



# **SADA**

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**Mobility of the Aged in Durban: the effects of environmental  
barriers, 1986**

**Human Sciences Research Council**

**CODEBOOK  
SADA 0036**

As agreed upon in the signed 'User Undertaking' that accompanied data collection:

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Ferreira, Monica and W.P. Mostert. *Mobility of the Aged in Durban: the Effects of Environmental Barriers, 1986* [Computer file]. S0036. Pretoria : Human Sciences Research Council. Institute for Sociological and Demographic Research [producer], 1986. Pretoria : South African Data Archive, National Research Foundation [distributor], 2000.

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## STUDY DESCRIPTION

**SADA 0036**

**TITLE:** Mobility of the aged in Durban: the effects of environmental barriers, 1986

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:** Monica Ferreira and W.P. Mostert

**DEPOSITOR:** Human Sciences Research Council

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**ABSTRACT:**

The City Health Department of the City of Durban requested the Institute for Sociological and Demographic Research (ISODEM) of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) to conduct a survey among the White elderly population of Durban to assess their level of mobility in terms of perceived ability to negotiate the environment, and to determine what particular problems and difficulties elderly people experience in getting around in Durban. The purpose of the investigation was to obtain information to enable the Durban City Council to render at local level whatever assistance that might be possible to alleviate problems relating to environmental barriers to the mobility of the "well- elderly" population.

Several factors suggested that the proposed investigation was both relevant and desirable. Most Western countries are presently experiencing an aging of the population. In South Africa it was found that the percentage of persons 65 years and older in the White population was 7.8 in 1980. Projections indicated that by the year 2000 this percentage will increase to 8.6 and by the year 2050, to 15.6. A further phenomenon in most Western countries is the increasing number of "well-elderly" persons related to an increase in life expectancy largely as a result of developments in medical sciences. In the period 1980-1985 the life expectancy of South African White males was 66.8 years and White females 73.8 years. Projections indicated that these figures will increase to 69.6 years for males and 75.9 years for females by the year 2000. Implications of these phenomena were that resources would have to be redeployed to extend services for the increasing sector of the population, thus the conduction of this survey.

**GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION:** Durban, South Africa

**IMPORTANT VARIABLES :** usual modes of travel, travel patterns and destinations, type of housing and of the living arrangements, health status and level of mobility, use of public, private and personal transportation, difficulties in using various modes of transport, accessibility of services and facilities, problematical features of the physical environment, difficulties in negotiating the physical environment, experience of mugging and fear of victimization and suggestions for improving the aged environment in Durban.

**DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES:** age, highest level of education, marital status, past occupation, and gender.

**UNIVERSE:** The 1980 census indicated that the number of White persons 65 years and older living in the municipal area in Durban consisted of 22 000 females and 14 000 males, a total of 36 000. The distribution of the White population of 65 years and older in the Durban Metropolitan Area was approximately 18.5 % with majority of elderly people concentrated in the Berea area, Central city, the Point area and on the Victoria Embankment. These areas were used as the universe for this study.

**SAMPLING METHOD:**

A representative sample of White elderly persons resident in Durban was drawn using a stratified random sampling technique. The sample was based on the distribution and concentration of elderly persons in the municipal area of Durban. A sample of 600 was selected for the investigation. Eleven such groups or cluster areas were selected. The sizes of the subsamples for the each area were calculated proportionately according to the density of elderly persons resident in the area.

The name and the address of every tenth person 65 years and older on the official voters' register for an area was selected. A total number of 996 names were drawn and a sample of 600 was drawn according to random numbers for each sub-area. Replacements were randomly sampled from the remaining names on the list for the unavailability of respondents for interviewing.

**FIELDWORK:** Fieldwork was conducted during September 1985.

**METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION:** Structured interview schedule

**UNITS OF OBSERVATION:** Persons were used as units of analysis. The elderly were randomly sampled from the official voters' register and only the "mobile" and "active" persons were to be included in the sample. The rationale for this was that severely handicapped or disabled persons generally have specific problems and needs that would have required a set of measurements differing from those that were to be used in the investigation among the mobile elderly population of Durban.

**EXTENT OF DATA COLLECTION:**

- ❖ 1 data file in SPSS and machine-readable documentation and questionnaire.
- ❖ Number of cases : 600
- ❖ Number of records : 600
- ❖ Number of records per case : 3
- ❖ Logical record length : 80+
- ❖ Number of variables : 163
- ❖ Number of Kilobytes : 144 KB