The state of the vulnerable in SA

Nearly one in 10 children live with their grandparents in skip-generation households. Photo: Mbongiseni Mndebele

Statistics South Africa conducts studies that show how the most vulnerable people in society live

The data showed that 4.0% of children were double orphans, 10.6% paternal orphans, 3.2% maternal orphans and 82.8% of children were not orphaned. 7.8% of children lived in skip-generation households with their grandparents.

About 6.3% of children lived in low-income households with a per capita income of less than R765 per month. Close to one-third (32.4%) of children lived in households without any employed members. Social grants and remittances were vital to improve the access to food and education. 61.8% of children (29.3% of the total population) and 68% of older persons accessed social grants in 2012.

More than half (56.8%) of female-headed households were compared to 36.3% of male-headed households. Almost seven-tenths (69.8%) of female-headed households in Limpopo reported a low income.

Almost half (49.7%) of households headed by younger youth (aged 15-24) did not have any employed members compared to 18.9% of households headed by older youth. Similarly, 41% of female-headed households were without a single employed member, compared to 20% of male-headed households.

The low household income contributed significantly to insufficient access to adequate food and increased experiences of hunger. The analysis shows that 22.2% of children in households without employed members experienced hunger compared to 12% of children in households that had at least one employed person. The percentage of households that experienced hunger declined consistently between 2002 and 2012.

Access to education had been improving consistently since 2002. The report questioned the poor conversion of educational attendance into the completion of the secondary school phase, entry into higher education and completion of post-school qualifications. The largest percentage of the children (18.5%) and youth aged 15-24 years (38.9%) who dropped out of educational institutions, cited ‘no money for fees’ as the main reason.

By the age of 22, about 52.3% of youth were neither attending any educational institution, nor working. On the other hand, 24.8% were working and 20.7% were still attending an educational institution.

South Africa’s young children: Their family and home environment, 2012

The report presents statistics on young children aged below five years in South Africa in 2012. It highlights the profile of biological parents and the home environment in which children are raised. According to this report:

There were 5.3 million children aged below five years in South Africa in 2012. It shows how far we have come and how far we have to go. It shows how far we have come and how far we have to go.

The living conditions of children show that nearly 30% of young children lived in households that used a pit latrine without ventilation, bucket system or where there were no sanitation facilities.

The report also indicates that South African young children generally lived in formal dwellings and in households with piped water either in the dwelling or in the yard.

When you see this arrow it means the release is available on www.statssa.gov.za
The Fieldworker, February/March 2014

Business register: at the heart of economic statistics

How is the CPI compiled?

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure that tracks the cost of living on average for urban household consumers in South Africa. It is released monthly and is based on the average prices of a fixed basket of goods and services purchased by urban households. The basket is representative of the expenditure patterns of urban households, and it changes periodically to reflect changes in these patterns. The CPI is calculated by comparing the price level of the basket of goods and services in the current period with a base period, usually the previous year. The percentage increase from the base period is expressed as the inflation rate, and this is used to measure the change in the general level of prices in the economy.

How is valuation data collected?

Valuation data is collected from valuers, banking institutions, property and real estate agents and the Department of Land Affairs. The data includes information about the value of property, such as the type of property, location, and characteristics. This information helps to measure changes in property values over time, which is important for understanding the trends in the housing market and the real estate sector.

Did you know?

In December 2013, the National Institute of Development Studies (NIDS) was launched by the National Development Planning Commission in South Africa. The study is a longitudinal household survey that aims to track changes in individuals' household income and expenditure, and to provide a picture of the socio-economic conditions of different groups in South Africa.

Statistics: A Matter of State Affairs

Celebrating 100 years of Official Statistics

The National Institute of Development Studies

Study can be downloaded from the website of the National Development Planning Commission.

Quick facts

- In 2014, a market basket of goods and services costs an average of 5% more than in 2013. This is a slight increase compared to the previous year.
- The inflation rate in 2014 is estimated to be around 5%.
- The unemployment rate in South Africa is slightly below 25%.
- The gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate in 2014 is expected to be about 3%.
- The average household income in South Africa is around R150,000 per year.

Did you know?

For almost 80 years, statistics relating to the black African population and the white population was not compiled separately. As a result, the census data for black and white populations was not comparable. This changed in 1991 with the implementation of the Population Registration Act. The act allowed for the collection of race-specific data, which has been used to assess the progress of the apartheid regime and the post-apartheid era.

TheSouthAfrica.info is the home of official statistical information.
State of the Vulnerable

Social profile of vulnerable groups in South Africa (2002–2012)
The first report was released in 2010 to measure the situation of vulnerable groups in South Africa. The four vulnerable groups identified to be addressed in this report is: Women, Children, Youth, and the Elderly.

The General Household Survey (GHS), first introduced in 2002, is conducted every year and samples just over 20,000 households. The survey was specifically designed to look at the living conditions of South African households and the quality, service delivery in a number of key sectors.

Data collected from households participating in the GHS is used to compile reports such as the ‘Social Profile of Vulnerable Groups in South Africa’ and South Africa’s Young Children: Their Family and Home Environment, 2012.

Here is a quick look at what the data found.

South Africa’s young children: their family and home environment 2012
This report presents statistics on young children aged below five years in South Africa in 2012. It highlights the profile of biological parents and the home environment in which children are reared.

93%
Both biological parents of 93% of children aged 3–4 years were still alive

79%
Of young children lived with their mothers and only 21% lived with their fathers

Most children lived in households that had access to electricity for cooking, heating and lighting

77% of young children lived in households that relied on state health care facilities, and 76% accessed private health care facilities

Statistics South Africa

Glossary:
Extended families – Families that comprise of parents, grandparents and other family members
Low-income households – The poorest 40% of households on average received an income of less than R756 per person per month while the poorest 20% of households earned less than R336 per person per month.
Economic info at your fingertips

From entrepreneurs to CEOs, information produced by Stats SA can be used to inform just about any business-related activity

Retail trade sales

The survey deals with the retail trade industry and covers all types of retail activities from newsagents to businesses that deal in antiques. It is conducted on a sample basis.

The survey includes all types of retailers, including retailers of food, beverages and tobacco in specialized stores; general dealers; those selling textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods; and motor vehicle dealers.

Food and beverages

The survey covers the retail trade in food, beverages and tobacco in specialized stores and a sample of other food, beverages and tobacco products sold by non-specialized retailers.

Land transport

The survey covers the transportation of passengers and freight by road, rail and air.

Motor trade sales

The survey deals with the motor trade industry so that plans for growth and development are based on accurate data.

Food and beverages

The survey covers the retail trade in food, beverages and tobacco in specialized stores; general dealers; those selling textiles, clothing, footwear and leather goods; and motor vehicle dealers.

Look out for these surveys in your area

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Test your knowledge

How much do you remember from reading this newspaper?

1. According to the report on South Africa’s young children how many children were aged below five in 2012?
   a) 7 million
   b) 8.2 million
   c) 9.3 million
   d) 5.9 million

2. Which study, commissioned by the National Planning Commission in 2008, visits households every 2 years to measure their progress?
   a) National Income Dynamics Study
   b) Social Expenditure Survey
   c) General Household Survey
   d) Domestic Tourism Survey

3. How many (%) children below five in South Africa’s young children report 2012?
   a) 55%
   b) 93%
   c) 85%
   d) 36%

4. Which retailer(s) account for about 60% of total retail sales?
   a) Food, beverages & Tobacco in specialised stores
   b) General dealers & stores selling textiles, clothing
   c) Pharmaceuticals & medical goods, cosmetics & toiletries
   d) Household furniture, appliances & equipment

5. An updated Business Register, which relies on information from businesses, allows for this type of statistics to be produced.
   a) Social
   b) Population
   c) Household
   d) Economic

6. This year Statistics South Africa celebrates 100 years of statistics. Which 1914 event is being celebrated?
   a) The first census
   b) Parliament passing the Statistics Act
   c) Release of first official statistics
   d) Appointment of the first Statistician-General

7. How many prices are collected monthly to compile the Consumer Price Index?
   a) 100 thousand
   b) 50 thousand
   c) 70 thousand
   d) 80 thousand

8. What does the Land transport survey cover?
   a) Passengers and freight by land
   b) Renting of trucks without drivers
   c) In-house transportation
   d) Metro buses

9. Passengers using this long distance mode of transportation had a 26% increase in ticket prices according to the December Consumer Price Index.
   a) Airplane
   b) Train
   c) Taxi
   d) Bus

10. In 2014 we celebrate 20 years of freedom and democracy. How many people voted in the first democratic elections in 1994?
    a) 19.7 million
    b) 14.5 million
    c) 21.2 million
    d) 18.0 million

Answers on page 7

Statistical publications schedule

All releases can be accessed on www.statssa.gov.za on the day of release

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** Release dates are subject to change(s).