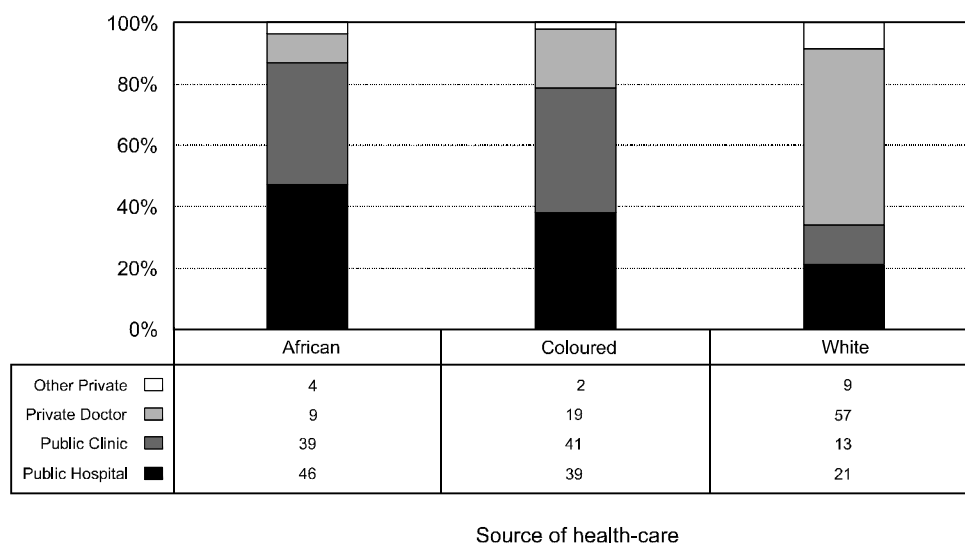
Less than three in every ten households (29%) in Northern Cape have access to a telephone within the dwelling. But this varies by race, with only 12% of African households and 15% of coloured households, compared to 77% of white households, having this facility. More than a quarter of African households (26%) have to travel at least a kilometre to get to the nearest available telephone.

At a national level, relatively few households (32%) have a telephone inside the dwelling. While as many as 84% of white households have a telephone inside the dwelling, only 37% of coloured and 13% of African households have this facility.

Access to health-care facilities

About 85% of African households in Northern Cape make use of a public health-care facility, 46% use public hospitals while 39% use public clinics. The remaining 15% of African households make use of health-care facilities provided by the private sector. This is similar to the position in coloured households.

Only one in every three white households in Northern Cape make use of a public health facility when they need the service. The remaining make use of health services provided by the private sector, as indicated in Figure 29.



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 29: Source of health-care for households by race

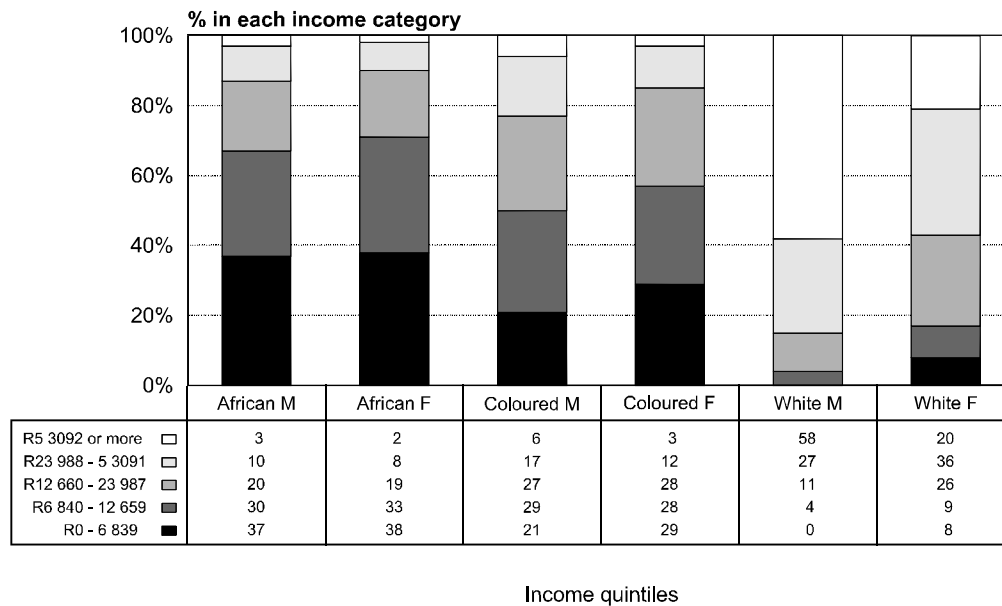
Household income

The household incomes discussed here are not based on the 1995 October household survey, but on data obtained from the income and expenditure survey (IES) of households conducted at the same time as the 1995 OHS (see Section 1 for details). For purposes of analysis, the whole income range has been divided into rational quintiles or groups of 20% of households based on income distribution in the country as a whole.

The distribution of income among households varies not only by population group but also by gender of the head of the household. African households are the poorest of all in Northern Cape: 38% have incomes between R0 and R6 839 per annum, compared with 24% of coloured, and 2% of white households. Looking at the top quintile of R53 092 or higher, we find 48% of white households in this category, compared with 5% of coloured and 3% of African households.

At a national level Africans are also the poorest: 26% have incomes of between R0 and R6 839 per annum, compared with only 12% of coloured, and 2% of both white households. In the top quintile (R53 092 or more), we find 64% of white households, compared with 16% of coloured and 9% of African households.

Figure 30 reveals that African female-headed households have the lowest incomes: 38% have incomes between R0 and R6 839 per annum, compared with 29% of coloured female-headed households and 8% of white ones. Looking at the top quintile of R53 092 or more, we find 20% of white female-headed households, compared with 3% of coloured and 2% of African ones.

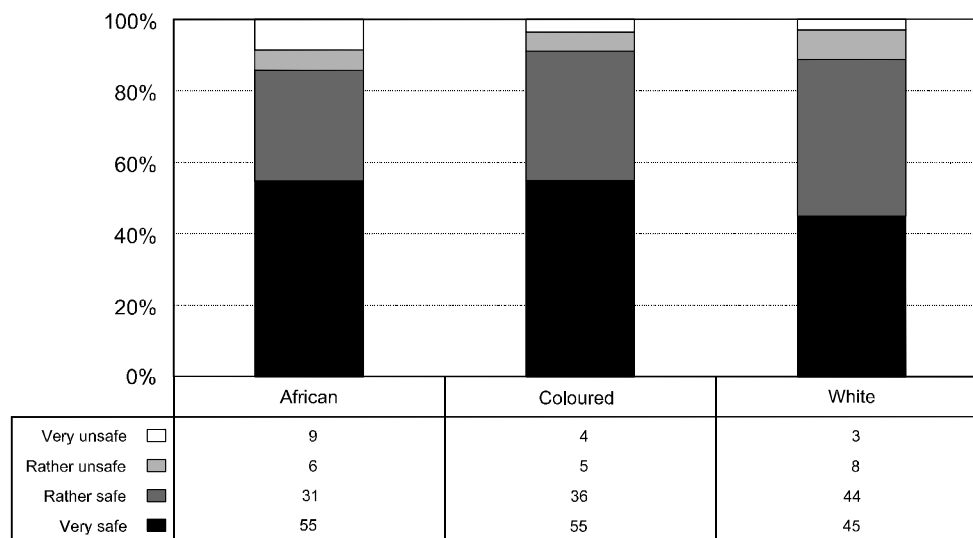


Source: Income and Expenditure survey, 1995

Figure 30: Percentage of households in Northern Cape in each annual income quintile by race and gender

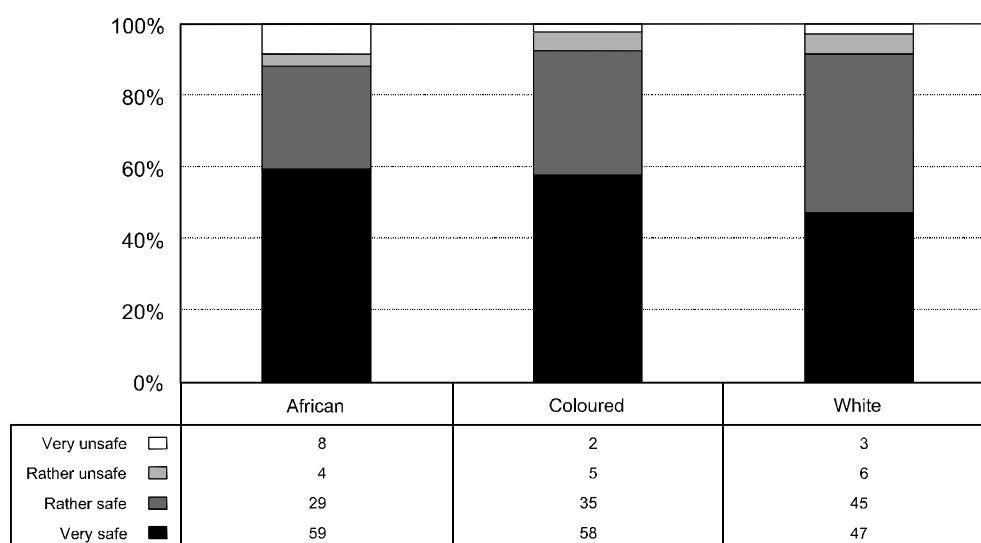
Safety and security

High unemployment and high levels of crime tend to go hand in hand. In 1995, in Northern Cape however, proportionately few respondents said that members of the household (5%) felt ‘very unsafe’ in their neighbourhoods or in their own homes (4%), while 52% of respondents said that members of the household felt ‘very safe’ in their neighbourhoods and in their own homes (56%). More than 50% of respondents from African and coloured households felt ‘very safe’ either in their neighbourhoods or in their homes, compared to more than 45% of white households (Figures 31 and 32). More than three-quarters of respondents across all race groups said that members of the household felt rather or very safe.



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 31: Feeling safe in one's neighbourhood by race and gender of the head household in Northern Cape



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 32: Feeling safe inside one's home by race of head of household in Northern Cape

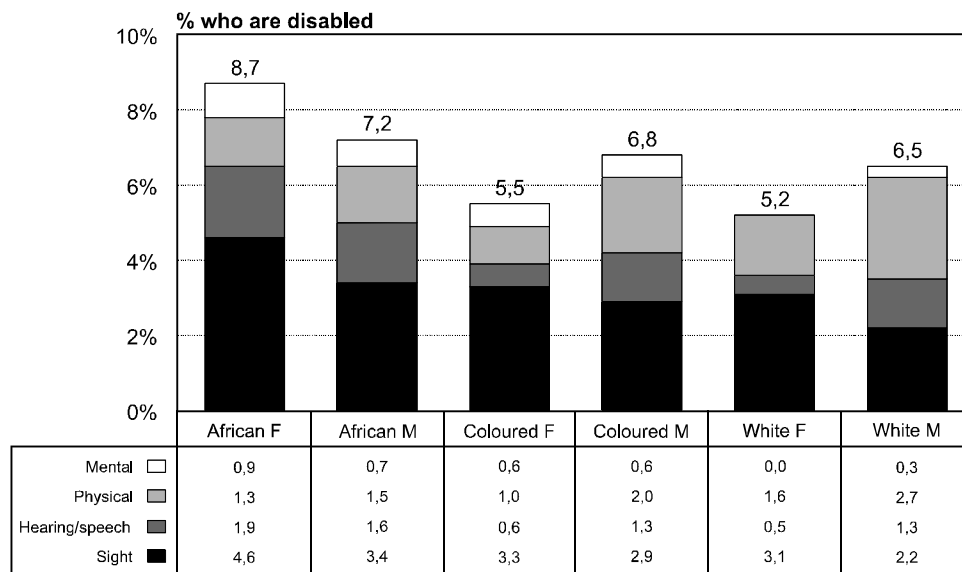
At a national level, a similar picture emerges. Proportionately few (6%) members of households felt 'very unsafe' in their neighbourhoods, with 5% feeling 'very unsafe' in their own homes; 41% felt 'very safe' in their neighbourhoods and 44% felt 'very safe' in their own homes. More than 40% of African and coloured households felt 'very safe, either in their neighbourhoods or in their own homes, compared to 32% of white households.

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE

Section 4

Disability

Approximately seven in every 100 (7%) people in Northern Cape are reported as being disabled, disaggregated as follows (percentages are given to one decimal place, because of the small proportions involved):



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 33: Disability by race and gender

- 3,3% of the population have visual disability;
- 1,2% of the population have a hearing/speech disability;
- 1,6% of the population have a physical disability; and
- 0,6% of the population have a mental disability.

This may be an undercount due to the stigma of certain disabilities. In Northern Cape, 7,8% of Africans are reported as being disabled, compared to 6,1% of coloureds and 5,9% of whites; 8,7% of African females are reported as disabled, compared to 7,2% of African males.

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE

Section 5

Conclusion

Northern Cape province has a very small, predominantly coloured, population. Both Africans and coloureds in the province are disadvantaged compared to whites. A number of issues in the province have been brought into sharp focus by the 1995 OHS. Racial and gender disparities in all spheres of life, as well as large differences in life circumstances along the urban/non-urban divide, are strong features of life in the province. In addition, the report has highlighted the extent of unemployment and the type of employment opportunities available.

African and coloured households in Northern Cape's non-urban areas are unlikely to have access to facilities such good sanitation, piped water inside the dwelling, electricity and telephone. Fetching wood and carrying water are important activities in these areas.

However, specific features in the province notwithstanding, life circumstances in Northern Cape are similar, in many respects, to life circumstances in the rest of South Africa.