

**Press
Release
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Media Contact: Kerwin Lebone

Tel: 011-482-7221 ext.2013

Email: klebone@sairr.org.za

Mobile phones have replaced telephones in homes as main mode of communication

Some 89% of South African homes have access to mobile phones compared to only 14% that have access to landline telephones, according to the latest *South Africa Survey*, published by the South African Institute of Race Relations (IRR) in Johannesburg recently.

The *Survey* is the annual yearbook on all social, economic, and political aspects of South Africa that the IRR has been publishing since 1946.

Between 2001 and 2011 the proportion of households with access to cellular phones grew from 18% to 89% while that of landline telephones rose from 10% to 14%.

The information was sourced by the IRR from 2001 and 2011 Statistics South Africa censuses and from the International Telecommunications Union.

Between 2000 and 2012, landline telephone subscriptions dropped from 5 million to 4 million, or by 19%, while cellular phone subscriptions soared from 8.4 to 68.4 million, or by 720%.

It is easier, quicker, and cheaper to subscribe to a mobile phone network than it is to apply for a landline telephone connection, according to Kerwin Lebone of the IRR research department.

'The figures show that communication is an important aspect of people's lives and, when presented with a choice, people will always opt for simplicity, convenience, and value,' Mr Lebone added.

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