

CHAPTER 2

CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLDS AND RESPONDENTS

2.1 Distribution of Household Population by Age and Sex

The 1998 SADHS collected information on the demographic and social characteristics of all usual residents and visitors who spent the night preceding the interviews at the selected residence.¹

The distribution of the SADHS household population is shown in Table 2.1 by five-year age groups, according to sex and urban/non-urban residence. Fifty-three percent of the household population are females, while males constitute nearly 47 percent of the population. Thirty-eight percent of the population are 15 years while nearly 6 percent are over 65 years. The median age of the SADHS population is 21.2 years (also see Table 2.2). The non-urban population is younger than the urban population. Besides relatively higher fertility in the past, this could be due to parents in urban areas sending young children to non-urban areas for care.

Table 2.1 Household population by age, residence and sex

Percent distribution of the de-facto household population by five-year age group, according to sex and residence, South Africa 1998

Age group	Urban			Non-urban			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-4	9.6	8.9	9.2	13.6	11.6	12.6	11.4	10.2	10.8
5-9	11.5	10.0	10.7	16.8	14.6	15.7	13.9	12.1	13.0
10-14	12.1	11.5	11.8	18.4	15.8	17.0	14.9	13.5	14.2
15-19	10.6	8.6	9.5	12.4	8.8	10.4	11.4	8.7	10.0
20-24	9.3	8.7	9.0	7.6	7.4	7.5	8.5	8.1	8.3
25-29	8.1	8.1	8.1	4.9	6.0	5.5	6.7	7.1	6.9
30-34	7.2	7.8	7.5	3.7	5.0	4.4	5.6	6.5	6.1
35-39	7.0	7.4	7.2	4.0	5.0	4.5	5.6	6.3	6.0
40-44	5.6	5.9	5.8	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.8	5.0	4.9
45-49	5.0	4.4	4.7	2.5	2.9	2.7	3.8	3.8	3.8
50-54	4.1	5.6	4.9	2.4	4.3	3.4	3.4	5.0	4.2
55-59	3.2	3.7	3.5	2.2	3.4	2.9	2.8	3.6	3.2
60-64	2.3	3.2	2.8	2.3	3.6	3.0	2.3	3.4	2.9
65-69	2.0	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.8	2.5	2.1	2.6	2.3
70-74	1.0	1.6	1.3	1.4	2.0	1.7	1.1	1.8	1.5
75-79	0.8	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.2	0.9	1.2	1.0
80 +	0.5	1.0	0.8	0.7	1.2	1.0	0.6	1.1	0.9
Missing/Don't know	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	13,314	14,930	28,254	10,901	12,712	23,640	24,215	27,643	51,894

¹ Total includes 36 persons for whom sex is missing

¹The household was defined as a person or a group of related or unrelated persons who live together in the same dwelling and share meals.

The age-sex distribution of the SADHS household population is shown graphically in Figure 2.1. The population pyramid has a relatively broad base that is typical of a "young" population. The inward tapering of the younger categories is visible and indicates a reduction in fertility (see Chapter 3). To examine the age structure further, the age structure of the SADHS population was compared to the 1996 census population (excluding the institutional population (see Table 2.2). Differences that exist between these structures, suggest the general difficulties of enumerating hard-to-reach individuals, such as mobile young adults.

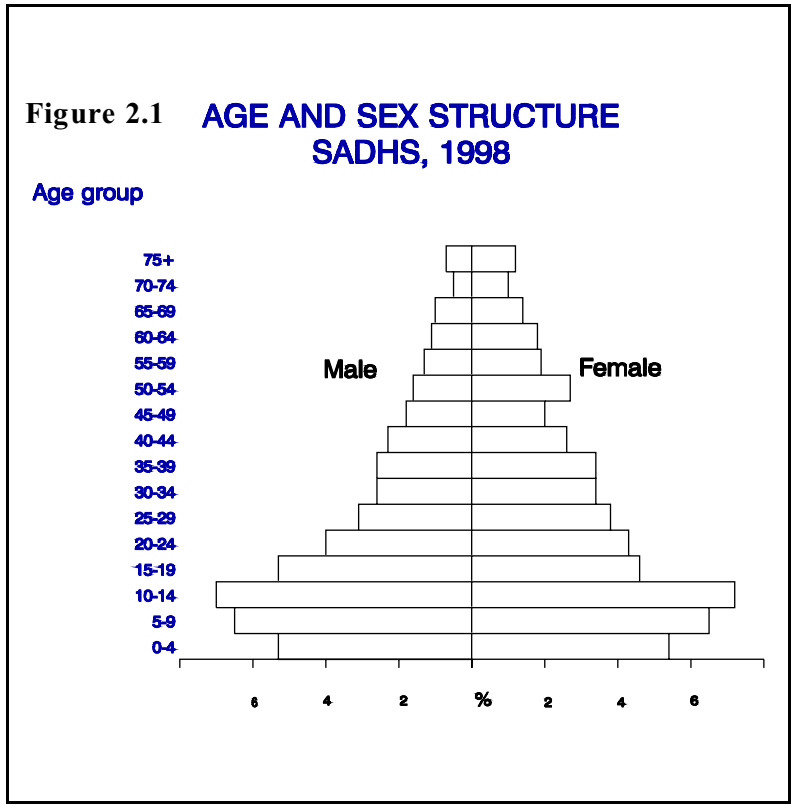


Table 2.2 Comparison of broad age structures

Age structure of the SADHS compared with the 1996 age structure.

Broad age groups	Comparative surveys (%)	
	SADHS, 1998	Population census, 1996a
Less than 15	37.9	33.9
15-64	56.3	60.2
65+	5.7	4.7
Missing/Don't know	0.2	1.2
Total	100.0	100.0
Median age	21.2	

Sources: (a) Stats SA, 1998

2.2 Household Composition

Table 2.3 shows that a large proportion (42 percent) of South African households are headed by women. In non-urban areas, half of all households have females as *de facto* heads. This phenomenon is partly explained by the absence of males due to their involvement in migrant labour. In urban areas the proportion of households headed by females is somewhat lower at 36 percent.

The average household size is 4.2; non-urban households on average are larger (4.7) than urban households (3.9). Twenty-four percent of households have foster children (individuals under 15 years of age who have no natural parents in the household). In urban areas the proportion of households with foster children is 17 percent, while it is double that in non-urban areas (34 percent).

<u>Table 2.3 Household composition</u>			
Percent distribution of households by sex of head of household, household size, and presence of foster children, according to residence, South Africa 1998			
Characteristic	Urban	Non-urban	Total
Household headship			
Male	63.8	50.0	58.1
Female	36.2	50.0	41.9
Number of usual members			
1	12.9	10.7	12.0
2	17.4	12.1	15.2
3	17.9	13.8	16.2
4	18.4	14.9	16.9
5	13.4	13.9	13.6
6	7.9	12.2	9.7
7	5.0	8.3	6.4
8	2.9	5.2	3.9
9+	4.2	8.8	6.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mean size	3.9	4.7	4.2
Percent with foster children¹	16.6	34.3	23.9

Note: Table is based on de jure members; i.e., usual residents.
¹ *Foster children* are children under age 15 living in households with neither their mother nor their father present.

Detailed information on fosterhood and orphanhood of children under 15 years of age is presented in Table 2.4. Only about one-third of children live with both parents. Even amongst children under age 2 years, two-thirds live in households with either only one or no parent present. Nearly 35 percent of all children under 15 live with only their mother present, while 3 percent live with their fathers only. Twenty-five percent of children live in households with neither parent present. Possible explanations for this high rate of fosterhood include the cultural norms of young unmarried mothers sending children back to their mothers (grandmothers) for care and also general marital instability and the widespread system of labour migration.

Table 2.4 Fosterhood and orphanhood

Percent distribution of de jure children under age 15 by survival of parents and child's living arrangements, according to child's age, sex, residence, and province, South Africa 1998

Background characteristic	Living with both parents	Living with mother but not father		Living with father but not mother		Not living with either parent			Missing information on father/mother	Total	Number of children	
		Father alive	Father dead	Mother alive	Mother dead	Both alive	Father only alive	Mother only alive				Both dead
Age												
<2	33.3	45.4	2.4	1.7	0.1	12.1	0.4	0.5	0.2	3.8	100.0	3,269
3-5	34.1	33.7	3.8	1.9	0.2	19.5	0.8	2.0	0.4	3.6	100.0	3,529
6-9	32.9	27.4	5.0	2.6	0.3	23.1	1.0	2.7	0.6	4.4	100.0	5,539
10-14	32.0	21.9	6.6	3.1	0.7	23.0	1.4	3.9	1.3	6.1	100.0	7,366
Sex												
Male	33.0	29.3	4.9	2.8	0.4	20.1	1.0	2.9	0.8	4.8	100.0	9,748
Female	32.6	29.7	5.0	2.3	0.4	21.0	1.0	2.4	0.7	4.8	100.0	9,923
Residence												
Urban	42.0	25.1	4.9	2.6	0.6	15.1	1.1	2.3	0.8	5.5	100.0	8,993
Non-urban	25.1	33.1	5.0	2.4	0.2	25.2	1.0	2.9	0.8	4.2	100.0	10,710
Province												
Western Cape	51.8	22.8	4.8	2.0	1.3	9.0	0.7	1.3	0.8	5.4	100.0	1,518
Eastern Cape	22.0	28.7	5.6	2.5	0.4	31.5	1.1	3.9	1.1	3.3	100.0	3,534
Northern Cape	39.3	29.3	4.1	2.0	0.4	17.0	1.3	2.6	0.5	3.4	100.0	374
Free State	39.0	23.6	5.2	1.9	0.7	22.1	1.3	2.1	0.7	3.3	100.0	1,146
KwaZulu-Natal	30.6	28.6	5.5	4.0	0.3	20.6	1.4	3.0	1.0	5.1	100.0	4,457
North West	35.4	28.1	4.5	1.9	0.2	21.0	0.6	1.6	1.0	5.8	100.0	1,540
Gauteng	45.6	24.7	4.4	2.2	0.3	12.3	0.9	2.1	0.3	7.2	100.0	2,899
Mpumalanga	30.5	31.9	2.6	2.3	0.6	24.8	1.4	2.0	0.8	3.3	100.0	1,388
Northern	23.0	42.2	5.3	1.6	0.0	19.4	0.6	2.9	0.5	4.4	100.0	2,849
Total	32.8	29.5	5.0	2.5	0.4	20.6	1.0	2.7	0.8	4.8	100.0	19,703

Note: By convention, *foster children* are those who are not living with either biological parent. This includes *orphans*, i.e., children with both parents dead.

2.3 Educational Level of Household Members

The educational level of the household population 6 years and older is shown in Table 2.5. The information contained in the table reflects the highest level of education completed, according to age, urban/non-urban residence and province. In addition, the table provides the median years of education completed according to these background characteristics. Educational levels are slightly higher for males than females. Only 11 percent of men have never been to school, compared to 14 percent of women. Only a small percentage of the younger generation (ages 10-19) have no schooling at all. Urban residents are generally better educated than non-urban residents. Gauteng and the Western Cape - the two most developed provinces in the country - have conspicuously lower proportions of respondents with no educational qualifications (only 5 percent). A relatively large proportion of the household members have only attained some form of primary school education: 41 percent of females and 44 percent of males. Nearly 45 percent of males have attained a secondary education qualification, a level only marginally higher than that of females (44 percent). Only about 5 percent of both females and males have completed some form of tertiary education.

The drop-out rates in primary and secondary schools are relatively high. The median years of schooling is only 6 years. Of note is the steady increase in the median years of schooling from older to younger age cohorts. For example, compared to those age 55-59, the median years of schooling of the age cohort 20-24 years had approximately doubled to 10 years.

Table 2.5 Educational level of the female and male household population

Percent distribution of the de facto female and male household population age six and over by highest level of education completed, and median number of years of schooling, according to selected background characteristics, South Africa 1998

Background characteristic	Level of education							Total	Number of women/ men	Median number of years of schooling
	No education	Sub A-Std 3	Std 4-Std 5	Std 6-Std 9	Std 10	Higher	Don't know/missing			
FEMALE										
Age										
6-9	23.1	75.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	100.0	2,764	0.9
10-14	1.2	51.1	32.6	14.9	0.0	0.0	0.2	100.0	3,724	4.9
15-19	1.3	5.1	14.9	67.4	7.8	3.3	0.2	100.0	2,397	8.7
20-24	2.0	5.6	9.0	45.1	28.9	9.1	0.3	100.0	2,243	10.3
25-29	4.1	10.4	10.6	38.0	25.3	11.2	0.4	100.0	1,966	9.8
30-34	7.5	13.2	15.4	36.1	17.7	9.0	1.1	100.0	1,790	8.6
35-39	11.3	13.2	15.1	35.9	15.0	8.4	1.1	100.0	1,747	7.9
40-44	13.7	18.6	17.0	32.5	10.7	6.8	0.7	100.0	1,374	7.0
45-49	18.3	18.8	15.5	31.3	7.0	7.8	1.2	100.0	1,039	6.6
50-54	22.2	18.4	18.0	28.2	6.6	4.9	1.7	100.0	1,392	6.0
55-59	28.6	19.5	13.8	25.4	6.7	4.6	1.4	100.0	988	5.2
60-64	36.3	20.1	13.1	21.8	3.9	2.2	2.5	100.0	932	3.7
65+	44.7	19.3	10.3	17.7	3.3	3.0	1.6	100.0	1,853	2.0
Residence										
Urban	7.5	21.0	14.4	34.6	14.0	7.4	1.1	100.0	13,334	7.6
Non-urban	21.3	32.5	15.5	23.4	4.8	1.7	0.8	100.0	10,913	4.4
Province										
Western Cape	5.6	20.4	16.4	36.0	12.2	6.4	3.0	100.0	2,288	7.5
Eastern Cape	15.0	30.3	17.6	27.2	5.9	3.8	0.2	100.0	3,846	5.6
Northern Cape	15.4	26.0	18.6	27.3	9.1	3.3	0.3	100.0	506	6.1
Free State	13.4	27.4	16.6	29.8	8.3	4.2	0.3	100.0	1,538	6.1
KwaZulu-Natal	16.5	29.7	14.3	25.6	9.2	3.8	0.8	100.0	5,127	5.5
North West	16.2	26.4	15.1	28.6	8.2	4.6	0.9	100.0	1,955	6.0
Gauteng	4.8	19.2	12.7	36.8	17.5	7.9	1.0	100.0	4,499	8.3
Mpumalanga	18.2	27.6	14.6	26.4	8.6	3.8	0.8	100.0	1,587	5.5
Northern	22.7	28.6	13.2	25.7	5.0	3.5	1.2	100.0	2,900	4.7
Total	13.7	26.2	14.9	29.5	9.8	4.8	1.0	100.0	24,247	6.4
MALE										
Age										
6-9	27.4	71.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	100.0	2,747	0.7
10-14	2.1	61.0	26.2	10.2	0.0	0.0	0.5	100.0	3,618	4.3
15-19	1.2	10.6	19.0	61.0	6.5	1.3	0.4	100.0	2,765	8.1
20-24	2.4	7.8	10.0	43.7	26.8	8.8	0.6	100.0	2,062	10.0
25-29	3.7	10.4	11.1	37.8	25.2	11.1	0.7	100.0	1,613	9.8
30-34	4.7	11.9	11.8	36.9	22.8	10.7	1.2	100.0	1,364	9.3
35-39	5.8	13.7	16.0	34.3	17.8	10.3	2.1	100.0	1,361	8.7
40-44	9.6	18.4	15.3	34.2	12.2	10.1	0.3	100.0	1,170	7.5
45-49	10.3	19.5	13.5	32.3	13.4	9.0	1.9	100.0	928	7.4
50-54	15.6	16.2	13.4	31.5	10.8	9.1	3.4	100.0	812	7.2
55-59	21.5	21.3	13.3	25.2	8.5	8.2	2.0	100.0	667	6.2
60-64	32.1	17.5	11.2	24.1	7.3	5.7	2.1	100.0	556	4.8
65+	38.5	20.3	9.0	17.6	5.9	5.6	3.1	100.0	1,127	3.1
Residence										
Urban	6.0	23.0	13.2	33.2	15.0	8.1	1.5	100.0	11,761	7.7
Non-urban	16.5	37.8	15.0	23.1	4.9	1.8	0.9	100.0	9,080	4.4
Province										
Western Cape	5.2	23.7	15.2	33.7	11.7	6.9	3.6	100.0	2,204	7.4
Eastern Cape	13.8	36.3	16.3	23.8	6.0	3.6	0.2	100.0	3,170	5.0
Northern Cape	14.0	27.5	16.4	28.4	9.5	4.0	0.2	100.0	436	6.1
Free State	10.0	30.4	13.8	29.8	9.1	6.4	0.5	100.0	1,396	6.5
KwaZulu-Natal	12.5	30.9	13.3	26.6	11.3	4.3	1.2	100.0	4,351	6.0
North West	13.7	29.6	14.4	29.5	8.1	3.6	1.0	100.0	1,755	5.9
Gauteng	4.8	22.0	11.5	33.5	17.9	9.1	1.3	100.0	3,945	8.3
Mpumalanga	14.5	31.0	13.8	27.1	9.8	2.6	1.2	100.0	1,370	5.6
Northern	12.8	34.7	14.9	27.0	5.4	4.0	1.2	100.0	2,214	5.3
Total	10.6	29.5	14.0	28.8	10.6	5.3	1.2	100.0	20,841	6.4

Note: Total includes 38 women and 51 men for whom age is missing

2.4 School Attendance

School attendance ratios by age group, sex and residence for the population aged 6-24 are presented in Table 2.6. The school attendance ratio is the number of persons in a specific age group who are in school per hundred persons in that particular age group.

Age	Male			Female			Total		
	Urban	Non-urban	Total	Urban	Non-urban	Total	Urban	Non-urban	Total
6-10	91.0	84.9	87.6	91.5	87.9	89.5	91.3	86.4	88.6
11-15	94.9	93.4	94.1	95.6	94.0	94.8	95.2	93.7	94.4
6-15	93.0	89.1	90.9	93.6	91.0	92.2	93.3	90.0	91.5
16-20	71.2	77.0	74.0	67.1	70.2	68.5	69.3	73.9	71.4
21-24	23.9	34.2	27.8	26.2	27.8	26.9	25.1	30.6	27.3

Nearly ninety-two percent of children aged 6-15 are in school, with urban attendance higher than non-urban (93 versus 90 percent). In this age group, slightly more girls than boys are in school (92 versus 91 percent). Attendance rates among age group 11-15 are higher than for the 6-10 age group.

2.5 Grants and Pensions Received by the Households

Table 2.7 shows the prevalence of grants made to members of the household. Grants are defined as alimony, compensation for injuries, and state pensions. Less than 2 percent of the population below 25 years receive grants. The proportion receiving some kind of grant increases rapidly after age 50. In the case of women, 66 percent of those 60-64 receive a grant, while the proportion rises to 81 percent of those age 65 and older. For the males, the percentages are 28 and 66, respectively.

Table 2.7 Grants and pensions, employment status, recent injuries

Percent distribution of the de-facto male and female household population, by whether receiving a government grant or pension, whether currently working, and whether injured in the 30 days preceding the survey, South Africa 1998

Background characteristic	Receiving grant/pension			Working			Injured in last month			Total	Number
	Yes	No	Don't know/ missing	Yes	No	Don't know/ missing	Yes	No	Don't know/ missing		
FEMALE											
Age											
6-9	1.6	97.4	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	97.3	2.4	100.0	2,764
10-14	1.8	97.4	0.8	1.0	92.5	6.4	0.5	98.1	1.4	100.0	3,724
15-19	1.5	98.2	0.3	4.9	92.3	2.8	0.7	98.4	1.0	100.0	2,397
20-24	1.2	98.7	0.1	16.9	80.9	2.2	0.5	99.1	0.4	100.0	2,243
25-29	1.4	98.2	0.3	31.1	67.0	1.8	0.6	98.3	1.1	100.0	1,966
30-34	3.2	96.4	0.4	37.8	60.2	2.1	0.6	98.8	0.6	100.0	1,790
35-39	2.9	96.4	0.8	41.8	56.1	2.0	1.1	98.0	0.9	100.0	1,747
40-44	4.5	95.1	0.5	42.6	55.7	1.7	1.2	98.2	0.6	100.0	1,374
45-49	5.9	93.5	0.6	40.0	57.4	2.6	0.9	98.1	1.0	100.0	1,039
50-54	8.9	90.6	0.4	35.7	62.0	2.4	1.1	97.7	1.2	100.0	1,392
55-59	18.4	81.1	0.5	26.0	72.9	1.2	1.2	98.1	0.7	100.0	988
60-64	65.9	34.0	0.1	8.8	87.4	3.9	1.1	97.8	1.2	100.0	932
65+	80.9	18.6	0.5	3.2	93.2	3.6	1.4	97.8	0.9	100.0	1,853
Residence											
Urban	10.9	88.5	0.6	25.2	63.2	2.4	0.9	97.8	1.3	100.0	13,334
Non-urban	12.9	86.6	0.6	10.1	72.6	3.2	0.5	98.5	1.0	100.0	10,913
Province											
Western Cape	11.8	87.8	0.4	33.3	55.1	3.0	0.9	98.7	0.4	100.0	2,288
Eastern Cape	15.4	84.4	0.2	10.7	74.7	1.1	0.6	99.1	0.4	100.0	3,846
Northern Cape	20.0	79.7	0.3	20.6	67.9	1.0	0.6	98.8	0.6	100.0	506
Free State	12.8	87.1	0.1	24.1	65.7	0.1	0.4	99.6	0.1	100.0	1,538
KwaZulu-Natal	12.5	86.9	0.6	15.3	68.9	3.6	0.5	96.9	2.7	100.0	5,127
North West	11.6	88.0	0.4	16.0	68.1	3.4	0.7	98.5	0.8	100.0	1,955
Gauteng	7.7	91.5	0.8	26.8	62.1	2.7	1.6	97.0	1.4	100.0	4,499
Mpumalanga	9.6	90.1	0.3	15.4	68.8	3.3	0.4	98.8	0.7	100.0	1,587
Northern	11.6	87.2	1.3	9.1	72.6	4.3	0.6	98.7	0.7	100.0	2,900
Total	11.8	87.6	0.6	18.4	67.4	2.8	0.8	98.1	1.1	100.0	24,247
MALE											
Age											
6-9	1.2	97.8	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	97.4	1.9	100.0	2,747
10-14	1.9	97.2	0.9	0.7	92.0	7.3	0.8	98.0	1.3	100.0	3,618
15-19	1.8	97.5	0.7	6.1	90.1	3.8	1.1	97.9	1.0	100.0	2,765
20-24	1.2	98.4	0.3	29.1	68.7	2.2	1.2	98.1	0.7	100.0	2,062
25-29	2.7	96.9	0.4	54.4	44.3	1.3	1.6	97.6	0.8	100.0	1,613
30-34	2.8	97.0	0.2	64.6	34.0	1.4	1.8	97.7	0.5	100.0	1,364
35-39	3.0	96.6	0.4	67.2	30.3	2.5	2.5	97.1	0.4	100.0	1,361
40-44	4.8	94.7	0.5	63.6	33.8	2.6	2.5	97.4	0.1	100.0	1,170
45-49	5.9	93.9	0.2	63.7	35.0	1.2	2.6	97.0	0.5	100.0	928
50-54	9.4	90.3	0.3	61.1	37.7	1.2	3.6	95.8	0.5	100.0	812
55-59	10.2	89.6	0.2	49.5	48.8	1.7	1.8	97.7	0.5	100.0	667
60-64	28.0	71.9	0.1	33.7	64.7	1.6	1.1	98.5	0.4	100.0	556
65+	66.1	33.5	0.4	10.8	85.0	4.3	1.7	97.7	0.6	100.0	1,127
Residence											
Urban	6.8	92.7	0.5	36.3	50.4	2.6	1.9	97.2	1.0	100.0	11,761
Non-urban	7.3	92.1	0.6	18.5	61.4	3.5	1.0	98.2	0.8	100.0	9,080
Province											
Western Cape	8.3	91.3	0.3	45.7	41.8	3.7	2.8	96.7	0.5	100.0	2,204
Eastern Cape	9.2	90.6	0.2	15.9	67.1	1.1	1.2	98.5	0.3	100.0	3,170
Northern Cape	15.9	83.8	0.3	36.4	51.2	0.8	1.4	98.1	0.5	100.0	436
Free State	7.3	92.6	0.1	30.5	56.0	0.2	0.7	99.2	0.1	100.0	1,396
KwaZulu-Natal	7.0	92.3	0.7	26.3	56.1	4.3	1.2	96.9	1.9	100.0	4,351
North West	6.0	93.3	0.7	28.2	56.1	3.3	0.8	98.0	1.2	100.0	1,755
Gauteng	4.1	95.1	0.8	38.8	47.7	2.5	2.2	96.8	1.0	100.0	3,945
Mpumalanga	6.9	92.8	0.4	27.5	54.0	3.6	1.6	97.6	0.7	100.0	1,370
Northern	6.5	92.3	1.2	13.7	63.8	4.7	0.8	98.8	0.4	100.0	2,214
Total	7.0	92.4	0.6	28.5	55.2	3.0	1.5	97.6	0.9	100.0	20,841

Note: Total includes 38 women and 51 men for whom age is missing

2.6 Housing Characteristics

Type of housing

The housing characteristics of the households included in the SADHS sample are shown in Table 2.8. These environmental characteristics have important implications for exposure to disease and also reflect at the same time household economic status. Fifty-one percent of all homes have plaster as the main wall finish. In urban areas where many shack settlements are located, 16 percent of the homes have plastic, cardboard or corrugated iron as the main wall material. In non-urban areas, mud and plaster are the most commonly used wall materials.

The SADHS collected information on the number of rooms used for sleeping as a measure of overcrowding. The mean number of persons per room used for sleeping is 2.1. This average is slightly higher for non-urban areas (2.3 persons per room) than urban areas (2.0).

Respondents in just over half (52 percent) of all households say they never go hungry, while almost one-third say they sometimes go hungry and 11 percent report that their households often experience hunger. Hunger is more of a problem in non-urban than urban households. Fifty-six percent of non-urban households experience hunger sometimes or often compared to only 33 percent of urban households.

Table 2.8 Housing characteristics

Percent distribution of households by housing characteristics, according to residence. South Africa 1998

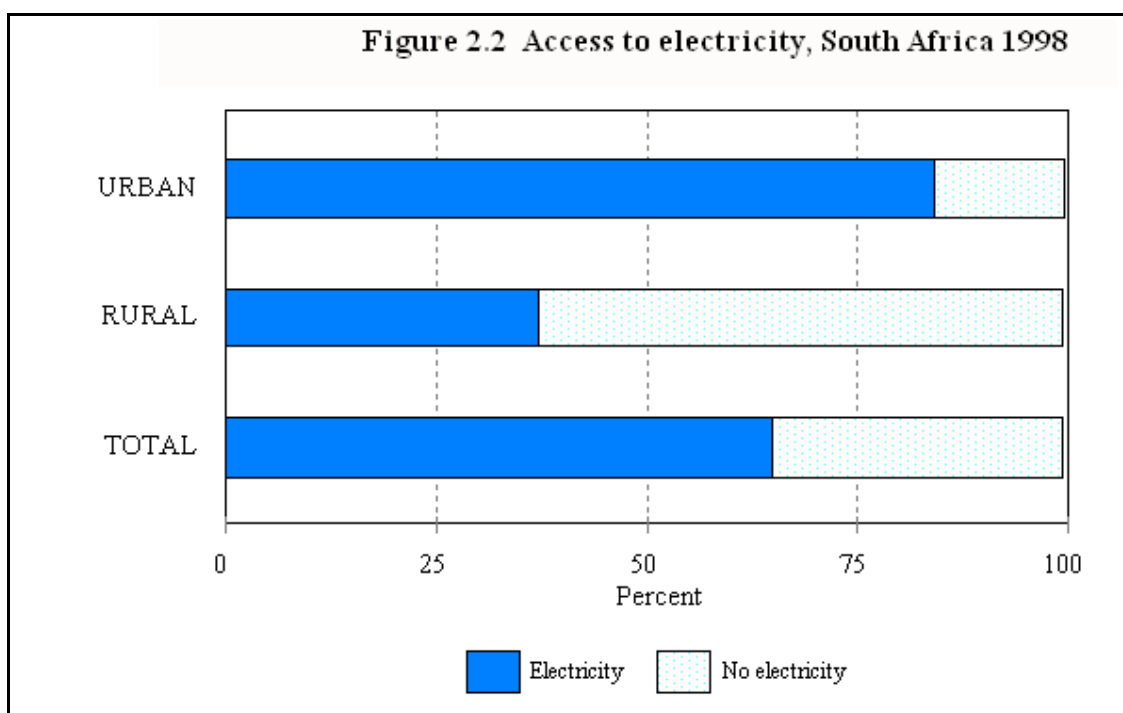
Characteristic	Residence		Total
	Urban	Non-urban	
Electricity			
Yes	84.2	37.1	64.9
No	15.4	62.3	34.6
Missing/Don't know	0.4	0.7	0.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Fuel used for cooking¹			
Electricity	73.1	22.6	52.4
Gas	8.4	6.0	7.4
Paraffin	29.0	39.5	33.3
Wood	4.9	55.6	25.7
Coal	8.9	8.5	8.7
Animal dung	0.1	2.1	0.9
Other	0.8	0.1	0.5
Source of drinking water			
Piped into residence	59.0	10.0	38.9
Piped water in site/yard	27.6	16.5	23.0
Public tap	11.3	31.3	19.5
Borehole/well	0.2	7.0	3.0
Dam/river/stream/spring	0.2	28.5	11.8
Rain-water tank	0.0	1.6	0.7
Water carrier/tanker	0.3	1.8	1.0
Bottled water	0.1	0.2	0.1
Other	0.6	2.5	1.4
Missing	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Time to water source			
<15 minutes	95.4	55.2	79.0
Sanitation facility			
Own flush toilet	73.1	6.9	46.0
Shared flush toilet	6.5	0.7	4.1
Traditional pit toilet	8.0	3.1	6.0
Vent. improved pit latrine	9.5	62.5	31.2
No facility	2.0	25.6	11.6
Other	0.4	0.4	0.4
Missing/Don't know	0.6	0.7	0.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 2.8 Housing characteristics...continued

Characteristic	Residence		Total
	Urban	Non-urban	
Main floor material			
Mud, sand, dung	4.8	32.1	16.0
Wood planks	1.7	0.7	1.3
Cement	24.0	46.1	33.1
Vinyl	24.1	10.6	18.5
Carpet	29.4	8.1	20.7
Ceramic tile	11.5	0.9	7.2
Parquet/polish wood	3.2	0.6	2.1
Other	0.6	0.1	0.4
Missing/Don't know	0.8	0.7	0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Main wall material			
Plastic/Cardboard	4.6	0.6	3.0
Mud	2.3	31.5	14.3
Mud and cement	4.1	15.8	8.9
Corrugated iron/zinc	11.4	3.2	8.0
Prefab	0.5	0.2	0.4
Bare brick/Cement block	10.3	14.3	12.0
Plaster/Finished	64.1	31.6	50.8
Other	1.3	0.8	1.1
Missing	1.3	2.0	1.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Frequency of household hunger			
Often	8.2	14.7	10.8
Sometimes	24.4	41.7	31.5
Seldom	4.6	4.2	4.5
Never	61.2	37.9	51.6
Missing	1.6	1.5	1.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Persons per sleeping room			
1-2	78.5	70.9	75.4
3-4	16.2	20.5	18.0
5-6	3.3	5.4	4.2
7+	1.0	1.8	1.3
Missing /DK	0.9	1.5	1.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mean	2.0	2.3	2.1
Total	7,227	5,020	12,247

¹ May add to more than 100, since multiple answers were allowed.

Almost two in three South African households have access to electricity. There is a significant difference in access to electricity between urban and non-urban areas in the country. Only 37 percent of non-urban households have electricity, compared to 84 percent of urban households (see Figure 2.2).



Just over half (52 percent) of all South African households use electricity as the main source of energy for cooking, while one-third use paraffin and one-quarter use wood (see Table 2.9). Nearly three-quarters (73 percent) of urban households use electricity as source of energy for cooking and 29 percent use paraffin. Fifty-six percent of non-urban households use wood as their main source of energy for cooking.

2.7 Water and Sanitation

Thirty-nine percent of all households have piped water in the residence and 23 percent have piped water in the yard or on the site. For urban households, piped water in the residence is the main source of drinking water (59 percent). Only 10 percent of non-urban residents get their drinking water from piped water in their residences. Public taps are the main source of drinking water for 31 percent of non-urban households. The overwhelming majority of urban households are within 15 minutes of a source of drinking water, compared to 55 percent of non-urban households.

A large proportion of households in non-urban areas do not have access to potable water in their dwellings or on their stands. Hence it has to be fetched, sometimes from a distant source, a task usually undertaken by women or younger children. Table 2.9 shows the percentage of households that fetch their drinking water and, of these, a breakdown by the person(s) who fetched water the day before the survey and the average time it takes to fetch the water and return. From the table it is clear that many households have no choice but to fetch water. Three provinces have markedly high proportions of households that have to fetch water, namely the Northern Province (62 percent), the Eastern Cape (59 percent) and KwaZulu-Natal (54 percent).

The findings indicate that it is mainly women who are burdened with the task of fetching water. For example, in the Eastern Cape, among the households that fetch their drinking water, 76 percent said water was fetched by women, compared to only 14 percent who said water was fetched by men. This burden is exacerbated by the amount of time it takes to fetch water. The Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal have the largest proportion (40 percent or more) of households that spend 30 minutes or longer to fetch water.

Eighty-seven percent of South African households have toilet facilities. The majority of urban households (80 percent) have flush toilets. Most non-urban households (66 percent) have pit latrines. About one-quarter of non-urban households do not have toilet facilities (see Table 2.10).

Table 2.9 Fetching water									
Percentage of households that fetch drinking water, persons who fetched water the day before the interview and percent distribution of households by time taken to collect water, according to background characteristics, South Africa 1998									
Characteristic	% households that fetched water	Among those households, percentage who said water was fetched yesterday by:				Time taken to collect water			Number
		Woman	Man	Girl	Boy	<15 min	15-29 min	30+ min	
Residence									
Urban	12.4	65.8	27.1	12.8	8.0	70.6	17.0	12.4	892
Non-urban	69.3	68.0	17.3	20.2	10.2	39.0	23.5	37.5	3,476
Province									
Western Cape	3.8	(39.9)	(52.3)	(2.7)	(5.1)	(64.7)	(22.6)	(12.7)	47
Eastern Cape	59.3	75.7	13.9	23.5	7.7	35.9	23.7	40.4	1,096
Northern Cape	10.1	46.5	42.6	8.2	11.8	72.9	8.6	18.5	27
Free State	11.3	62.3	27.4	13.4	6.5	71.6	22.7	5.6	183
KwaZulu-Natal	54.3	65.7	17.0	24.0	12.8	33.4	24.5	42.1	1,314
North West	41.0	55.8	43.4	11.0	11.9	61.6	22.4	15.9	405
Gauteng	11.5	72.3	21.3	7.6	5.3	84.5	9.6	5.9	294
Mpumalanga	32.8	62.7	29.8	21.8	11.2	58.6	17.1	24.3	242
Northern	62.1	68.9	14.1	12.5	8.4	43.8	22.7	33.5	760
Total	35.8	67.6	19.3	18.7	9.8	45.5	22.1	32.4	4,368

Note: Parenthesis indicate that a figure is based on 25-49 respondents.

2.8 Household Durable Goods

The presence of durable consumer goods is a measure of household socio-economic status. Table 2.10 shows the percent distribution of households by durable consumer goods owned, such as radios, television sets, telephones, and automobiles. A radio is available in 80 percent of households, a telephone in 28 percent, and an automobile in 25 percent. About 12 percent of the households do not have any of the durable consumer goods asked about in the survey. Ownership of durable goods differs by place of residence. Seventy-three percent of urban households have a television set, compared to 35 percent of non-urban households. Similarly, 69 percent of urban households have a refrigerator and 43 percent have a telephone, compared to 24 and 6 percent respectively of non-urban households. Overall, 8 percent of urban and 17 percent of non-urban households have none of the listed durable goods.

Durable goods	Urban	Non-urban	Total
Radio	84.5	73.5	80.0
Television	73.2	35.0	57.6
Telephone	43.3	6.1	28.0
Refrigerator	68.5	24.4	50.4
Bicycle	19.3	13.4	16.9
Personal computer	9.7	1.5	6.3
Washing machine	32.4	5.2	21.3
Motorcycle	2.2	1.3	1.8
Private car	34.3	11.8	25.1
Donkey/horse	0.3	5.3	2.4
Sheep/cattle	0.9	23.1	10.0
None of the above	8.0	16.7	11.6
Number of households	7,227	5,020	12,247

2.9 Characteristics of Women Aged 15-49 Years

Age distribution

A total of 11,735 women aged 15 to 49 were interviewed in the SADHS. They completed both a "Woman's" and Adult Health Questionnaire. In Table 2.11 below, their age distribution is compared with the age distribution of the women in reproductive ages in the 1996 Census. The two age schedules are fairly comparable. Also, no significant differences are apparent between the household population and individual respondents as a group in terms of age, residence, province and population group. The distributions of respondents to the women's questionnaire according to selected characteristics are presented in Table 2.11.

Age group	1996 Census*	1998 SADHS
15-19	19.5	19.2
20-24	18.9	17.7
25-29	16.9	15.8
30-34	14.7	14.1
35-39	12.5	13.9
40-44	10.1	11.0
45-49	7.1	8.3
Total	100	100

* Source: Statistics South Africa, 1998.

Table 2.12 Background characteristics of respondents

Percent distribution of women age 15-49 by selected background characteristics, South Africa 1998

Background characteristic	Weighted percent	Number of women	
		Weighted	Un-weighted
Age			
15-19	19.2	2,249	2,373
20-24	17.7	2,075	2,086
25-29	15.8	1,857	1,811
30-34	14.1	1,654	1,616
35-39	13.9	1,636	1,628
40-44	11.0	1,294	1,255
45-49	8.3	970	966
50-54			
Residence			
Urban	60.5	7,095	6,518
Non-urban	39.5	4,640	5,217
Province			
Western Cape	10.2	1,193	919
Eastern Cape	13.3	1,566	2,756
Northern Cape	2.2	253	1,041
Free State	6.5	763	936
KwaZulu-Natal	20.1	2,364	1,826
North West	7.7	909	931
Gauteng	21.7	2,552	1,057
Mpumalanga	7.0	819	1,131
Northern	11.2	1,316	1,138
Marital status			
Never married	48.3	5,665	5,811
Married	33.7	3,957	3,956
Living together	9.5	1,119	992
Widowed	2.4	285	296
Divorced	2.2	256	234
Not living together	3.9	452	446
Education			
No education	6.8	804	810
Sub A - Std 3	11.0	1,291	1,359
Std 4 - Std 5	13.8	1,625	1,775
Std 6 - Std 9	44.2	5,181	5,175
Std 10	16.4	1,922	1,754
Higher	7.8	912	862
Population group			
African	77.9	9,147	8,993
Afr. urban	41.5	4,873	4,274
Afr. non-urban	36.4	4,274	4,719
Coloured	10.2	1,201	1,533
White	7.8	916	755
Asian	3.5	406	393
Missing	0.6	66	61
Total	100.0	11,735	11,735

Educational level of women aged 15-49 years

Twenty-four percent of women aged 15-49 have completed Standard 10 or have a higher qualification (Table 2.13). A clear cohort effect is observable in the educational attainment of women. The proportion of women who have received no education increases with age. Conversely, the proportion of women with a given educational level increases in each younger age category. A good example is the category Standard 6-9. Although the age group 15-19 cannot be considered due to the fact that they may not yet have completed their schooling (age censoring), 46 percent of the women in the age group 20-24 are found in this category. This proportion declines with age and in the age group 45-49 only 31 percent have attained this level. Regarding women who have completed Standard 10, the linear relationship between age and educational attainment remains constant.

Table 2.13 Level of education

Percent distribution of women age 15-49 by the highest level of education completed and population group, according to selected background characteristics, South Africa 1998

Background characteristic	Highest level of education completed						Population group					Total Number
	No education	Sub A-Std 3	Std 4-Std 5	Std 6-Std 9	Std 10	Higher	African	Coloured	White	Asian		
Age												
15-19	0.9	5.1	14.9	68.6	7.9	2.7	80.1	9.2	7.2	3.0	100.0	2,249
20-24	1.7	5.7	8.5	46.3	28.0	9.8	84.1	8.7	3.7	2.9	100.0	2,075
25-29	4.3	10.2	11.0	39.2	24.3	11.0	78.6	11.4	6.7	2.8	100.0	1,857
30-34	7.7	12.6	15.0	38.0	17.4	9.2	76.0	10.6	8.7	4.0	100.0	1,654
35-39	12.1	13.9	15.7	35.7	14.5	8.2	75.6	11.5	8.7	3.7	100.0	1,636
40-44	13.2	18.4	18.1	33.7	10.1	6.5	74.0	10.3	10.9	4.3	100.0	1,294
45-49	18.1	20.1	17.3	31.2	5.7	7.5	70.9	10.5	13.0	4.8	100.0	970
Residence												
Urban	3.3	7.0	12.0	46.4	20.6	10.7	68.7	13.9	11.2	5.6	100.0	7,095
Non-urban	12.2	17.1	16.7	40.7	10.0	3.3	92.1	4.6	2.6	0.2	100.0	4,640
Province												
Western Cape	2.0	8.6	14.4	46.7	18.3	10.0	24.6	63.0	10.8	0.6	100.0	1,193
Eastern Cape	5.1	12.5	18.5	45.8	11.3	6.8	85.4	8.8	4.8	0.5	100.0	1,566
Northern Cape	8.5	13.5	19.1	40.2	13.6	5.1	29.0	59.4	11.4	0.0	100.0	253
Free State	4.6	11.2	16.0	46.8	14.8	6.7	86.4	2.9	10.5	0.2	100.0	763
KwaZulu-Natal	10.5	14.5	12.8	38.8	16.8	6.5	81.3	1.2	3.8	13.0	100.0	2,364
North West	7.9	10.5	15.4	42.6	15.3	8.3	91.2	3.3	4.2	0.8	100.0	909
Gauteng	2.9	6.5	10.5	47.2	23.1	9.8	76.7	3.0	17.9	2.0	100.0	2,552
Mpumalanga	10.3	13.6	13.7	41.2	14.4	6.7	96.2	0.4	2.2	0.7	100.0	819
Northern	12.5	11.9	12.9	45.8	10.3	6.6	97.9	0.0	0.0	1.4	100.0	1,316
Total	6.8	11.0	13.8	44.2	16.4	7.8	77.9	10.2	7.8	3.5	100.0	11,735

Considering the relatively low educational level of the majority of women in South Africa it is of interest to note the reasons that respondents provided for stopping schooling (Table 2.14). Two reasons predominate: "falling pregnant" is reported by 17 percent of women who failed to complete their primary education and 10 percent of women who failed to complete their secondary education. Socio-economic conditions and poverty are reported by 20 percent of women who did not complete primary education.

Table 2.14 Reasons for leaving school

Percent distribution of women age 15-24 who had ever attended school by reason for leaving school, according to highest level of education completed, South Africa 1998

Reason stopped attending school	Highest level of education					Total
	Primary incomplete	Primary complete	Secondary incomplete	Secondary complete	Higher	
Currently attending	38.2	61.0	71.3	28.7	47.5	58.3
Got pregnant	17.2	12.3	10.4	5.4	2.4	9.8
Got married	4.3	3.8	2.0	1.3	0.0	2.1
Take care of children	0.9	1.8	0.8	0.7	0.2	0.8
Family need help	1.2	0.1	0.3	0.8	0.0	0.5
Could not pay school fees	17.4	8.1	4.3	20.8	5.1	8.8
Need to earn money	2.6	2.7	2.1	11.6	2.1	3.9
Graduated. enough	0.1	0.3	0.3	21.5	35.5	6.2
Did not pass exams	0.6	0.5	0.9	1.5	0.0	0.9
Did not like school	4.3	3.1	2.1	0.2	0.5	2.0
School not accessible	1.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.3
Other	9.4	5.7	3.3	4.5	2.6	4.3
Missing	2.7	0.7	1.9	2.6	4.2	2.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	396	349	2 503	759	264	4,271

Marital status

The age distribution of women according to their marital status is shown in Table 2.15. Forty-eight percent of women of reproductive age have never married or are not currently living in a union. In the age group 25-29, 47 percent of women have not yet married, while almost 12 percent of women aged 45-49 have never been married.

Figure 2.3 shows women included in the sample by marital status. Only one third of women aged 15-49 are currently married. The proportion married increases steadily with age. Between ages 35 and 49 the proportion married stabilises at just below 60 percent. Approximately ten percent of all women are cohabiting with a man and 6 percent of the respondents are either divorced or separated.

Table 2.15 Current marital status

Percent distribution of women by current marital status, according to age, South Africa 1998

Age groups	Current marital status						Total	
	Never married	Married	Living together	Widowed	Divorced	Separated	Total	Number
15-19	95.9	1.2	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	100.0	2,249
20-24	75.4	11.9	10.5	0.1	0.3	1.8	100.0	2,075
25-29	46.5	34.2	14.3	0.8	1.0	3.2	100.0	1,857
30-34	28.9	49.3	11.7	2.1	2.9	5.2	100.0	1,654
35-39	18.5	58.0	10.1	3.6	3.7	6.2	100.0	1,636
40-44	14.6	55.4	11.5	6.4	4.9	7.3	100.0	1,294
45-49	11.5	58.8	8.5	9.7	6.1	5.5	100.0	970
Total	48.3	33.7	9.5	2.4	2.2	3.9	100.0	11,735

Figure 2.3 Marital status of women, South Africa 1998

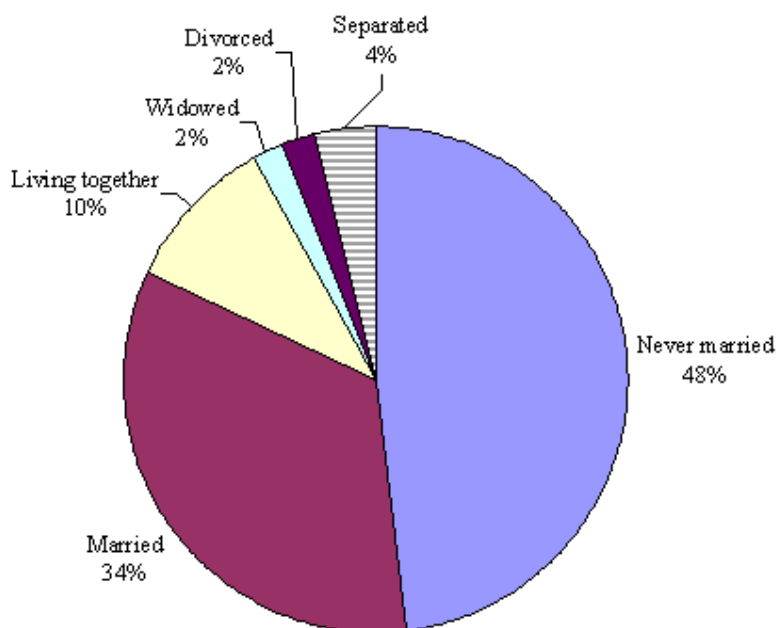


Table 2.16 Polygyny

Percentage of currently married women in a polygynous union, by age and selected background characteristics, South Africa 1998

Background characteristic	Age group						All women
	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	
Residence							
Urban	6.7	10.7	11.9	8.5	8.4	8.7	9.6
Non-urban	12.5	10.5	19.8	15.8	24.0	18.3	16.8
Province							
Western Cape	(7.6)	8.0	6.3	4.1	2.7	1.9	5.1
Eastern Cape	4.9	4.2	3.5	5.5	4.9	4.9	4.6
Northern Cape	(4.5)	7.3	8.8	9.5	9.3	5.5	7.8
Free State	14.3)	5.0	5.9	9.0	3.0	(10.7)	7.3
KwaZulu-Natal	13.0	9.2	22.4	14.8	28.8	17.5	17.9
North West	(7.2)	10.8	15.9	10.8	13.8	(14.6)	12.7
Gauteng	(6.8)	13.5	16.5	9.9	9.7	11.4	11.9
Mpumalanga	12.3)	14.1	23.8	21.1	27.9	20.7	20.7
Northern	11.4	14.8	20.8	19.0	28.0	19.1	18.9
Education							
No education	*	(23.1)	25.3	29.1	32.1	18.9	26.3
Sub A - Std 3	(17.3)	15.2	27.9	17.1	16.2	20.4	19.1
Std 4 - Std 5	11.2	7.8	11.5	15.0	18.8	11.2	13.1
Std 6 - Std 9	10.4	13.1	14.8	6.9	8.1	9.5	10.9
Std 10	3.2	5.9	9.2	3.3	7.2	(0.0)	5.8
Higher	*	1.3	1.8	2.6	4.3	(1.7)	2.2
Population group							
African	10.7	12.9	20.1	14.8	19.3	17.5	16.3
Afr. urban	7.8	14.3	18.4	12.4	12.1	14.6	14.0
Afr. non-urban	13.0	11.5	21.9	17.2	27.8	20.0	18.5
Coloured	(2.6)	7.7	5.3	3.3	4.0	1.4	4.5
White	*	2.9	0.8	1.2	0.7	2.3	1.7
Asian	*	(0.0)	0.0	5.6	(6.8)	(2.5)	3.1
Total	9.5	10.6	14.9	11.3	14.1	12.4	12.5

Note: There were too few cases (73) of married women in the 15-19 age group to show separately. Parentheses indicate that a figure is based on 25-49 respondents. An asterisk indicates a figure is based on fewer than 25 respondents and has been suppressed.

Polygyny

The prevalence of polygynous unions in South Africa was measured in the SADHS by asking currently married females the question: "Besides yourself, how many other wives does your husband have?" Thirteen percent of currently married women in South Africa reported that they are in a polygynous union (Table 2.16). Among African women, where polygynous unions most often occur, no discernible trend according to age is apparent from the data. However, between the ages of 30 and 49, between one sixth and one-fifth of women are married to a man with more than one wife.

Age at first marriage

The median age at first marriage has increased from 22.6 years among women 45-49 to 24.7 among women in the age group 30-34 (see Table 2.17). From the data it appears that early marriage is becoming progressively rare. The proportion of women married by the exact age of 20 declined from 30 percent among women in the age group 45-49 to 14 percent among women aged 20-24 years. Overall, about one quarter of South African women marry by age 20.

Current age	Percentage who were first married by exact age:					Percentage who had never married	Number of women	Median age at first marriage
	15	18	20	22	25			
15-19	0.4	NA	NA	NA	NA	95.9	2,249	a
20-24	1.1	7.9	14.2	NA	NA	75.4	2,075	a
25-29	2.5	11.0	20.2	30.9	44.1	46.5	1,857	a
30-34	2.9	14.2	26.9	36.7	51.5	28.9	1,654	24.7
35-39	5.0	16.9	29.5	43.0	57.2	18.5	1,636	23.3
40-44	3.1	15.1	30.3	44.9	59.9	14.6	1,294	23.1
45-49	2.8	13.2	30.0	46.7	61.9	11.5	970	22.6
Median for women 20-49	2.8	12.7	24.0	35.3	47.4	37.0	9,486	b
Median for women 25-49	3.3	14.0	26.8	39.4	53.7	26.2	7,411	24.2

NA = Not applicable
 a Less than 50 percent of respondents in age group x to $x+4$ were married by age x
 b Not calculated due to censoring

Table 2.18 shows the median age at first marriage for women aged 25-49 by selected background characteristics. The median age at first marriage for all women is 24 years. There are some striking differentials in the median age at first marriage by certain background characteristics such as province and educational level.

Whereas the median age at first marriage is about 23 years in Mpumalanga, it is nearly 25 years in the Western Cape. Age at first marriage exhibits a positive relationship with the educational level of respondents. The median age at first marriage among those with no education is approximately 21 years, while it is nearly 25 years for those with a Std 6-Std 9 qualification.

Table 2.18 Median age at first marriage

Median age at first marriage among women age 25-49 years, by current age and selected background characteristics, South Africa 1998

Background characteristic	Current age					Women aged 25-49
	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	
Residence						
Urban	a	25.8	24.3	23.6	22.9	24.8
Non-urban	a	22.4	21.7	21.6	21.8	22.9
Province						
Western Cape	a	25.4	22.7	22.5	23.8	24.5
Eastern Cape	a	24.7	23.4	22.7	22.8	24.2
Northern Cape	a	27.0	25.0	24.5	23.7	a
Free State	24.0	22.5	21.3	21.8	21.5	22.3
KwaZulu-Natal	a	25.7	24.9	24.4	23.8	a
North West	a	27.3	25.7	23.2	22.4	a
Gauteng	24.8	25.2	24.8	24.3	22.4	24.4
Mpumalanga	a	23.6	21.0	21.7	21.7	23.2
Northern	23.3	21.4	19.4	19.4	20.7	20.6
Education						
No education	24.9	19.9	20.3	22.0	21.7	21.4
Sub A - Std 3	23.7	23.9	21.9	21.8	21.4	22.3
Std 4 - Std 5	a	23.1	23.2	23.1	24.6	23.8
Std 6 - Std 9	a	25.4	24.7	23.9	22.7	24.6
Std 10	a	26.2	24.4	21.7	22.2	a
Higher	a	25.5	23.9	23.6	24.4	a
Population group						
African	a	25.3	24.2	23.8	22.8	24.9
Afr. urban	a	27.5	26.4	25.4	23.7	a
Afr. non-urban	a	22.6	21.7	21.6	21.8	22.9
Coloured	a	25.2	24.1	23.4	25.7	a
White	22.0	22.0	21.1	21.2	21.2	21.4
Asian	21.8	20.6	20.4	20.3	21.7	21.0
Total	a	24.7	23.3	23.1	22.6	24.2

Note: Medians are not shown for women 20-24 because less than 50 percent of women had married by age 20.
^a Less than 50 percent of respondents in age group x to $x+4$ were first married by age x

Exposure to mass media

Table 2.19 provides information pertaining to the exposure of women to different types of mass media by age, residence, province, educational level and population group. Approximately 42 percent of the women read a newspaper at least once a week, 64 percent watch television once a week, while 72 percent listen to the radio every day. In urban areas a higher proportion watch television (79 percent) and listen to the radio (77 percent). In total, about 14 percent of the SADHS respondents are not exposed to mass media on a regular basis. African women in non-urban areas and those without any education or a low level of education have little exposure to a conventional mass media campaign.

Table 2.19 Access to mass media

Percentage of women age 15-49 who usually read a newspaper once a week, watch television once a week, or listen to radio daily, by selected background characteristics, South Africa 1998

Background characteristic	No mass media	Mass media				Number of women
		Read newspaper weekly	Watch television weekly	Listen to radio daily	All three media	
Age						
15-19	13.5	41.9	64.6	70.6	30.1	2,249
20-24	14.5	42.7	62.4	71.3	29.4	2,075
25-29	12.3	44.1	63.3	72.6	29.8	1,857
30-34	12.0	42.0	66.5	75.0	31.6	1,654
35-39	14.2	42.9	64.7	71.7	30.5	1,636
40-44	13.0	39.2	65.0	71.6	29.2	1,294
45-49	16.1	36.4	63.4	69.1	28.3	970
Residence						
Urban	6.9	54.4	79.4	76.6	41.4	7,095
Non-urban	23.7	22.5	41.1	64.4	12.4	4,640
Province						
Western Cape	4.1	64.7	87.7	71.5	46.9	1,193
Eastern Cape	25.4	26.6	44.0	67.3	19.4	1,566
Northern Cape	11.1	54.9	73.4	63.2	36.1	253
Free State	7.5	38.1	77.1	81.5	31.4	763
KwaZulu-Natal	17.5	38.3	53.2	68.2	24.8	2,364
North West	11.0	50.4	74.3	73.8	37.1	909
Gauteng	7.3	54.5	78.0	76.8	41.7	2,552
Mpumalanga	12.7	28.5	66.1	70.8	20.1	819
Northern	19.2	22.7	43.0	69.5	12.8	1,316
Education						
No education	32.9	3.8	29.4	60.1	2.2	804
Sub A - Std 3	26.2	12.3	39.1	59.8	5.4	1,291
Std 4 - Std 5	19.9	22.0	51.6	64.4	12.8	1,625
Std 6 - Std 9	11.1	44.7	69.0	72.7	31.4	5,181
Std 10	4.1	66.9	80.9	82.6	51.5	1,922
Higher	1.1	82.9	90.9	84.6	66.2	912
Population group						
African	16.4	32.7	57.3	71.3	22.9	9,147
Afr. urban	8.9	43.7	73.8	77.8	33.8	4,873
Afr. non-urban	25.0	20.1	38.5	64.0	10.4	4,274
Coloured	5.4	64.8	84.7	65.0	43.9	1,201
White	0.2	86.7	94.0	83.1	68.4	916
Asian	1.0	78.6	93.1	78.2	61.1	406
Total	13.5	41.8	64.2	71.8	30.0	11,735

Employment and occupational status

The SADHS collected information from women regarding their employment status². The findings are shown in Table 2.20 by the usual background characteristics. Overall, 67 percent of women were not employed at the time of the survey, 28 percent were employed all year, 2 percent were employed seasonally and another 2 percent were employed occasionally. The proportions of unemployed women aged 15-19 (93 percent) and 20-24 (81 percent) are higher than the proportion of unemployed women aged 25 years and older. This is in part due to the fact that many of the younger respondents are still at school or furthering their education. Unemployment among women is higher in the non-urban than urban areas. Thirty-one percent of urban women and only 17 percent of non-urban women work all year.

The province with the smallest proportion of unemployed women during the previous 12 months preceding the survey is the Western Cape (42 percent). The provinces with the highest unemployment rates for women are the Northern Province (78 percent) and Eastern Cape (74 percent).

Educational level is related to employment status. A high percentage of women with no education are not employed (71 percent), compared to 52 percent of women with a Standard 10 certificate. Similarly, regular

full-time employment increases and seasonal employment decreases with an increase in the level of education. More African women (68 percent) are unemployed than women of other population groups (coloureds, 46 percent; whites, 33 percent; and Asians 55 percent).

Table 2.20 Employment

Percent distribution of women age 15-49 by employment status and continuity of employment, according to selected background characteristics, South Africa 1998

Background characteristic	Not currently employed		Currently employed					Total	Number of women
	Did not work in last 12 months	Worked in last 12 months	All year		Seasonally	Occasionally	Missing		
			5+ days per week	<5 days per week					
Age									
15-19	89.2	3.7	2.7	1.4	0.9	1.6	0.5	100.0	2,249
20-24	75.3	5.5	13.9	1.6	2.2	1.0	0.6	100.0	2,075
25-29	59.0	5.4	27.6	3.1	2.6	1.8	0.5	100.0	1,857
30-34	50.6	5.9	34.4	3.8	2.9	1.7	0.7	100.0	1,654
35-39	46.8	4.7	39.5	4.7	2.4	1.8	0.2	100.0	1,636
40-44	47.0	2.8	39.5	5.3	1.6	2.9	0.8	100.0	1,294
45-49	49.6	2.3	37.6	4.4	2.4	3.2	0.5	100.0	970
Residence									
Urban	55.6	4.9	30.8	4.2	2.0	2.0	0.5	100.0	7,095
Non-urban	73.5	3.9	16.6	1.6	2.2	1.6	0.5	100.0	4,640
Province									
Western Cape	41.8	6.6	38.2	6.4	3.5	3.1	0.5	100.0	1,193
Eastern Cape	74.1	3.0	18.0	2.4	1.1	0.9	0.3	100.0	1,566
Northern Cape	63.5	2.5	27.9	2.9	1.7	1.2	0.3	100.0	253
Free State	56.6	4.4	32.7	3.0	1.9	1.2	0.2	100.0	763
KwaZulu-Natal	65.1	4.4	21.6	2.4	2.8	2.9	0.8	100.0	2,364
North West	66.9	5.8	21.9	2.9	1.5	0.6	0.4	100.0	909
Gauteng	54.5	6.3	30.5	4.4	1.9	2.0	0.5	100.0	2,552
Mpumalanga	66.7	2.8	24.1	1.9	2.3	1.1	1.0	100.0	819
Northern	77.5	1.9	16.0	1.4	1.5	1.2	0.5	100.0	1,316
Education									
No education	70.5	4.4	19.6	2.4	1.9	0.7	0.6	100.0	804
Sub A - Std 3	62.7	5.2	22.3	3.4	3.2	2.5	0.7	100.0	1,291
Std 4 - Std 5	65.4	4.1	23.3	2.3	3.0	1.6	0.4	100.0	1,625
Std 6 - Std 9	69.2	4.1	19.5	3.0	1.4	2.1	0.6	100.0	5,181
Std 10	52.0	5.4	34.5	3.9	2.5	1.3	0.3	100.0	1,922
Higher	36.4	5.0	49.9	4.6	1.9	1.6	0.6	100.0	912
Population group									
African	68.3	3.8	21.3	2.4	2.0	1.6	0.6	100.0	9,147
Afr. urban	61.6	4.1	26.7	3.3	2.1	1.5	0.6	100.0	4,873
Afr. non-urban	76.0	3.4	15.2	1.3	1.9	1.6	0.5	100.0	4,274
Coloured	45.8	7.1	36.4	6.0	2.4	1.8	0.5	100.0	1,201
White	32.5	8.5	46.0	6.3	2.2	4.5	0.0	100.0	916
Asian	54.5	5.0	32.1	4.5	1.6	2.0	0.2	100.0	406
Total	62.7	4.5	25.2	3.2	2.1	1.8	0.5	100.0	11,735

Place of employment and form of earnings

In Table 2.21 details are provided of the place of employment and the type of earnings of employed respondents. Seventeen percent of employed women are self-employed, while the vast majority of working women (79 percent) are employed by non-relatives and about 4 percent work for relatives. All but a small fraction of working women earn cash; 97 percent are paid in cash while less than 3 percent are either unpaid or paid in kind. KwaZulu-Natal (23 percent) and Mpumalanga (25 percent) have a larger proportion of women who are self-employed. A large proportion of women in all nine provinces are employed by non-relatives and earn cash. The distribution of employed women by employer and form of earnings varies little by level of education. Compared to other groups, a smaller proportion of coloured women (5 percent) are self-employed.

Table 2.21 Employer and form of earnings

Percent distribution of currently employed women age 15-49 by employer and form of earnings, according to selected background characteristics, South Africa 1998

Background characteristic	Self-employed		Employed by a nonrelative		Employed by a relative		Missing	Total	Number of women
	Earns cash	Does not earn cash	Earns cash	Does not earn cash	Earns cash	Does not earn cash			
Age									
15-19	24.3	0.0	68.1	0.0	4.2	2.8	0.6	100.0	149
20-24	10.1	0.6	83.4	0.9	3.3	1.2	0.6	100.0	390
25-29	14.4	0.0	82.9	0.7	1.4	0.3	0.3	100.0	653
30-34	18.4	0.3	75.4	1.3	3.5	0.4	0.8	100.0	711
35-39	16.6	0.7	76.3	1.0	3.4	1.1	0.8	100.0	792
40-44	18.3	0.9	76.9	1.3	1.5	0.9	0.3	100.0	640
45-49	17.7	0.7	76.0	1.2	2.5	1.7	0.2	100.0	461
Residence									
Urban	14.6	0.2	80.4	1.0	2.5	0.9	0.4	100.0	2,771
Non-urban	22.1	1.3	70.4	1.2	3.1	1.1	0.8	100.0	1,024
Province									
Western Cape	8.1	0.0	87.2	0.2	2.8	0.4	1.2	100.0	614
Eastern Cape	15.2	0.3	79.5	2.9	1.6	0.2	0.2	100.0	354
Northern Cape	4.5	1.1	90.4	1.7	1.1	0.9	0.3	100.0	85
Free State	10.4	0.3	84.6	0.3	3.0	0.5	0.8	100.0	297
KwaZulu-Natal	22.9	0.4	71.1	0.4	3.2	1.5	0.4	100.0	704
North West	11.4	1.2	79.7	2.9	4.1	0.4	0.4	100.0	245
Gauteng	20.3	0.0	75.3	0.7	2.4	1.2	0.0	100.0	987
Mpumalanga	24.9	0.0	70.0	1.9	2.0	0.0	1.2	100.0	243
Northern	15.7	3.9	73.4	1.3	2.6	2.2	0.9	100.0	266
Education									
No education	16.9	0.0	80.0	1.6	0.6	0.0	0.9	100.0	198
Sub A - Std 3	24.5	1.1	70.3	0.3	2.8	0.3	0.8	100.0	408
Std 4 - Std 5	16.6	0.2	78.1	0.9	2.6	1.4	0.2	100.0	490
Std 6 - Std 9	18.7	0.6	75.9	0.9	2.4	0.9	0.6	100.0	1,354
Std 10	13.5	0.5	80.2	1.3	2.8	1.4	0.4	100.0	815
Higher	10.1	0.2	83.2	1.5	3.8	0.7	0.5	100.0	530
Population group									
African	19.1	0.7	75.4	1.4	2.3	0.6	0.5	100.0	2,505
Afr. urban	16.5	0.2	79.2	1.4	1.9	0.4	0.4	100.0	1,644
Afr. non-urban	24.2	1.5	68.2	1.4	3.0	1.0	0.7	100.0	861
Coloured	4.9	0.0	91.4	0.1	2.0	0.2	1.3	100.0	565
White	18.6	0.3	72.3	0.4	5.2	3.1	0.0	100.0	541
Asian	14.4	0.6	81.6	0.4	2.3	0.6	0.0	100.0	163
Total	16.6	0.5	77.7	1.0	2.7	0.9	0.5	100.0	3,795

Occupation

The distribution of employed women by occupation is presented in Table 2.22. Forty-four percent of the women are engaged in unskilled occupations, while 14 percent occupy professional, technical and management jobs and 17 percent occupy the middle white collar jobs. The majority of African non-urban women hold unskilled jobs (67 percent) compared to 51 percent of African urban women.

Background characteristic	Prof./tech./manag.	Middle white collar	Foreman & skilled artisan	Skilled manual	Unskilled manual	Other	Missing	Total	Number of women
Age									
15-19	2.3	21.9	6.5	22.2	37.0	9.3	0.7	100.0	149
20-24	10.1	23.9	4.9	16.2	36.1	7.8	1.0	100.0	390
25-29	14.8	22.8	6.7	10.3	41.3	3.7	0.3	100.0	653
30-34	16.9	17.0	5.6	13.9	40.8	4.9	0.9	100.0	711
35-39	16.3	16.1	5.3	12.9	43.8	4.9	0.9	100.0	792
40-44	14.6	12.1	7.5	11.8	48.6	4.6	0.7	100.0	640
45-49	14.1	13.1	5.0	8.2	56.3	3.0	0.2	100.0	461
Residence									
Urban	16.3	20.7	6.7	14.2	36.3	5.3	0.5	100.0	2,771
Non-urban	9.3	8.5	3.9	8.1	65.2	3.9	1.1	100.0	1,024
Province									
Western Cape	10.3	20.6	6.9	18.5	38.6	4.7	0.4	100.0	614
Eastern Cape	20.5	11.8	7.4	13.9	40.5	5.5	0.4	100.0	354
Northern Cape	13.2	19.3	4.2	10.4	45.7	4.8	2.3	100.0	85
Free State	14.1	16.8	6.4	10.0	46.5	5.7	0.5	100.0	297
KwaZulu-Natal	15.1	13.8	4.4	13.6	50.1	2.7	0.1	100.0	704
North West	16.8	15.5	4.4	8.4	48.0	6.0	0.8	100.0	245
Gauteng	14.3	23.4	6.5	12.2	37.9	5.4	0.2	100.0	987
Mpumalanga	10.9	10.6	5.3	6.8	58.4	5.0	2.9	100.0	243
Northern	16.4	12.4	5.6	8.6	48.7	6.1	2.2	100.0	266
Education									
No education	1.0	1.2	0.0	5.0	88.6	1.9	2.3	100.0	198
Sub A - Std 3	1.1	1.1	2.2	8.2	84.6	2.3	0.6	100.0	408
Std 4 - Std 5	0.8	2.7	4.2	13.0	76.0	2.7	0.7	100.0	490
Std 6 - Std 9	4.1	15.8	9.3	17.2	47.1	5.6	0.9	100.0	1,354
Std 10	17.1	40.0	7.0	12.7	15.9	7.0	0.4	100.0	815
Higher	64.5	18.9	2.4	6.7	2.3	5.0	0.2	100.0	530
Population group									
African	12.4	10.2	6.0	10.0	56.3	4.2	0.8	100.0	2,505
Afr. urban	13.6	12.1	6.9	11.6	50.7	4.4	0.6	100.0	1,644
Afr. non-urban	10.1	6.5	4.2	7.1	67.0	3.8	1.2	100.0	861
Coloured	11.5	19.6	4.9	20.0	38.7	4.7	0.6	100.0	565
White	27.0	41.9	5.9	13.4	3.4	8.4	0.1	100.0	541
Asian	13.6	40.5	9.1	21.4	10.8	3.9	0.7	100.0	163
Total	14.4	17.4	5.9	12.6	44.1	4.9	0.7	100.0	3,795

Educational level is clearly associated with type of occupation: women with no education or with primary education only are primarily engaged in unskilled occupations, while professional, technical and management jobs are occupied by women with a higher level of education. White women (27 percent) have a higher proportion of professionals than the other population groups. Younger women are less involved in unskilled manual occupations than older women.

There is a clear correlation between education level and occupation. Women with higher education are more likely to be in a professional/technical/management occupation (65 percent), while women with no education are more likely to be in unskilled occupations (89 percent).

Decision on use of earnings

Information on who decides how to use the cash earned by employed women may point to the status of women. Two-thirds (67 percent) make the decision themselves (Table 2.23). Twenty-one percent of women who earn cash make decisions jointly with their husbands/partners, while the partners of 3 percent of the women make the decisions about spending their earnings. There is little difference by age in decision making regarding earnings, except that fewer younger respondents (those between the ages of 15 and 24) make joint decisions with a partner on the use of earnings, mainly because fewer are married.

More urban women (23 percent) than non-urban women (18 percent) decide jointly with their partners on spending. Fewer women in KwaZulu-Natal (14 percent) than women in other provinces make joint decisions with their husbands on spending their earnings. In Gauteng and Northern Cape (29 percent and 31 percent) of women make decisions jointly with their partners. The partners of 6 percent of women earning cash in the Eastern Cape decide on how their earnings should be spent.

White women generally involve their husbands/partners to a larger extent in decision making about their earnings (36 percent) than is the case among African women (18 percent), Asian women (20 percent) and coloured women (23 percent). The majority of non-urban African women (72 percent) make such decisions on their own, largely due to the fact that either they are not married or their husbands/partners work away from home and return only on occasion.

Table 2.23 Decision on use of earnings

Percent distribution of women age 15-49 receiving cash earnings by person who decides on use of earnings, according to selected background characteristics, South Africa 1998

Background characteristic	Person who decides how earnings are used					Missing	Total	Number of women
	Self only	Husband/partner	Jointly with husband/partner	Someone else	Jointly with someone else			
Age								
15-19	83.6	0.0	1.5	8.2	6.1	0.7	100.0	144
20-24	76.1	2.4	7.4	5.7	3.5	4.8	100.0	377
25-29	66.8	0.8	22.4	1.8	4.1	4.1	100.0	645
30-34	64.7	3.5	22.7	1.0	3.8	4.4	100.0	692
35-39	62.2	4.3	24.0	0.6	5.3	3.6	100.0	765
40-44	63.6	2.5	28.4	0.4	2.1	2.9	100.0	619
45-49	68.4	4.0	21.2	0.0	2.8	3.5	100.0	445
Residence								
Urban	65.8	2.6	22.5	1.4	3.7	3.9	100.0	2,704
Non-urban	69.1	3.4	18.1	2.2	4.1	3.1	100.0	984
Province								
Western Cape	65.0	2.3	21.2	5.0	3.9	2.6	100.0	605
Eastern Cape	63.8	5.9	21.3	0.8	5.9	2.3	100.0	341
Northern Cape	61.3	1.8	31.0	0.9	1.5	3.5	100.0	82
Free State	69.4	2.0	21.3	0.5	6.7	0.0	100.0	292
KwaZulu-Natal	77.5	3.3	13.8	1.2	1.3	2.8	100.0	686
North West	66.3	1.7	19.0	0.4	5.4	7.1	100.0	233
Gauteng	59.3	2.0	28.5	1.1	3.7	5.4	100.0	968
Mpumalanga	74.5	1.8	17.2	1.2	3.7	1.6	100.0	236
Northern	65.5	5.3	17.0	0.5	4.3	7.5	100.0	243
Education								
No education	69.5	2.2	20.9	0.5	4.3	2.6	100.0	193
Sub A - Std 3	68.6	3.5	21.3	0.3	3.9	2.4	100.0	400
Std 4 - Std 5	69.1	3.0	18.1	1.0	5.0	3.8	100.0	478
Std 6 - Std 9	68.8	3.2	19.4	2.3	3.3	2.9	100.0	1,315
Std 10	63.9	2.1	22.5	2.1	3.7	5.7	100.0	787
Higher	61.0	2.6	27.5	1.0	4.0	4.0	100.0	514
Population group								
African	69.1	2.9	18.0	0.8	4.3	4.8	100.0	2,428
Afr. urban	67.7	2.6	19.3	0.6	4.3	5.5	100.0	1,606
Afr. non-urban	72.1	3.6	15.5	1.1	4.3	3.4	100.0	823
Coloured	62.2	2.4	23.1	5.9	5.2	1.2	100.0	557
White	58.4	2.2	35.6	1.2	1.3	1.3	100.0	520
Asian	70.2	4.6	20.4	0.6	0.6	3.6	100.0	161
Marital status								
Currently married	90.6	0.0	0.2	3.4	2.1	3.8	100.0	1,760
Not married	44.9	5.4	40.6	0.0	5.4	3.6	100.0	1,927
Total	66.7	2.8	21.3	1.6	3.8	3.7	100.0	3,688

2.10 Child Care for Working Mothers

Table 2.24 presents the percent distribution of employed women by whether they have a child under the age of six years according to the women's background characteristics. The table also provides details on who cares for such children while their mothers are at work. Thirty-one percent of employed women have a child/children under the age of six. A higher proportion of non-urban than urban employed women have a child under the age of six (41 percent compared to 27 percent). There is no significant difference between the level of education and whether the working woman has a child under the age of six.

Women with a higher level of education are more likely to hire help and use child care institutions for their children. The role of the husband or partner and other male children in looking after such a child when the mother is working is minimal. This holds for all sub-groups of women.

Table 2.24 Child care while working

Percent distribution of currently employed women age 15-49 by whether they have a child under six years of age at home, and the percent distribution of employed mothers who have a child under six by person who cares for child while mother is at work, according to selected background characteristics, South Africa 1998

Residence	
Urban	85
Non-urban	704
Province	
Western Cape	245
Eastern Cape	987
Northern Cape	243
Free State	266
KwaZulu-Natal	
North West	
Gauteng	
Mpumalanga	
Northern	
Education	
No education	
Sub A - Std 3	
Std 4 - Std 5	
Std 6 - Std 9	
Std 10	
Child-care taker while mother is at work	
Higher	
Population group	
African	
Afr. urban	
Afr. non-urban	
Coloured	
White	
Asian women	
Employment status	
All year, full week	2,771
All year, part week	1,024
Seasonal	
Occasional	
Employed	
Respondent is currently employed but has not worked since last birth.	85
	704
	245
	987
	243
	266
	1,000