

V DIVERSITY – DEMOGRAPHICS OF AGE, GENDER AND DISABILITY

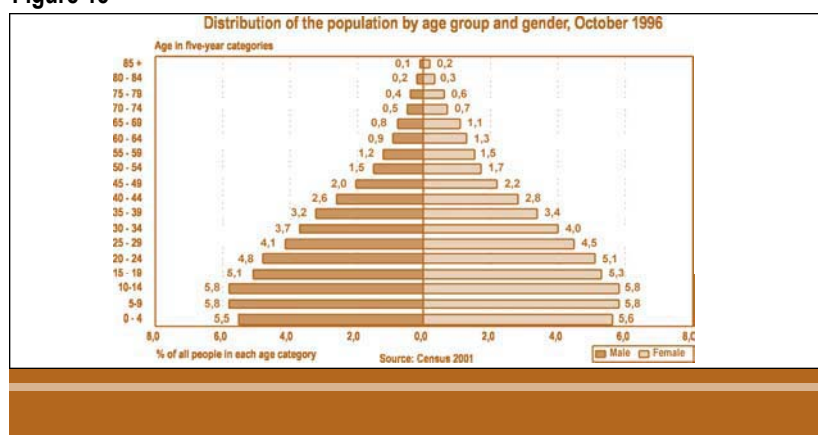
As argued above, race and class dynamics have been central in defining social status and access to opportunities within South African society. However, in addition to, across and within, the hierarchy of class divisions and apartheid racial differentiation, issues of gender in a patriarchal society, the dynamics of age demographics, as well as rights and opportunities for people with disability have loomed large. Further, religion was and remains a critical element in respect of aspects of identity and social stratification.

These issues are addressed in various ways in the Constitution of the country, which proceeds from the premise of gender equality and respect for the rights of religious communities, and asserts the rights of children and people with disability. Most of the data and analysis used in this section derive from the TYR (2003) and the ensuing assessment of progress with regard to gender, disability and children's rights in the Gender, Disability and Children TYR (2005) which The Presidency has undertaken.

14 Demographics of age

The age distribution of the South African society resembles that of developing countries, with more than 50% of the population under the age of 24. While there was a slight ageing of the population (reflecting low fertility rates) between 1996 and 2001, the larger pattern remains the same.

Figure 15



In 1996, 11,1% of the total population were aged 0 – 4 years while the corresponding proportion for 2001 was 10%. In the 5 – 9 age category, the proportions were 11,6% and 10,8% respectively.

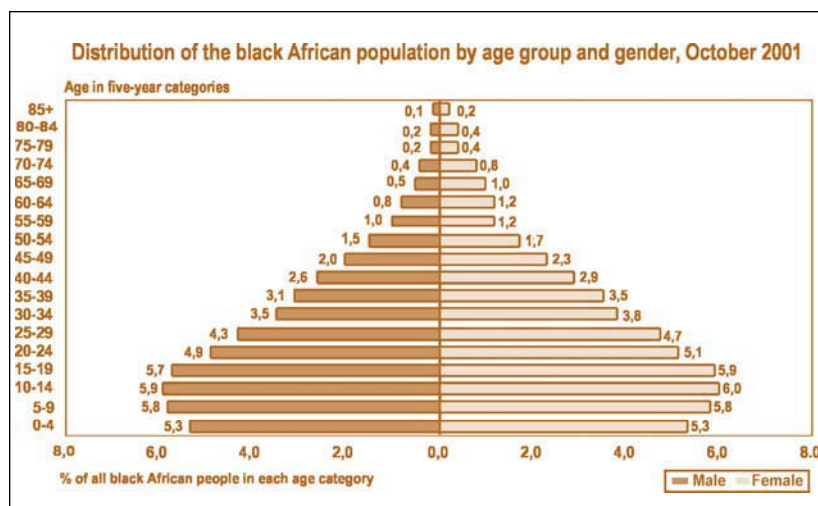
When broken down by race, the patterns start to resemble those of developing and developed countries, with the two extremes being the African and white populations:

Table 14: Age distribution by race

| Census 01: Age distribution by race group | | | | |
|---|--------------|---------------|-----------------|---------|
| Race group | Age group | | | Total % |
| | 0 – 14 years | 15 – 64 years | 65 year upwards | 100% |
| African | 83,9% | 77,3% | 68,9% | 100% |
| Coloured | 8,6% | 9,2% | 7,2% | 79% |
| Indian/Asian | 1,8% | 2,8% | 2,3% | 8,9% |
| White | 5,7% | 10,6% | 21,6% | 2,5% |

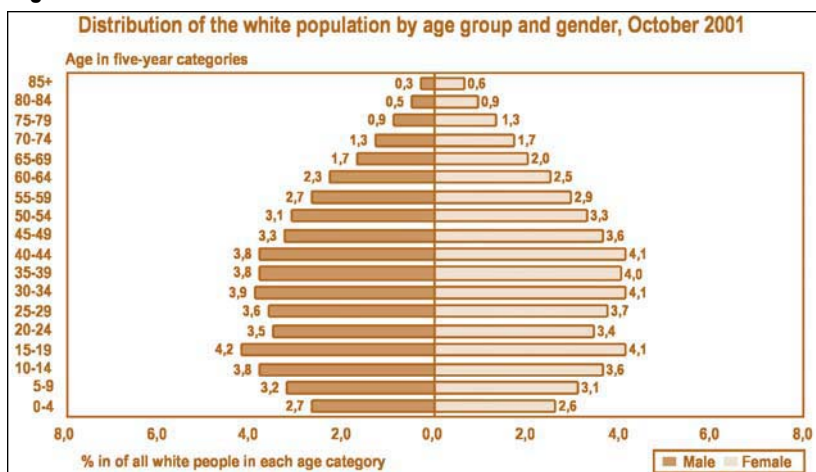
Source: Census (2001)

Figure 16



Source: Census (2001)

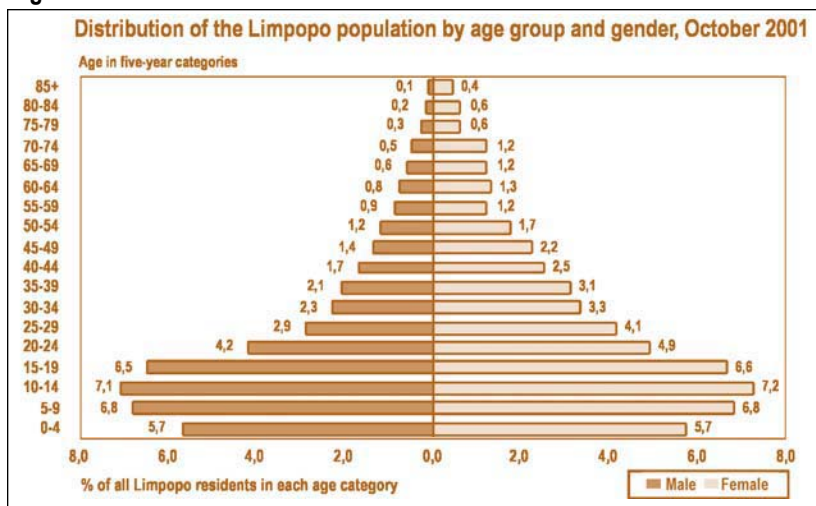
Figure 17



Source: Census (2001)

Different patterns are displayed in the populations of provinces, with the Eastern Cape and Limpopo on the one extreme, and Western Cape and Northern Cape on the other.

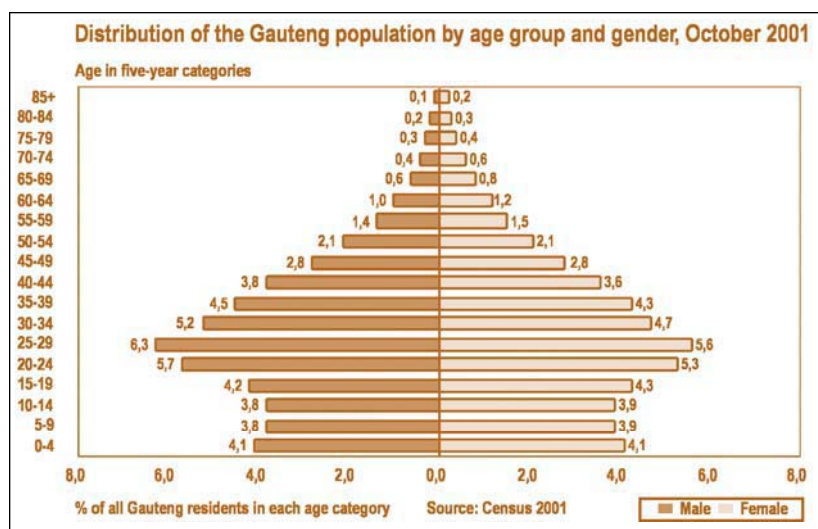
Figure 18



Source: Census (2001)

Gauteng's pattern reflects an obvious anomaly, of an artificially 'bloated mid-riff', with a large proportion in the age groups 20 – 49.

Figure 19



These differences among provinces reflect three distinct patterns: firstly, in the 'poor provinces', a large proportion of young children and teenagers with a small proportion of young adults and a slightly larger proportion of the very old; secondly, more or less ageing populations in the Western and Northern Cape provinces; and thirdly a large proportion of in-migrants in Gauteng. As argued in the TYR (2003), a disaggregation of trends in the metropolitan areas and large towns would show the same patterns as that of Gauteng.

Attached to this, to be elaborated on later, is the fact that in Gauteng and Western Cape, children between the ages of 0 – 14 years are more likely to be actual children of the head of the household (they live with their parents); whereas in the Eastern Cape, Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal and North West they are more likely to be great-/grandchildren of the household head.

15 Age and social status

An assessment of the position of the youth in the country's social structure would reflect the main patterns of race and class as well as the urban and rural divide. How these play themselves out in the detail is, however, influenced by the opportunities that have opened up since the attainment of democracy, the age demographics of the population, migration patterns as reflected, for instance in the age profile of Gauteng, and other such factors.

Indicators on education and employment as they apply to young people do give a sense of the youth's social status. Information on child and maternal healthcare, services such as electricity, water and sanitation, as well as social grants and housing on income and asset poverty is assumed. Without going into the detail of information in the TYR (2003), the following trends manifest themselves (1996 – 2001) with regard to education:

- in the age group 0 – 19 years, a decline of 14,4% in the percentage with no schooling and an increase of 11,9% with some primary education
- the proportion of Africans with no primary education falling from 28% to 13%, and those with some primary education increasing from 42% to 55%
- the percentage of population with Grade 12 or higher increasing from 2,39% to 3,08%.

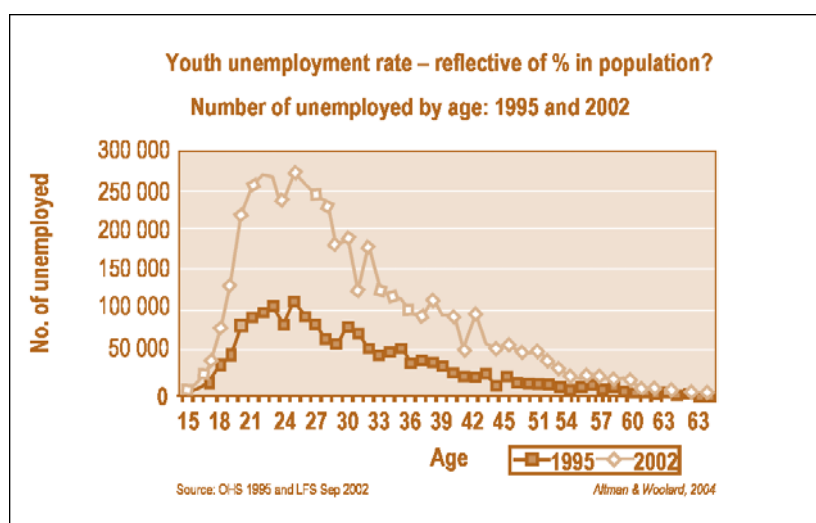
Other factors, such as the improvement in the matric pass rate and the reduction in the pupil/teacher ratio do point to improvements in quality; though these qualitative measures would need to be discounted against the absolute number of matric passes, subject grades, Mathematics and Science qualifications as well as Early Childhood Development (ECD).

Further, research shows that 51% of black matriculants are still looking for employment compared with 14% of whites, 30% of coloured and 28% of Indians. In 2002, the unemployment rate for those under 30 years of age with diplomas was



35%, up from 10% in 1995. (HSRC, 2004). Unemployment trends by age reflect the following:

Figure 20: Unemployment by age



In September 2002, the unemployment rate for under-30s was 49% compared with 21% for those aged over 30. The LFS (2005) confirms that the unemployment rate among persons aged 15 – 24 years is substantially higher than those in the 25 – 34 year age group, although there was a marginal decline in the unemployment rate for these age groups over the period September 2001 to September 2005.

And so, the same trends as with the general population play themselves out among the youth. With improvements in education and opportunities, a large section of young blacks are ascending to the status of middle strata. Among the less educated and unskilled, the prospect is one of a poverty trap: but there are also increasing levels of education among young people looking for work.

16 Youth opinions on pride and identity

The 1999 FutureFact Mindset Survey (2000) of South African youth of 16 years and older presents interesting trends in terms of youth self-identity. Although proportionately older age groups seem to identify themselves through the main descriptor of 'South African', larger sections of younger age groups (16 – 34 years) use the identity 'African'.

The percentage of young people (18 – 35 years) who registered for the 2004 elections was 44,5%, which is less than their proportion of the adult population of 56%. It has been argued that the fact that they constituted the highest number of new registrations, shows that they do respond when mobilised.

Related to matters of identity and pride are the various youth subcultures that have mushroomed over the past decade, particularly in music, the arts and the fashion industry. The question in this instance is not whether these subcultures conform to the subjective views of the adult population, but what trail they carve out in relation to the future development path of the country and the continent. The trends can at best be described as contradictory:

- a cosmopolitanism that is reflected in the adoption and adaptation of United States and European music, dress and lifestyles does pose a general question of the impact of cultural globalisation on national identity
- the emergence and popularity of local genres in music, poetry and fashion – some of which expressly project indigenous cultural forms and messages of pride in our history and transformation project – creates the possibility not only of consolidating national identity going forward, but also of impacting on the global youth subcultures from the country's and continent's perspective
- while the level of pride and collective national identity is stronger among white youth than white adults, there is the tendency that in education,

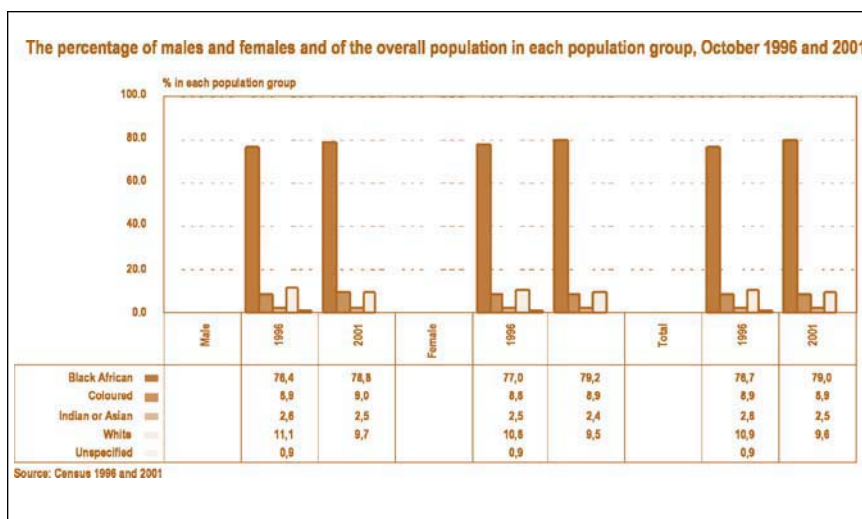
language and accents as well as concepts of civilisation, the black and particularly African middle strata are being acculturated into Euro- or American-centric credos as the primary frames of reference.

17 Demographics of gender

The gender make-up of the South African population as reflected in the 2001 Census was 52,2% female, showing a slight increase from 51,9% in 1996.

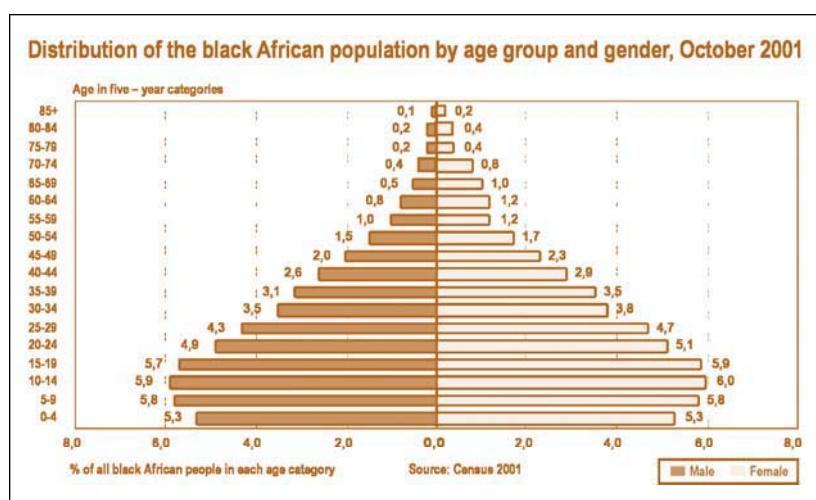
As shown in figure 21, Limpopo (54,6%), Eastern Cape (53,8%) and KwaZulu-Natal (53,2%) have a higher proportion of female residents; while in Gauteng women comprise less than half (49,7%) of the population. This again confirms the impact of migration, which involves mainly young men. However, while between 1992 and 1996 more men migrated than women, by 2001 the number of men migrating was just marginally more than that of women.

Figure 21



From the figures of the African population (figure 22), indications are that in the lower age groups, the proportion of females is more or less that of males – the difference starts to be marked from age 15 upwards, with the proportion of females double that of males from age 64 upwards. This seems to suggest higher rates of mortality among young men which may derive from risky life styles, as well as longer life spans for females even in instances where age is the natural cause of death.

Figure 22



18 Gender, social status and opinions

As with other sectors of the population, the core factors in defining the social status of women are race and class. In addition to these, women were relegated to a subordinate position in the hierarchy of rights, and as such, they have to struggle to raise themselves from the lowest rung of the social ladder.

Gender equity is codified in the Constitution, various pieces of legislation as well as in the concrete projects of the RDP and others. For purposes of this discussion, only a few indicators are selected to illustrate the trends.

In terms of income poverty, the Child Support Grant and equity in old age pension have made a massive contribution to poverty alleviation. With regard to assets, close to 50% of beneficiaries of the housing subsidy have been female-headed households. Free healthcare for children under six and pregnant mothers has also been critical. Equity in employment has been improving steadily, particularly in the public sector where gender representation has improved to 24% from a very low base, in addition to improved representation in elective institutions. The pace has, however, been much slower in the private sector.

It is in the area of education that the issue of expanding opportunities needs to be addressed, as this is one critical catalyst to access other social opportunities, especially employment.

Trends in access to education show an appreciable increase in access by females:

Table 15: Education by gender

| Category | Males % | | Females % | | Total % | |
|-------------------------|---------|-------|-----------|-------|---------|-------|
| | 1996 | 2001 | 1996 | 2001 | 1996 | 2001 |
| No schooling | 28,00 | 12,53 | 25,35 | 11,93 | 26,67 | 12,23 |
| Some primary | 42,89 | 55,79 | 40,65 | 51,65 | 41,76 | 53,71 |
| Complete primary | 7,35 | 7,82 | 7,97 | 8,11 | 7,66 | 7,96 |
| Some secondary | 19,68 | 21,25 | 23,36 | 24,77 | 21,53 | 23,02 |
| Std 10/ Grade 12 | 2,01 | 2,39 | 2,57 | 3,25 | 2,3 | 2,83 |
| Higher | 0,07 | 0,21 | 0,1 | 0,28 | 0,09 | 0,25 |

Source: TYR (2003)

With regard to matric qualifications, African females showed a similar improvement (with about 6% having passed matric) as that of males, though this was lower in the post-matric category. Within the coloured community, the female percentage for matric was higher at 10% compared with males at 8,3%. Overall, in the education arena, there are indications of increased self-assertion and better performance by girl-children.

While these improvements are commendable, the low base from which women come means that unemployment rates, highly dependent on education and skills, declined marginally by 2% between September 2001 and September 2005.

Table 16: Unemployment rate by population group and gender

| Population group | Rate of unemployment by gender | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Male | | | | | Female | | | | |
| | Sept '01 | Sept '02 | Sept '03 | Sept '04 | Sept '05 | Sept '01 | Sept '02 | Sept '03 | Sept '04 | Sept '05 |
| African | 31,5 | 31,5 | 30,0 | 27,6 | 26,6 | 40,6 | 42,3 | 38,8 | 36,0 | 37,1 |
| Coloured | 19,5 | 19,9 | 18,8 | 19,7 | 20,6 | 23,1 | 26, | 23,6 | 24,1 | 24,6 |
| Indian/Asian | 15,7 | 15,6 | 15,5 | 12,4 | 14 | 23,5 | 27,1 | 18,4 | 15,4 | 18,6 |
| White | 4,7 | 5,0 | 4,0 | 5,1 | 3,6 | 7,4 | 7,4 | 6,2 | 5,8 | 6,9 |
| Average | 25,8 | 25,9 | 24,7 | 23,1 | 22,6 | 33,8 | 35,9 | 32,0 | 30,2 | 31,7 |

Source: LFS (2005)

There has been an increase in the intake of women in the service sectors and women increased their share of overall employment between 1995 and 1999 in six of the occupational categories. There are also indications that women are starting to earn more in some sectors, particularly the semi-skilled category and, according to Altman (2005) this may reflect a growing demand for women in the service sectors. However, in other areas, women still earn less than males.

Table 17: Female earnings as % of male earnings (formal sector, 2002)

| Employment category | Percentage |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Unskilled | 87,0% |
| Semi-skilled | 106,4% |
| Skilled | 82,8% |
| Highly skilled | 73,8% |
| Managers | 80,3% |

Source: Altman (2005)

Overall, a contributory factor to women's social status, as will be illustrated later, is the narrow base of useful social networks that women have – while these may be extensive, they comprise women in similar difficulties and therefore add little social capital to their prospects.

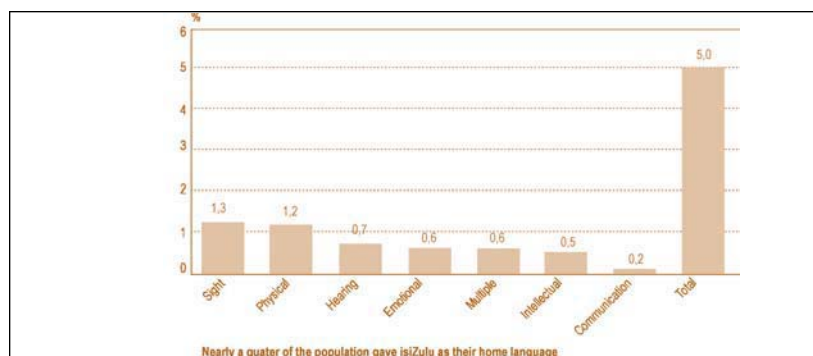
The gender composition of the population in the various provinces and overall trends in migration demonstrate that women are affected more by the poverty trap than men and they form a high and disproportionate part of the Second Economy community. Added to these woes are the social vices, including violent crimes, that women are subjected to in the home and other areas of social interaction.

Studies are continuing on the social and cultural implications of gender equity – how in addition to decreased dependence on women's part, society as a whole and men in particular are responding to the new gender dynamics. The implications include such issues as choices in terms of setting up families, female-headed households and the historical 'father-figure' family structure, pathologies such as domestic violence deriving from male insecurity and so on.

19 Demographics of disability and trends in social status

According to Census 2001, people with disabilities constitute 5% of the population and in absolute terms 2,26 million people. These can be broken down as indicated in figure 23.



Figure 23: Percentage of the population with each type of disability

Source: Census (2001)

The corresponding figure for 1996 was 6,6% or 2,66 million people; and in both instances, visual disability was the most common (2,7% in 1996 and 1,3% in 2001). That this has come down so massively in this period begs the question whether this is a consequence of changed definitions, and/or massive health interventions such as cataract operations. Indeed, the number of the sight-impaired was just over one million in 1996, decreasing to 577 096 in 2001.

In April 2005, 1 307 459 people received disability grants, representing an increase of more than 108% from April 2001. Compared with the total number of persons with disabilities (2,66 million), and discounting the elderly who would receive old age pension, those who may be in employment, as well as those who may be in receipt of other grants such as veterans grants, the question that arises is whether a further expansion of recipients should be expected.

The issue of definitions is a vexed one, with dramatic increases in those claiming disability grants in the Eastern Cape from 132 732 in 2000 to 237 280 in 2005.

Of persons with disabilities, 87% between the age of 15 and 65 were classified as not economically active while 3% were classified as unemployed.

According to the national Department of Social Development, in 2000/01, 3% of beneficiaries of poverty-relief projects were people with disabilities, and this increased to 19% in 2001/02. Census 2001 indicated that 1,5% of persons with disabilities between the ages of 16 and 35 were studying at technikons or universities compared with 2,6% of 'able-bodied' persons. For people aged 20 years and above, proportionately more people with disabilities had no formal schooling and more people without disabilities (61,4%) than with disabilities (36,2%) had some secondary or more schooling.

Campaigns to ensure functional convenience in the workplace and other public spaces, as well as access to information have raised awareness and resulted in some practical changes. However, weaknesses remain: for example, given that the ability to use services, or attend school or work is largely dependent on the ability of people to get there, the lack of accessible user-friendly transport can be a serious barrier to the full integration into society of people with disabilities. Overall, the new rights regime and government programmes have brought about better conditions for people with disabilities, but much more needs to be done.

VI MIGRATION, CAUSES OF MORTALITY AND CRIME

Data on two social trends in the past decade – migration and causes of mortality – has raised major questions with profound macro-social implications. In and of themselves, these factors are important in influencing dynamics with regard to community life, the family unit as well as race and language demographics. They are in turn impacted on by social status, lifestyles and social mobility.

20 Demographics of migration

Place of residence in this section is defined as the area where a person is resident for at least four days a week.

