

# Data that Makes a Difference

SASA Conference 2013

# Human Sciences Research Council

## Mission

The HSRC is a statutory research organisation that advances social sciences and humanities for public use



# What we do

## ± 200 research projects annually

- Reduce poverty, grow economy and create jobs
- Improve quality of education
- Promote human and social advancement through skills development
- Accelerate service delivery
- Reduce crime
- Develop youth, families and social cohesion
- Promote health, health systems and wellbeing
- Investigate HIV/AIDS and STI control
- Provide advice on nutrition and food security
- Interpret and understand our national system of innovation





# Nature of the HSRC's data collection

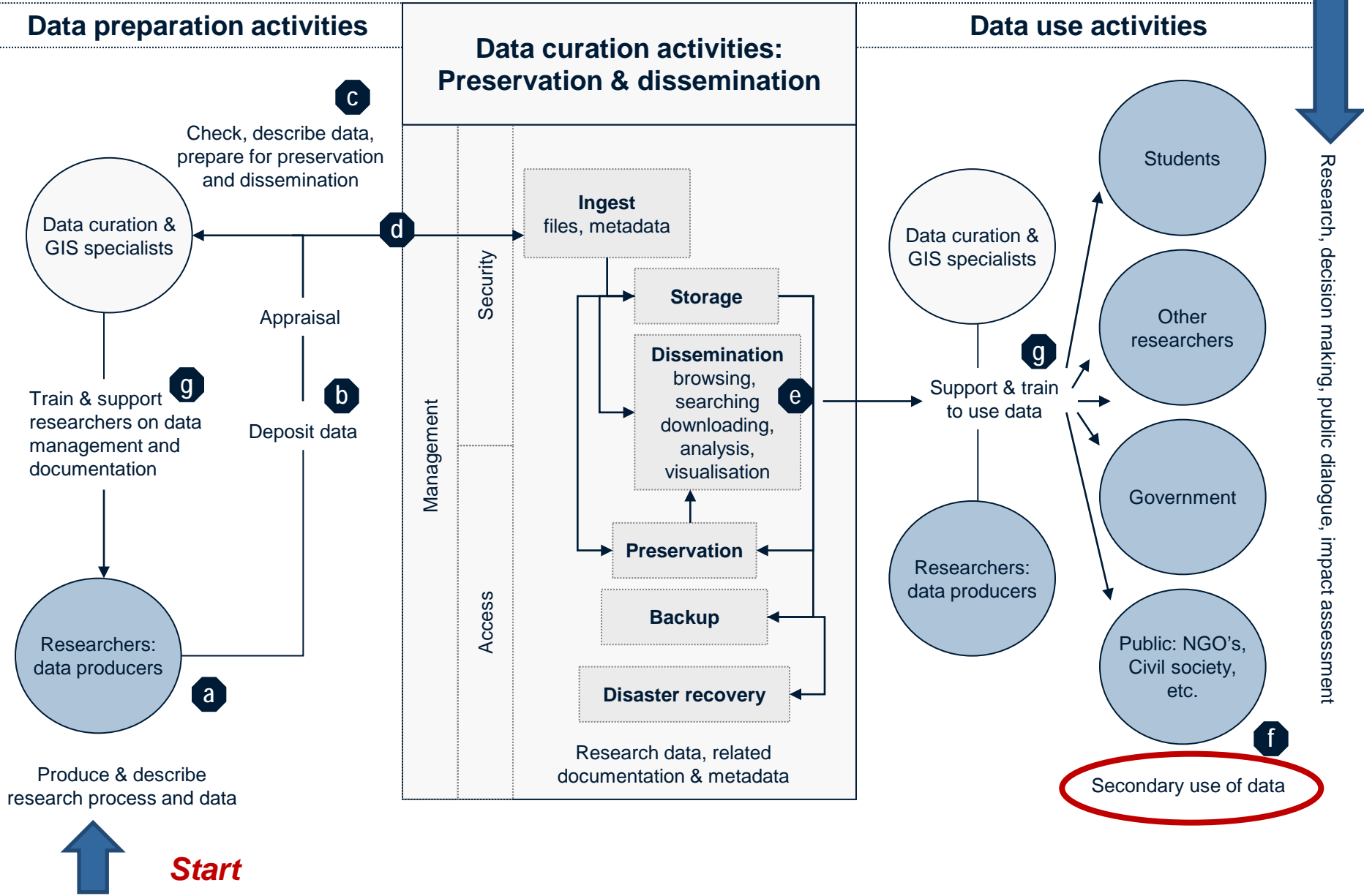
- Spans a variety of content areas in the Social Sciences and Humanities
- **Quantitative** and **qualitative** data
  - Focus on cross-sectional repeat surveys (at least three successive “waves” for meaningful trends)
  - Many mixed method studies
- Owned by the HSRC or external organisations

# Examples of HSRC large scale, repeat surveys

- South African National HIV, Behaviour and Health Survey (**SABSSM**)
- South African Social Attitudes Survey (**SASAS**)
- Study on global AGEing and adult health (**SAGE**)
- South African National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (**SANHANES**)
- Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (**TIMSS**)


# Data curation

*With the end in mind ...*



# Data sharing

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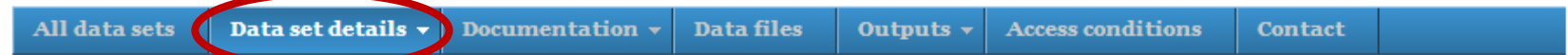
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# Dissemination – Weaving a web of context

## Data set

### South African HIV/AIDS, Behavioural Risks, Sero-status, and Mass Media Impact Survey (SABSSM), 2002: Adult and youth - Nine provinces in South Africa



<b>Data set metadata</b>	Description	
	Funding / Authoring	
<b>Data set ID :</b>	Scope	2002 Adult-youth
	Data collection	
<b>Title :</b>	Subject information	South African HIV/AIDS, Behavioural Risks, Sero-status, and Mass Media Impact Survey (SABSSM), Adult and youth - Nine provinces in South Africa
	Metadata record	

**Citation :** Shisana, O. & Simbayi, L.C. *South African HIV/AIDS, Behavioural Risks, Sero-status, and Mass Media Impact Survey (SABSSM), 2002*. [Computer file]. SABSSM 2002 Adult-youth. Cape Town South Africa: Human Sciences Research Council, HIV/AIDS, STI and TB programme (HAST) [producer] 2002, [distributor] 2011

**Description :** The adult and youth data of the SABSSM 2002 study cover information from adults and youths 15 years and older on topics ranging from biographical information, media and communication, male circumcision, marital status and marriage practice, partner and partner characteristics, sexual behaviour and practices, voluntary counseling and testing (VCT), sexual orientation, interpersonal communication, practices around widowhood, knowledge and perceptions of HIV and AIDS, stigma, hospitalisation and health status.

**Abstract :** Background: This is the first in a series of national HIV household surveys conducted in South Africa. The survey was commissioned by the Nelson Mandela Children`s Fund and the Nelson Mandela Foundation. The key aims were to determine the HIV prevalence in the general population, identify risk factors that

## Data documentation

### Data documentation related to South African HIV/AIDS, Behavioural Risks, Sero-status, and Mass Media Impact Survey (SABSSM), 2002: Adult and youth - Nine provinces in South Africa

All data sets	Data set details ▾	<b>Documentation ▾</b>	Data files	Outputs ▾	Access conditions	Contact
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**Data documentation**

- Introductory information
- Data collection documents
- Data input notes
- Ethical research documents
- Training manuals
- Research documentation

**Introductory information**

- (2282) SABSSM2002\_readme.txt 📄
- Data processing notes



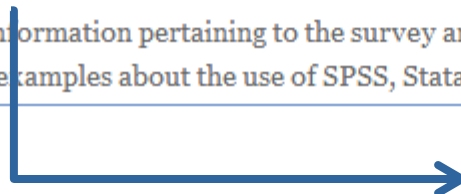
*Contextual documents*

■ (2283) SABSSM2002\_Studyinformation.pdf 📄

This document provides information regarding bibliographic citation, copyright and disclaimer, acknowledgement in case of publications and the metadata record of the study.

■ (2281) SABSSM2002\_Userguide.pdf 📄

The user guide contains background information pertaining to the survey and It also has additional information and examples about the use of SPSS, Stata a



**Public open access:** Information is immediately available without the need to register, provide any additional information or obtain approval.



**Public registered access:** Information can be accessed after a user has registered and provided a reason for wanting access. No approval is necessary.



**Limited interest group:** Users are requested to register and provide a reason for wanting to access the information. Access is subject to approval from the owners, funders or depositors of the data. An email notification will be sent to confirm that access has been granted.



**Project team:** Specified project team members will have access to the information. If a user (who is part of the project team) was not entered as part of the project team the system will request the user to register and provide a reason for wanting to access the information. Access will be granted when approval is received.

## Data files








### Data files related to South African HIV/AIDS, Behavioural Risks, Sero-status, and Mass Media Impact Survey (SABSSM), 2002: Adult and youth - Nine provinces in South Africa



## Data files

It is advisable to study the [introductory information](#) before using the data or related documents as it provides a systematic exposition of what the collection entails and how it should be used.

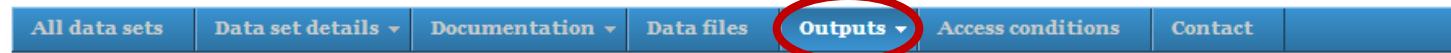
Note: Old versions of web browsers such as Internet Explorer 6 could cause problems when downloading files.

Download	Access	File	Description
ASCII FIXED FORMAT		<a href="#">SABSSM2002_ADULT_YOUTH.DAT</a>	Save file to disk and use as input file for the different programs.
SAS DATA SET		<a href="#">SABSSM2002_ADULT_YOUTH.SAS7BDAT</a>	Save file to disk. See <a href="#">userguide</a> on how to reference the data set and formats in a SAS program.
SAS FORMATS		<a href="#">SABSSM2002_ADULT_YOUTHFORMATS.SAS7B</a>	 <b>Public open access:</b> Information is immediately available without the need to register, provide any additional information or obtain approval.  <b>Public registered access:</b> Information can be accessed after a user has registered and provided a reason for wanting access. No approval is necessary.  <b>Limited interest group:</b> Users are requested to register and provide a reason for wanting to access the information. Access is subject to approval from the owners, funders or depositors of the data. An email notification will be sent to confirm that access has been granted.  <b>Project team:</b> Specified project team members will have access to the information. If a user (who is part of the project team) was not entered as part of the project team the system will request the user to register and provide a reason for wanting to access the information. Access will be granted when approval is received.

*Dissemination formats*

## Research outputs

### Research outputs related to South African HIV/AIDS, Behavioural Risks, Sero-status, and Mass Media Impact Survey (SABSSM), 2002: Adult and youth - Nine provinces in South Africa



#### Research outputs

- Journal Article
- Monograph (Book)
- Review in Journal



Outputs linked to data set

#### Journal Article

■ Connolly, C., Simbayi, L.C., Shanmugam, R. & Nqeketo, A. (2008) Male circumcision and its relationship to HIV infection in South Africa: results of a national survey in 2002. *South African Medical Journal*. 98(10):789-794.

the objective of this article is to investigate the nature of male circumcision and its relationship to HIV infection. Method used: analysis of a sub-sample of 3 025 men aged 15 years and older who participated in the first national population-based survey on HIV/AIDS in 2002. Chi-square tests and Wilcoxon rank sum tests were used to identify factors associated with circumcision and HIV status...

■ Shisana, O., Zungu-Dirwayi, N, Toefy, Y., Simbayi, L C, Malik, S. & Zuma, K. (2004) Marital status and risk of HIV infection in South Africa. *South African medical journal*. 94(7):537-543.

The relationship between marital status and HIV is complex. The risk depends on various demographic factors and sex behaviour practices. Increased prevention strategies that take socio-cultural context into account are needed for married people.

■ Shisana, O., Stoker, D., Simbayi, L.C., Orkin, M., Bezuidenhout, F., Jooste, S.E., Colvin, M. & Van Zyl, J. (2004) South African national household survey of HIV/AIDS prevalence, behavioural risks and mass media impact: detailed methodology and response rate results. *South African medical journal*. 94(4):283-287.

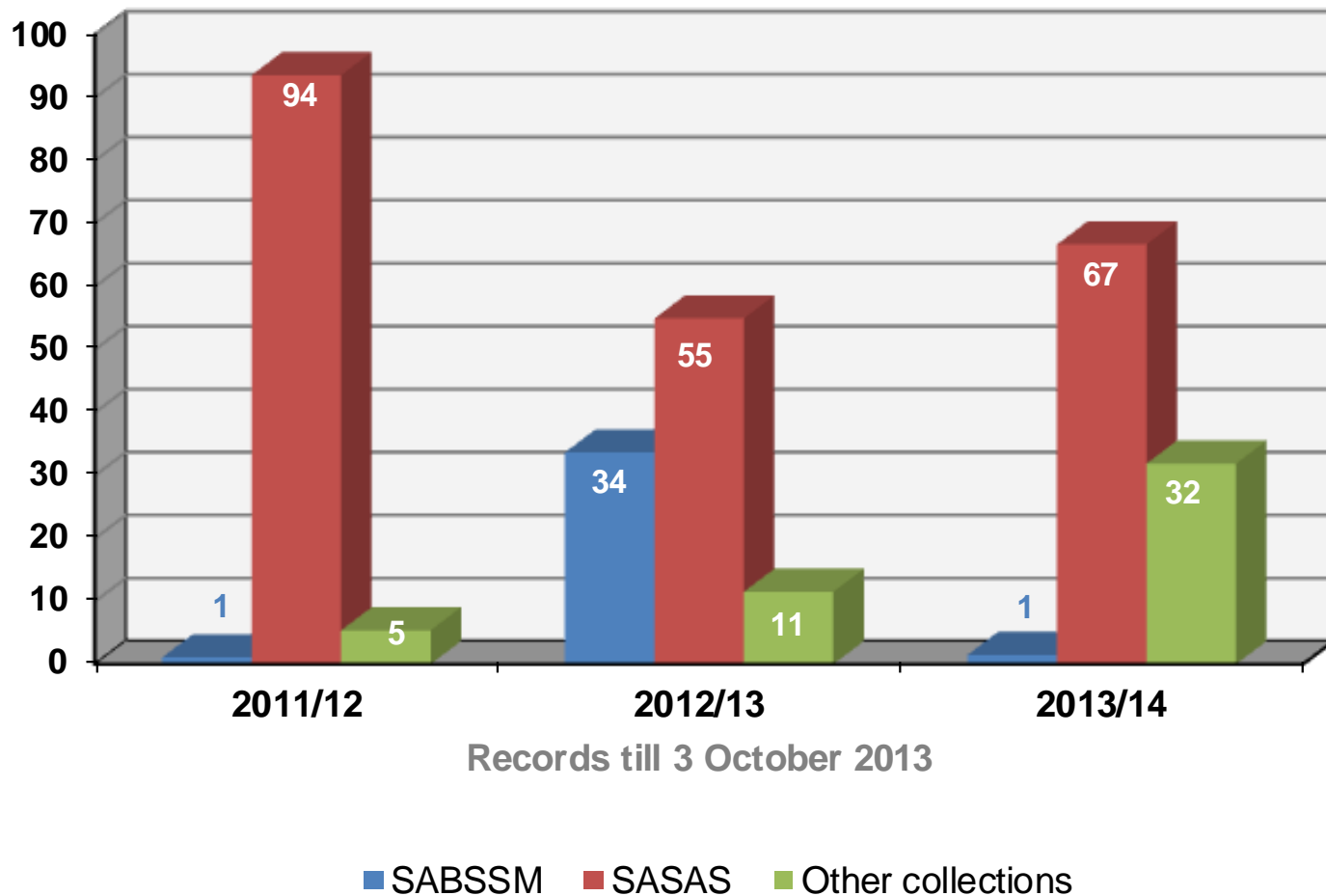
■ Simbayi, L.C., Chauveau, J. & Shisana, O. (2004) Behavioural responses of South African youth to the HIV/AIDS epidemic: a nationwide survey. *AIDS care*. 16(5):605-618.

#### Monograph (Book)

■ Brookes, H., Shisana, O. & Richter, L. (2004) *The national household HIV prevalence and risk survey of South African Children*. Cape Town: HSRC Publishers.

# Usage of SABSSM and SASAS

## Percentage of data sets downloaded



# South African National HIV, Behaviour and Health Survey (SABSSM) - Profile

The key aims were to determine the HIV prevalence in the general population, identify risk factors that increase vulnerability of South Africans to HIV infections, to identify the contexts within which sexual behaviour occurs and the obstacles to risk reduction and to determine the level of exposure of all sectors of society to current prevention.

- **History**
  - Four series already conducted – 2002, 2005, 2008 and 2012.

- **Typical questions asked**
  - Knowledge of HIV/AIDS, stigma and discrimination and HIV risk behaviour
  - Measure HIV status, HIV incidence and use of antiretroviral (ARV) drugs
  - Acceptability and practices (among males only) concerning male circumcision
  - Health status of the nation, access to health services, child vaccination, and reproduction (among females only) and maternal and infant mortality

- Themes covered

ADDICTION	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	MASS MEDIA
AIDS (DISEASE)	ELECTRICITY	MASS MEDIA USE
ALCOHOL ABUSE	GRANTS	RADIO
ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION	GROUP MEMBERSHIP	RISK BEHAVIOUR
ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY	HEALTH	SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
CARE GIVERS	HEALTH BEHAVIOUR	SEX EDUCATION
CARE IN THE COMMUNITY	HEALTH CHECKS	SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR
CHILD CARE	HEALTH SERVICES	SEXUAL PARTNERS
CHILD CAREGIVERS	HIV PREVENTION	SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES
CHILD PROTECTION	HIV/AIDS KNOWLEDGE	TELEPHONES
COMMUNICATION	HIV/AIDS PREVALENCE	TELEVISION
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION	HIV/AIDS PROGRAMMES	TOILETS
CONDOM USE	HOME ENVIRONMENT	VOLUNTARY COUNSELLING AND TESTING (VCT)
DEPENDENT CHILDREN	HOUSEHOLD INCOME	VULNERABILITY TO AIDS
DISABILITIES	INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION	WATER RESOURCES



- **Population / sample surveyed**
  - National household survey (Individuals of all ages, except in 2002 and 2005 when younger than 2 years were excluded)

<b>SABSSM 2005 Interviewed</b>			
<b>Gender of respondent</b>		<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
	1 Male	9685	41.6
	2 Female	13584	58.4
Missing	System	6	.0
Total		23275	100.0
<b>Province</b>		<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
	1 WC	2884	12.4
	2 EC	3795	16.3
	3 NC	1423	6.1
	4 FS	1479	6.4
	5 KZN	4651	20.0
	6 NW	1586	6.8
	7 GT	3621	15.6
	8 MP	1684	7.2
	9 LP	2152	9.2
	Total	23275	100.0

<b>Age groups</b>		<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
	1 2-14 years	6866	29.5
	2 15-24 years	5708	24.5
	3 25+ years	10687	45.9
Missing	System	14	0.1
Total		23275	100.0
<b>Race of respondent</b>		<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
	1 Africans	13935	59.9
	2 Whites	2428	10.4
	3 Coloured	4411	19.0
	4 Indian	2449	10.5
Missing	System	52	0.2
Total		23275	100.0
<b>Geographic type</b>		<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
	1 Urban formal	13253	56.9
	2 Urban informal	2486	10.7
	3 Rural informal	5554	23.9
	4 Rural formal	1982	8.5
	Total	23275	100.0

# South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) - Profile

The primary objective of SASAS is to design, develop and implement a conceptually and methodologically robust study of changing social attitudes and values in South Africa.

- **History**
  - First in 2003, thereafter repeat surveys in October/November each year
  - Modelled on international best practice – also comparative information (ISSP)

- **Typical questions asked**
  - Shifts in social circumstances and values
  - A core module, repeated each round to monitor change and continuity in a variety of socio-economic, political and cultural variables
  - Rotating modules on specific themes
  - Themes covered

COMMUNICATION	GENDER	PERSONAL INCOME
CRIME	GENERATIONS	PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
DEMOCRACY	GROUP IDENTITY	POLITICS
DEMOGRAPHICS	HEALTH	POVERTY
DEMOGRAPHY	HEALTH BEHAVIOR	PRACTICAL
DISCIPLINE OF CHILDREN	HEALTH SERVICES	PRACTICAL POLITICS
EDUCATION	HIV AIDS	SOCIAL EXCLUSION
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	LEISURE	TOURISM
FAMILY	MASS MEDIA	VOTING
FAMILY VIOLENCE	MORAL CONDITIONS	WATER

- **Population / sample surveyed**
  - National household survey (Individuals aged 16 and older)

<b>SASAS 2006 Interviewed</b>			
<b>Gender of respondent</b>		<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
	1 Male	2481	42.5
	2 Female	3361	57.5
	Total	5842	100.0
Missing	System	1	.0
Total		5843	100.0
<b>Province</b>		<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
	1 WC	650	11.1
	2 EC	647	11.1
	3 NC	559	9.6
	4 FS	649	11.1
	5 KZN	971	16.6
	6 NW	397	6.8
	7 GT	647	11.1
	8 MP	596	10.2
	9 LP	727	12.4
	Total	5843	100.0

<b>Age groups</b>		<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
	1 16-24 years	1156	19.8
	2 25-34 years	1434	24.5
	3 35-49 years	1721	29.5
	4 50+ years	1528	26.2
	Total	5839	99.9
Missing	System	4	.1
Total		5843	100.0
<b>Race of respondent</b>		<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
	1 Black African	3663	62.7
	2 Coloured	979	16.8
	3 Indian/Asian	557	9.5
	4 White	643	11.0
	Total	5842	100.0
Missing	System	1	.0
Total		5843	100.0
<b>Geographic type</b>		<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
	1 Urban,formal	3185	54.5
	2 Urban,informal	704	12.0
	3 Tribal	1164	19.9
	4 Rural,formal	790	13.5
	Total	5843	100.0

# South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) - **Impact**

- Tool for monitoring evolving social, economic and political values among South Africans
- The survey content is closely aligned towards strategic national priorities as reflected in the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF, 2009), government strategic outcomes, and National Development Plan (NDP, 2012).
- Role in the policy domain, with SASAS data used for
  - The Presidency's macro-social review (2006) and 15-Year Review (2009);
  - The development of a social cohesion barometer for the EU-Presidency Programme to Support Pro-Poor Development (PSPPD)
  - The determination of energy poverty and energy related behaviour for the Department of Energy
  - Evidence on financial literacy to help shape the national consumer financial education strategy (National Treasury)

# A value proposition for large scale, repeat surveys

- **For the country:**
  - National level planning
  - Capturing local dynamics and impacts in a variety of contexts and situations
  - Description and subsequent understanding of social change, the trajectories of individual life histories, the dynamic processes that underlie social and economic life
  - Better understanding of policy interventions
  - Potential for human capital development, knowledge generation, strategic partnership development, priority setting, policy advocacy, lobbying, bridging the research-policy chasm, marketing value, and access to resources.



# A value proposition for large scale, repeat surveys

- **For research community:**
- As empirical evidence for policy making, monitoring and evaluation of strategies to address the challenges of South Africa
- A resource for the training of researchers and practitioners
- A resource for post-graduate students as evidence for a masters or doctoral thesis
- To inform civil society and the public at large about human and social issues
- A resource for researchers to advance social science and its knowledge base

# South African National HIV, Behaviour and Health Survey (SABSSM) - **Impact**

- Changing perceptions on HIV/AIDS prevalence in South Africa
  - Inform population-based prevalence estimates and actuarial modelling assumptions
  - Could be used to cost the roll-out of Anti-Retroviral Therapy in South Africa
- Guiding and helping to monitor government strategies and interventions, for instance
  - To evaluate the South African National Strategic Plan (NSP) for HIV/AIDS and STIs 2007-2011 and to provide baseline information for tracking the progress and impact of the new NSP for HIV/ AIDS, STIs and TB 2012-2016
  - Report on key indicators such as child and maternal mortality and fertility, information crucial for international reporting as a country for the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and UNGASS

# Closing remarks

- Data that makes a difference – measuring impact of research data is not straightforward
- Usage evidence
  - Metrics Weber (2013)
    - Data use indexes (Download, browse, search events)
    - Citation prevalence, position and popularity
      - Data / output citations
- Impact stories
  - Feedback on data usage

Human Sciences Research Council. *South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) Round 7 2009*. [Computer file]. SASAS 2009 Questionnaire 1. Pretoria South Africa: Human Sciences Research Council [producer] 2009, [distributor] 2013.

A black and white photograph of four hands of different skin tones stacked together in a circle, symbolizing unity and support. One hand is wearing a red and orange beaded bracelet.

Thank you

**Building the bridge between  
research, policy and action**

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# References

SOUTH AFRICA, 2008, *Human Sciences Research Council Act 2008*. Cape Town.

Van Zyl (2013) *Sustainable support for strategic longitudinal and cross-sectional repeat surveys*. DST / HSRC submission, 13 May 2013.

Weber, N., Thomer, A., Mayernik, M., Dattore, R., Zaihua, J., & Worley, S. (2013, January). *The product and system specificities of measuring impact: Indicators of use in research data archives*. 8th International Digital Curation Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands.