



**POVERTY AND INEQUALITY:**  
DIAGNOSIS | PROGNOSIS | RESPONSES



**HSRC**  
Human Sciences  
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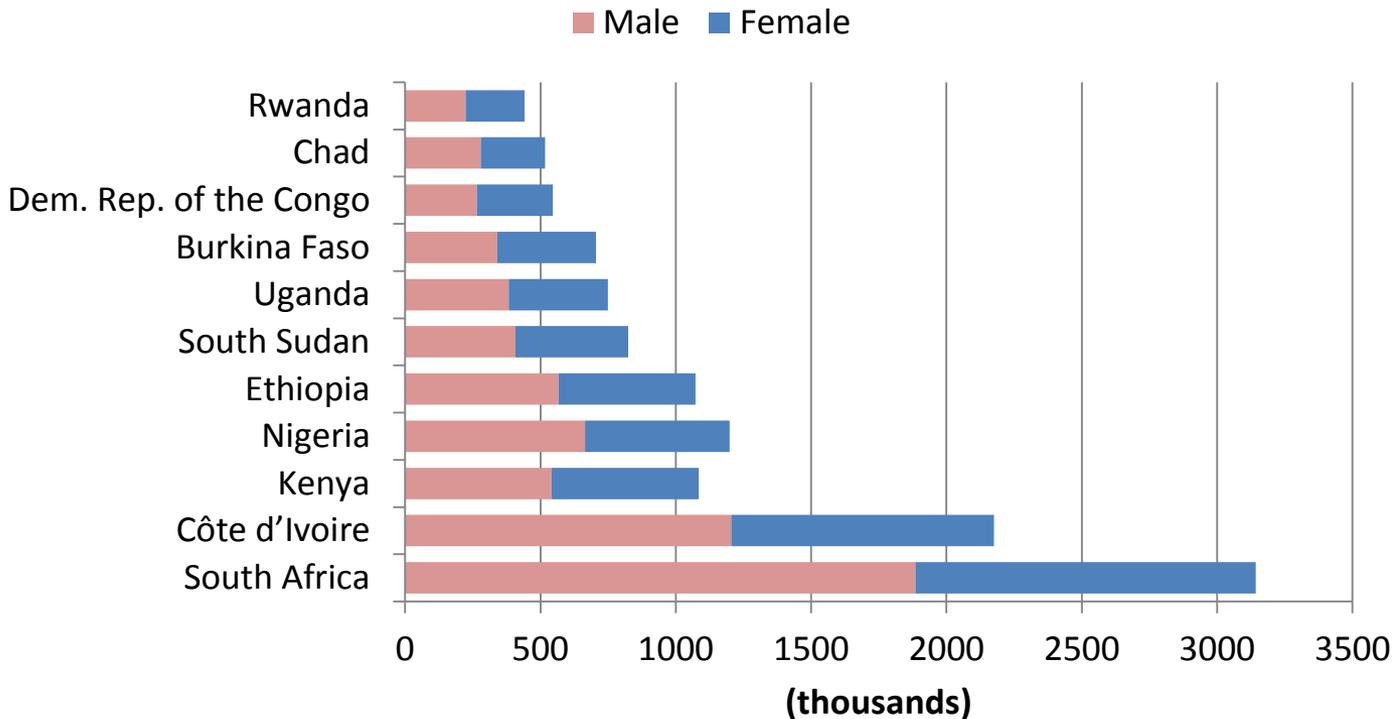
# In Thought And Deed? Anti-Immigrant Violence And Attitudes In South Africa



Social science that makes a difference

# International Migration Stocks in Africa

According to the United Nations, **South Africa** is host to more **international migrants** than any other **Sub-Saharan African** country



Source: 2013. International Migration 2015. Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division.



# Xenophobic Violence in the Rainbow Nation

- In December 1994, protesters in **Alexandra Township** marched on their local police station to demand that all Malawians, Mozambicans and Zimbabweans ‘go home’.
  - Anger over this issue soon morphed into the anti-immigrant riots known as ‘**Operation Buyelekhaya**’ (Go Back Home) in December 1994 and January 1995
- Number of violent events since. One of the most famous, the May 2008 anti-immigrant riots which felt **62 dead** and **more than a hundred thousand displaced**.
- In front of the **South African Parliament** in April 2015, President **Jacob Zuma** denied that people in South Africa are xenophobic, condemning **violent attacks** by mobs on international migrants as “shocking and unacceptable”.
  - In the face of the April 2015 attacks, the press criticised the **Zuma Administration** for xenophobic ‘denialism’.



# Study Xenophobia in South Africa

- Studies of **public opinion** towards immigrants and immigration is **less well understood** in the Global South.
  - Africa is largely ignored with **few public attitudes survey studies** available to measure trends.
- Prevalence of **anti-immigrant sentiment** in the country has been well **documented** by the **Southern African Migration Project**.
- Xenophobia in South Africa has been linked to **economic competition** and **growing social distrust** within South African communities.
- The **Zuma Administration** established two committees to investigate the motivations behind the **April 2015 violence** in eThekweni and Johannesburg.
  - Parliament's Joint Committee on Probing Violence Against Foreign Nationals
  - The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Migration

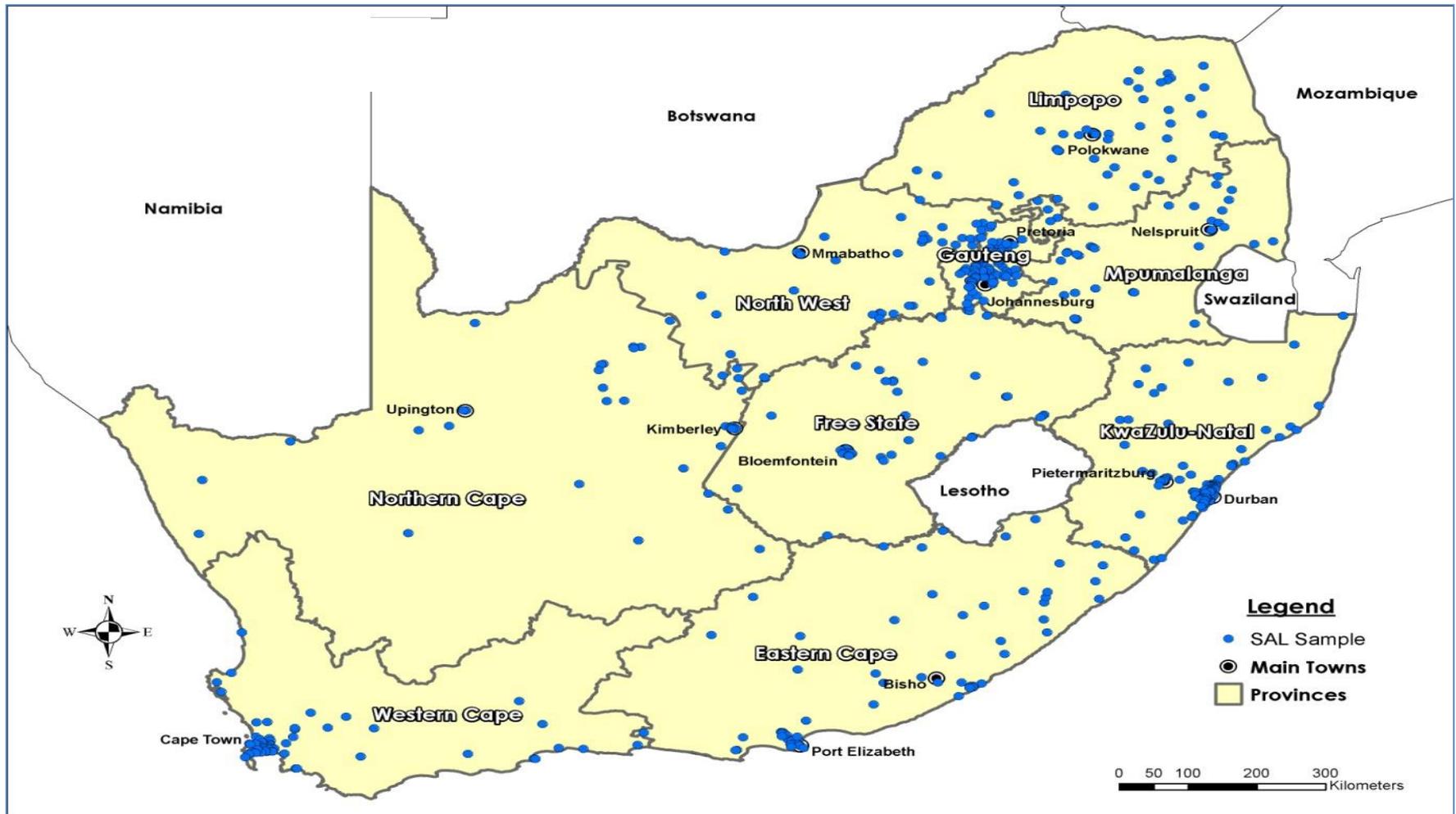


# Quantitative Methodology

- Survey conducted by **Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)**
- Nationally representative of the population 16 years and older living in private households in the 9 provinces
  - **Primary sampling units:** 500 census enumerator areas (EAs), stratified by province, geography type and majority population group
  - **Secondary sampling units:** 7 household visiting points randomly selected per EA
  - One respondent 16+ years randomly selected per household
- In **2015** the **realised** sample size was **3,115**
- Responses to the **survey voluntary and confidential**, collected by **face-to-face interview**
- Data collection: **November-December**



# Enumerator areas (EAs)



A graphical representation of 500 selected Enumeration Areas.

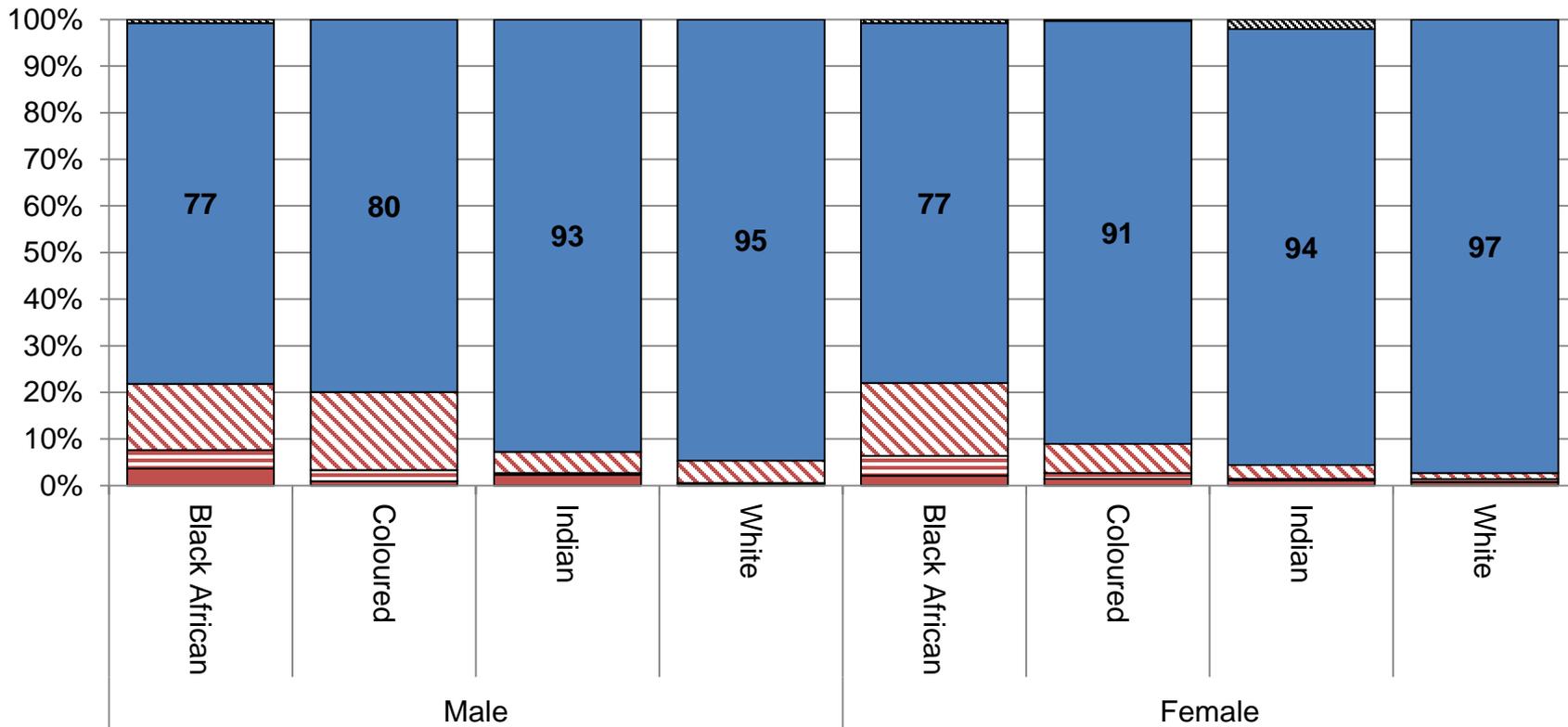
# Asking People About Violence

- One of these questions was on whether a respondent had taken part in violent action to prevent immigrants from living or working in their neighbourhood. The response categories were:
  - (i) Have done it in the past year;
  - (ii) Have done it in the more distant past;
  - (iii) Have not done it but might do it; and
  - (iv) Have not done it and would never do it.
- Respondents may be disinclined to disclose such potentially incriminating information due to social desirability bias.



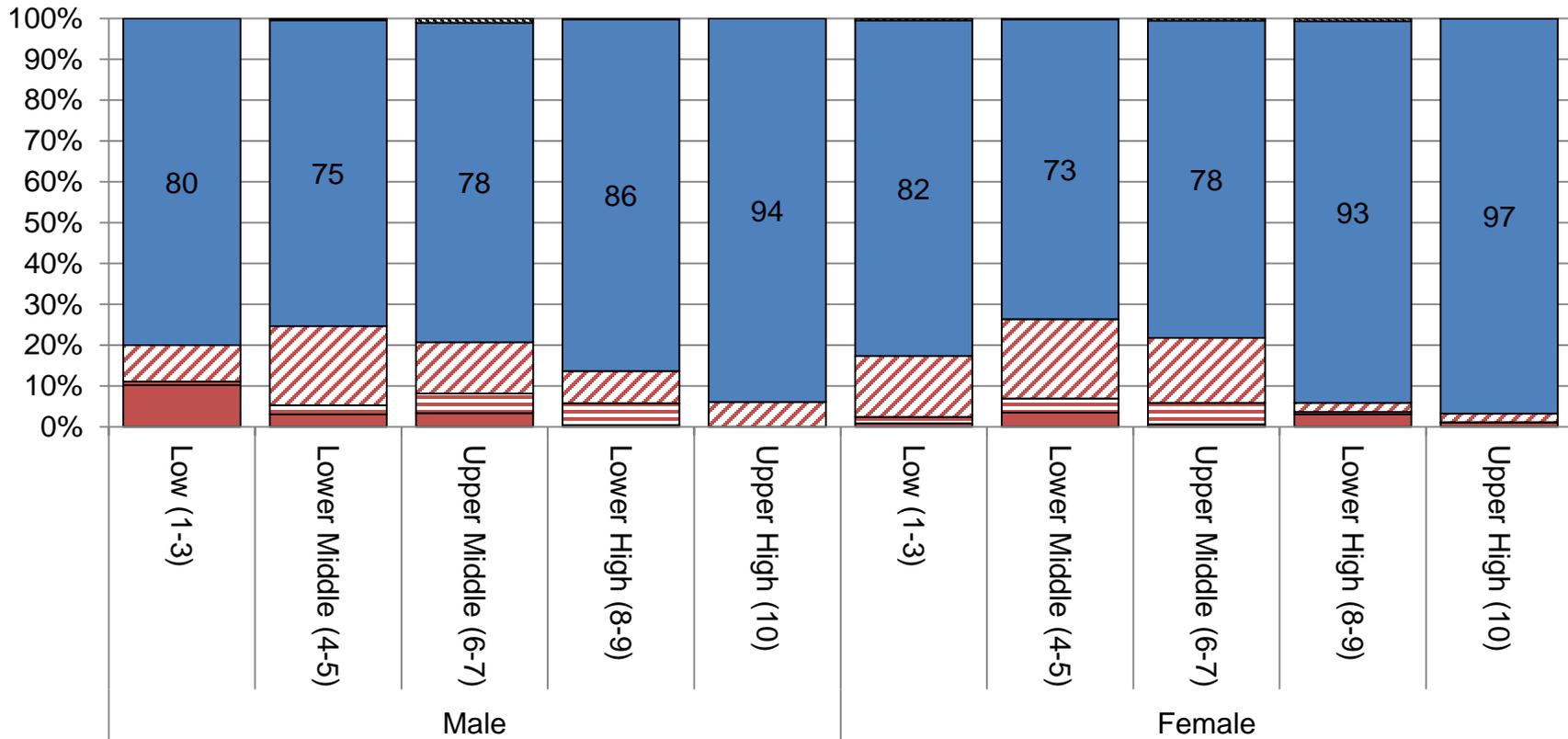
# Share of adult South Africans who would take part in violent action to prevent immigrants from living or working in your neighbourhood

- Have done it in the past year
- Have done it in the more distant past
- ▨ Have not done it but might do it
- Have not done it and would never do it



# Share of adult South Africans who would take part in violent action to prevent immigrants from living or working in your neighbourhood

- Have done it in the past year
- ▨ Have not done it but might do it
- (Can't choose)
- Have done it in the more distant past
- Have not done it and would never do it



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# Multinomial (polytomous) Logistic Estimates

Predicting Response to a Whether Had  
or Would Take Part in Violent Action  
Against Foreign Nationals

## Past Violence versus Have Not Done it and Would Never

	<b>RRR</b>	<b>Std. Err.</b>	<b>Sig.</b>	<b>[95% Conf. Interval]</b>	
Female (ref. male)	-0.28	0.26		-0.79	0.23
Age	0.00	0.01		-0.02	0.02
Marital Status (ref. Married))					
Married Before	-2.660	1.237	**	-5.085	-0.234
Never Married	0.007	0.776		-1.514	1.528
Population group (ref. Black African)					
Coloured	-1.63	0.50	***	-2.61	-0.65
Indian	-1.18	0.70		-2.56	0.20
White	-2.27	0.65	*	-3.54	-1.01
Geographic Type (ref. Urban formal)					
Urban informal	-0.16	0.46		-1.06	0.74
Trad. Auth. Area	-0.20	0.33		-0.84	0.45
Rural formal	-0.33	0.66		-1.62	0.96
Living Standard Measurement	-0.092	0.071		-0.230	0.046
Educational Attainment	0.001	0.037		-0.071	0.073
<b>Obs.</b>	<b>2712</b>				
<b>Pseudo R-squared</b>	<b>0.07</b>				
<b>Wald chi<sup>2</sup>(48)</b>	<b>130</b>				

\*\*\* p<0.001, \*\*p<0.01, \* p<0.05

The regressions controls for province of residence and labour market status and marital status.

## Past Violence versus Have Not Done it and Would Never

	<b>RRR</b>	<b>Std. Err.</b>	<b>Sig.</b>	<b>[95% Conf. Interval]</b>	
Female (ref. male)	1.08	0.20		0.75	1.55
Age	1.00	0.01		0.99	1.02
Marital Status (ref. Married))					
Married Before	1.17	0.36		0.64	2.14
Never Married	1.04	0.21		0.69	1.56
Population group (ref. Black African)					
Coloured	0.50	0.16	*	0.27	0.92
Indian	0.41	0.16	*	0.18	0.90
White	0.32	0.13	**	0.14	0.71
Geographic Type (ref. Urban formal)					
Urban informal	0.27	0.92		0.94	4.86
Trad. Auth. Area	0.18	0.90		0.43	1.09
Rural formal	0.14	0.71		0.14	1.46
Living Standard Measurement	0.27	0.92		0.75	1.06
Educational Attainment	0.18	0.90		0.94	1.08
<b>Obs.</b>	<b>2712</b>				
<b>Pseudo R-squared</b>	<b>0.07</b>				
<b>Wald chi<sup>2</sup>(48)</b>	<b>130</b>				

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# Discussion of Results

- Age and gender were not **statistically significant predictors** of the dependent.
  - This is a notable finding since media representations often portray **young men** as more greatly **predisposed** to violent behaviour.
- Even controlling for a range of **socio-economic characteristics**, population group is still a statistically significant predictor.
  - There is a distinct hierarchy of response here between the different racial minority groups.
- The model explains only **7% of variance** indicating that **standard demographic** and **socio-economic characteristics** are **inadequately** explaining variations in the dependent .
  - There are likely other factors, not captured by the model, that are driving behaviour and behavioural intention.



# The Attitude-Behaviour Relationship

- Attitudes can exercise a **dynamic influence** upon an individual's **behavioural response** to situations with which that attitude is related.
  - There is a significant and growing literature on **when** attitudes predict behaviour and **how** this process may occur.
- Studies **emphasises the effect attitudes** have on behaviour but **concedes** that situational, normative and individual characteristics also have **effects on behaviour**
  - The correlation between attitudes and behaviour is **mediated** by both **internal** and **external** factors.
- Prejudice's manifestation in actions **depends** on a justification that **allows the individual** to express prejudice without facing sanction.
  - Interestingly, anything –a piece of information, say, or an external event –can be **seized on** as a justification for prejudicial behaviour.





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

**Questions Welcome**