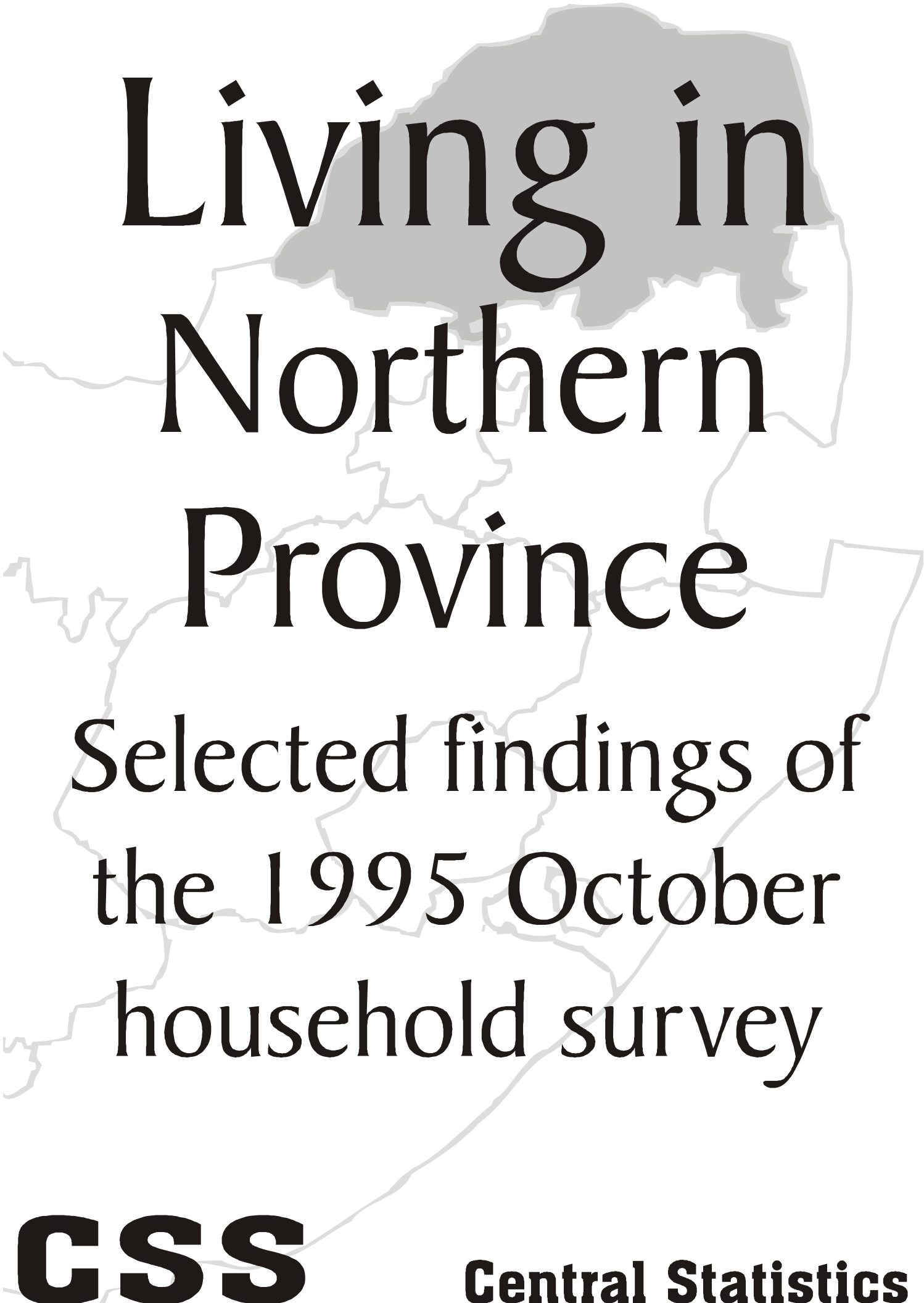


A light gray map of Sri Lanka is in the background. The Northern Province is highlighted in a darker gray. The title text is overlaid on the map.

Living in Northern Province

Selected findings of
the 1995 October
household survey

CSS

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Living in Northern Province

Selected findings of the 1995 October household survey

**Central Statistics
1998**

**Dr FM Orkin
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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)

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Living in KwaZulu-Natal. Selected findings of the 1995 October household survey (1998)

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Living in Northern Cape. Selected findings of the 1995 October household survey (forthcoming, 1998)

Living in North West. Selected findings of the 1995 October household survey (forthcoming, 1998)

Living in Western Cape. 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 race 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 Province in particular, during 1995.

Contents

	Page
Acknowledgements	
Section 1: Introduction	
Background	1
Northern Province	1
The research process	2
The questionnaire	2
Drawing a sample	2
The fieldwork	4
Data capture	4
Weighting the sample	5
Data analysis and report writing	5
Comparison with 1994 data	5
Section 2: The main findings regarding individuals	
The population of Northern Province	7
Age distribution	8
Education	14
Employment	24
The economically active population	24
The unemployed	24
The employed	29
Trade union membership	32
The informal economy	32
Incomes of employees in Northern Province	34
Migration	37
Section 3: The main findings regarding households	
The dwellings in which households live	43
Access to facilities and services	46
Access to electricity	46
Obtaining wood for domestic use in non-urban areas	48
Water for drinking	49
Sanitation	50
Telephones	51
Access to health-care facilities	52
Household income	53
Feelings of safety and security	55

Section 4: Health in Northern Province

Disability	59
Illness and injuries	60
Smoking	61

Section 5: Conclusion

List of Figures

	Page
Figure 1: Population of Northern Province by population group	7
Figure 2: Age distribution of the total African population in Northern Province by gender	9
Figure 3: White population in Northern Province by age group and gender	10
Figure 4: Age distribution of Africans and whites in Northern Province	11
Figure 5: African population by age and urban/non-urban classification in Northern Province	12
Figure 6: Age distribution of the African non-urban population in Northern Province by gender	13
Figure 7: Age distribution of the African urban population in Northern Province by gender	13
Figure 8: Level of education of the population 20 years and older in Northern Province and in South Africa	14
Figure 9: Level of education of Africans 20 years and older in Northern Province and in South Africa	15
Figure 10: Level of education of population 20 years and older in Northern Province and South Africa by gender	16
Figure 11: Level of education of African population 20 years and older in Northern Province and South Africa by gender	17
Figure 12: Persons (5-24 years) attending educational institutions by 5-year age groups in Northern Province and in South Africa	18
Figure 13: Africans (5-24 years) attending educational institutions by 5-year age groups in Northern Province and in South Africa	19
Figure 14: Persons (5-24 years) attending educational institutions by 5-year age groups by gender in Northern Province and in South Africa	20
Figure 15: Percentage of Africans in Northern Province who have received no education by age and gender	21
Figure 16: Percentage of Africans and whites in Northern Province who have completed Standard 10 by age and gender	22
Figure 17: Level of education in Northern Province by population group and gender among those aged 20 to 29 years	23
Figure 18: Unemployment rates in Northern Province by population group and gender (strict definition compared with expanded definition)	25
Figure 19: Unemployment rates by urban and non-urban areas among the economically active population	26
Figure 20: Distribution of unemployment in Northern Province by age and gender	27
Figure 21: Unemployment rate among the economically active in Northern Province by education level	28
Figure 22: Occupation of employed Africans by gender in Northern Province	29
Figure 23: Occupation of employed whites by gender in Northern Province	30
Figure 24: Economic sector of all those who are working in Northern Province	31

Figure 25:	Trade union membership in Northern Province by population group and gender	32
Figure 26:	Workers for own account in the informal sector in Northern Province by economic sector and gender	33
Figure 27:	Workers for own account in the informal sector in Northern Province by occupation and gender	34
Figure 28:	Among employees in South Africa, percentage in each monthly income category by gender	35
Figure 29:	Among employees in Northern Province, percentage in each monthly income category by gender	35
Figure 30:	Among African employees in Northern Province, percentage in each monthly income category by gender	36
Figure 31:	Among white employees in Northern Province, percentage in each monthly income category by gender	37
Figure 32:	Inter-provincial gross life-time in-migrants in South Africa	38
Figure 33:	Inter-provincial gross life-time out-migrants in South Africa	39
Figure 34:	Provincial origins of gross life-time in-migrants to, and provincial destinations of gross life-time out-migrants from, Northern Province	40
Figure 35:	Inter-provincial gross life-time African in-migrants in South Africa	41
Figure 36:	Inter-provincial African out-migrants in South Africa	42
Figure 37:	Type of dwelling in which African households live in urban and non-urban areas in Northern Province	44
Figure 38:	Size of dwelling by population group of head of household in Northern Province	45
Figure 39:	Average household size by population group in urban and non-urban areas in Northern Province	46
Figure 40:	Source of energy for lighting in urban and non-urban African households in Northern Province	47
Figure 41:	Source of energy for cooking in urban and non-urban African households in Northern Province	48
Figure 42:	Source of water for drinking in urban and non-urban African households in Northern Province	49
Figure 43:	Type of sanitation used among African households in urban and non-urban areas in Northern Province	51
Figure 44:	Source of health-care for households by population group in Northern Province	52
Figure 45:	Household income by population group and urban/non-urban residence in Northern Province	54
Figure 46:	Among households that had experienced crime in Northern Province, types of crimes experienced	55
Figure 47:	Feelings of safety in neighbourhood by population group of head of household in Northern Province	56
Figure 48:	Feelings of safety inside dwelling by population group of head of household in Northern Province	57
Figure 49:	Disability in Northern Province by age and population group	59
Figure 50:	Type of disability by age in Northern Province	60

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This report is the result of participation by thousands of people. Without the willing co-operation of the many selected respondents, this information would not be available. Other critical members of the team include the people responsible for the fieldwork, for the data entry, and for the production of the tables. To all of them, a big thank you.

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE

Section 1

Introduction

Background

South Africa's first democratically elected government is committed to a better life for all. The extent of change that is required in the country to bring about such improvement can best be measured through household surveys. Central Statistical Service (CSS) conducts the October household survey (OHS) annually to give detailed information about the living conditions and life circumstances of all South Africans.

A series of household surveys should make 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.

The first comprehensive CSS household survey in the country 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 excluded from the 1993 survey, but included in 1994 and 1995.

This report summarises the findings of the 1995 OHS in Northern Province. It paints a demographic, social and economic picture of life in that province and compares the findings with those for the whole country.

Northern Province

Northern Province covers an area of 123 910 km², representing 10% of the total area of South Africa. Four provinces (Northern Cape, Eastern Cape, Western Cape and Free State) cover a larger area. The population density is 44 people per km², somewhat higher than the average of 34 per km² for the whole country. Pietersburg, the capital, experiences its highest rainfall in the summer months, with an average rainfall in January of 82 mm. Sepedi is the home language of 57% of the population, followed by Xitsonga (23%) and Tshivenda (12%). The inhabitants of Northern Province have a life expectancy at birth of 62,7 years which is similar to that for the whole country (62,8 years). The adult literacy rate (persons 15 years and older who can read, write and speak their home language) is 74% compared with the national figure of 82%.

The research process

With this background in mind, we now turn to the life circumstances of people in the province, as shown in the OHS of 1995. But first we describe the research methodology. The following steps constitute the research process for the 1995 OHS:

- Questionnaire
- Drawing a sample
- Fieldwork
- Data capture
- Weighting the sample back to the population
- Data analysis
- Report writing

Each step is discussed in more detail below.

The questionnaire

The 1995 OHS questionnaire contained questions about the household as a whole, as well as on all individual members. In the household section, questions were asked about the type of dwelling in which the household lived, 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 were asked on age, gender, education, marital status, migration, use of health services, economic activity and employment.

Questions were also asked on births and deaths in the household. These are not discussed in the present report.

Drawing a sample

The 1995 OHS included almost 30 000 households and 130 787 individuals country-wide. In Northern Province, information was obtained from 2 679 households, representing all households in province, and from 13 359 people living in these households.

Altogether, 274 enumerator areas (EAs) in 31 districts in Northern Province were drawn for the sample. Approximately ten households were visited in each selected EA. This was an improvement compared with the 1994 OHS, in which fewer EAs were selected, and information was obtained from 30 households per EA.

The 1995 sample was stratified by province, urban and non-urban areas¹ and race.

The 1991 population census was used as a frame for drawing the sample. However, this census had certain shortcomings, affecting the drawing of all OHS samples between 1993 and 1995:

- The former 'TBVC states' (Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei) were excluded in the 1991 census. Consequently, their size had to be estimated when drawing samples of households. District-level information was available for size estimates in Bophuthatswana and Venda but not for the others. The entire territory of Venda was incorporated into Northern Province, when the country was reunified in 1994, affecting sampling.
- Certain parts of the country, particularly rural areas in the former 'self-governing territories', were not demarcated into clearly defined EAs, and the households in these districts were not listed. Instead, a 'sweep census' was done, covering an entire magisterial district. This affected Northern Province, since parts of Lebowa and Gazankulu were incorporated into it.
- In some areas of the country, particularly informal settlements, aerial photography was used to estimate population size, backed by small-scale surveys among households in those areas. The informal settlements around Pietersburg were affected by this procedure.
- No allowance was made for new informal settlements, which were springing up all over South Africa, to be incorporated into the sampling frame, including those in Northern Province.

Attempts were made in the 1995 OHS to overcome sampling problems occurring as a result of the above shortcomings of the 1991 census. For example, magisterial districts where a 'sweep census' had taken place were sub-divided into smaller units, and new informal settlements were incorporated into the boundaries of existing enumerator areas.

Difficulties were experienced in the field when implementing the sampling plan. Field workers became confused about the exact boundaries of a particular EA in relation to the above changes.

¹ An urban area is defined as one where there is a fully established local government. A non-urban area on the other hand does not have an established local authority. The area could, for example, be run by a tribal authority or a regional authority.

The fieldwork for the 1995 OHS took place at the same time as the demarcation of new EA boundaries for the 1996 census. This sometimes resulted in confusion between the old 1991 census and new 1996 census EA boundaries.

These problems were partly taken into account in the weighting procedures, as discussed in a later part of this report.

The fieldwork

In the 2 679 households which were sampled throughout Northern Province, information was collected through face-to-face interviews. During these interviews, field workers 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 field workers first administered the OHS questionnaire and returned at a later date to administer the questionnaire for the IES.

Problems were experienced in returning to the same household, particularly in informal settlements and in 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 it allowed for details concerning household income and expenditure patterns (IES) to be added to details about education, employment and overall life circumstances (OHS), thus giving a more comprehensive socio-economic description of life in Northern Province.

Problems 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 at 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

A complex sampling strategy was employed in the 1995 OHS. In order to correct for the resulting unequal probabilities of selection, the survey data were weighted.

First the data on individuals were weighted. This was done by using the estimated population (projected from the 1991 census) by province, urban/non-urban area, age, race and gender. The original aim was to weight the data by magisterial district as well. But this was not possible because of the EA boundary problems described earlier.

The weight assigned to the head of the household was used as the weight for that household.

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

Preliminary estimates of the size of the population of South Africa, based on the October 1996 population census indicate that there are fewer people in the country (37,9 million) than was previously realised. The new census numbers may affect some of the weights and raising factors used in this report, since these are based on the 1991 census estimates. Nevertheless, the overall trends in this report should be accepted as indicative, but not as definitive, of life circumstances in the life circumstances in households in Northern Province.

Data analysis and report writing

The data were made available for report writing as a series of tables and cross-tabulations. These were released in February 1997 (CSS statistical release P0317.9 *October household survey 1995: Northern Province*). Minor differences between results presented in this report and the figures in the tables are due to rounding off.

Comparison with 1994 data

The CSS is still grappling with sampling issues, based on attempting to use the incomplete sampling frame generated by the 1991 population census. It is anticipated that the 1996 census will provide a better sampling frame for future surveys.

Since different methodologies were used for drawing the sample in 1994 and 1995, and diverse problems were encountered in the two surveys, 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. Nevertheless, they do yield similar broad patterns. For example, access to water and toilet facilities remained problematic in non-urban areas in both surveys. Unemployment was high and the proportion of Africans in elementary occupations remained similar in the two surveys.

There are many possible reasons for different results in the two surveys. These include genuine developmental changes, sampling error and problems with interpreting the questions. In this report, we have avoided making comparisons between the 1994 and 1995 OHS. As more household surveys are conducted over time, however, it should become increasingly possible to compare the data.

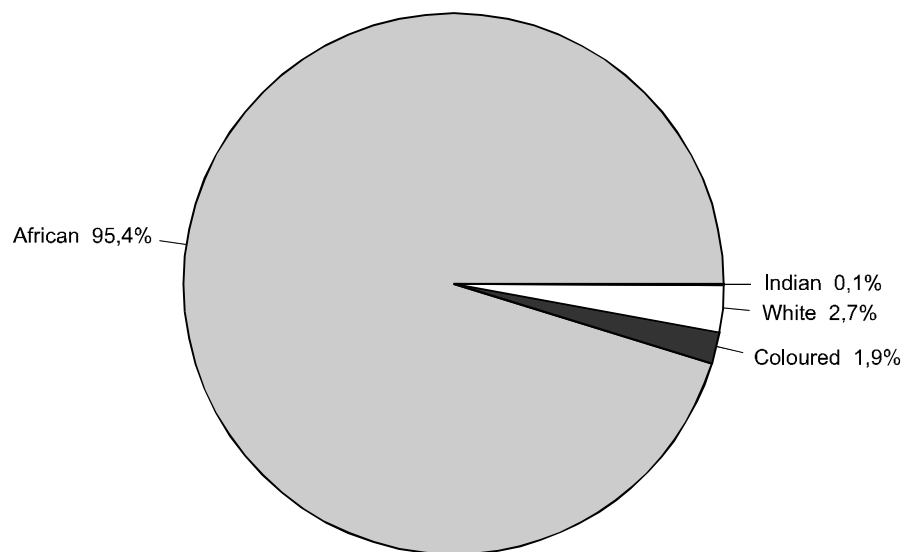
Section 2

The main findings regarding individuals

The population of Northern Province

On the basis of the 1991 population census estimates, CSS has estimated the size of the population in Northern Province in 1995 to be approximately 13% of the total population of South Africa. This makes Northern Province the fourth most populated province, after KwaZulu-Natal (21%), Gauteng (17%) and Eastern Cape (16%).

Figure 1 shows that the vast majority are Africans (95%), fewer than one in thirty are whites (3%), and the remainder consist of coloureds (2%) and Indians (0,1%).² Compared to the total South African population, a larger proportion of Northern Province's population is African – 95% compared with 76%. North West (91%), Mpumalanga (89%), Eastern Cape (87%) and Free State (84%) have slightly lower proportions of the population consisting of Africans.



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 1: Population of Northern Province by population group

² The racial classification of South Africans as African, coloured, Indian and white is retained in the series of October household surveys to enable CSS to monitor changes in the life circumstances of those who were disadvantaged during the apartheid era.

In the country as a whole, the urban/non-urban distribution of the population is fairly equal. Northern Province, however, is the least urbanised province in the country. Only about one-tenth of the population (11%) lives in urban areas.

In Northern Province, most coloureds, Indians and whites live in urban areas – 92%, 92% and 69% respectively. This contrasts with the African population, of whom only one in 12 (8%) live in urban areas.

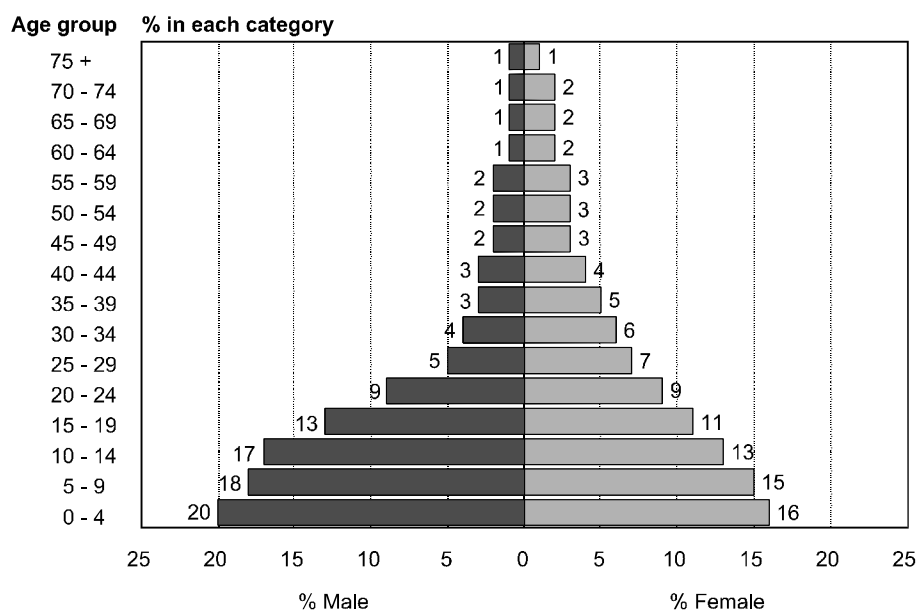
Because the number of coloureds and Indians in Northern Province is so small, no results for these two groups are given in the remainder of this report. Where results for the total population are described, however, they *are* included.

Age distribution

The age distribution of a population is important for a number of reasons. A young population requires greater educational resources, whilst an elderly population needs more facilities to take care of them. The economy of the country is influenced by the age structure of the population – a relatively small proportion of economically active people (aged 15 to 64 years) implies that this group has to support a relatively large proportion of children besides the aged.

Since the overwhelming majority (95%) of the population of Northern Province is African, the overall pattern of age distribution is also very similar to that of the African population. Moreover, age distribution in Northern Province varies by race and gender. It is thus sufficient to treat the age distribution of the African population as a surrogate of the age distribution of the total population.

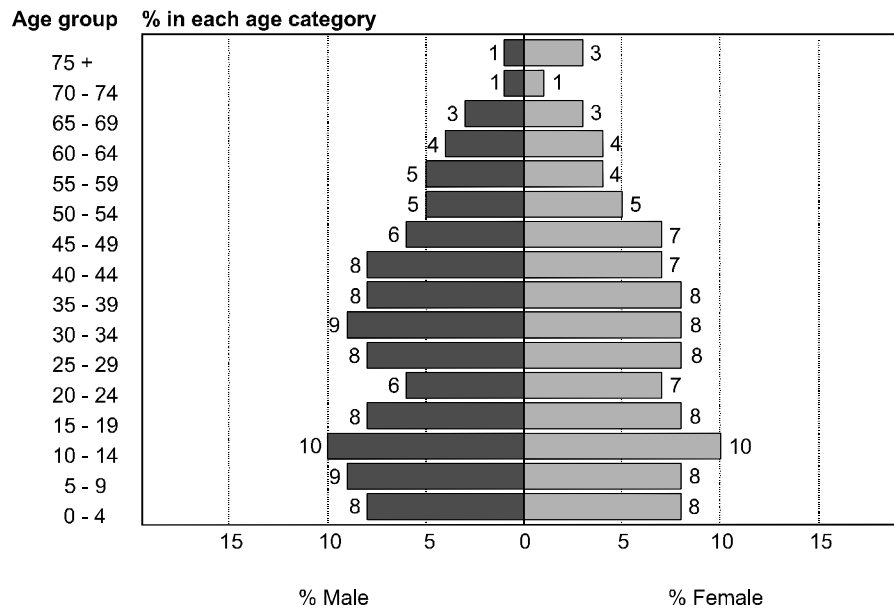
Figure 2 shows the age distribution of Africans in Northern Province. It resembles the typical broad-based age pyramid of developing countries – a large proportion in the younger age groups, with a steadily decreasing proportion in older age groups. Children under the age of five years represent 18% of the population, whilst children under the age of 15 years represent 48% of the population. A relatively small percentage (4%) of the African population consists of the elderly, aged 65 years and older. This distribution shows that Northern Province population is somewhat younger than the African population in the whole country – 14% under five years, 40% under 15 years and 4% over the age of 65 years. A possible reason for this might be that adults, especially adult males, leave for other provinces in search of job opportunities. The relatively sharp drop among males between age groups 15-19 and 25-29 tends to confirm this hypothesis as it covers what might be regarded as the most active age groups in the entire distribution.



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 2: Age distribution of the total African population in Northern Province by gender

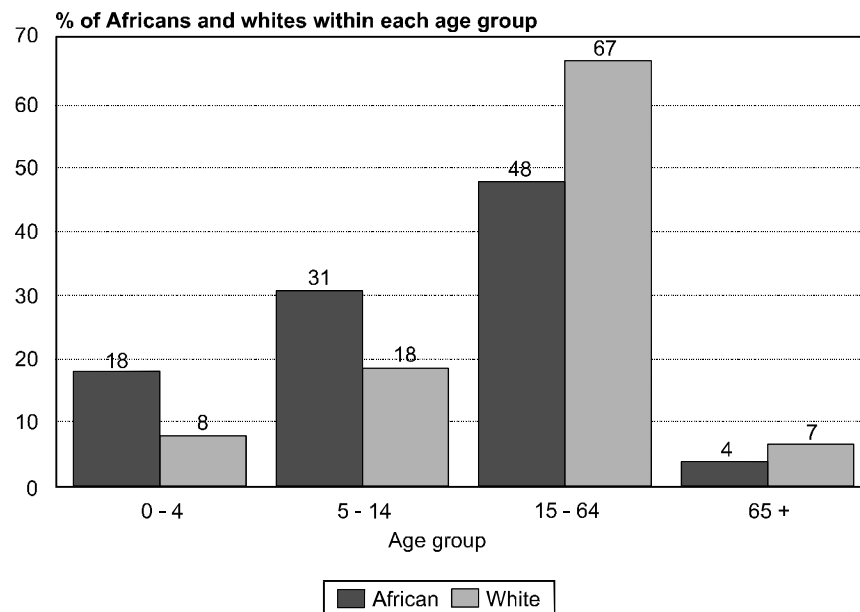
Whites in Northern Province exhibit a very different age pattern, typical of industrialised societies – proportionately fewer children and more elderly people, as shown in Figure 3. Fewer than one in ten whites (8%) are under the age of five years, a quarter (27%) are under 15 years, whilst 7% are at least 65 years of age. This is a slightly younger population than whites throughout the country. Nationally, 7% of whites are younger than five years, 21% are under 15 years and 10% are aged 65 years and older. In Northern Province, the relatively low percentage of whites in the age categories 15-19 and 20-24 years may be explained, in part, by the tertiary education attendance and search for work in other, more urban provinces.



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 3: White population in Northern Province by age group and gender

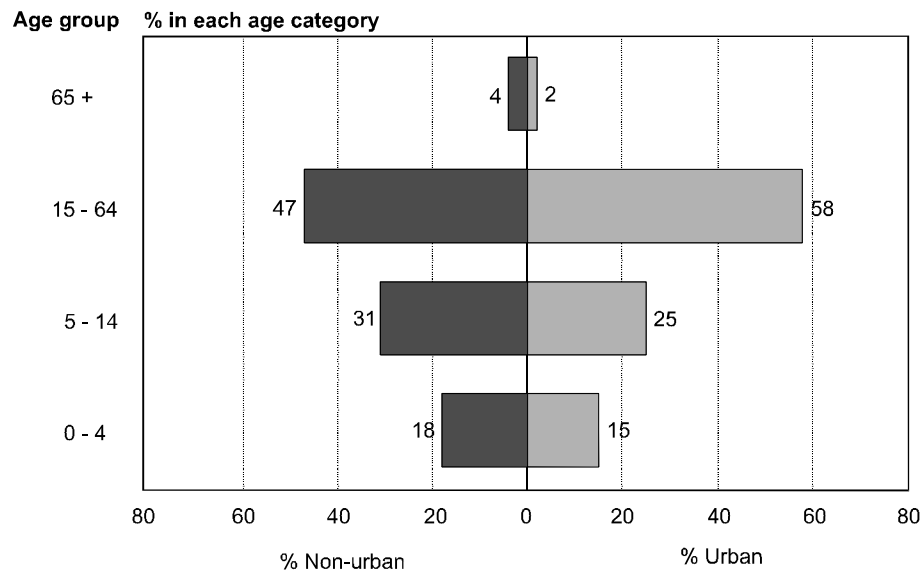
Figure 4 examines the population distribution within four broad age categories. The pattern of age distribution within these four categories initially shows a relatively young African population, in which 18% and 31% are in age groups 0-4 and 5-14 respectively, compared to the corresponding proportions of whites of 8% and 19% respectively. Secondly, the proportion of the African population in the labour force (ages 15-64 years) is much smaller (48%) than the corresponding white proportion (67%). In addition, the proportion of the elderly (65 years and over) in the African population (4%) is relatively much smaller than it is within the white population (7%). The trends of the two distributions tend to be the reverse of each other across the age groups. This has implications for the dependency ratio where, on average, an economically active African has a greater number of people to support than his or her white counterpart.



Source: October household survey, 1995

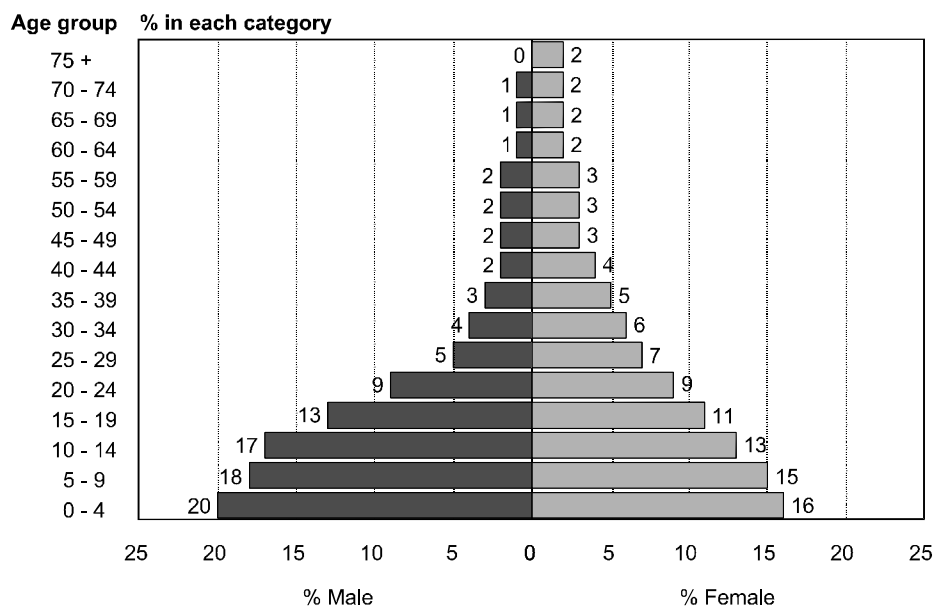
Figure 4: Age distribution of Africans and whites in Northern Province

Age distribution of Africans in Northern Province varies between urban and non-urban areas. According to Figure 5, in non-urban areas a larger proportion of the population consists of children (those aged 14 years or younger) – 49% compared to 40% in the urban areas. There are also proportionately more elderly people (4%) in non-urban areas than in urban areas (2%). As might be expected, presumably because of rural-urban migration, the proportion of economically active people is noticeably greater (58%) in urban areas than in non-urban areas (47%). This observation appears to be strongly supported by the age distribution pattern of Africans in urban areas. Figure 6 demonstrates a fast decline in the proportion of males between the age groups 15-19 and 25-29, compared to that of females in same age groups. In fact, the proportion of males is consistently considerably smaller from age group 15-19 onwards. This pattern is clearly in contrast to the age distribution of Africans in urban areas in the province (Figure 7). Rural-urban migration has implications for the development of non-urban areas in the province because they are characterised by a relatively high proportion (53%) of dependents compared to urban areas (with 42%).



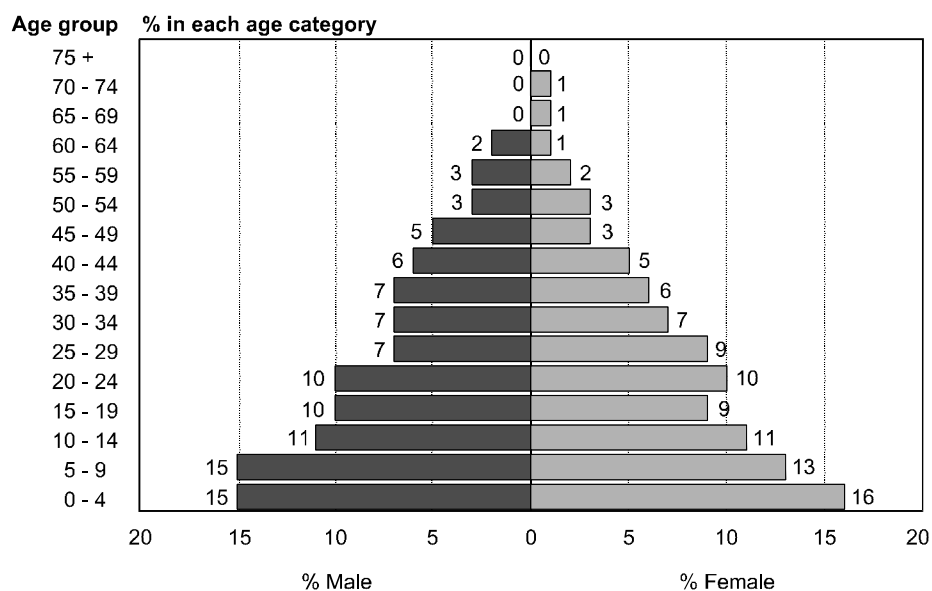
Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 5: African population by age and urban/non-urban classification in Northern Province



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 6: Age distribution of the African non-urban population in Northern Province by gender

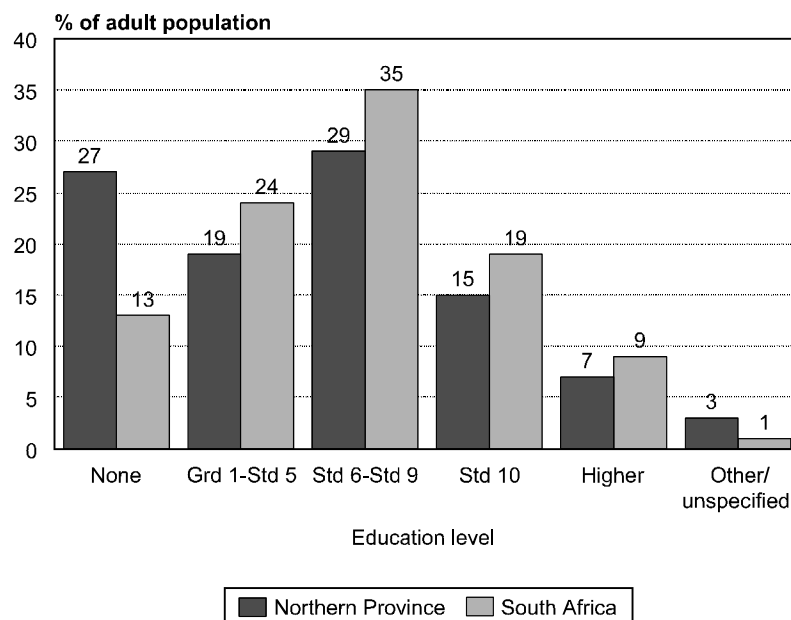


Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 7: Age distribution of the African urban population in Northern Province by gender

Education

Access to educational opportunities varies by province. Compared to the country as a whole, Northern Province fares quite poorly (Figure 8). For example, the proportion of the population 20 years and older that did not go to school is twice (27%) the national proportion (13%). Those who ended their education in primary school (Standard 5 or less) are below the national proportion – 19% compared with 24%. Again the proportion of those who ended their education in secondary school (Standards 5-9) is around six percentage points below the national proportion – 29% compared with 35%. The proportion of those who completed secondary school (Standard 10) is also lower for Northern Province than for South Africa as a whole – 15% compared to 19%. Finally, although not markedly different, those with post-secondary school qualifications (university or technikon degrees or diplomas) are proportionately lower in Northern Province (7%) than in the country as a whole (9%). However, in both cases the proportions of people with post-secondary school educational levels are quite low.



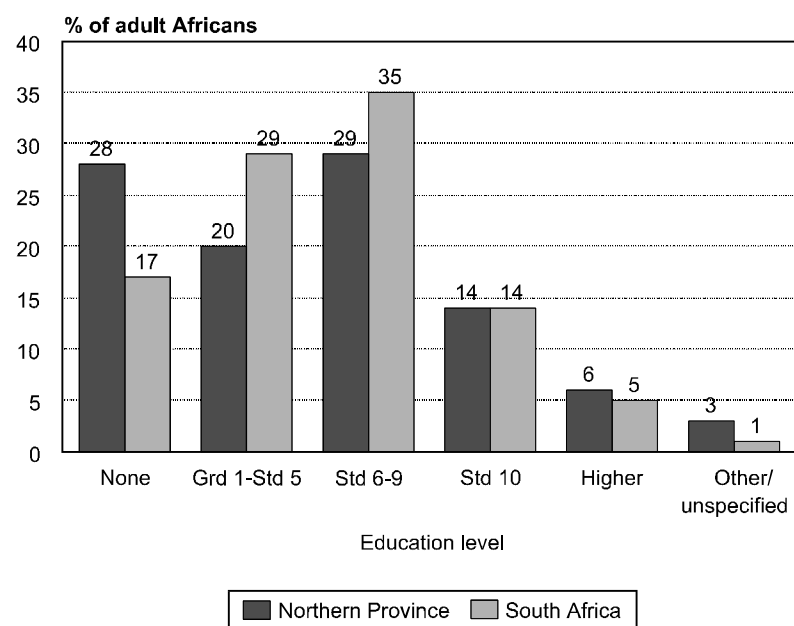
Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 8: Level of education of the population 20 years and older in Northern Province and in South Africa

In Northern Province, as elsewhere in South Africa, access to educational opportunities varies by race. Unfortunately we cannot provide a quantitative measure of this variation because of the relatively small numbers of the Indian, coloured and white populations, which cannot provide a reliable base for comparison.

Educational attainment in Northern Province is clearly below the national level. This comparison is possible only for the African population because, as indicated above, of the small populations of the other racial groups. The comparatively low level of educational attainment in Northern Province is cast against what is also a low level of educational attainment of the African population in the country as a whole. This gives an indication of the gravity of the educational situation in Northern Province.

As in Figure 8, Figure 9 classifies the educational level prevailing in the country at the time into five categories – no formal education ('none'), primary school education (Grade 1 to Standard 5), secondary school education (Standards 6 to 9), matriculation (Standard 10) and post-secondary education ('higher'). In dealing with persons (ages 20 and older) who should either have completed school or acquired a substantial amount of formal education, it is convenient to refer to them as adults.



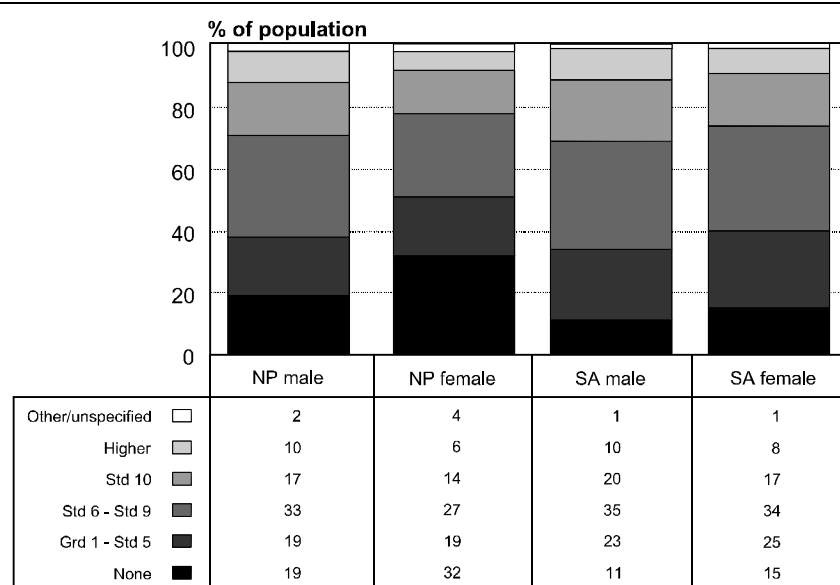
Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 9: Level of education of Africans 20 years and older in Northern Province and in South Africa

In Northern Province the proportion of Africans who constitute the first category, those with no formal education, is 28% of the adult African population. In other words, about one in four adults in Northern Province have not been to school at all. This compares poorly with the national proportion of one in six or 17%. Those in the second category – with some or all of primary school education – constitute 20% of the adult Africans compared to the national population of almost one-third (29%). A similar description applies to the third category – those who had some secondary school education but did not matriculate. They constitute 29% of the adults compared to the national proportion of 35%. However, in the fourth category – matriculation – the situation practically evens out. The proportion of adults who passed Standard 10 is

approximately 14% in both Northern Province and the country as a whole. Educational attainment in the last category – those who had higher education – is also proportionately similar. They constitute 6% of the adult population in Northern Province compared with 5% nationally.

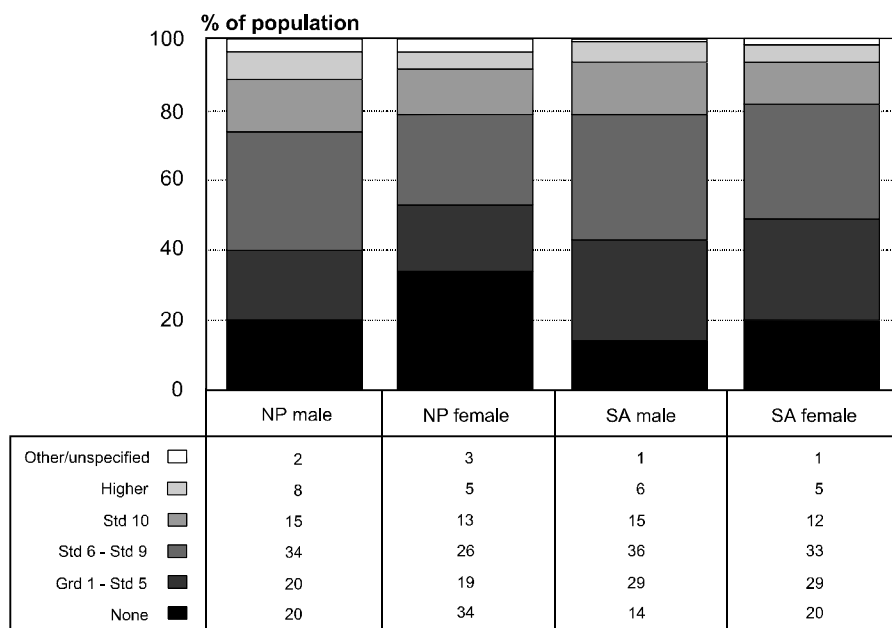
As elsewhere in South Africa, access to educational facilities in Northern Province varies by gender. Figure 10 shows how females both in Northern Province and in the entire country consistently trail men in educational attainment. Nevertheless, differences in educational attainment are more accentuated in Northern Province than in South Africa as a whole. According to Figure 10, this is particularly so of the proportions of males and females who had no formal education – 19% of males compared with 32% of females. This difference between males and females is much smaller in the country as a whole – 11% of males compared with 15% of females.



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 10: Level of education of population 20 years and older in Northern Province and South Africa by gender

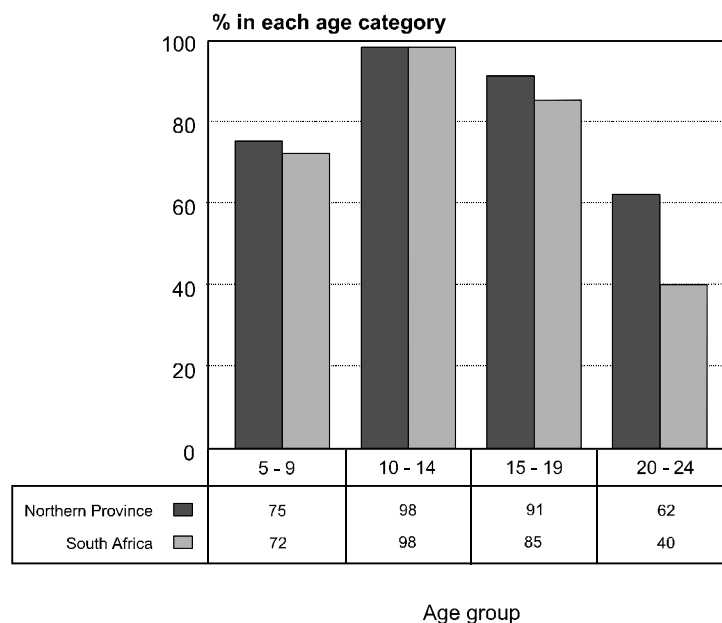
Figure 11 concentrates on gender differences for Africans. The pattern is similar to that shown in Figure 10 except that it is much more pronounced. This is an indication of the low educational levels prevalent in the African population. Thus, in Northern Province, 20% of males and 34% of females of the African population had no formal education compared to the overall provincial proportions of 19% of males and 32% of females, respectively (Figure 10). A similar pattern applies to South Africa as a whole, where 14% of males and 20% of females had no formal education compared with the 11% and 15 % of males and females, respectively, of Figure 10.



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 11: Level of education of African population 20 years and older in Northern Province and South Africa by gender

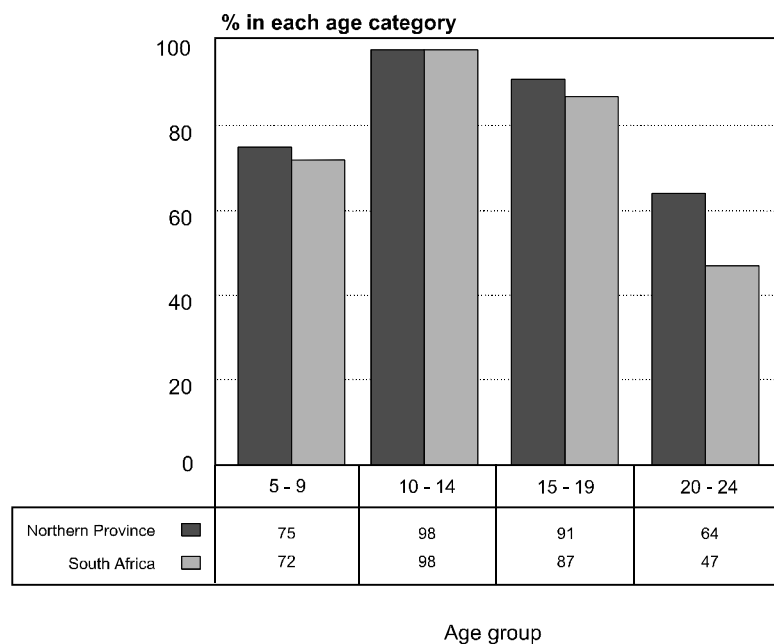
Examination of the age distribution of persons between the ages of 5 and 24 years attending educational institutions both in Northern Province and in South Africa as a whole identifies no appreciable differences in the age groups (5-9 and 10-14 years) which are usually associated with primary school education. As Figure 12 shows, 75% and 72% of children in the age group 5-9 years in Northern Province and the country as a whole, respectively, were in school. In addition, 98% in the age group 10-14 years both in the province and in the country as a whole were in school. However, differences exist and tend to increase in the last two age groups (15-19 and 20-24 years). In fact, the proportions of persons attending educational institutions are, peculiarly, consistently higher in Northern Province than in the country as a whole. In age group 15-19 years the proportion of persons in school dropped to 91% in Northern Province and to 85% in the whole country. These proportions drop considerably further in the age group 20-24 years – to 62% in the province and to 40% in South Africa as a whole. The drop is understandable as many people would be ending their formal education in the last two age groups. However, the point should be made that after age 14, people who stay in educational institutions are much older in Northern Province than in South Africa as a whole, and this may be due their starting education late in life in the province compared to the country as a whole.



Source: October household survey, 1995

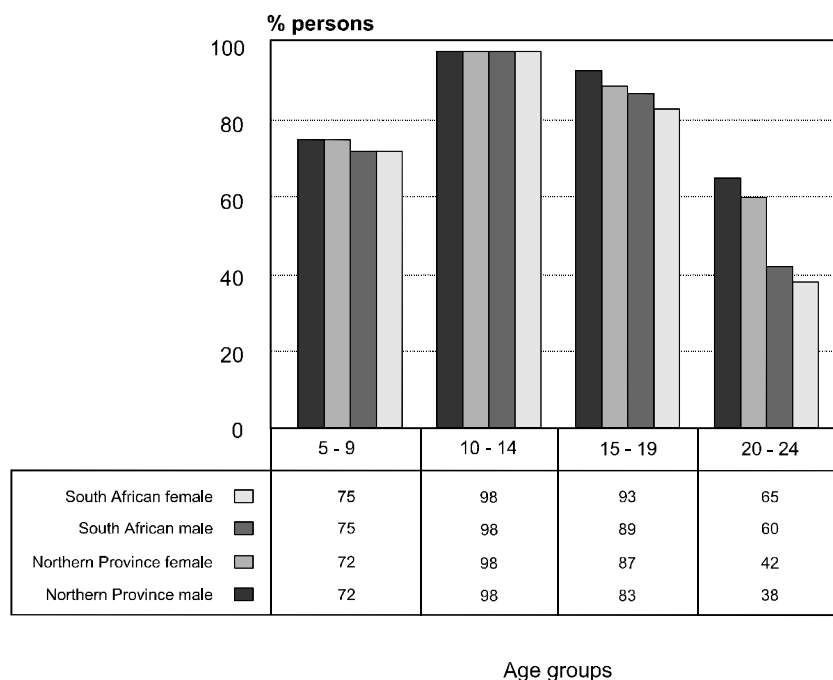
Figure 12: Persons (5-24 years) attending educational institutions by 5-year age groups in Northern Province and in South Africa

This pattern equally applies to Africans (Figure 13). The same pattern also applies to gender with regard to both the entire provincial population and to Africans attending educational institutions (Figure 14). In both Northern Province and the entire South Africa there are no clear differences between the proportions of males and females in the primary school age groups (5-9 and 10-14 years). However, differences exist between the sexes from age 15 onwards; the proportion of females tends to drop faster than that of males. Thus age group 15-19 years appears to be a watershed for persons to drop out of the educational system, with more females dropping out than males.



Source: October household survey, 1995

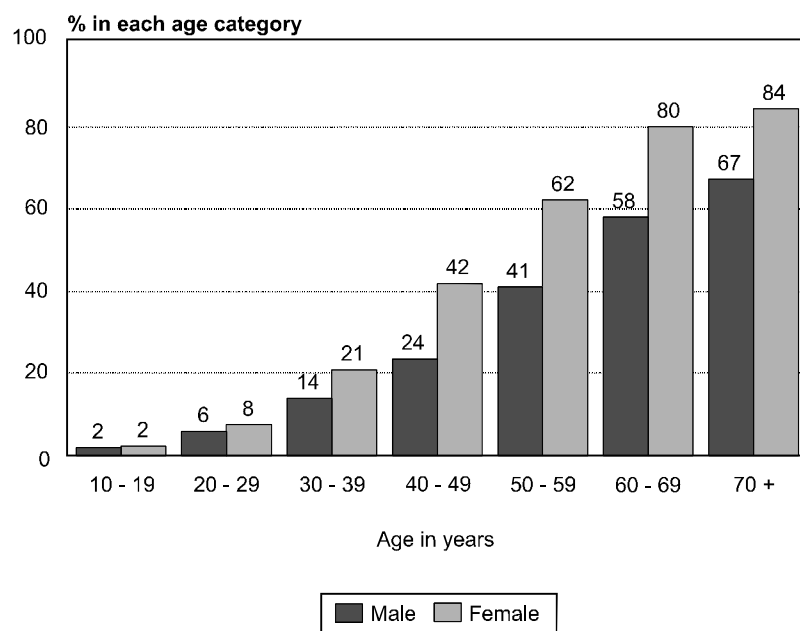
Figure 13: Africans (5-24 years) attending educational institutions by 5-year age groups in Northern Province and in South Africa



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 14: Persons (5-24 years) attending educational institutions by 5-year age groups by gender in Northern Province and in South Africa

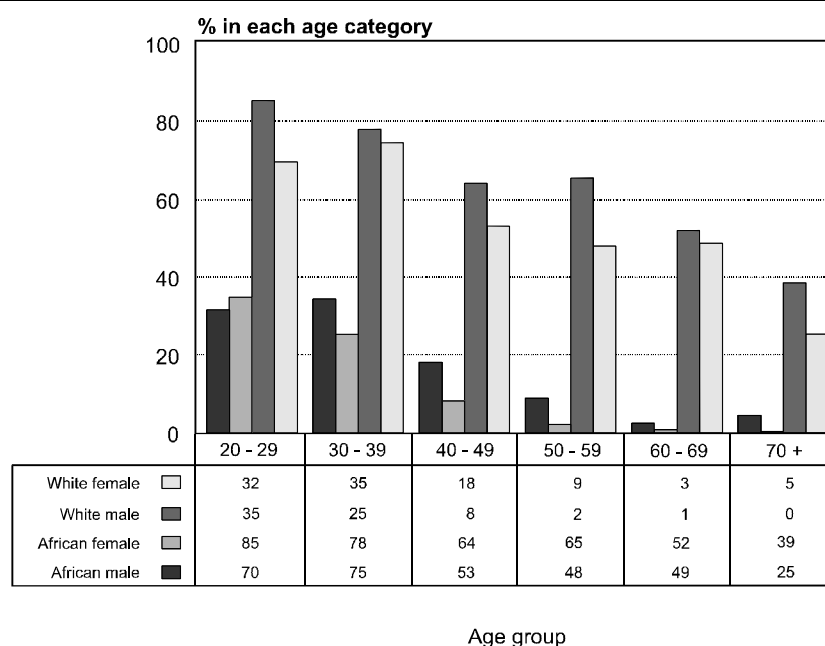
Extensive resources are needed to provide the large number of South African children with adequate education. Children who do not attend school should be identified and the reason(s) for non-attendance should be addressed. In Northern Province in 1995, 2% of African children aged 10 to 19 years had received no schooling at all. Among the other races, all children of this age group had attended school. Figure 15 indicates that the percentage of Africans with no schooling is similar for males and females aged 10 to 19 years. This has not always been the case – among the older age groups, a larger proportion of females than males had had no schooling. It is also clear that this percentage has decreased steadily over time. In other words, proportionately more children are entering school now to obtain at least some basic education. At the same time, the older the age cohort, the larger the proportion of non-school attendees.



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 15: Percentage of Africans in Northern Province who have received no education by age and gender

At the upper end of the educational scale, 77% of whites aged 20 to 29 years have completed at least Standard 10 compared to 33% of Africans. Although there is a large discrepancy between these two races, Figure 16 shows that the percentage has improved over time in both groups. In both groups, females lag slightly behind males.

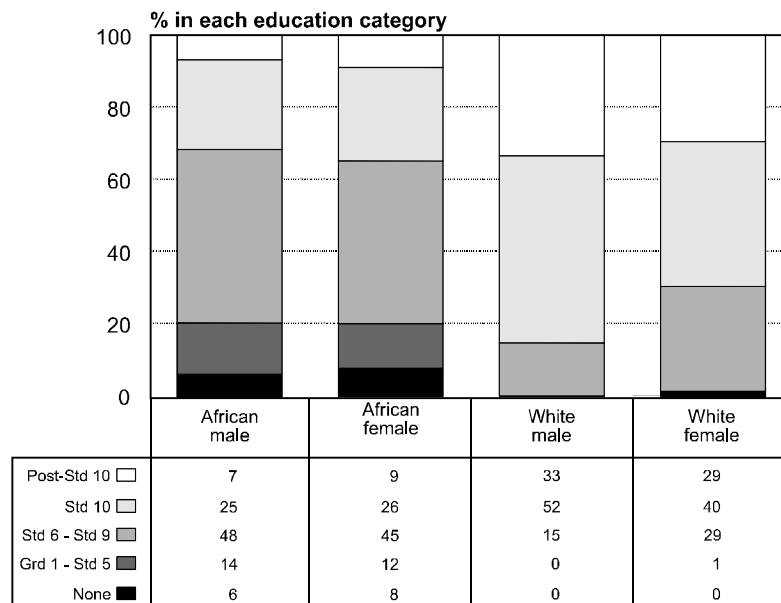


Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 16: Percentage of Africans and whites in Northern Province who have completed Standard 10 by age and gender

A closer look at the age group which is entering the employment market (those aged 20 to 29 years) reveals that one in 14 Africans (7%) has had no schooling and one in eight (13%) has had some education but less than Standard 6. All in all, about two-thirds of Africans have not passed Standard 10, in contrast with 22% of whites. Post-school qualifications have been obtained by 8% of Africans and 32% of whites. These statistics are similar to those of the corresponding age group in the whole country. In South Africa, 5% of Africans aged 20 to 29 years have had no schooling whilst 21% have had some education but less than Standard 6. Sixty-nine percent of Africans and 17% of whites have not passed Standard 10. Seven percent of Africans and 28% of whites have obtained post-school qualifications.

Figure 17 illustrates that, among Africans, the educational profile of this age group is similar for males and females. Among whites, on the other hand, a larger percentage of females (30%) than males (15%) do not make it to Standard 10.



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 17: Level of education in Northern Province by population group and gender among those aged 20 to 29 years

Employment

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, such as those under the age of 15 years, students, housewives, pensioners, disabled persons and others who are permanently unable to work, are excluded from the definition of the economically active population. World-wide they are regarded as being outside the labour market.

In October 1995, only 38% of people aged 15 years or more in Northern Province were reported to be economically active. Of these 59% reported that they were gainfully employed, either in formal or informal work; the remaining 41% indicated that they were unemployed. These percentages are lower than those for the country as a whole. In the whole of South Africa, approximately 55% of the 26,4 million people aged 15 years or more were reported to be economically active. Of the economically active people, 71% reported that they were gainfully employed.

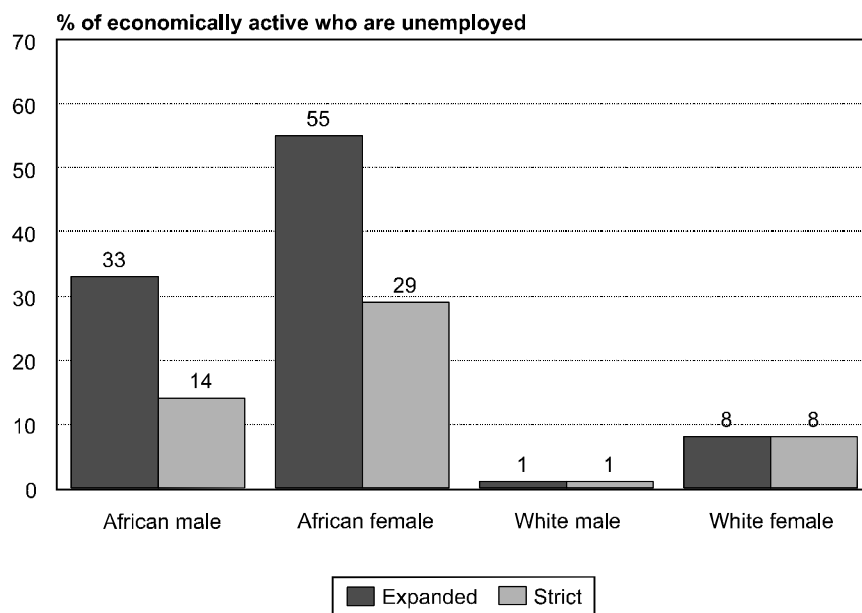
The unemployed

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

Using the *strict* definition, about 20% of the economically active sector in the Northern Province in 1995 were unemployed. This translates into 161 000 people. More than double this proportion (i.e. 41%) were unemployed according to the *expanded* definition. These unemployment rates are higher than those for the country as a whole, namely 17% and 29% respectively.

Figure 18 compares the unemployment rates among African and white males and females using the two definitions. Amongst whites, both definitions result in similar estimates of the unemployment rate – less than 1% of males and about 8% of females. A different situation is observed amongst Africans. Using the *expanded* definition leads to an unemployment rate which is roughly double that using the *strict* definition – 33% and 14% for males and 55% and 29% for females respectively. It thus appears that Africans in Northern Province are less likely than whites to have actively looked for work in the four weeks prior to the survey. This is probably due to the phenomenon of the 'discouraged' unemployed, as described in the next paragraph. Nationally, the unemployment rates according to the *expanded* and *strict* definitions differ somewhat amongst white males (4% and 3%) and white females (8% and 5%), indicating that they, too, have been discouraged from actively looking for work. The picture amongst Africans in South Africa is fairly similar to that in Northern Province – the

unemployment rates for African males are 29% and 16%, whilst those for African females are 47% and 27% according to the *expanded* and *strict* definitions respectively.



Source: October household survey, 1995

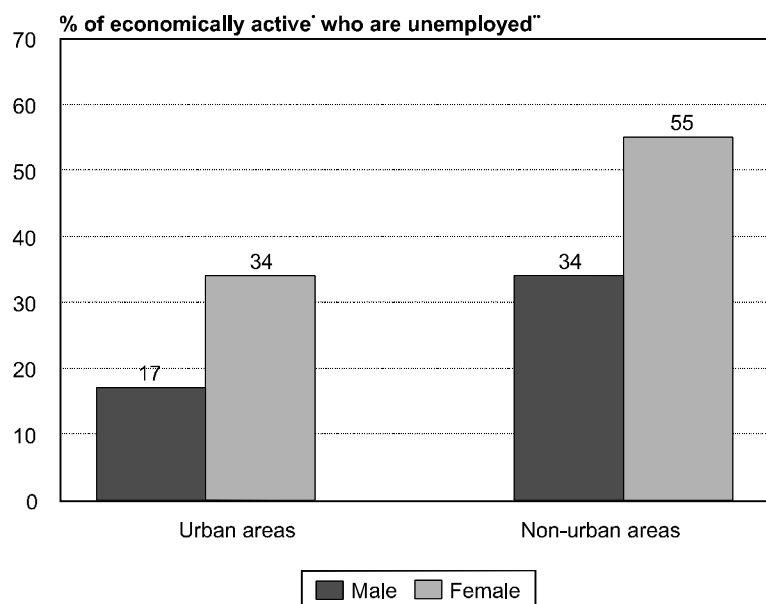
Figure 18: Unemployment rates in Northern Province by population group and gender (strict definition compared with expanded definition)

It has been widely recognised that the strict definition is too limited in the present South African context, where employment opportunities are limited and many unemployed people have ceased to seek 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 have given up seeking it because the process is too costly. The World Bank calls these people ‘the discouraged’ unemployed.

The CSS thus defines the unemployment rate 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 for other income-generating activities and who want to be employed or self-employed. *The following discussion on unemployment is therefore based on the expanded definition.*

The unemployment rate in Northern Province is higher than the national rate – 41% versus 29%. Another look at Figure 18 shows that the unemployment rate is highest among African women (55%) and African men (33%). A much smaller proportion of white females (8%) and males (less than 1%) are unemployed.

In Northern Province, unemployment rates are higher in non-urban areas (45%) than in urban areas (24%). This holds true for both males and females. According to Figure 19, over half (55%) of economically active females in non-urban areas are unemployed compared to 34% in urban areas. For males, the unemployment rates are 34% and 17% respectively. The same trends are seen for the whole country, although the South African rates are slightly lower than those in Northern Province. The unemployment rates in the non-urban areas (38%) of the country are higher than in the urban areas (25%). One in two (50%) economically active females in non-urban areas are unemployed compared with 31% in the urban areas. Amongst males, the unemployment rates nationally are 27% and 20% respectively.



• Those aged 15 years or more who are working or who are available for work

•• Expanded definition

Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 19: Unemployment rates by urban and non-urban areas among the economically active population

Figure 20 takes a closer look at the unemployed. Amongst unemployed males, 29% are younger than 25 years, whilst 41% are between 25 and 34 years of age. A lower proportion of unemployed females is under the age of 25 years (18%), but the proportion aged 25 to 34 years increases to 39%.

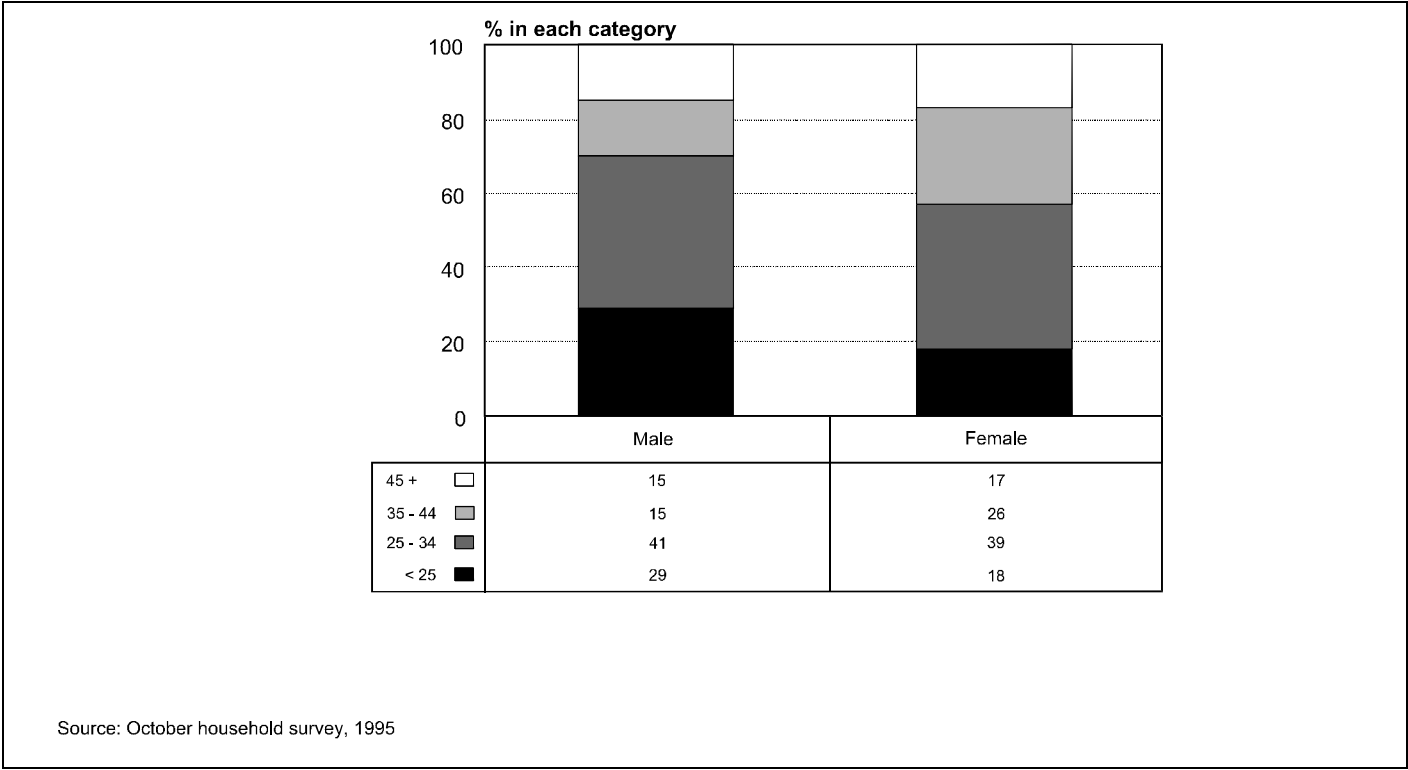
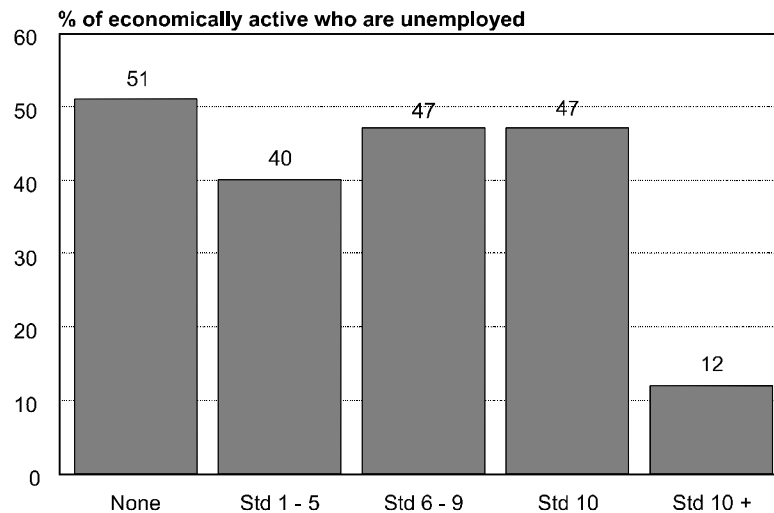


Figure 20: Distribution of unemployment in Northern Province by age and gender

How does education affect employment? Figure 21 shows that the unemployment rate is highest among those who have had no education at all (51%). Those with some education, including Standard 10, experience only slightly lower levels of unemployment (40% to 47%). A much lower unemployment rate, namely 12%, is experienced by those with a post-school qualification. These unemployment rates follow a similar trend, albeit at a higher level, as those observed nationally – 34% among those with no education, 36% among those with some primary school education, 34% among those with some secondary school education, 25% among those who have completed Standard 10, and 6% among those with a post-school qualification.

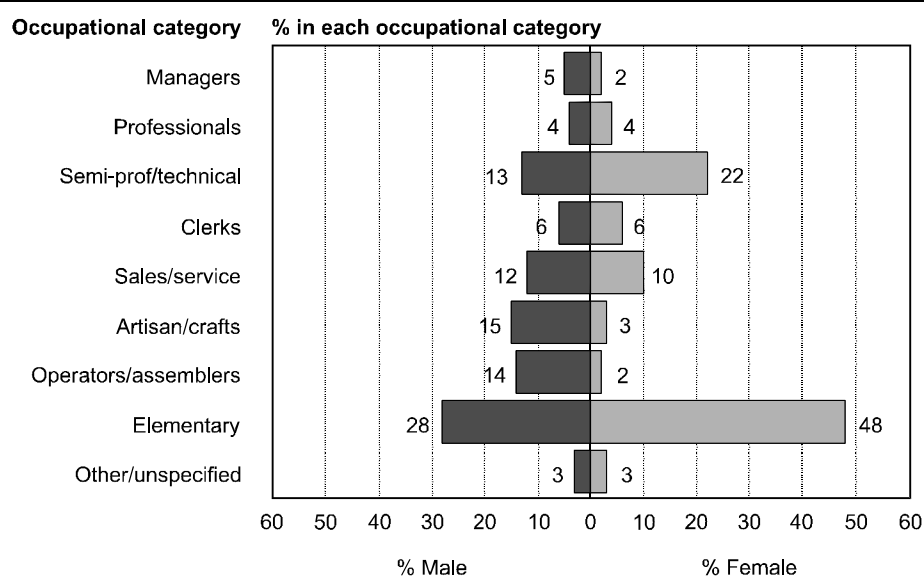


Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 21: Unemployment rate among the economically active in Northern Province by education level

The employed

The type of work done by employed people in Northern Province varies by race and gender. Figure 22 shows that a large proportion of employed African males (28%) and African females (48%) work in elementary occupations such as cleaning, garbage collecting and agricultural labour. Operator and assembler type of work occupies 14% of African males, whilst a further 15% are involved with crafts and related trades (including agriculture). One in five (22%) African females are in semi-professional occupations such as nursing assistants. Five percent of African males and 2% of African females are in managerial posts. A similar picture emerges when one looks at the occupation of Africans throughout the country. For example, 34% of employed African males and 50% of African females in South Africa work in elementary occupations.



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 22: Occupation of employed Africans by gender in Northern Province

As shown in Figure 23, a different picture emerges when looking at the occupations practised by whites in Northern Province. White males tend to be in occupations requiring higher levels of competence. A third (36%) of them work as artisans and craft workers whilst 14% are technicians and associate semi-professionals. One in three (32%) white females are in clerical positions; a further 20% are technicians and associate semi-professionals. White males are slightly more likely to be in management positions (12%) than white females (8%). Nationally, a larger proportion of employed white males (19%) are in management positions.

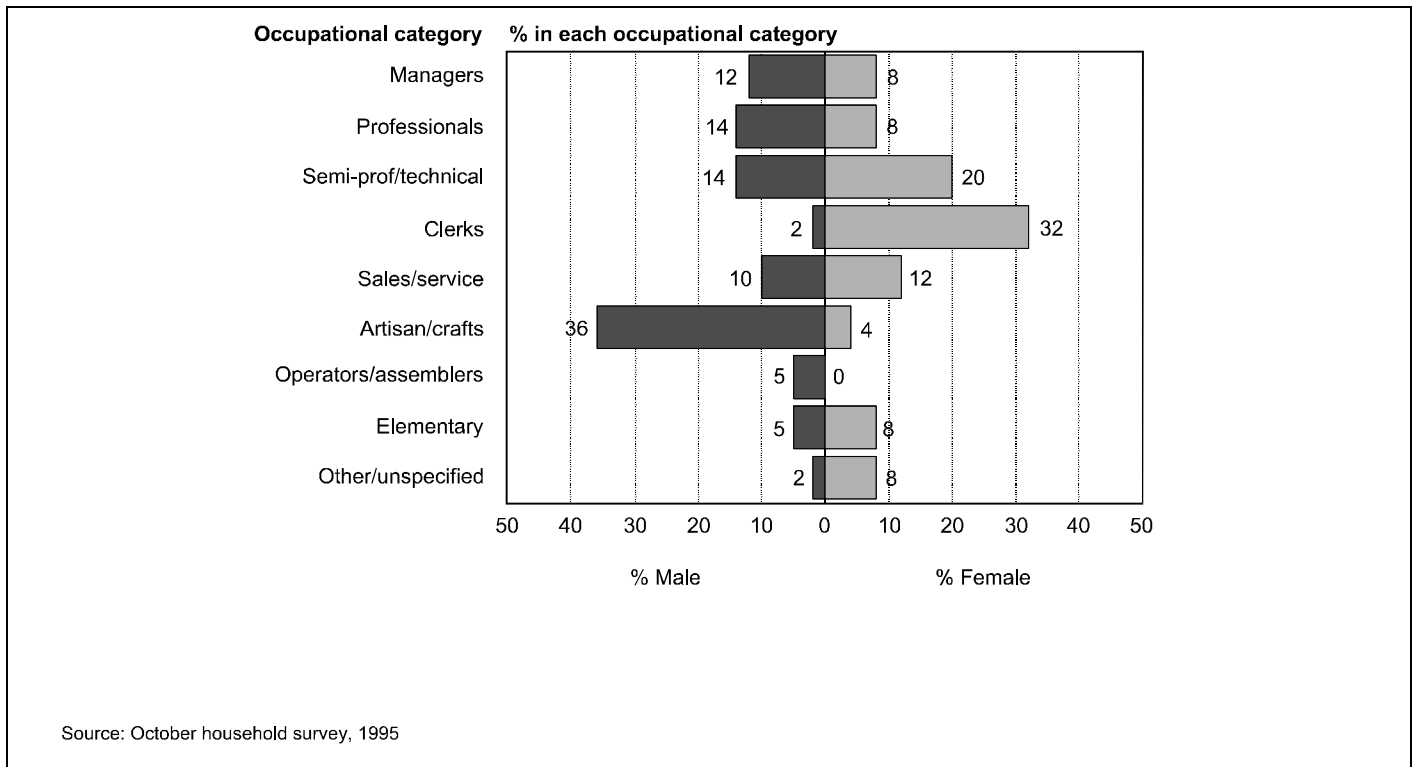
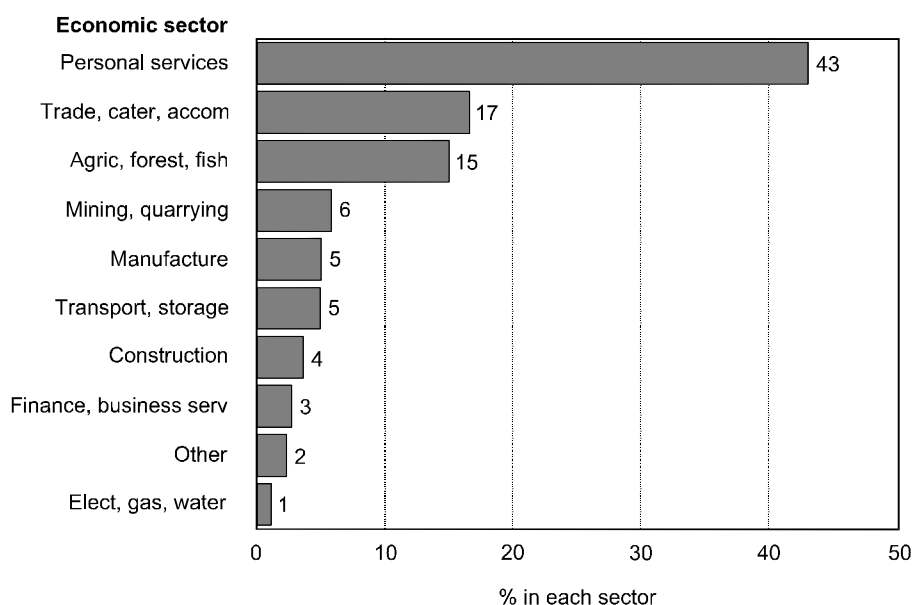


Figure 23: Occupation of employed whites by gender in Northern Province

An examination of the economic sector in which people tend to work in the formal sector shows that a large proportion of jobs are found in the tertiary industries. As illustrated in Figure 24, over 40% of the employed in Northern Province (43%) work in the personal services sector. This percentage is higher than the national figure of 31%. An additional 17% work in trade, catering and accommodation. The agricultural sector provides jobs for 15% of the employed, 6% work in the mining industry and 5% work in manufacturing. The agricultural sector provides jobs for 15% of the employed, 6% work in the mining industry and 5% work in manufacturing.



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 24: Economic sector of all those who are working in Northern Province

Trade union membership

Trade union membership was an important aspect of life and work in South Africa since it provided an outlet for democratic expression among the disenfranchised in the dying years of apartheid. Its importance has continued, and a large proportion of employees are members. In 1995, almost one-third (31%) of all Northern Province employees stated that they belonged to a trade union. As shown in Figure 25, trade union membership is highest among African males (34%), followed by white males (33%) and African females (29%). Only 12% of white females are members of trade unions. These figures differ somewhat from national trade union membership. Amongst employees throughout the country, 28% of white males, 17% of white females, 39% of African males and 36% of African females stated that they belonged to a trade union.



Source: October household survey, 1995

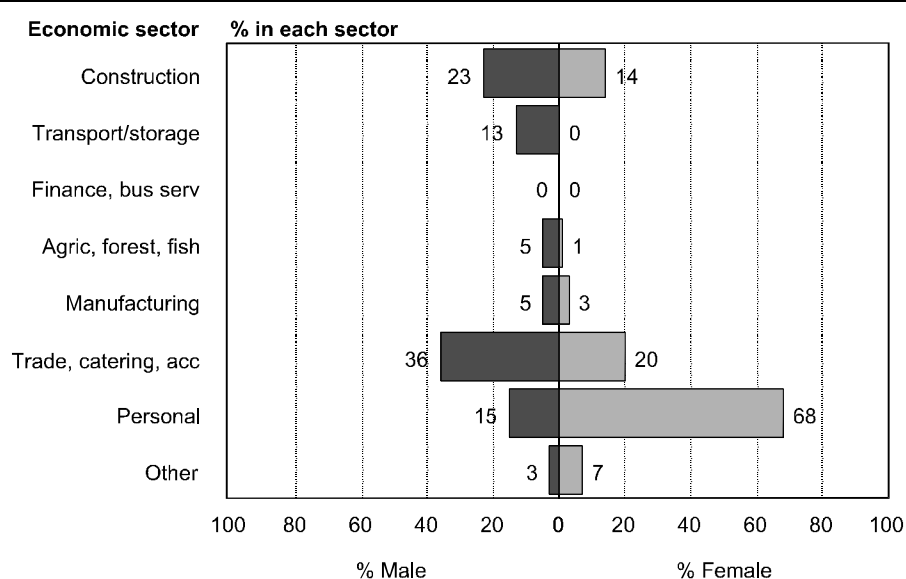
Figure 25: Trade union membership in Northern Province by population group and gender

The informal economy

Approximately 15% of the economically active population in Northern Province work in the informal sector. They constitute 26% of all workers. Own account (self-employed) workers in the informal sector constitute 10% of the economically active population in Northern Province. African women predominate in this sector – they constitute approximately 56% of own account informal sector workers (domestic workers are included as informal workers for own account). Relatively few whites (5%) work for their own account in the informal sector. Expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years or more, the differential between Africans and whites is

less marked – 4% and 5% respectively work for own account in the informal sector. In the country as a whole, the informal sector constitutes approximately 12% of the economically active population of whom 9% work for own account. Informal sector workers constitute 17% of the country's actual workers. Over half (58%) of the own account workers are African women.

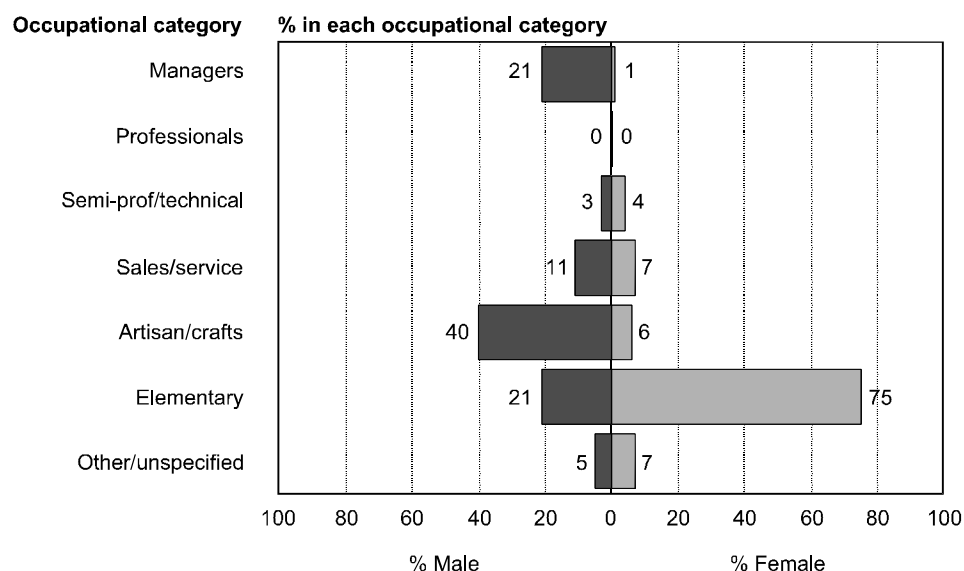
Occupations in the informal sector tend to cluster into certain categories. Figure 26 shows that two-thirds of women working for own account (68%) tend to be found in the personal services sector. Approximately one-third of men (36%) work in the trade, catering and accommodation sector. Relatively few males (5%) and females (3%) are in small-scale informal manufacturing. This profile is similar to that found for the country as a whole – 77% of women own account workers are in the personal services sector, 40% of men work in the trade, catering and accommodation sector, and 9% of males and 5% of females are in small-scale informal manufacturing.



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 26: Workers for own account in the informal sector in Northern Province by economic sector and gender

Three-quarters of women in the informal sector (75%) are in elementary occupations such as street vending and domestic work. This is illustrated in Figure 27. Males are found in more diverse occupations – 21% are in elementary occupations whilst a further 40% in artisan and craft activities. A large proportion of males (21%) described their occupation in terms of managing or running micro-businesses, for example running a taxi concern.

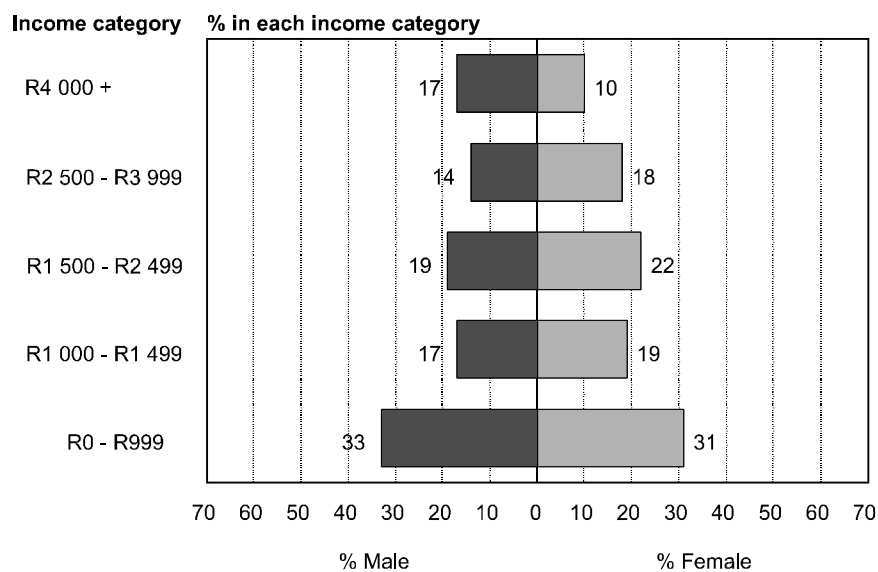


Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 27: Workers for own account in the informal sector in Northern Province by occupation and gender

Incomes of employees in Northern Province

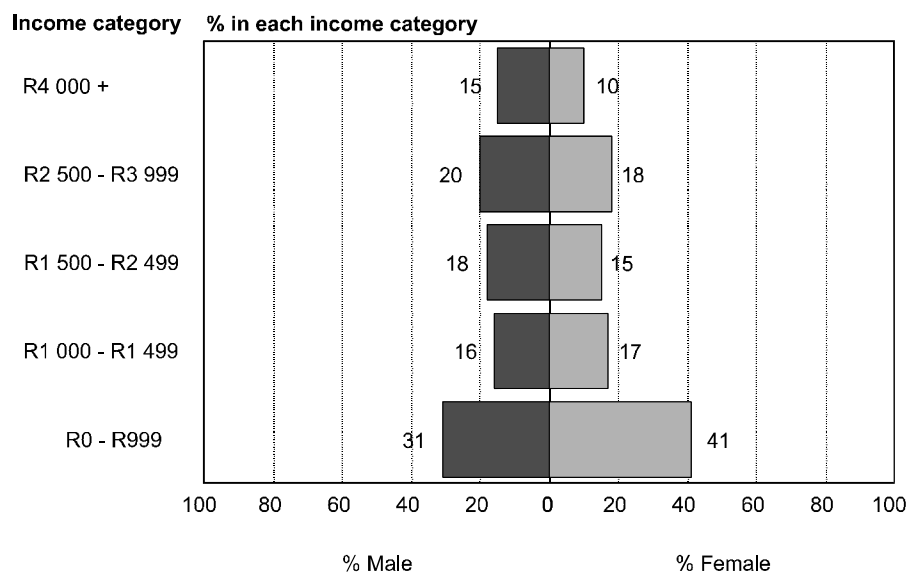
Figure 28 indicates the percentage of employees in five broad income categories, based on average monthly income in South Africa as a whole, while Figure 29 illustrates the monthly average income distribution in Northern Province. Both nationally and in the province, approximately one-third of males (33% and 31% respectively) are earning on average R999 or less per month. Among females, however, a large proportion of employees in Northern Province (41%) are earning on average R999 or less per month, compared to the national picture (31%).



• Gross monthly income of employees only. Data not adjusted to full-time equivalent jobs

Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 28: Among employees in South Africa, percentage in each monthly income category by gender

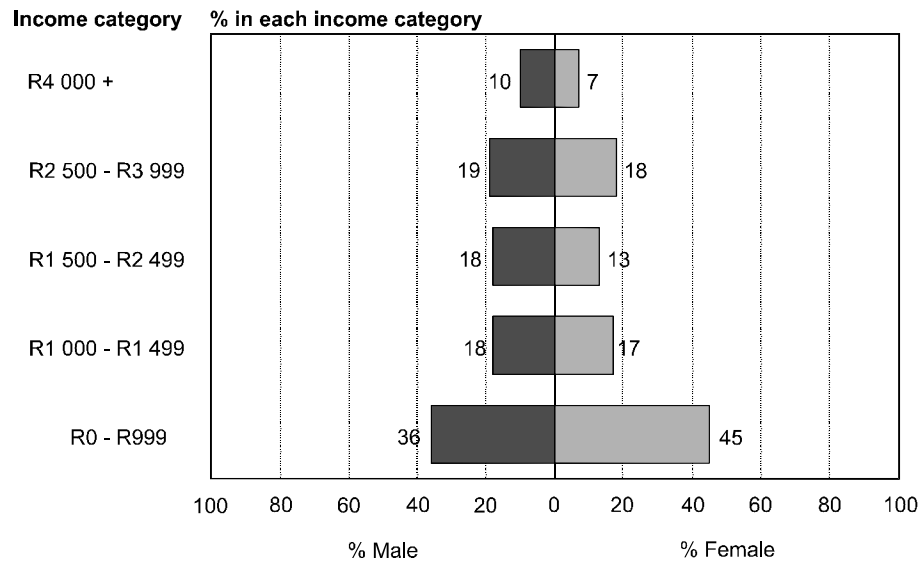


• Gross monthly income of employees only. Data not adjusted to full-time equivalent jobs

Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 29: Among employees in Northern Province, percentage in each monthly income category by gender

When looking at the income distribution of employees by race and gender within Northern Province, the discrepancies between the earnings of Africans and whites, on the one hand, and males and females, on the other, are clearly evident in Figures 30 and 31. Figure 30 shows that 36% of African male and 45% of African female employees earn R999 or less per month (the bottom category) while only 10% of males and 7% of females earn R1 000 or more (the top category). Figure 31 shows the reverse picture for white employees. Only 3% of white male and 6% of white female employees are in the bottom income category, while 64% of white males and 22% of white females are in the top category. White female employees are mainly in the upper three categories.



• Gross monthly income of employees only. Data not adjusted to full-time equivalent jobs
Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 30: Among African employees in Northern Province, percentage in each monthly income category by gender

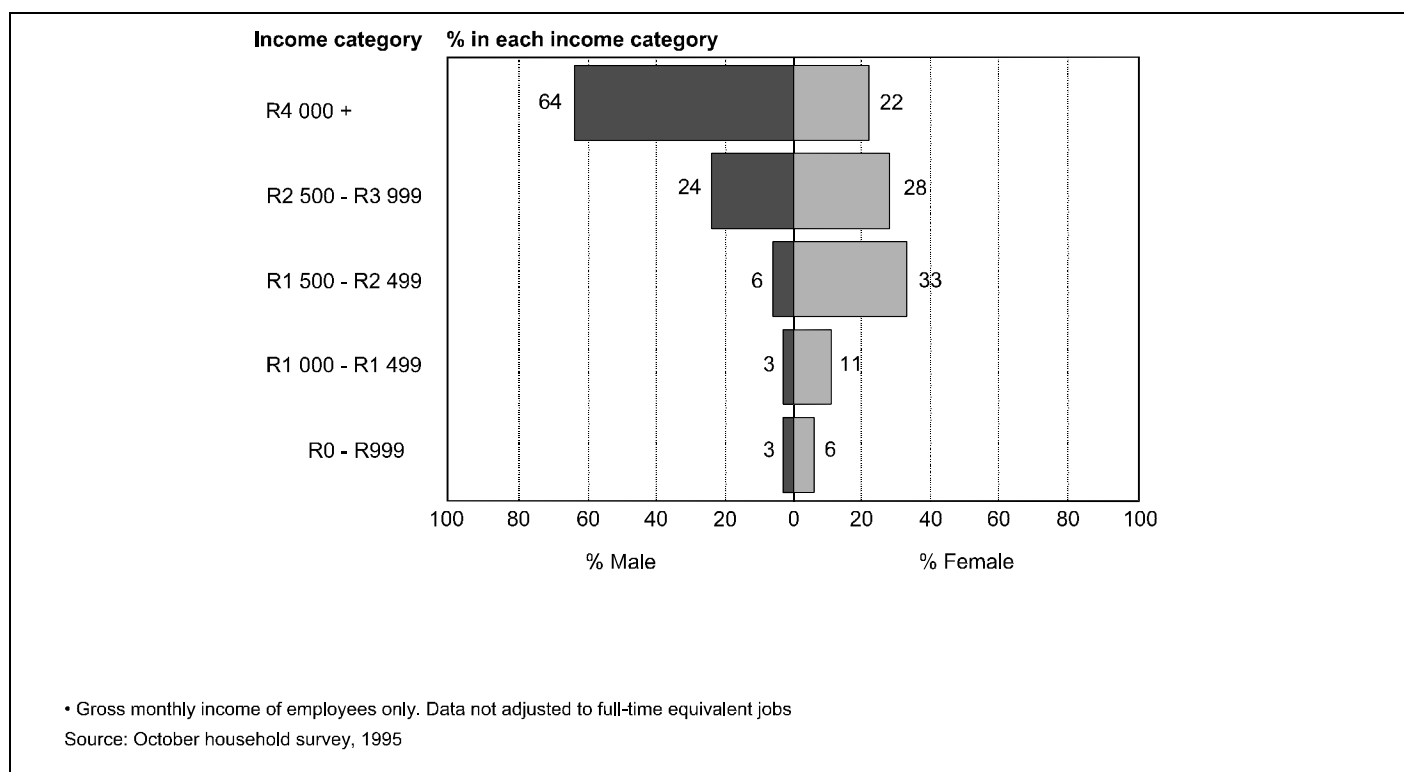


Figure 31: Among white employees in Northern Province, percentage in each monthly income category by gender

Migration

One of the major determinants of population change in any area is migration. Population change refers either to population growth or to population decline. In either case it affects the size of the population of the area, and is accordingly an important variable for planning. In-migration is the process whereby persons move into an area for the purpose of residence from another area within the same country, depending on how these areas are defined. On the other hand, out-migration is the process whereby persons from an area leave the area for the purpose of residing elsewhere in the same country. When migration occurs at an international scale, in-migration becomes immigration while out-migration becomes emigration.

The 1995 OHS could not cover emigration; it also did not sufficiently cover immigration. These processes are complex and are best covered by data from the Department of Home Affairs. Accordingly this section concentrates on migration within the borders of South Africa. In particular, the section is confined to inter-provincial migration because the data available can best be interpreted at that level.

Figure 32 shows the proportion of the population in the nine provinces that constitute gross life-time in-migrants, or migrants who resided in these provinces but had been born elsewhere. Northern Province is the third least attractive to migrants, who constitute only 7% of its population. The least attractive province appears to be Eastern Cape (with in-migrants constituting 4% of its population), closely followed by KwaZulu-Natal (5%). The most attractive province is Gauteng (25%), followed at a distance by North West and Mpumalanga (both 18%), then by Western Cape (16%) and Northern Cape (14%). Free State falls in the class of the fourth least attractive, with 8% of its population being composed of in-migrants.

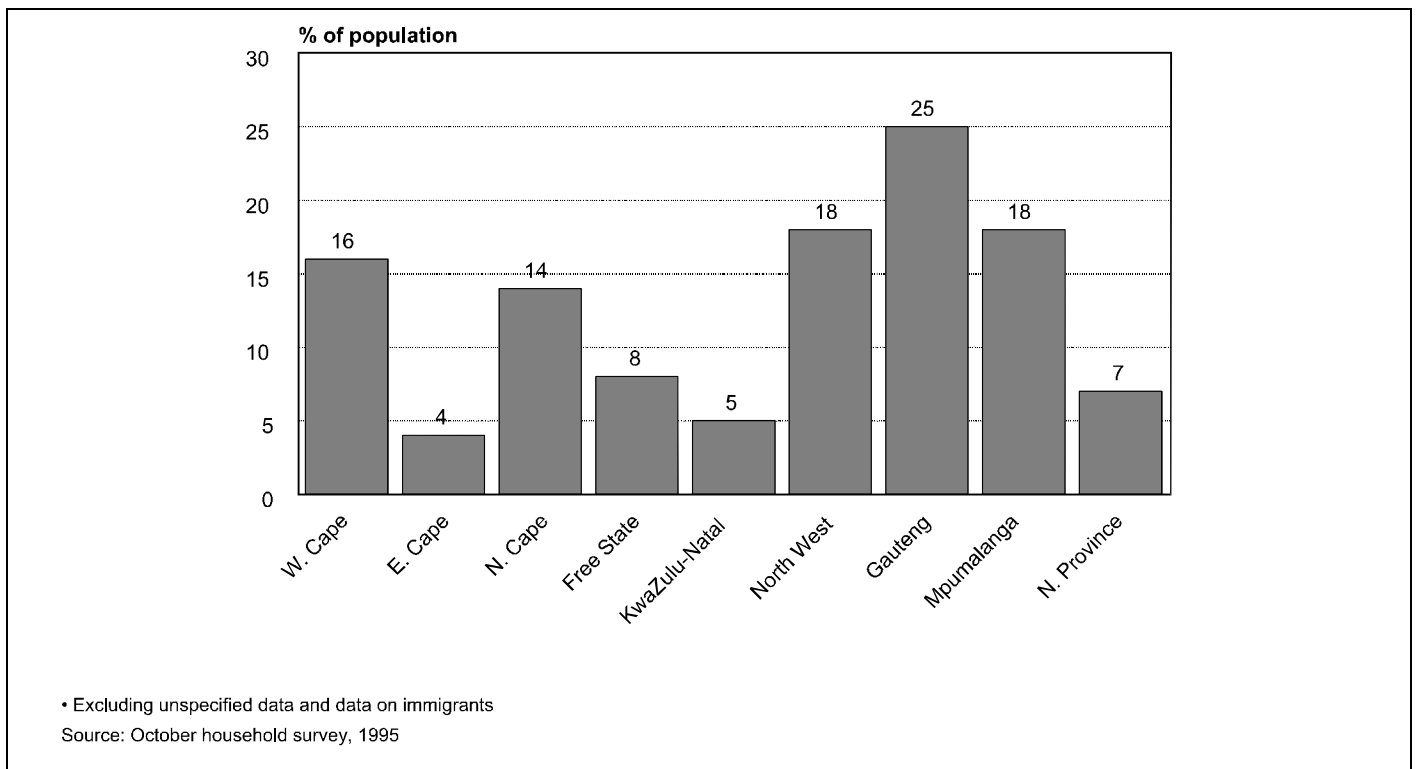
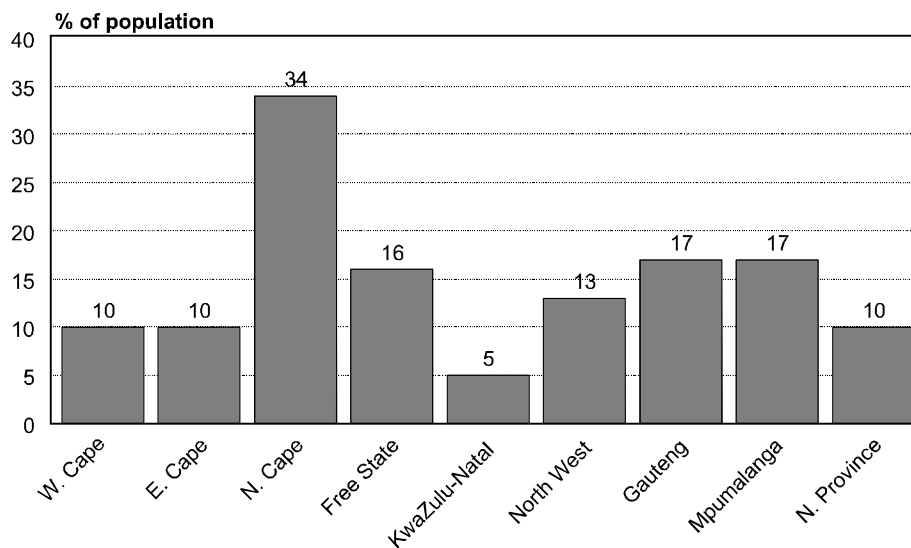


Figure 32: Inter-provincial gross life-time in-migrants in South Africa

Figure 33 shows the proportions of inter-provincial gross life-time out-migrants, or migrants who left the provinces of their birth to reside in other provinces. Northern Province is at par with Eastern Cape and Western Cape in the sense that they lost the equivalent of 10% of the population born in these provinces to other provinces. The leading sending province, or the province with the highest proportion of life-time out-migrants, is Northern Cape, with 34% of its population born there becoming out-migrants. Gauteng and Mpumalanga each have the same proportions (17)%, followed by Free State (16%) and North West (13%).



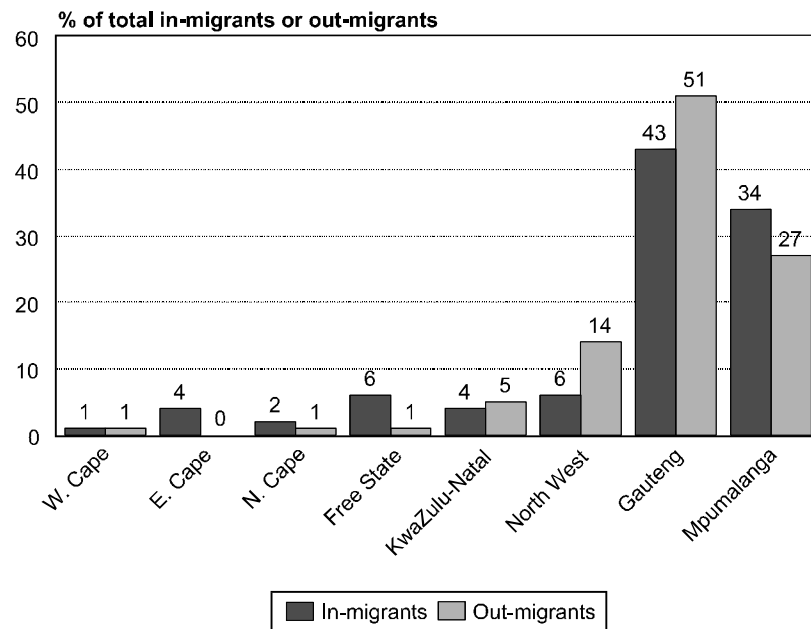
• Excluding unspecified data

Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 33: Inter-provincial gross life-time out-migrants in South Africa

While the data from the 1995 OHS may not be conducive to the computation of precise net life-time migration, Figures 32 and 33 provide a good impression of provinces which were losing population through out-migration as well as those which were gaining population through in-migration. Northern Province and Eastern Cape appear to have lost more people than they gained. KwaZulu-Natal appears to have broken even. However, Northern Cape appears to have lost a considerable proportion of its population through life-time out-migration. On the other hand, Gauteng, North West, Mpumalanga and Western Cape appear to have gained population through life-time in-migration.

Figure 34 shows the relationship of Northern Province to the rest of the provinces through the process of life-time in-migration. Most of the in-migrants came from the province's geographical neighbours – Gauteng (43%) and Mpumalanga (34%). Similarly, most of the out-migrants moved to Gauteng (51%), Mpumalanga (27%) and North West (14%). The province appears to have experienced a net loss in life-time migration primarily to Gauteng and North West.



• Excluding unspecified data

Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 34: Provincial origins of gross life-time in-migrants to, and provincial destinations of gross life-time out-migrants from, Northern Province

With regard to population group, only Africans are discussed since they constituted an overwhelming majority (95%) of the population in Northern Province. Figure 35 shows the proportion of inter-provincial gross life-time African in-migrants in South Africa in 1995. Northern Province is the fourth least attractive province, with life-time in-migrants constituting 6% of its population. The two equally least attractive provinces are Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, with 3% each of their African populations consisting of life-time in-migrants. Free State ranks third among the least attractive provinces, with 4% of its African population consisting of life-time in-migrants. On the other hand, with 40% of its African population consisting of life-time in-migrants, Western Cape appears to be the most relatively attractive province to Africans. Then follow Gauteng (22%), North West (15%), and Mpumalanga and Northern Cape, each with 14%.

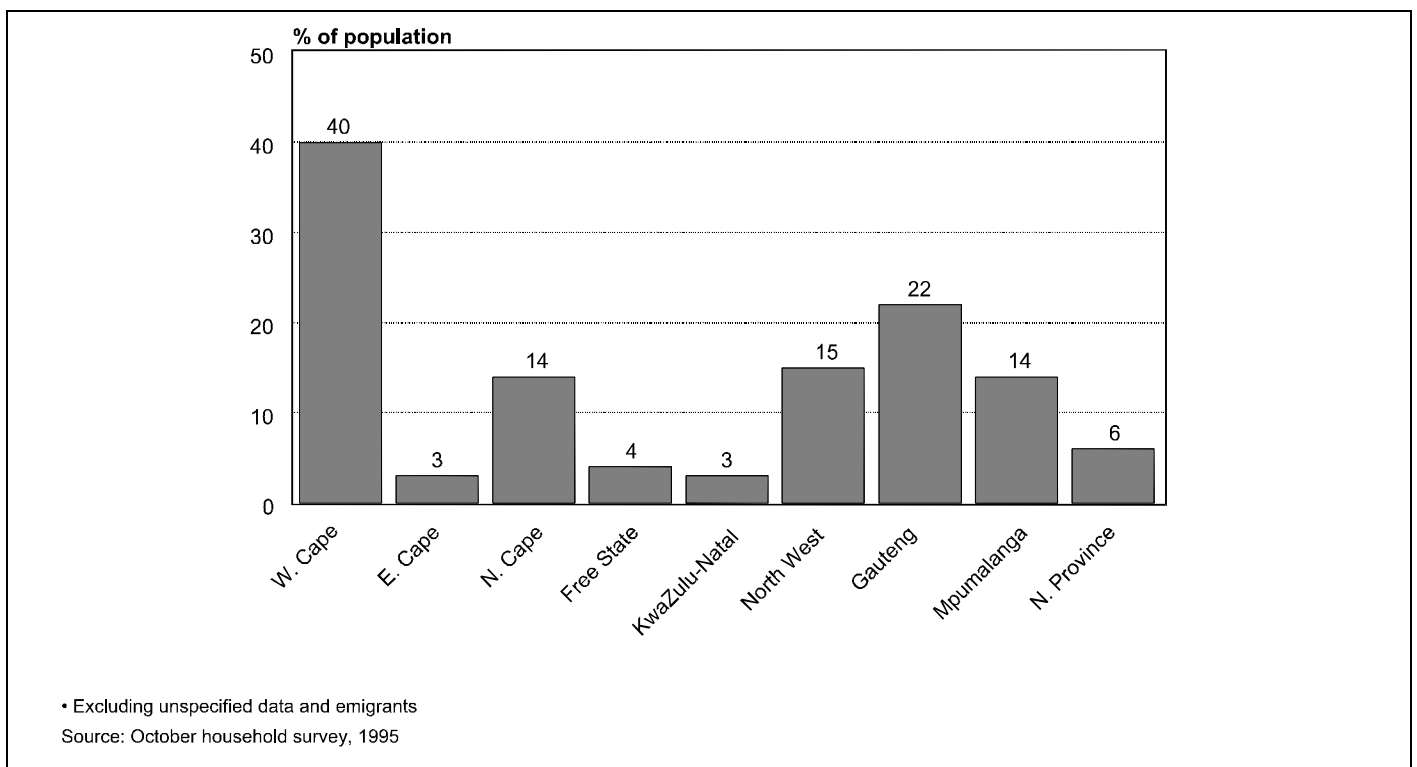
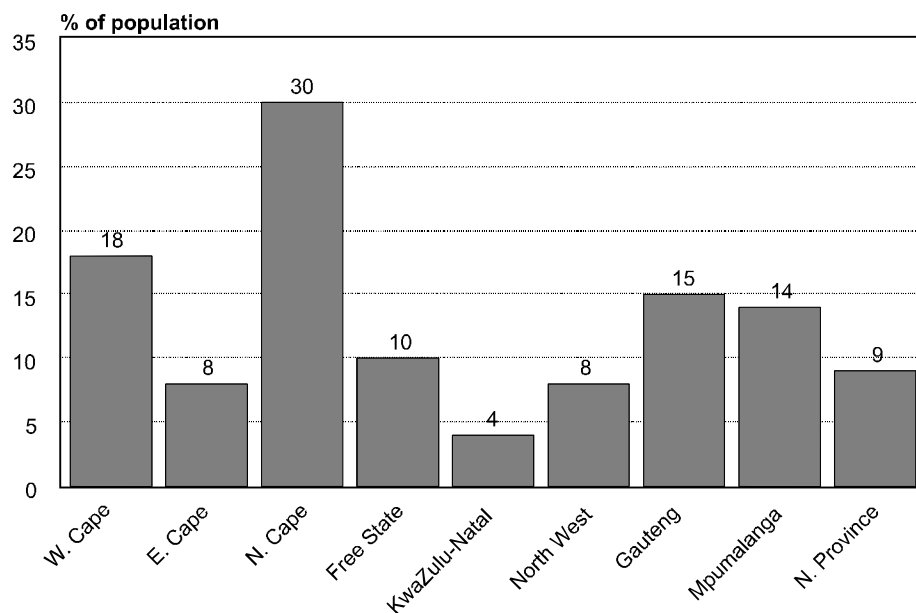


Figure 35: Inter-provincial gross life-time African in-migrants in South Africa

Figure 36 shows the proportions of gross life-time African out-migrants in the nine provinces. Northern Province lost 9% of the population born in the province to other provinces. This proportion is not very different to those of the Eastern Cape (8%) and North West (8%). Again KwaZulu-Natal (4%) proportionately lost the least of the people born in the province. On the other hand, Northern Cape (30%) appears to have experienced proportionately more life-time African out-migrants than any other province. Western Cape, with a significantly lower proportion (18%), then follows, and thereafter Gauteng (15%), Mpumalanga (14%) and Free State (10%).



• Excluding unspecified data and emigrants
Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 36: Inter-provincial African out-migrants in South Africa

The profiles of both source provinces for African in-migrants and destination provinces for African out-migrants is exactly the same as in Figure 34. Again Northern Province's geographical neighbours – Gauteng, Mpumalanga and North West – provide and receive greater proportions of in-migrants and out-migrants to and from the province.

Section 3

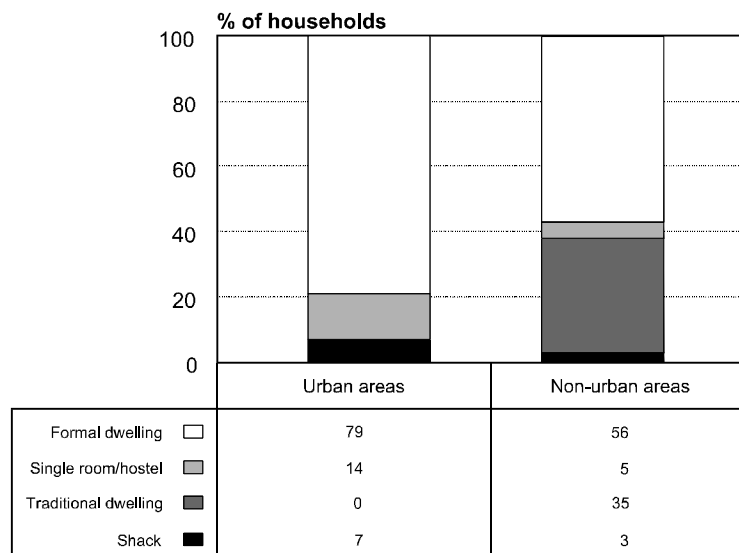
The main findings regarding households

The dwellings in which households live

The proportion of the population of South Africa living in Northern Province has been estimated to be 13%. This proportion constitutes approximately 9% of the country's total number of households. The majority of households (83%) are in non-urban areas. Most households (63%) live in formal brick structures such as a house, flat or backyard room. More than a quarter (28%) live in traditional dwellings, 3% in shacks and 6% in hostels, compounds or single rooms in a dwelling. In the whole of South Africa, a much smaller proportion of households (14%) live in traditional dwellings.

The distribution of dwellings among households varies by race. Among Africans, 59% of households live in formal brick structures (including 6% in backyard rooms), whilst 31% live in traditional dwellings, 3% in shacks, and 6% in hostels, compounds or single rooms in a building. All non-African households live in formal structures.

Figure 37 investigates the type of dwelling occupied by African households in urban and non-urban areas in the province. A much larger proportion of urban African households (79%) lives in formal brick structures than non-urban African households (56%). This is similar to the national picture, where a larger proportion of urban African households (74%) lives in formal structures than non-urban households (49%). As is the case in the whole of South Africa, the percentage of African households living in shacks in urban areas (7% in Northern Province, 15% in South Africa) is more than double the percentage in non-urban areas (3% in Northern Province, 5% in South Africa).



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 37: Type of dwelling in which African households live in urban and non-urban areas in Northern Province

Size of dwelling varies by race. Figure 38 shows that 71% of African households live in dwellings containing five or fewer rooms (including kitchens but excluding bathrooms) compared with 34% of white households. In the whole of South Africa, the percentages are higher – 79% of African households and 38% of white households live in dwellings with five or fewer rooms.

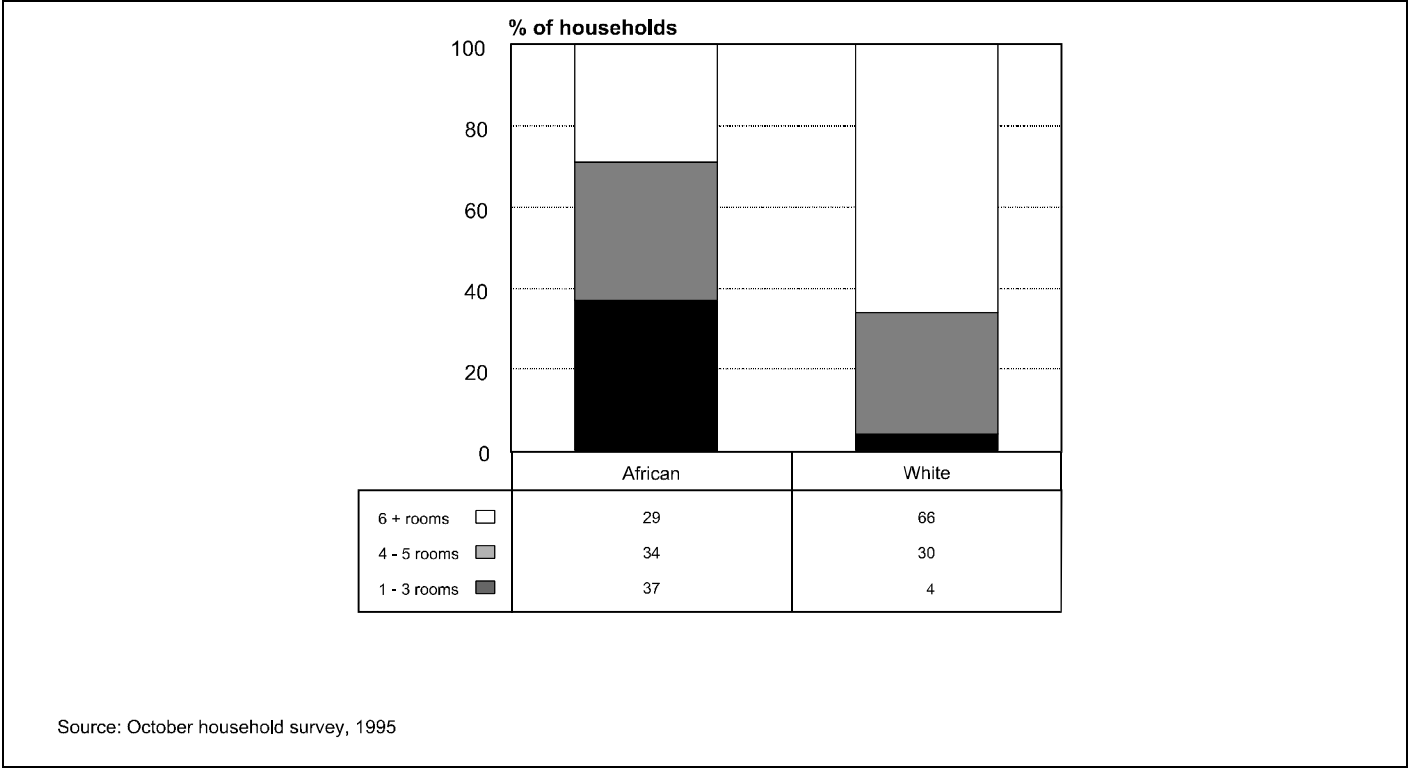


Figure 38: Size of dwelling by population group of head of household in Northern Province

While white households tend to live in larger dwellings, in Northern Province these dwellings are also more likely to contain fewer people. Figure 39 indicates that, on average, white households in both urban areas and non-urban areas consist of 3,1 people. African households, on the other hand, consist of 4,5 people in urban areas and 5,1 people in non-urban areas. Overcrowding is a very real possibility in African households, bringing with it a greater risk of disease transmission.

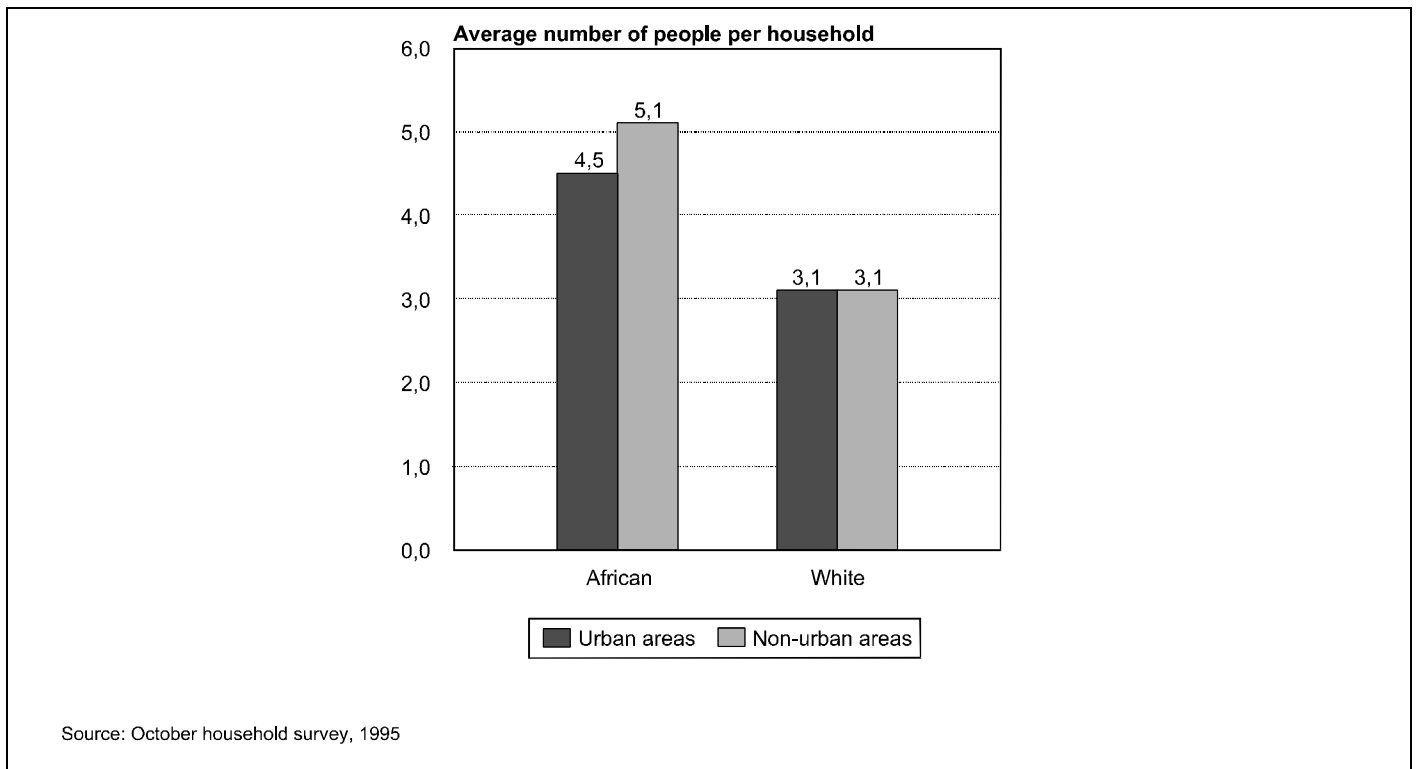


Figure 39: Average household size by population group in urban and non-urban areas in Northern Province

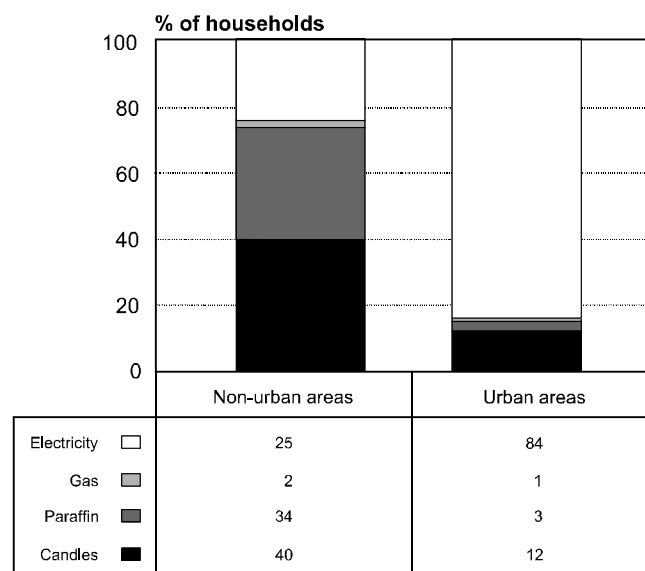
Access to facilities and services

An analysis of access to facilities and services such as electricity and piped water in the dwelling reveals noteworthy race differences as well as urban/non-urban discrepancies.

Access to electricity

Electricity for lighting is unevenly distributed by race in Northern Province. Almost a third (31%) of all African households use electricity as their main source of lighting compared to 100% of white households. In South Africa, on the other hand, just over half (51%) of all African households and 99% of white households use electricity for lighting.

There are marked differences between urban and non-urban African households. Figure 40 shows that eight in every ten (84%) African households in urban areas use electricity as the main source for lighting compared to one in four (25%) in non-urban areas. These percentages are about the same as the corresponding national figures – in South Africa, 81% of urban and 24% of non-urban African households use electricity for lighting. In Northern Province, more than a third (40%) of non-urban households use candles for lighting and a further 34% use paraffin, compared with 48% and 24%, respectively, throughout the country.



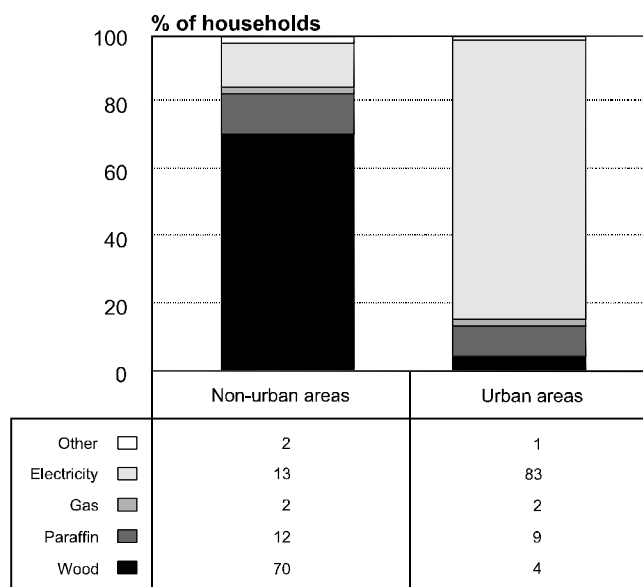
Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 40: Source of energy for lighting in urban and non-urban African households in Northern Province

When examining the fuel source used for cooking, 22% of African households and 99% of white households use electricity for this purpose in Northern Province, compared with 42% and 98%, respectively, in South Africa.

Obtaining wood for domestic use in non-urban areas

Relatively few (13%) non-urban African households in Northern Province use electricity for cooking. Figure 41 shows that almost three-quarters (70%) use wood and 12% use paraffin. In South Africa as a whole, a lower percentage (55%) of non-urban African households use wood for cooking, and a higher percentage (20%) use paraffin, while only 16% use electricity for cooking.



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 41: Source of energy for cooking in urban and non-urban African households in Northern Province

Most (71%) non-urban African households in Northern Province that use wood obtain it from the *veld*. Alternative sources of wood include merchants (6%), woodlots (4%), indigenous forests (16%), trees growing on the site of the dwelling (2%) and commercial plantations (2%). In the whole country, a much lower proportion (52%) of non-urban African households that use wood obtain it from the *veld*, whilst a higher percentage (23%) obtain it from indigenous forests.

Almost three-quarters (71%) of Africans in non-urban areas who obtain wood travel more than a kilometre to fetch it, compared with 51% nationally. Large proportions of each day may thus be spent by household members walking long distances to fetch wood and then to bring it home for cooking. Time-use studies, which are planned by CSS, should give a clear indication of the amount of time spent on fetching wood.

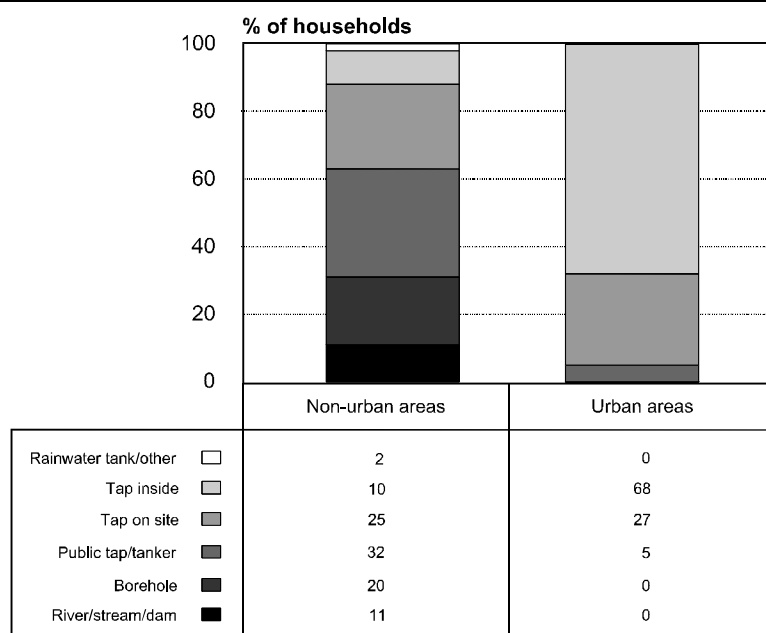
Thirteen percent of non-urban African households in Northern Province that fetch wood cannot obtain sufficient quantities. A further 65% usually, but not always, obtain the quantities required for household use.

Regular payment for wood is relatively infrequent in African non-urban households in the province – 12% always pay, 37% sometimes pay and 51% never pay. The corresponding figures for the country are 15%, 21% and 64%.

Water for drinking

Almost all white households (93%) in Northern Province have the use of running tap water for drinking purposes inside the dwelling. In contrast, about one in six (17%) of African households have this facility. Throughout the country, a much larger proportion of African households (33%) have running tap water inside the dwelling.

Among African households, the differences between urban and non-urban areas regarding type of water source used for drinking purposes are noteworthy. Figure 42 illustrates that, in urban areas, 68% have a tap inside the dwelling and a further 27% have a tap on site. In non-urban areas, on the other hand, only one in ten (10%) have a tap inside the dwelling and 25% have a tap on site. Eleven percent obtain water from a river, stream, dam or well whilst a fifth (20%) obtain water from a borehole. In South Africa, 28% of non-urban African households obtain water from a river, stream, dam or well, whilst 16% obtain water from a borehole.



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 42: Source of water for drinking in urban and non-urban African households in Northern Province

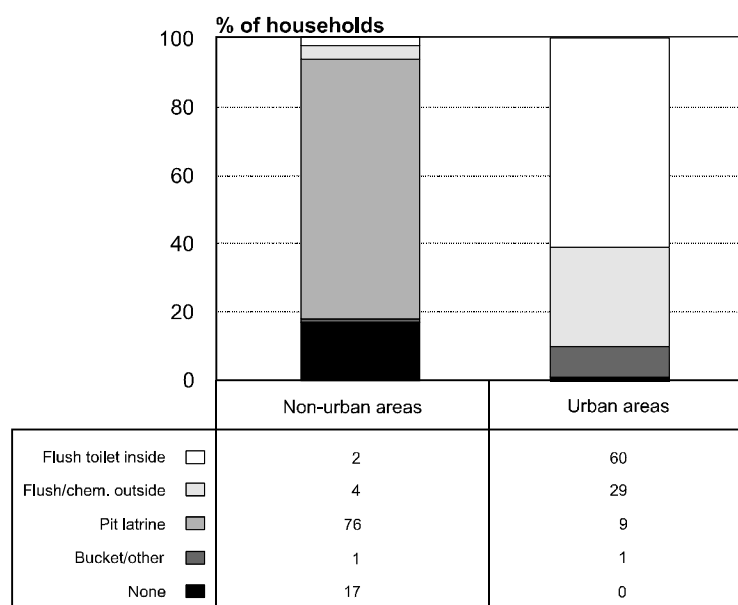
Among African households in Northern Province who have to fetch water from a source which is not on site, 15% travel at least one kilometre to reach the source. This is slightly lower than the national figure of 17%.

One in three Northern Province households (36%) indicated that the water obtained was usually not adequate for normal household purposes, compared with 12% of households in South Africa.

Sanitation

Flush toilets inside the dwelling are found in almost all white households (99%) in Northern Province, but in only 9% of African households. Instead, African households make use of a flush toilet on site (4%), a pit latrine (62%) and a bucket or chemical toilet on site (3%). A further 8% have access to toilet facilities off-site, primarily a pit latrine, and 15% do not have access to any facilities. African households in Northern Province (68%) make greater use of pit latrines than do such households in the country (40%). Country-wide, a slightly lower percentage of African households (11%) do not have access to any sanitation facilities.

The difference in access to sanitation among African households in Northern Province is again clear-cut along the urban/non-urban divide. Figure 43 indicates that 60% of urban African households have a toilet inside the dwelling, as against 2% of non-urban households. The corresponding figures for African households in South Africa are 42% and 5%.



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 43: Type of sanitation used among African households in urban and non-urban areas in Northern Province

In non-urban areas of Northern Province, 76% of African households make use of a pit latrine, either on-site or off-site, while only 9% make use of this facility in urban areas. One in six (17%) African non-urban households has no toilet facility at all, compared to less than 1% of urban.

Telephones

Relatively few households in Northern Province (12%) have a telephone inside the dwelling, compared to the national figure of 32%. While 81% of white households in the province have a telephone, only 7% of African households have one. However, people also have access to telephone facilities at neighbours, shops and clinics, and pay phones. Over half (54%) of African households in the province do not have access to any telephone facilities; the corresponding figure for white households is 9%. Nationally, 41% of African households and 9% of white households do not have access to telephone facilities.

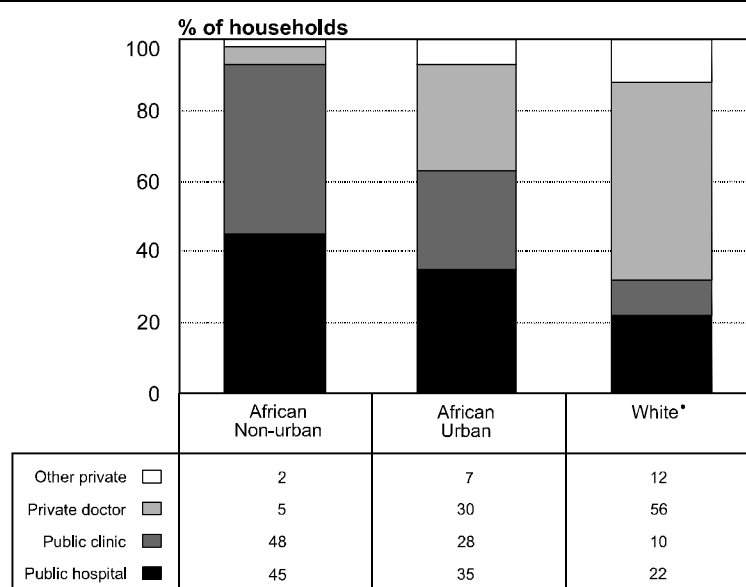
As might be expected, a larger proportion of non-urban households has no access to telephones than urban households. Over half (56%) of non-urban and 33% of urban African households in Northern Province do not have access to telephone facilities, compared with 55% and 25%, respectively, in South Africa.

Cellular telephones were relatively uncommon in 1995. Less than 1% of households (3% of white and less than 1% of African households) had them.

Access to health-care facilities

The public sector caters for the health requirements of most Northern Province households. The vast majority of African (89%) households make use of public health-care facilities when they need them whilst whites tend to use the private sector (68%). Throughout the country, a slightly lower percentage of African households (81%) use public health-care facilities, whilst a higher percentage of white households (80%) use private facilities.

Non-urban Africans are more likely to make use of public facilities (93%) than urban Africans (63%), as shown in Figure 44. In urban areas, Africans are more likely to go to public sector hospitals (35%) than public clinics (28%), whilst non-urban Africans use public hospitals and clinics to a similar extent (45% and 48% respectively).



* The white population lives mainly in urban areas

Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 44: Source of health-care for households by population group in Northern Province

Whites in the province make use of public hospitals (22%) to a lesser extent than urban Africans (35%), and only 10% go to public clinics. Instead, 56% make use of private doctors and a further 12% make use of other private facilities such as homeopaths and pharmacists when they require care.

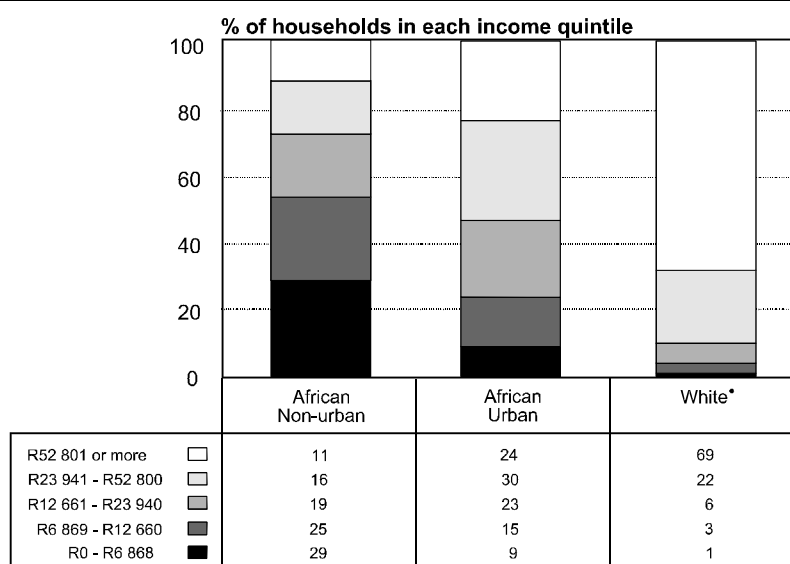
Distance to health-care is an important factor. Over half of the white households (58%) in the province are less than five kilometres from a health facility. A higher percentage (73%) of urban African households live within five kilometres of a health facility. Non-urban Africans tend to have to travel further in order to reach a health facility – only 40% of such households in the province are within five kilometres.

Closely related to distance, but dependent on type of transport, is time to reach a health facility. Eighty percent of white households take half an hour or less to travel to a health facility in the province. As might be expected, a higher proportion of urban African households (86%) in the province live within half an hour from a facility than non-urban African households (48%). Non-urban African households thus have less access to health-care than urban African households and white households.

Household incomes

The household incomes discussed in this section are based on data contained in the *income and expenditure survey* (IES), not the OHS. However, the linking of the IES and OHS data sets has made it possible to explore further the relationships between income and expenditure of households and other household variables such as access to piped tap water and sanitation.

For a complete picture of people's living conditions and life circumstances, it is necessary to look at household income. Figure 45 is based on a division of overall annual disposable household incomes into groupings which correspond to the national quintiles. It is clear that non-urban African households tend to be the poorest in the province – 29% of them have incomes of less than R6 868 per annum, compared with 9% of urban African and 1% of white households. Looking at the top quintile of R52 801 or more, we find that 69% of white households, 24% of urban African households and 11% of non-urban African households fall in this category.



* The white population lives mainly in urban areas

Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 45: Household income by population group and urban/non-urban residence in Northern Province

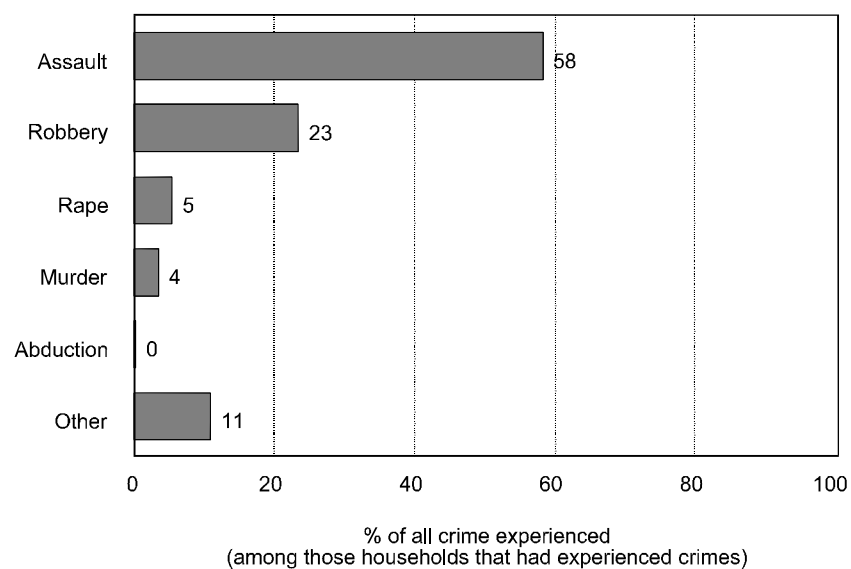
African households in Northern Province appear to be slightly better off than all African households in the country. In Northern Province, 27% and 24% have incomes in the lowest two quintiles compared with 26% and 24%, respectively, of African households in South Africa. On the other hand, whilst 12% of Northern Province African households earn R52 801 or more, 9% of African households in South Africa fall in this category. However, as we have seen, household size in the province is relatively large, indicating that these incomes have to be shared amongst more people than in other provinces.

White households in Northern Province are also somewhat better off than their national counterparts. Four percent have incomes in the lowest two quintiles compared with 6% of white households nationally. At the other extreme, 69% of white households in the Northern Province and 64% of white households in South Africa have incomes exceeding R52 801.

There is a close correlation in the IES between income and expenditure. Therefore either income or expenditure can be used to describe the financial situation of Northern Province households.

Feelings of safety and security

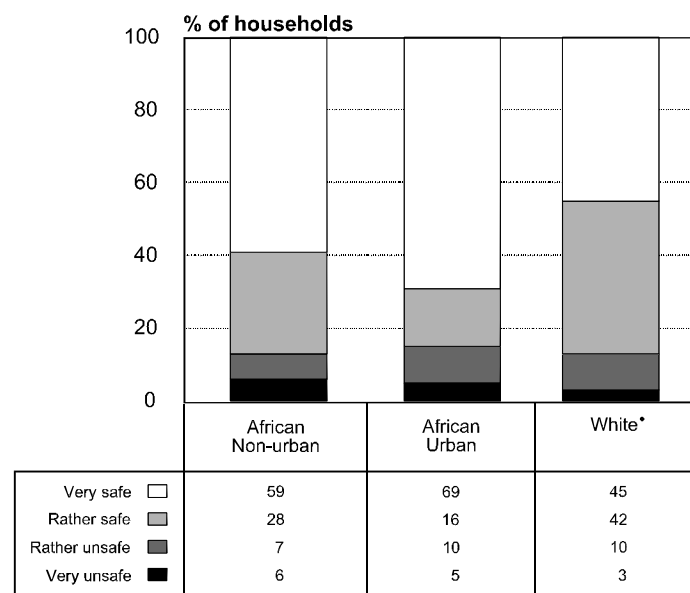
High levels of unemployment tend to go hand in hand with high levels of crime. Six percent of all households had been victims of crime in the province in the 12 months prior to the OHS. Figure 46 shows the types of crimes that were experienced – of the households that had been the victim of crime, 58% had experienced an assault and 23% a robbery. In the whole country, a larger proportion (9%) of households had experienced a crime; 56% of all crime experienced was robbery and 25% assault.



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 46: Among households that had experienced crime in Northern Province, types of crimes experienced

Urban households in the province were only slightly more likely to have experienced a crime (8%) than non-urban households (6%). The national trend is similar, although at slightly higher levels – 10% of urban and 6% of non-urban households had been the victim of a crime. As indicated in Figure 47, this corresponds with feelings of safety by urban/non-urban areas. Six percent of urban African households feel very unsafe in their neighbourhood compared with 5% of their non-urban counterparts. Three percent of white households feel very unsafe in their neighbourhood. In South Africa, a larger percentage of households feel very unsafe in their neighbourhood (8% of urban African, 5% of non-urban African and 5% of white households). The majority of Northern Province households – 87% of African and 87% of white households – feel very or rather safe in their neighbourhood.

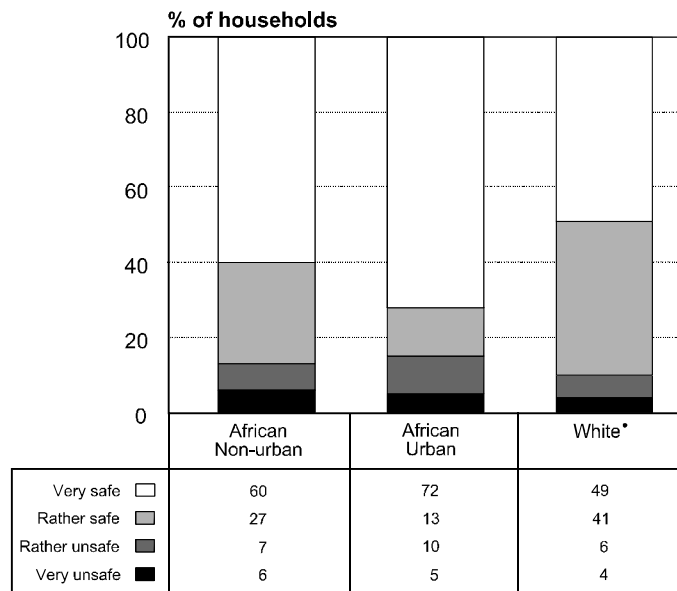


• The white population lives mainly in urban areas

Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 47: Feelings of safety in neighbourhood by population group of head of household in Northern Province

Households tend to feel even safer within the dwelling. As shown in Figure 48, 87% of African households in non-urban areas of Northern Province feel very or rather safe inside the dwelling, compared with 85% of urban African households and 90% of white households. The corresponding national figures for African households are slightly lower – 85% of non-urban households and 80% of urban households – but a similar percentage of white households (90%) feel safe inside the dwelling.



• The white population lives mainly in urban areas

Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 48: Feelings of safety inside dwelling by population group of head of household in Northern Province

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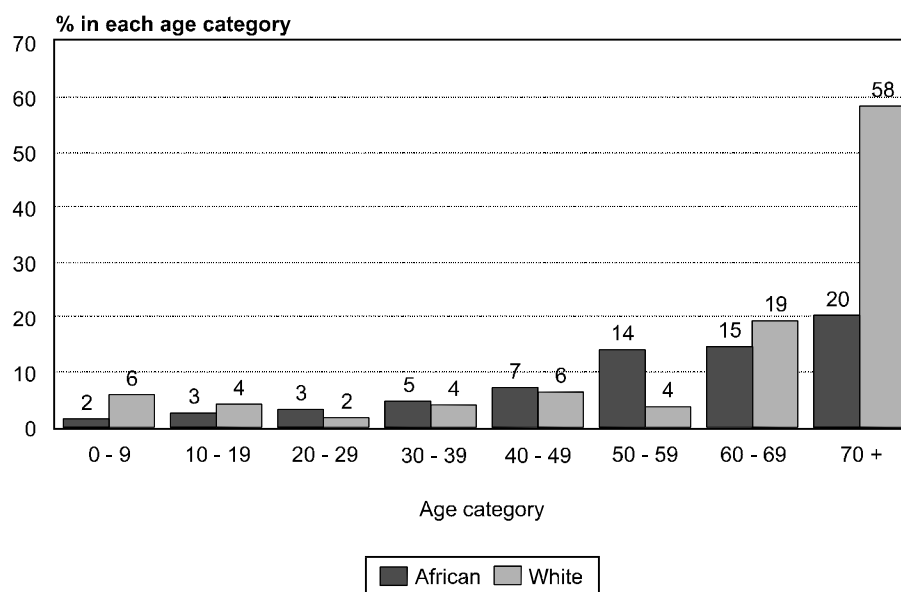
Section 4

Health in Northern Province

Disability

Approximately 4% of people in Northern Province are reported as having at least one disability. This is similar to the national reported prevalence of disability, namely 5%.

In Northern Province, four percent of Africans, and seven percent of whites, have a disability. Figure 49 shows that the disability rates are similar for the two groups except amongst the very young and the elderly.



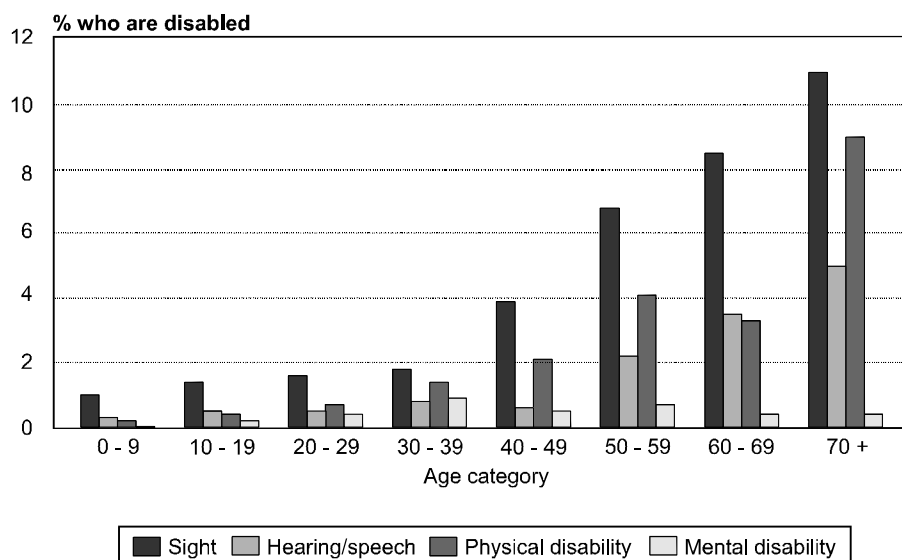
Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 49: Disability in Northern Province by age and population group

Disabilities experienced in Northern Province can be divided into the following categories: visual disability (2,2% of the population), hearing or speech disability (0,7%), physical disability (1,1%) and mental disability (0,3%). In addition, 0,2% of the population has multiple disabilities.

These figures may under-estimate the true prevalence of disability because of a possible stigma attached to certain types of disabilities. In addition, members of households who have been institutionalised because of a disability may not have been included.

Figure 50 shows the various types of disabilities by age category. Sight disabilities are the most prominent in each age group; the prevalence steadily increases, accelerating in those aged 40 years and older. In contrast to the prevalence of other types of disabilities, that of mental disabilities remains fairly constant over age. It is possible that mental disabilities are more prone to being under-reported than other disabilities.



Source: October household survey, 1995

Figure 50: Type of disability by age in Northern Province

Illness and injuries

Six percent of the population in Northern Province were reported to have been ill during the month prior to the OHS – 6% of Africans and 13% of whites. During the same time period, 1,2% of the population had been injured – 1,1% of Africans and 1,2% of whites. The proportion discharged from hospital during this period was 2% – 2,0% of Africans and 1,6% of whites. Nationally, 8,8% and 1,3% of the South African population had been ill and injured, respectively, during the month prior to the OHS whilst 2,1% had been discharged from hospital.

Smoking

Smoking influences health. One in ten (10%) of those in Northern Province aged ten or more, smoke. More whites (23%) than Africans (9%) in this age group smoke. Nationally, 20% of the population aged ten years or more, smokes (27% of whites and 16% of Africans).

Section 5

Conclusion

Thirteen percent of the total South African population lives in Northern Province. Compared to the South African population, a larger proportion of Northern Province population is female (54% versus 51%), African (95% versus 76%) and lives in non-urban areas (89% versus 50%). Differences in the living conditions of Africans and other races as well as differences between urban and non-urban areas have already been highlighted. Since a much larger proportion of Northern Province population consists of non-urban Africans than that of the country as a whole, it follows that many aspects of living conditions in the province, on average, are worse than in South Africa. This holds true even if conditions amongst non-urban Africans in the province are similar to those of non-urban Africans in the country.

Almost half (48%) of the population in Northern Province is young (less than 15 years old). The population is also younger than the national average of 40%. This implies a high child dependency ratio. In addition, there appears to be a greater movement of males away from non-urban areas, presumably to urban areas within and outside the province.

With regard to educational opportunities, Northern Province fares relatively poorly when compared to the country as a whole, with the proportion of the population 20 years and older that did not go to school being twice (27%) that of the entire country (13%).

Gender differences regarding educational attainment are greater in Northern Province than they are in South Africa as a whole. For example, 19% of males had no education in the province compared to 32% of females. On the other hand, the national proportions are 11% male and 15% female.

The unemployment rate in the province (41%) is higher than the national unemployment rate (29%). A higher percentage of the employed in Northern Province works in the personal services sector (43% versus 31%), whilst a lower percentage works in manufacturing (5% versus 15%) compared to the country as a whole. The proportion of Northern Province employees who belong to a trade union (31%) is similar to the national figure. A larger proportion of the employed workers in the province are in the informal sector – 25% versus 17%.

The average income distribution of employees in the province shows greater poverty in the province than in South Africa as a whole, with 33% of males in the province earning R999 or less per month compared to 31% at the national level. The average monthly income distribution for females in the province is much worse than that for females in the country as a whole – 41% compared to 31%.

With regard to migration, Northern Province appears to lose more people than it receives. It loses people to and receives people from the neighbouring provinces of Gauteng, Mpumalanga and North West.

Compared to all South African households, a lower proportion of Northern Province households live in formal brick structures (63% versus 73%) and shacks (3% versus 7%), whilst a larger proportion live in traditional dwellings (28% versus 14%).

Electricity is used for lighting in 31% of African households in the province, compared to 51% of African households nationally. A lower percentage of African households has running tap water inside the dwelling (17% versus 33%) and a flush toilet inside the dwelling (9% versus 22%). These differences are largely due to the different living conditions in urban and non-urban areas and the fact that a larger proportion of Northern Province households is in non-urban areas. Twelve percent of households in the province have a telephone inside the dwelling, compared to 32% of all South African households.

The majority of African households in the province make use of public health facilities (89%) – this is slightly higher than the national figure of 81%. In contrast, a lower proportion of white households makes use of private health facilities – 68% in Northern Province versus 80% in South Africa.

The household income profile for Africans and whites in the province is similar to the corresponding national profiles. However, since Africans are the poorest race and because they represent a much larger proportion of the population in Northern Province, households in the province are considerably less well-off, on average, than those in the country as a whole.

Crime is slightly less of a problem in Northern Province than in the country – 6% of households had been the victim of a crime in the year prior to the survey compared with a national figure of 9%. Robbery constituted the most common crime (58% of households that had experienced a crime versus 56%).

All the inequalities identified will require careful monitoring in future. And special attention needs to be given to the life circumstances of the people living in the non-urban areas of Northern Province.