SADA

South African Data Archive

Multidimensional survey of elderly South Africans, 1990-1991

Human Sciences Research Council

CODEBOOK
SADA 0048
As agreed upon in the signed ‘User Undertaking’ that accompanied data collection:

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC CITATION**

Any publication or other presentation based in whole or part on the data and documentation supplied by SADA must prominently use the following citation.


**DEPOSIT OF PUBLICATIONS**

At least one copy of any published work or report based in whole or part on the dataset will be deposited with the South African Data Archive. Please indicate the title and number of the study utilized.

**LIMITATION OF LIABILITY**

The Archive and the depositor of the dataset supplied to the user bear no legal responsibility for their accuracy or comprehensiveness.

**POSTAL ADDRESS**  
South African Data Archive  
National Research Foundation  
P.O. Box 2600  
Pretoria  
0001

Telephone +27 12 481- 4192
Fax number +27 12 481- 4020
Electronic mail sada@nrf.ac.za
World Wide Web http://www.nrf.ac.za/sada

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:
Monica Ferreira, Valerie Moller, F. R. Prinsloo and L.S. Gillis

DEPOSITOR: Human Sciences Research Council

ORGANISATION HOUSING THE DATA:
Human Sciences Research Council
Private Bag x41
Pretoria, 0001
South Africa
Tel: +27 (012) 302-2904
Fax: +27 (012) 302-2149
AND
UCT Centre for Gerontology
University of Cape Town
Observatory
Cape Town
8000

ABSTRACT:
A multidimensional survey was conducted during 1990-1991 of the living circumstances of elderly persons in South Africa. The main objective of the survey was to collect baseline data on the current status of, sociodemographic characteristics, living circumstances and life satisfaction of elderly people in South Africa. The data were collected separately for the four population groups and therefore would be available for comparison of the circumstances of the elderly in the different groups. The survey was undertaken to provide a better understanding of the interrelationship between population ageing and the development process in South Africa. Within this context the data would indicate the opportunity structures and constraints to successful ageing experienced by the more advantaged and the disadvantaged groups of seniors. This understanding was necessary for formulating future policy options and implementing effective programmes for the elderly in the country.

A secondary objective was to provide data on the elderly and ageing in South Africa for comparison with similar categories of data available in other developed and particularly developing countries.

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION: South Africa

IMPORTANT VARIABLES:
Occupational history of the elderly, migration and residential location, household composition, social support and social integration, health status, life satisfaction, attitudes to old age, financial well being.

DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES: age, highest level of education, marital status, occupation, household income, language, population group, gender.
UNIVERSE:
The sample was designed and drawn by the HSRC’s Institute for Statistical Research (ISR). The sampling was in two parts:
- Four samples (N = 1 000 each) were drawn from the four population groups (Asian, black, coloured, white) resident in urban areas in South Africa, excluding the TBVC (Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei) and self-governing states.
- Two exemplary samples (N = 200) were drawn of Blacks in the deep rural areas Lebowa and Ka Ngwane.

SAMPLING METHOD:
In case of the first four samples, specifically the White sample, only magisterial districts with a population of 5 000 (according to the adjusted 1985 Population Census figures) were taken into consideration. Districts where less than 4% of the population was 60 years and older were omitted. Using qualifying magisterial districts, the required sample was proportionally allocated across development regions and an appropriate number of districts were drawn in each case.

After listing all the ESDs (enumerator subdistricts as used by Central Statistics Services during census surveys) in each drawn district, it was decided to include only ESDs in the metropolitan areas with at least 100 persons who were 60 years and older, and in the non-metropolitan areas where at least 50 persons were in this age group (according to the adjusted 1985 Population Census figures). The required number of ESDs was drawn proportional to the number of qualifying persons. In each ESD a number of starting points were systematically drawn on maps. The interviewers were required to start at these points and move in a specified direction until they had recruited a quota of qualifying respondents. No fixed addresses were given which the recruiters had to visit. Where the required number of respondents could not be realized in particular ESDs, substitute ESDs were provided where the remainder of the respondents could be recruited.

The two exemplary samples of 200 Blacks each in rural areas were drawn in deep rural areas of Lebowa and Ka Ngwane. In Lebowa parts of the districts of Seshego and Bochum were defined as deep rural and in Ka Ngwane the districts of Mswati and Mlondozi were defined as deep rural. The ESDs covering these areas were identified and the samples were proportionally allocated to the districts.

FIELDWORK:
The planning, design, execution and completion of the survey took place over a period of three years: from June 1989, when the principal investigator visited Taiwan and Thailand for familiarization with the operation of the Comparative Study of the Elderly in Four Asian Countries, until June 1992, with the completion of the final report. MarkData conducted the actual fieldwork for the survey during February- March 1990.

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION: Structured interview schedule/ questionnaire

UNITS OF OBSERVATION: Persons were used as units of analysis. The target population was adults in the age group of 60 years and older.

EXTENT OF DATA COLLECTION
- 1 data file in SPSS and machine-readable documentation and questionnaire.
- Number of cases : 989
- Number of records : 989
- Number of records per case : 8
- Logical record length : 80+
- Number of variables: 358 variables
- Number of Kilobytes:
  - White population: 466 KB
  - Asian population: 481 KB
  - Coloured population: 467 KB
  - Black population: 645 KB