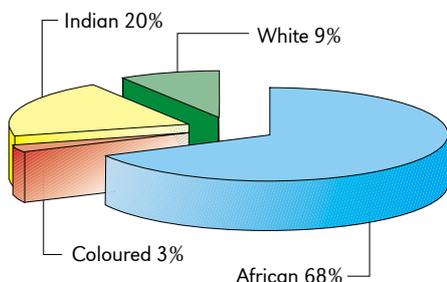


GET THE PICTURE

SNAPSHOT 1 DEMOGRAPHICS

More than three million people live in Durban. Because there are so many different kinds of people living in so many different ways it is hard to describe a 'typical' household. The differences in the standard of living are extreme and while some people are very satisfied with the quality of their lives, many are not.

People living in Durban come from four main race groups:



More than half the people are females!

Female 53.1%

Male 46.9%

There are more males aged between 0 to 17 years

There are more females aged between 18 to 65 years

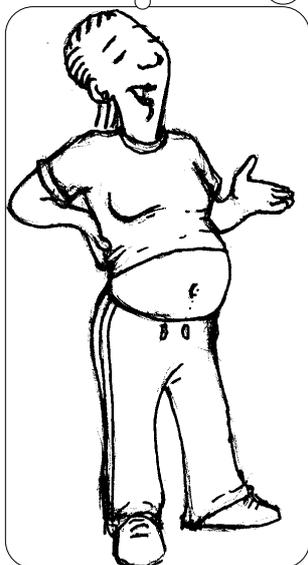


*"I am a free-lance teacher and artist, 55 years old, living in an old wood-and-iron house in Escombe, a suburb that has changed a lot over twenty years...for the better. It is great to see people from all race groups living together in my suburb."



*"I am 35 years old, married with three young children. I work part-time as a cashier in a local café and my husband works for a second-hand car dealer. I live with my extended family in a semi-detached house in Chatsworth. We all contribute to the running expenses...I don't think any one of us could make it on our own..."

*"I am 43 years old and I am a free-lance domestic worker. I live in Inanda with my husband, who is a builder. I leave home at 5 am in the morning and get home at 5 pm every afternoon. I am not happy in eThekweni because of the skellums. I wish I could live in Umhlanga..."



"I live in Newlands East in a small two bed roomed flat with my mother, my two children by a previous marriage, and my present husband. I am five months pregnant. We don't have a car and I work long hours at a hotel in town...Daily life is quite a struggle for us... but I prefer to stay here...I was brought up here and I know most of the people..."

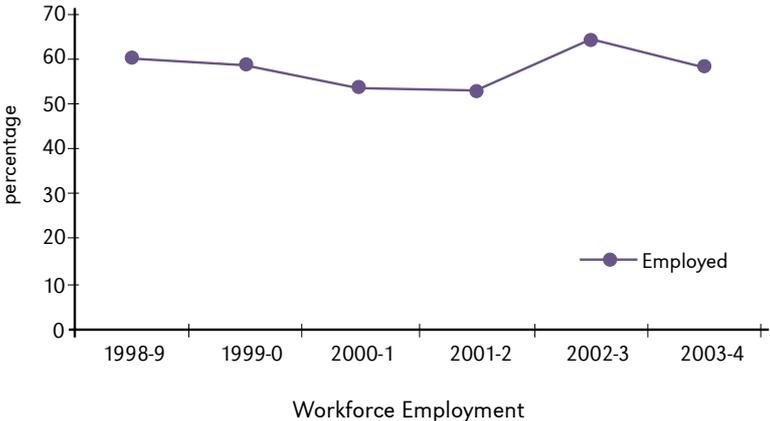


SNAPSHOT 2 EMPLOYMENT

Most people want to work so that they can earn money and buy the necessities of life. When people work it makes them feel good about themselves and their ability to look after their families. It also means that they can afford to improve their standard of living, which makes them happy.

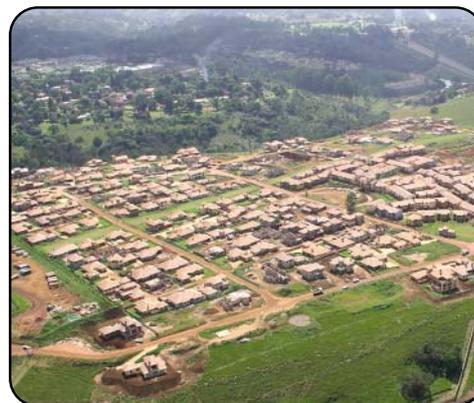
Now that there are more people in Durban, it is necessary to have more work opportunities so that satisfaction with life may improve. As you can see in the chart below workforce employment dropped 60% in 1998, to 53% IN 2001-2, it then climbed to 64% in 2002-3, falling to 58% in 2003-4.

This means that in 2004 42% the people who are able to work (old enough, strong enough and with some skills) are unemployed.



SNAPSHOT 3 HOUSING TYPES

If you make your way around Durban you will see many different styles of housing from very grand houses on large properties in well-kept suburbs to tiny home-made shacks close to land-fill sites or rivers. The eThekweni Municipality is in the process of creating better houses for those who have been living in poor conditions.



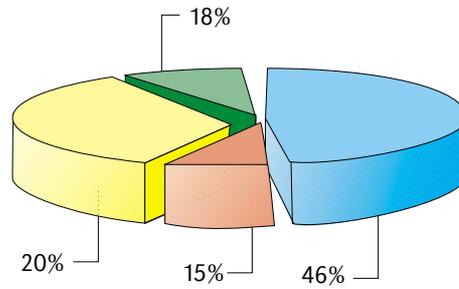
Of the 823 000 households in Durban 384 930 are brick structures on a separate stand or yard.

123 000 households are informal dwellings that are not in back yard

99 058 households live in flats in a block of flats

60 204 live in a traditional dwelling made of traditional materials

48 907 live in duplexes or simplexes



It is interesting to note that
46 % of households own their dwellings
20 % are still paying for dwellings that they own
15 % households are renting
18 % occupy dwellings but do not pay rent



"My house is the biggest problem for me. My house is no good. The old wood in the roof is being eaten by big red ants and there are cracks in the walls. I'm not happy when it is windy and raining and the floor is wet."
Resident of Klarwater

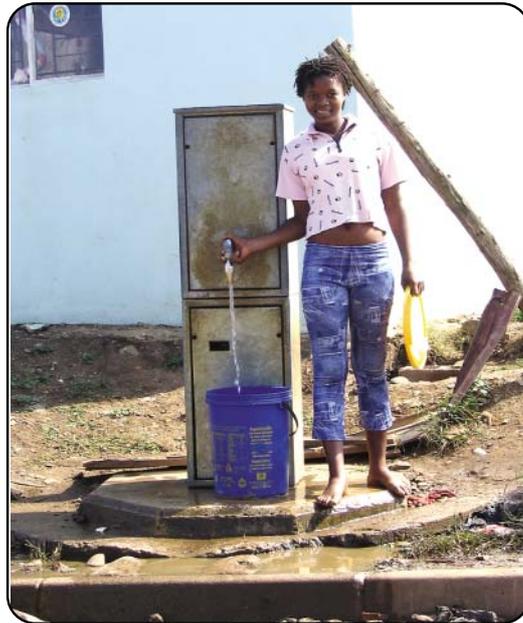
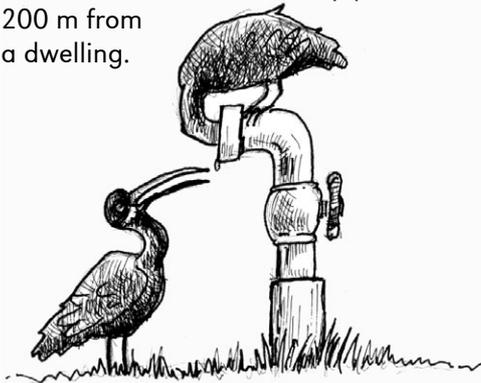


SNAPSHOT 4 BASIC SERVICES

Access to basic household services is an essential factor when defining the quality of people's lives. Those who live in clean, well-kept surroundings and who enjoy the benefits of the basic services of water, electricity, sanitation and regular refuse removal are more satisfied with the quality of their lives than those who do not.

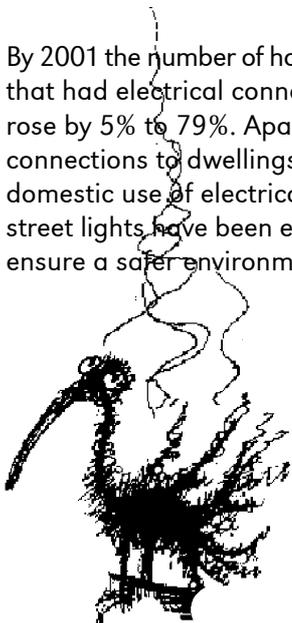
WATER

Water is essential for daily living. In 2001 82% of households had access to safe drinking water. The minimum standard for 'safe drinking water' is access to a communal standpipe within 200 m from a dwelling.



ELECTRICITY

By 2001 the number of households that had electrical connections rose by 5% to 79%. Apart from connections to dwellings for domestic use of electrical power, street lights have been erected to ensure a safer environment





SANTITATION

Safe sanitation is first on the list when citizens talk about their needs for basic services. Good sanitation is essential for healthy living. Safe and adequate sanitation is defined as flush toilets, chemical toilets and VIPs and by 2001 76 % of households had access to safe sanitation.



REFUSE REMOVAL

Regular refuse removal is important for a healthy living environment. In 2001 85% of households had weekly solid waste collection by the municipality.

SNAPSHOT 5 SATISFACTION WITH QUALITY OF LIFE

The most important factors that contribute to satisfaction with life include:

- Health
- Standard of living
- Social Well-Being
- Access to Services

It makes sense that those people living in clean and hygienic conditions who are gainfully employed with regular incomes have a higher level of satisfaction with their lives than those who do not.

Whilst financial wealth does not necessarily bring satisfaction, poverty certainly creates many problems.

Other factors include a sense of belonging to the community and feeling safe within that community.

Basic household services and community facilities including good health care and good education facilities are also important.

Satisfaction with life declined from 43% in 1998 to 35% in 2001 and then rose to 41% in 2002. When we last visited people in 2004 life satisfaction was at 39% and those who were not satisfied were 35%.

This local satisfaction level is higher than the South African average of 33%, according to international research conducted in 44 countries during 2002.

Of the ten African countries where the research was done, only Nigerians at 36% were more satisfied with life.

Since then the life satisfaction level in eThekweni has risen above the Nigerian average.

According to the research there are many other countries in Europe, Asia and South America that do not enjoy the same level of life satisfaction.



Much is being done by the eThekweni Municipality to improve the quality of life for all the residents and to ensure that the needs of the poorer citizens are addressed.