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Population Census, 1985

Statistics South Africa

CODEBOOK

SADA 0070

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STUDY DESCRIPTION

SADA 0070

TITLE: Population Census, 1985

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

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SERIES DATA:

Series name:	Principal Investigator:	Currently available:
Census	Statistics South Africa	1991
Census	Statistics South Africa	1985
Census	Statistics South Africa	1980
Census	Statistics South Africa	1970
Census	Statistics South Africa	1996: 10% Sample
Census	Statistics South Africa	2001: 10% Sample

ABSTRACT:

The 1985 Population Census was enumerated on a de facto basis, that is, according to the place where persons were located during the census. All persons who were present on Republic of South African territory during census night were enumerated and included in the data. Visitors from abroad who were present in the RSA on holiday or business on the night of the census, as well as foreigners (and their families) who were studying or economically active, were enumerated but not included in the figures. Likewise, members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps of foreign countries were not included. However, the South African personnel linked to the foreign missions including domestic workers were enumerated. Crews and passengers of ships were also not enumerated, unless they were normally resident in the Republic of South Africa. Residents of the RSA who were absent from the night were as far as possible enumerated on their return and included in the region where they normally resided. Personnel of the South African Government stationed abroad and their families were, however enumerated. Such persons were included in the Transvaal (Pretoria).

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION: South Africa

IMPORTANT VARIABLES : Particulars of person- relationship within household, sex, age, marital status, population group, birthplace, country of citizenship, level of education, occupation, identity of employer and the nature of economic activity.

UNIVERSE :

The 1985 census covered the so-called white areas of South Africa, i.e. the areas in the former four provinces of the Cape, the Orange Free State, Transvaal, and Natal. It also covered the so-called National States of KwaZulu, Kangwane, Gazankulu, Lebowa, Qwaqwa, and Kwandebele. The 1985 South African census excluded the areas of the Transkei, Bophutatswana, Ciskei, and Venda.

DATE OF FIELDWORK:

5 March 1985

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION :

- ❖ In the major part of the country the 1985 Census was conducted by way of distributing census questionnaires beforehand and collecting the completed returns after the census day. In cases where the enumerator was requested to, as well as where the respondent was unable to complete the questionnaire, the census enumerator assisted in the completion thereof.
- ❖ Comprehensive door-to-door surveys were not possible. An agreement was concluded with the Human Sciences Research Council to enumerate areas by means of sample surveys. 88 areas country-wide were enumerated on this basis.
- ❖ Every household was enumerated on a separate questionnaire.

UNDER-ENUMERATION:

- ❖ All censuses are open to error. The following under-enumeration figures have been calculated for the 1985 census.
- ❖ Estimated percentage distribution of undercount by race according to the HSRC:

Percent undercount

Whites	7.6%
Blacks in the "RSA"	20.4%
Blacks in the "National States"	15.1%
Colored	1.0%
Asian	4.6%

UNITS OF OBSERVATION: Persons were used as units of analysis.**EXTENT OF DATA COLLECTION:**

- ❖ 2 data files in SPSS, hardcopy documentation and hardcopy questionnaire.

Data files:**Part 1**

	Area 85a	Area 85b	Area 85c	Area 85d	Area 85e
Number of cases	2 912 954	621 244	1 846 250	1 541 251	5 892 033
Number of records	2 912 954	621 244	1 846 250	1 541 251	5 892 033
Number of records per case	1	1	1	1	1
Logical record length	80	80	80	80	80
Number of variables	18	18	18	18	18
Number of kilobytes	95, 242	25, 019	90, 193	62, 383	271, 786

Part 2

	Area 85f	Area 85g	Area 85h	Area 85j
Number of cases	1 487 569	2 746 264	5 528 657	809 423
Number of records	1 487 569	2 746 264	5 528 657	809 423
Number of records per case	1	1	1	1
Logical record length	80	80	80	80
Number of variables	18	18	18	18
Number of kilobytes	72, 286	135, 151	249, 263	39, 385

PUBLICATIONS:

Central Statistical Service Report No. 02-85-01. 1985. Population Census, 1991. Pretoria: Central Statistical Service.

Mostert, W. P., van Tonder, L., & Hofmeyr, B. 1986. Reconstruction of census age structures of the South African black population:1936-1985. HSRC report 153. HSRC, Pretoria.