

FreeFACTS

No 5/2018 / September 2018 / Issue 5

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South Africa's family fabric

This edition of *Free Facts* presents key population and household data.

The data in this report briefly profiles the country's population by age and province. Children (people under 18) account for a third of South Africa's population. The Eastern Cape has the largest proportions of children and people aged 65 and above, at 40% and 7.2% respectively. Gauteng has the largest proportion of working-age people (15 to 64), at 70.5%.

Overall, the largest single proportion (39.4%) of households are nuclear – that is, with one or both parents and their children. Almost two thirds of all children live in extended households (those in which a couple and their children live with relatives).

Two thirds of Black children live with their parent(s) as well as relatives. On the other hand, two thirds of Indian/Asian children and 73% of White children live with their parent(s) only. Some 40.8% of all children live with their mother only, 34.9% with both parents, 21.3% with neither parent and just 3% with their father only.

Data on orphans shows that 8.6% of South Africa's children have lost their father, 2.9% have lost their mother and 2.6% have lost both parents.

A brief look at crime — one of the major issues affecting families — shows that in 2016/17, 81.8% of murder victims, 76.6% of attempted murder victims and 65.1% of serious assault victims were men.

Many of South Africa's social ills can be attributed to problems relating to the lack of a stable family environment. For the many children who do not know their fathers, live in extended families, or even run households by themselves, the risk of negative prospects in life is heightened.

— **Marius Roodt**

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Families

Population snippets

Population ^a by province. 2018							
Province	Total population	0-17 year			18+ years		
		Number	Proportion of total	Proportion of provincial population	Number	Proportion of total	Proportion of provincial population
Eastern Cape	6 522 734	2 606 345	13.1%	40.0%	3 916 389	10.4%	60.0%
Free State	2 954 348	1 018 527	5.1%	34.5%	1 935 821	5.1%	65.5%
Gauteng	14 717 040	4 205 697	20.9%	28.6%	10 511 343	27.8%	71.4%
KwaZulu-Natal	11 384 722	4 196 195	22.7%	36.9%	7 188 527	19.0%	63.1%
Limpopo	5 797 275	2 315 637	12.1%	39.9%	3 481 638	9.2%	60.1%
Mpumalanga	4 523 874	1 667 444	8.4%	36.9%	2 856 430	7.5%	63.1%
North West	3 978 955	1 432 544	6.9%	36.0%	2 546 411	6.7%	64.0%
Northern Cape	1 225 555	431 930	2.1%	35.2%	793 625	2.1%	64.8%
Western Cape	6 621 103	2 017 009	10.0%	30.5%	4 604 094	12.2%	69.5%
South Africa	57 725 606	19 891 328	100.0%	34.5%	37 834 278	100.0%	65.5%

Province	Total population	15-64 years			65+ years		
		Number	Proportion of total	Proportion of provincial population	Number	Proportion of total	Proportion of provincial population
Eastern Cape	6 522 734	3 814 517	10.2%	58.5%	468 520	14.5%	7.2%
Free State	2 954 348	1 905 411	5.1%	64.5%	182 878	5.7%	6.2%
Gauteng	14 717 040	10 381 086	27.7%	70.5%	733 631	22.8%	5.0%
KwaZulu-Natal	11 384 722	7 175 492	19.2%	63.0%	625 345	19.4%	5.5%
Limpopo	5 797 275	3 511 832	9.4%	60.6%	300 112	9.3%	5.2%
Mpumalanga	4 523 874	2 877 791	7.7%	63.6%	215 351	6.7%	4.8%
North West	3 978 955	2 522 866	6.7%	63.4%	219 204	6.8%	5.5%
Northern Cape	1 225 555	774 218	2.1%	63.2%	82 059	2.5%	6.7%
Western Cape	6 621 103	4 494 659	12.0%	67.9%	397 114	12.3%	6.0%
South Africa	57 725 606	37 457 873	100.0%	64.9%	3 224 214	100.0%	5.6%

Source: Statistics South Africa (Stats SA); IRR calculations

Families

Households by household head^a and composition, 2016

Household type	Male-headed	Proportion of total male-headed	Female-headed	Proportion of total female-headed	Total
Single ^b	2 743 296	28.2%	1 367 130	19.9%	4 110 426
Nuclear ^c	4 504 064	46.3%	2 040 390	29.7%	6 544 454
Extended ^d	2 276 352	23.4%	3 311 340	48.2%	5 587 692
Complex ^e	204 288	2.1%	151 140	2.2%	355 428
Total	9 728 000	100.0%	6 870 000	100.0%	16 598 000

Source: Stats SA; IRR calculations

- a Households headed by people aged 15 and above.
- b A single person living alone. Hostel dwellers are regarded as individuals (or single households) except where circumstances indicate otherwise.
- c Nuclear households have a head, their spouse, and/or offspring, although they also include single-parent households.
- d Nuclear households with extended family members.
- e Households in which one or more non-related individuals are considered members.

Children by household type and race, 2016

Race	Single ^a		Nuclear ^b		Extended ^c		Complex ^d	
	Number ^e	Proportion	Number ^e	Proportion	Number ^e	Proportion	Number ^e	Proportion
Black	23 474	0.15%	5 148 521	32.90%	10 179 675	65.05%	305 156	1.95%
Coloured	779	0.05%	706 100	45.35%	747 360	48.00%	104 319	6.70%
Indian/Asian	0	0.00%	235 720	66.40%	115 375	32.50%	4 083	1.15%
White	979	0.10%	714 181	72.95%	229 576	23.45%	34 755	3.55%
Total^f	27 809	0.15%	6 803 813	36.70%	11 271 712	60.80%	444 936	2.40%

Source: Stats SA

- a A single person living alone. Hostel dwellers are regarded as individuals (or single households) except where circumstances indicate otherwise.
- b Nuclear households have a head, their spouse, and/or offspring, although they also include single-parent households.
- c Nuclear households with extended family members.
- d Households in which one or more non-related individuals are considered members.
- e IRR calculations. For example, 305 156 (or 1.95%) of all Black children live in complex households.
- f Actual numbers should add up vertically but may not, owing to rounding. Proportions should add up horizontally to 100% but may not, owing to rounding.

Children's living arrangements by sex, 2016

Living arrangement	Male		Female		Total ^b	
	Number ^a	Proportion	Number ^a	Proportion	Number ^a	Proportion
With mother only	3 651 000	40.1%	3 722 000	41.4%	7 372 000	40.8%
With father only	305 000	3.4%	244 000	2.7%	549 000	3.0%
With both parents	3 188 000	35.0%	3 128 000	34.8%	6 316 000	34.9%
Lives with neither	1 956 000	21.5%	1 886 000	21.0%	3 842 000	21.3%
Total	9 100 000	100.0%	8 980 000	100.0%	18 080 000	100.0%

Source: Stats SA

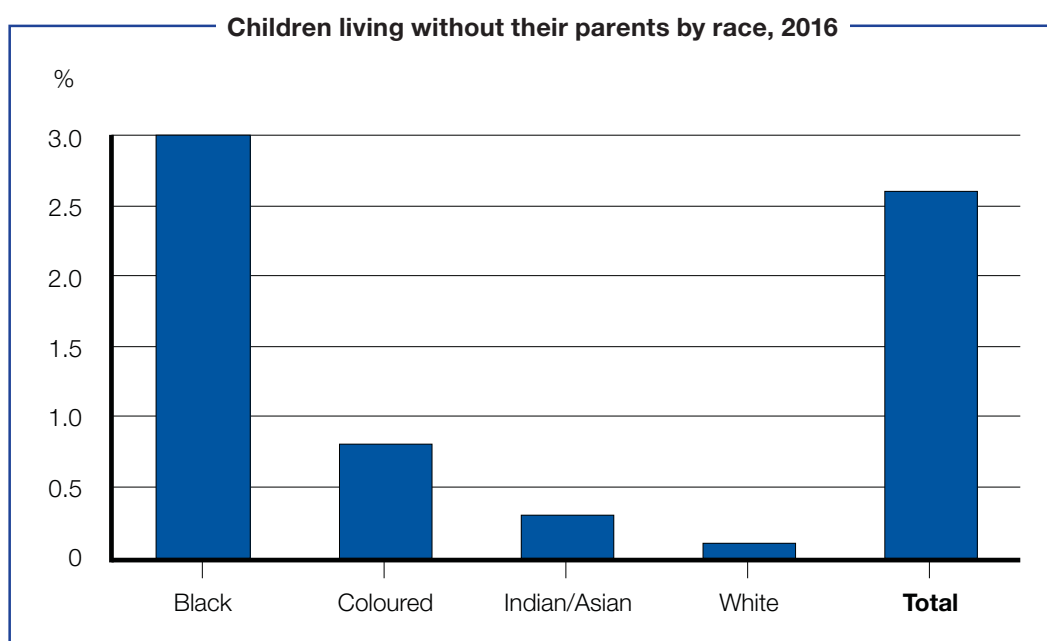
- a IRR calculations.
- b Figures should add up vertically but may not, owing to rounding.

Families

Orphans ^a by race, 2016						
Race	Maternal orphans ^b		Paternal orphans ^c		Double orphans ^d	
	Number ^e	Proportion	Number ^e	Proportion	Number ^e	Proportion
Black	487 968	3.2%	1 463 904	9.6%	457 470	3.0%
Coloured	30 980	2.0%	72 803	4.7%	12 392	0.8%
Indian/Asian	3 141	0.9%	7 329	2.1%	1 047	0.3%
White	3 900	0.4%	29 250	3.0%	975	0.1%
Total^f	525 509	2.9%	1 558 406	8.6%	471 146	2.6%

Source: Stats SA

- a The proportion of all children in each race group who are orphans. For example, 3.2% of all Black children are maternal orphans, 9.6% are paternal orphans and 3% are double orphans. Actual numbers should add up vertically but may not, owing to rounding.
- b Children who have lost their mother only.
- c Children who have lost their father only. The high number of paternal orphans can be partly attributed to higher mortality rates among men.
- d Children who have lost both their parents.
- e IRR calculations.
- f Actual numbers should add up vertically but may not, owing to rounding.



Families

Selected contact crimes committed against adult females, adult males, and children ^a , 2016/17				
Crime category	Adult females	Adult males ^b	Children	Total for categories
	Number			
Murder	2 633	15 547	836	19 016
Attempted murder	3 323	13 946	936	18 205
Sexual offences ^b	37 617	—	24 608	62 225
Serious assault	51 946	111 083	7 587	170 616
Common assault	78 081	68 169	10 200	156 450
Total	173 600	208 745	44 167	426 512
Crime category	Proportion ^c			Total for categories
	Adult females	Adult males ^b	Children	
Murder	13.8%	81.8%	4.4%	100.0%
Attempted murder	18.3%	76.6%	5.1%	100.0%
Sexual offences	60.5%	—	39.5%	100.0%
Serious assault	30.4%	65.1%	4.4%	100.0%
Common assault	49.9%	43.6%	6.5%	100.0%
Total	40.7%	48.9%	10.4%	100.0%

Source: SAPS

- a The SAPS defines children as people aged below 18.
- b Proportions may not add up horizontally owing to rounding. The column for adult males is derived by subtracting the adult female and children figures from the total provided for each crime category. For 2016/17, the sexual offences total for adult females and children was greater than the total provided by the source for that crime category. An explanation for this anomaly could not be solicited at the time of going to print.
- c IRR calculations. For example, in 2016/17, 13.8% of all victims of murder were adult females.

Selected contact crimes committed against adult females, 2006/07-16/17					
Year	Murder	Sexual offences ^a	Serious assault ^b	Common assault	Total for selected crimes
2006/07	2 602	34 816	69 132	100 390	206 940
2007/08	2 544	31 328	64 084	94 286	192 242
2008/09	2 436	30 124	61 509	91 390	185 459
2009/10	2 457	36 093	62 143	94 176	194 869
2010/11	2 594	35 820	60 630	89 956	189 000
2011/12	2 286	31 299	57 345	87 191	178 121
2012/13	2 266	29 928	55 320	83 394	170 908
2013/14	2 354	29 261	54 621	80 672	166 908
2014/15	2 234	28 787	54 839	79 816	165 676
2015/16	2 416	28 105	55 737	83 033	169 291
2016/17	2 633	37 617	51 946	78 081	170 277
Change	1.2%	8.0%	-24.9%	-22.2%	-17.7%

Source: SAPS

- a The definition of this crime category can be found below the first table in this chapter.
- b Assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm.