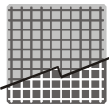



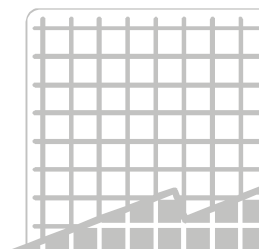
# South Africa in transition



**Statistics  
South Africa**

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Selected findings from the October household survey of 1999  
and changes that have occurred between 1995 and 1999



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October household survey of 1999  
and changes that have occurred between  
1995 and 1999**

**Statistics South Africa  
2001**

**Pali Lehohla  
Statistician-General**

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Graphs in this publication were produced on software which does not support South African style conventions. As a result, decimal places in graphs are indicated by a point. The South African convention, however, is to denote decimals with a comma, and for consistency this is done throughout the text and tables of the publication.

# Executive summary

This report looks at whether or not life circumstances have changed in South Africa in recent years, and if so, how they have changed. It presents some indicative findings from Stats SA's 1999 *October household survey* (OHS), which gathered detailed information on approximately 107 000 people living in a probability sample of 30 000 households across the country. The report also compares some key data in October 1999 with data from the October 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998 surveys.

## Findings regarding individuals

### *The population of South Africa*

Stats SA estimated that the size of the South African population was 43,3 million in October 1999. It had increased to this number from 40,6 million in October 1996, the time of the first population census after democracy was achieved in the country in April 1994. As many as 77,8% of the population was estimated to be African, with 10,5% being white, 8,9% coloured and 2,6% Indian. The classification into four groups, based on the old apartheid regime, is still used here. By examining how people of different groups are faring now, it gives us an indication of the extent of change that has taken place in South Africa, particularly in relation to those who were previously disadvantaged.

The group of people that was previously the most disadvantaged, i.e. the African population is gradually increasing in size, not only in actual numbers (from 30,6 million in 1995 to 33,7 million in 1999), but also in the proportion it represents of the total population (from 77,1% in 1995 to 77,8% in 1999). On the other hand, the group that was previously most privileged, i.e. the white population group is estimated to be growing slightly in actual numbers (from 4,4 million in 1995 to 4,6 million in 1999), but proportionately it is gradually shrinking from 11,2% in 1995 to 10,5% in 1999).

### *Age distribution of the population*

The age distribution of the South African population resembles the structure of a developing rather than a developed country. There are proportionately more young than older people.

The most frequently spoken official first home language in South Africa in 1999 was isiZulu (spoken by 23,5% of South Africans), followed by isiXhosa (17,6%) and then Afrikaans (13,7%). The least frequently spoken official home languages were Tshivenda (2,8%), siSwati (2,5%) and isiNdebele (1,5%).

Since October 1995, there has been a slight increase in the proportion of people speaking indigenous African languages as their home language, and a slight decrease in the proportion of those speaking both English and Afrikaans.

### ***Urban and non-urban residents***

In October 1999, 53,9% of the population was estimated to be living in urban and 46,1% in non-urban areas. These percentages varied considerably by province. For example, at the one extreme, 96,5% of Gauteng and 88,9% of Western Cape residents lived in urban areas. At the other extreme, 11,6% of Northern Province and 33,2% of Eastern Cape residents lived in urban areas.

The non-urban population in South Africa is overwhelmingly African. The pattern of movement into urban and non-urban areas at different life stages affects mainly Africans. Both the young and the elderly Africans tend to live in non-urban areas, while those of working age tend to live in urban areas. This pattern is more marked for African men than it is for African women.

### ***Education***

Formal education in South Africa is presently reaching the vast majority of children between the ages of seven to fifteen years, since more than 94% of children in this age category attends school. But actual educational attainment among school-goers (as well as adults) tends to be rather low. Children seem to be struggling to complete both primary and secondary school. Relatively few people attend tertiary educational institutions.

Regarding post-school education, the overall number of people who were attending formal educational institutions in South Africa, *excluding schools*, tended to be rather low. Altogether, in October 1999, about 288 000 people were at universities, 232 000 were at a college and 215 000 were at a technikon at that time.

In October 1999, 16% of South Africans aged 20 years or more said that they could not read in at least one language. Ability to read in at least one language varied by age, population group, sex and urban or non-urban place of residence. The highest proportion of non-readers was found among the 4,5 million African women aged 20 years or more, living in non-urban areas (26,6%).

### ***The labour market***

In October 1999, there were an estimated 26,3 million people living in South Africa aged between 15 and 65 years. This is considered to be the population of working age. Of these people, when using the official definition of unemployment, an estimated 12,8 million were classified as being not economically active, while 3,2 million said they were unemployed and had looked for work in the four weeks prior to the interview and 10,4 million were employed.

When looking at labour market trends between October 1995 and October 1999, and when using the official definition of unemployment, the following trends emerged. The number of people who are not economically active has increased gradually over time, from 12,8 million in 1995 to 13,5 million 1999. The number of those who are economically active, i.e. both the employed and the unemployed, has, however, increased more steeply, from 11,4 million in 1995 to 12,8 million in 1999. An increasing number of people, over time, are entering the labour market.

The number of employed people (in both the formal and the informal sectors) has also increased over time, but this increase has been rather gradual, from 9,6 million in 1995 to 10,4 million in 1999. The number of unemployed people, using the official definition, has also increased from 1,8 million in 1995 to 3,2 million in 1999. New job creation in both the

formal and the informal sectors is not keeping pace with the demand for work, as increasing numbers of people, for example those who were previously scholars and students, become available for work and look for work.

### ***Unemployment and education***

There is a complex relationship between education and unemployment. The lowest unemployment rate, using the official definition, is found among those with a tertiary education (8,5%), followed by those with no formal education (16,5%). The unemployment rates among those with at least some education up to matriculation are higher. For example, it is 34,7% among those with some, but not complete, secondary education. This results in a curvilinear distribution.

There has been a change in the occupational structure among employed South Africans within each population group.

Among employed African males, there has been a shift from elementary to artisan and operator occupations. Thus, in 1995, 34,4% of employed African men were in elementary jobs, while 35,3% were in operator or artisan jobs. In 1999, however, the proportion in elementary jobs had decreased to 21,8%, but it had increased to 47,1% for those in operator and artisan jobs. But this trend is not evident among employed African females.

Among white men and women, there is an ongoing shift into the higher level occupations. Thus, in October 1995, 41,8% of employed white people were working in management, professional or technical occupations. But, in October 1999, as many as 51,0% of employed white people were working in management, professional or technical occupations.

### ***The formal and the informal sector***

In October 1999, there were 6,6 million people in formal jobs, excluding agriculture, while 1,9 million were in informal sector jobs, 0,9 million in domestic service and 1,0 million in agriculture.

Formal sector employment significantly outnumbers informal sector employment. Over recent years, however, the October household surveys have been recording increasing numbers of employed people in the informal sector. To some extent, the increases in informal sector employment can be attributed to improved methods of conducting the household surveys. In particular, more recent surveys appear to have captured subsistence farming more adequately than previous surveys. The recent pilot *Labour force survey* of February 2000, showed an even further increase in subsistence farming, since even more probing questions were asked compared with the OHS of 1999.

### ***Migrant work***

During the apartheid years, a large number of people – and particularly African men – lived most of their working life apart from their families as migrant workers. The laws that fostered large-scale migrant work no longer exist, but other factors still result in significant numbers of people living apart from their families in order to earn an income. In the October household survey of 1999, a migrant worker was defined as a person who is absent from home for more than a month each year to work or to seek work. For the purposes of the definition, work was defined to include both self-employment and working for someone else as an employee.

Migrant work is far more common for African people than it is for those of other population groups. As many as 15,4% of African men aged 15 years or more were migrant workers, and 6,9% of African women, giving an overall percentage of 10,9%. Coloured people were the next most likely group to contain migrant workers, but the incidence was only 2,3%. In all population groups, men were more likely than women, to be migrant workers.

## **Findings regarding households**

This report examines changes in households regarding access to infrastructure and services. It makes use of data from the household section of the OHSs from 1995 to 1999, which covers a wide range of these types of variables. Access to housing, main source of water, toilet facilities, the main source of energy for cooking, heating and lighting, access to a telephone or a cellular phone, methods of refuse removal, and access to health care are all examined.

### ***Housing***

Between 1995 and 1999, the proportion of households living in formal dwellings in South Africa showed an overall gradual increase, from 65,8% in 1995 to 69,9% in 1999. But there was also a slight increase over time in the proportion of households living in informal dwellings, from 7,5% in 1995 to 12,3% in 1999. On the other hand, there was a steady decrease in the proportion of households living in traditional dwellings, from 15,3% in 1995 to 10,9% in 1999. The proportion of households living in other types of dwellings such as caravans also showed a slight decrease over time.

### ***Water***

In the five years from 1995 to 1999, there was a gradual increase in the proportion of households that had access to clean water (piped water inside the dwelling or on site, communal tap or public tanker). In 1995, 78,5% of households had access to clean water, rising to 83,4% in 1999. At the same time there was a decrease in the proportion of households using water from boreholes and rain-water tanks, from 10,0% in 1995 to 4,7% in 1999. The proportion of those households obtaining water from rivers, streams and dams, remained approximately constant over time (11,4% in 1995, and 11,8% in 1999), possibly indicating that improved access to clean water had not significantly affected previously disadvantaged households in deep rural areas.

### ***Electricity***

Over the five-year period under consideration, there has been a gradual increase in the use of electricity for lighting, from 63,5% in 1995 to 69,8% in 1999, and a gradual decrease in the use of paraffin and candles.

While more than half of households in South Africa (55,4% in 1995 and 53,0% in 1999) relied mainly on electricity for cooking from 1995 to 1999, this proportion remained more or less constant between 1995 and 1999. This may be due, in part, to costs of electricity and appliances. Proportionally fewer households were using wood to cook in 1999 than in 1995. On the other hand, the proportion of households using mainly paraffin for cooking actually increased during the period.



As with cooking, electricity was the most common energy source used for heating purposes by South African households. However, an overall decrease occurred in the proportion of households using electricity for heating purposes, from 53,8% in 1995 to 48,0% in 1999, probably partly due to costs. The use of wood for heating also showed a downward trend during this time period, but the use of paraffin and other sources such as coal and dung increased over time.

### ***Refuse removal***

Throughout the five years from 1995 to 1999, there has not been a marked change in the proportions of households (approximately 55%) who have access to formal refuse removal services.

### ***Telephones***

The proportion of households with a telephone in the dwelling or a mobile telephone increased from about 29,1% to about 34,9% over the period. The proportion of households who had to seek this service outside the home environment consequently decreased.

### ***Health care***

The OHSs from 1995 to 1998 recorded information about individuals who required medical attention during the twelve months prior to the survey. In each of the four years under comparison, public facilities were the most commonly used health-care facility in South Africa. There was a gradual increase over time in the use of public health-care facilities, from 67,8% in 1995 to 69,4% in 1999; and a gradual decrease in the use of private facilities during this time.

### ***Sanitation***

Between October 1995 and October 1999, there has been a possible slight decrease in the proportion of households with access to flush or chemical toilets, from 56,9% in October 1995 to 55,8% in October 1999. At the same time there has been a possible slight increase in the proportion of households with informal facilities such as a river, stream or bush, from 8,3% in 1995 to 10,6% in 1999.

**PLEASE TURN THE PAGE**

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

The South African government remains firmly committed to *a better life for all*. This report, through examining a range of indicators, looks at whether or not life circumstances have indeed changed in South Africa since the election of a democratic government, and if so, how they have changed.

- It presents a selection of indicative findings from Stats SA's 1999 *October household survey* (OHS), which gathered detailed information on approximately 107 000 people living in 30 000 households across the country.
- The report also compares some key data in October 1999 with data from the October 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998 surveys.

The OHS is an annual survey, based on a probability sample of a large number of households (30 000 in 1995, 16 000 in 1996, 30 000 in 1997, 20 000 in 1998 and 30 000 in 1999, depending on the availability of funding). It covers a range of development and poverty indicators.

The findings in this report need to be viewed with some caution, since they are based on five separate cross-sectional sample surveys. A longer time frame is required to confirm these trends.

### Sampling of the successive OHS surveys

Altogether, seven October household surveys have been conducted.

- The first OHS was undertaken in October 1993. This survey is not directly comparable with the later surveys, since it excluded the former Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei (TBVC states).
- The 1994 OHS was the first to cover the entire country, including the former TBVC states. Interviews were conducted with respondents in 30 000 households in 1 000 enumeration areas (EAs). Thirty households were visited in each EA.
- In 1995, the OHS was also conducted among 30 000 households. However, the sample was more widely dispersed throughout the country. Three thousand, rather than 1 000 EAs were sampled, and interviews were conducted in 10 households in each EA.
- In 1996, the survey was conducted in November, since enumeration for the 1996 population census took place in October. Due to time and financial constraints, 16 000 households were visited in 1 600 EAs. The EAs were less dispersed than in previous years, in that the survey was conducted in 800 pairs of adjacent EAs.
- In 1997, the sample size was once again increased to 30 000 households, selected from 3 000 sampled EAs.
- In 1998, due to budget constraints, the sample size was reduced to 20 000 households in 2 000 EAs.

- In 1999, the sample size was again increased to 30 000 households. This was the first time that a master sample was used to select the sample of households to be interviewed. The survey was funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom.

## **Sample design for the various OHSs**

The OHSs of 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999 were independent cross-sectional surveys, and different samples were designed for each of them.

The OHS of 1999 was drawn from a master sample, in which the same primary sampling units (PSUs) will be visited for a variety of other surveys, including the twice yearly Labour Force Survey (LFS).

The database of enumerator areas (EAs), as established during the demarcation phase of Census '96, constituted the sampling frame for selecting EAs for the 1997 and 1998 OHSs. It also formed the sample frame for OHS 1999. The surveys prior to 1996 were based on selecting areas within magisterial districts.

The sampling procedure for the master sample in 1999 involved explicit stratification by province and, within each province, by urban and non-urban areas. Independent samples of PSUs were drawn for each stratum within each province. The smaller provinces were given a disproportionately larger number of PSUs than the bigger provinces.

## **Technical notes**

### ***Weighting procedures***

The 1999 OHS, in common with 1997 and 1998, was weighted to estimates of the population size. The estimates are based on the population census of October 1996, as adjusted by a post-enumeration survey (PES), using post-stratification by province, sex and five-year interval age groups. In 1998 and 1999, relative scaling was also done, to cater for population group and urban/non-urban splits.

The 1996 OHS was also weighted to the PES-adjusted count of Census '96. However, because of the smaller sample size and the more clustered sample of households that was drawn, different weighting procedures were used, as discussed in the 1996 OHS statistical release.

The 1995 OHS has been re-weighted to reflect estimates of population size using the 1996 population census. The previous OHS 1995 releases, both provincial and national, were based on weights derived from the 1991 population census. The data that are reported here for OHS 1995 are therefore not presently directly comparable with the previously published OHS figures for 1995.

### ***Confidence intervals***

Stats SA have calculated 95% confidence limits for some key variables, in 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999. These are available on request to users who require this information.

### ***Urbanisation***

The urban population constituted 54,1% of the total population according to *Census '96*. In the weighting matrix for the 1999 OHS, the proportionate distribution of the population by urban and non-urban areas was based on the population census of 1996. The urban/non-urban proportion is one of the variables used to weight successive OHSs to the population distribution of *Census '96* (the others in 1999 were age, sex and population group), thereby rendering them comparable in respect of *other* variables. It follows that urbanisation cannot be detected from successive OHSs, but will be measured by comparing *Census '96* with *Census 2001*.

### ***Official and expanded unemployment rates***

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) uses the following definition of unemployment as its *official* definition. The *unemployed* are those people within the *economically active population* who:

- (a) did not work during the seven days prior to the interview,
- (b) want to work and are available to start work within a week of the interview, and
- (c) have taken active steps to look for work or to start some form of self-employment in the four weeks prior to the interview.

The definition of *expanded unemployment* includes criteria (a) and (b) but it excludes criterion (c).

Among those who are included in the expanded but not the official definition of unemployment will be discouraged job seekers (those who said they were unemployed but had not taken active steps to find work in the four weeks prior to the interview).

Stats SA reports on the situation of the unemployed using both the official and the expanded definition. In the present economic climate, there is a proportion of discouraged work seekers who face constraints, for example high travel costs and lack of transport, when seeking work. Their life circumstances should be taken into account.

### ***Dealing with the unspecified responses***

Unless otherwise stated, all graphs and tables in the report exclude those who did not answer a specific question.

## **Definitions of terms**

A *household* consists of a single person or a group of people who live together for at least four nights a week, who eat together and who share resources.

*Population group* describes the racial classification of a particular group of South African citizens. The previous government used legislation to impose this type of classification, to divide the South African population into distinct groupings on which to base apartheid policies. For quite a different reason it remains important for Stats SA to continue to use this

classification wherever possible. It clearly indicates the effects of discrimination of the past, and permits monitoring of policies to alleviate discrimination. Note that, in the past, population group was based on a legal definition, but it is now based on self-perceptions and self-classification. An *African* person is someone who classifies him/herself as such. The same applies to a *coloured, Indian or white* person.

A *hostel* is a communal living quarter for workers, provided by a public organisation such as a local authority, or a private organisation such as a mining company. These were residential dormitories established for migrant workers during the apartheid era, and they continue to house people working in certain industries, such as the mining industry.

*Institutions* are communal temporary, semi-permanent or permanent living arrangements for people in special circumstances, for example prisons, police cells, school boarding facilities, homes for the aged or the disabled, hotels and hospitals.

The *working age population* includes all those aged between 15 and 65 years.

The *economically active population* consists of both those who are employed and those who are unemployed.

The *employed* are those who performed work for pay, profit or family gain in the seven days prior to the household survey interview, or who were absent from work during these seven days, but did have some form of paid work that they would return to.

The *official unemployment rate*: see earlier description.

The *expanded unemployment rate*: see earlier description.

The people who are *out of the labour market* or who are *not economically active* are those who are not available for work. This category includes full-time scholars and students, full-time homemakers, those who are retired, and those who are unable or unwilling to work.

*Workers* include the self-employed, employers and employees.

The *formal sector* includes all businesses which are registered for tax purposes, and which have a VAT number.

The *informal sector* consists of those businesses that are unregistered and do not have a VAT number. They are generally small in nature, and are seldom run from business premises. Instead, they are run from homes, street pavements or other informal arrangements.

*Primary industries* include agriculture, forestry and fishing, and mining and quarrying.

*Secondary industries* include manufacturing, electricity and other utilities, and construction.

*Tertiary industries* include trade, transport, financial and business services, and social, personal and community services.

*Type of employment* refers to whether or not the person is self-employed, or works as an employee, or both, or else works as a domestic worker in a household.

*Location* refers to whether the person lives in an urban or non-urban area. The definitions apply for 1995 to 1999. With new local authorities with new boundaries, having recently been established, these definitions may change in future.

- An *urban* area is one that was legally proclaimed as being urban under previous legislation. These include towns, cities and metropolitan areas.
- A *semi-urban* area is not part of a previously legally proclaimed urban area, but adjoins it. Informal settlements are examples of these types of areas. In this publication *semi-urban* areas have been *included* with non-urban areas.
- All other areas are classified as *non-urban*, including commercial farms, small settlements, rural villages and other areas, which are further away from towns and cities.

*The type of dwelling* in which households live can be grouped into four categories, as follows:

- *Formal dwellings* include houses, flats, townhouses, rooms, rooms or flatlets;
- *Informal dwellings* comprise shacks or shanties in informal settlements or in back yards;
- *Traditional dwellings* include huts or other dwellings made of traditional materials such as dung and straw; and
- *Other dwellings* include shelters such as houseboats, tents and caravans.

## Summary

This report looks at whether or not life circumstances have changed in South Africa in recent years, and if so, how they have changed. It presents some indicative findings from Stats SA's 1999 *October household survey* (OHS), which gathered detailed information on approximately 107 000 people living in 30 000 households across the country. The report also compares some key data in October 1999 with data from the October 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998 surveys.

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# Chapter 2

## The population of South Africa

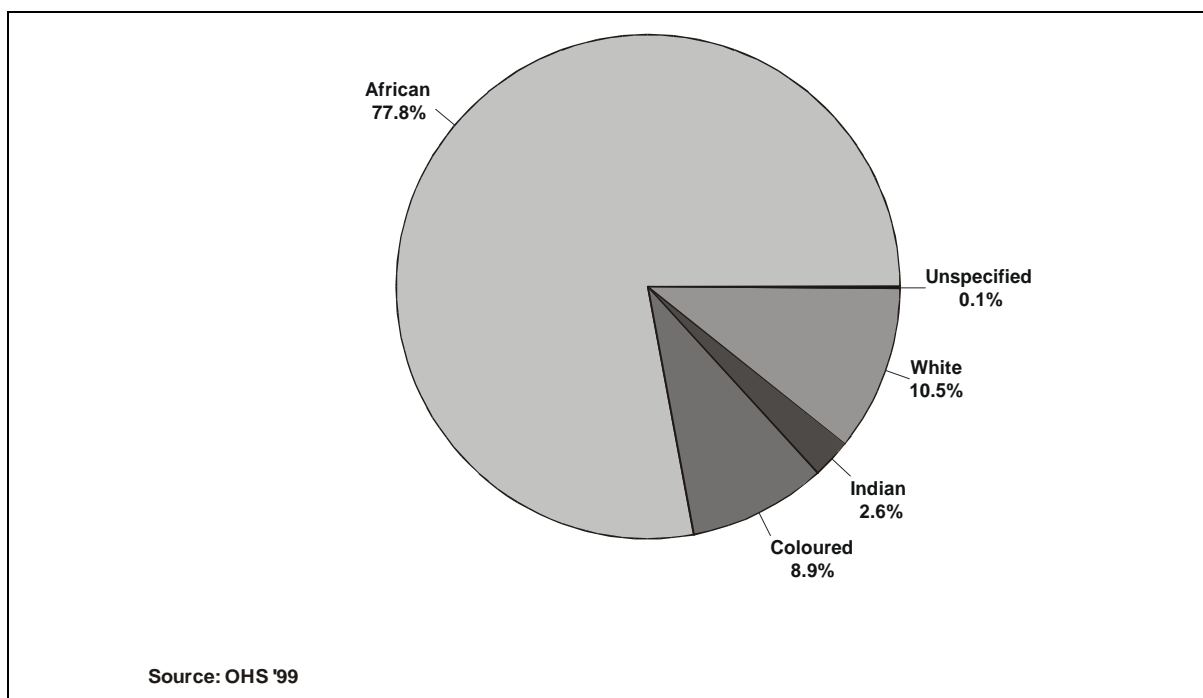
### October 1999

#### The people of South Africa, 1999

Stats SA has estimated that the size of the South African population was 43,3 million in October 1999. It had increased to this number from 40,6 million in October 1996, the time of the first population census after democracy was achieved in the country in April 1994.

Figure 2.1 indicates that 77,8% of the population in October 1999 was estimated to be African, 10,5% white, 8,9% coloured and 2,6% Indian. The classification into four groups, based on the old apartheid regime, is still used here. By examining how people of different groups are faring now, it gives us an indication of the extent of change that has taken place in South Africa, particularly in relation to those who were previously disadvantaged by apartheid.

**Figure 2.1: The population of South Africa by population group, October 1999**

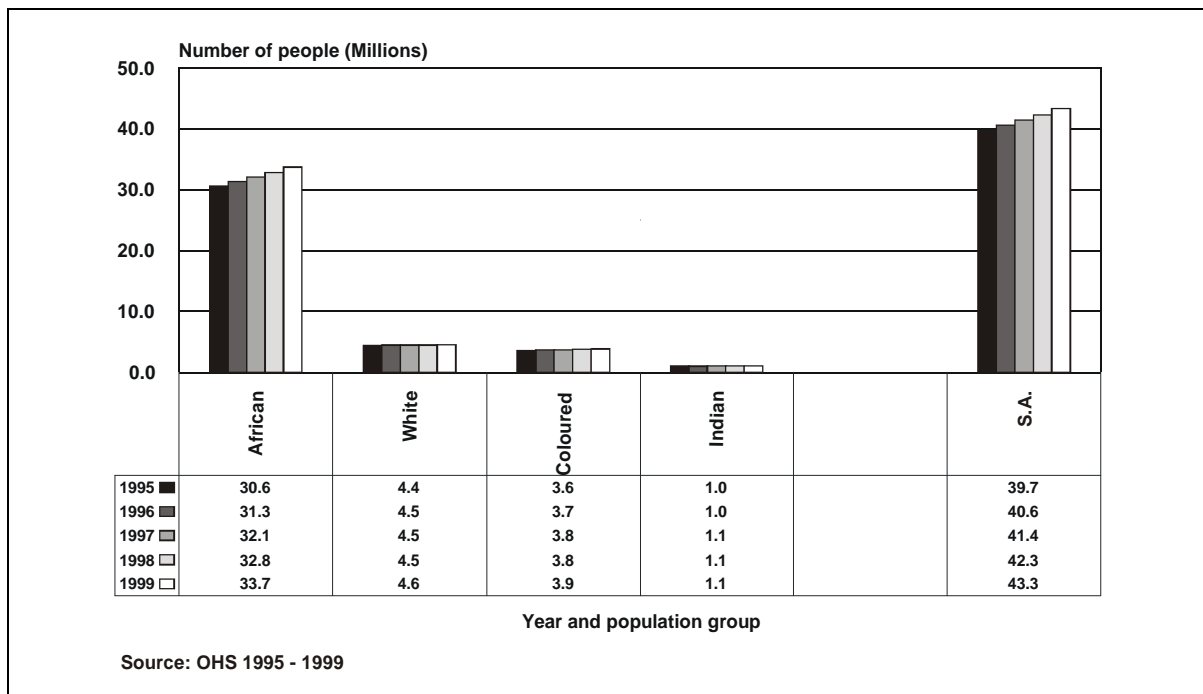


## Population growth in South Africa

The group of people that was previously the most disadvantaged, i.e. the African population is gradually increasing in size, not only in actual numbers, but also in the proportion it represents of the total population. On the other hand, the group that was previously most privileged, i.e. the white population group is estimated to be growing slightly in actual numbers, but proportionately it is gradually shrinking.

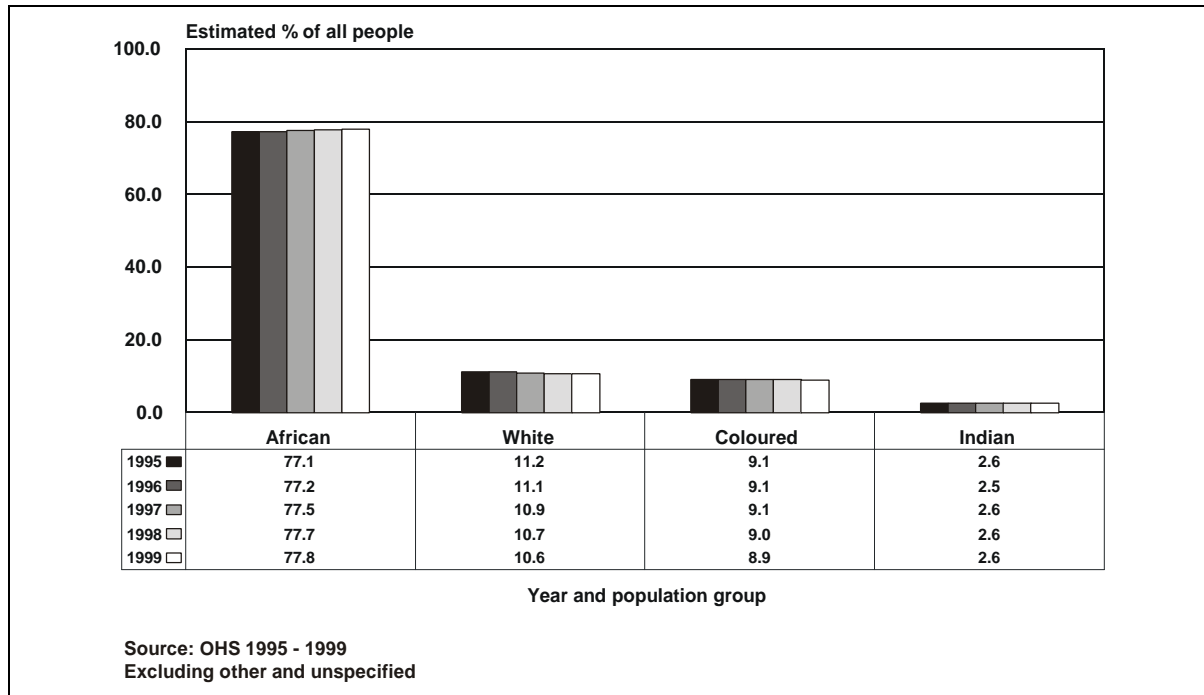
In terms of numbers, Figure 2.2 indicates that the African population grew from an estimated 30,6 million in 1995 to an estimated 33,7 million people in 1999. The white population, on the other hand, grew from 4,4 million to an estimated 4,6 million.

**Figure 2.2: Estimated number of people in South Africa by population group, October 1995 to October 1999**



Regarding percentages, Figure 2.3 indicates that, between October 1995 and October 1999, the proportion of African people increased from 77,1% to an estimated 77,8% of the total population, while the proportion of whites had decreased from 11,2% to an estimated 10,6%.

**Figure 2.3: Estimated percentage of people in each population group in South Africa, October 1995 and October 1999**



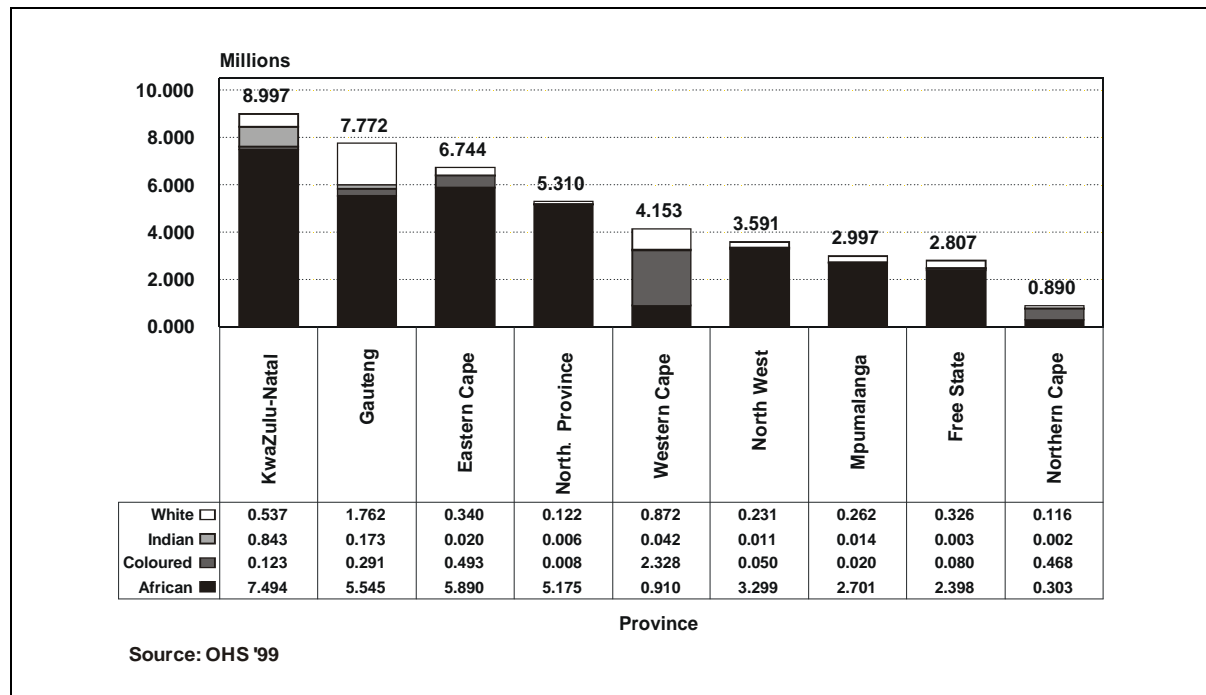
## Provincial populations

KwaZulu-Natal had the largest estimated population size in the country in October 1999, consisting of close to 9,0 million people, followed by Gauteng with 7,8 million and Eastern Cape, with 6,7 million. At the time of Census '96, KwaZulu-Natal had a population of 8,4 million, Gauteng, 7,3 million and Eastern Cape, 6,3 million.

Figure 2.4 shows that:

- Africans constitute the vast majority of people in all provinces except Western and Northern Cape.
- Coloured people, on the other hand, are largely found in Western (2,3 million), Northern (0,5 million), and Eastern Cape (0,5 million).
- The vast majority of the Indian population (0,8 of 1,1 million) lives in KwaZulu-Natal.
- The largest number of whites (1,8 million of 4,6 million) is found in Gauteng, followed by Western Cape (0,9 million) and KwaZulu-Natal (0,5 million).

**Figure 2.4: Population of South Africa by population group and province, October 1999**

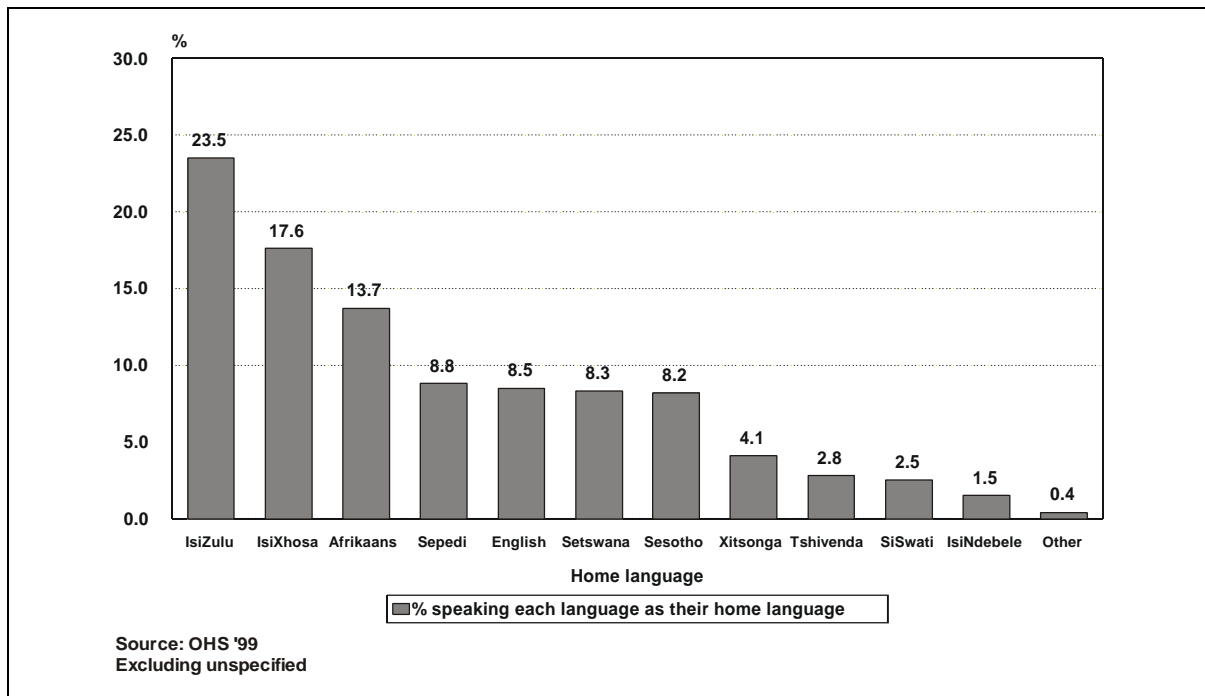


## First home languages in South Africa, 1999

Figure 2.5 shows that:

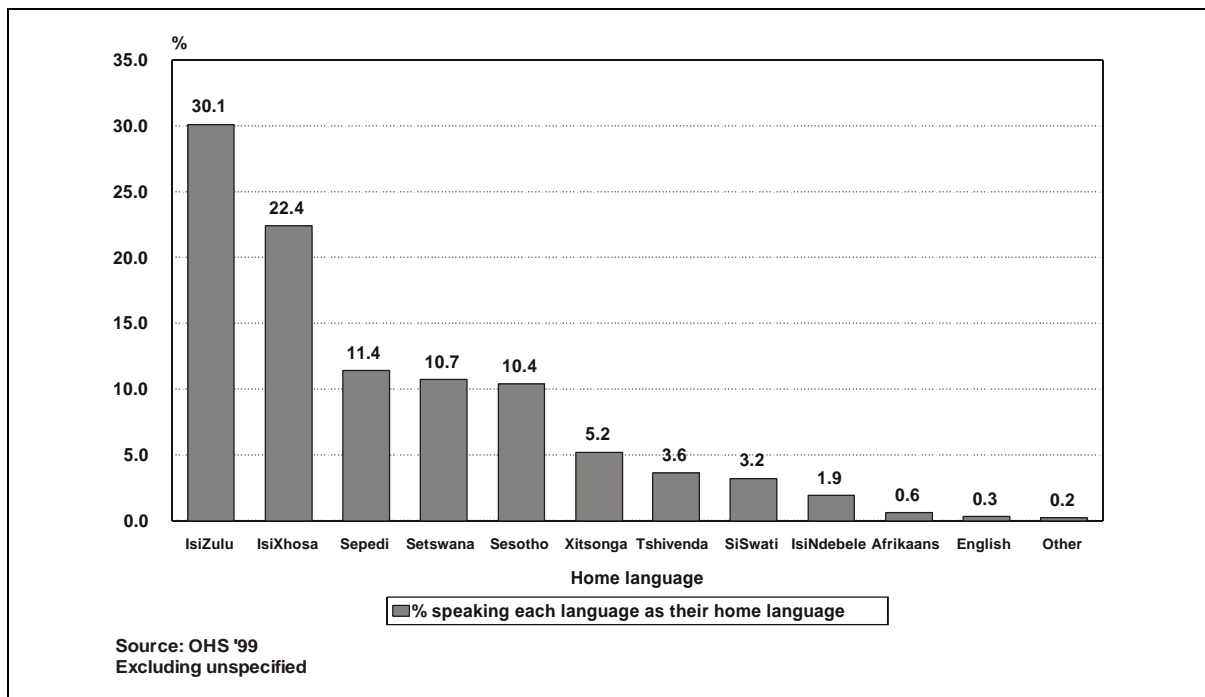
- The most frequently spoken official first home language in South Africa in 1999 was isiZulu (spoken by 23,5% of South Africans), followed by isiXhosa (17,6%) and then Afrikaans (13,7%).
- The least frequently spoken official home languages were Tshivenda (2,8%), siSwati (2,5%) and isiNdebele (1,5%).

**Figure 2.5: First home language, October 1999**



Among Africans, who as we have seen, constitute 77,8% of the population of the country, Figure 2.6 shows that relatively few speak either Afrikaans (0,6%) or English (0,3%) as their first home language. The most common first home language among Africans is isiZulu (30,1%), followed by isiXhosa (22,4%).

**Figure 2.6: First home language among Africans, October 1999**



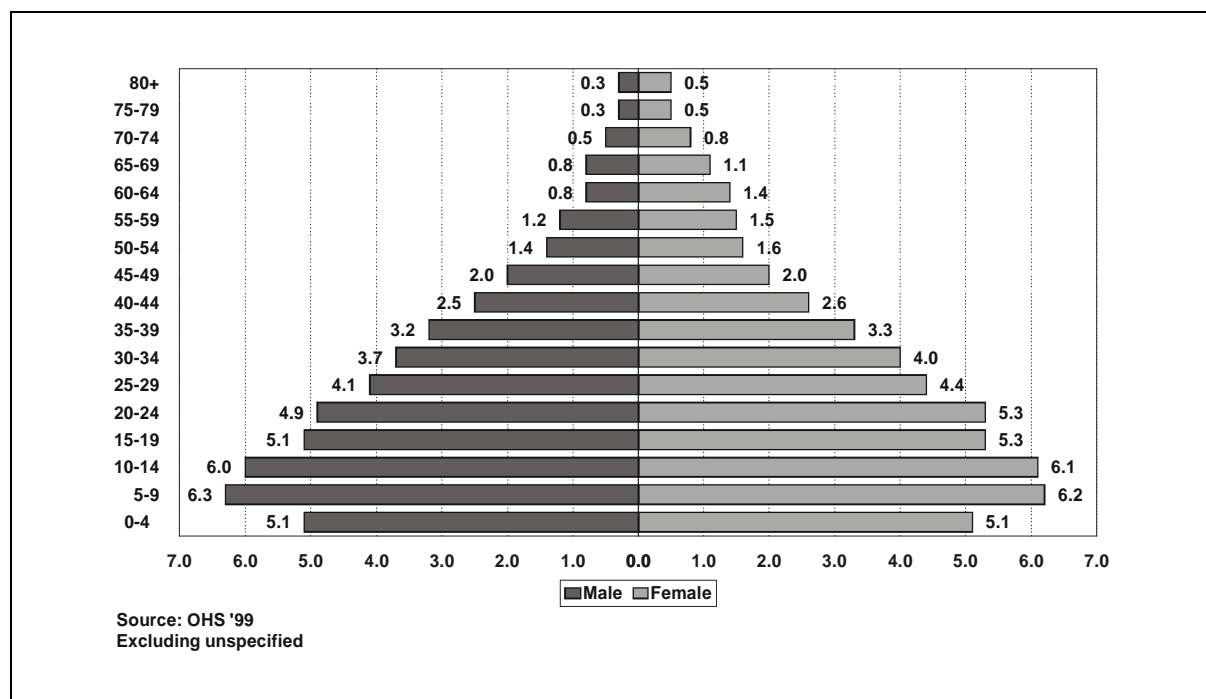
Since October 1995, there has been a slight increase in the proportion of people speaking indigenous African languages as their home language, and a slight decrease in the proportion of those speaking both English and Afrikaans.

## Age distribution of the South African population, 1999

The age distribution of the South African population resembles the structure of a developing rather than a developed country. There are proportionately more young than older people, with the graph tapering significantly with increasing age, as shown in Figure 2.7.

The undercut in the bottom row (those aged 0-4 years) may be due to either under-reporting of children in this age category or else age mis-reporting. Both of these phenomena tend to be common in developing countries.

**Figure 2.7: Age distribution of the total population of South Africa, October 1999**



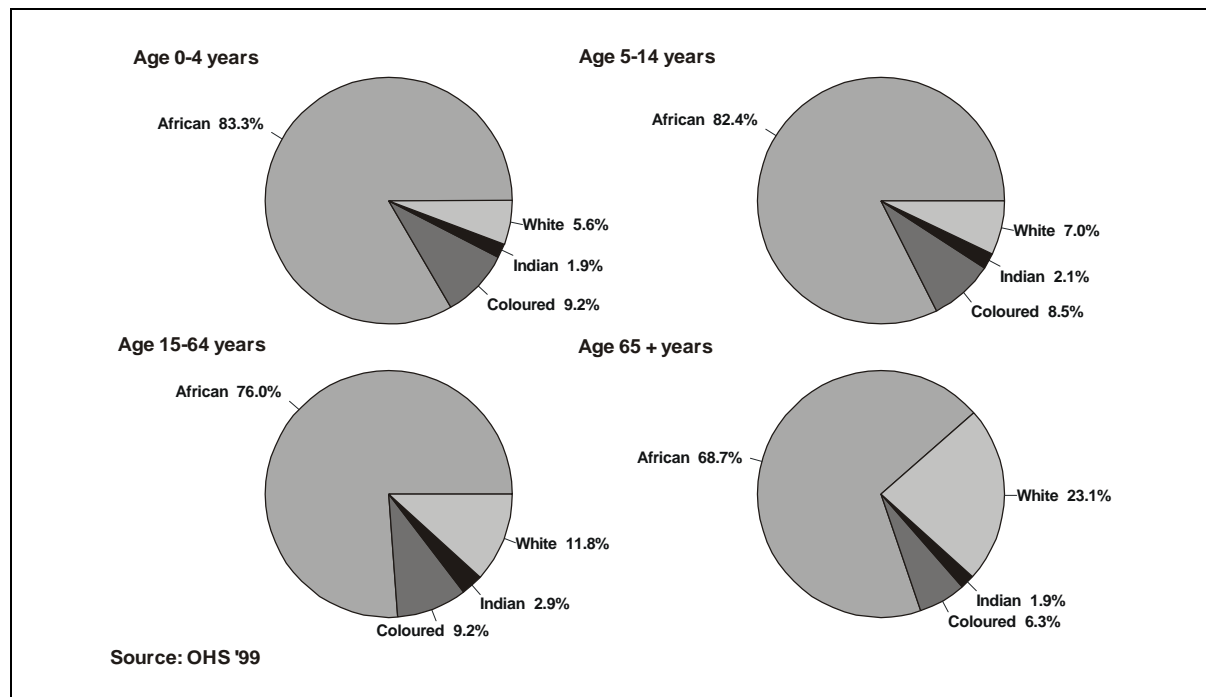
## Proportions in each age category by population group

When examining age distributions in broad bands by population group, clear differences emerge. Figure 2.8 shows that the proportion of Africans tends to decrease as age increases.

- Among children aged 0 to 4 years, 83,3% are African decreasing to 82,4% among those aged 5 to 14 years, while 5,6% of those aged 0 to 4 and 7,0% of those aged 5 to 14 years are white.
- Among those aged 15 to 64 years, 76,0% are African, and 11,8% are white.
- Among those aged 65 years or more, 68,7% of the population are African, while 23,1% are white.

The previously disadvantaged tend, therefore, to be concentrated in the lower age groups. Future attention to address past inequalities should take this age distribution into account. For example, schools will increasingly need to cater for those from previously disadvantaged or impoverished backgrounds.

**Figure 2.8: The population of South Africa in specific age categories by population group, October 1999**



## Age distribution by population group

Figure 2.9, where the age distribution for each population group is shown separately, clearly indicates the extent of previous disadvantage by population group.

- The age pyramid of the African population resembles that of a typical developing country. This group was previously the most disadvantaged.
- The coloured population, the second most disadvantaged group, shows some movement towards a demographic transition, as does the Indian group.
- The age pyramid of the white population resembles that of a highly developed country. There are relatively few children, and a larger proportion of adults and older people.

## Summary

These were an estimated 43,3 million people living in South Africa in October 1999: 77,8% of the population was estimated to be African, 10,5% white, 8,9% coloured and 2,6% Indian. The classification into four groups, based on the old apartheid regime, is still used here. By examining how people of different groups are faring now, it gives us an indication of the extent of change that has taken place in South Africa, particularly in relation to those who were previously disadvantaged.

The group of people that was previously the most disadvantaged, i.e. the African population is gradually increasing in size, not only in actual numbers, but also in the proportion it represents of the total population. On the other hand, the group that was previously most privileged, i.e. the white population group is estimated to be growing slightly in actual numbers, but proportionately it is gradually shrinking.

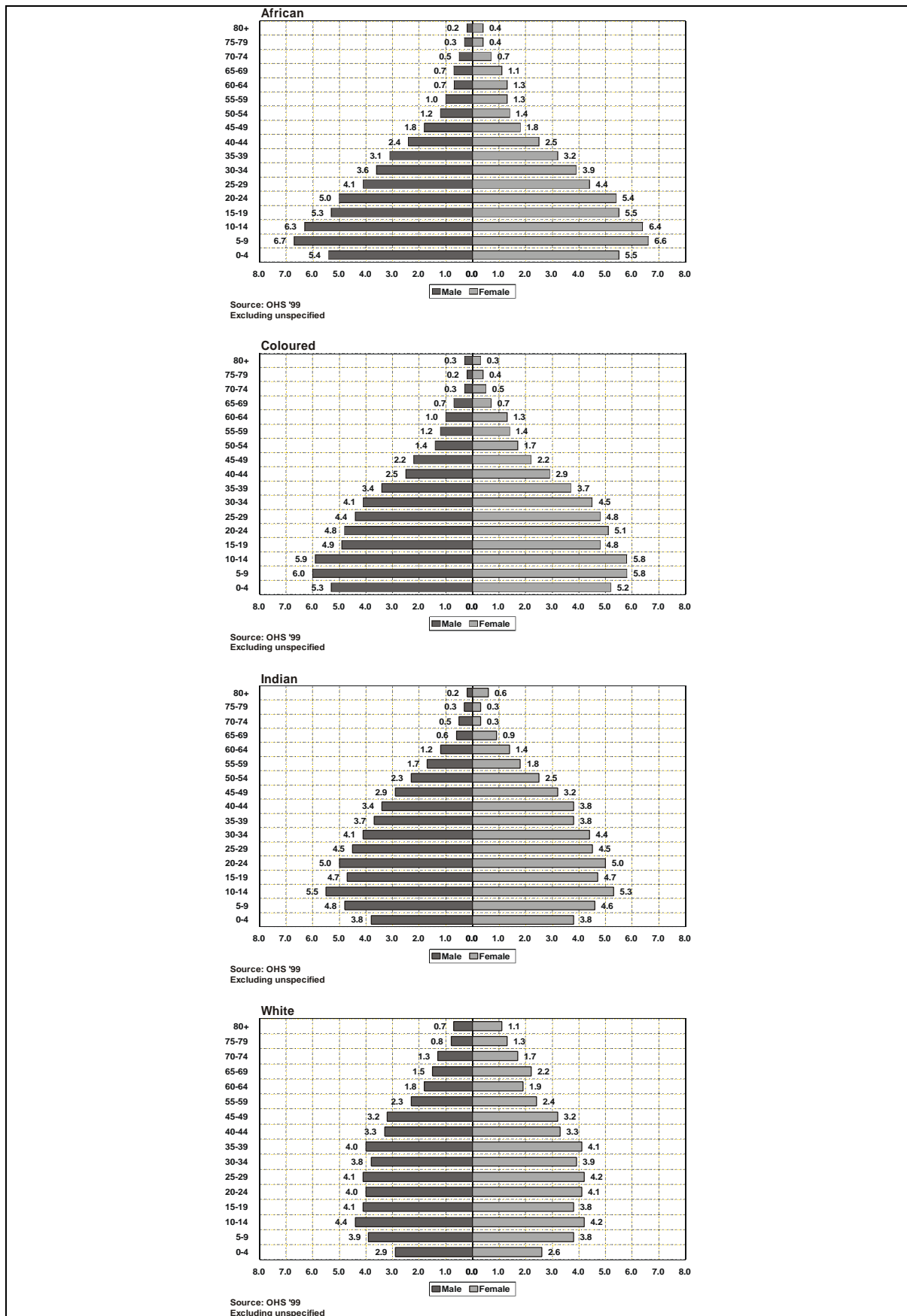
The age distribution of the South African population resembles the structure of a developing rather than a developed country. There are proportionately more young than older people.

The most frequently spoken official first home language in South Africa in 1999 was isiZulu (spoken by 23,5% of South Africans), followed by isiXhosa (17,6%) and then Afrikaans (13,7%). The least frequently spoken official home languages were Tshivenda (2,8%), siSwati (2,5%) and isiNdebele (1,5%).

Since October 1995, there has been a slight increase in the proportion of people speaking indigenous African languages as their home language, and a slight decrease in the proportion of those speaking both English and Afrikaans.



**Figure 2.9: Age distribution of the South African population, October 1999**



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# Chapter 3

## Where South Africans live

Comparisons regarding changes in internal migration, not only from non-urban to urban, but also from urban to non-urban environments, between 1995 and 1999, are not presently possible, since all household survey data sets have been weighted to the distribution into urban and non-urban areas, as found in Census '96.

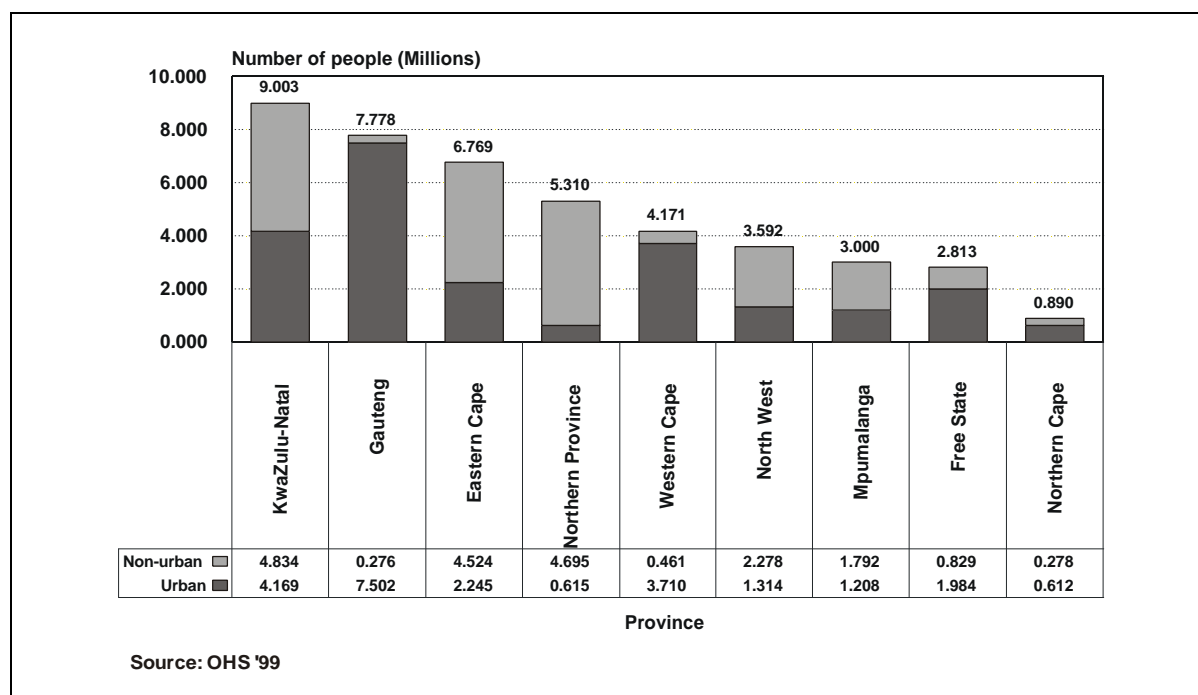
- Stats SA does not presently have data on migration to accurately calculate internal migration patterns, since the topic was not adequately covered in previous censuses before Census '96. In this chapter we therefore focus on the 1999 snapshot rather than on changes over time.
- The census of October 2001 will, however, make it possible to take migration patterns into account for future weights.

### Distribution of the population into urban and non-urban place of residence by province

In October 1999, 53,9% of the population was estimated to be living in urban and 46,1% in non-urban areas. These percentages varied considerably by province. For example, at the one extreme, 96,5% of Gauteng and 88,9% of Western Cape residents lived in urban areas. At the other extreme, 11,6% of Northern Province and 33,2% of Eastern Cape residents lived in urban areas.

Figure 3.1 indicates the number of people in each province, and within each province, the number of people living in urban and non-urban areas.

**Figure 3.1: Population of South Africa in urban and non-urban areas by province, October 1999**



## Distribution of the population into urban and non-urban place of residence by population group

Figure 3.2 looks at the share of the total urban population by population group. It also looks at the share of the total non-urban population by population group. It indicates that of all urban dwellers, 63,7% are African. Of all non-urban dwellers, however, as many as 94,4% are African. The coloured, Indian and white population groups tend to be found in urban, rather than in non-urban areas.

**Figure 3.2: Percentage of people in urban and non-urban areas by population group, October 1999**

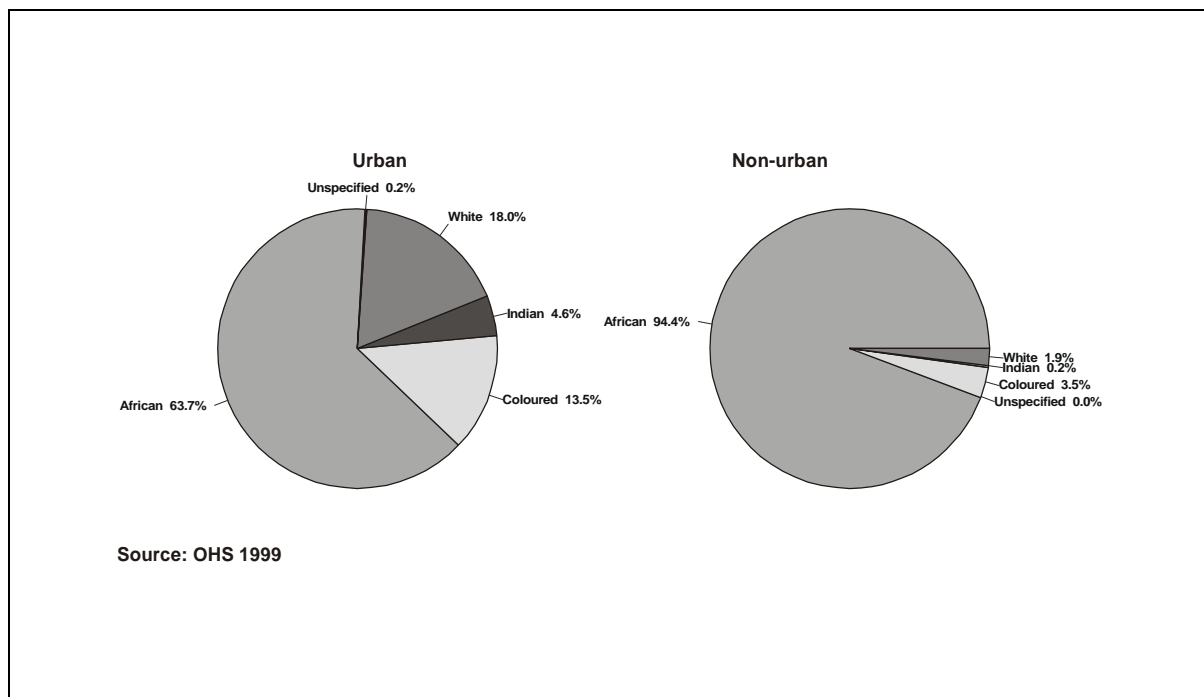
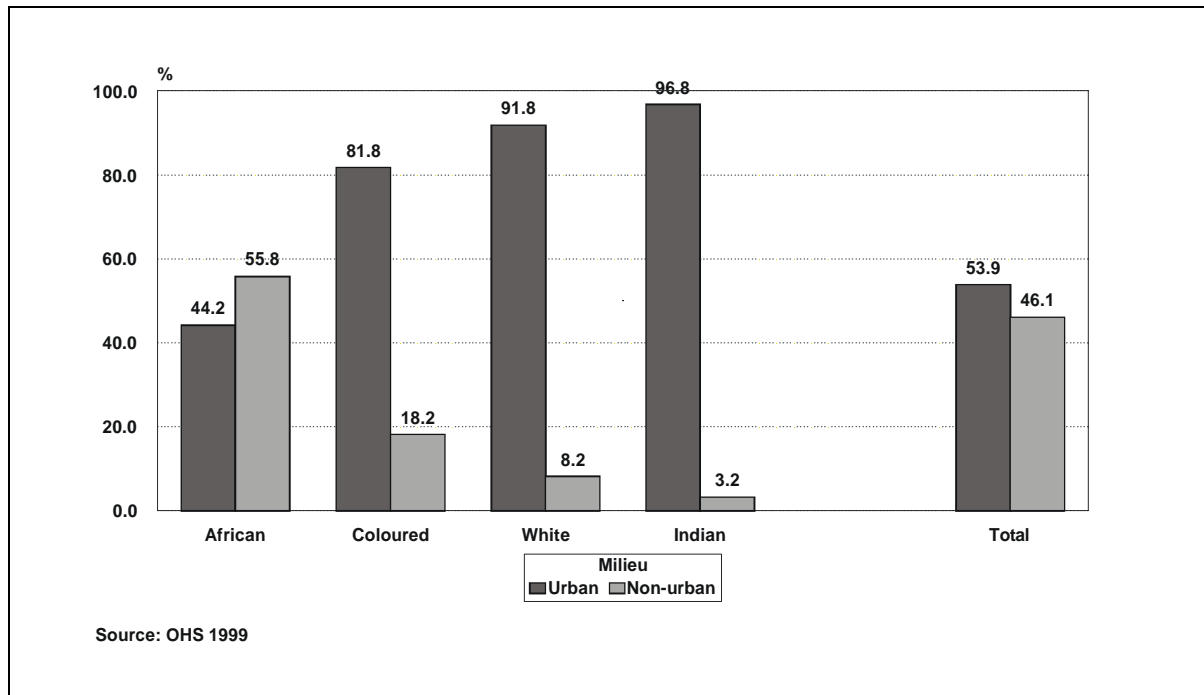


Figure 3.3 looks at the distribution into urban and non-urban place of residence within each population group. It confirms that, among Africans, the majority (55,8%) was living in non-urban areas, but only a relatively small percentage within the coloured (18,2%), white (8,2%) and Indian (3,2%) population groups were living in non-urban areas.

**Figure 3.3: Percentage of people in each population group living in urban and non-urban areas, October 1999**

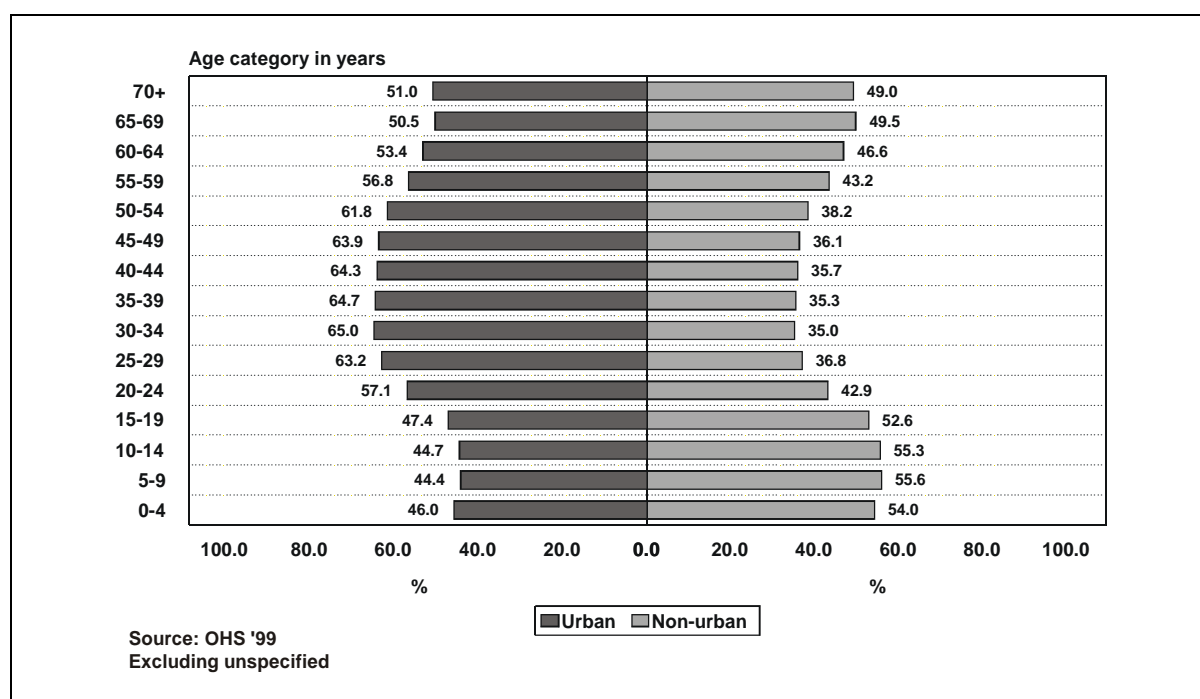


## Distribution of the population into urban and non-urban place of residence by age

Figure 3.4 indicates that the age of an individual is an important variable to take into account when looking at the distribution of the population in urban and non-urban areas.

- The majority of children live in non-urban areas. For example, more than half of those aged 0-4 (54,0%), 5-9 (55,6%), 10-14 (55,3%) and 15-19 (52,6%) years are found in non-urban areas.
- Adults, on the other hand, tend to live in urban areas. For example, 63,2% of those aged 25-29 years and 65,0% of those aged 30-34 years live in urban areas.
- There may be some movement back to rural areas among older people. This occurs, for example, when migrant workers stop working and return to their rural homes. For example, among those aged 65-69 years, almost half (49,5%) are living in non-urban areas.

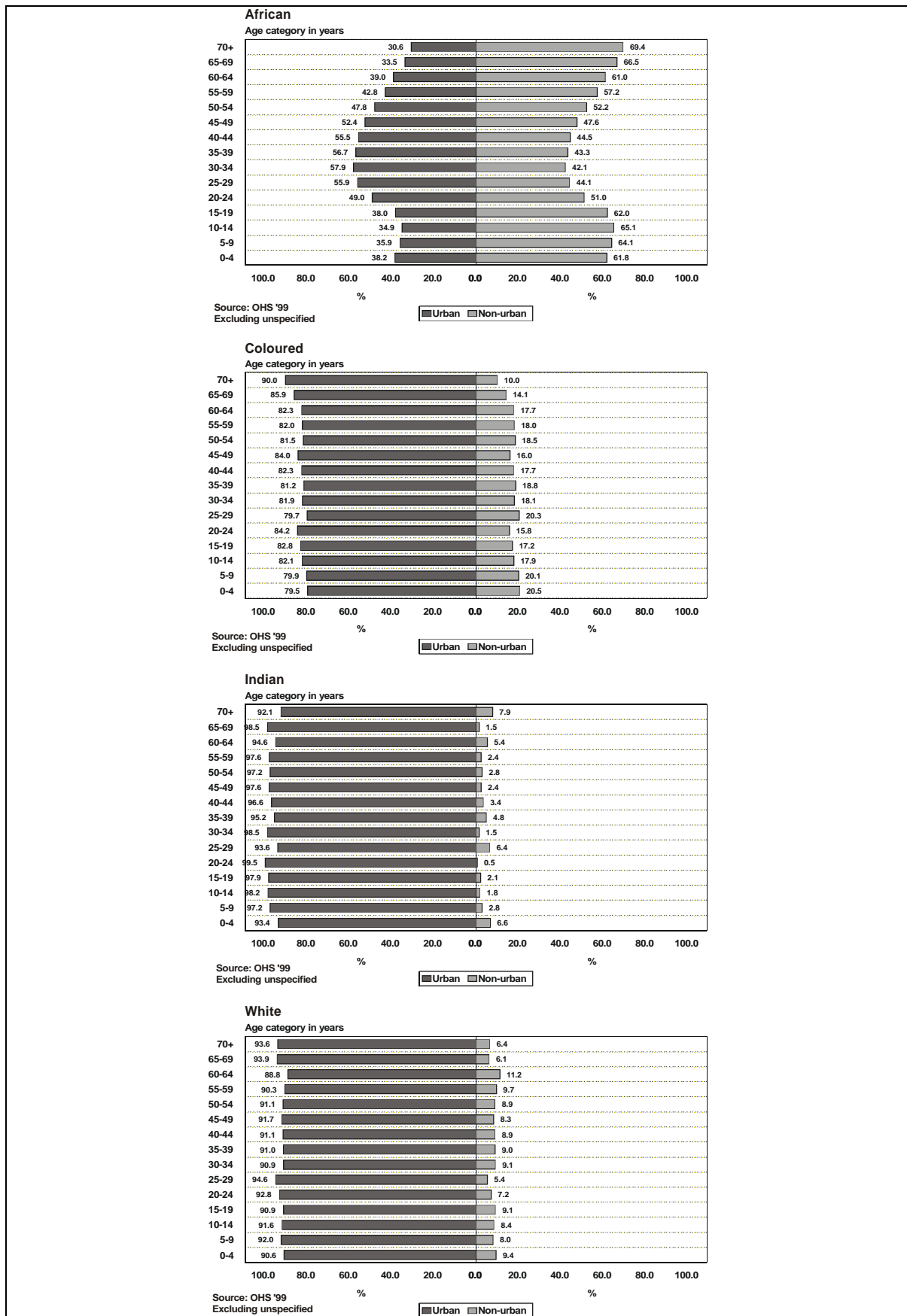
**Figure 3.4: The proportion of people living in urban or non-urban areas by age category, October 1999**



## Distribution of the population into urban and non-urban place of residence by age within population group

Figure 3.5 indicates that the pattern of movement into urban and non-urban areas at different life stages affects mainly Africans. Both young and the elderly Africans tend to live in non-urban areas, while those of working age tend to live in urban areas. For example, 64,1% of African children aged 5-9 years live in non-urban areas, as against 42,1% of African adults aged 30-34 years. However, among Africans aged 70 years or more, 69,4% live in non-urban areas. The other population groups tend to remain in urban areas, with very small differences in migration patterns between urban and non-urban areas by age. The differences that show up on the graph are probably due to small sample sizes in each age category among the non-urban coloured, Indian and white groups.

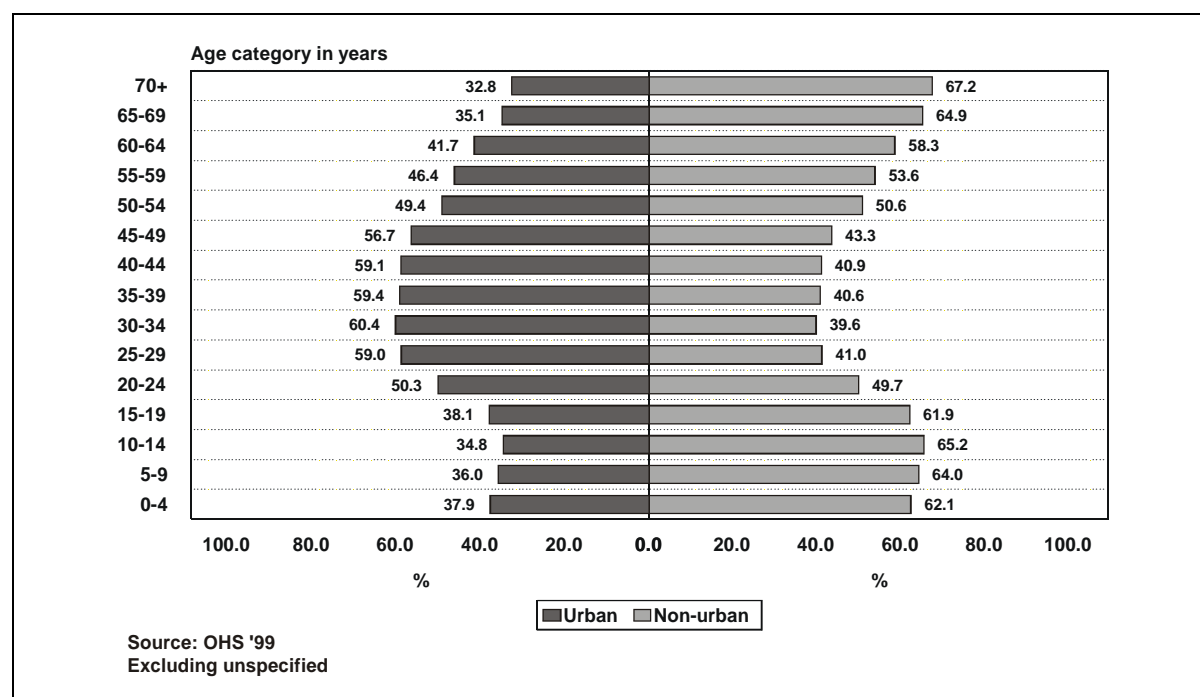
**Figure 3.5: The proportion of the population living in urban or non-urban areas by age category, October 1999**



## Among Africans, urban and non-urban place of residence by age and sex

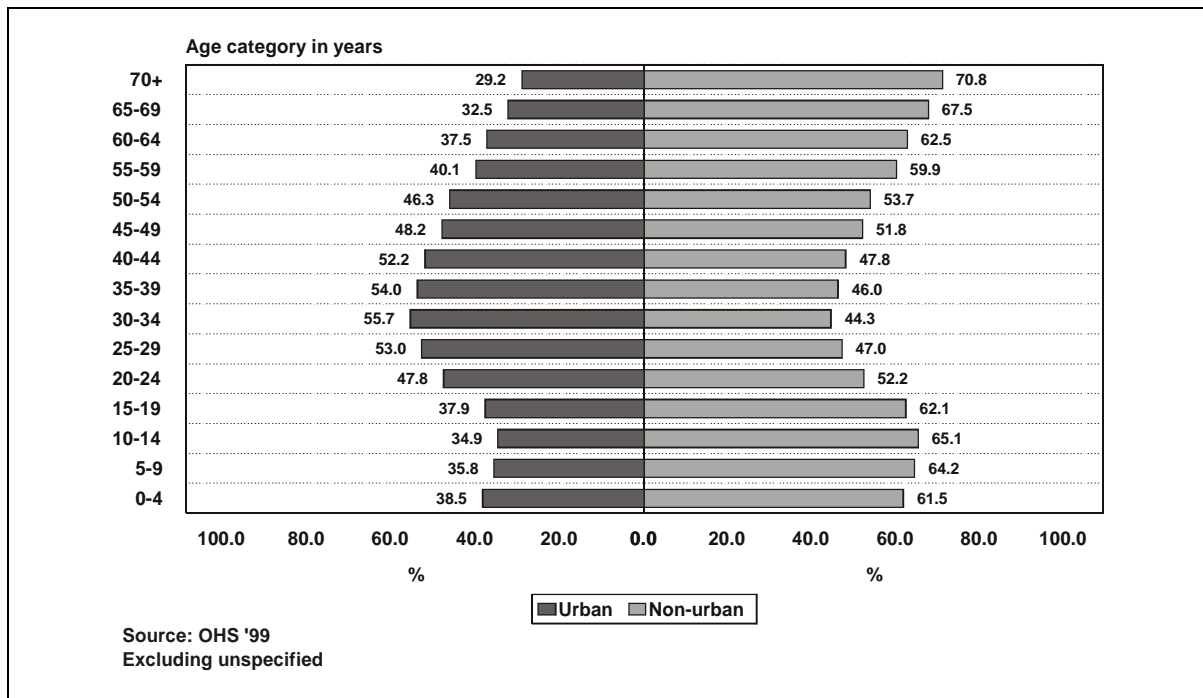
Figures 3.6 and 3.7 show that, among Africans, a similar migration pattern from non-urban to urban and back to non-urban areas is found among both males and females. But the trend for adults to move to urban areas is more pronounced among men than women. For example, 60,4% of African men aged 30-34 years are living in urban areas, as against 55,7% of African women.

**Figure 3.6: The proportion of African males living in urban or non-urban areas by age category, October 1999**





**Figure 3.7: The proportion of African females living in urban or non-urban areas by age category, October 1999**



## Summary

In October 1999, 53,9% of the population was estimated to be living in urban and 46,1% in non-urban areas. These percentages varied considerably by province. For example, at the one extreme, 96,5% of Gauteng and 88,9% of Western Cape residents lived in urban areas. At the other extreme, 11,6% of Northern Province and 33,2% of Eastern Cape residents lived in urban areas.

The non-urban population in South Africa is mainly African. The pattern of movement into urban and non-urban areas at different life stages affects mainly Africans. Both the young and the elderly Africans tend to live in non-urban areas, while those of working age tend to live in urban areas. This pattern is more marked for African men than it is for African women.

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# Chapter 4

## Education in South Africa

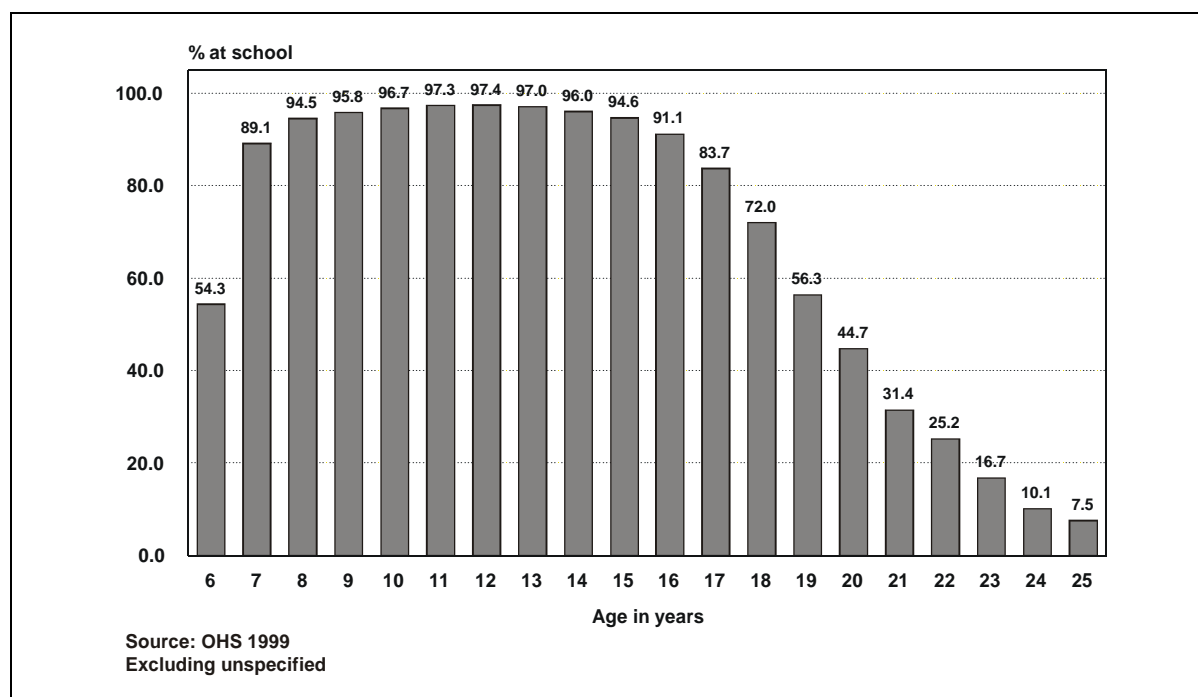
Formal education in South Africa is presently reaching the vast majority of children between the ages of seven to fifteen years. But actual educational attainment among school-goers (as well as adults) tends to be rather low. Children seem to be struggling to complete both primary and secondary school. Relatively few people attend tertiary educational institutions.

### School attendance

Approximately 14,0 million people, across all age categories, were attending schools in South Africa in 1999. Figure 4.1 shows that the vast majority of those aged 7 to 15 years (compulsory school-going age) was indeed attending school in 1999.

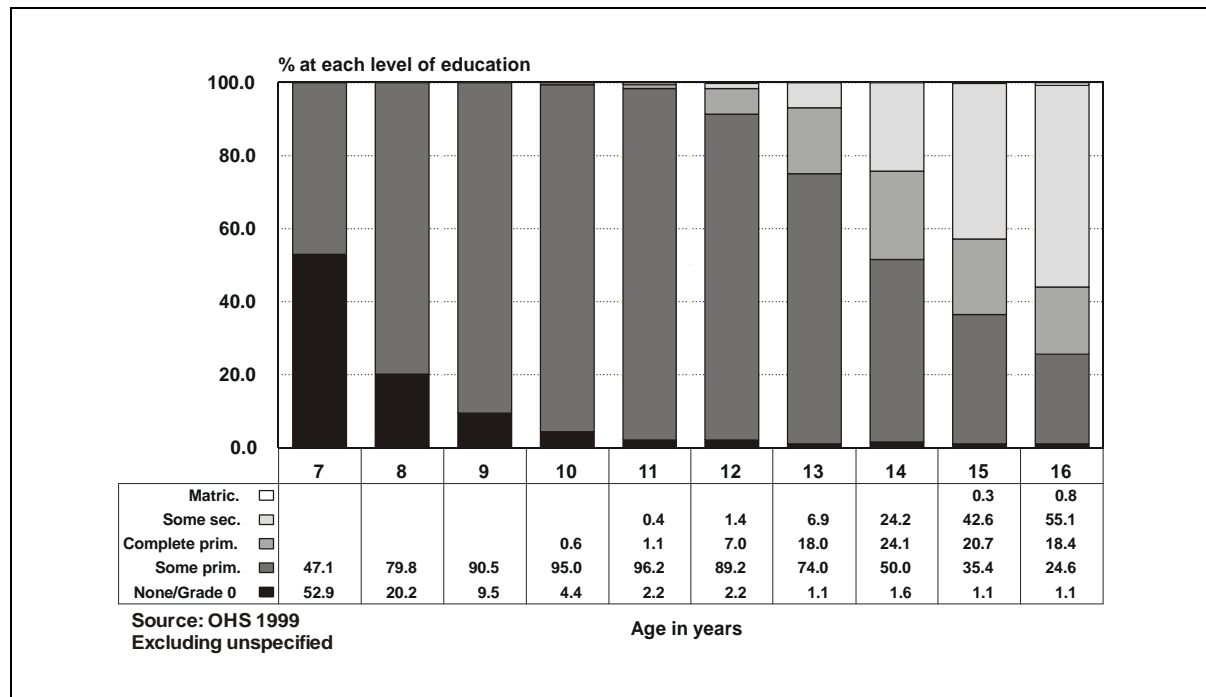
However, children, teenagers and young adults tend to continue with their school education way beyond the age of 16 or 17 years. For example, 44,7% of those aged 20 years in 1999 were still at school. This reflects, among other things, relatively high repetition rates.

**Figure 4.1: Percentage of those aged 6-25 years who were attending school in October 1999, in single-year age categories**



Although school attendance in the country is relatively high, South African children seem to progress through school rather slowly. Figure 4.2 indicates that a large proportion of children aged 13 (74,0%), 14 (50,0%), 15 (35,4%) and 16 (24,6%) years who have begun their formal schooling have not completed primary school. Only 42,6% of those aged 15 years and 55,1% of those aged 16 years had at least some secondary school education.

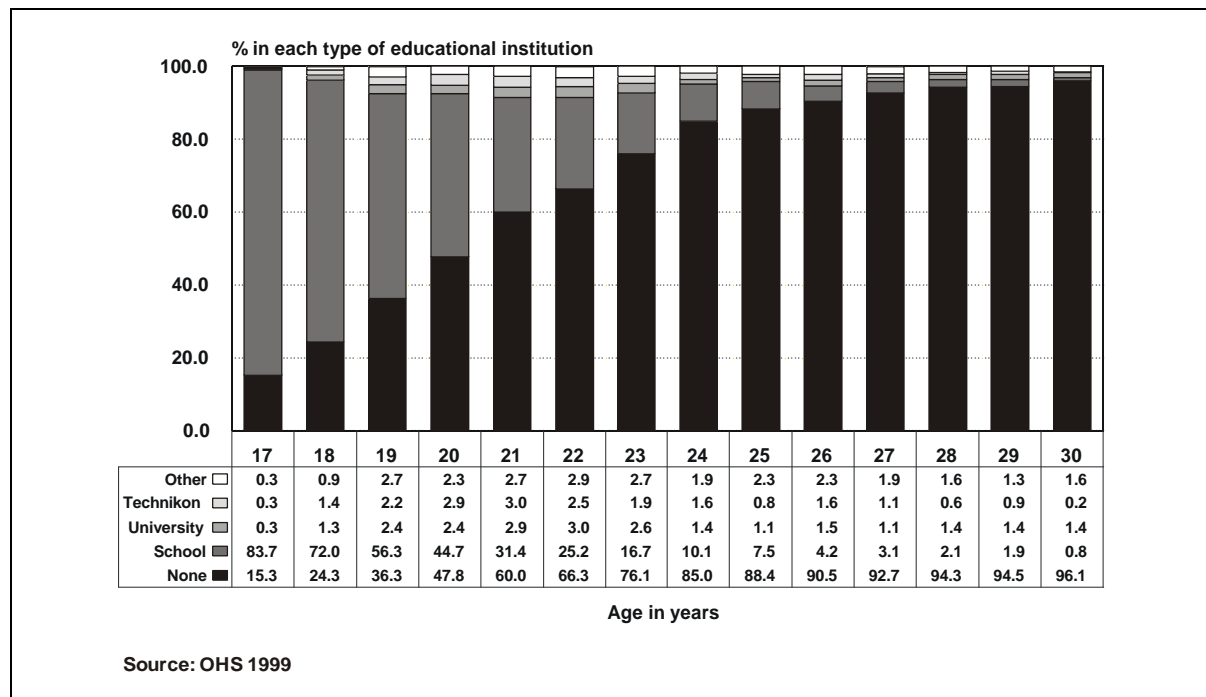
**Figure 4.2: Highest level of education by age among children aged 7-16 years, October 1999**



Young South Africans tend to stay at school way beyond the compulsory school-going age. For example, Figure 4.3 indicates that:

- Among those aged 17 years, 83,7% were still at school, decreasing slowly to 31,4% of those aged 21 years and to 10,1% among those aged 24 years.
- The proportion of those attending a university or technikon among those aged 18 to 30 years is, however, relatively low. For example, among those aged 22 years, 3,0% were attending university, 2,5% a technikon, and 2,9% other educational institutions such as a college.

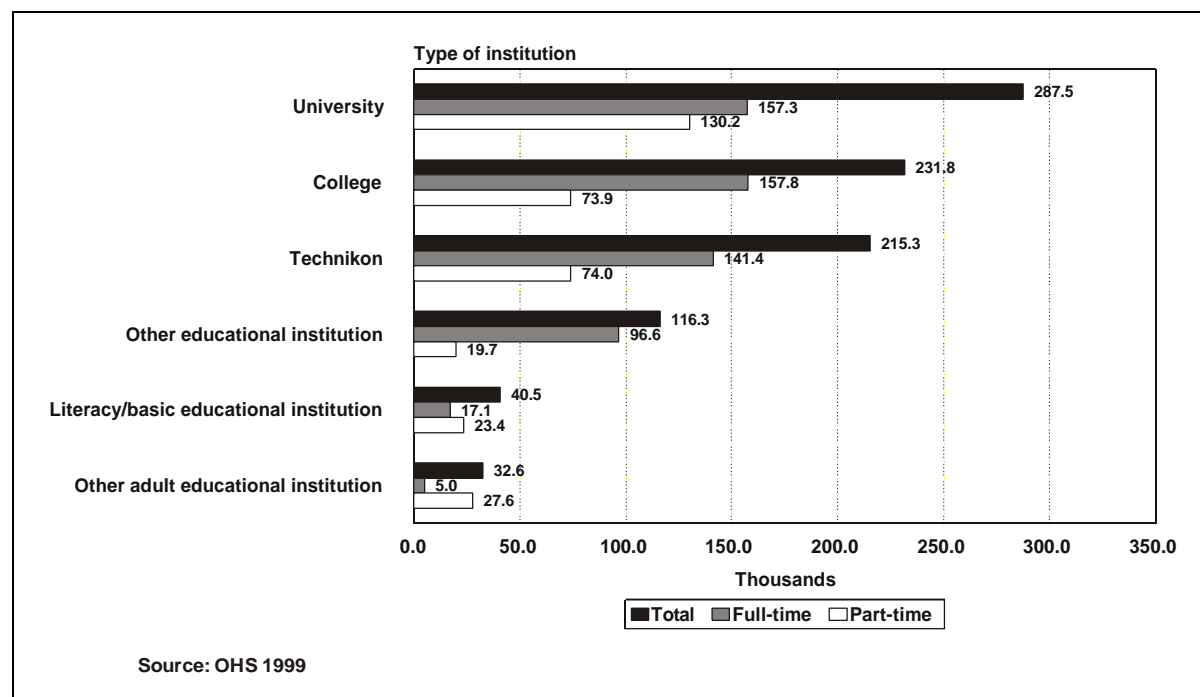
**Figure 4.3: Type of educational institution, if any, that those aged 17-30 years are attending, in single year age categories, October 1999**



## Higher education in South Africa

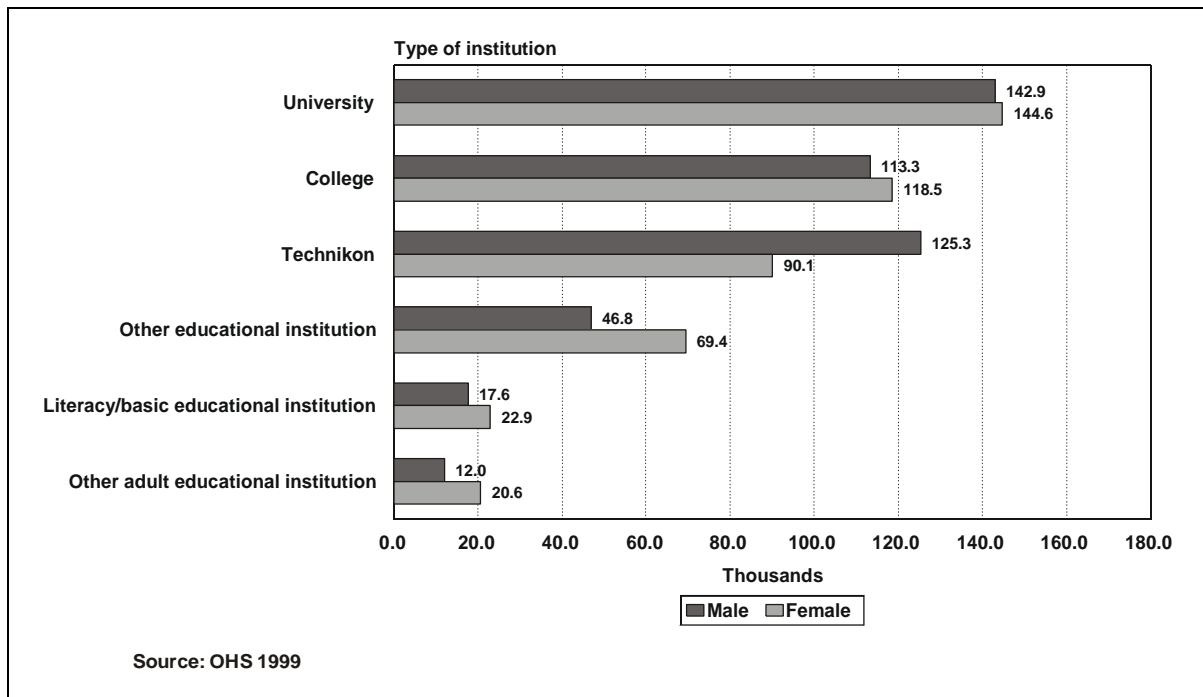
In general, in October 1999, the overall number of people attending formal educational institutions in South Africa, excluding schools, tended to be rather low. Figure 4.4 shows that, altogether, about 288 000 people were at universities, 232 000 were at a college and 215 000 were at a technikon at that time.

**Figure 4.4: Number of people attending educational institutions other than schools, either part-time or full-time, October 1999**



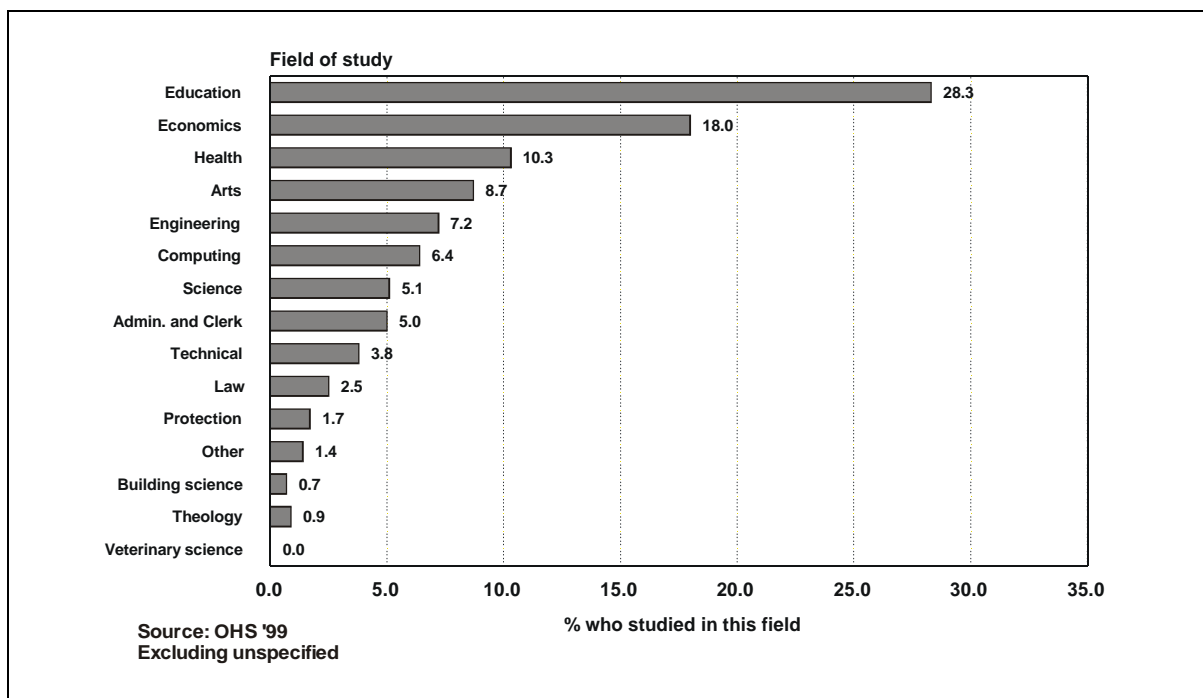
The number of male and female students attending educational institutions varied by type of institution. For example, taking sampling error into account, Figure 4.5 shows that there were almost equal numbers of women and men at universities (143 000 men and 145 000 women) and colleges (113 000 men as against 119 000 women) according to the OHS 1999 findings. But in technikons, the number of men (125 000) exceeded the number of women (90 000).

**Figure 4.5: Number of people attending educational institutions other than schools by sex, October 1999**



To discuss fields of study, Stats SA makes use of the first-level structure of the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). Amongst the people who had attained formal post-school qualifications at the time of OHS 1999, Figure 4.6 indicates that the most common field of study was education (28,3% of all those in formal non-school organisations), followed by economics (18,0%) and then health (10,3%).

**Figure 4.6: Field of study among those who had formal post-school qualifications, October 1999**



Amongst those who had completed their studies by attaining a bachelor's degree or a higher qualification, Figure 4.7 shows that economics was the most common field of study at bachelor level, while education was the most frequently attained qualification for those with higher level qualifications.



**Figure 4.7: Field of study among those who had degrees or higher academic qualifications, October 1999**

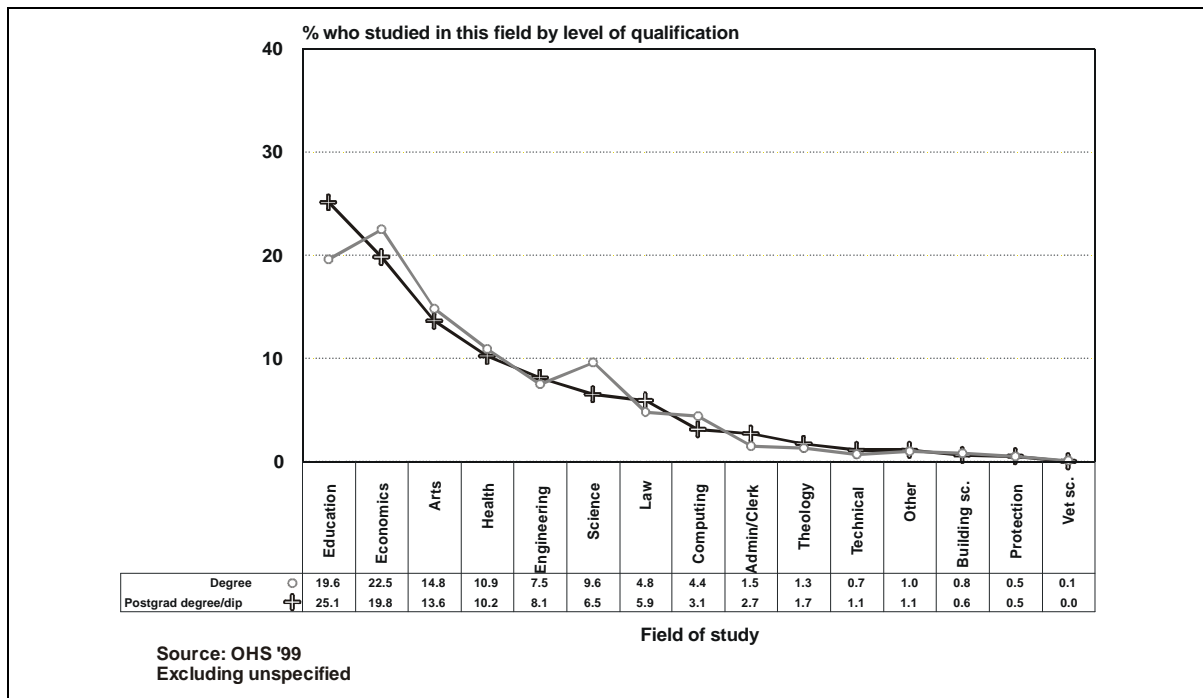
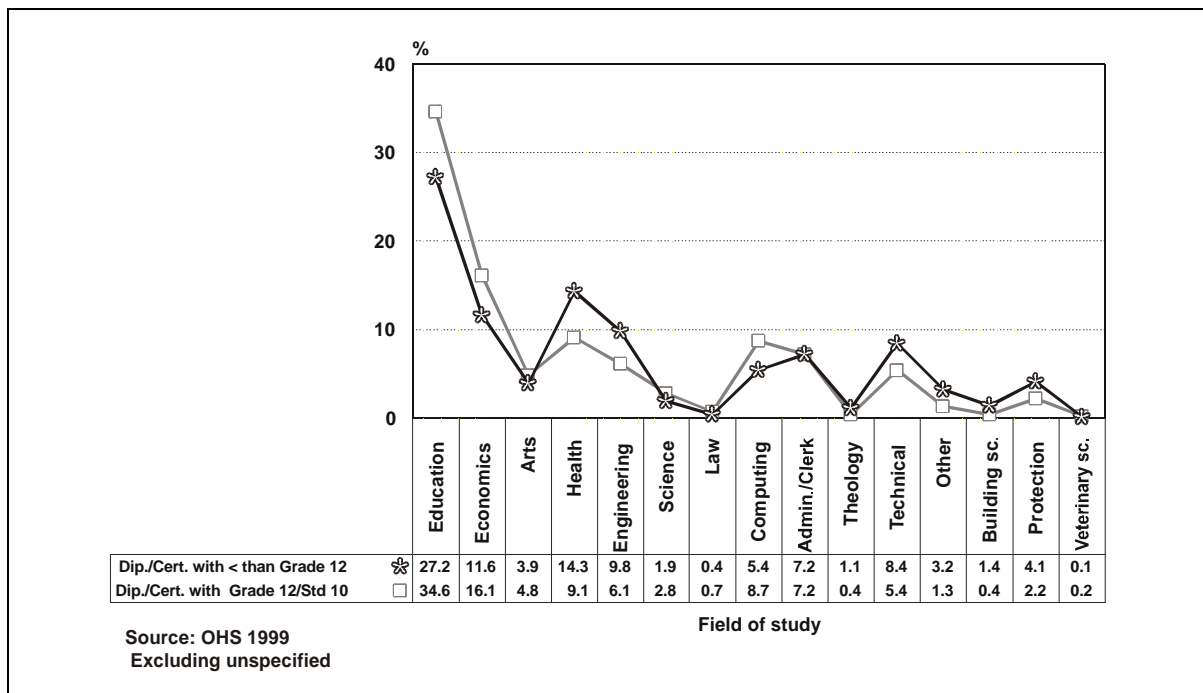


Figure 4.8 indicates the formal qualifications of those with non-degree post-school qualifications. It shows that, amongst those with post-school diplomas and certificates, for courses lasting at least six months, a qualification in education was the most common type for both those who had completed secondary school and those who had not.

**Figure 4.8: Field of study among those with post-school diplomas and certificates (course of at least six months), October 1999**



## Overall education level of the South African population aged 20 years or more

Of the 23,3 million people in South Africa aged 20 years or more, Figure 4.9 shows that:

- 2,9 million had not received any formal schooling.
- 4,3 million had received at least some primary education (grade 1 to 6) as the highest level of their education.
- 1,6 million had completed primary school (grade 7).
- 7,8 million had attained at least some secondary education (grade 8 – 11 and those with a post-school certificate who had not completed their schooling).
- 4,7 million had completed grade 12 as their highest level of education.
- 1,9 million had tertiary qualifications (degrees, diplomas and certificates).

**Figure 4.9: Number of people (millions) aged 20 years or more in each educational category, October 1999**

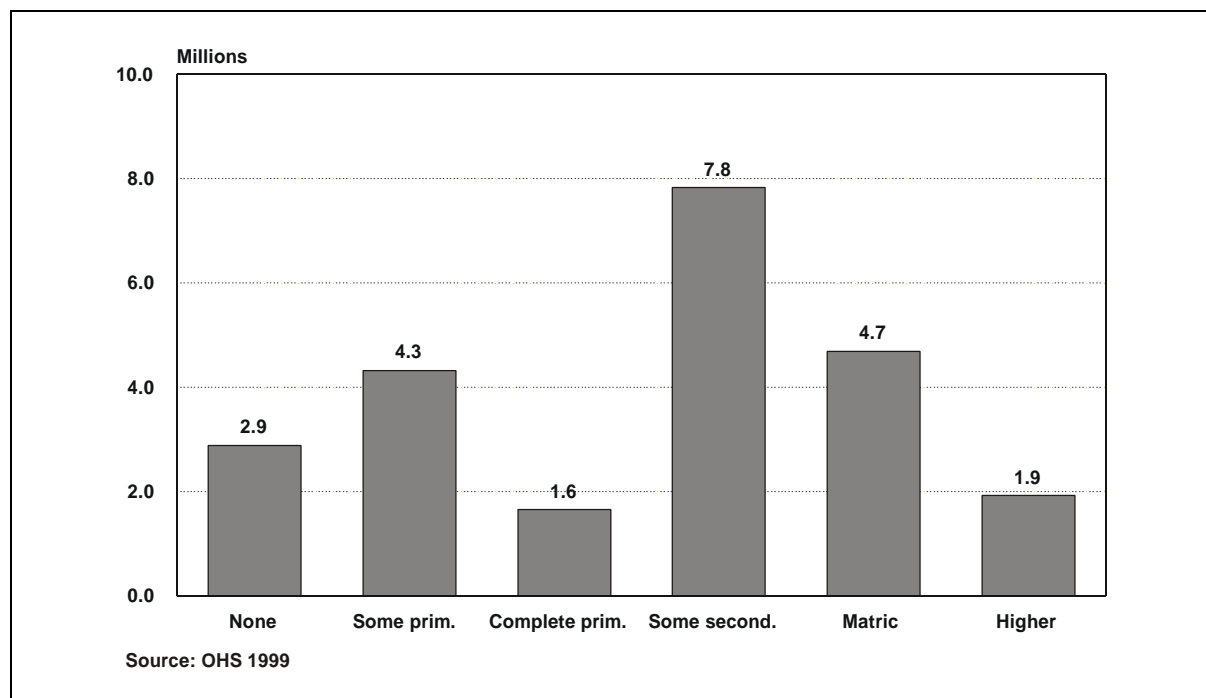
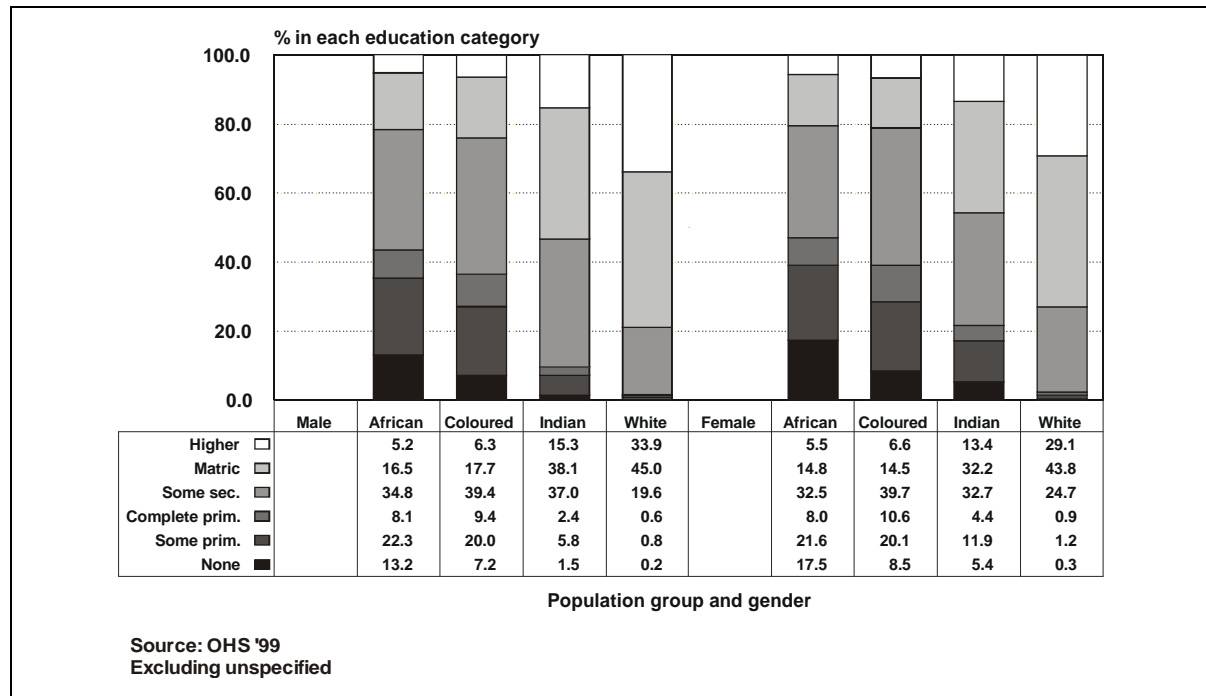


Figure 4.10 indicates the highest education level of those aged 20 years or more by population group and sex.

- 17,5% of African women and 13,2% of African men in this age category had received no schooling, as against 0,3% of white women and 0,2% of white men.
- At the other extreme, 29,1% of white women and 33,9% of white men in this age group had received a tertiary education, as against 5,5% of African women and 5,2% of African men.

**Figure 4.10: Highest education level of those aged 20 years or more by population group and sex, October 1999**

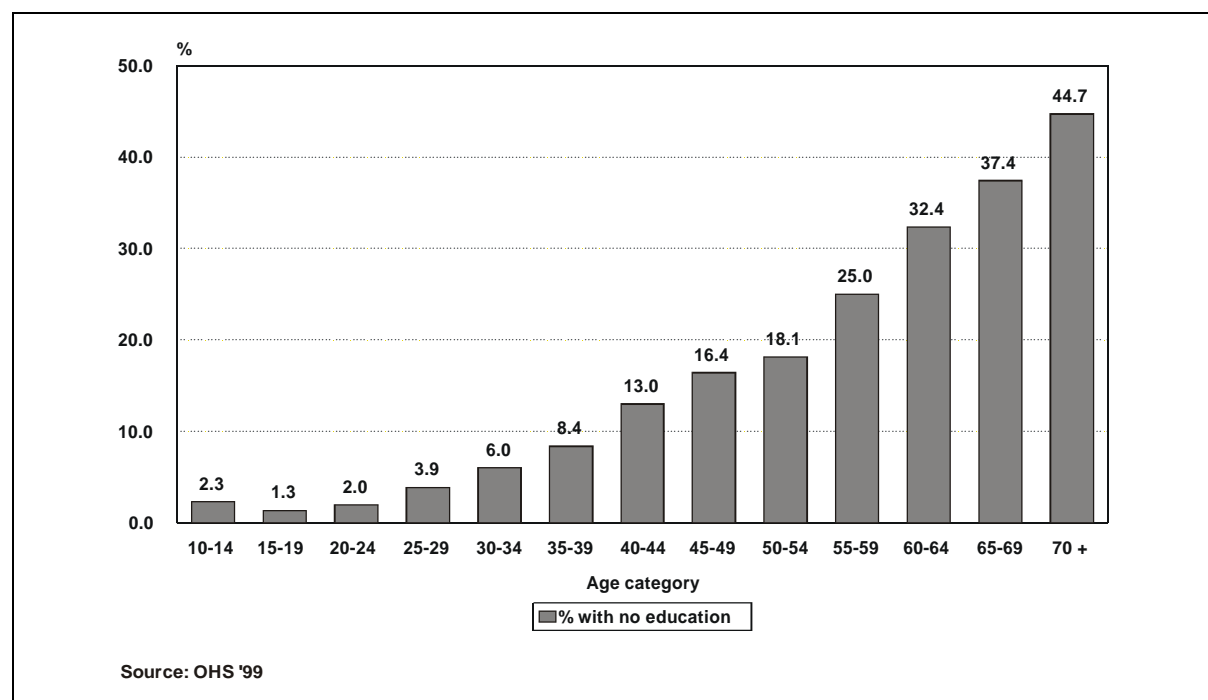


***People who have not received any education***

Figure 4.11 indicates the percentage of people who have not received any schooling by age in five-year age intervals. The figure shows that:

- Among those aged 70 years or more, 44,7% (right-most column of the graph) had not received any formal education.
- This proportion decreases steadily with each successively decreasing age category.
- Among those aged 15 to 19 years in 1999, only 1,3% had not received any schooling.
- This proportion increases slightly to 2,3% amongst those people aged 10 to 14 years (left-most column of the graph), perhaps indicating, at least in part, that some children may be entering school at the relatively late age of at least 10 years.

**Figure 4.11: Percentage of those aged 10 years or more with no education by age category, October 1999**



**People in South Africa who cannot read in at least one language**

Figure 4.12 indicates that, in October 1999, 16% of South Africans aged 20 years or more said that they could not read in at least one language.

- Ability to read in at least one language varied by population group, sex and urban or non-urban place of residence.
- The highest proportion of non-readers was found among the 4,5 million African women aged 20 years or more, living in non-urban areas (26,6%).
- Of the relatively few (193 000) coloured men aged 20 years or more living in non-urban areas in October 1999, 23,2% could not read in at least one language.
- Of the relatively few (187 000) coloured women in this age group living in non-urban areas in October 1999, 23,5% could not read in at least one language.
- Of the 3,8 million African men aged 20 years or more living in non-urban areas, 19,8% could not read in at least one language.

**Figure 4.12: Percentage of those aged 20 years or more who cannot read in at least one language by urban or non-urban place of residence, population group and sex, October 1999**

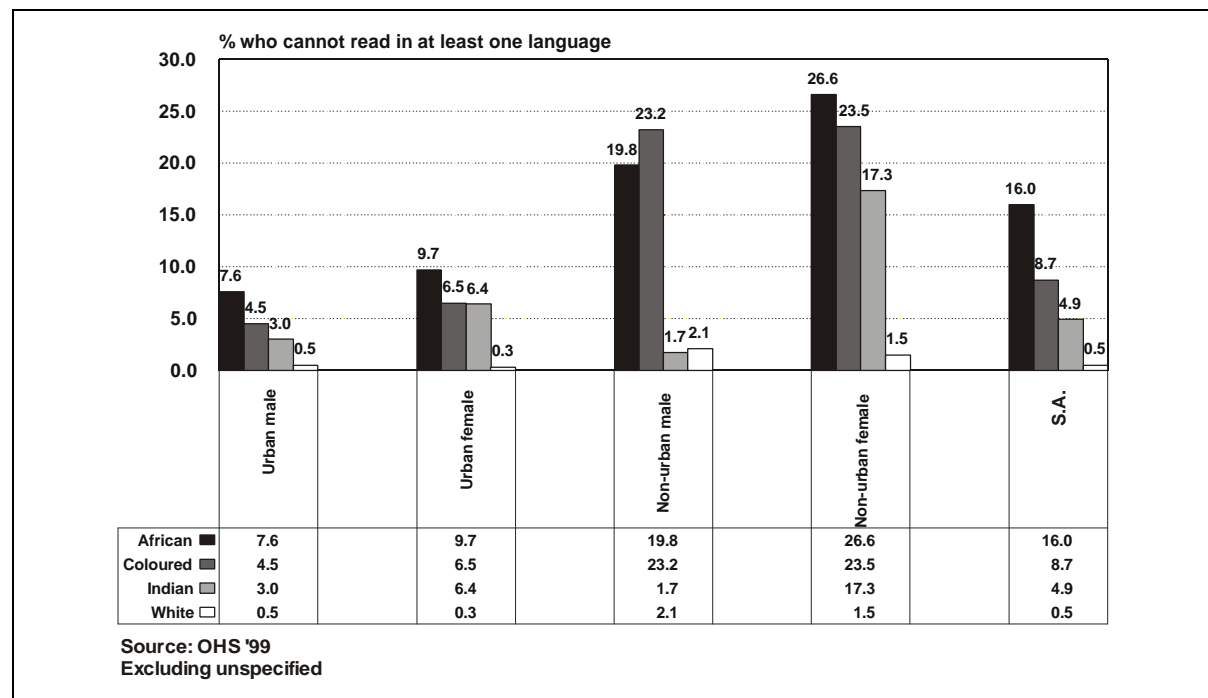
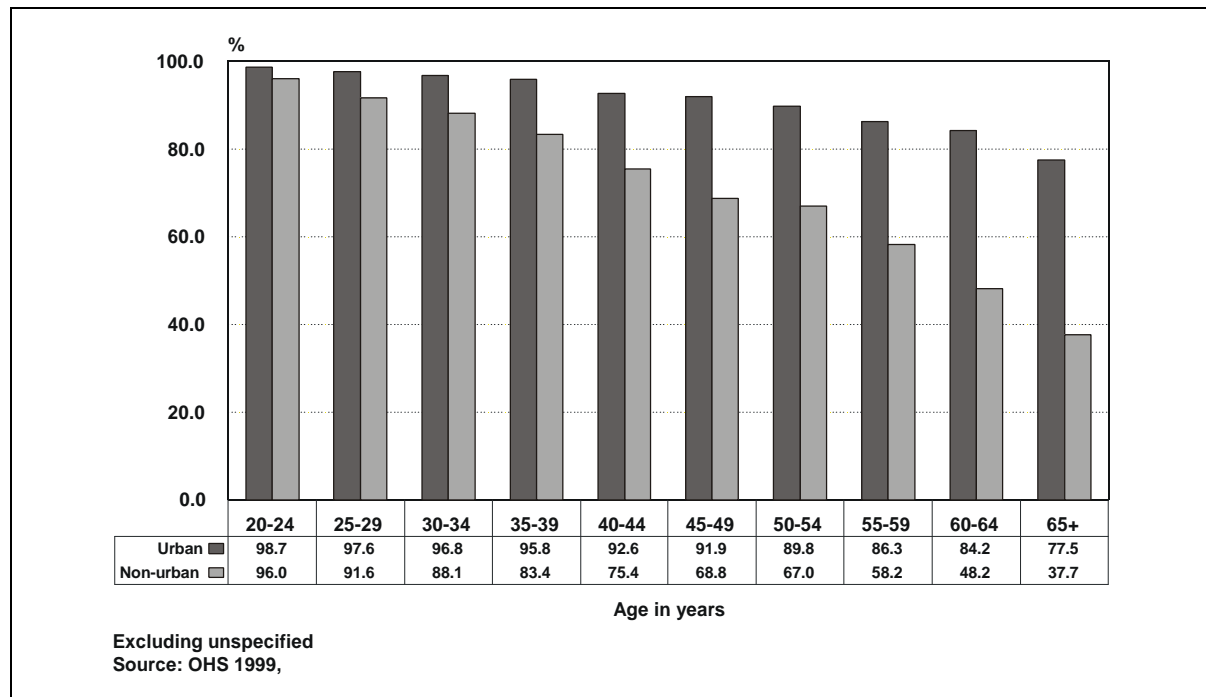


Figure 4.13 indicates that, in October 1999, ability to read in at least one language decreases, as age increases, particularly in non-urban areas. The highest proportion of non-readers was found among those aged 65 years or more living in non-urban areas (62,3%).

**Figure 4.13: Percentage of people aged 20 years or more living in urban and non-urban areas who claim they can read in at least one language, by age group, October 1999**



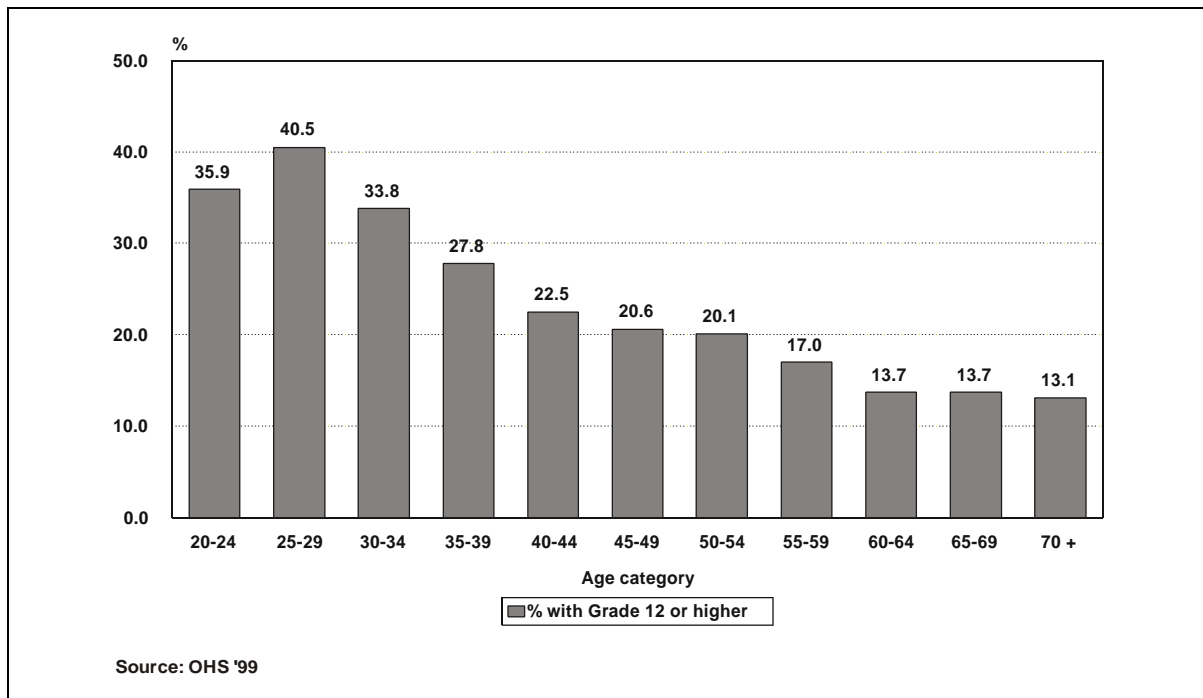
***People in South Africa who have completed secondary school (Grade 12)***

When we look at the people in South Africa who had completed secondary school in October 1999, by five-year interval age categories, Figure 4.14 shows the following:

- 40,5% of those aged 25 to 29 years had completed their secondary education.
- This percentage decreases as age increases, so that among those aged 70 years or more in 1999, only 13,1% had completed secondary schooling as their highest educational qualification.
- Among those aged 20 to 24 years in 1999, 35,9% had completed their secondary education. This relatively low figure, compared with the 25 to 29 age group, may be explained, at least in part, by the high proportion of those in this age group who were still attending school in 1999.

It therefore seems from this and the previous graphs on non-readers as if the opportunities in the country to obtain a secondary education are improving over time.

**Figure 4.14: Percentage of those aged 20 years or more with at least a Grade 12 as their highest level of education by age category, October 1999**



## Summary

Formal education in South Africa is presently reaching the vast majority of children between the ages of seven to fifteen years, since more than 94% of children in this age category attends school. But actual educational attainment among school-goers (as well as adults) tends to be rather low. Children seem to be struggling to complete both primary and secondary school. Relatively few people attend tertiary educational institutions.

Regarding post-school education, the overall number of people attending formal educational institutions in South Africa, *excluding schools*, tended to be rather low. Altogether, in October 1999, about 288 000 people were at universities, 232 000 were at a college and 215 000 were at a technikon at that time.

In October 1999, 16% of South Africans aged 20 years or more said that they could not read in at least one language. Ability to read in at least one language varied by age, population group, sex and urban or non-urban place of residence. The highest proportion of non-readers was found among the 4,5 million African women aged 20 years or more, living in non-urban areas (26,6%).

**PLEASE TURN THE PAGE**



# Chapter 5

## Unemployment and employment in South Africa

### Introduction

In October 1999, there were an estimated 26,3 million people aged between 15 and 65 years. This is considered to be the population of working age. Of these people, when using the official definition of unemployment (see Chapter 1), an estimated 12,8 million were classified as being not economically active, while 3,2 million said they were unemployed and had looked for work in the four weeks prior to the interview and 10,4 million were employed. Both the employed and the unemployed constitute the economically active population, and the remainder is not economically active.

### The labour market in October 1999

#### *The official unemployment definition*

Figure 5.1 illustrates three main concepts in labour market statistics – labour force participation, labour absorption and unemployment rates – using the official definition of unemployment.

**Figure 5.1: Labour force participation, labour absorption and unemployment rates amongst those aged 15-65 years (official definition of unemployment) by population group and sex, October 1999**

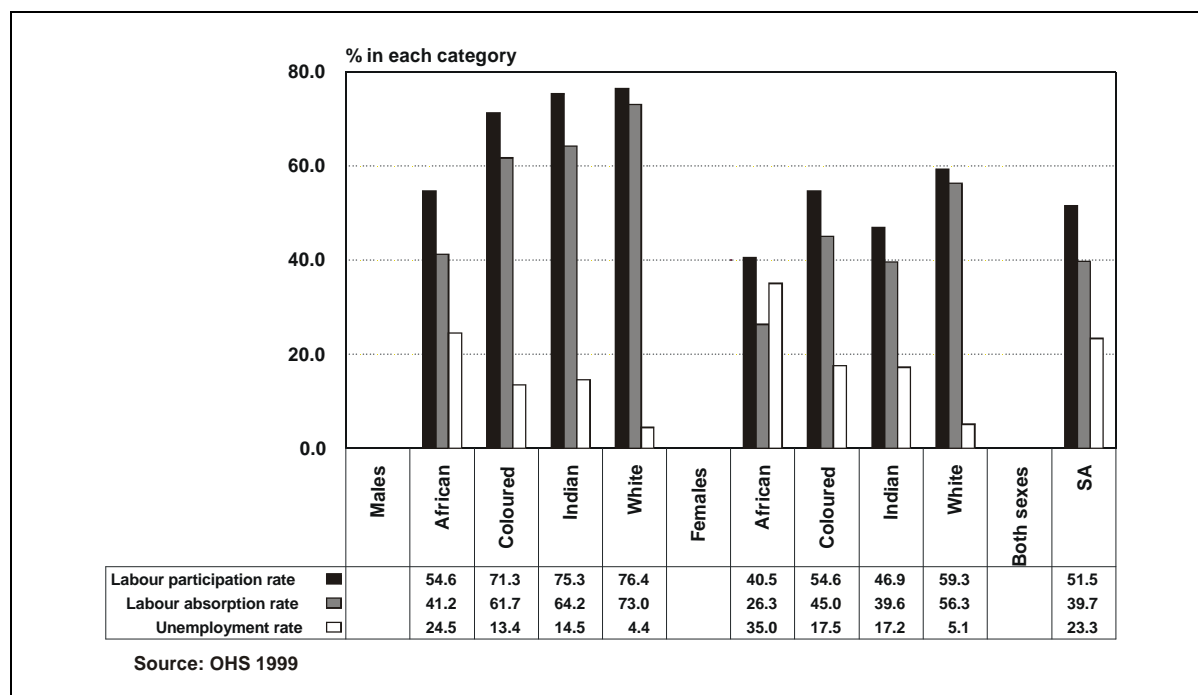


Figure 5.1 indicates that:

- The labour force participation rate (the proportion of the working-age population who are either employed or unemployed) was lowest among African females (40,5%), and highest among white males (76,4%).
- The labour absorption rate is the proportion of the working age population who is employed. This rate was also lowest among African females (26,3%), and highest among white males (73,0%).
- The official unemployment rate was highest, at 35,0%, among African females and lowest, at 4,4%, among white males.
- The overall official unemployment rate for 1999 was 23,3%.

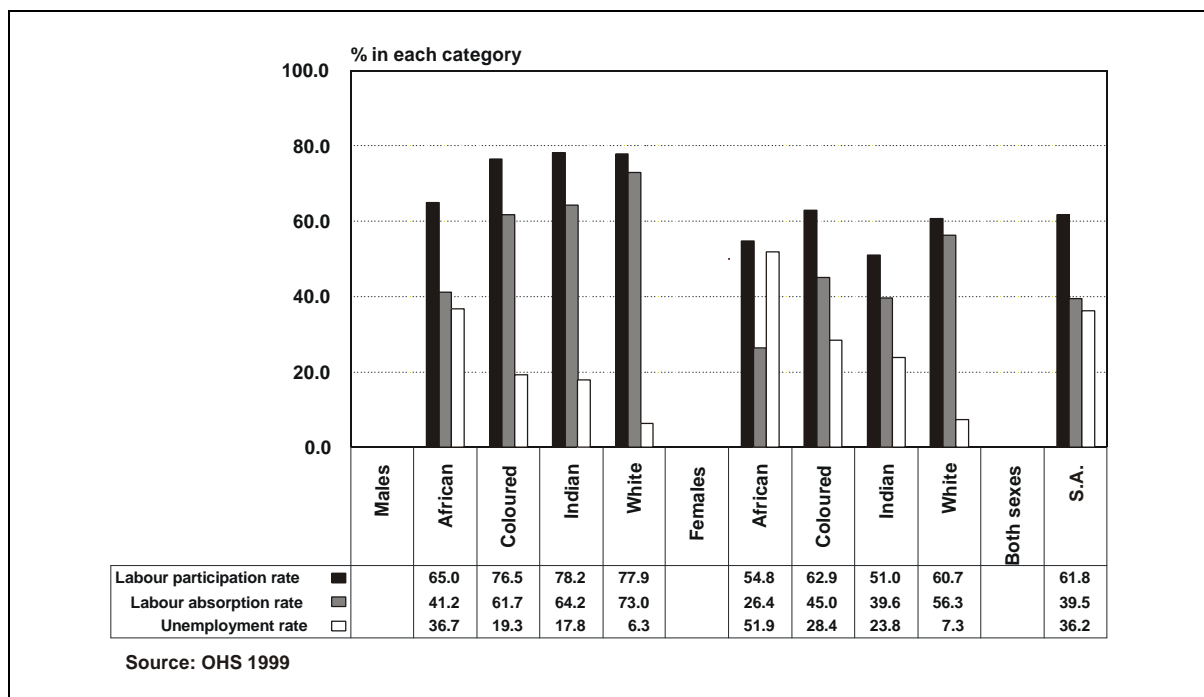
### ***The expanded unemployment definition***

Of the estimated 26,3 million people aged between 15 and 65 years, when using the expanded definition of unemployment (see Chapter 1), an estimated 10,0 million were classified as being not economically active. As many as 5,9 million were classified as being unemployed and, as before, 10,4 million were employed.

Figure 5.2, which looks at labour force participation, labour absorption and unemployment rates based on the expanded definition of unemployment, indicates that:

- The labour force participation rate increases when using the expanded definition, since there are more people defined as economically active rather than as not economically active. Indian males have the highest labour force participation rate (78,2%), followed closely by white males (77,9%). On the other hand, Indian women have the lowest participation rate when using the expanded definition (51,0%), followed by African women (54,8%).
- The unemployment rates increase overall, when using the expanded as against the official definition, since discouraged workers who have not looked for the work in the four weeks prior to the interview are now included as unemployed.
- The labour absorption rate remains the same, since it measures the proportion of working age people who are actually employed.
- The expanded unemployment rate for October 1999 was 36,2%.

**Figure 5.2: Labour force participation, labour absorption and unemployment rates amongst those aged 15-65 years (expanded definition of unemployment) by population group and sex, October 1999**

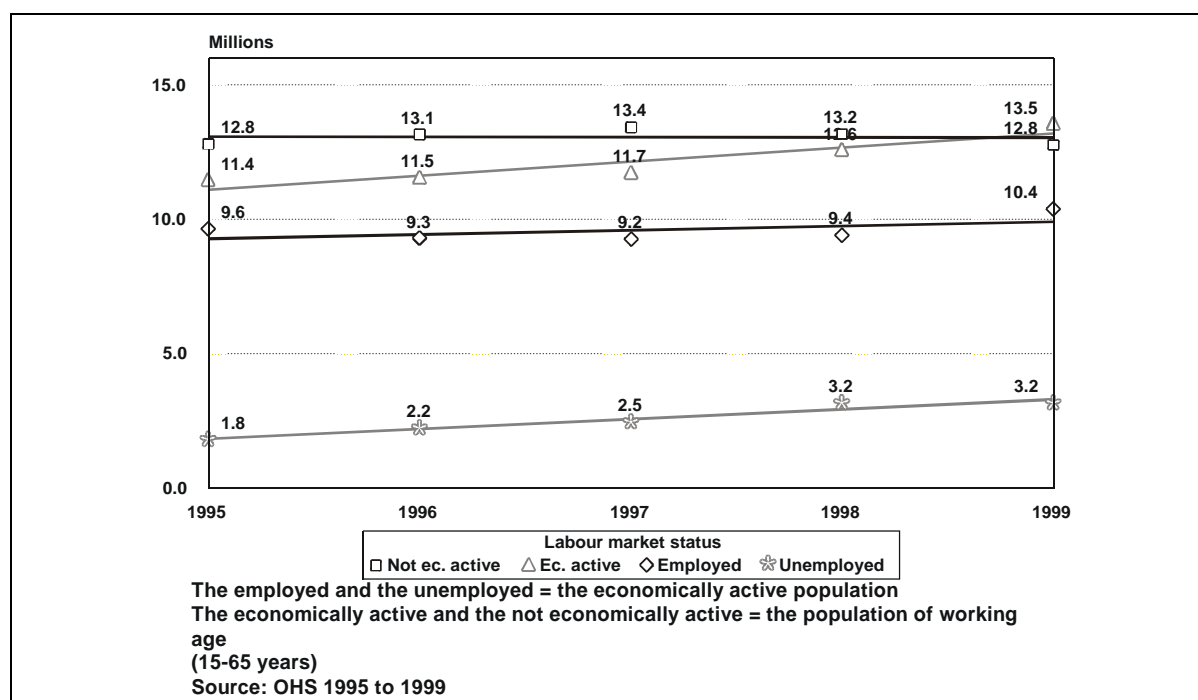


## Comparison of labour market statistics over the time period October 1995 to October 1999

When looking at labour market trends between October 1995 and October 1999, and when using the official definition of unemployment, Figure 5.3 shows the following trends:

- The number of not economically active people has increased gradually over time, from 12,8 million to 13,5 million.
- The number of those who are economically active, i.e. both the employed and the unemployed, has, however, increased more steeply from 11,4 million in 1995 to 12,8 million in 1999. In other words, an increasing number of people, over time, are entering the labour market.
- The number of employed people (in both the formal and the informal sectors) has also increased over time, but this increase, from 9,6 million in 1995 to 10,4 million in 1999, has been rather gradual.
- The number of unemployed has also increased over time, from 1,8 million in 1995 to 3,2 million in 1999.
- This means that new job creation in both the formal and the informal sectors is not keeping pace with the demand for work, as increasing numbers of people, for example those who were previously scholars and students, become available for work and look for work.

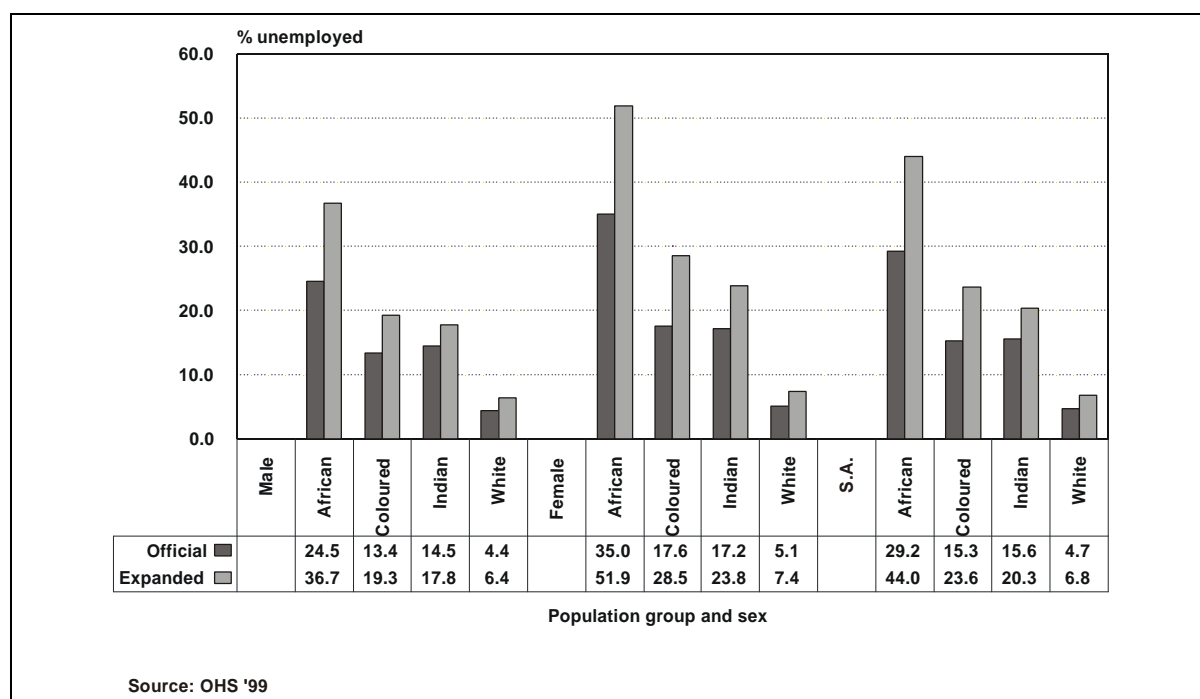
**Figure 5.3: Labour market status among those aged 15-65 years, shown as trend lines, October 1999**



## Unemployment in October 1999

- Among the economically active population in October 1999, Africans, and particularly African women, have the highest unemployment rate, whether the official (35,0%) or expanded (51,9%) definition is used, as indicated in Figure 5.4.
- The percentage difference between the official and expanded unemployment rates is highest among Africans generally (15,8%), and African women in particular (16,9%), indicating that it is largely Africans who have become discouraged work-seekers.
- The unemployment rate for white economically active people generally is low, using both definitions, at 2,1 percentage points, indicating that relatively few white work-seekers have become discouraged.

**Figure 5.4: Unemployment rates (official and expanded) by population group and sex, October 1999**



***Unemployment rates by urban and non-urban areas, sex, and population group***

Unemployment rates are consistently higher in non-urban rather than urban places of residence irrespective of whether the official or the expanded definition is used. There are also differences by sex and population group, using either the official or the expanded definition of unemployment.

Table 5.1 shows that the unemployment rate was highest among African women living in non-urban areas (34,9% using the official and 55,7% using the expanded definition). It was lowest among white men in urban areas (4,4% using the official and 6,3% using the expanded definition).

<b>Sex, population group and type of unemployment rate</b>	<b>Urban male</b>	<b>Urban female</b>	<b>Non-urban male</b>	<b>Non-urban female</b>	<b>Total male</b>	<b>Total female</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>%* (ii)</b>	<b>%* (iii)</b>	<b>%* (iv)</b>	<b>%* (v)</b>	<b>%* (vi)</b>	<b>%* (vii)</b>	<b>%* (viii)</b>
<b>(a) All population groups:</b>							
<b>Official unemployment rate:</b>	18,4	25,8	22,7	32,3	19,8	27,8	23,3
<b>Expanded unemployment rate:</b>	26,2	37,9	37,4	52,7	30,0	43,2	36,2
<b>(b) African:</b>							
<b>Official unemployment rate:</b>	24,1	35,0	25,2	34,9	24,5	35,0	29,2
<b>Expanded unemployment rate:</b>	33,7	48,9	40,8	55,7	36,7	51,9	44,0
<b>(c) Coloured:</b>							
<b>Official unemployment rate:</b>	15,7	19,1	-**	-**	13,4	17,5	15,2
<b>Expanded unemployment rate:</b>	22,3	30,1	-**	-**	19,3	28,4	23,6
<b>(d) Indian:</b>							
<b>Official unemployment rate:</b>	14,6	16,4	-**	-**	14,5	17,2	15,6
<b>Expanded unemployment rate:</b>	17,7	23,1	-**	-**	17,8	23,8	20,2
<b>(e) White:</b>							
<b>Official unemployment rate:</b>	4,4	5,3	-**	-**	4,4	5,1	4,7
<b>Expanded unemployment rate:</b>	6,3	7,5	-**	-**	6,3	7,3	6,8

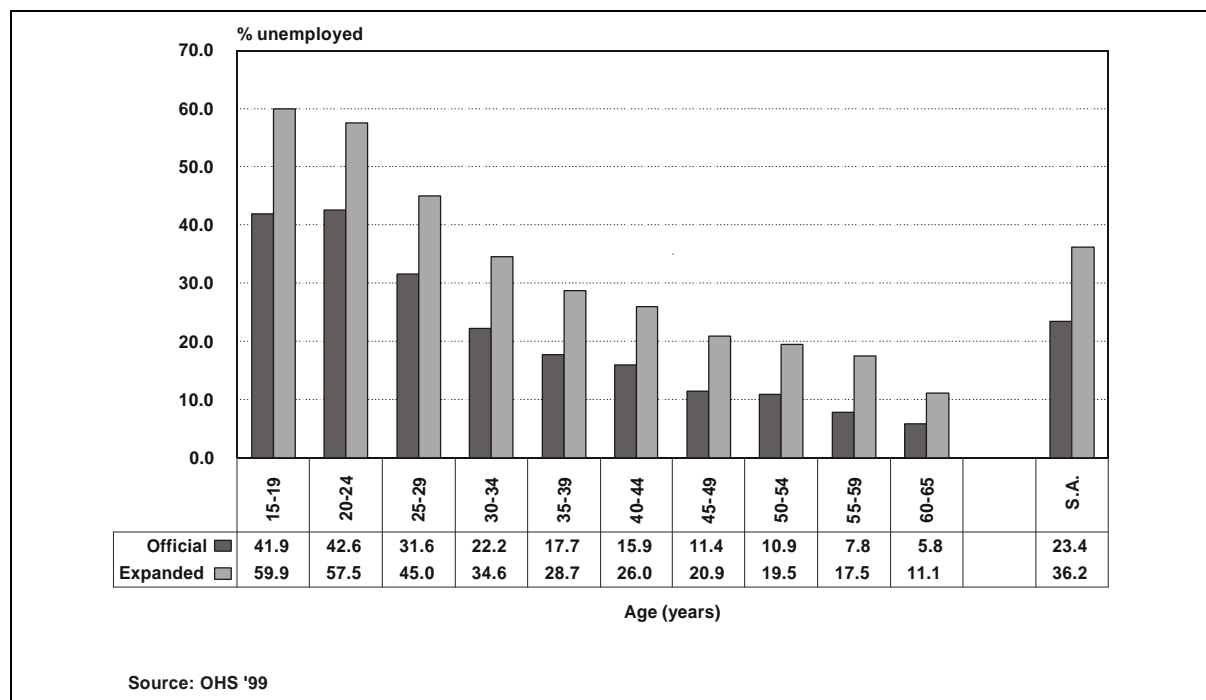
\* Each percentage is a percentage of all people in that particular category. For example, in the block labelled (c) in column (ii) we see that in 1999, according to the official definition of unemployment, 15,7% of economically active coloured males living in urban areas were unemployed.

\*\* Number of responses was too few for this analysis.

### *Unemployment rates by age category*

Unemployment rates show a steady decrease with increasing age, whether the official or the expanded definition is used. For example, Figure 5.5 shows that, using the official definition, 41,9% of the economically active aged 15 to 19 years, and 42,6% aged 20 to 24 years were unemployed in October 1999. This percentage steadily decreases to 7,8% among the economically active aged 55 to 59 years, and 5,8% among those aged 60 to 65 years.

**Figure 5.5: Unemployment rates (official and expanded) by age category, October 1999**

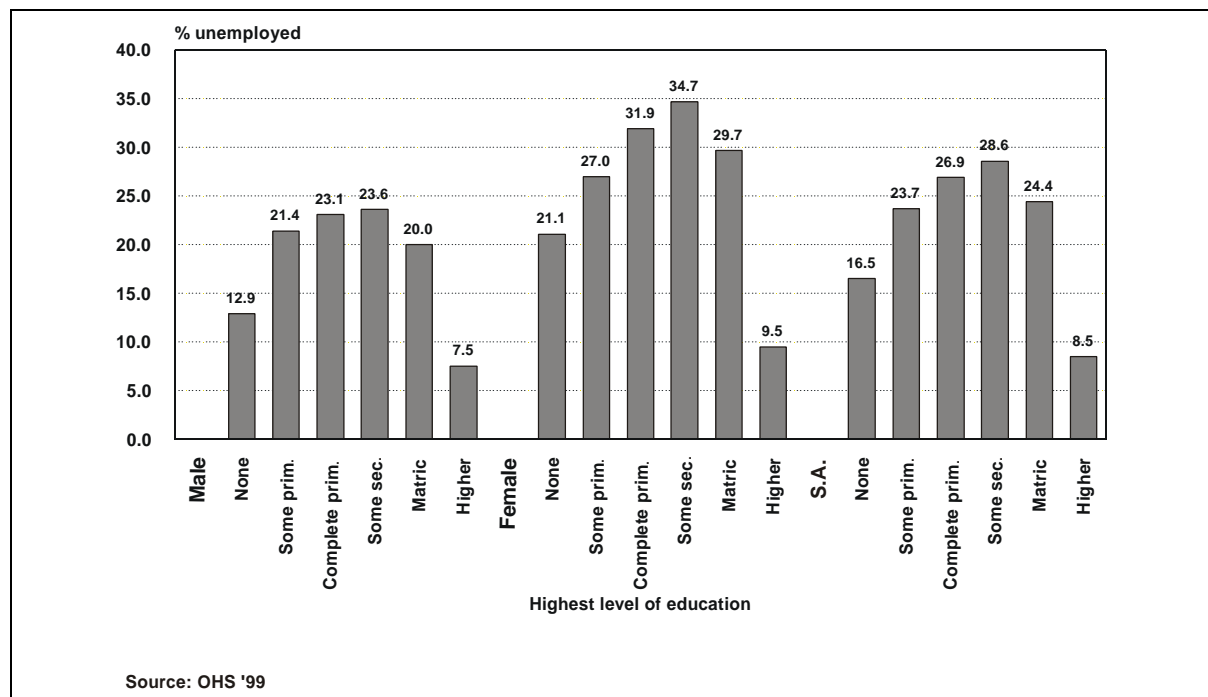


**Official unemployment rates by highest level of education and sex**

Figure 5.6 indicates that there is a complex relationship between education and unemployment.

- The lowest unemployment rate, using the official definition, is found among those with a tertiary education (8,5%), followed by those with no formal education (16,5%). Those with at least some education up to matriculation are all higher than these two percentages, giving a curvilinear distribution.
- The percentage of unemployed women is higher than the percentage of unemployed men across all educational categories.

**Figure 5.6: Official unemployment rates by highest level of education and sex, October 1999**





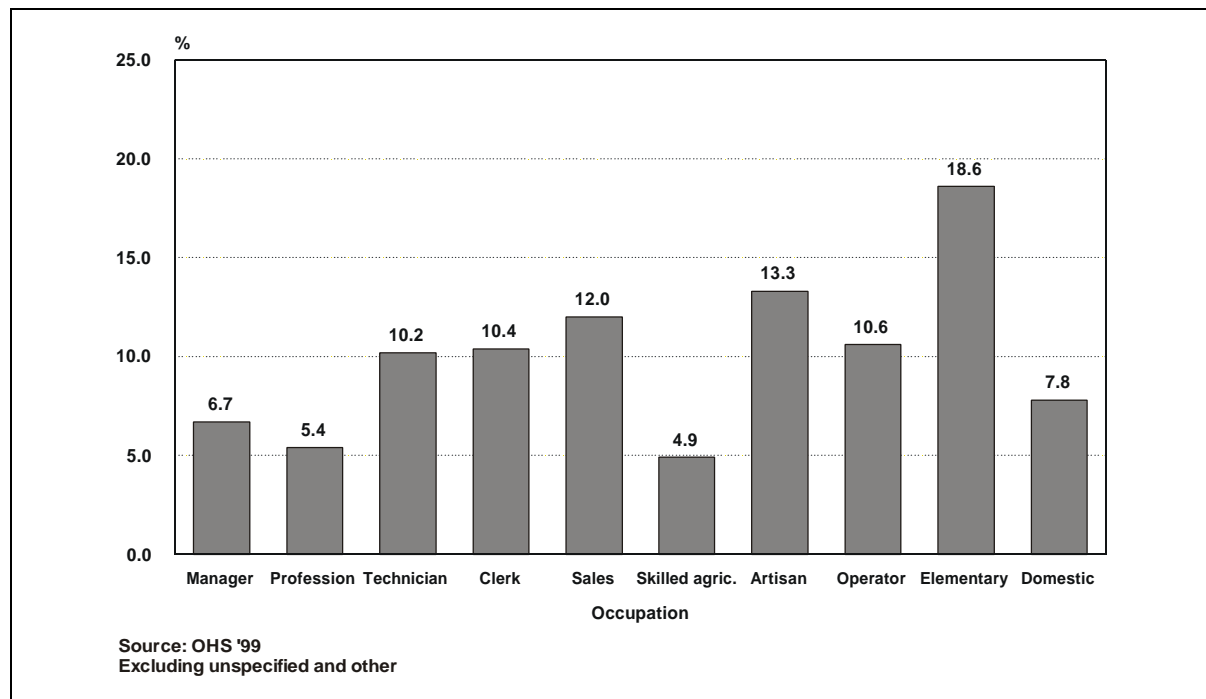
# Employment in October 1999

## *Employment by occupation*

Figure 5.7 indicates the occupations in which the 10,4 million employed people were found in October 1999. It shows that:

- 18,6% of all workers were doing elementary occupations outside of domestic work, such as tea making in a company and planting on a commercial farm.
- A further 7,8% were working in domestic services in households.
- This gives a total of 26,4%, or more than a quarter of all workers, in elementary occupations, including domestic service.
- Relatively few were in managerial (6,7%) or professional (5,4%) occupations.
- 13,3% were in craft and related trades, while 10,2% were in technical or semi-professional occupations.
- 12% were in sales and 10,4% in clerical occupations.

**Figure 5.7: Percentage of the employed in each occupational category, October 1999**

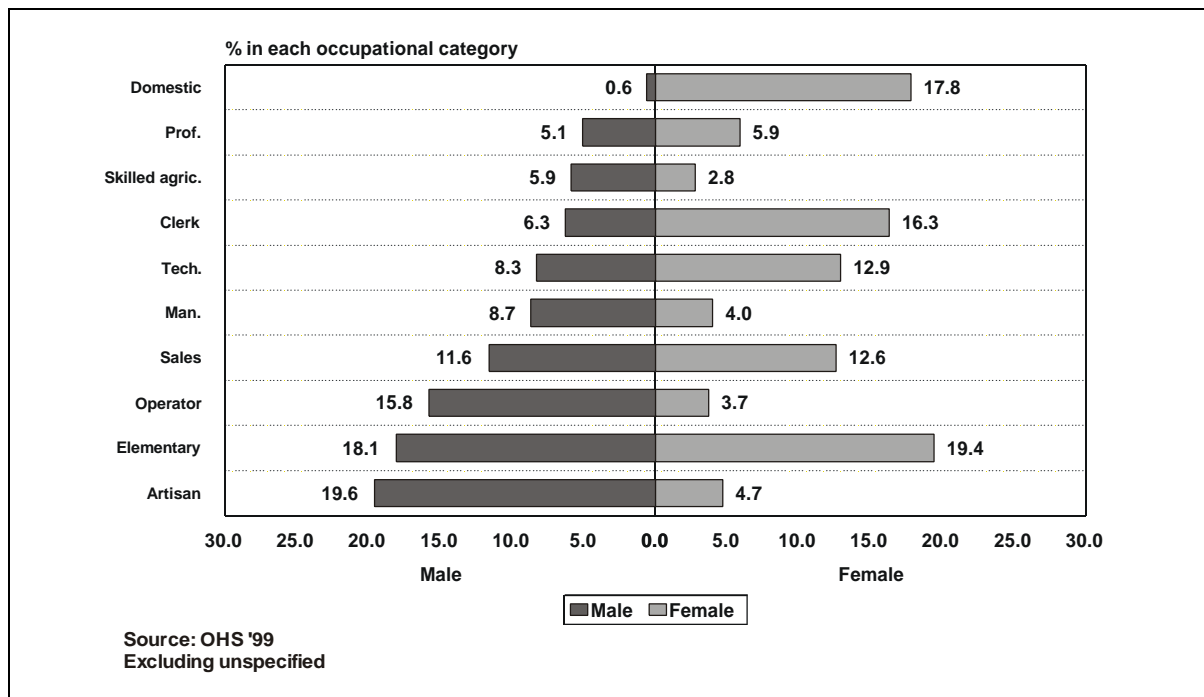


### Occupation by sex

Figure 5.8 indicates that the distribution of occupations varies by sex.

- Among employed men, the largest proportion (19,6%) is found in artisan and craft-related occupations, followed by those in elementary (18,1%) and operator (15,8%) occupations. A small proportion (0,6%) of employed men is found in domestic service.
- Among employed women, the largest proportion is found in elementary (19,4%), domestic (17,8%) and clerical (16,3%) occupations. Relatively few employed women are found in skilled agricultural (2,8%), operator (3,7%), management (4,0%) or craft-related (4,7%) occupations.

**Figure 5.8: Occupations of the employed by sex, October 1999**

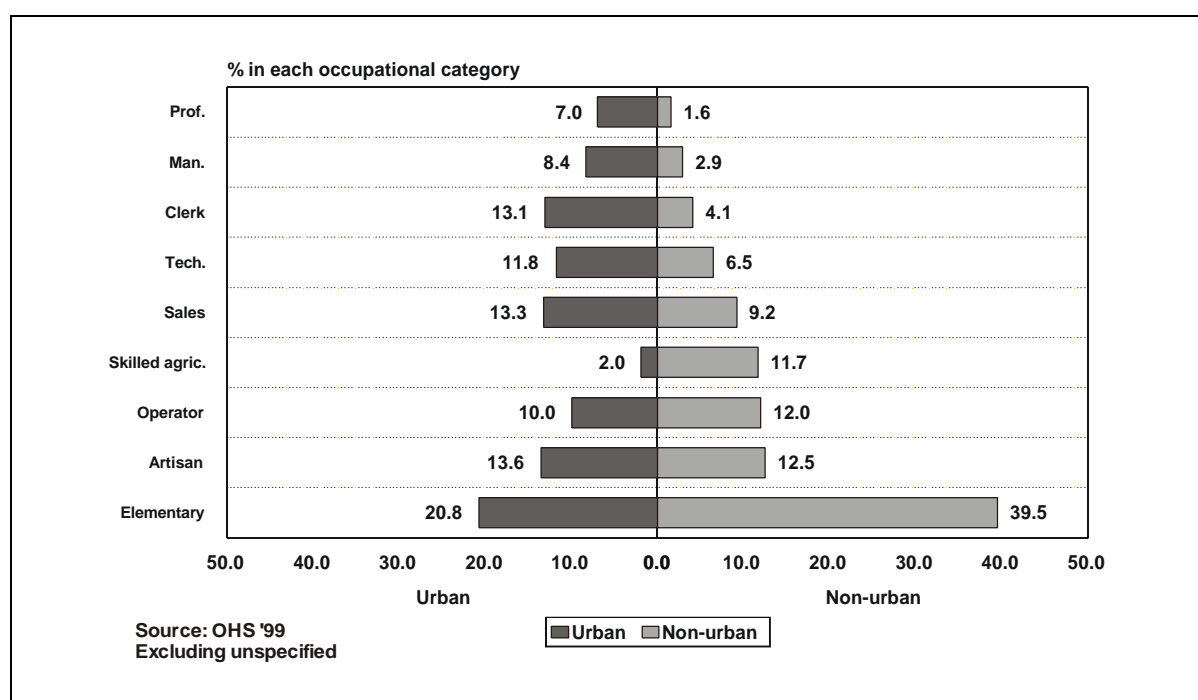


### ***Occupation by urban or non-urban place of residence***

Figure 5.9 indicates the type of occupation in which employed people were engaged, comparing those living in urban as against non-urban areas, in October 1999. Higher level occupations are largely confined to urban, and lower level occupations to non-urban areas.

- While one in every five (20,8%) of the employed living in urban areas were in elementary occupations, four in every ten (39,5%) of the employed in non-urban areas were in this category.
- Clerical work is largely found in urban areas, in that 13,1% of the employed in urban areas, as against 4,1% of the employed in non-urban areas are found in this category.
- Skilled agricultural employment, unsurprisingly, is found largely in non-urban areas. Only 2,0% of the employed in urban areas, as against 11,7% of the employed in non-urban areas are found in this category.
- In urban areas, there is a larger proportion of those in high level occupations. For example, managers (8,4% of the employed in urban as against 2,9% of the employed in non-urban areas are in this category) and professional (7,0% of the employed in urban as against 1,6% in non-urban areas) workers are largely found in urban areas.

**Figure 5.9: Occupations of the employed in urban and non-urban areas, October 1999**



***Changes in occupational structure: October 1995 to October 1999***

In the following graphs, the nine standard occupational categories are grouped together into the following four bands for ease of comparison.

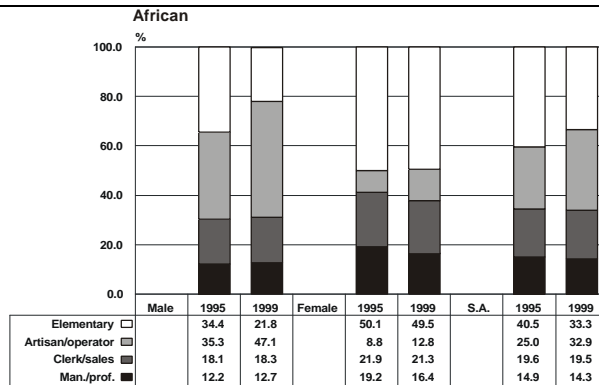
- Managers, professionals, semi-professionals and technicians.
- Clerical and sales workers.
- Artisans, skilled agricultural workers and operators.
- Elementary occupations.

***Changes in occupational structure within population groups:  
October 1995 and October 1999***

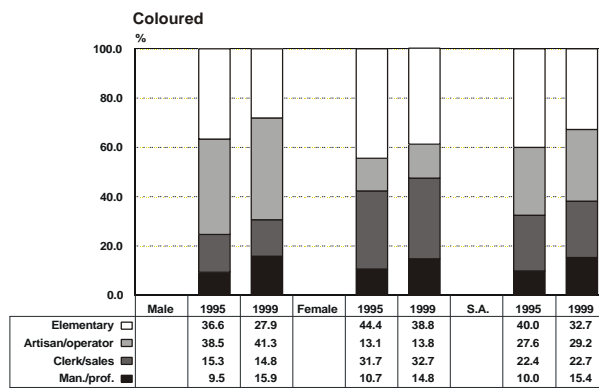
Figure 5.10 indicates that there has been a change in occupational structure among the employed within each population group.

- Among employed African males, there has been a shift from elementary to artisan and operator occupations. But this trend is not evident among employed African females.
- Among employed coloured males and females, a similar shift is evident to employed African men, but there has also been a significant shift into managerial, professional, semi-professional and technical occupations.
- Among employed Indian males, there has been a significant shift into managerial, professional, semi-professional and technical occupations. This trend is less evident among Indian women.
- Among white men and women, there is a shift into the higher level occupations.

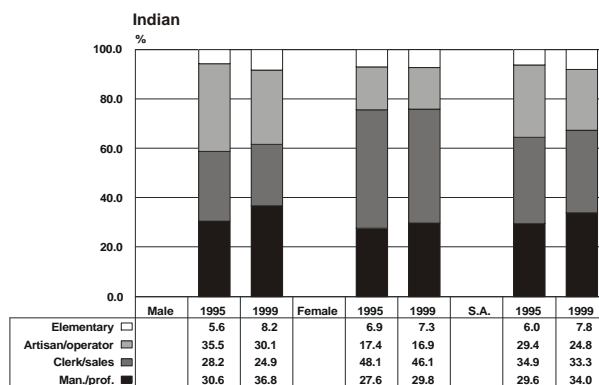
**Figure 5.10: Change in occupation within population groups, October 1995 and October 1999**



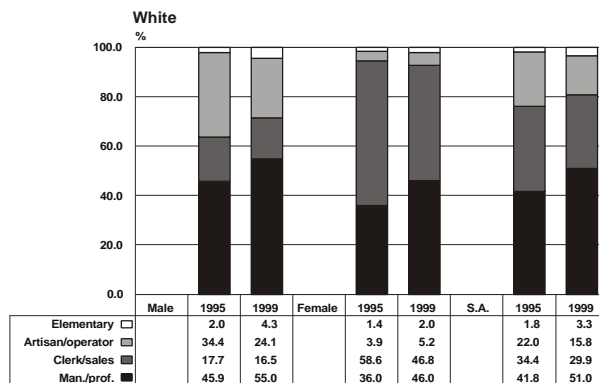
Source OHS '95 and OHS'99  
Excluding unspecified



Source OHS '95 and OHS'99  
Excluding unspecified



Source OHS '95 and OHS'99  
Excluding unspecified

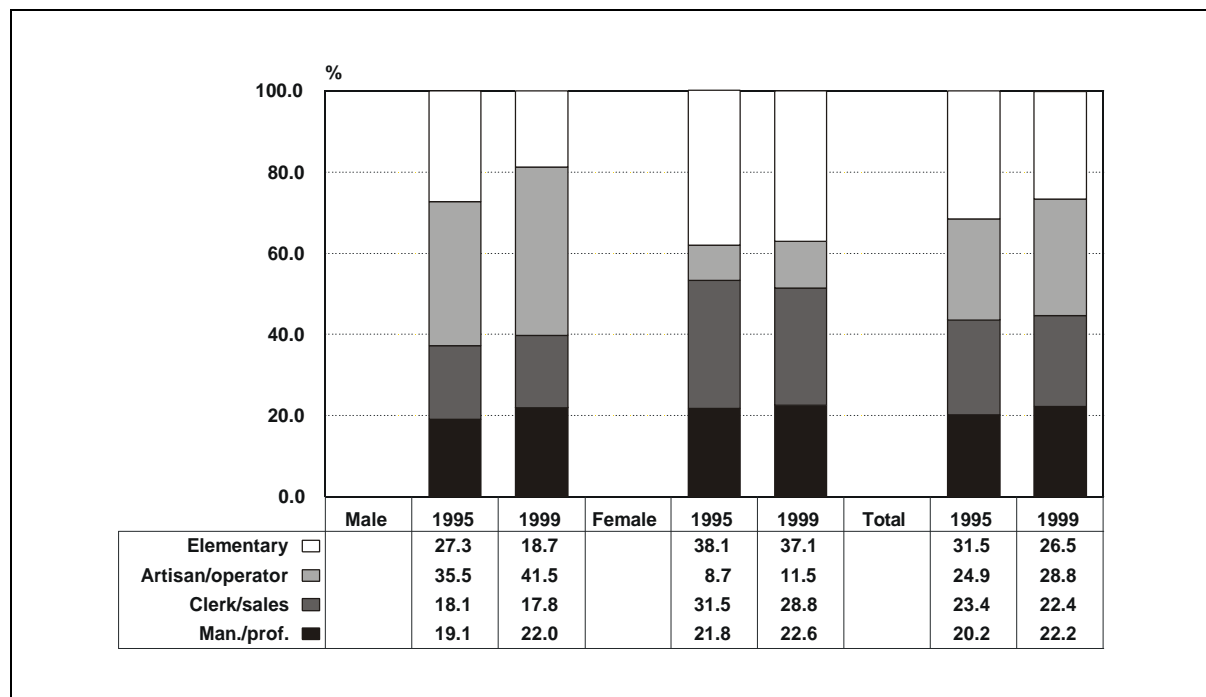


Source OHS '95 and OHS'99  
Excluding unspecified

Figure 5.11 indicates that, between 1995 and 1999, the proportions of employed people who were in the higher levels increased. While this might reflect some occupational mobility, it probably also reflects shifts in production and retrenchments that have affected the less skilled more severely than those with more skills. Among males this change was most notable from the level of elementary to the level of operator and artisan occupations, but among females the change was less notable.

- For example, in October 1995, 27,3% of employed males were in elementary occupations, but this proportion decreased to 18,7% in October 1999.
- On the other hand, the proportion of operators and artisans among employed males increased from 35,5% in 1995 to 41,5% in 1999.
- Among women, the decrease of the proportion employed in elementary occupations (from 38,1% in 1995 to 37,1% in 1999) was not statistically significant.
- In general, there has been an increase in the proportion of people in managerial, professional, semi-professional and technical occupations (20,2% in 1995 to 22,2% in 1999) and in artisan and operator occupations (24,9% in 1995 to 28,8% in 1999), and a decrease in the proportion of people in elementary occupations (31,5% in 1995 to 26,5% in 1999)

**Figure 5.11: Changes in broad occupational category by sex, October 1995 and October 1999**



***Economic sector in which employed people work***

Figure 5.12 indicates that the largest percentage of the employed was working in the trade sector (20,3%) in October 1999, followed by the community, personal and social services sector (19,4%), and then manufacturing (14,6%). Relatively few were working in the electricity, gas and water supply sector (0,8%).

**Figure 5.12: Economic sector in which employed people work, October 1999**

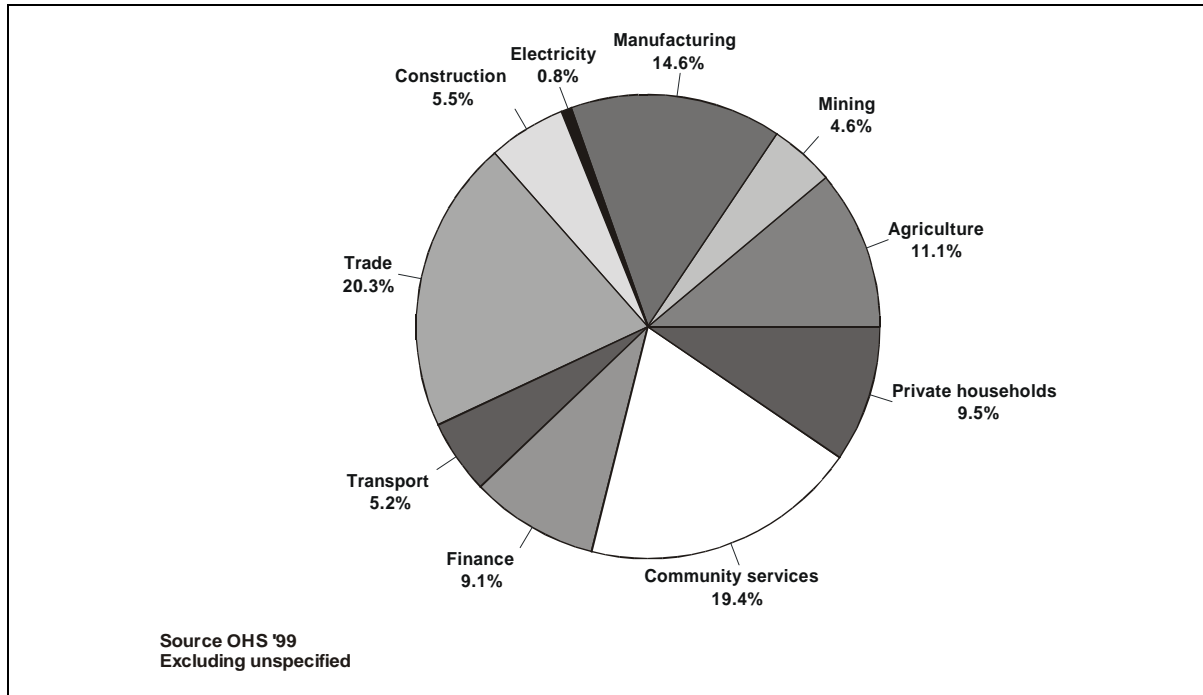
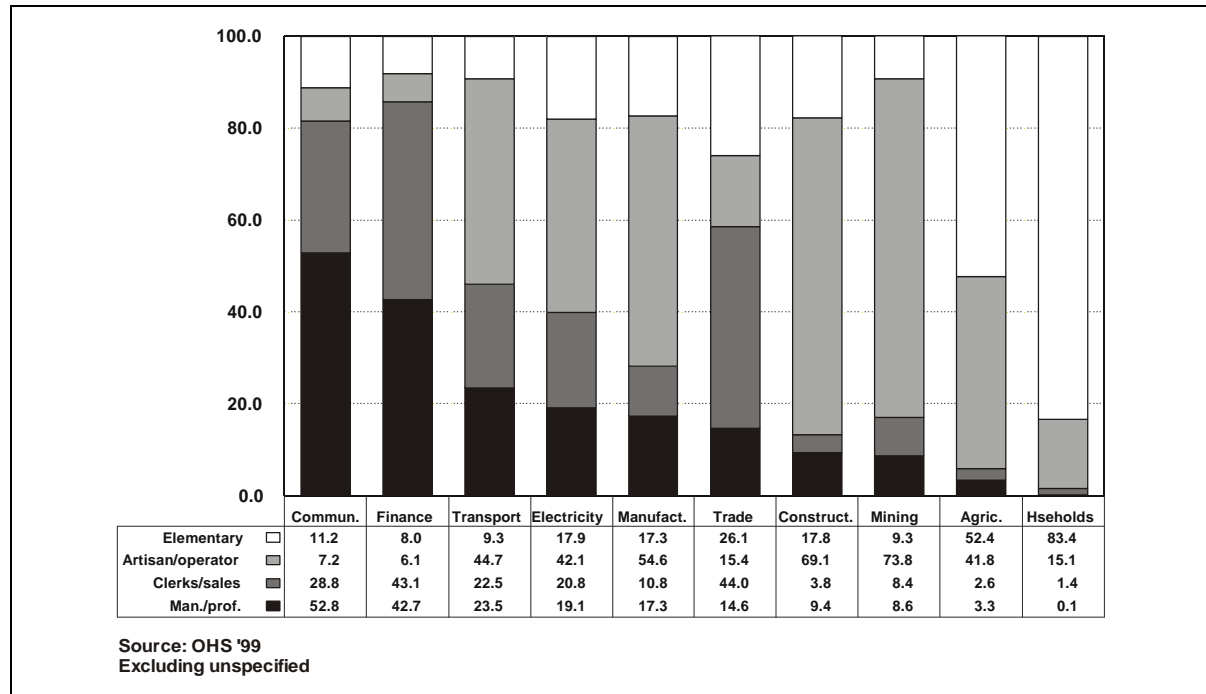


Figure 5.13 indicates the broad occupational categories of employed people according to the economic sector in which they work.

**Figure 5.13: Broad occupational categories of the employed by economic sector, October 1999**



- Over half (52,8%) of those in the community, personal and social services sector, and 42,7% in the financial services sector are in managerial, professional, semi-professional or technical occupations, as against 3,3% in the agricultural, hunting, forestry and fishing sector, and 0,1% of those working in private households. This pattern reflects the fact that this sector includes much of government.
- On the other hand, 83,4% of those working in private households and 52,4% of those in the agricultural, hunting, forestry and fishing sector, are in elementary occupations, as against 8,0% of those in the financial and 9,3% in the transport sectors who are in these elementary occupations

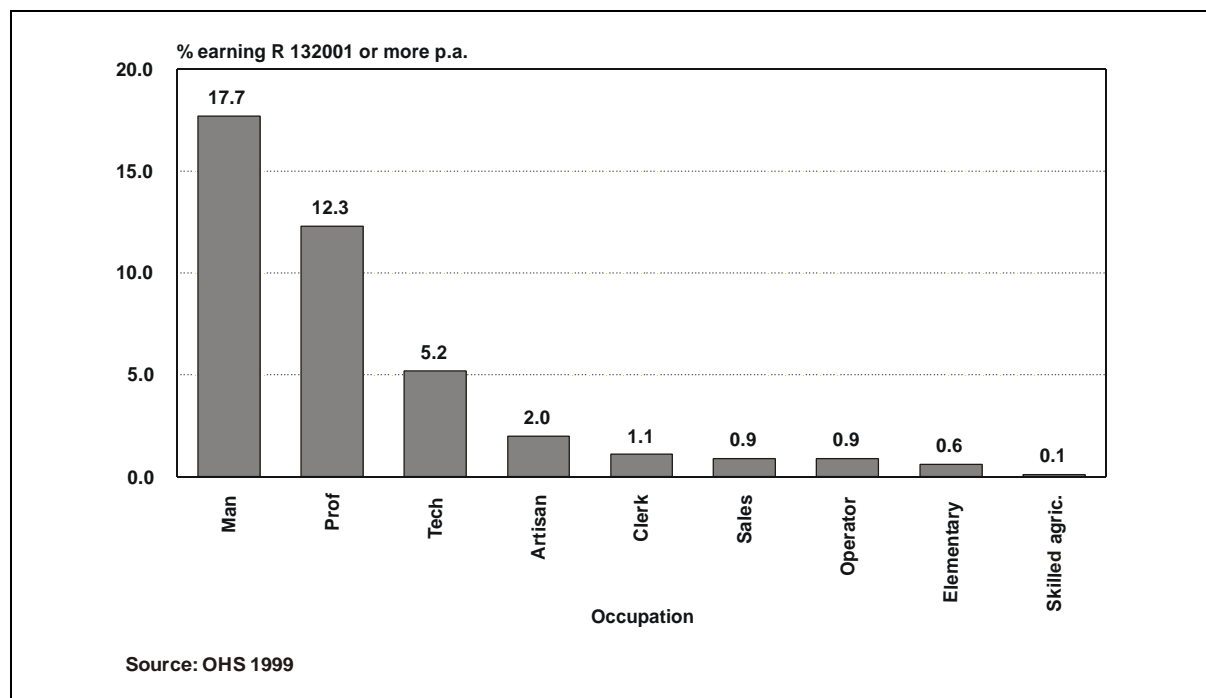


### ***Earnings by occupation and industry***

Occupation is often interpreted as an indicator of status and skill at work. Status and skill are themselves reflected in earnings. Figure 5.14 shows the percentage of employed people in each occupational category who earned more than R132 000 per annum. The ranking of the occupations for the most part reflects the usual order in which they are listed in statistical and other official listings, with managers followed by professionals at the top. There are, however, a few anomalies.

- Whereas artisans are usually listed as the eighth occupation, they are ranked fourth in terms of this measure of earnings. They thus appear to be better placed in terms of earnings than clerical workers, service and sales workers and skilled agricultural workers, all of whom are 'higher' on the occupational scale than artisans.
- On the other hand, skilled agricultural workers are ranked lowest in figure 5.14, even lower than elementary workers. The explanation for this apparent anomaly is probably that self-employed subsistence workers and other people working their own plots will usually be classified as skilled agricultural workers in terms of occupation.

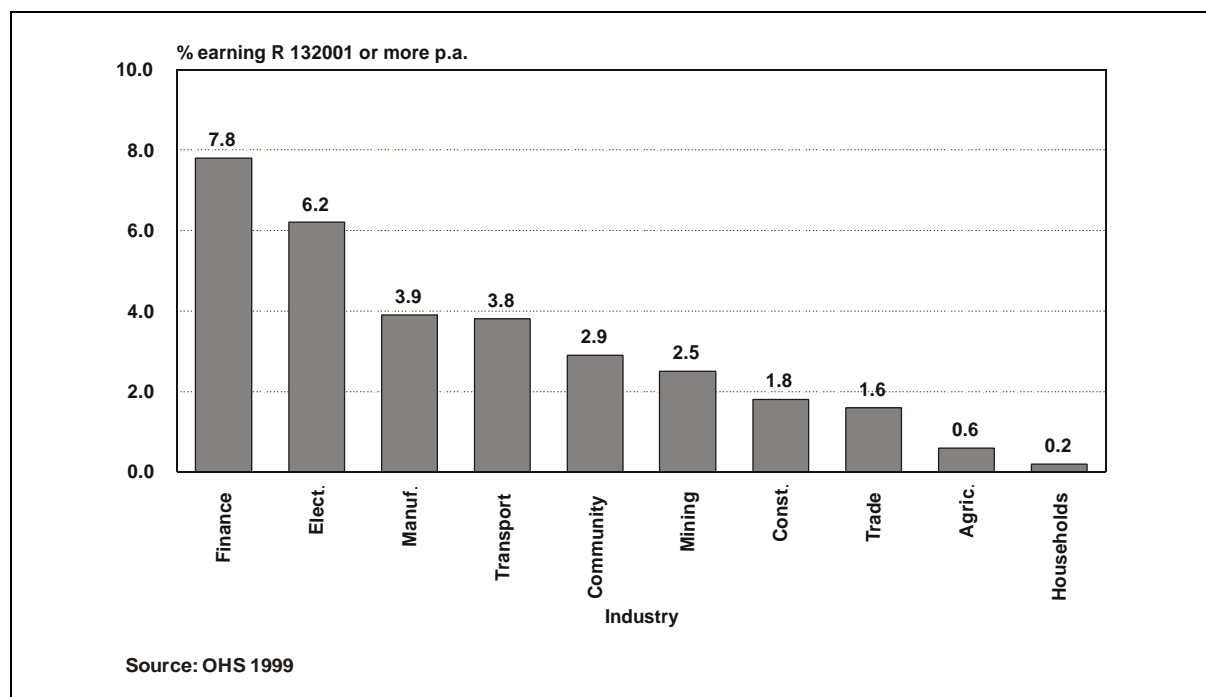
**Figure 5.14: Percentage of employed South Africans in each occupation earning R132 001 or more (after tax, excluding benefits), October 1999**



Unlike occupation, the industrial classification does not, of itself, suggest status or skill rankings. There are nevertheless, significant differences in the earnings profiles across industries. These in part reflect the skills mix of the majority of workers in the different industries.

Figure 5.15 reveals that finance has the highest proportion (7,8%) of employed people earning R132 000 or more per annum. The proportion of high earners in finance is at least twice as high as in any other industry except electricity and gas, where 6,2% are in this top earnings bracket. At the other end of the scale, in agriculture only 0,6% of workers and in private households only 0,2% earn more than R132 000 per annum. Both these latter industries are ones in which the majority of employed are elementary workers. Further, while in agriculture employers will account for most of the relatively few employed people earning R132 000 or more, there will be few, if any, employers recorded as working in private households.

**Figure 5.15: Percentage of employed South Africans in each industry earning R132 001 or more (after tax, excluding benefits), October 1999**



## Employment in the informal sector in October 1999

In South Africa, formal sector employment significantly outnumbers informal sector employment. Over recent years, however, the October household surveys have been recording increasing numbers of employed people in the informal sector.

To some extent, the increases in informal sector employment can be attributed to improved methods of conducting the household surveys. In particular, more recent surveys appear to have captured subsistence farming more adequately than previous ones. The even more recent pilot *Labour force survey*, using additional prompts, increased the capture of subsistence farming still further. It recorded a total of 2,2 million people employed in agriculture (1,5 million of who were in informal, small-scale and subsistence agriculture), compared to the 1,1 million recorded by the October household survey of 1999 (where the division into formal and informal is not possible).

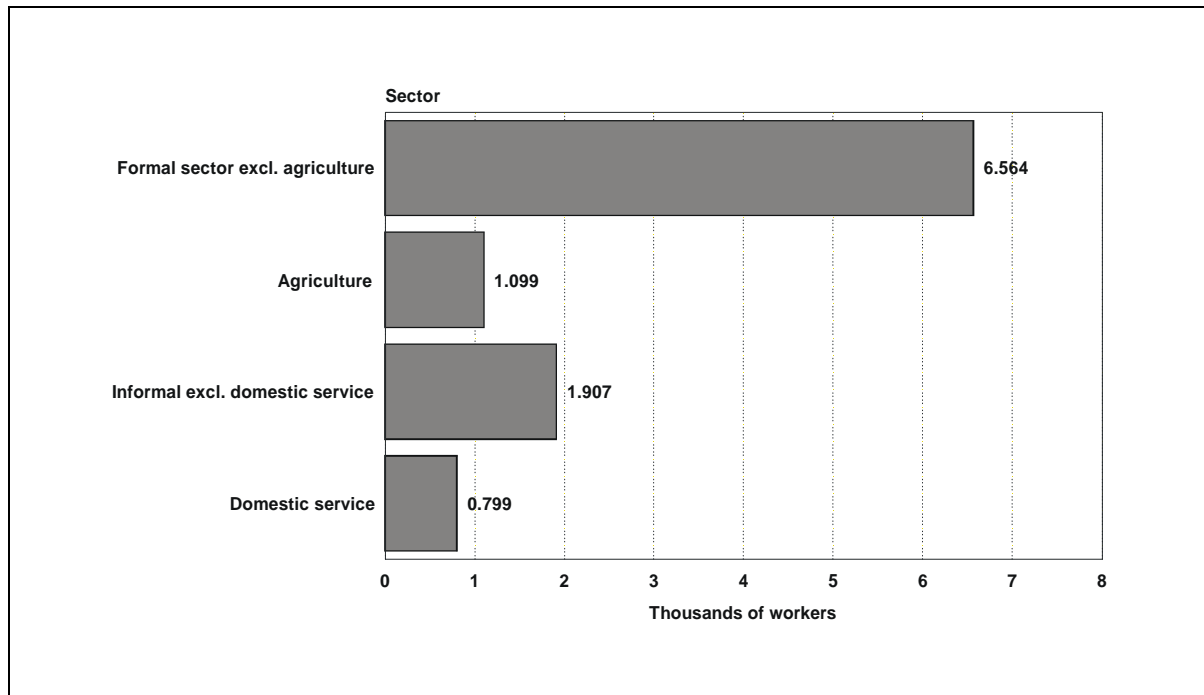
Table 5.2 indicates the following:

- Altogether there were 10,4 million employed people in South Africa in October 1999.
- 6,6 million were employed in the formal sector.
- 2,7 were in the informal sector (excluding agriculture but including domestic work).
- 0,8 million were in domestic service.

<b>Table 5.2</b>	
<b>Formal and informal employment, October 1999</b>	
<b>Labour market variables</b> (i)	<b>Oct.</b>
	<b>1999</b>
	<b>N (000's)</b>
<b>Total employed</b>	<b>10 369</b>
<b>Among the employed:</b>	
<b>Employed in the formal sector</b>	6 564
<b>Employed in agriculture</b>	1 099
<b>Employed in the informal sector</b>	1 907
<b>Employed in domestic service</b>	799

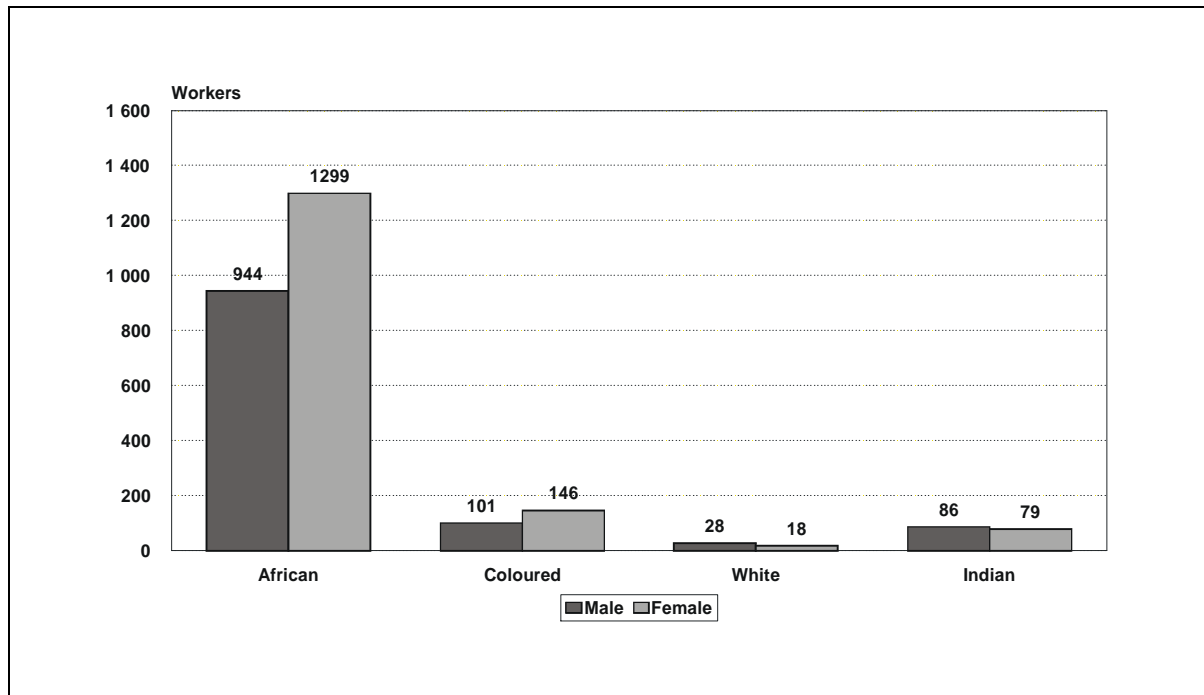
Figure 5.16 illustrates graphically the relative sizes of different parts of the labour force in October 1999. Of the 10,4 million employed at that time, close on two-thirds (63,3%) were employed in the formal sector excluding agriculture. A further 10,6% were employed in agriculture. Of the remainder, 7,7% were employed as domestic workers and 18,4% in the rest of the informal sector.

**Figure 5.16: Employment in formal and informal sectors, October 1999**



Whereas in the economy as a whole, employed men outnumber employed women, in the informal sector this is not the case. Women account for 1,5 million (57,1%) of the 2,7 million informal sector workers (excluding agriculture, but including domestic work). Figure 5.17 reveals further the African dominance in the informal sector, in that 2,2 million of all informal sector workers were African in 1999. It is among African and coloured informal sector workers that women most clearly outnumber men. Many of these informal sector African and coloured women are employed as domestic workers.

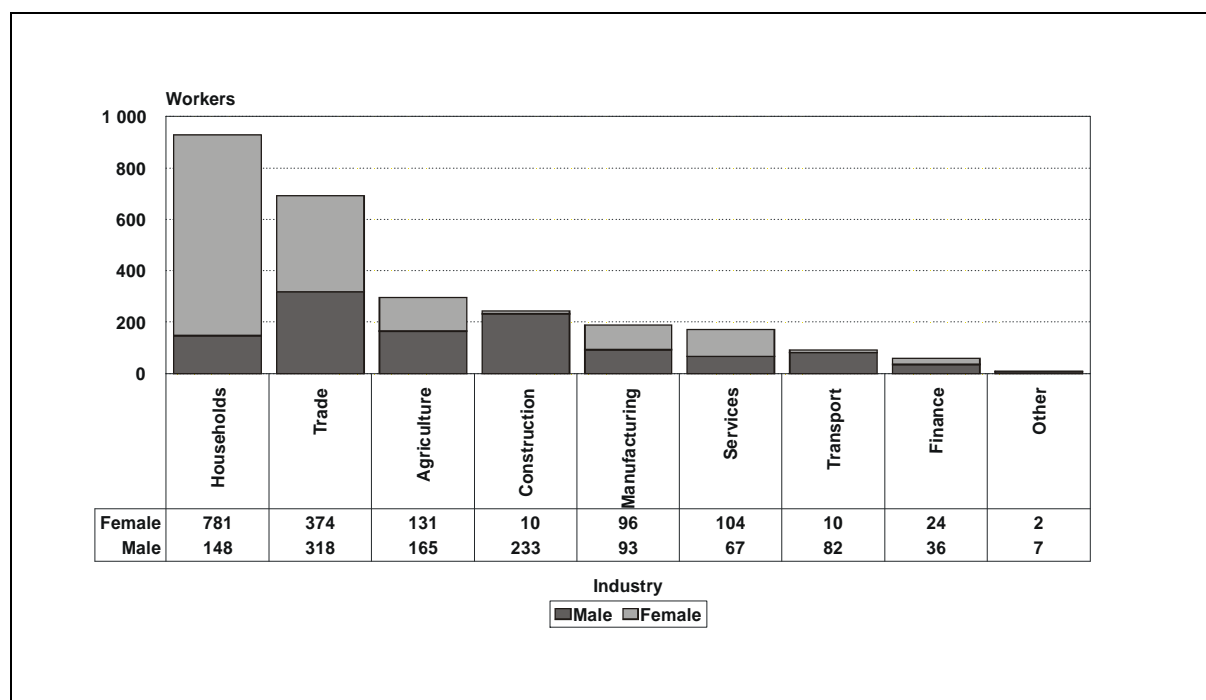
**Figure 5.17: Informal sector employment by population group and sex, October 1999**



The importance of private households within the informal sector is illustrated in Figure 5.18. Private households account for over a third (34,3%) of informal sector employment. The next most important industry is trade, which accounts for over a quarter (25,6%) of informal sector employment.

Figure 5.18 also reveals different gender patterns across diverse industries within the informal sector. As expected, women dominate in private households, accounting for 84,1% of the informal sector employment there. Informal trade and manufacturing have fairly even gender distributions, although women outnumber men somewhat within trade. Construction is the most heavily male-dominated of the significant industries, in that 95,9% of those people employed in this industry are men.

**Figure 5.18: Informal sector by industry and sex, October 1999**



## Migrant workers in October 1999

During the apartheid years, a large number of people – and particularly African men – lived most of their life apart from their families as migrant workers. The laws that fostered large-scale migrant work no longer exist, but other factors still result in significant numbers of people living apart from their families in order to earn income.

In the October household survey of 1999, a migrant worker was defined as a person who is absent from home for more than a month each year to work or to seek work. For the purposes of the definition, work was defined to include both self-employment and working for someone else as an employee.

Figure 5.19 reveals that men are more likely than women to be migrant workers. In 1999, 11,9% of all men aged 15 years or more were migrant workers, compared to 5,4% of women in this age group. The figure also reveals that migrant work is far more common for African people than for those of other population groups. As many as 15,4% of African men aged 15 years or more were migrant workers, and 6,9% of African women, giving an overall percentage of 10,9%. Coloured people were the next most likely group to contain migrant workers, but the incidence was only 2,3%. In all population groups, men were more likely than women, to be migrant workers.

**Figure 5.19: Percentage of all those aged 15 years or more who are migrant workers by population group, October 1999**

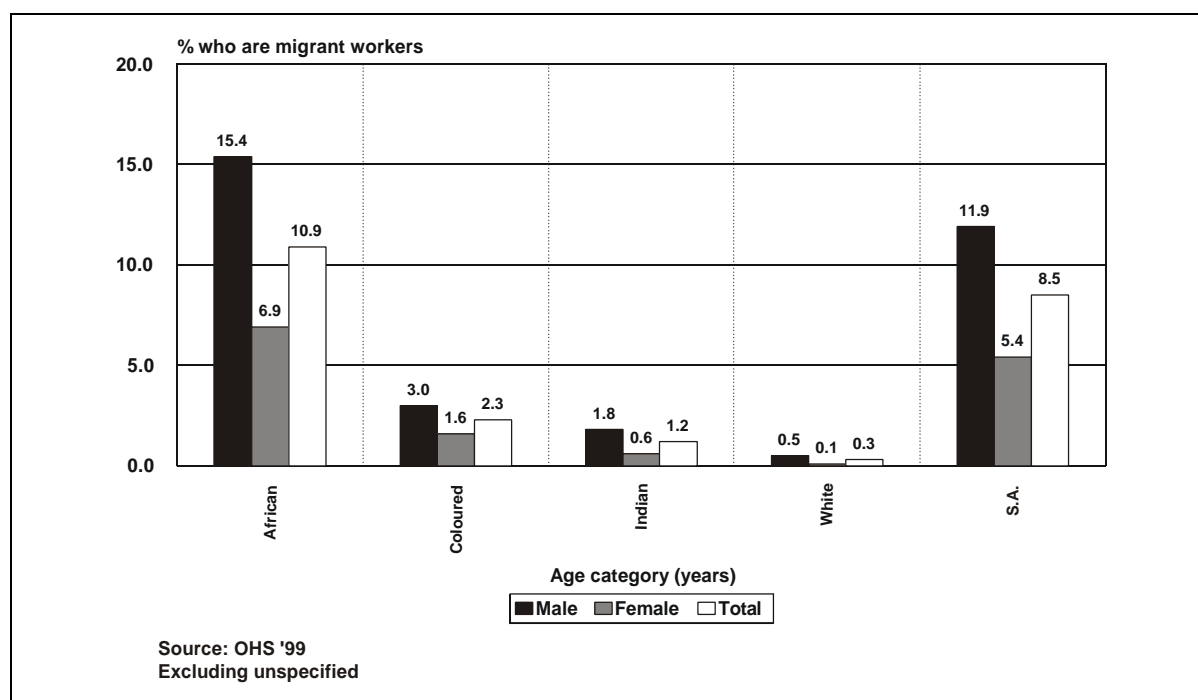
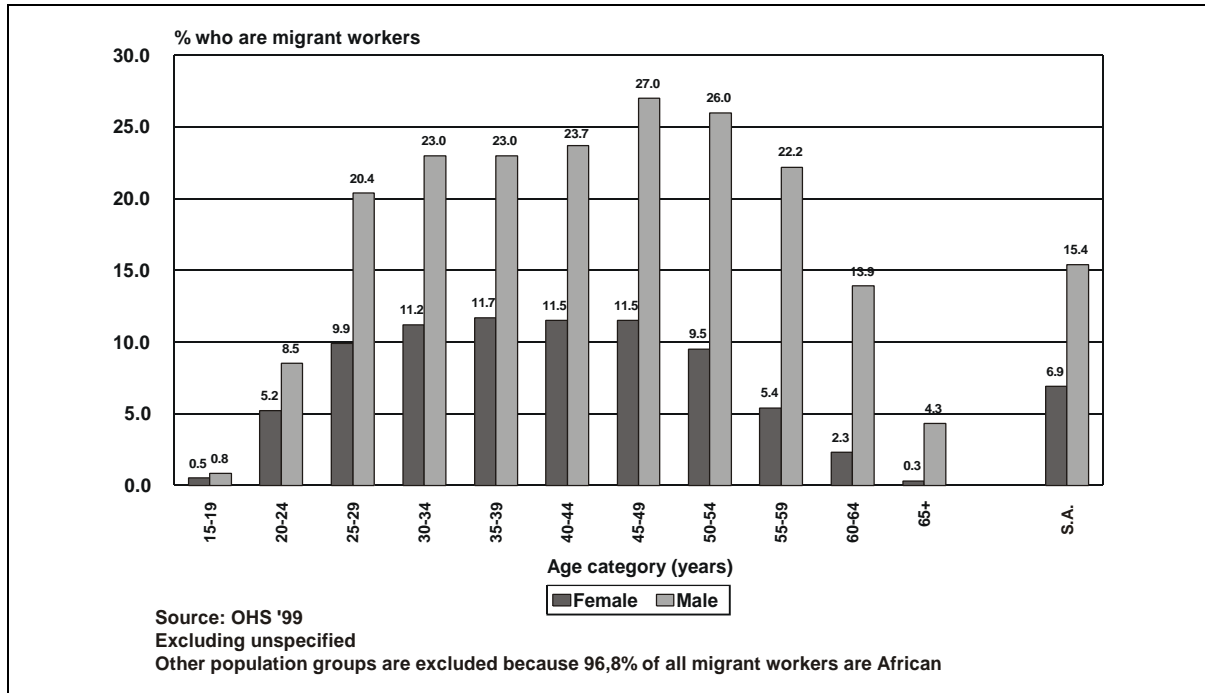


Figure 5.20 indicates, among Africans, the proportion of men and women in each age group who are migrant workers. The graph shows that there is an increase in the proportion of migrant workers up to the age category 45 – 49 years, particularly among men, followed by a decrease after this age category.

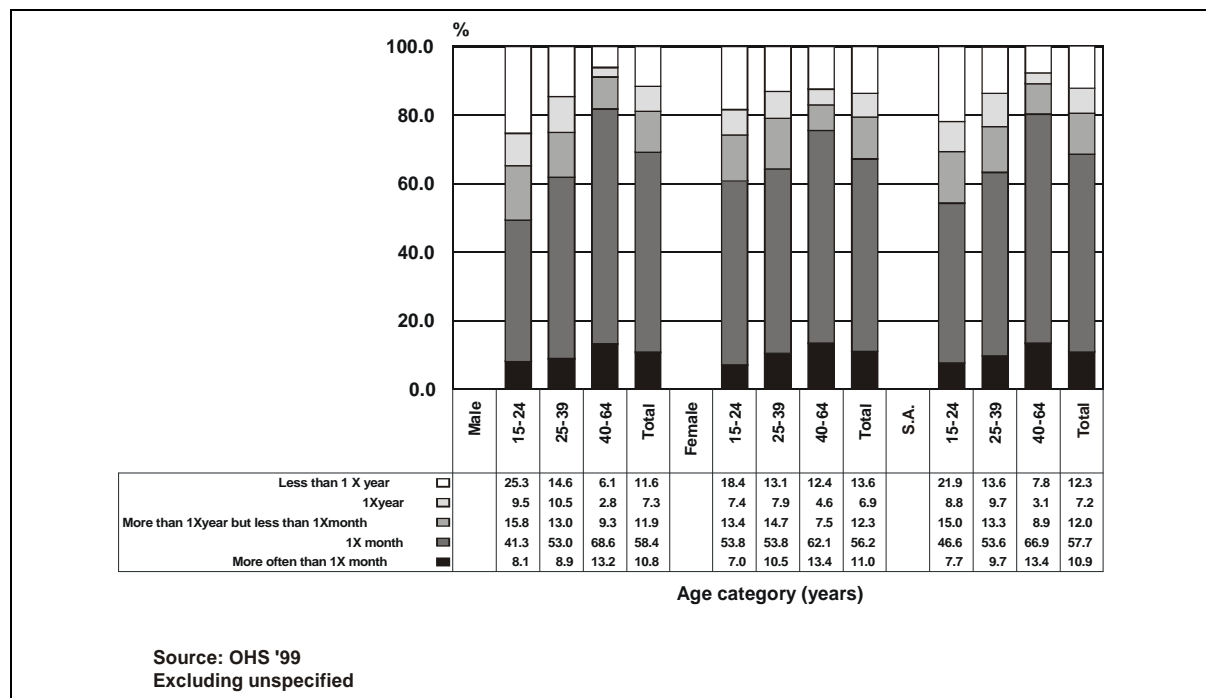
**Figure 5.20: Percentage of Africans aged 15 years or more who are migrant workers by age category and sex, October 1999**





Migrant workers usually earn money to support both themselves and the families that they leave behind. Figure 5.21 reveals that the overwhelming majority of migrant workers (87,7%) send money home at least once a year. Among both women and men, the regularity of sending remittances increases with age. For example, while 25,3% of migrant-worker men aged between 15 and 24 years and 18,4% of migrant-worker women in this age group send money home less than once a year, only 6,1% of men and 12,4% of women aged 40 to 64 years send money home this infrequently. Conversely, while only 8,1% of the younger men and 7,0% of the younger women send money home more than once a month, 13,2% of the older men and 13,4% of the older women do so.

**Figure 5.21: How frequently migrant workers send money home by age category, October 1999**



## Summary

In October 1999, there were an estimated 26,3 million people living in South Africa aged between 15 and 65 years. This is considered to be the population of working age. Of these people, when using the official definition of unemployment, an estimated 12,8 million were classified as being not economically active, while 3,2 million said they were unemployed and had looked for work in the four weeks prior to the interview and 10,4 million were employed.

When looking at labour market trends between October 1995 and October 1999, and when using the official definition of unemployment, the following trends emerged. The number of people who are not economically active has increased gradually over time. The number of those who are economically active, i.e. both the employed and the unemployed, has, however, increased more steeply. An increasing number of people, over time, are entering the labour market.

The number of employed people (in both the formal and the informal sectors) has also increased over time, but this increase has been rather gradual. The number of unemployed people has also increased over time. New job creation in both the formal and the informal sectors is not keeping pace with the demand for work, as increasing numbers of people, for example those who were previously scholars and students, become available for work and look for work.

There is a complex relationship between education and unemployment. The lowest unemployment rate, using the official definition, is found among those with a tertiary education, followed by those with no formal education. Those with at least some education up to matriculation are all higher, giving a curvilinear distribution.

There has been a change in the occupational structure among employed South Africans within each population group. Among employed African males, there has been a shift from elementary to artisan and operator occupations. But this trend is not evident among employed African females. Among white men and women, there is an ongoing shift into the higher level occupations.

Formal sector employment significantly outnumbers informal sector employment. Over recent years, however, the October household surveys have been recording increasing numbers of employed people in the informal sector. To some extent, the increases in informal sector employment can be attributed to improved methods of conducting the household surveys. In particular, more recent surveys appear to have captured subsistence farming more adequately than previous ones. The even more recent pilot *Labour force survey* of February 2000, using additional prompts, increased the capture of subsistence farming still further, since more probing questions were asked.

During the apartheid years, a large number of people – and particularly African men – lived most of their life apart from their families as migrant workers. The laws that fostered large-scale migrant work no longer exist, but other factors still result in significant numbers of people living apart from their families in order to earn income. In the October household survey of 1999, a migrant worker was defined as a person who is absent from home for more than a month each year to work or to seek work. For the purposes of the definition, work was defined to include both self-employment and working for someone else as an employee.

Migrant work is far more common for African people than for those of other population groups. As many as 15,4% of African men aged 15 years or more were migrant workers, and 6,9% of African women, giving an overall percentage of 10,9%. Coloured people were the next most likely group to contain migrant workers, but the incidence was only 2,3%. In all population groups, men were more likely than women, to be migrant workers.

# Chapter 6

## Households in South Africa

### October 1995 - 1999

#### Introduction

The South African government has introduced various policies aimed at alleviating poverty affecting households by providing better infrastructure and services to households, such as adequate housing, health care, clean water, electricity and sanitation.

This chapter examines changes in households regarding access to infrastructure and services. It makes use of data from the household section of the OHSs from 1995 to 1999, which covers a wide range of these types of variables, including:

- type of housing in which South African households live,
- their main source of water,
- access to flush toilets,
- the main source of energy for cooking, heating and lighting,
- access to a telephone or a cellular phone,
- methods of refuse removal, and
- access to health care.

#### Access to infrastructure and services

##### *Type of housing in which South Africans live*

Between 1995 and 1999, the proportion of households living in formal dwellings in South Africa showed an overall gradual increase over time. (While households could indicate that they occupied more than one dwelling, analysis here focuses on the one that was indicated to be the main dwelling.)

Figure 6.1 shows the percentage of households by the type of housing in which they lived between October 1995 and October 1999 as a linear trend line. The points or other symbols on the graph indicate the actual percentages obtained in the survey, while the line shows the direction of the trend. The actual percentages are subject to sampling and non-sampling error, and are therefore not directly comparable. But the trend line indicates the best fit across the points of measurement.

- Each line in the graph shows whether the trend is moving upwards or downwards or if it remains unchanged over time.
- The graph shows that there is a steady increase in the proportion of households living in formal housing.
- There is a steady decrease in the proportion of households living in traditional dwellings.
- There is also a slight increase over time in the proportion of households living in informal dwellings.
- The proportion of households living in other types of dwellings such as caravans has showed a slight decrease over time.

**Figure 6.1: Changes in type of housing in which households live between October 1995 and October 1999 (fitted to a trend line)**

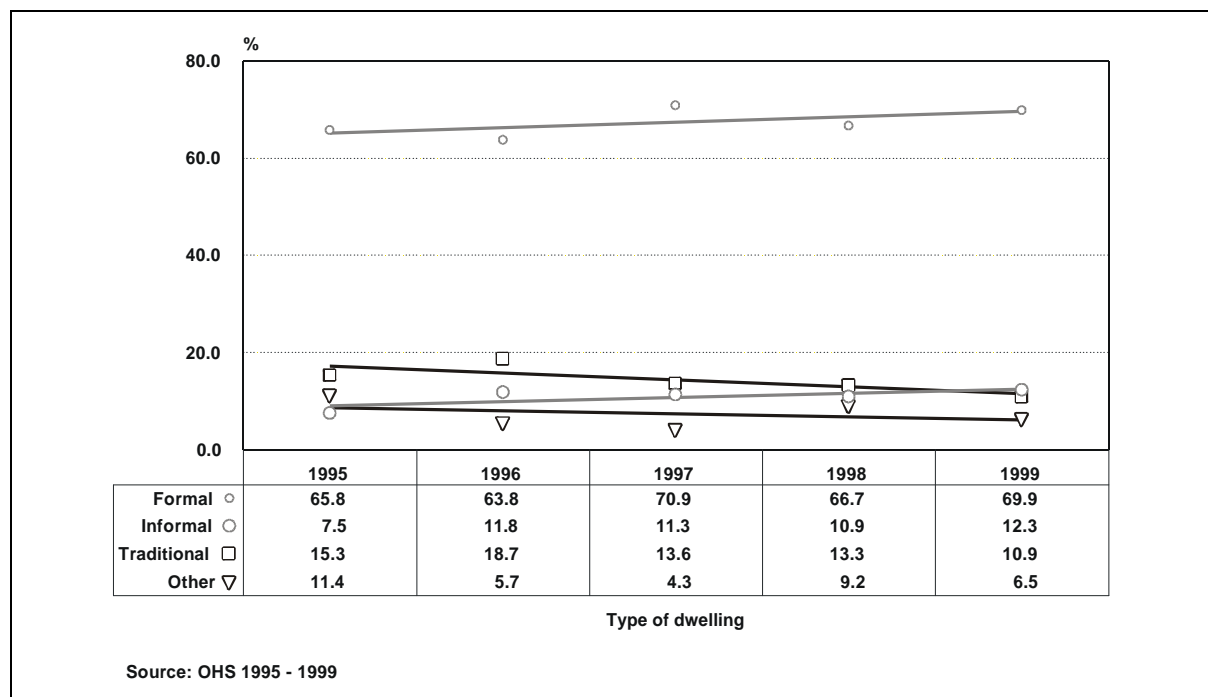


Figure 6.2 shows the type of dwellings occupied by South African households in urban and non-urban areas in October 1999.

- In both locations, large proportions of households lived in formal dwellings. But proportionally more households in urban (74,7%) than in non-urban (63,3%) areas were living in formal dwellings.
- Informal structures were the second most common type of dwelling in urban areas (16,6%).
- In non-urban areas, on the other hand, more than a quarter of all households (26,2%) was living in traditional dwellings.

**Figure 6.2: Type of housing in which households live in urban and non-urban areas, October 1999**

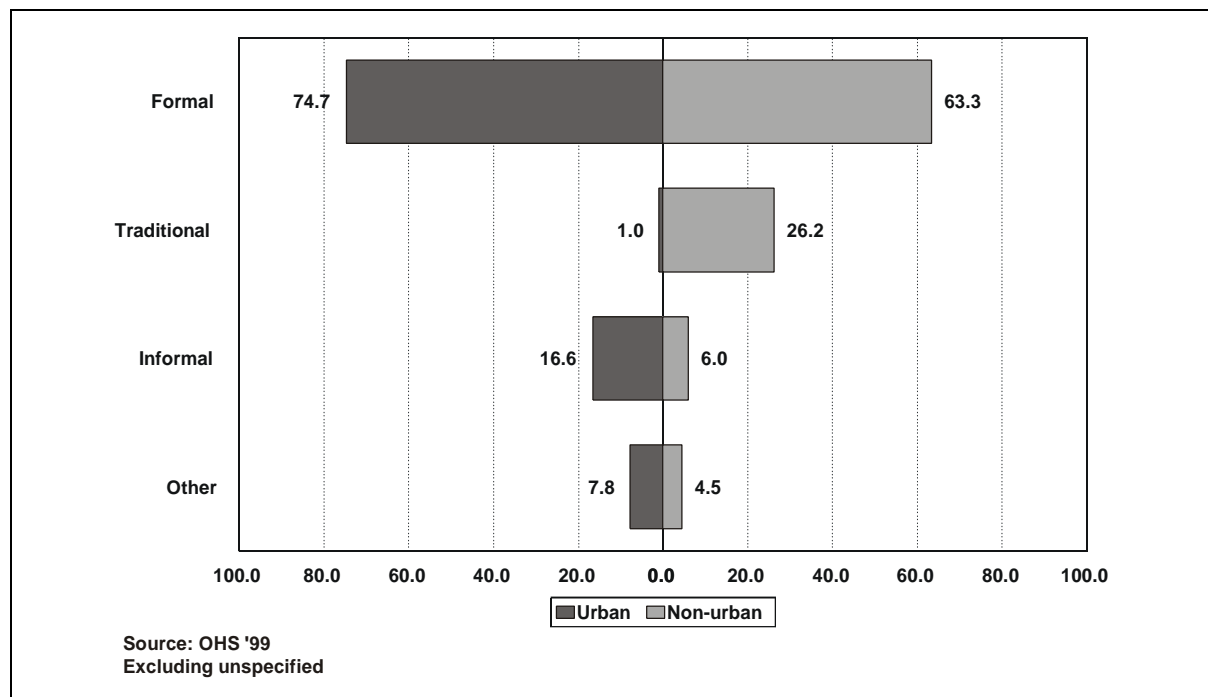
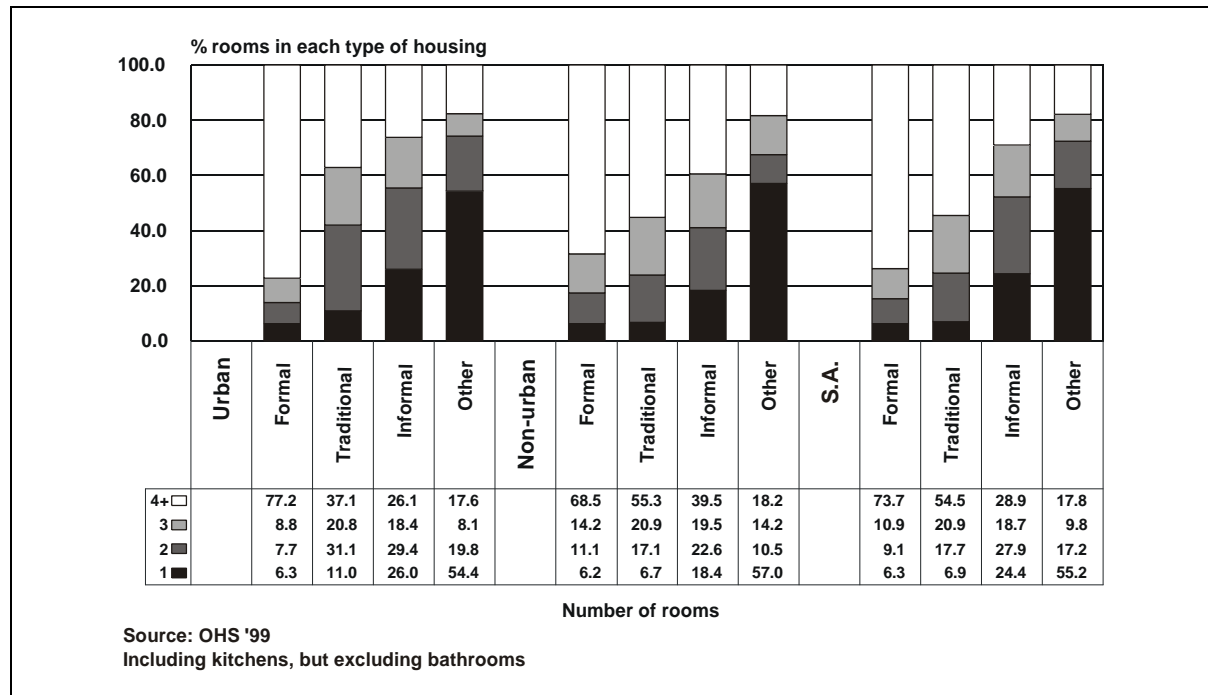


Figure 6.3 indicates the number of rooms per dwelling according to the type of dwelling in which households lived in October 1999. It shows that households living in formal housing tend to have more rooms per dwelling (including kitchens, but excluding bathrooms) than those in other types of dwellings.

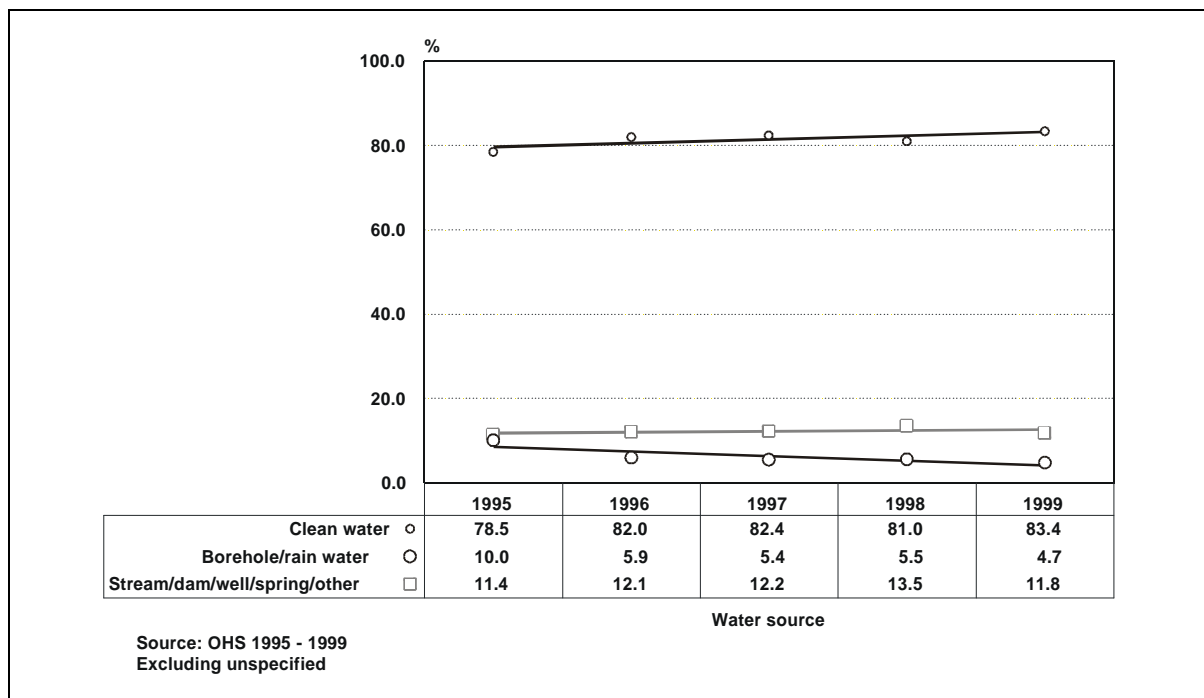
**Figure 6.3: Number of rooms in each type of housing in urban and non-urban areas, October 1999**



### *Main source of water*

In the five years from 1995 to 1999, the trend line in Figure 6.4 indicates that there was a gradual increase in the proportion of households that had access to clean water (piped water inside the dwelling or on site, communal tap or public tanker). At the same time there was a decrease in the proportion of households using water from boreholes and rainwater tanks. The proportion of those households obtaining water from rivers, streams and dams, remained approximately constant over time, possibly indicating that improved access to clean water had not significantly affected previously disadvantaged households in deep rural areas.

**Figure 6.4: Changes in main source of water for domestic use of households between October 1995 and October 1999 (fitted to a trend line)**



**Fetching water from a source outside the dwelling unit**

Figure 6.5 shows the proportion of men and women who fetch water from a source outside the dwelling unit, in both urban and non-urban areas, by population group. It is mainly Africans, but particularly African women living in non-urban areas that do this. For example, the graph indicates that 52,2% of African women, and 41,0% of African men living in non-urban areas had to fetch water from a source outside the dwelling unit in October 1999.

**Figure 6.5: The proportion of males and females in each population group who fetch water for domestic use from an off-site source by urban or non-urban place of residence, October 1999**

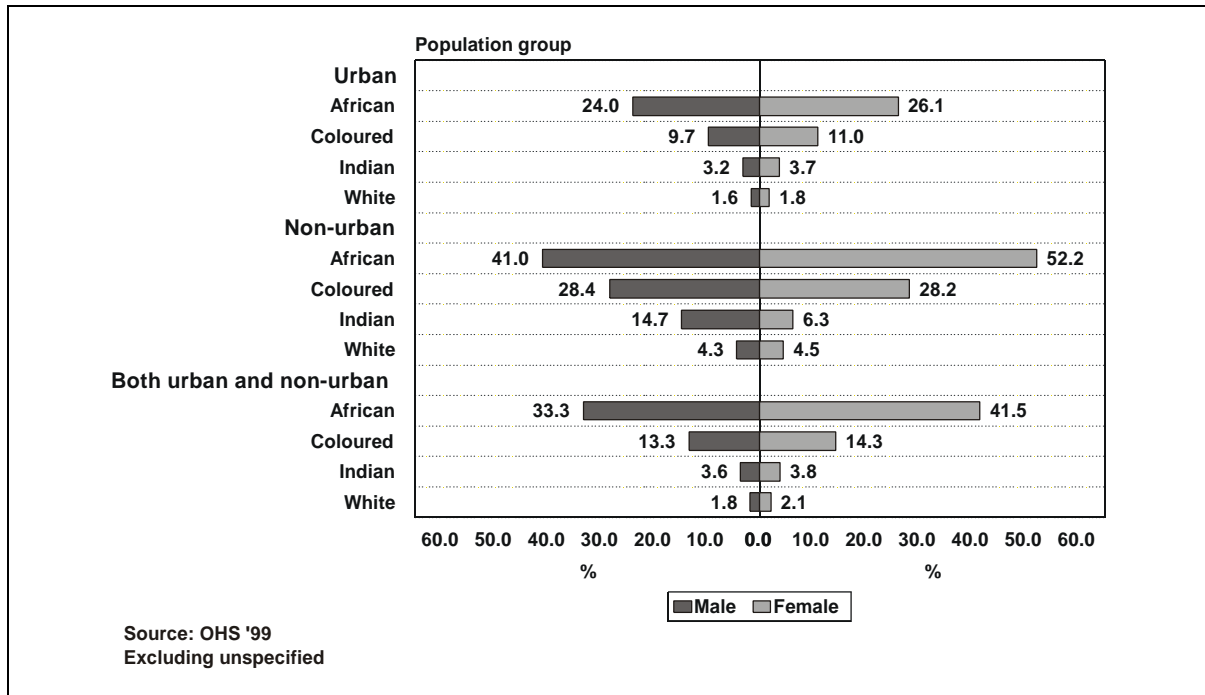
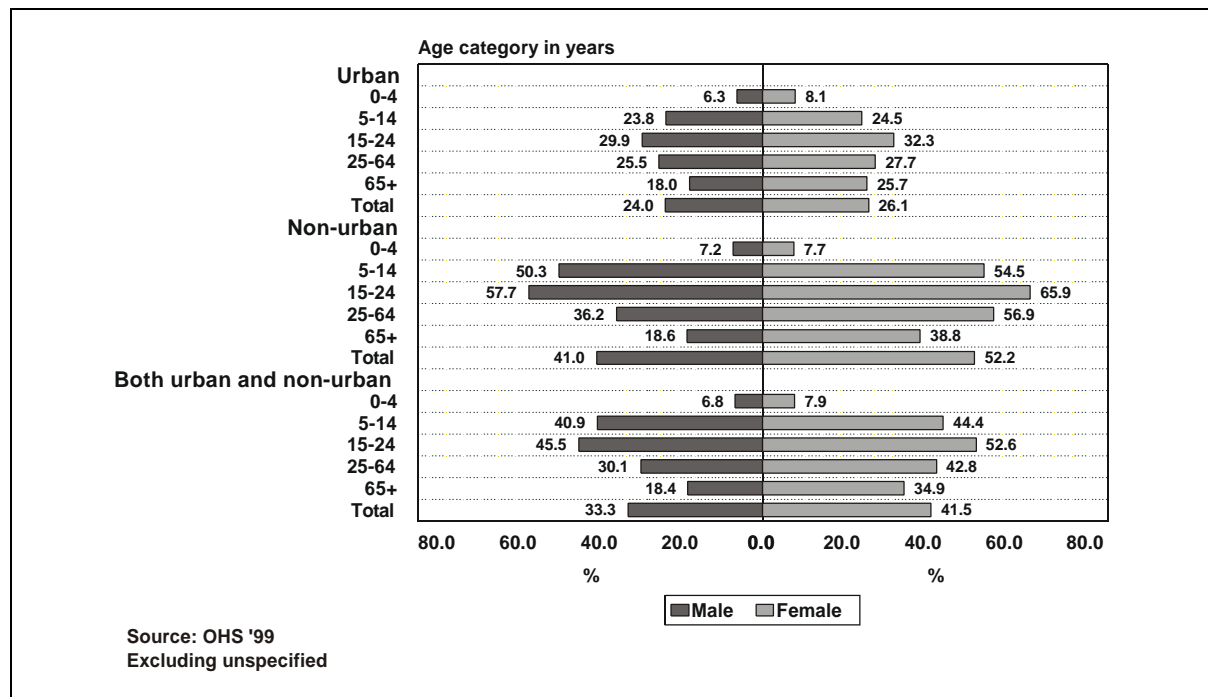




Figure 6.6 indicates the proportion of African men and women, in certain age groups, who fetched water from an off-site source in October 1999. It shows, for example, that among Africans living in non-urban areas, almost two thirds of the women (65,9%), and more than half of the men (57,7%) aged 15 to 24 years were engaged in fetching water from an off-site source for domestic use.

**Figure 6.6: The proportion of African males and females in each age category who fetch water for domestic use from an off-site source by urban or non-urban place of residence, October 1999**



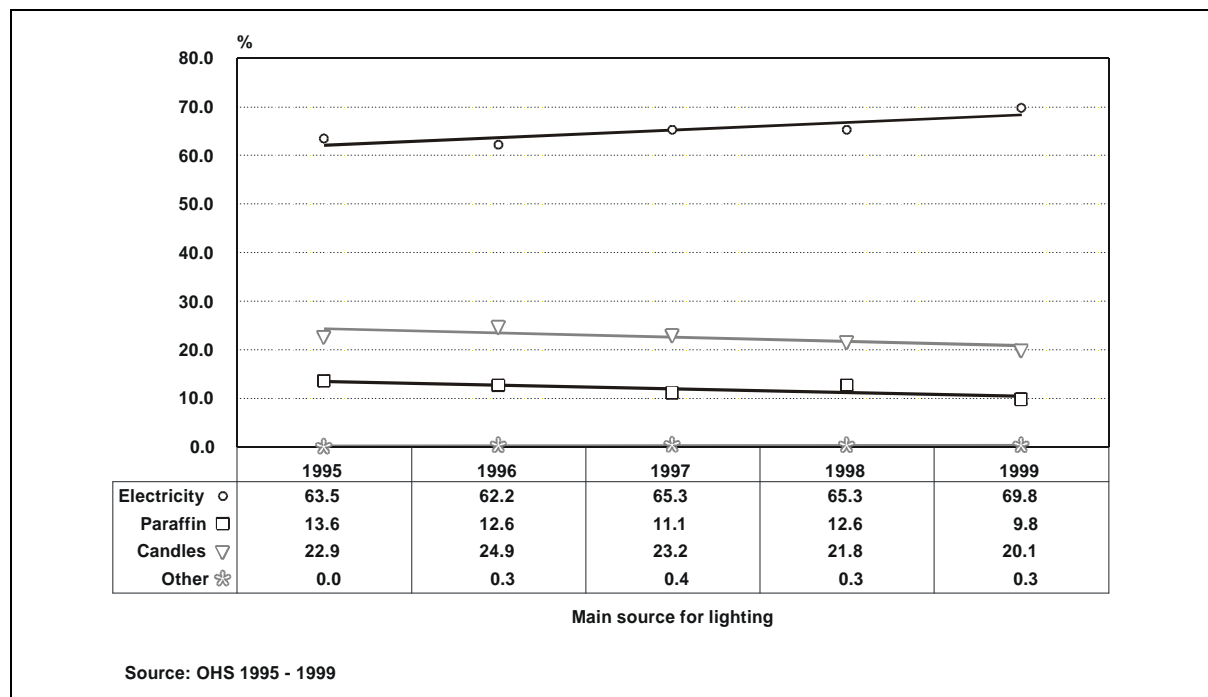
**Energy sources that households use for lighting**

There are three main sources of energy used by households in South Africa to provide light inside their dwellings, namely, electricity, paraffin and candles. Very few households use other energy sources, for example, gas and solar energy.

Figure 6.7 is a trend line indicating a gradual increase in the use of electricity for lighting.

- For example, taking sampling error into account, approximately 63,5% of households were using electricity for lighting in South Africa in 1995, and in 1999, this figure had increased to 69,8%.
- There has been a concomitant decrease in the use of candles and paraffin for lighting over this time period.

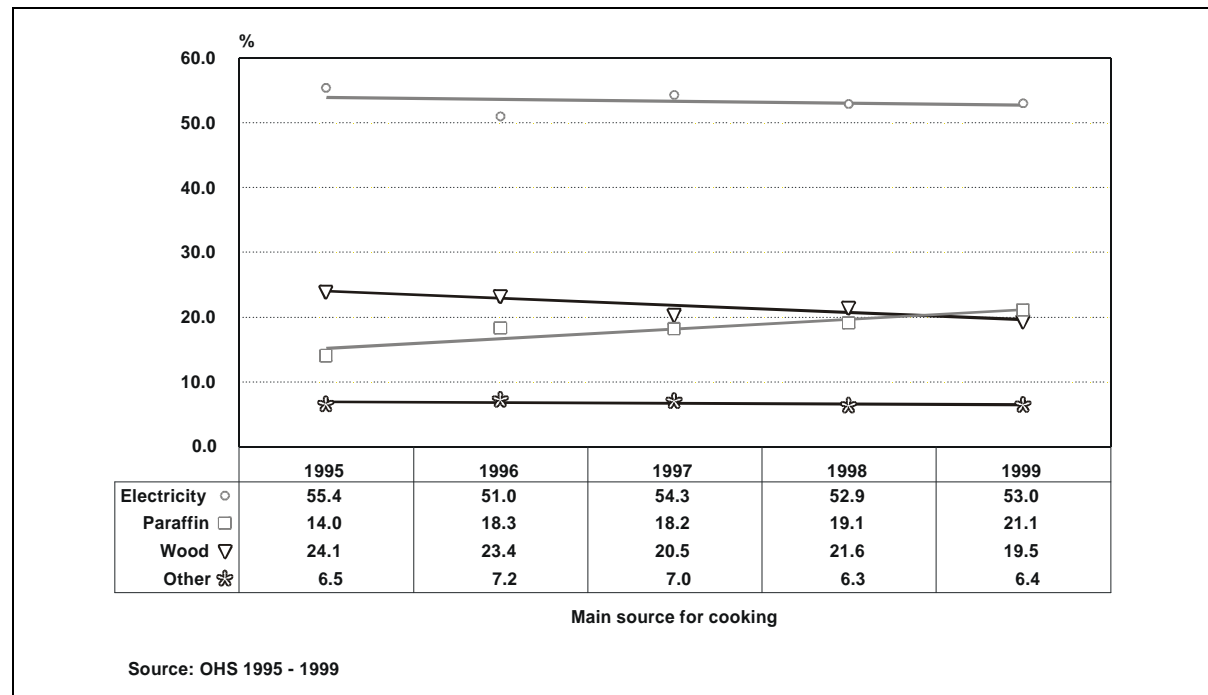
**Figure 6.7: Changes in main source of energy used for lighting in households between October 1995 and October 1999 (fitted to a trend line)**



**Energy sources that households use for cooking**

Figure 6.8 shows that, while more than half of households in South Africa relied mainly on electricity for cooking from 1995 to 1999, this proportion remained more or less constant between 1995 and 1999. This may be due, in part, to rising expenses of electricity and appliances. Proportionally fewer households were using wood to cook in 1999 than in 1995. On the other hand, the proportion of households using mainly paraffin for cooking actually increased during the period.

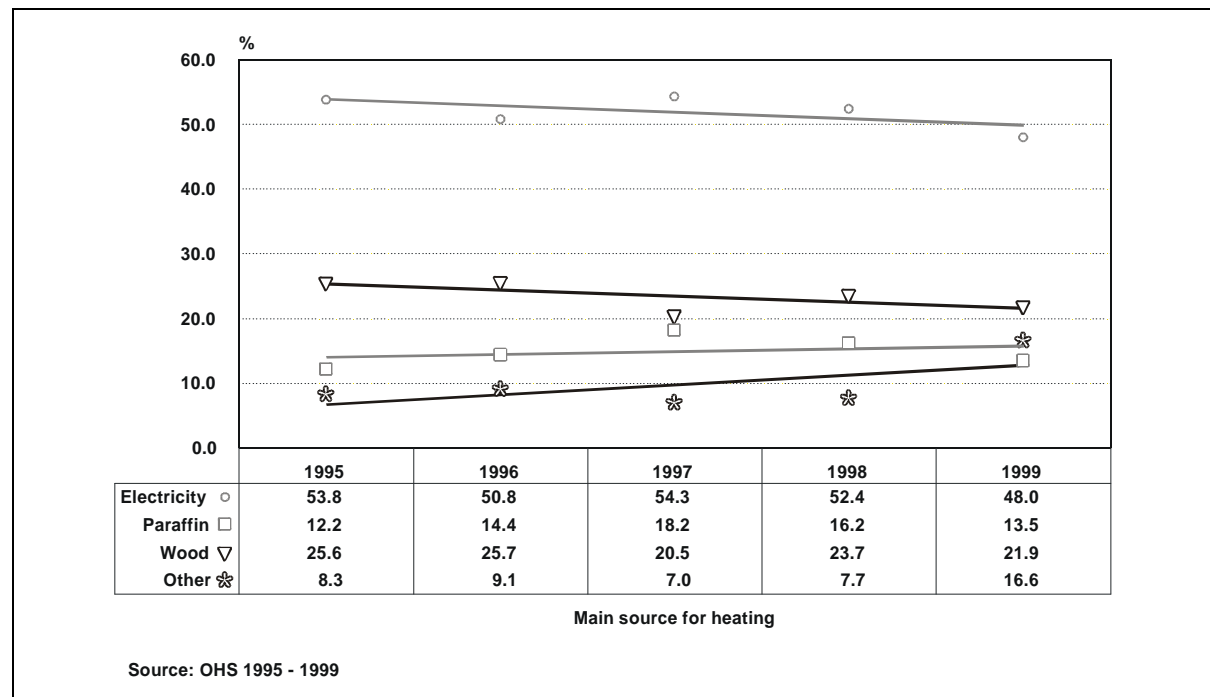
**Figure 6.8: Changes in main source of energy used for cooking in households between October 1995 and October 1999 (fitted to a trend line)**



**Energy sources that households use for heating**

As with cooking, electricity was the most common energy source used for heating purposes by South African households. However, Figure 6.9 below illustrates an overall decrease in the proportion of households using electricity for heating purposes. The use of wood for heating also showed a downward trend during this time period, but the use of paraffin and other sources such as coal and dung increased over time.

**Figure 6.9: Changes in main source of energy used for heating in households between October 1995 and October 1999 (fitted to a trend line)**



**Fetching wood from a source outside the dwelling unit**

Figure 6.10 shows the proportion of men and women who fetch wood for domestic use from a source outside the dwelling unit, in both urban and non-urban areas, by population group. In common with the fetching of water, it is mainly Africans, but particularly African women living in non-urban areas that do this. For example, the graph indicates that 39,7% of African women living in non-urban areas had to fetch water for domestic use from a source outside the dwelling unit in October 1999 as against 2,1% of white women in non-urban areas. Among the relatively few coloured households in non-urban areas, fetching wood from a source outside the dwelling is also common.

**Figure 6.10: The proportion of males and females in each population group who fetch wood for domestic use from an off-site source by urban or non-urban place of residence, October 1999**

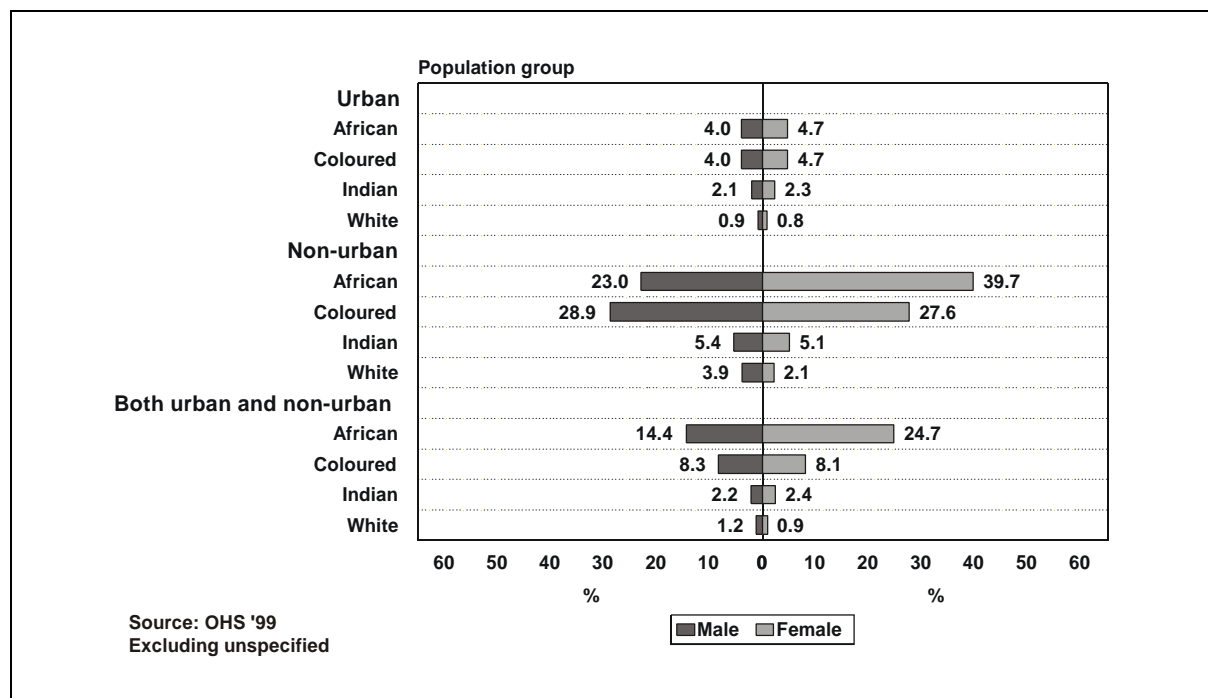
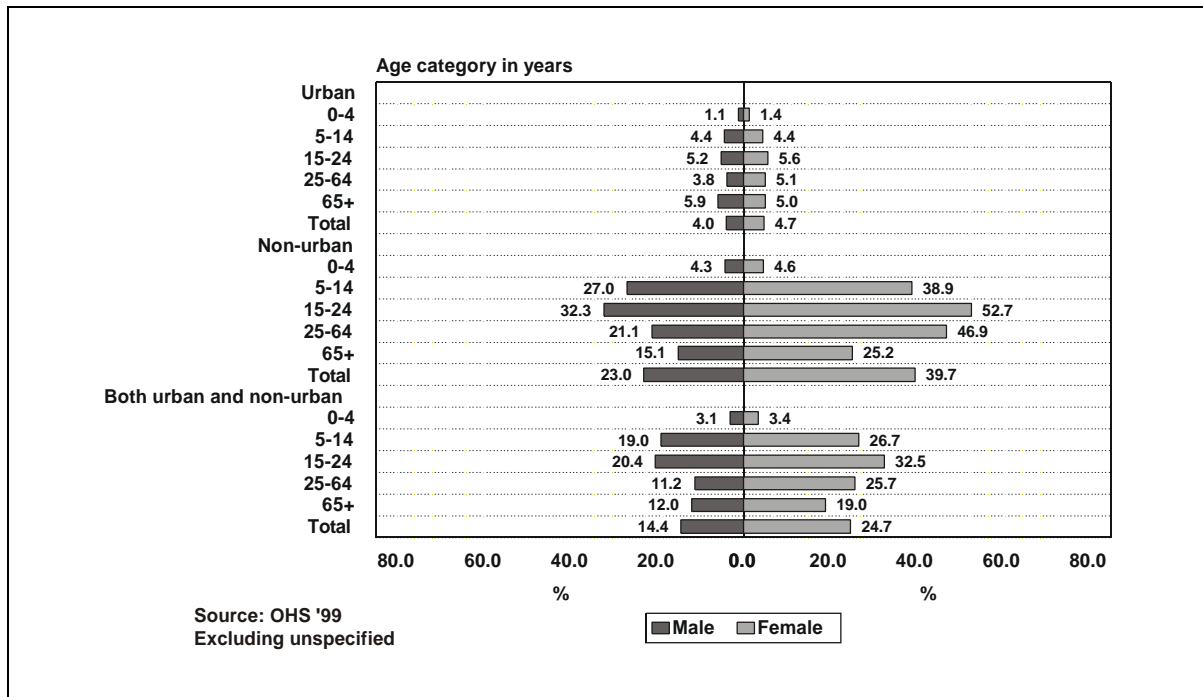


Figure 6.11 indicates the proportion of African men and women, in certain age groups, who fetched wood from an off-site source in October 1999. It shows, for example, that among Africans living in non-urban areas, just over half of the women (52,7%), and about one third of the men (32,3%) aged 15 to 24 years were engaged in fetching wood from an off-site source for domestic use.

**Figure 6.11: The proportion of African males and females in each age category who fetch wood for domestic use from an off-site source by urban or non-urban place of residence, October 1999**

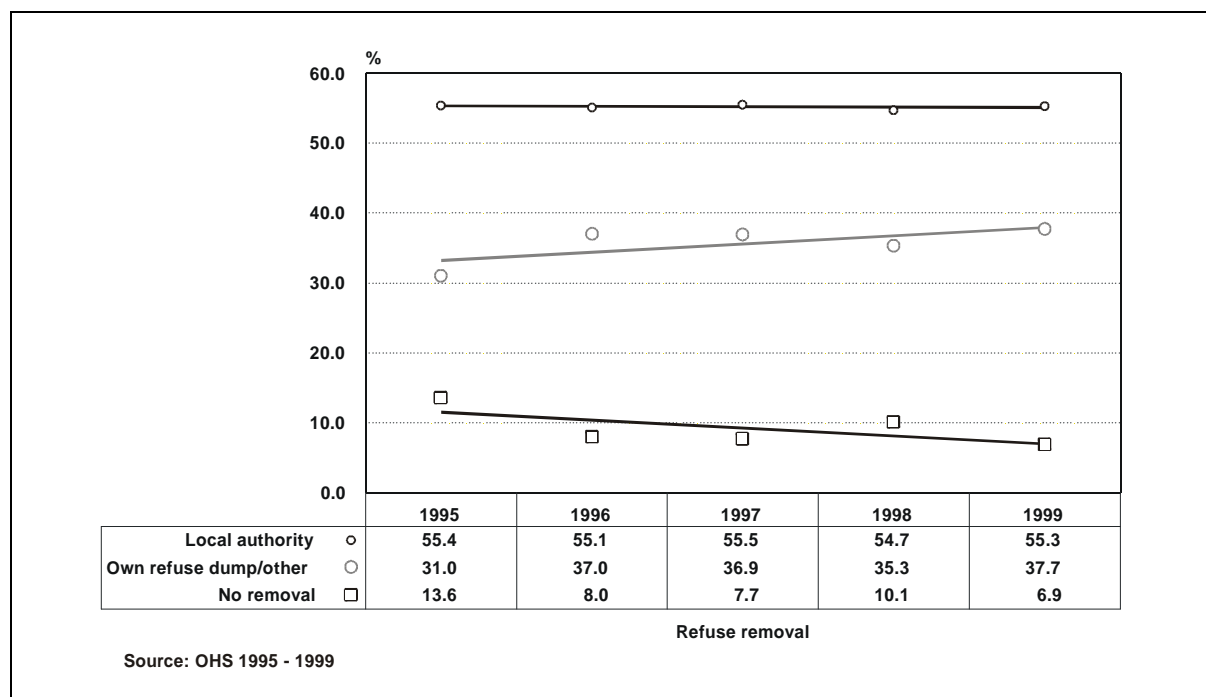


### Refuse removal

Throughout the five years from 1995 to 1999, there has not been a marked change in the proportions of households who have access to formal refuse removal services.

- Figure 6.12 indicates that, on average, more than half the households in South Africa live in areas where refuse is removed at least once every week by the local authorities.
- In areas where there is not a coordinated system in place for refuse removal, some households make use of a refuse dump to dispose of household refuse. Between 1995 and 1999, the trend line indicates that a steadily increasing proportion of households were using refuse dumps to dispose of household refuse.
- The proportion with no systematic method of refuse disposal consequently decreased between 1995 and 1999.

**Figure 6.12: Changes in methods of refuse removal among households between October 1995 and October 1999 (fitted to a trend line)**



**Access to telephones**

The October household surveys of 1995 to 1999 show that the proportion of households with a telephone in the dwelling or a mobile telephone increased from about 29,1% to about 34,9% over the period, as indicated in Figure 6.13. The proportion of households who had to seek this service outside the home environment consequently decreased.

**Figure 6.13: Changes in access to telephones for households between October 1995 and October 1999 (fitted to a trend line)**

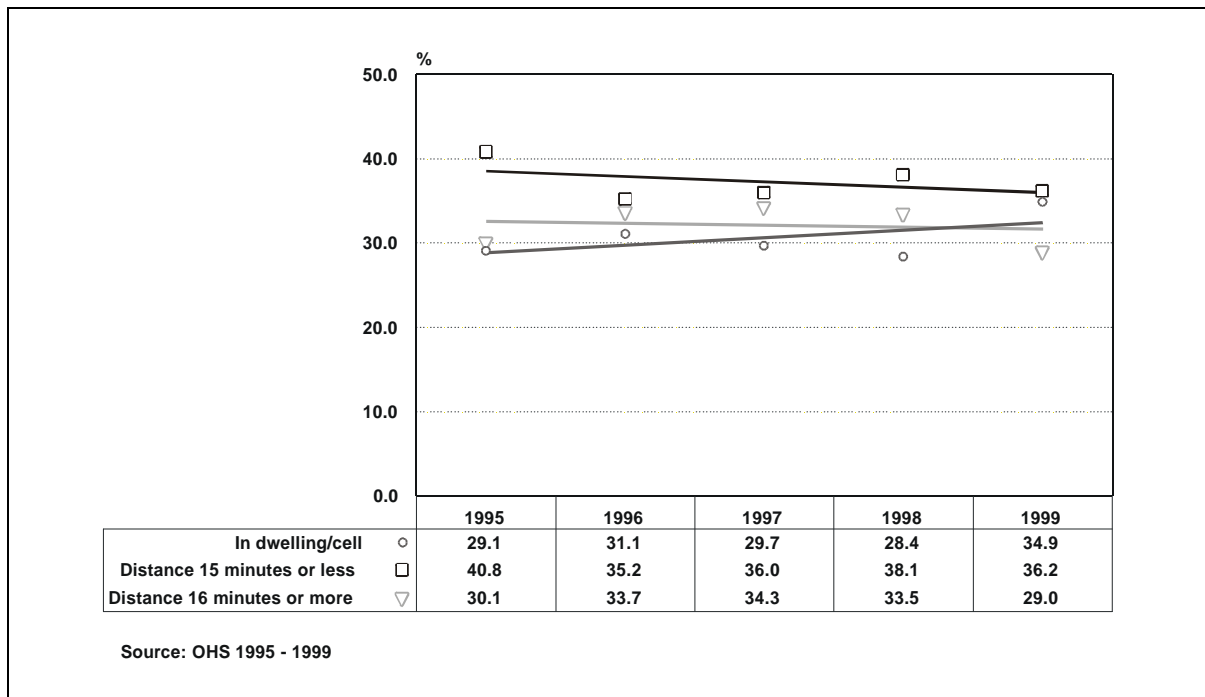
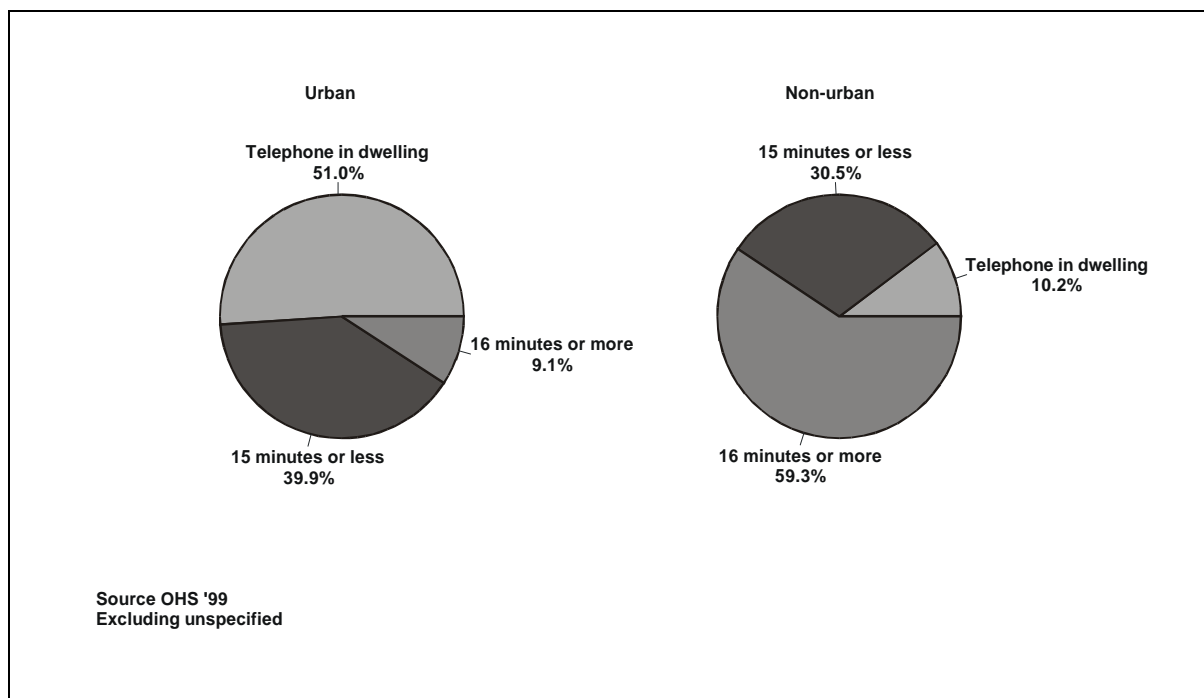




Figure 6.14 shows marked differences between urban and non-urban areas regarding a household's access to a telephone inside the dwelling or a cellular telephone. For example, about one in every ten urban households reported that they were 16 minutes or more away from the nearest telephone, while in non-urban areas over half of households were in this position.

**Figure 6.14: Distance expressed in minutes from the nearest telephone in urban and non-urban areas, October 1999**

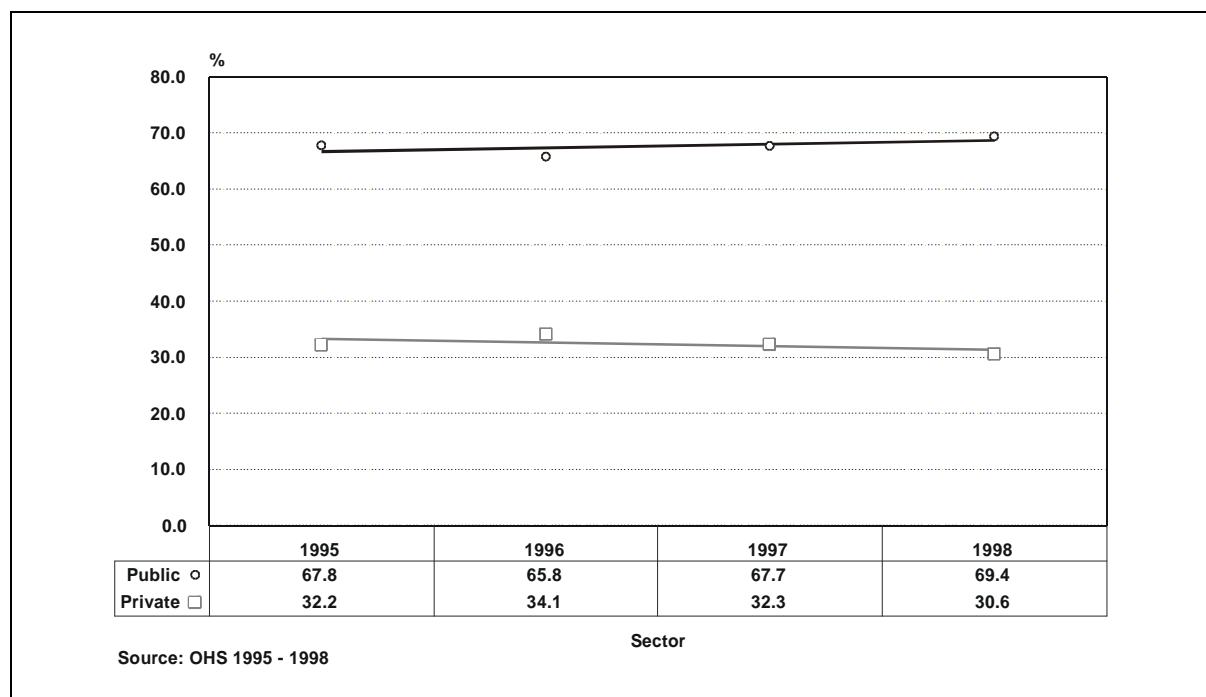


### Health care

The OHSs from 1995 to 1998 recorded information about individuals who required medical attention during the twelve months prior to the survey. When asked about the type of consultation, two answers featured prominently, namely public hospitals and clinics, and private hospitals, clinics, doctors or specialists. A very small proportion of people mentioned traditional healers.

In each of the four years under comparison, public facilities were the most commonly used health-care facility in South Africa. Figure 6.15 shows that there is a gradual increase over time in the use of public health-care facilities, and a gradual decrease in the use of private facilities.

**Figure 6.15: Changes in sector used by households for health care between October 1995 and October 1998 (fitted to a trend line)**

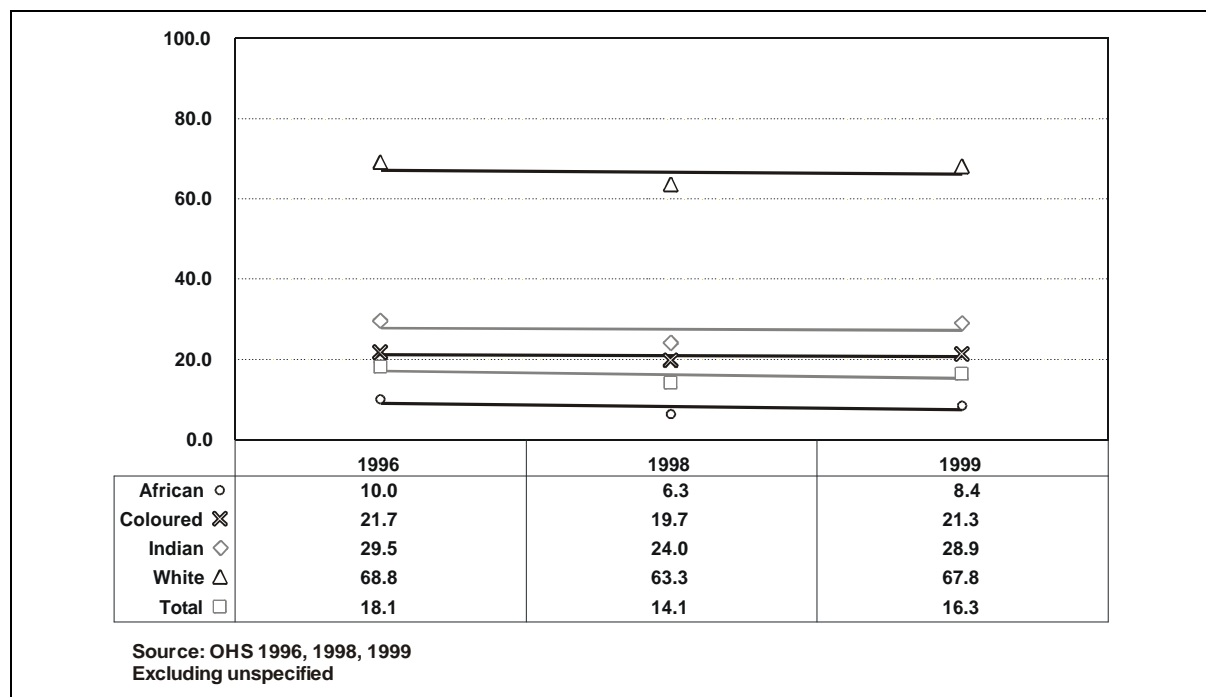


The OHSs of 1996, 1998 and 1999 recorded information as to whether each household member had access to a medical aid, or a medical benefit scheme or any other form of private health insurance. Across all three years, fewer than 20% of South Africans reported that they had some form of private medical cover.

A trend line with only three points should be treated with caution. Nevertheless, Figure 6.16 shows that, while there was very little change in access to medical cover over time, there are considerable differences between the population groups in terms of access to medical cover.

- The proportion of African people with medical cover, at less than 10%, was the lowest of all population groups in all three years.
- The proportion of coloured people with medical aid cover remained more or less constant over the period at just over 20%.
- The trend line for the Indian population showed that approximately 25% had this type of cover over the time period.
- On the other hand, close to seven in every ten white people across the three years had medical aid cover.

**Figure 6.16: Percentage of people with medical aid cover October 1996, 1998 and 1999**



**Access to sanitation**

Between October 1995 and October 1999, there has been a possible slight decrease in the proportion of households with access to flush or chemical toilets. At the same time there has been a possible slight increase in the proportion of people with informal facilities such as a river, stream or bush, as indicated in Figure 6.17.

**Figure 6.17: Changes in access to sanitation between October 1995 and October 1999 (fitted to a trend line)**

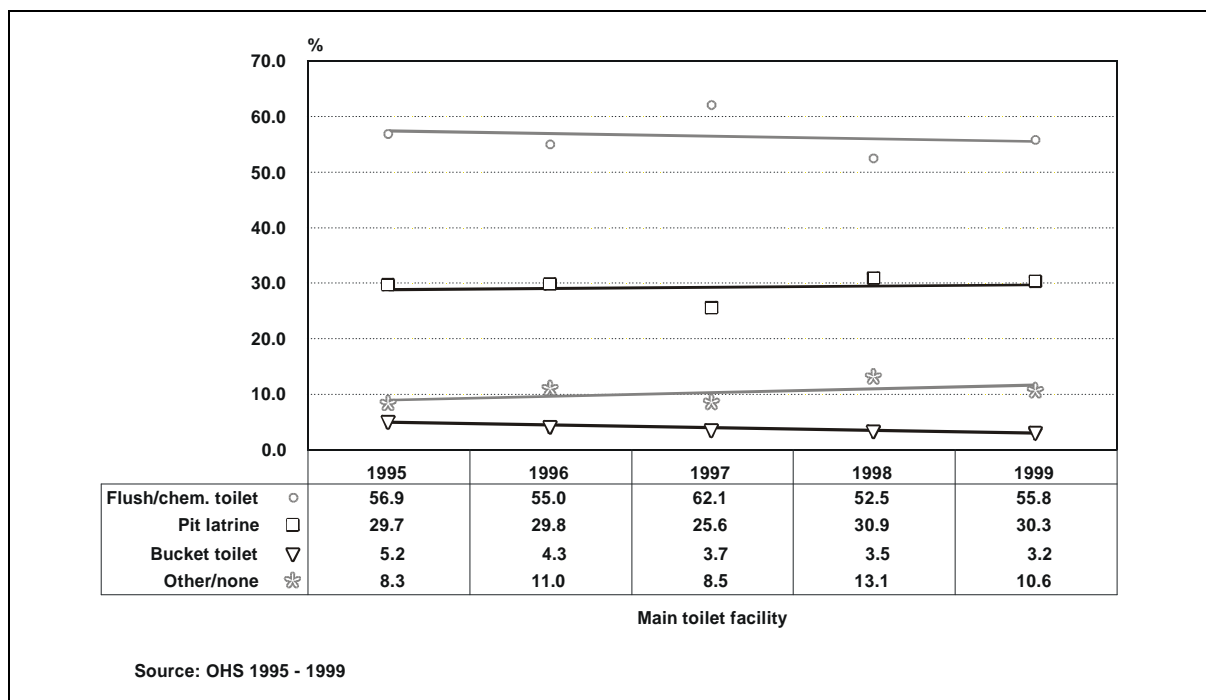
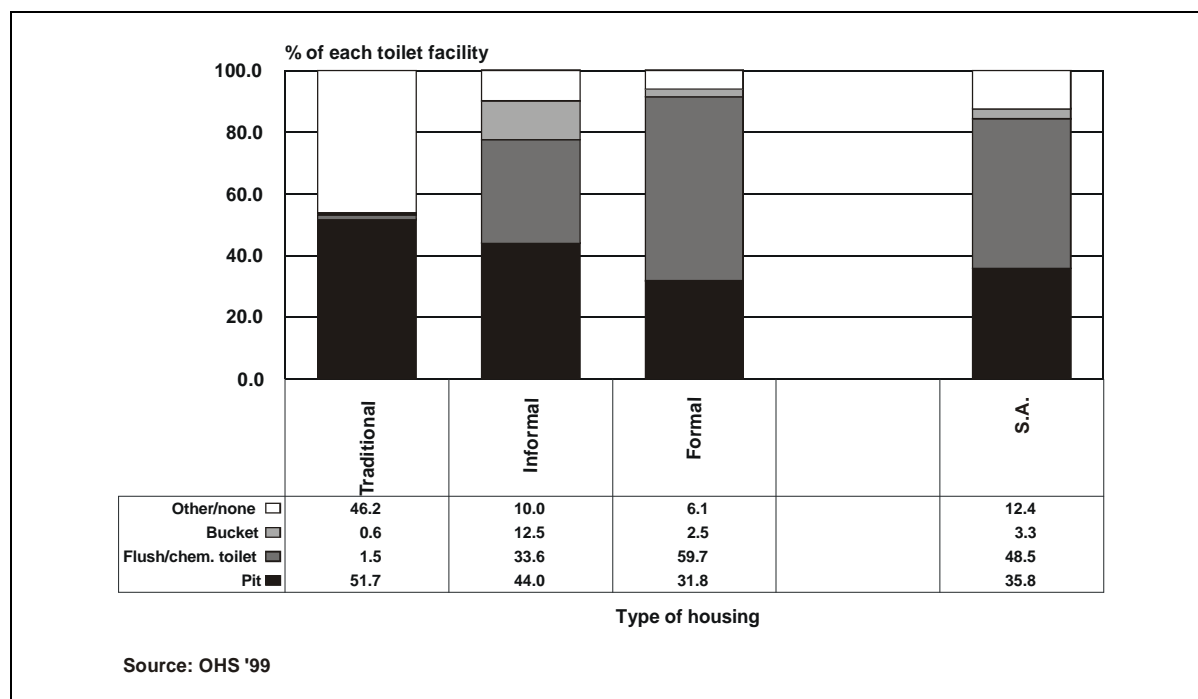


Figure 6.18 shows that, in October 1999, 46,2% of households living in traditional dwellings were using the bush or a river or a stream as toilets.

**Figure 6.18: Type of toilet facility available in each type of housing, October 1999**



## Summary

This chapter examines changes in households regarding access to infrastructure and services. It makes use of data from the household section of the OHSs from 1995 to 1999, which covers a wide range of these types of variables. Access to housing, main source of water, toilet facilities, the main source of energy for cooking, heating and lighting, access to a telephone or a cellular phone, methods of refuse removal, and access to health care are all examined.

### *Housing*

Between 1995 and 1999, the proportion of households living in formal dwellings in South Africa showed an overall gradual increase. But there was also a slight increase over time in the proportion of households living in informal dwellings. On the other hand, there was a steady decrease in the proportion of households living in traditional dwellings. The proportion of households living in other types of dwellings such as caravans also showed a slight decrease over time.

### *Water*

In the five years from 1995 to 1999, there was a gradual increase in the proportion of households that had access to clean water (piped water inside the dwelling or on site, communal tap or public tanker). At the same time there was a decrease in the proportion of households using water from boreholes and rainwater tanks. The proportion of those

households obtaining water from rivers, streams and dams, remained approximately constant over time, possibly indicating that improved access to clean water had not significantly affected previously disadvantaged households in deep rural areas.

### ***Electricity***

Over the five-year period under consideration, there has been a gradual increase in the use of electricity for lighting, and a gradual decrease in the use of paraffin and gas.

While more than half of households in South Africa relied mainly on electricity for cooking from 1995 to 1999, this proportion remained more or less constant between 1995 and 1999. This may be due, in part, to costs of electricity and appliances. Proportionally fewer households were using wood to cook in 1999 than in 1995. On the other hand, the proportion of households using mainly paraffin for cooking actually increased during the period.

As with cooking, electricity was the most common energy source used for heating purposes by South African households. However, an overall decrease occurred in the proportion of households using electricity for heating purposes, probably partly due to costs. The use of wood for heating also showed a downward trend during this time period, but the use of paraffin and other sources such as coal and dung increased over time.

### ***Refuse removal***

Throughout the five years from 1995 to 1999, there has not been a marked change in the proportions of households who have access to formal refuse removal services.

### ***Telephones***

The proportion of households with a telephone in the dwelling or a mobile telephone increased from about 29,1% to about 34,9% over the period, as indicated in Figure 6.13. The proportion of households who had to seek this service outside the home environment consequently decreased.

### ***Health care***

The OHSs from 1995 to 1998 recorded information about individuals who required medical attention during the twelve months prior to the survey. In each of the four years under comparison, public facilities were the most commonly used health-care facility in South Africa. There was a gradual increase over time in the use of public health-care facilities, and a gradual decrease in the use of private facilities during this time.

### ***Sanitation***

Between October 1995 and October 1999, there has been a possible slight decrease in the proportion of households with access to flush or chemical toilets. At the same time there has been a possible slight increase in the proportion of people with informal facilities such as a river, stream or bush.