2010

CHILD LABOUR

and other work-related activities in South Africa

AN ANALYSIS ON THE STUDY OF ACTIVITIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE

labour

Department:
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CHILD LABOUR AND OTHER WORK-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

In 1999 conducted its first Survey of Activities of Young People (SAYP) as part of a series of activities aimed at developing the country's Child Labour Programme of Action (CLPA). The CLPA notes the need for regular monitoring of work-related activities of children. It suggests that this be done, among others, through add-on modules to Stats SA's regular labour force survey (LFS) every two to three years. Stats SA included such a module, although in limited form, for the first time in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) of March 2006. In the third quarter of 2010, Statistics South Africa conducted a second SAYP. By 2010, the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) had replaced the LFS. The SAYP was therefore conducted as an add-on module to the QLFS. This report is based on the data collected during this second SAYP.

The add-on questionnaire for the SAYP 2010 consisted of seven sections including an introductory section listing the basic demographic details of all household members. The other six sections were as follows:

- School activities of children aged 7-17 years
- "Market" economic activities (i.e. work for a wage or salary, running of own business, or unpaid work in a family business) in the last week and 12 months by children aged 7-17 years
- Occupation and industry within main "market" work for children aged 7-17 years
- Non-market "economic" activities in last week of children aged 7-17 years – including subsistence farming, collection of fuel and water, production of goods for household use, household construction, and catching of fish or animals for household consumption
- Health and safety of children aged 7-17 years engaged in market or non-market "economic" work
- Household and school tasks of children aged 7-17 years.

Usually in the QLFS employment-related questions are asked only in respect of household members aged 15 years and above. For the March 2006 LFS Stats SA lowered the age cut-off to ten years so as to capture economic activity of younger children. For the SAYP 2010 the age cut-off for the additional module was lowered even further to seven years, and questions relating to both economic and non-economic work activities were asked in respect of all children 7-17 years.

The SAYP 2010 module differs from the standard QLFS in other ways. In particular, it asks about a wider range of work-related activities rather than only about economic work. In addition to asking about collection of fuel and water, it asks about household chores, and cleaning and other non-study-related work at school. A child who has engaged in any of these other activities will be regarded as having worked even if they are not regarded as having been employed.

A child who works will not necessarily be regarded as being involved in child labour. The Child Labour Programme of Action defines child labour as:

> *Work by children under 18 which is exploitative, hazardous or otherwise inappropriate for their age, detrimental to their schooling, or social, physical, mental, spiritual or moral development.*

Work that is prohibited by the BCEA is regarded as child labour because the Act prohibits the work on the basis that it is harmful for children. Other work may not be expressly prohibited, but may be harmful for other reasons – for example because the hours are too long, because it interferes with schooling, or because it places the child in physical danger. This report examines both economic and non-economic work activities in an effort to determine, among others, where children are engaging in work that is harmful and that thus constitutes child labour.

Despite the careful probing, the QLFS data are not able to capture all forms of child work. In particular, a household survey is unlikely to capture illegal activities or activities about which household members feel shame. These exclusions are important to remember because it means that the SAYP 2010 would not have captured some forms of work that are considered Worst

Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) under the *Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention* of 1999 which South Africa ratified in 2000. For example, trafficking of children, commercial sexual exploitation of children and use, procuring or offering of a child by others for illegal activities, including trafficking or production of drugs would not usually be captured by the SAYP 2010.

1.2 THE CHILD POPULATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

In the third quarter of 2010, when the SAYP was conducted, the total population of South Africa was estimated to be 50,2 million. Adults accounted for 63% of the population, while children under seven years accounted for 15%, those aged 7-10 years for 6%, 10-15 years for 13%, and those aged 16-17 years for only 4%. For the most part then, the analysis in this report focuses on 22% of the population, or 11,2 million people.

1.3 ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF CHILDREN AGED 7-17 YEARS

The SAYP 2010 found a total of 121 000 children to be employed i.e. they had engaged in "market" economic activities over the past week. Among these:

- 41 000 were said to have done work for a wage, salary, commission or payment in kind
- 30 000 were said to have run or done a business
- 56 000 were said to have worked unpaid in a household business.

Overall, these children accounted for only just over 1% of all children aged 7-17 years.

The rate of engagement increased from 0,4% among the youngest children to 2,0% among those age 16-17 years. The rate was higher for boys than girls, and higher for Coloured children than those in other population groups. Geographically, employment was most common in commercial farming areas, but even there less than 2% of children aged 7-17 years were employed.

When the time period is extended to the past 12 months rather than the past week, the total number of children reporting at least one kind of "market" economic work increases to 268 000. The overall employment rate increases to 2,4%, and the rate increases to 5,4% for children aged 16-17 years. Engagement by boys is again at a higher rate than for girls, and the rate for Coloured children continues to exceed that of other population groups, although the difference between Coloured and African children is marginal. The rate of engagement of children in urban informal settings is now nearly as high as that of children in commercial farming areas.

Of the 268 000 children who had engaged in market economic work over the past 12 months, over half (57%) worked in trading activities. In terms of occupation, 67% of the employed children were in elementary (unskilled) occupations, including domestic work, with a further 20% in services and sales.

The questions on non-market economic work probed for farming activities to produce food for household use or looking after livestock, fetching water or fuel for household use, production of other goods for household use, construction or major repair work on own home, plot, cattle post or business, and catching of fish, prawns, shells, wild animals or other food for household consumption. Children were also asked if they had begged for money or food in public.

A quarter (25%) of all children reported fetching water. Next most common was fetching fuel, at 11% overall. The only other relatively common activity was farming, with 7% of children reporting having done some of this type of work over the past 12 months. For all types of non-market economic work, the rate of engagement increased with age.

Boys were slightly more likely than girls to report farming activities, while girls were more likely than boys to report fetching fuel and water. African children were far more likely than others to fetch water and fuel, but also more likely than other children to engage in virtually all the other non-market economic activities. The heavier burden on children in deep rural areas was particularly evident in respect of fetching water. For some of the other less common activities, children in commercial

farming areas were the most likely to report engagement. However, for all activities except begging, urban children were less likely than rural children to be working.

When market and non-economic market work are considered together, close on two-fifths (38%) of children aged 16-17 years had engaged in economic work, as opposed to 31% of children aged 10-15 years and 16% of those aged 7-9 years. Girls were somewhat more likely than boys to have engaged in economic work and, among those that had, non-market work was more common for girls than boys. In terms of population group, a third (33%) of African children report having engaged in some type of economic work, far outstripping children in other population groups. Geographically, over half (52%) of children in deep rural areas engaged in economic work, as opposed to just over a third (34%) in commercial farming areas, about a fifth (21%) in urban informal areas, and only 7% in urban formal areas.

Only just under 16 000 children – 0,1% of the total – worked 21 or more hours on market work during the week preceding the SAYP interview. Six out of ten children who did market work reported having worked under seven hours a week i.e. less than an average of one hour per day.

For non-market work, close on 55 000 children – about half a percent of the total – worked 21 or more hours during the week preceding the SAYP interview. Close on three-quarters of the children who did non-market work reported having spent less than seven hours in the week on this work.

Overall, 16% of children worked one to six hours on economic work, 5% worked 7-13 hours, and 1% each worked 14-20 hours and 21 plus hours. Age-wise, there were virtually no children aged 7-9 years who spent 14 plus hours. Girls were both more likely than boys to do economic work and also more likely to work longer hours. Geographically, children in deep rural areas were again most likely to report hours spent on economic work, but there was a larger percentage of children in commercial farming areas who reported 21 or more hours of work in the week.

For children involved in economic activities, extreme temperatures were the most commonly reported health hazard, reported by about a sixth (16%) of children engaged in economic activities. Next most common were exposure to fumes, fire, gas or flames (9%), carrying of heavy loads (8%), and use of dangerous tools (7%).

A total of 90 000 children reported having been injured in the past 12 months while doing an economic work activity. This number amounts to 3% of all those who engaged in an economic work activity, and a slightly higher 4% of those who did a market-related economic activity.

The most common response to the question as to the reason for engaging in economic work, accounting for 37% of all employed children, was for pocket money. The second most common reason was to assist the family with money, accounting for a further 24% of children. The proportion of children naming pocket money as the reason decreased with age, while the proportion naming assisting the family with money increased with age.

Boys, at 43%, were far more likely than girls (29%) to say that they were working for pocket money, while girls (23%) were far more likely than boys (5%) to say that they had a duty to help the family. In terms of population group, 26% of African children and 9% of Coloured children said that they worked to assist the family with money, while no Asian or White children gave this reason. Geographically, assisting the family with money was named more often in rural than urban areas, pocket money was named most frequently in commercial farming and urban formal areas, and duty to help family was most common in urban informal areas.

1.4 HOUSEHOLD AND SCHOOL-RELATED WORK

The SAYP questionnaire asked about children's engagement in a range of household-related tasks over the past week. The survey recorded a much higher level of engagement in household tasks than in economic work. However, again the level of engagement increases with age for all tasks except the small category of "other" tasks.

Girls were almost twice as likely as boys to engage in care of people, and also far more likely than boys to do cooking-related, cleaning and washing tasks. The only activity in which boys were more likely than girls to engage was repair of household equipment.

Time spent on household tasks was reported for close on three-quarters (73%) of children. Engagement in household work increased with age, although the difference between children aged 10-15 years and those aged 16-17 years was relatively small.

The level of engagement for girls was 7% higher than that for boys. In terms of population group, the difference between African and other children was much less stark than for economic work, but still very evident. Children in deep rural areas were, once again, the most likely to do this work. However, children in commercial farming areas were less likely than those in other areas to record hours spent on household work. Instead, those in urban informal areas were second most likely – after those in deep rural areas – to report hours spent on this type of work.

Overall, 58% of children – 79% of those reporting hours spent on household tasks – spent an average of less than an hour per day on these tasks. One percent of all children spend an average of three hours or more per day on household tasks.

The SAYP asked about engagement in a range of school-related work activities, including cleaning and maintenance of the school, work in the school garden, and helping the teacher with marking or at the teacher's house. Overall, such work was reported for 34% of school-going children.

Cleaning activities were by far the most common of these activities, engaged in by 30% of children attending school. Next most common were school maintenance (7% of school-going children), helping with marking (5%) and working in the school garden (4%).

Children aged 7-9 years were less likely than older children to be engaged in each of the activities. However, for some activities school-going children aged 10-15 years were more likely than older children to do the work.

Geographically, cleaning of schools was most common for children in urban informal (37%) and deep rural (35%) areas, but by no means uncommon for children in urban formal (25%) and commercial farming (23%) areas.

Overall, 98% of children 7-17 years were found to be attending school. The lowest level of school attendance was found among those who engaged only in market economic activities (89%), with slightly higher levels of engagement among those who engaged in both market and non-market economic activities (91%) and higher still (97%) among those who engaged only in non-market economic activities.

When asked what the main reason was for leaving school, none offered job-related training as the reason, and work and assistance with household tasks were given as a reason for fewer than 10 000 children each, too small a number to be statistically reportable.

Overall, 4 392 000 children – 41% of those attending school – were reported to have been absent on five or more days since the beginning of the school year. Of those who were absent for five days or more, only 59 000 (2% of those absent for this length of time) gave as the main reason for their most recent absence a work-related reason if work is broadly defined to include helping at home with household tasks, and looking after own children and other household members. However, among children engaged in market economic work, 47% of those attending school had missed five or more days, while among those engaged in non-market economic work this was the case for 50% of those attending school.

Children engaged in market or other economic work were more likely than those not so engaged to report experiencing a range of school- and learning-related difficulties. For example, 24% of children engaged in market work and 14% of children engaged in other economic work reported arriving late and/or leaving early, as compared to 5% of children not engaged in any economic work.

1.5 COMPARISONS WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS

The report includes a set of tables below uses the higher cut-offs used for the SAYP 1999 in determining children who worked more than a specified minimum number of hours on economic, household and school-related work. The weekly cut-offs are set at:

- Three or more hours in total of core economic activities plus collecting fuel and water
- Seven or more hours in total of housework and care for household members
- Five or more hours in total of school maintenance.

To facilitate comparison with the SAYP findings, the age groups 10-14 and 15-17 years are used in these tables. Unfortunately, for the youngest age group there is no way of correcting for the fact that the SAYP 2010 did not cover children aged five and six years old.

The SAYP 2010 found that nearly three in every ten (29%) of all children in the age groups covered were doing some work when using these cut-offs, compared to the higher figure of 36% in the SAYP 1999. The LFS 2006 found a lower figure (25%) than in 1999 and 2010 despite the fact that it excluded younger children.

As in earlier years, in 2010 girls were noticeably more likely than boys to be doing some form of work, and older children noticeably more likely than younger ones. African children were more likely than those of other race groups to be doing work.

The SAYP 2010 found that 9% of children were doing only economic work that exceeded the specified cut-offs. The SAYP of 1999 found 17% of children in this position, while the LFS 2006 found 14%. A more or less similar number of children were only doing household chores that exceeded the cut-off in 2010, with a much lower 1% exceeding the cut-off for school maintenance. Four percent of children exceeded the cut-offs for both economic work and household chores. Comparison with the LFS SAYP 1999 percentages in the final column show the disparities between the two SAYPs being largest in absolute terms in respect of those doing only economic work and those doing only household chores. In respect of the first, the SAYP 2010 found fewer children exceeding the cut-off, while in relation to the latter it found more children exceeding the cut-off. Overall, 14% of children were involved in economic activities beyond the three-hour cut-off in 2010, and 11% involved in household chores.

1.6 CHILD LABOUR COMPOSITE INDICATOR

A set of indicators has been established for the purposes of monitoring the Child Labour Programme of Action. The indicators monitor different aspects of child labour that are possible to measure through an instrument such as the SAYP. Any child who is rated as being vulnerable in respect of any one of the indicators is counted as being in child labour.

Overall, 784 000 children were revealed by the SAYP as being vulnerable on at least one of the indicators. This is slightly less than the 847 000 found in this position in 2006 despite the expanded age group covered by the SAYP. Girls were more likely than boys to be affected in 2010. This is different to 2006 when there was little gender difference. As in 2006, children aged 10-15 are the most likely to be in child labour.

Overall:

- 116 000 (93 000 in 2006) children appeared to be doing work prohibited by the BCEA
- 431 000 (383 000 in 2006) appeared to be working excessive hours for their age when all types of work were combined
- For 11 000 (108 000 in 2006) there were indications that school enrolment was affected by work
- 36 000 (57 000 in 2006) children appeared to have been absent from school because of work-related activities
- 290 000 reported having been injured at work or exposed to hazardous conditions. In 2006, 183 000 children reported having been injured while working, but there was not a question on hazardous conditions.

The 2010 questionnaire did not include questions allowing assessment of whether children had difficulties at school beyond attendance that appeared to be related to work-related activities. The SAYP included a question on difficulties with schooling, but did not ask if these were the result of work-related activities. This was found to be the case for 268 000 children in 2006. The absence of this group of children could account for at least some of the difference between the findings in 2006 and 2010.

1.7 IN CONCLUSION

While there have been some changes in instrument over the years, analysis of the SAYP 2010 generally reveals patterns that are consistent with those shown by the two earlier surveys in 1999 and 2006. The SAYP 2010 again suggests that while levels of engagement in market economic work are low and there seems to be limited impact on schooling, South Africa still does have issues to address in respect of child work and labour.

While the numbers involved in child labour are relatively low, and seem to have fallen over the years, the number affected – estimated at 821 thousand – is large in absolute terms. These children need action to be taken.

[Lazar Slavkovic's photostream - http://www.flickr.com/photos/lazarslavkovic/]

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 BACKGROUND

In 1999 Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) conducted a stand-alone Survey of Activities of Young People (SAYP) which aimed to gather information on the extent, nature, patterns, determinants and consequences of the work-related activities of children. The survey was commissioned by the Department of Labour. Technical and financial support was provided by the International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The SAYP was part of a series of activities aimed at developing the country's Child Labour Programme of Action (CLPA), a policy document that guides the activities of government and other roleplayers in addressing the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) as well as other forms of harmful child work. The document containing the first phase of the CLPA was duly finalised and adopted by key stakeholders in 2003, and implementation of the programme started in 2004.

The CLPA notes the need for regular monitoring of work-related activities of children. It suggests that this be done, among others, through add-on modules to Stats SA's regular Labour Force Survey (LFS) every two to three years. Stats SA included such a module, although in limited form, for the first time in the LFS of March 2006.

In 2006, all the standard sections of the LFS questionnaire on economic activities were asked in relation to all household members aged 10 years and above in the approximately 30 000 household surveyed instead of, as is usual for the LFS, only those aged 15 years and above. In addition, a section was added to the questionnaire which asked about work-related activities of children aged 10-17 years over the past twelve months. This module differed from the standard LFS modules in two respects beyond the age group covered. Firstly, the concept of "work" was expanded beyond activities traditionally classified as employment. Secondly, the module asked about such work-related activities over a 12-month period instead of, as in the standard LFS modules, only in respect of the seven days prior to the interview. This was important as children are probably more likely than adults to work intermittently.

In the third quarter of 2010, Statistics South Africa conducted a second SAYP. By 2010, the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) had replaced the LFS. The SAYP was therefore conducted as an add-on module to the QLFS. This report is based on the data collected during this second SAYP.

The SAYP 2010 combined elements of both the earlier SAYP and the LFS add-on module. The concepts used in the SAYP were also to some extent influenced by the changes between the LFS and QLFS in how the concept of work is conceived and how questions are framed. The findings from this survey are thus not always exactly comparable with those of the previous surveys. However, there is enough similarity to allow relatively reliable comparisons. Indeed, a later section of this report includes a chapter devoted to comparing the overall findings of the 2010 survey with those of 1999 and 2006.

2.2 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

(A) Pre-testing

The QLFS is a quarterly household survey, specifically designed to measure labour market issues. Because this is an ongoing survey, pilots are not considered necessary between each round unless there are major changes to the questionnaire. Stats SA did not consider a pilot or pre-test necessary in respect of the add-on module because of experience gained in conducting the SAYP and the 2006 add-on module to the LFS.

(B) The sample

In the third quarter of 2010, detailed information was collected about the labour market situation of household members living in approximately 30 000 households across the country. The households living in sampled dwelling units in each of the nine provinces were visited by field staff employed and trained by Stats SA, and a QLFS questionnaire was administered through

face-to-face interviews for each household visited.

The first stage of the SAYP part of the survey involved identifying households with children aged 7–17 years during the standard QLFS data collection. The second stage involved a follow-up interview with children in those households to establish in what kind of activities they were involved. The QLFS data were collected in the middle two weeks of the month throughout the quarter, while SAYP data collection was done in the last week of a month, also throughout the quarter.

(C) Response rates

The overall response rate for the SAYP module was 92,3% of children identified in the screening. Province-wise the response rate ranged from 82,8% in Northern Cape to 96,1% in North West.

(D) Weighting

Because the SAYP interviews were not conducted at the same time as the main QLFS interviews, there was, as indicated in the 92,3% response rate, some reduction in the numbers covered by the initial screening and the SAYP module. This reduction was due to persons refusing to participate in SAYP, persons not at home during SAYP interviews, demolished structures, vacant dwellings, etc. A further weight adjustment was thus done in addition to the weighting applied for the SAYP to account for those persons who qualified for the SAYP, but refused to take part or were not available for interviews or were considered to be other non-response.

Adjustment for non-response was done by creating adjustment classes which grouped together respondents and non-respondents with the same characteristics. The response rate (the ratio of responses to all eligible units in the sample) was calculated within each class. The inverse of the response rate (adjustment factor) was then calculated within each class, and the result multiplied by the QLFS 2010 person weights of the responding units to get the adjusted SAYP person weights for responding units. The final SAYP weight assigned to each responding unit is thus the product of the QLFS person weight and the non-response adjustment factor. Children identified as ineligible for SAYP were not considered when adjusting weights.

(E) The SAYP questionnaire

The add-on questionnaire for the SAYP 2010 consisted of seven sections including an introductory section listing the basic demographic details of all household members. The other six sections were as follows:

- School activities of children aged 7-17 years
- "Market" economic activities (i.e. work for a wage or salary, running of own business, or work unpaid in a family business) in the last week and 12 months by children aged 7-17 years
- Occupation and industry within main "market" work for children aged 7-17 years
- Non-market "economic" activities in last week of children aged 7-17 years – including subsistence farming, collection of fuel and water, production of goods for household use, household construction, and catching of fish or animals for household consumption
- Health and safety of children aged 7-17 years engaged in market or non-market "economic" work
- Household and school tasks of children aged 7-17 years.

(E) Defining activity status and employment

Stats SA defines activity status (whether a person is employed, unemployed, or not economically active) in relation to "market" work activities. These activities include work for a wage, salary commission or payment in kind, running or doing any business, and helping unpaid in a household business. These activities all involve production of goods and services that fall within the production boundary of the System of National Accounts (SNA).

Stats SA does not include all work activities within the SNA production boundary within the standard definition of employment. It excludes subsistence production, whether involving farming, catching of fish and wild animals, construction or major repair work on one's own home, plot cattle post or business, production of goods for household use, and fetching of water and fuel. According to the strict international definition of employment, these activities should also be regarded as employment. However, in this report, following Stats SA, these activities are classified as "economic" work, but not as "market" work and thus employment.

Unpaid housework by a family member and care provided to household members who are children, ill, disabled or elderly fall outside the SNA production boundary. These activities (often referred to as "unpaid care work") therefore do not constitute employment. They are, however, recognised internationally as involving production of services, and as work. They are considered in this report, but separately from "economic" work.

In line with the shift in Stats SA's approach encompassed in the change from the LFS to the QLFS, the classification in this report differs from that used in the LFS 2006 report. In the latter, all "economic" work except collection of fuel and water was regarded as "core" economic work, with collection of fuel and water as "non-core" economic work. In this report, the distinction is instead between "market" economic work (which is narrower than "core" economic work) and non-market economic work. The latter category includes collection of fuel and water for household use.

(G) Age group covered

Usually in the QLFS employment-related questions are asked only in respect of household members aged 15 years and above. Unemployment and activity rates and other labour force indicators are then calculated on the age group 15-64 years. The age 15 is considered appropriate as the Basic Conditions of Employment Act (BCEA) sets 15 as the youngest age at which a person can be employed. Including younger children in labour force indicators could therefore be seen as condoning child labour.

For the March 2006 LFS Stats SA lowered the age cut-off to ten years so as to capture economic activity of younger children. The standard labour force indicators were still calculated on the standard age group, but the additional data allowed measurement of the extent that younger children were doing economic activities.

For the SAYP 2010 the age cut-off for the additional module was lowered even further to seven years, and questions relating to both economic and non-economic work activities were asked in respect of all children 7-17 years.

As noted above, the BCEA sets 15 as the minimum possible age for legal employment of a child as an employee. In practice, however, most children of 15 cannot be legally employed, as the BCEA also prohibits the employment of a child who is under the minimum school-leaving age. The South African Schools Act makes schooling compulsory for children between the ages of 7 to 15 or until they have completed grade nine. Most children will complete grade nine at the earliest in the year in which they turn 15. Most will therefore only be eligible for legal employment at the age of 16 or later.

Because of the difference in the legal position of younger and older children in respect of some types of economic work, as well as differences in their developmental stage, it is important in reporting to distinguish between age groups. This report therefore includes age-related tables which distinguish between children aged 7-9 years, 10-15 years and 16-17 years. In this respect, this report differs from the earlier SAYP, which used the age groups 5-9, 10-14 and 15-17. It also differs from Stats SA's statistical release on the *SAYP 2010, Survey of Activities of Young People, 2010*[1], which uses the age groups 7-10, 11-14 and 15-17 years. These differences must be borne in mind when comparing results from the various surveys and reports. In the section of this report devoted to comparing results across the surveys, the previous age grouping is used so as to allow more exact comparison.

1 Statistics South Africa. 2011. Survey of Activities of Young People, 2010. Statistical Release P0212. Pretoria.

(H) Population group, gender and location

Age constitutes one of the more important characteristics in describing and making policy in respect of child work and labour. Also important are population group, gender and location. Population group is important in South Africa because, although apartheid ended officially in 1994, its legacy often remains even for children who were born after its demise. We thus need to examine the patterns in respect of population group to assess whether and how quickly the country is overcoming this legacy.

Gender is important in all countries when examining work patterns of people of all ages. The WFCL convention also requires that countries pay particular attention to the situation of girl-children as they are often especially vulnerable.

The SAYP 1999 results were reported in terms of four geographical areas – urban formal, urban informal, commercial farming areas, and "other" rural. The last-named area corresponds largely with areas formerly designated as "homelands". It is referred to as "deep rural" in this report. The SAYP 1999 found significant differences in the prevalence and nature of children's work-related activities between areas, with generally higher rates and more involvement of children in the ex-homeland areas than in others.

Unfortunately, Stats SA did not include a location variable in the LFS 2006. The report on that survey could therefore not reflect possible differences between rural and urban areas. The four-way geographical distinction is, however, again available for SAYP 2010. This report therefore again presents the geographical comparisons. Disaggregation by province is not presented in this report as the sub-samples for some provinces for the restricted age group are too small to produce reliable results.

(I) Current versus usual employment

The standard QLFS questions ask about involvement in economic activities over the past seven days. This is standard practice internationally for giving a snapshot picture of the "current" activity status of the population of economically active age. For children, however, asking only about the past seven days may give a false picture of the situation as children are probably more likely than adults to work on a seasonal basis – for example, over school holidays, or in the agricultural season. To capture children's work activity it is therefore better to ask about activities over the last twelve months. The SAYP 2010 therefore asked about work both in the past seven days and over the past 12 months.

(J) Economic and other work

The SAYP 2010 module differs from the standard QLFS in other ways. In particular, it asks about a wider range of work-related activities rather than only about economic work. In addition to asking about collection of fuel and water, it asks about household chores, and cleaning and other non-study-related work at school. This once again is in accordance with international definitions of "work" which include any production of goods and services, whether inside or outside the production boundary of the SNA. Thus a child (or adult) who has engaged in any of these other activities will be regarded as having worked even if they are not regarded as having been employed.

(K) Child work and child labour

A child who works will not necessarily be regarded as being involved in child labour. The Child Labour Programme of Action defines child labour as:

> *Work by children under 18 which is exploitative, hazardous or otherwise inappropriate for their age, detrimental to their schooling, or social, physical, mental, spiritual or moral development. The term 'work' is not limited to work for gain but includes chores or household activities in the household of the child's care-giver, where such work falls within the definition of child labour set out... above. Appropriate activities related to skills training are not seen as child labour.*

Work that is prohibited by the BCEA is regarded as child labour because the Act prohibits the work on the basis that it is harmful for children. Other work may not be expressly prohibited, but may be harmful for other reasons – for example

because the hours are too long, because it interferes with schooling, or because it places the child in physical danger. These characteristics can occur in respect of both economic and non-economic work. (However, as noted below, the questions in the SAYP 2010 were not always asked in respect of non-economic work.)

This report examines both economic and non-economic work activities in an effort to determine, among others, where children are engaging in work that is harmful and that thus constitutes child labour. Not all the children reported as working in this report are child labourers; many may be doing work that is beneficial for them, their families and the society. The report suggests, however, that there are some children in the country who are engaged in work that is harmful and that thus constitutes child labour, and that we need to find ways to eliminate.

The SAYP 2010 questionnaire attempted to capture a wide range of different work-related activities by asking specific questions about the different types rather than asking simply whether the child worked or not. Despite this careful probing, the QLFS data are not able to capture all forms of child work. In particular, a household survey is unlikely to capture illegal activities or activities about which household members feel shame. A household survey will also not fully capture activities that are mostly done by people who are not living in households, for example those living on the street.

(L) Worst forms of child labour

These exclusions are important to remember because it means that the SAYP 2010 would not have captured some forms of work that are considered Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL) under the *Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention* of 1999 which South Africa ratified in 2000. The WFCL convention includes several pre-defined worst forms, including trafficking of children, commercial sexual exploitation of children and use, procuring or offering of a child by others for illegal activities, including trafficking or production of drugs. None of these WFCL was likely to be captured by the SAYP 2010.

In addition to the pre-defined forms of WFCL, the convention requires each country to define, through consultation, what constitutes work which by its nature or the circumstances is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children. For the purposes of this report, following what was done for the LFS 2006 report, we use limits in terms of time spent on different types of work over a given period and report on the number and characteristics of children engaged in work beyond these limits.

(M) Sample size and reliability of results

As noted above, the QLFS covers approximately 30 000 households across the country. These households are chosen so as to provide a nationally representative picture of the country when the appropriate weights are applied to the data. Unfortunately, however, as we focus in on particular groups, the sample size decreases. This, in turn, results in a decrease in the reliability of the revealed patterns.

For the purposes of the current report, we focus on children aged 7-17 years. In 2010 there were an estimated 11 million children of this age in the country. This number is large enough to give a reliable picture.

Problems can emerge, however, when we focus further on sub-groups of the population. The sub-group of Indian/Asian children of this age, for example, consists of an estimated 205 000 children. In the SAYP 2010 sample, there are data for only 205 Indian children. These data are then weighted to arrive at estimates for the 205 000 Indian/Asian children in the population. When this small group is further disaggregated by sex or age group, the numbers become even smaller. Similar problems emerge when we focus on children with other characteristics, for example those not attending school.

In this report we follow the standard Stats SA convention and regard any (weighted) result of less than 10 000 as unreliable. We caution further that numbers which are only a little above this cut-off point should also be taken as possible indications rather than reliable reflections of reality.

(N) Conventions in reporting

Unless stated otherwise, all the estimates provided in tables in this report represent thousands of people (or children). So, for example, the total number of children aged 7-17 years of 11 million is represented in the tables by 1 1004.

(O) Structure of the report

- The first, brief section of the report provides a snapshot of the child population in 2010
- The second section describes economic activities of children over the past week (seven days) and past 12 months
- The third section describes household- and school-related work activities of children
- The fourth section explores the relationship between work and school attendance and performance
- The fifth section compares the results of the 2010 survey with those of 2006 and the earlier SAYP of 1999
- The sixth section discusses the components and composite indicator proposed as a general measure of child labour for South Africa.

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3 The child population of South Africa

3 The child population of South Africa

In the third quarter of 2010, when the SAYP was conducted, the total population of South Africa was estimated to be 50,2 million. **Table 1** shows the estimates by population group and by age group. The age groups distinguish between adults (those aged 18 years and above) and children. Estimates for children are provided in four age groups, namely (a) those under 7 years of age, who were not covered by the SAYP 2010 add-on module; (b) those aged 7-9 years, who would all be covered by the child labour exclusion of the BCEA; (c) those aged 10-15 years, who would mostly be covered by the child labour exclusion of the BCEA; and (d) those age 16-17 years, who are legally allowed to be employed, but might nevertheless be classified as engaged in harmful child labour.

Overall, adults accounted for 63% of the population, while children under 7 years accounted for 15%, those aged 7-10 years for 6%, 10-15 years for 13%, and those aged 16-17 years for only 4%. For the most part then, the analysis in this report focuses on 22% of the population, or 11,2 million people.

Table 1: Population of South Africa by population and age groups (1 000s)

Age group	African	Coloured	Asian	White	Total
0-6	6 282	581	134	381	7 378
7-9	2 480	230	60	147	2 917
10-15	5 316	490	115	344	6 265
16-17	1 726	166	37	117	2 046
18+	23 937	2 962	957	3 593	31 449
Total	**39 740**	**4 429**	**1 303**	**4 582**	**50 054**
7-17	9 521	887	212	608	11 227

Table 2 reveals that, overall, African people accounted for nearly four-fifths (79%) of the total population, with white and Coloured people each accounting for just under one-tenth (9%), and Asian people for 2%. Among the child age groups, however, the dominance of the African group is even greater, while the proportion of white people is noticeably less. This distribution results in small, and possibly unreliable, sample sizes for the non-African groups. The remainder of the report thus sometimes distinguishes only Africans as a separate grouping when discussing population group.

Table 2: Distribution of population by population group within age groups (%)

Age group	African	Coloured	Asian	White	Total
0-6	85	8	2	5	100
7-9	85	8	2	5	100
10-15	85	8	2	5	100
16-17	84	8	2	6	100
18+	76	9	3	11	100
Total	**79**	**9**	**3**	**9**	**100**
7-17	85	8	2	5	100

Overall, 51% of the total South African population of the third quarter of 2010 was female. The picture is slightly different for children and older people. Thus, among adults 52% of the population was female, while among children only 50% were girls. This difference is explained by the fact that somewhat more boys than girls are born, but women tend to live longer than men.

Less than 1% of the children aged 7-17 years had never attended formal schooling. Further, overall, 98% of children aged 7-17 years were attending an educational institution in the third quarter of 2010. Virtually all those attending (98%) were attending school rather than other types of educational institution.

There was no difference between girls and boys in respect of school attendance. Attendance was, however, much higher among 7-15 year olds (at 99%) than among those aged 16-17 years (93%). The latter age group is beyond the age of compulsory school attendance under the South African Schools Act. Nevertheless, the rate of attendance among this age group is noticeably higher than it was in 2006.

Table 3: Attendance at educational institution by sex and age group (%)

	7-9	10-15	16-17	Total
Male	99	99	92	98
Female	99	99	93	98
Total	**99**	**99**	**93**	**98**

In terms of population group, attendance was 98% for African children and 96% for Coloured children, as against 99% for white children and 100% for the small Asian group.


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Economic activities of children aged 7-17 years

4.1 LEVELS OF ENGAGEMENT IN MARKET-RELATED WORK

As noted above, the SAYP asked the standard QLFS questions about engagement in "market" economic activities of children aged 7 years and above. The SAYP thus produced estimates of the number of children who could be officially classified as "employed", i.e. as having done one of a number of specified market economic work activities over the last seven days. A total of 121 000 children were found to be employed. Among these:

- 41 000 were said to have done work for a wage, salary, commission or payment in kind
- 30 000 were said to have run a business or done business
- 56 000 were said to have worked unpaid in a household business.

Overall, these children accounted for only just over 1% of all children aged 7-17 years.

Boys were more likely than girls to have worked for a wage or salary, while girls were more likely than boys to have worked unpaid in a household business.

Figure 1: "Market" economic work past 7 days

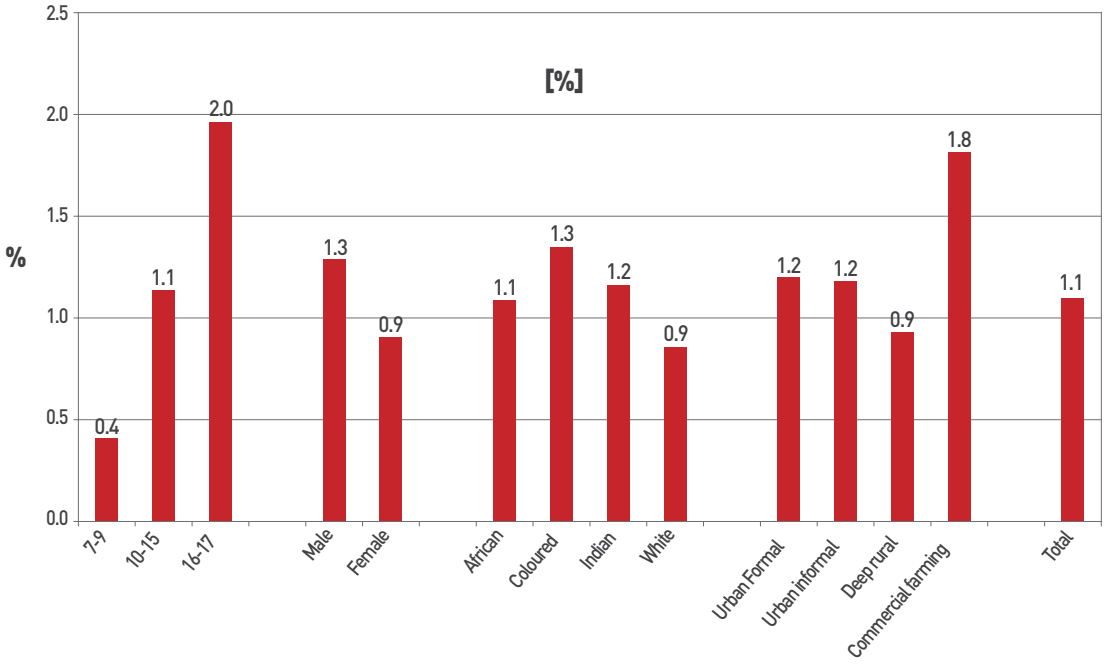
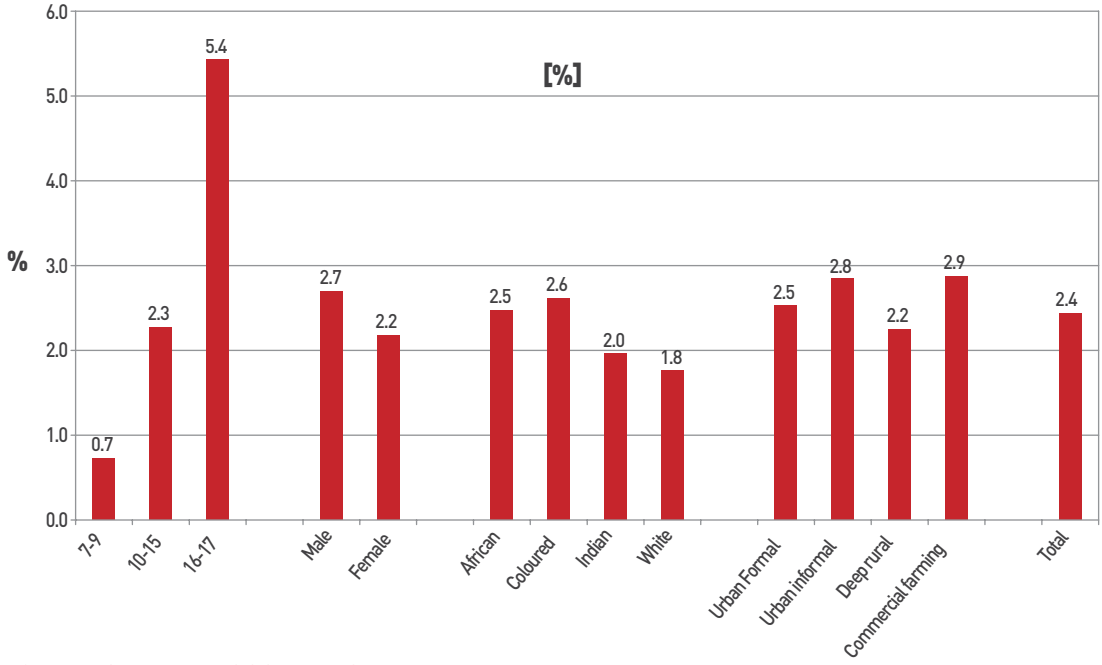


Figure 1 shows how the rate of engagement increased from 0,4% among the youngest children to 2,0% among those age 16-17 years. The rate was higher for boys than girls, and higher for Coloured children than those in other population groups. Geographically, employment was most common in commercial farming areas, but even there less than 2% of children aged 7-17 years were employed.

The SAYP questionnaire asked whether children who did not work had looked for any kind of work over the past four weeks, or had tried to start any kind of business over this period. A total of 43 000 children said that they had done so. This gives an unemployment rate of 26%.

Figure 2 shows responses to the same set of questions when the time period is extended to the past twelve months rather than the past seven days. The total number of children reporting at least one kind of "market" economic work increases to 268 000. The overall employment rate increases to 2,4%, and the rate increases to 5,4% for children aged 16-17 years. Engagement by boys is again at a higher rate than for girls, and the rate for Coloured children continues to exceed that of other population groups, although the difference between Coloured and African children is marginal. The rate of engagement of children in urban informal settings is now nearly as high as that of children in commercial farming areas.

Figure 2: "Market" work over past 12 months



4.2 INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATION

In terms of industrial sector, of the 268 000 children who had engaged in market economic work over the past 12 months, over half (57%) worked in trading activities. The percentage working in trade decreased with age, from 78% among those aged 7-9 years old, to 62% among those aged 10-15, and to 48% among those aged 16-17 years. While 68% of employed girls worked in trade, a lower 49% of boys did so. African children, at 59%, were noticeably more likely than those of other population groups to work in trade.

In terms of occupation, 67% of the employed children were in elementary (unskilled) occupations, including domestic work, with a further 20% in services and sales. While 18% of boys were in occupational categories other than these two dominant ones, only 8% of which were girls.

Unfortunately, unlike the LFS 2006 add-on, the SAYP 2010 did not collect any information on earnings. It also did not distinguish between formal and informal sector work.

4.3 NON-MARKET ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF CHILDREN 7-17 YEARS

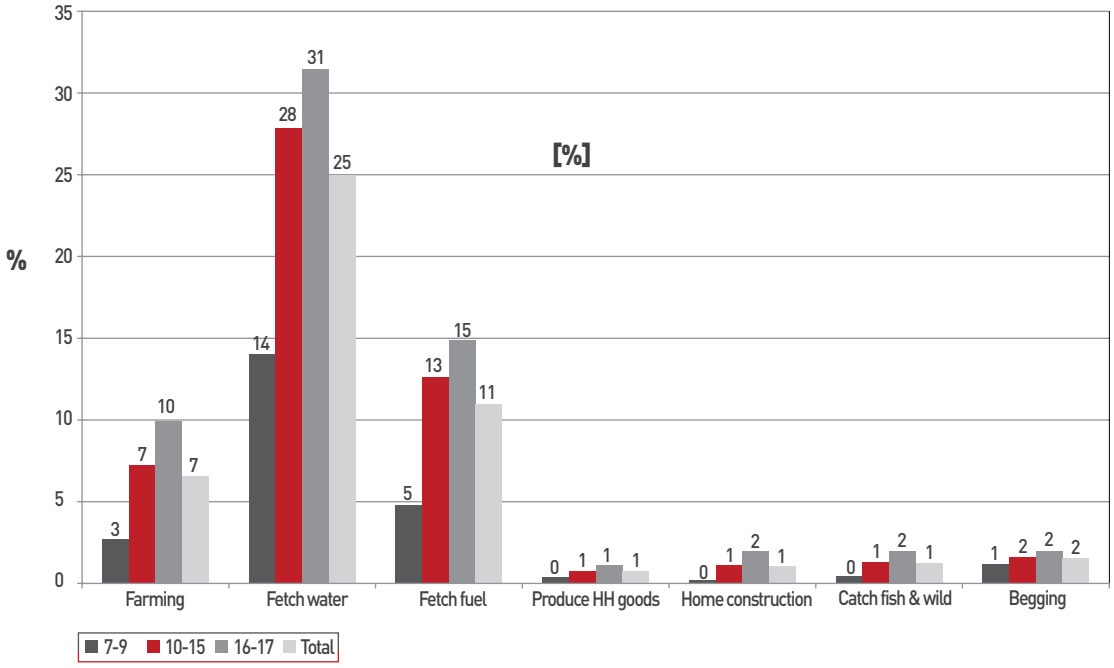
Figure 3 shows levels of engagement of children aged 7-17 years in non-market economic work over the past twelve months. The activities asked about were:

- Farming activities to produce food for household use or looking after livestock
- Fetching water for household use
- Collecting wood or dung for household use
- Production of other goods for household use
- Construction or major repair work on own home, plot, cattle post or business
- Catching fish, prawns, shells, wild animals or other food for household consumption.

Children were also asked if they had begged for money or food in public. This activity is also shown in **figure 3,** although strictly speaking, it is not considered an economic activity or work.

Figure 3 shows the highest levels of engagement for fetching of water. A quarter (25%) of all children reported engaging in this activity, and as many as 31% among 16-7 year olds. Next most common was fetching fuel, at 11% overall, and 15% among 16-7 year olds. The only other relatively common activity was farming, with 7% of children reporting having done some of this type of work over the past twelve months. The graph shows clearly that for all types of non-market economic work, the rate of engagement increased with age.

Figure 3: Non-market economic work in past 12 months by age

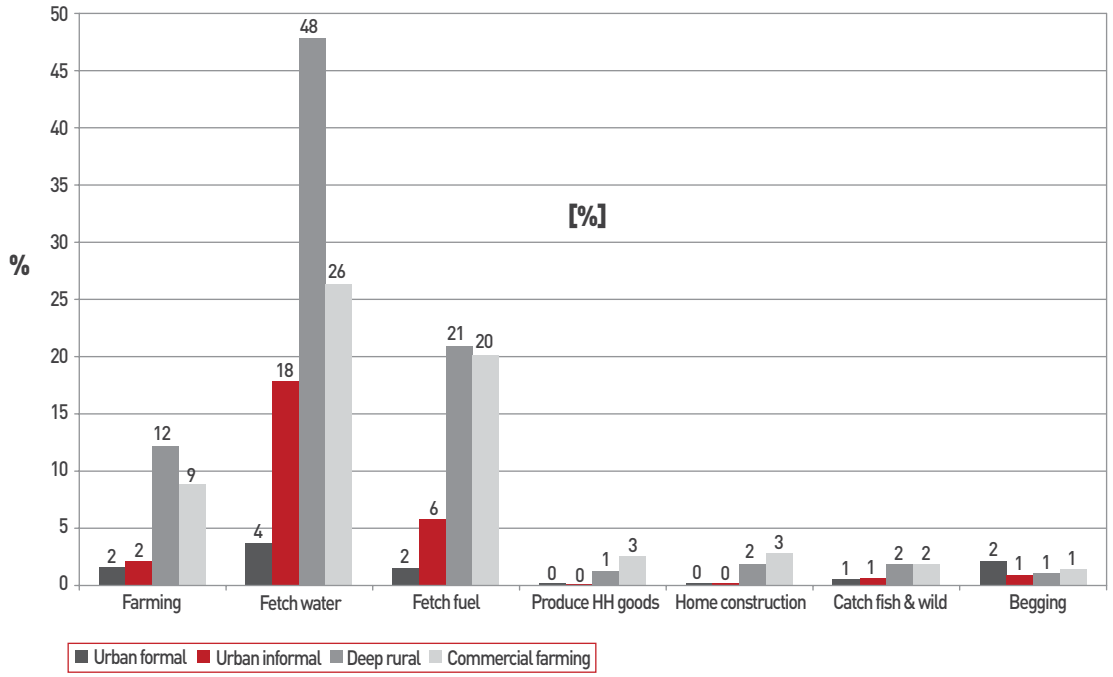


Analysis by gender shows differences of four percentage points or less for each of the activities. Boys were slightly more likely than girls to report farming activities, while girls were more likely than boys to report fetching fuel and water (4 and 2 percentage point differences, respectively).

In terms of population group, African children were far more likely than others to fetch water and fuel, but also more likely than other children to engage in virtually all the other non-market economic activities.

Figure 4 reveals very clearly the extent to which children in deep rural areas were more likely than others to fetch water and fuel and engage in farming activities. The heavier burden on children in deep rural areas is particularly evident in respect of fetching water. For some of the other less common activities, children in commercial farming areas were the most likely to report engagement. However, for all activities except begging, urban children were less likely than rural children to be working. For the three most common activities – collection of fuel and water and farming – children in urban informal settings were more likely than those in urban formal settings to have worked.

Figure 4: Non-market economic work in past 12 months by location



4.4 MARKET AND NON-MARKET ECONOMIC WORK

Figure 5 shows the percentage of children who engaged in economic work of some sort over the past 12 months. The bottom section of each bar indicates the (small) percentage that engaged in "market" economic work, while the larger upper section indicates the percentage that engaged in non-market economic work. Some of those who engaged in "market" work would also have engaged in non-market work.

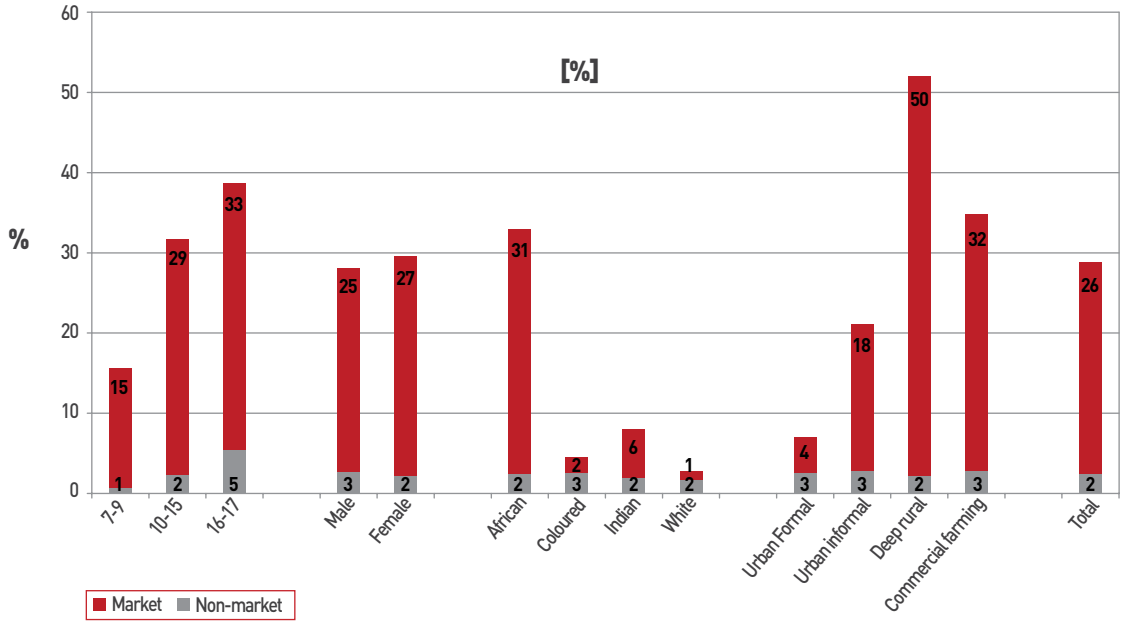
The age pattern is as expected, with close on two-fifths (38%) of children aged 16-17 years having engaged in economic work, as opposed to 31% of children aged 10-15 years and 16% of those aged 7-9 years.

There is a relatively small difference between girls and boys, although girls are more likely than boys to have engaged in economic work and, among those that have, non-market work is more common for girls than boys.

In terms of population group, a third (33%) of African children report having engaged in some type of economic work, far outstripping children in other population groups.

Geographically, over half (52%) of children in deep rural areas engaged in economic work, as opposed to just over a third (34%) in commercial farming areas, about a fifth (21%) in urban informal areas, and only 7% in urban formal areas.

Figure 5: Market and non-market economic activities in past 12 months



4.5 HOURS WORKED

Only just under 16 000 children – 0,1% of the total – worked 21 or more hours on market work during the seven days preceding the SAYP interview. Six out of ten children who did market work reported having worked under seven hours a week i.e. less than an average of one hour per day.

For non-market work, close on 55 000 children – about half a percent of the total – worked 21 or more hours during the seven days preceding the SAYP interview. Close on three-quarters of the children who did non-market work reported having spent less than seven hours in the week on this work.

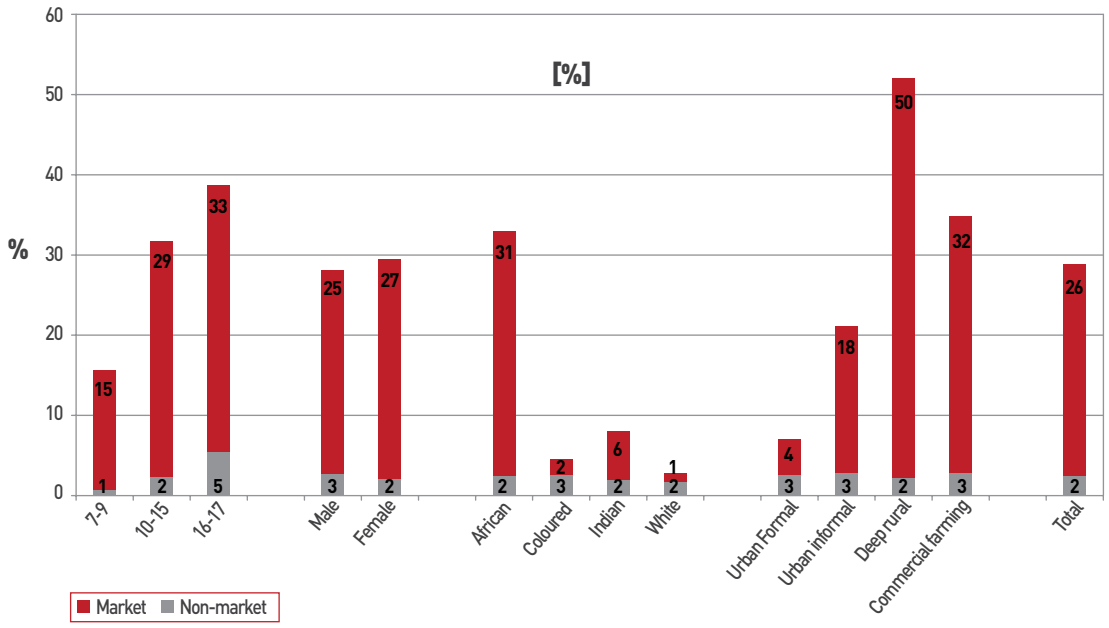
Figure 6 presents total hours spent on economic work – whether market or non-market – in multiples of seven hours. Thus, for example, the 0-6 category includes all children working less than one hour per day on average.

Overall, 16% of children worked 1-6 hours, 5% worked 7-13 hours, and 1% each worked 14-20 hours and 21 plus hours. Age-wise, there were virtually no children aged 7-9 years who spent 14 plus hours working.

In terms of gender, it is among those who worked longer hours that the difference between girls and boys emerged. Thus, not only were girls more likely than boys to do economic work; they were also more likely to work longer hours.

In terms of population group, Africans again differed markedly from the other children. Geographically, children in deep rural areas were again most likely to report hours spent on economic work, but there was a larger percentage of children in commercial farming areas who reported 21 or more hours of work in the week.

Figure 6: Hours spent on economic work in past seven days



4.6 HEALTH AND SAFETY

For children involved in economic activities, the SAYP included a question asking whether they were exposed to a range of different hazardous situations. **Table 4** shows that extreme temperatures were the most common hazard, reported by about a sixth (16%) of children engaged in economic activities. Next most common were exposure to fumes, fire, gas or flames (9%), carrying of heavy loads (8%), and use of dangerous tools (7%).

The table suggests only small differences in levels of exposure between girls and boys. The biggest differences are in respect of heavy loads and work in water, for both of which boys were more likely than girls to report having been exposed to the hazard.

Table 4: Exposure to hazards while doing economic work (%)

Hazard	Male	Female	Total
Dust	0	0	0
Fumes, fire, gas, flames	9	9	9
Loud noise/vibration	3	2	3
Extreme temperature	16	17	16
Dangerous tools	6	7	7
Work underground	0	0	0
Work at heights	0	0	0
Work in water	7	5	6
Dark, confined, unventilated	0	0	0
Chemicals	1	1	1
Work at night	1	1	1
Heavy loads	9	7	8
Heavy machinery	0	0	0
Other	0	1	0
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**

The question about work-related injuries was also asked only in respect of those doing economic work. This is unfortunate as in 2006 over half (52%) of children reporting work-related injuries had not engaged in any economic activities other, perhaps, than collection of fuel and water.

In the SAYP 2010, a total of 90 000 children reported having been injured in the past 12 months while doing an economic work activity. This number amounts to 3% of all those who engaged in an economic work activity, and a slightly higher 4% of those who did a market-related economic activity. The number is too small to allow for reliable further disaggregation.

4.7 REASONS FOR DOING ECONOMIC WORK

The SAYP questionnaire included a question as to why children engaged in market and/or non-market economic work. **Table 5** reveals that the most common response, accounting for 37% of all employed children, was for pocket money. This is different from 2006, when duty to help family was the reason offered in respect of nearly three-quarters (65%) of children aged 10-17 years. The second most common reason offered in 2010 was to assist the family with money, accounting for a further 24% of children. The proportion of children naming pocket money as the reason decreased with age, while the proportion naming assisting the family with money increased with age.

Table 5: Main reason for engaging in economic work (%)

Reason	7-9	10-15	16-17	Total
Assist family with money	19	21	32	24
Money for school	0	0	5	2
Food and essentials	0	1	3	2
Pocket money	59	39	28	37
Duty to help family	3	14	12	13
Finished school and no other activity	0	2	3	2
School not operating	4	0	1	1
Experience/training	3	1	2	2
Other	0	11	5	8
Not specified	12	11	8	10
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

Boys, at 43%, were far more likely than girls (29%) to say that they were working for pocket money, while girls (23%) were far more likely than boys (5%) to say that they had a duty to help the family.

In terms of population group, 26% of African children and 9% of Coloured children said that they worked to assist the family with money, while no Asian or White children gave this reason. Just over a third (35%) of African employed children said that they worked for pocket money, compared to 37% for the employ ed group as a whole.

Geographically, assisting the family with money was named more often in rural than urban areas, pocket money was named most frequently in commercial farming and urban formal areas, and duty to help family was most common in urban informal areas.

5 Household and school-related work

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5.1 HOUSEHOLD-RELATED WORK

The SAYP questionnaire asked about children's engagement in a range of household-related tasks over the past week. The tasks were:

- Cooking, preparing/serving meals, washing dishes
- Cleaning, sweeping
- Washing clothes
- Caring for children, elderly, sick
- Repairing household equipment
- Going to shops to buy items for household use
- Other household tasks.

Figure 7 shows much higher level of engagement in household tasks than in economic work. However, again the level of engagement increases with age for all tasks except the small category of "other" tasks.

Shopping is the most common activity reported for the youngest age group, followed by cleaning and cooking-related. For the middle age group (10-15 years), cleaning and shopping are most common, followed by cooking-related. For those age 16-17 years, cleaning is most common, followed by washing, shopping and cooking-related. One-fifth of the oldest age group also spent some time on caring for other people.

Figure 7: Engagement in household tasks over past 7 days

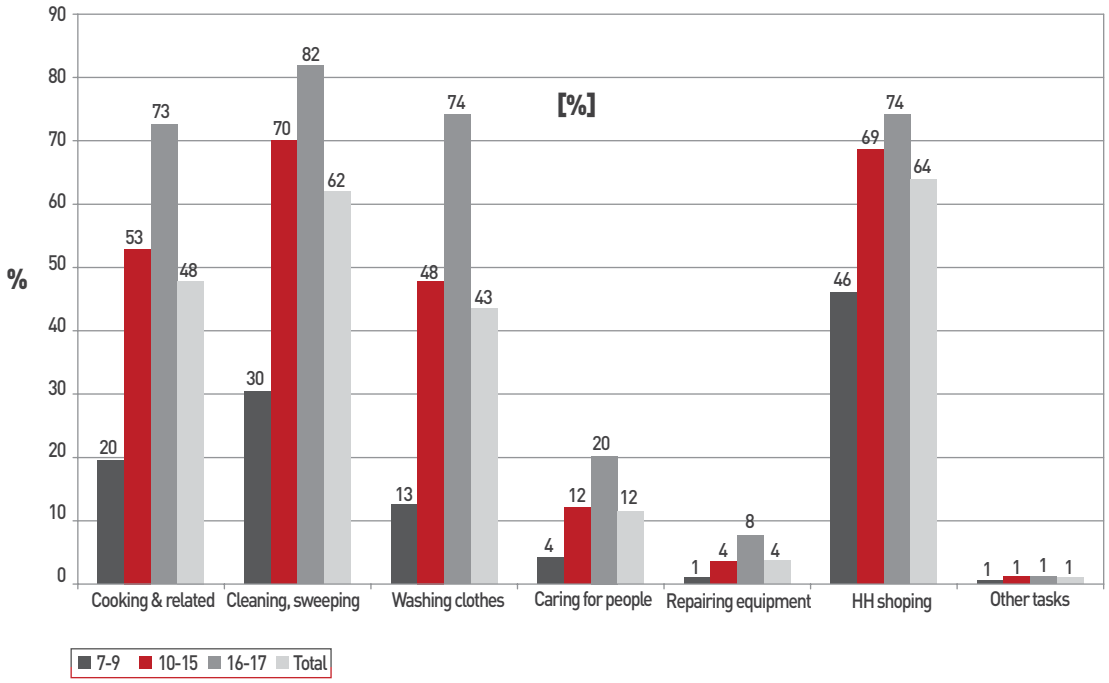


Table 6 reveals that girls were almost twice as likely as boys to engage in care of people, and also far more likely than boys to do cooking-related, cleaning and washing tasks. The only activity in which boys were more likely than girls to engage was repair of household equipment.

Table 6: Engagement in household work by gender (%)

Type of work	Male	Female	Total
Cooking and related	39	57	48
Cleaning, sweeping	55	70	62
Washing clothes	37	50	43
Caring for people	8	15	12
Repairing equipment	5	2	4
HH shopping	63	64	64
Other tasks	1	1	1
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**

For close on a tenth of the children who were said to have done one or more of these tasks no hours were specified for the time spent on the tasks in the past week.

Figure 8 shows the patterns in respect of those for whom hours spent on household tasks were reported. Overall, time spent on household tasks was reported for close on three-quarters (73%) of children. As for other types of work, engagement in household work increased with age, although the difference between children aged 10-15 years and those aged 16-17 years was relatively small.

The level of engagement for girls was 7% higher than that for boys. In terms of population group, the difference between African and other children was much less stark than for economic work, but still very evident.

Children in deep rural areas were, once again, the most likely to do this work. However, children in commercial farming areas were less likely than those in other areas to record hours spent on household work. Instead, those in urban informal areas were second most likely – after those in deep rural areas – to report hours spent on this type of work.

Figure 8: Children for whom hours reported for household tasks in past week

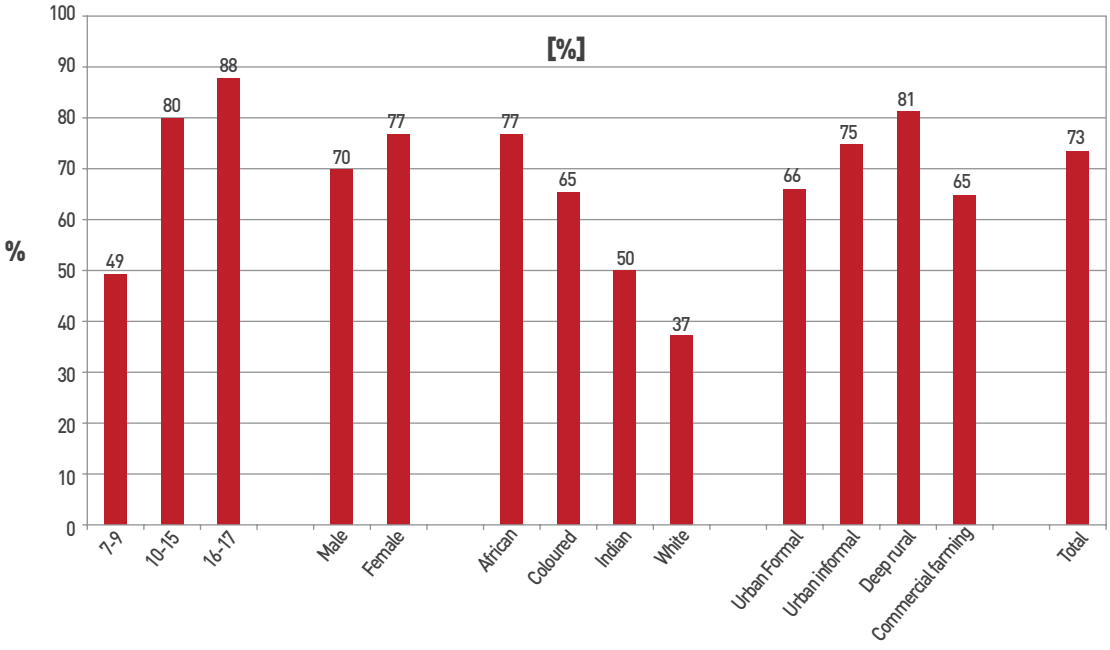


Table 7 reveals that 58% of children – 79% of those reporting hours spent on household tasks – spent an average of less than an hour per day on these tasks. One% of all children spend an average of three hours or more per day on household tasks. This proportion increases to 3% of children aged 16-17 years. The proportion working an average of three hours or more per day is 2% of girls, as opposed to 1% of girls, and 2% of children in commercial farming areas compared to 1% in all other types of area.

Table 7: Hours spent on household tasks in past week

Hours	7-9	10-15	16-17	Total
None	51	20	12	27
1-6 hrs	45	64	60	58
7-13 hrs	3	12	20	11
14-20 hrs	1	3	5	3
21+ hrs	0	1	3	1
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

5.2 SCHOOL-RELATED WORK

The SAYP asked whether children engaged in a range of school-related work activities that were not related to their studies. The activities were:

- Cleaning at school, including cleaning of toilets
- Maintenance of school walls, floors, etc
- Working in school garden
- Helping teacher with marking
- Helping teacher at his/her house
- Other.

Table 8 shows that cleaning activities were by far the most common of these activities, engaged in by 30% of children attending school. Next most common were school maintenance (7% of school-going children), helping with marking (5%) and working in the school garden (4%).

Children aged 7-9 years were less likely than older children to be engaged in each of the activities. However, for some activities school-going children aged 10-15 years were more likely than older children to do the work.

Table 8: Engagement in school-related work by age group (%)

Work activity	7-9	10-15	16-17	Total
Cleaning school	25	32	30	30
School maintenance	5	7	6	7
School garden	2	5	4	4
Help with marking	2	6	7	5
Help teacher's house	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

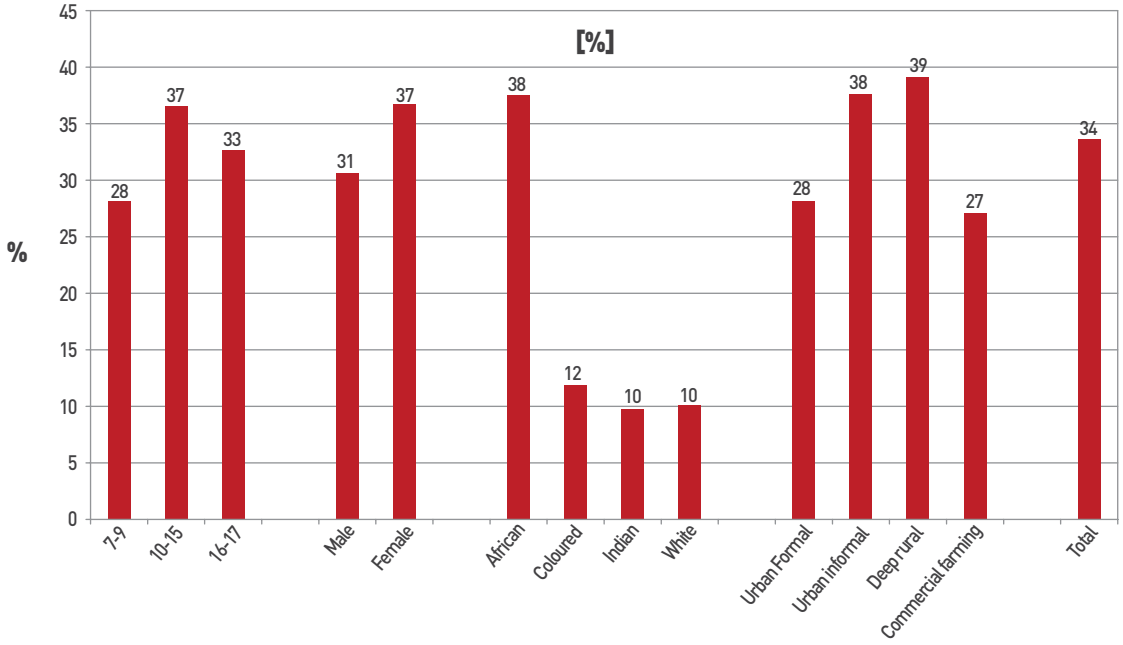
While 33% of school-doing girls were reported to clean their school, this was the case for 27% of school-going boys. Two-thirds (34%) of African children cleaned their school, but less than 10% of children in other population groups. Geographically, cleaning of schools was most common for children in urban informal (37%) and deep rural (35%) areas, but by no means uncommon for children in urban formal (25%) and commercial farming (23%) areas.

Figure 9 shows the percentage of children in different groups who engaged in at least one type of school-related work in the week prior to the interview. Overall, such work was reported for 34% of school-going children.

The patterns in respect of this work are very similar to those in respect of the dominant cleaning activity. Thus children aged 10-15 years were the most likely to do this work, girls were noticeably more likely than boys to do school-related work

activities, and Africans substantially more likely than children in other population groups. In geographical terms, when all school-related work activities are considered, children in deep rural areas emerge as those most likely to do such work.

Figure 9: Engagement in school-related work in past 7 days




[Raquel fialho's photostream - http://www.flickr.com/photos/xkelx/]

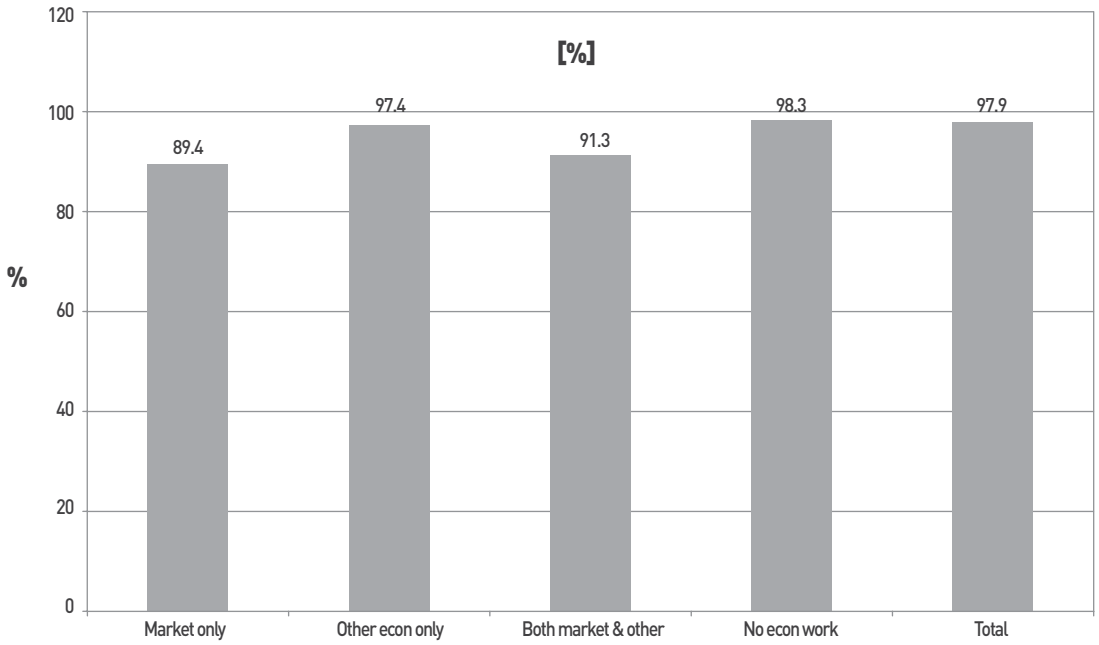
Schooling and work

6.1 ATTENDANCE

Table 3 confirms high levels of school attendance (or, more accurately, enrolment) among children aged 7-17 years in South Africa. **Figure 10** shows some difference in levels of attendance between those who engaged in economic work and those who did not do so.

The lowest level of school attendance is found among those who engaged only in market economic activities, with slightly higher levels of engagement among those who engaged in both market and non-market economic activities and higher still among those who engaged only in non-market economic activities.

Figure 10: School attendance by engagement in economic work



When asked what the main reason was for never attending school, the options of receiving job-related training, work and helping at home with household tasks were not given for any of the children.

When asked what the main reason was for leaving school, none offered job-related training as the reason, and work and assistance with household tasks were given as a reason for fewer than 10 000 children each, too small a number to be statistically reportable,

6.2 ABSENCE FROM AND DIFFICULTIES AT SCHOOL

Overall, 4 392 000 children – 41% of those attending school – were reported to have been absent on five or more days since the beginning of the school year. Of those who were absent for five days or more, only 59 000 (2% of those absent for this length of time) gave as the main reason for their most recent absence a work-related reason if work is broadly defined to include helping at home with household tasks, and looking after own children and other household members.

Among children engaged in market economic work, 47% of those attending school had missed five or more days, while among those engaged in non-market economic work this was the case for 50% of those attending school.

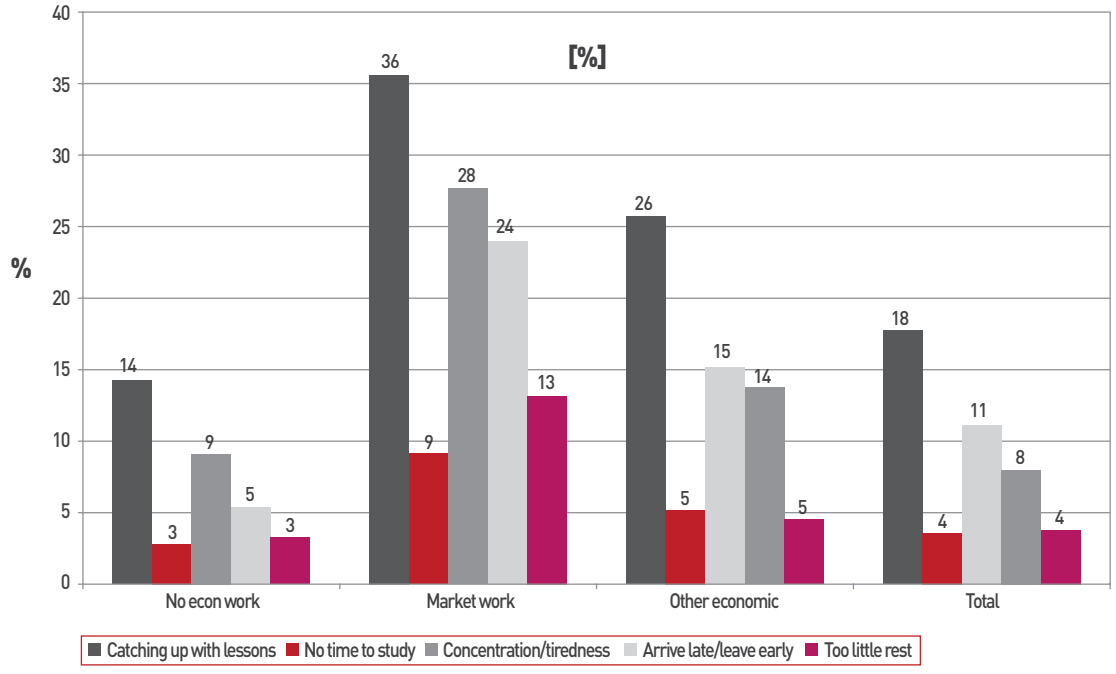
Questions about difficulties experienced were asked in respect of all children attending school. The particular difficulties asked about were:

- Difficulties in catching up with lessons
- No time to study
- Difficulties in concentrating/tiredness at school
- Often coming late and/or leaving early
- Too little time for recreation and rest.

Figure 11 reveals that children engaged in market or other economic work were more likely than those not so engaged to report experiencing each of the types of difficulties. This difference could be partly explained by the fact that children engaged in economic work were more likely to be older, and school work thus more demanding. Nevertheless, it is unlikely that this explains the full extent of the difference.

The age factor would also not explain the marked differences in the percentage of children reporting arriving late and/or leaving early from school. This difficulty was reported for 24% of children engaged in market work and 14% of children engaged in other economic work, as compared to 5% of children not engaged in any economic work.

Figure 11: School-related difficulties by engagement in economic work



Unfortunately, unlike in 2006, the SAYP 2010 questionnaire did not include a direct question as to whether engagement in work contributed to difficulties experienced in schooling.

[http://www.sxc.hu]

7 Comparisons with previous surveys

The proposal in the Child Labour Programme of Action that Stats SA conduct regular surveys on children's work-related activity arises from the need to monitor the successes and weaknesses of implementation of the Programme. As such, it is important that we are able to compare the findings of successive surveys.

The discussion above has in a few cases compared the findings for the SAYP with those of the 2006 LFS. Unfortunately, these comparisons as well as those presented in this section with the SAYP 1999 can only be indicative because of changes in approach and scope between the various surveys. These include changes in the age groups covered, the age groupings used for analysis, the categorisation of work, and the questions asked.

The report on the 2006 investigation noted that one important difference was that in the SAYP 1999 fieldworkers were instructed to ask the questions of the children themselves. In contrast, in the LFS 2006 fieldworkers were advised to ask the person themselves about their work activity if that was possible, but posing the questions to another person was permitted. The SAYP 2010 included a question asking whether the child or someone else responded. Unfortunately, the answer to this question was not recorded in respect of 70% of children. Responses by a person other than the child could contribute to an under-count as parents or other members of the household would not necessarily know about all activities undertaken by the child. Where they knew about such activities, they might sometimes have filtered the information in a way that under-reported work.

The set of tables below uses the higher cut-offs used for the SAYP 1999 in determining children who worked more than a minimum. The weekly cut-offs are set at:

- 3 or more hours in total of core economic activities plus collecting fuel and water
- 7 or more hours in total of housework and care for household members
- 5 or more hours in total of school maintenance.

To facilitate comparison with the SAYP findings, the age groups 10-14 and 15-17 years are used. Unfortunately, for the youngest age group there is no way of correcting for the fact that the SAYP 2010 did not cover children aged 5 and 6 years old.

Table 9 reveals that the SAYP 2010 found that nearly three in every ten (29%) of all children in the age groups covered were doing some work when using these cut-offs, compared to the higher figure of 36% in the SAYP 1999. The LFS 2006 found a lower figure (25%) than in 1999 and 2010 despite the fact that it excluded younger children.

As in earlier years, in 2010 girls were noticeably more likely than boys to be doing some form of work, and older children noticeably more likely than younger ones. African children were more likely than those of other race groups to be doing work. These comparative patterns were also found in the SAYP 1999 and LFS 2006, although at different levels.

Table 9: Working children by sex, age and population group (%)

Survey	Male	Female	<10	10-14	15-17	African	Total
SAYP 2010	27	32	15	30	41	32	29
LFS	23	28		23	28	28	25
SAYP 1999	33	39	24	42	49	41	36

Table 10 shows that the SAYP 2010 found that 9% of children were doing only economic work that exceeded the higher cut-offs in terms of hours. The SAYP of 1999 found 17% of children in this position, while the LFS 2006 found 14%. A more or less similar number of children were only doing household chores that exceeded the cut-off in 2010, with a much lower 1% exceeding the cut-off for school maintenance. Four percent of children exceeded the cut-offs for both economic work and household chores. Comparison with the LFS SAYP 1999 percentages in the final column show the disparities between the two SAYPs being largest in absolute terms in respect of those doing only economic work and those doing only household chores. In respect of the first, the SAYP 2010 found fewer children exceeding the cut-off, while in relation to the latter it found more children exceeding the cut-off.

Table 10: Working children by nature of engagement, sex, age and population group (%)

Nature of engagement	Male	Female	<10	10-14	15-17	African	Total	LFS 2006	SAYP 1999
Only economic	9	8	4	10	11	10	9	14	17
Only household chores	8	12	3	9	18	10	10	7	4
Only school maintenance	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Economic and household	3	5	1	4	6	5	4	3	5
Economic and school	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
Household and school	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1
All three	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	3
None	78	72	91	74	62	72	75	75	64
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

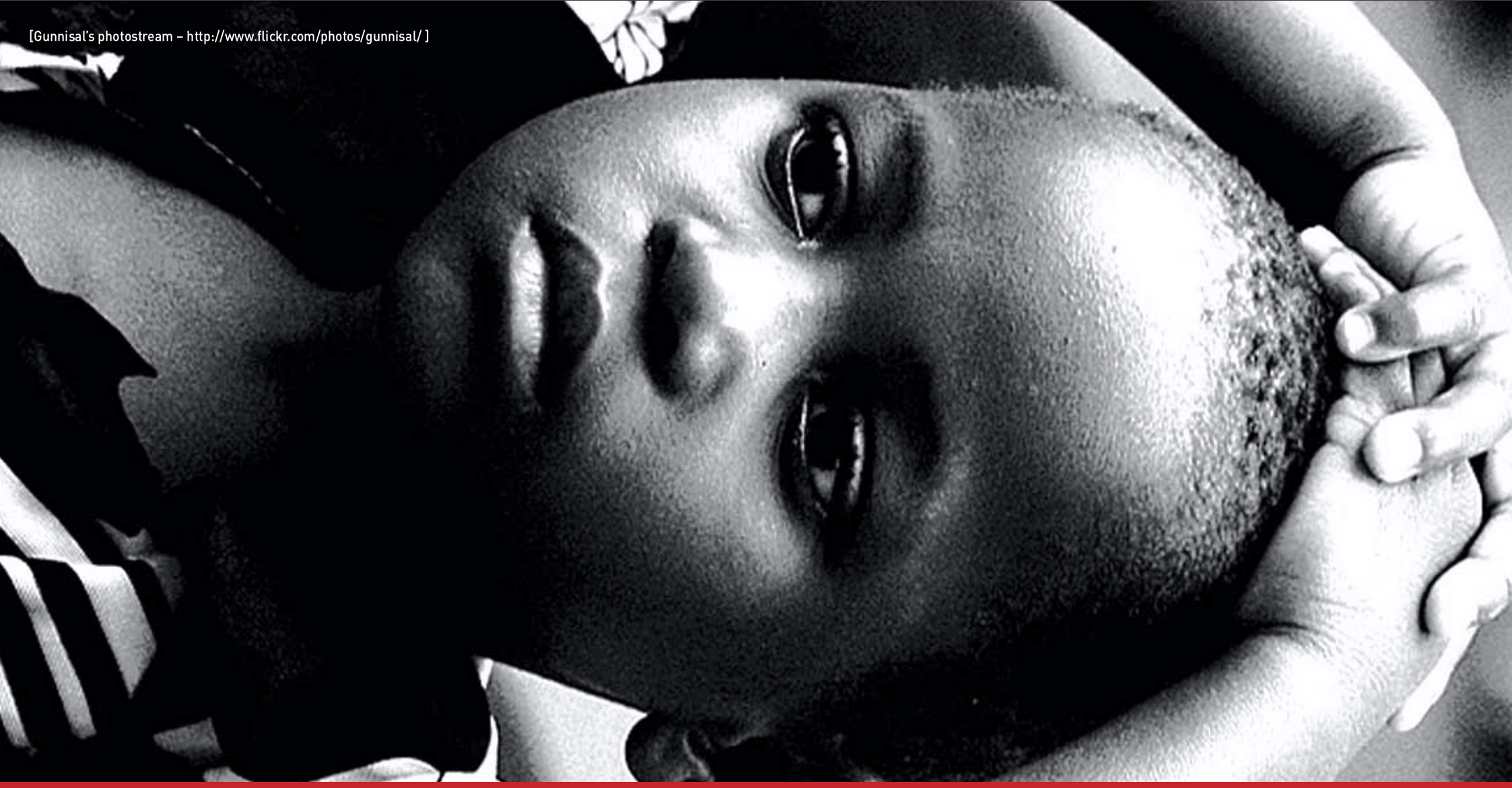
The final table in this section, **Table 11**, examines the patterns in terms of the degree of involvement, where engagement in economic work is considered the "deepest" degree, followed by household chores, and finally school maintenance. In this table a child is not counted in a subsequent category if they have already been covered in a previous one. For example, a child who collects fuel and water will not be counted under household chores even if they also do this other activity.

Table 11 shows 14% of children overall involved in economic activities beyond the 3-hour cut-off in 2010, and 11% involved in household chores. (For the SAYP 1999, the economic category includes the 3% of children recorded as doing unpaid domestic work. This category was derived from those reporting doing household chores in a household in which their mother, father and grandparents were not present. A similar imputation was not done in respect of the later surveys.)

The table confirms that the disparity between the SAYP 1999 and the later surveys is greatest both in absolute and relative terms in respect of economic activities. The LFS 2006 and SAYP 2010 produce relatively similar estimates, although with an indication that levels of engagement have fallen over the period 2006 to 2010.

Table 11: Working children by degree of involvement, sex, age and population group (%)

Degree of involvement	Male	Female	<10	10-14	15-17	African	2010	LFS	1999
Economic	14	14	6	15	19	16	14	17	29
Household chores	8	13	3	10	18	11	11	7	5
School maintenance	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
None	78	72	91	74	62	72	75	75	64
Total	**100**	**100**		**100**	**100**	**100**		**100**	**100**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8

Child labour composite indicator

8 Child labour composite indicator

A set of indicators has been established for the purposes of monitoring the Child Labour Programme of Action. The indicators monitor different aspects of child labour that are possible to measure through an instrument such as the SAYP. Any child who is rated as being vulnerable in respect of any one of the indicators is counted as being in child labour.

The composite child labour indicator combines the indicators below. Involvement in one or more of these types of work classifies the child as being engaged in child labour:

- **Indicator 1:** Where the child is reported as doing work that is prohibited by the Basic Conditions of Employment Act (BCEA), excluding its regulations. This is where a child has answered 'yes' to doing any of the following types of "market" work: (a) working for a wage, salary, commission or any payment in kind (including domestic work), or (b) helping without pay in any kind of business run by the child's household. Running their own business is not considered, although it is classified as "market" work, as it is not prohibited by the BCEA
  - For a child 15 years old and younger, this includes all such work, irrespective of the number of hours worked, over the last 12 months
  - For a child of 16 or 17 years old, this includes these kinds of work only if the child worked more than 40 hours in the last 7 days.

- **Indicator 2:** Where the child has worked long hours on all types of work combined. Hours that a child is reported as working are counted regarding the following kinds of work: (a) any type of "market" work; (b) any type of non-market "economic" work, including fetching water and firewood; (c) any household tasks, including housework, caring for children and others, and shopping for household use, plus (d) school-related work unrelated to study, such as maintenance and cleaning. The hours used in the calculations refer to the hours worked during the preceding week. Different hour-based cut-offs are used for different age groups, since children have different levels of vulnerability when they are younger compared to when they are older. The cut-offs are as follows:
  - For children under 10, 14 hours per week
  - For children 10-15, 21 hours per week
  - For children 16 or 17 years old, when attending school, 21 hours per week; when not attending school, 40 hours per week, which is the maximum normal hours proposed to be set in new BCEA regulations.

- **Indicator 3:** Where the child was doing "market" work that interfered with schooling:
  - Where the child is 15 years or younger (and thus subject to the provisions on compulsory schooling), if the child does not attend school and is engaged in any type of "market" work, or
  - Where the child was 16 or 17 years, and was attending school, but was doing more than 21 hours on "market" work (because this is likely to impact on homework or school).

- **Indicator 4:** Where the child was absent from school or experienced difficulties at school because of work-related activities:
  - If the child was absent from school for more than five days in the past year, because the child was working in a household or non-household business, helping at home with household tasks, looking after siblings, looking after a sick household member, or looking after their own child/ren.

- **Indicator 5:** Where the child was doing hazardous work, namely:
  - If the child suffered an injury that prevented them from going to work in the last 12 months while doing work activities, or
  - Worked with explosives or chemicals, carried heavy loads at work, worked at night, or operated any machinery or heavy equipment or power tools at work.

Overall a total of 821 000 children – 75% of the total aged 7-17 years – were found to be in child labour.

Figure 12 below reveals that the prevalence of child labour increases markedly with age, from 5% in the youngest age group to 10% in the oldest age group. Girls are slightly more likely than boys to be in child labour. African children are markedly more likely than Coloured or White children to be labouring. (The Indian group is probably too small to produce reliable

results.) Geographically, children in deep rural areas are the most likely to be labouring, with 11% in this position. Children in commercial farming areas – at 8% - are also disproportionately likely to be in child labour.

Figure 12: Prevalence of child labour

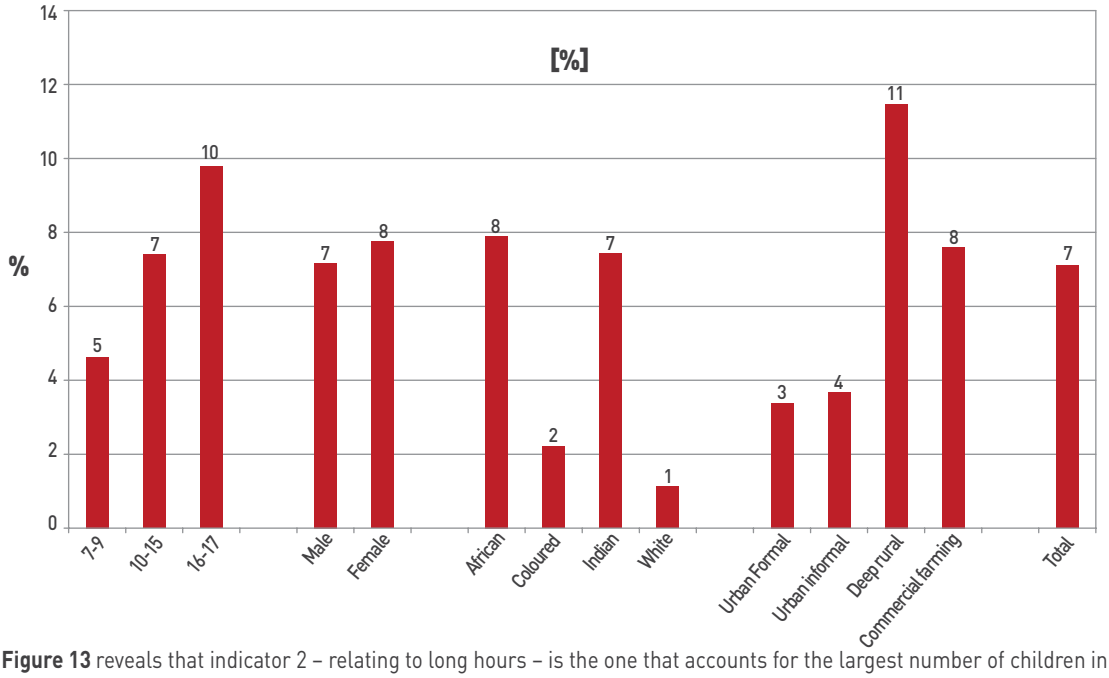
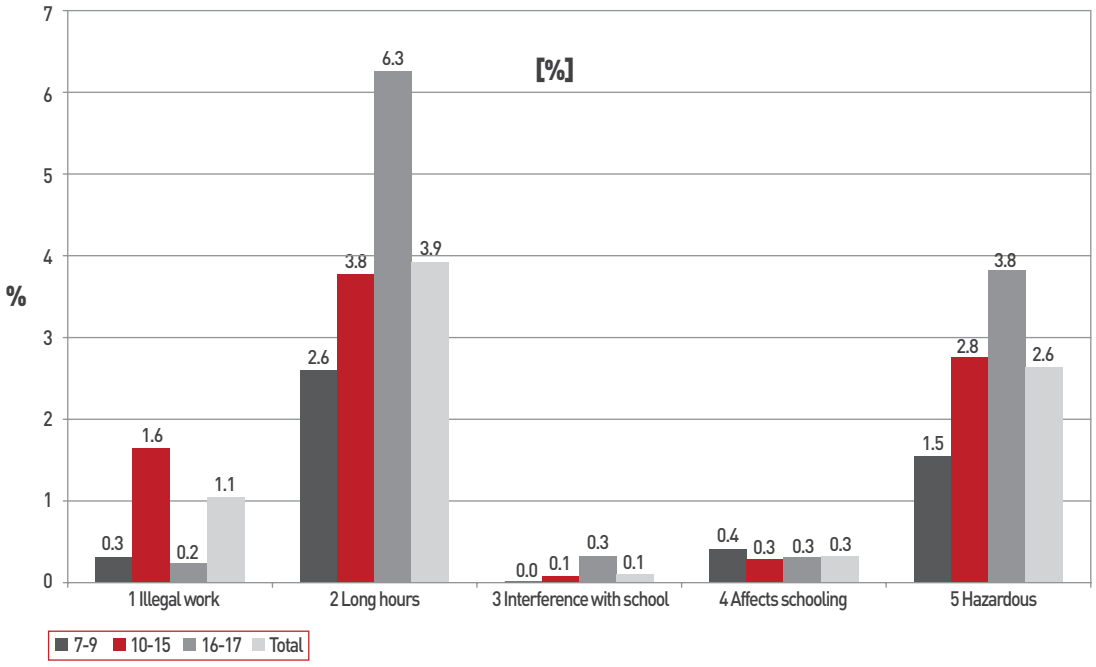


Figure 13 reveals that indicator 2 – relating to long hours – is the one that accounts for the largest number of children in child labour. Hazardous work is next most common. For both these indicators, the degree of risk increases with age.

For work that is illegal in terms of the BCEA, in contrast, it is children aged 10-16 years who are most at risk, although only 1.6% of this age group are affected. The numbers for whom work appears to interfere with or affect schooling are very small in percentage terms, at less than half a percent for each of the age groups for both indicators.

Figure 13: Child labour indicators by age group



Indicators 2 (long hours) and 5 (hazardous work) are worth investigating in more detail because of the number of children affected.

Figure 14: Indicator 2: Long hours

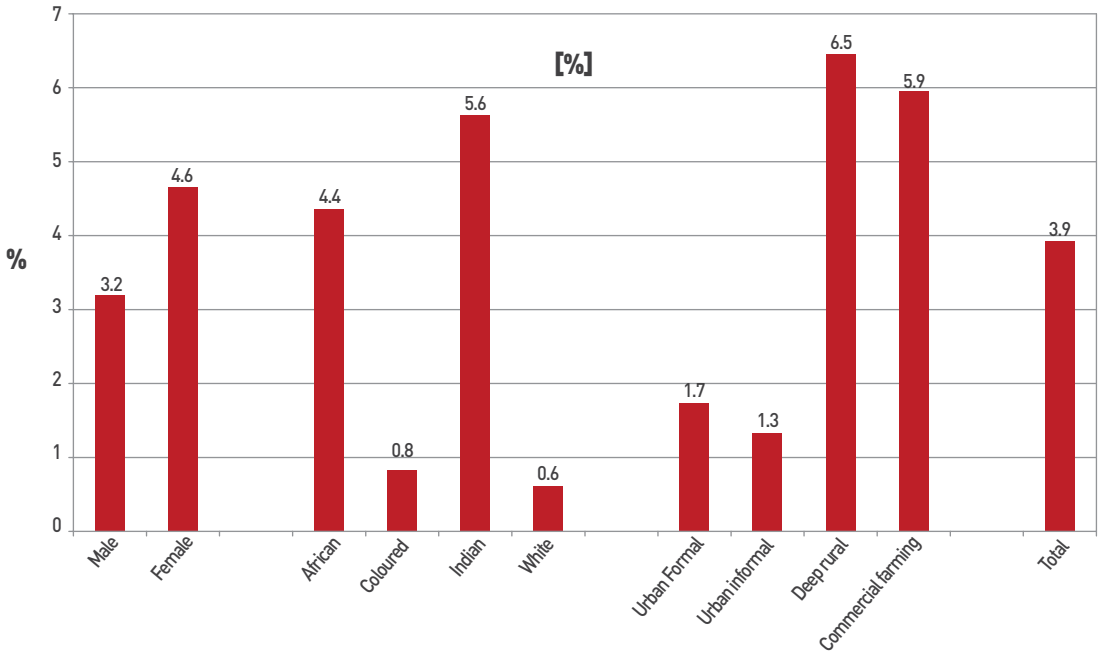
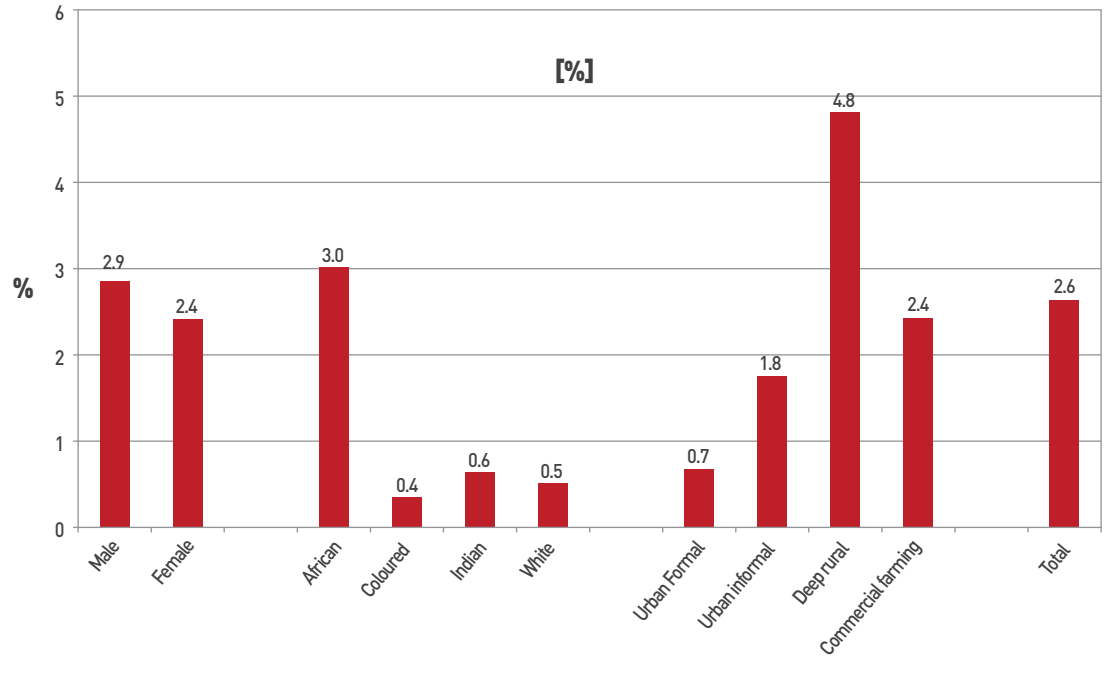


Figure 14 reveals that girls are noticeably more likely than boys to work long hours. If we ignore the probably unreliable indicator for Indian children, African children are far more likely than others to work long hours. Geographically, deep rural is again the most "risky" area, but there is less of a difference between deep rural and commercial farming areas than for the overall indicator.

Figure 15 shows boys to be somewhat more vulnerable than girls in respect of hazardous work. African children are again much more vulnerable than their peers in other population groups. Deep rural children are again most vulnerable, followed by those in commercial farming areas. However, on this indicator the difference in vulnerability between the deep rural children and those in commercial farming areas is marked.

Figure 15: Indicator 5: Hazardous work

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In conclusion

9 In conclusion

While there have been some changes in instrument over the years, analysis of the SAYP 2010 generally reveals patterns that are consistent with those shown by the two earlier surveys in 1999 and 2006. The SAYP 2010 again suggests that while levels of engagement in market economic work are low and there seems to be limited impact on schooling, South Africa still does have issues to address in respect of child work and labour. For example, levels of engagement in non-market economic work – and in particular in fetching of fuel and water, remain high.

Children living in deep rural areas are more badly affected on virtually all other indicators than children in other areas. Children in commercial farming areas also fare badly on many indicators. In terms of population group, African children fare worse than others on virtually all indicators. To the extent that gender differences are seen, it is often girls who are at a disadvantage.

Finally, while the numbers involved in child labour are relatively low, and seem to have fallen over the years, the number affected – estimated at 821 000 – is large in absolute terms. These children need action.