

# Demography of South Africa's children

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The United Nations General Guidelines for Periodic Reports on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, paragraph 7, says that reports made by states should be accompanied by "... detailed statistical information ... Quantitative information should indicate variations between various areas of the country ... and between groups of children ...".

## The number and proportion of children living in South Africa

There were just over 18.2 million children in South Africa in July 2006. Children therefore constitute over one-third (38%) of the country's population. More than two-thirds (68%) of all children live in four of South Africa's nine provinces: KwaZulu-Natal (21%, confidence interval: 15 – 27%\*), Eastern Cape (17%, confidence interval: 11 – 24%\*), Gauteng (15%), and Limpopo (15%).

Girl and boy populations were more or less equal over the 2002 – 2006 period, with slightly more boys than girls in 2006. Thirty-eight percent of children were aged between 6 and 12 years, with roughly one-third (34%) of all children being younger than this. More

than one-quarter (28%) of South Africa's children were teenagers (13 – 17 years old). These gender and age patterns apply nationally as well as provincially.

The distribution of children across provinces, by age, sex, and population group remain relatively constant over the 2002 – 2006 period. In presenting a demographic profile of South Africa's children, a breakdown by population group has been included although such breakdowns are only really useful when monitoring the extent to which inequalities still prevail.

\* A confidence interval is a statistical range into which the true value is estimated to fall 95% of the time. It is therefore important to refer to when interpreting the data.

TABLE 1a: The number<sup>+</sup> and proportion of children living in South Africa in 2002 – 2006, by province

Province	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Eastern Cape	2,836,000	16	2,881,000	16	3,216,000	18	3,137,000	17	3,181,000	17*
Free State	990,000	6	980,000	6	1,064,000	6	1,114,000	6	1,118,000	6
Gauteng	2,741,000	16	2,779,000	16	2,642,000	15	2,656,000	15	2,720,000	15
KwaZulu-Natal	3,833,000	22	3,830,000	22	3,792,000	21	3,841,000	21	3,817,000	21*
Limpopo	2,501,000	14	2,533,000	14	2,616,000	15	2,615,000	14	2,660,000	15*
Mpumalanga	1,306,000	7	1,319,000	7	1,308,000	7	1,351,000	7	1,402,000	8
Northern Cape	301,000	2	300,000	2	337,000	2	337,000	2	344,000	2
North West	1,431,000	8	1,453,000	8	1,489,000	8	1,461,000	8	1,431,000	8*
Western Cape	1,591,000	9	1,585,000	9	1,559,000	9	1,572,000	9	1,571,000	9
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>17,530,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17,660,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18,022,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18,087,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18,243,000</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>+</sup> Numbers have been rounded off to the nearest thousand.

\* This proportion should be interpreted with caution, as the confidence interval is relatively wide.

Source: Statistics South Africa (2003; 2004; 2005; 2006; 2007) *General Household Survey 2002; General Household Survey 2003; General Household Survey 2004; General Household Survey 2005; General Household Survey 2006*. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa. Analysis by Marera DS, Children's Institute, UCT.

TABLE 1b: The number<sup>+</sup> and proportion of children living in South Africa in 2002 – 2006, by population group<sup>o</sup>

Population Group	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
African	14,580,000	83	14,763,000	84	15,071,000	84	15,172,000	84	15,354,000	84
Coloured	1,516,000	9	1,511,000	9	1,533,000	9	1,521,000	8	1,517,000	8
Indian	336,000	2	316,000	2	310,000	2	346,000	2	337,000	2
White	1,085,000	6	1,061,000	6	1,099,000	6	1,038,000	6	1,023,000	6
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>17,517,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17,651,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18,013,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18,076,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18,231,000</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>+</sup> Numbers have been rounded off to the nearest thousand.

<sup>o</sup> 'Other' and 'unspecified' categories have been excluded, therefore totals are not the same as in Tables 1a and 1c.

Source: Statistics South Africa (2003; 2004; 2005; 2006; 2007) *General Household Survey 2002; General Household Survey 2003; General Household Survey 2004; General Household Survey 2005; General Household Survey 2006*. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa. Analysis by Marera DS, Children's Institute, UCT.

TABLE 1c: The number<sup>+</sup> and proportion of children living in South Africa in 2002 – 2006, by age

Age Group	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0 – 5 years	5,346,000	31	5,346,000	30	5,950,000	33	6,047,000	33	6,186,000	34
6 – 12 years	7,051,000	40	7,020,000	40	7,124,000	40	6,998,000	39	6,981,000	38
13 – 17 years	5,133,000	29	5,294,000	30	4,948,000	27	5,041,000	28	5,076,000	28
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>17,530,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17,660,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18,022,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18,087,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18,243,000</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>+</sup> Numbers have been rounded off to the nearest thousand.

Source: Statistics South Africa (2003; 2004; 2005; 2006; 2007) *General Household Survey 2002; General Household Survey 2003; General Household Survey 2004; General Household Survey 2005; General Household Survey 2006*. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa. Analysis by Marera DS, Children's Institute, UCT.

TABLE 1d: The number<sup>+</sup> and proportion of children living in South Africa in 2002 – 2006, by sex<sup>o</sup>

Sex	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Male	8,834,000	50	8,983,000	51	9,495,000	53	9,488,000	52	9,487,000	52
Female	8,690,000	50	8,674,000	49	8,526,000	47	8,595,000	48	8,744,000	48
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>17,524,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17,657,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18,021,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18,083,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18,231,000</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>+</sup> Numbers have been rounded off to the nearest thousand.

<sup>o</sup> 'Other' and 'unspecified' categories have been excluded, therefore totals are not the same as in Tables 1a and 1c.

Source: Statistics South Africa (2003; 2004; 2005; 2006; 2007) *General Household Survey 2002; General Household Survey 2003; General Household Survey 2004; General Household Survey 2005; General Household Survey 2006*. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa. Analysis by Marera DS, Children's Institute, UCT.

#### TECHNICAL NOTES ON THE INDICATOR

This indicator refers to the number and proportion of children under the age of 18 years who were living in South Africa at the time of the 2002 – 2006 *General Household Surveys*. The proportions are calculated by dividing the number of children per category (e.g. male) by the total number of children in the population. The provincial proportions are calculated by dividing the number of children per category in a province by the total number of children in the population.

For more data, visit [www.childrencount.ci.org.za](http://www.childrencount.ci.org.za)

## The number and proportion of orphans living in South Africa

The *General Household Survey* (GHS) indicates that, in South Africa in 2006, there were approximately 3.8 million 'orphans' – children who were without a living biological mother, father or both parents (or whose living status were unknown). This is equal to 21% of all children in South Africa. The total number of orphans has increased substantially in the last five years, with approximately 750,000 more children living as orphans in 2006 than in 2002. This equates to an increase of four percentage points since 2002 in the total orphan population as a proportion of all children in South Africa. The increases can be understood in light of the AIDS pandemic.

It is important to recognise that the death of one parent can have different implications for children to the death of both parents, as can the death of a mother relative to the death of a father (see for example, Case & Ardington 2004). In particular, it seems that the absence of a mother has greater impact on children's lives than the absence of a father.

For this reason, it is important to disaggregate the total figures.

Four percent of children in South Africa in 2006 were documented to be 'double orphans' who had lost both parents. A further 14% of children had a living mother but were without a biological father. The figure is much lower for children with living fathers who do not have a biological mother: 3% of children (approximately 600,000 children) were estimated from the GHS 2006 to be 'maternal orphans'. In other words, the vast majority (66%) of all orphans in South Africa are paternal orphans. The number of paternal orphans is high because of the higher mortality rates of men in South Africa, as well as the frequent absence of fathers in children's lives.

Roughly one-quarter (26%, confidence interval: 18 – 33%\*) of all South Africa's orphans were resident in the KwaZulu-Natal province in 2006, with approximately one-fifth (22%, confidence interval: 13 – 30%\*) living in the Eastern Cape. It is perhaps more useful to note that 26% of all children living in these two provinces were orphaned. In 2006, 77% of all orphans were of school-going age (seven years and above).

\* A confidence interval is a statistical range into which the true value is estimated to fall 95% of the time. It is therefore important to refer to when interpreting the data.

TABLE 2a: The number<sup>†</sup> and proportion of maternal orphans living in South Africa in 2002 – 2006

Province	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Eastern Cape	85,000	3	66,000	2	98,000	3	118,000	4	113,000	4
Free State	42,000	4	34,000	3	41,000	4	39,000	3	41,000	4
Gauteng	55,000	2	57,000	2	62,000	2	41,000	2	76,000	3
KwaZulu-Natal	136,000	4	155,000	4	165,000	4	137,000	4	156,000	4
Limpopo	54,000	2	58,000	2	47,000	2	66,000	3	79,000	3
Mpumalanga	47,000	4	49,000	4	46,000	4	40,000	3	57,000	4
Northern Cape	11,000	4	8,000	3	10,000	3	10,000	3	11,000	3
North West	35,000	2	46,000	3	38,000	3	41,000	3	50,000	3
Western Cape	26,000	2	21,000	1	27,000	2	21,000	1	37,000	2
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>490,000</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>493,000</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>534,000</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>513,000</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>619,000</b>	<b>3</b>

<sup>†</sup> Numbers have been rounded off to the nearest thousand.

Source: Statistics South Africa (2003; 2004; 2005; 2006; 2007) *General Household Survey 2002; General Household Survey 2003; General Household Survey 2004; General Household Survey 2005; General Household Survey 2006*. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa. Analysis by Marera DS, Children's Institute, UCT.

TABLE 2b: The number<sup>†</sup> and proportion of paternal orphans living in South Africa in 2002 – 2006

Province	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Eastern Cape	404,000	14	456,000	16	517,000	16	561,000	18	562,000	18
Free State	125,000	13	125,000	13	122,000	11	161,000	14	178,000	16
Gauteng	300,000	11	262,000	9	263,000	10	195,000	7	269,000	10
KwaZulu-Natal	505,000	13	453,000	12	516,000	14	528,000	14	605,000	16
Limpopo	342,000	14	358,000	14	304,000	12	308,000	12	344,000	13
Mpumalanga	126,000	10	126,000	10	146,000	11	170,000	13	176,000	13
Northern Cape	29,000	10	23,000	8	34,000	10*	27,000	8	31,000	9
North West	206,000	14	192,000	13	214,000	14	172,000	12	172,000	12
Western Cape	122,000	8	127,000	8	125,000	8	98,000	6	143,000	9*
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>2,159,000</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2,121,000</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2,240,000</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2,221,000</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2,481,000</b>	<b>14</b>

<sup>†</sup> Numbers have been rounded off to the nearest thousand.

\* This proportion should be interpreted with caution, as the confidence interval is relatively wide.

Source: Statistics South Africa (2003; 2004; 2005; 2006; 2007) *General Household Survey 2002; General Household Survey 2003; General Household Survey 2004; General Household Survey 2005; General Household Survey 2006*. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa. Analysis by Marera DS, Children's Institute, UCT.

TABLE 2c: The number<sup>+</sup> and proportion of double orphans living in South Africa in 2002 – 2006

Province	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Eastern Cape	66,000	2	78,000	3	101,000	3	117,000	4	141,000	4
Free State	22,000	2	33,000	3	43,000	4	67,000	6	65,000	6
Gauteng	48,000	2	41,000	1	47,000	2	64,000	2	47,000	2
KwaZulu-Natal	109,000	3	128,000	3	147,000	4	200,000	5	218,000	6
Limpopo	37,000	1	41,000	2	56,000	2	55,000	2	59,000	2
Mpumalanga	27,000	2	33,000	3	38,000	3	37,000	3	53,000	4
Northern Cape	4,000	1	7,000	2	9,000	3	8,000	2	10,000	3
North West	27,000	2	41,000	3	58,000	4	61,000	4	58,000	4
Western Cape	16,000	1	18,000	1	14,000	1	18,000	1	17,000	1
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>356,000</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>419,000</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>513,000</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>626,000</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>668,000</b>	<b>4</b>

<sup>+</sup> Numbers have been rounded off to the nearest thousand.

**Source:** Statistics South Africa (2003; 2004; 2005; 2006; 2007) *General Household Survey 2002; General Household Survey 2003; General Household Survey 2004; General Household Survey 2005; General Household Survey 2006*. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa. Analysis by Marera DS, Children's Institute, UCT.

TABLE 2d: The total number<sup>+</sup> and proportion of orphans living in South Africa in 2002 – 2006

Province	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Eastern Cape	555,000	20	600,000	21	716,000	22	797,000	25	816,000	26
Free State	189,000	19	192,000	20	206,000	19	267,000	24	284,000	25
Gauteng	403,000	15	360,000	13	372,000	14	301,000	11	392,000	14
KwaZulu-Natal	750,000	20	735,000	19	828,000	22	865,000	23	978,000	26
Limpopo	433,000	17	457,000	18	407,000	16	430,000	16	481,000	18
Mpumalanga	199,000	15	208,000	16	230,000	18	247,000	18	286,000	20
Northern Cape	44,000	15*	38,000	13*	52,000	15*	44,000	13	52,000	15*
North West	268,000	19	278,000	19	310,000	21	274,000	19	281,000	20
Western Cape	164,000	10	166,000	10	167,000	11	137,000	9	198,000	13*
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>3,006,000</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3,033,000</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3,286,000</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3,361,000</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3,768,000</b>	<b>21</b>

<sup>+</sup> Numbers have been rounded off to the nearest thousand.

\* This proportion should be interpreted with caution, as the confidence interval is relatively wide.

**Source:** Statistics South Africa (2003; 2004; 2005; 2006; 2007) *General Household Survey 2002; General Household Survey 2003; General Household Survey 2004; General Household Survey 2005; General Household Survey 2006*. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa. Analysis by Marera DS, Children's Institute, UCT.

#### TECHNICAL NOTES ON THE INDICATOR

For the purpose of this indicator, different kinds of orphans are defined as follows:

- A maternal orphan is a child whose mother has died but whose father is alive;
- A paternal orphan is a child whose father has died but whose mother is alive;
- A double orphan is a child whose mother and father have both died.

Orphans as a proportion of the child population is calculated by aggregating the number of children under the age of 18 years whose mother, father or both parents are dead or whose living status is unknown, and dividing this by the total child population. In a similar way, the proportion of orphans by type is calculated by dividing the number of orphans for each category ('maternal', 'paternal', 'double') by the total orphan population, and by the total child population.

## The number and proportion of children living in child-headed households in South Africa

There is much concern among government and civil society that the number of children living in child-headed households will rapidly increase as the number of orphaned children rises due to the AIDS pandemic. While there is currently little evidence to support this concern, and while it seems that many such households exist only temporarily (Meintjes & Giese 2006; Ardington & Hosegood 2005), it is important to monitor the prevalence and nature of child-headed households as the HIV/AIDS pandemic continues.

An analysis of the *General Household Survey* (GHS) 2006 indicates that there were approximately 122,000 (confidence interval: 98,000 – 147,000\*) children living in an estimated 60,000 (confidence interval: 47,000 – 74,000\*) child-headed households across South Africa at the time of the survey.

This is equal to 0.7% of all children, and equal to 0.5% of all households in the country. The GHS data indicate that there has not been an increase in the number of children living in child-headed households, nor in the number of child-headed households over the five-year period from 2002 to 2006.

While it is not ideal for any child to live without an adult resident, it is positive that half (49%, confidence interval: 42 – 55%\*) of all children living in child-headed households are aged 15 years and above.

Almost all (89%, confidence interval: 83 – 95%\*) children living in child-headed households were located in only three provinces at the time of the GHS 2006: Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal, and the Eastern Cape.

\* A confidence interval is a statistical range into which the true value is estimated to fall 95% of the time. It is therefore important to refer to when interpreting the data.

TABLE 3: The number<sup>+</sup> and proportion of children living in child-headed households in South Africa in 2002 – 2006

Province	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Eastern Cape	46,000	1.6	35,000	1.2	29,000	0.9	27,000	0.9	31,000	1.0
Free State	6,000	0.7	5,000	0.5	4,000	0.4	8,000	0.7	5,000	0.4
Gauteng	3,000	0.1	3,000	0.1	2,000	0.1	5,000	0.2	0	0.0
KwaZulu-Natal	18,000	0.5	24,000	0.6	11,000	0.3	15,000	0.4	37,000	1.0
Limpopo	32,000	1.3	36,000	1.4	36,000	1.4	46,000	1.8	40,000	1.5
Mpumalanga	8,000	0.6	6,000	0.4	7,000	0.6	6,000	0.4	5,000	0.4
Northern Cape	0	0.2	1,000	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.1	0	0.1
North West	5,000	0.3	14,000	1.0	15,000	1.0	9,000	0.6	3,000	0.2
Western Cape	0	0.0	0	0.0	1,000	0.0	2,000	0.1	0	0.0
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>118,000</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>123,000</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>104,000</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>119,000</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>122,000</b>	<b>0.7</b>

<sup>+</sup> Numbers have been rounded off to the nearest thousand.

Source: Statistics South Africa (2003; 2004; 2005; 2006; 2007) *General Household Survey 2002; General Household Survey 2003; General Household Survey 2004; General Household Survey 2005; General Household Survey 2006*. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa. Analysis by Marera DS, Children's Institute, UCT.

### TECHNICAL NOTES ON THE INDICATOR

The proportion of children living in child-headed households in South Africa is calculated by identifying the number of children living in households where the oldest resident is younger than 18 years, and dividing this figure by the total child population in South Africa.

The proportion of child-headed households is calculated by dividing the number of households where the oldest resident is younger than 18 years by the total number of households in South Africa.

## The number and proportion of children living in income poverty in South Africa

Income poverty levels are important because they indicate how many children may not have their basic needs met. As money is needed to access a range of services, income poverty is often closely related to poor health, reduced access to education, and physical environments that compromise personal safety.

Although the proportion of children living in income-poor households appears to have decreased over the last five years (2002 – 2006), child poverty in South Africa continues to be pervasive. According to the 2006 *General Household Survey*, about 68% (12.3 million) of children in South Africa lived in households with an income of less than R1,200 per month in that year.

There are huge disparities in the rates of child poverty across the

provinces that could be explained by differences in the socio-demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the various provinces. During the period 2002 to 2006, the wealthiest provinces (Western Cape and Gauteng) had the lowest proportions of poor children. Limpopo remains the province with the highest rate of child poverty – 82% in 2006 compared to 41% in the Western Cape.

Due to the legacy of apartheid, poverty is also closely tied with race. More than three-quarters (76%) of African children lived in households with a combined income of less than R1,200 in 2006 compared with 2.8% of white children. There has not been any observable change in this statistic over the five-year period – about 75% of African children lived in income-poor households in 2002.

TABLE 4: The number<sup>†</sup> and proportion of children living in income poverty in South Africa in 2002 – 2006

Province	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Eastern Cape	2,477,000	87	2,441,000	85	2,534,000	79*	2,517,000	80*	2,458,000	77*
Free State	739,000	75*	732,000	75*	722,000	68*	730,000	65*	806,000	72*
Gauteng	1,524,000	56*	1,485,000	53*	1,171,000	44*	1,141,000	43*	1,342,000	49*
KwaZulu-Natal	3,014,000	79*	2,890,000	75*	2,623,000	69*	2,652,000	69*	2,678,000	70*
Limpopo	2,232,000	89	2,208,000	87*	2,118,000	81	2,169,000	83*	2,190,000	82
Mpumalanga	1,028,000	79*	995,000	75*	911,000	70*	938,000	69*	1,036,000	74
Northern Cape	208,000	69*	202,000	68*	213,000	63*	201,000	60*	216,000	63*
North West	1,143,000	80*	1,099,000	76*	1,071,000	72*	1,056,000	72*	979,000	68*
Western Cape	761,000	48*	744,000	47*	542,000	35*	567,000	36*	636,000	41*
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>13,127,000</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>12,795,000</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>11,905,000</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>11,972,000</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>12,342,000</b>	<b>68</b>

<sup>†</sup> Numbers have been rounded off to the nearest thousand.

\* This proportion should be interpreted with caution, as the confidence interval is relatively wide.

Source: Statistics South Africa (2003; 2004; 2005; 2006; 2007) *General Household Survey 2002*; *General Household Survey 2003*; *General Household Survey 2004*; *General Household Survey 2005*; *General Household Survey 2006*. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa. Analysis by Marera DS, Children's Institute, UCT.

### TECHNICAL NOTES ON THE INDICATOR

The R1,200 per month poverty line was used because it is the closest to the R1,100 per month line used by the Treasury and the Department of Provincial and Local Government to determine funding for poverty alleviation programmes. The data in the GHS are collected in question 4.71, which asks: "What was the total household expenditure in the last month?" The bands break at R399, R799 and R1,199. Children living in households in these three bands were included as poor for the purposes of this indicator. Expenditure data is used in this instance

as it is considered a good proxy of income data and is likely to be more reliable.

Inflation rates have a considerable effect on income and expenditure over time. It should be noted that the rand value changes from year to year, hence the R1,200 income threshold would fluctuate (and be reduced) in real terms. An assumption has also been made that households pool their income. All sources of income, including social grants income, were therefore included when making the calculations for this indicator.

For more data, visit [www.childrencount.ci.org.za](http://www.childrencount.ci.org.za)

## The number and proportion of children living in households with an employed adult

The adult unemployment rate is very high in South Africa. In March 2007, the official unemployment rate nationally was 25.5% compared with 25.6% in March 2006 (Statistics South Africa 2007).

This is a narrow definition that includes only those adults who had actively looked for a job but failed to find one in the four weeks preceding the *Labour Force Survey*. An expanded definition of unemployment, which includes working-age adults who are unemployed but have given up actively looking for work, gives a more accurate indication of unemployment in South Africa.

Apart from providing regular income, an employed adult brings other benefits to the household, for example health insurance, unemployment insurance, maternity and paternity leave, as well as improved child developmental and educational outcomes. Children whose mothers have some (even inconsistent) employment are likely

to have higher scores in mathematics than those whose mothers are consistently unemployed (Jackson 2003).

The *General Household Survey* shows that the proportion of children living in households with an employed adult have consistently declined in the last five years (2002 – 2006) in South Africa. In 2006, about 60% of all children in the country lived in a household with at least one employed adult compared to 65% in 2002.

Despite reported improvements in the adult employment rate over the last five years, an increased number of African children (7.1 million) are disproportionately living in households without an employed adult in 2006 compared to 5.9 million in 2002.

Provincial disparities also persist. In 2006 Limpopo still showed the lowest proportion of children (40%) living with an employed adult compared with the Western Cape which had the highest proportion of children (89%) living with an employed adult.

TABLE 5: The number<sup>+</sup> and proportion of children living in households with an employed adult in South Africa in 2002 – 2006

Province	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Eastern Cape	1,461,000	52*	1,244,000	43*	1,597,000	50*	1,358,000	43*	1,581,000	50*
Free State	692,000	70*	664,000	68*	715,000	67*	672,000	60*	694,000	62*
Gauteng	2,254,000	82	2,165,000	78*	2,067,000	78*	2,137,000	80*	2,161,000	79*
KwaZulu-Natal	2,291,000	60*	2,032,000	53*	2,020,000	53*	2,144,000	56*	2,063,000	54*
Limpopo	1,207,000	48*	1,032,000	41*	1,090,000	42*	1,099,000	42*	1,076,000	40
Mpumalanga	886,000	68*	860,000	65*	864,000	66*	911,000	67*	865,000	62*
Northern Cape	221,000	73*	201,000	67*	228,000	68*	227,000	67*	239,000	69*
North West	945,000	66*	884,000	61*	799,000	54*	823,000	56*	815,000	57*
Western Cape	1,387,000	87	1,356,000	86*	1,340,000	86*	1,373,000	87*	1,391,000	89*
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>11,344,000</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>10,438,000</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>10,720,000</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>10,744,000</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>10,885,000</b>	<b>60</b>

<sup>+</sup> Numbers have been rounded off to the nearest thousand.

\* This proportion should be interpreted with caution, as the confidence interval is relatively wide.

Source: Statistics South Africa (2003; 2004; 2005; 2006; 2007) *General Household Survey 2002; General Household Survey 2003; General Household Survey 2004; General Household Survey 2005; General Household Survey 2006*. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa. Analysis by Marera DS, Children's Institute, UCT.

### TECHNICAL NOTES ON THE INDICATOR

This indicator was developed by identifying which adults in the *General Household Survey* data were employed, and then estimating the number of children living in households with at least one employed person.

### ADDITIONAL SOURCES FOR DEMOGRAPHY OF SOUTH AFRICA'S CHILDREN

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