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STUDY INFORMATION

SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL ATTITUDES SURVEY, August 2003

HSRC Study ID:
SASAS2003_Q1
SASAS2003_Q2
SASAS2003_COMB

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South African Social Attitudes Survey, 2003

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Abstract:

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. In meeting this objective, the HSRC intends to position itself so as to be able to carefully and consistently monitor and explain changes in attitudes amongst various socio-demographic groupings.

It is intended that SASAS will explore a wide range of value changes, including the distribution and shape of racial attitudes and aspirations, attitudes towards democratic and constitutional issues, and the redistribution of resources and power.

Moreover, there is also an explicit interest in mapping changing attitudes towards some of the great moral issues that confront and are fiercely debated in South Africa, for instance abortion, gender issues, AIDS, crime and punishment, governance, service delivery, etc.

In sum, then, SASAS is intended to provide a unique long-term account of the social fabric of modern South Africa, and of how its changing political and institutional structures interact over time with changing social attitudes and values.

To accommodate the wide variety of topics that was included in the 2003 survey, two questionnaires were administered simultaneously. This will continue to occur in future phases of the SASAS survey. Apart from the standard set of demographic and background variables, each version of the questionnaire contains a harmonised core module that will remain constant from round to round, with the aim of monitoring change and continuity in a variety of socio-economic and socio-political variables. In addition, a number of themes will be accommodated on a rotational basis. This rotating element of the survey consists of two or more topic-specific modules in each round of interviewing and is directed at measuring a range of policy and academic concerns and issues that require more detailed examination at a specific point in time than the multi-topic core module would permit. In respect of the two SASAS questionnaires, the questions contained in the core module (demographics and core thematic issues) were asked of all 7 000 respondents, while the remaining rotating modules were asked of a half sample of approximately 3 500 respondents each. The two different versions of the questionnaire were administered concurrently in each of the chosen sampling areas. Fieldworkers were required to complete a paper-based instrument while interviews were conducted face-to-face.

The data are available for Questionnaire 1 and Questionnaire 2. The harmonised core module data are available in the 'combined dataset'. Data for the combined dataset are available with the individual weight (for analysis at individual level) as well as household weight (when analysis are done at household level).

Main Topics:**Thematic content:**

Democracy, Identity, Public services, Moral issues, Crime, Voting, Demographics and other classificatory variables, Nature of families and family authority

Rotating modules:

Questionnaire 1: Poverty, Generational and gender attitudes and family/household violence, Questionnaire 2: Communication, ISSP module – National Identity, Democracy part 2.

Questions for the core module were asked of both samples (3 500 respondents each - 7000) of which 4980 realised.

International Social Survey Programme

The International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) is run by a group of research organisations, each of which undertakes to field annually an agreed module of questions on a chosen topic area. SASAS 2003 represents the formalisation of South Africa's inclusion in the ISSP, the intention being to include the module in one of the SASAS questionnaires in each round of interviewing. Each module is chosen for repetition at intervals to allow comparisons both between countries (membership currently stands at 40) and over time. In 2003, the chosen subject was national identity, and the module was carried in version 2 of the questionnaire (Qs.152-203).

Coverage:

Time period covered: Different time periods were addressed by different questions

Dates of Fieldwork: August – October 2003

Country: South Africa

Spatial Units: Enumerator Areas

Observation Units: Individuals

Kind of Data: Numeric data; Individual (micro) level

Universe Sampled:

Location of Units of observation: National

Population: Adults aged 16 and older in private households in South Africa during 2003.

Methodology:

Time dimensions: Repeated cross-sectional study

Sampling procedures: The sampling frame for the survey is the Human Sciences Research Council's (HSRC) Master Sample, which was designed in 2002 and consists of 1000 primary sampling units (PSUs). The 2001 population census enumerator areas (EAs) were used as PSUs. These PSUs were drawn, with probability proportional to size, from a pre-census 2001 list of EAs provided by Statistics South Africa. The Master Sample excludes special institutions (such as hospitals, military camps, old age homes, school and university hostels), recreational areas, industrial areas and vacant EAs. It therefore focuses on dwelling units or visiting points as secondary sampling units, which have been defined as 'separate (non-vacant) residential stands, addresses, structures, flats, homesteads, etc.'

As the basis of the 2003 SASAS round of interviewing, a sub-sample of 500 PSUs was drawn from the HSRC's Master Sample. Three explicit stratification variables were used, namely province, geographic type and majority population group.

Number of Units: Questionnaire 1: 2 497 cases realised from 3 500 addresses

Questionnaire 2: 2 483 cases realised from 3 500 addresses

Combined : 4980 cases

Method of data collection: Face-to-face interview

Weighting: Weighting used. See documentation for details

Languages of written materials:

Study Description: English

Study Documentation: English

Access:

Availability: HSRC

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