

Overview of Census '96

Every person present in South Africa on Census Night, 9-10 October 1996, should have been enumerated in Census '96. The enumeration generally took place over the period of 10 October to 30 October although, in some situations, it was necessary to continue enumeration through to December to ensure that as many people as possible were included. In most cases, respondents were given the choice of being interviewed or of completing the questionnaire themselves.

Census questionnaires

Different methods of enumeration were used to accommodate different situations and a variety of questionnaires were used. The information collected with each questionnaire differed slightly. This will be noted in the documentation on each census variable and can be seen in the electronic versions of the questionnaires provided. The questionnaires used were as follows:

1. Households

Every household living in a private dwelling should have been enumerated on a **household questionnaire**. This questionnaire obtained information about the **household** and about each **person** who was present in the household on Census Night.

2. Hostels

A **summary book for hostels** should have been completed for each hostel (that is, a compound for workers provided by mines, other employers, municipalities or local authorities). This questionnaire obtained information about the **hostel** and also listed all household and/or persons enumerated in the hostel.

Some hostels contain people living in family groups. Where people were living as a household in a hostel, they were enumerated as such on a **household questionnaire** (which obtained information about the **household** and about each **person** who was present in the household on Census Night). On the final census file, they will be listed as for any other household and not as part of a hostel.

Generally, hostels accommodate mostly individual workers. In these situations, persons were enumerated on separate **personal questionnaires**. These questionnaires obtained the same information on each **person** as would have been obtained on the household questionnaire. The persons will appear on the census file as part of a hostel.

Some hostels were enumerated as special institutions and not on the questionnaires designed specifically for hostels.

3. Special institutions and homeless persons

An **enumerator's book for special enumeration** should have been completed for each institution such as prisons and hospitals. This questionnaire obtained information on the **institution** and listed all persons present.

Each **person** was asked a brief sub-set of questions – just 7 compared to around 50 on the household and personal questionnaires.

People in institutions could not be enumerated as households.

Homeless persons were enumerated during a sweep on census night using a special questionnaire. The results were later transcribed to standard enumerator's books for special enumeration to facilitate coding and data entry.

Instructions for interviewers

All interviewers were given an Enumerator's Manual that included a section on 'Instructions for specific questions'. These instructions covered every question on the census questionnaire and have been included in the documentation as an indication of the theoretical basis of the questions. However, it is important to note that not every interviewer would have been familiar with all the instructions and they do not necessarily reflect how the questions were asked by the interviewer. Also, these instructions were not provided to people who completed the questionnaire themselves and they would have been required to give their own interpretation to questions.

Household, person and migrant records

Following the structure of the questionnaires described above, the 10% sample contains records at two different levels:

- Household (this includes hostel and institution information), and
- Person.

When a table is produced, it can be produced for any of these levels by specifying the appropriate level in 'Summation options'. Care should be taken that the appropriate record type is selected corresponding to the variables used. That is, if a table contains household variables such as 'Household size', then a household level option should be selected in Summation options.

Dummy households

When the final census database was compiled, in a few cases wrongly entered data meant that the link between households and persons was lost. In these cases, dummy households were created to allow the persons to be included on the file for final analysis. As no information is available for these dummy households, they are listed separately or as part of the not stated codes for most household level variables.

Weighting for undercount

Inevitably some households and people were missed during enumeration. A survey was conducted after Census '96 to estimate the level of undercount. This information was used to calculate weights that can be applied to the census data to adjust for undercount. Users can access both weighted and unweighted census data by selecting the appropriate categories in Summation options. For more information about the adjustments for undercount, see the publication 'Calculating the undercount in Census '96', Statistics South Africa Report No. 03-01-18 (1996).

Abbreviations

A number of abbreviations have been used in this documentation. They are:

A	Section A of the Household questionnaire
B	Section B of the Household questionnaire
Certif.	Certificate
C	Column (refers to the question column on the special enumeration questionnaire)
Dip.	Diploma
EA	Enumeration Area
Exc.	Excluding
GIS	Geographic Information System
Govt.	Government
Hhold	household

Inst.	Institution
Mnfctr.	Manufacturing
N/A	Not Applicable (that is, no response was required to the particular question from these households or persons).
NEC	Not elsewhere classified (detailed information provided by respondent but classification does not include a detailed code for the response)
NFD	Not further defined (insufficient information provided by respondent to enable a more detailed code to be allocated)
No.	Number
NU	Non-Urban
Q	Question number
Qu	Question
Qus	Questions
Qual.	Qualification

There were also some terms used that require further explanation:

Pre-coded	Questions where a list of responses was offered for the respondent to choose
Write in	Questions where the respondent/interviewer had to write in an exact response. Often a precise code was allocated at a later stage.

Description of the design of the 10% sample

Design of the sample

This sample is a 10% unit level sample of

- (a) all households (excluding special institutions and hostels), and
- (b) all persons as enumerated in the 1996 Population Census in South Africa.

The household was basically drawn as a 10% systematic sample of households from the census household file, stratified as specified below. The 10% person level sample was obtained by including all persons in these households plus the persons drawn in independent 10% systematic samples of all persons in special institutions and hostels.

Weighting factors

Both the 10% household sample file and the 10% person sample file contain a weight variable. This weight variable is the adjustment factor for undercount (for households or persons as appropriate) multiplied by 10 to inflate the 10% sample to the population.

Stratification and ordering of the household records for sampling

The census household records were explicitly stratified according to Province and District Council. Within each District Council the records were further implicitly stratified by local authority. Within each implicit stratum the household records were ordered according to the unique seven-digit census Enumerator Area number, of which the first three digits are the (old) magisterial district number.

Defining local councils for the 10% sample

Different terms are used for the local authority boundaries in different parts of the country. There are Transitional Local Councils (TLCs); Transitional Rural Councils (TRCs); Local Authority Councils (LACs); Metropolitan Sub-Structures (MSSs); Metropolitan Local Councils (MLCs); Rural Local Councils (RLCs); District Councils (DCs); Transitional District Councils (TDCs) and Regional Councils (RCs).

To ensure confidentiality within the 10% sample, all local authorities with less than 2000 households have been combined with adjacent ones to form units which are spatially linked. As many local authorities had

fewer than this number, they had to be grouped together to ensure that the minimum number of households was met. Hostel dwellers were excluded in this exercise.

Local authorities with less than 2000 households were pooled with other local authorities based on the following principles:

A TLC with less than 2000 households was grouped with the TRC within which the TLC was located and visa versa. Where a TRC plus all the TLCs within its boundaries were less than the minimum of 2000 households the TRC (including the TLCs within its boundaries) was pooled with the adjacent TRC. Where TLCs were adjacent to another TLC they were pooled to form one unit.