

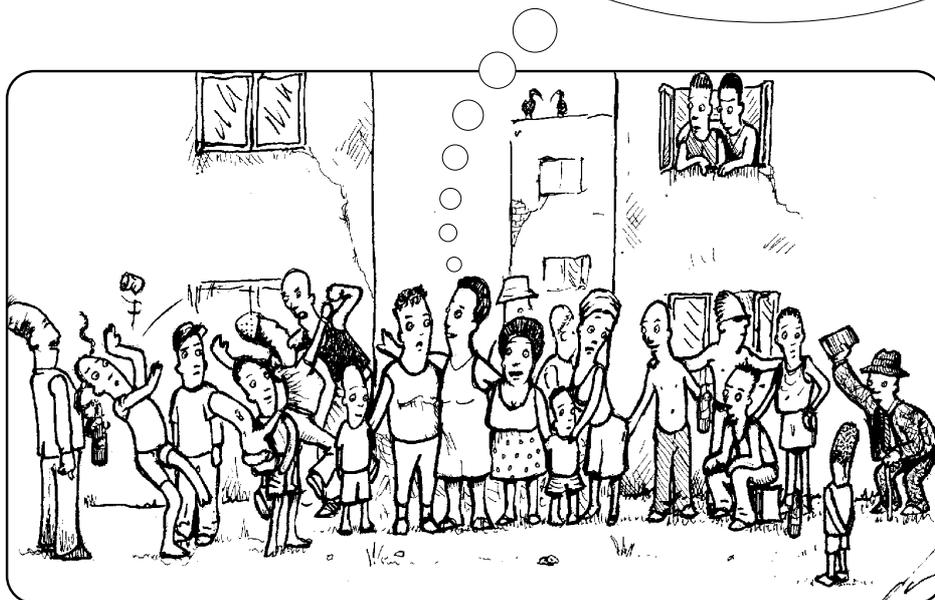
# SOCIAL WELL-BEING

## A SENSE OF BELONGING

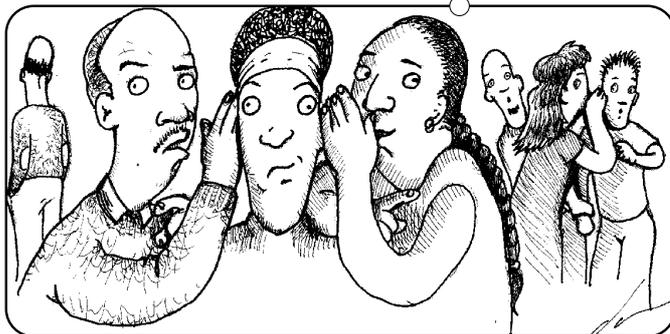
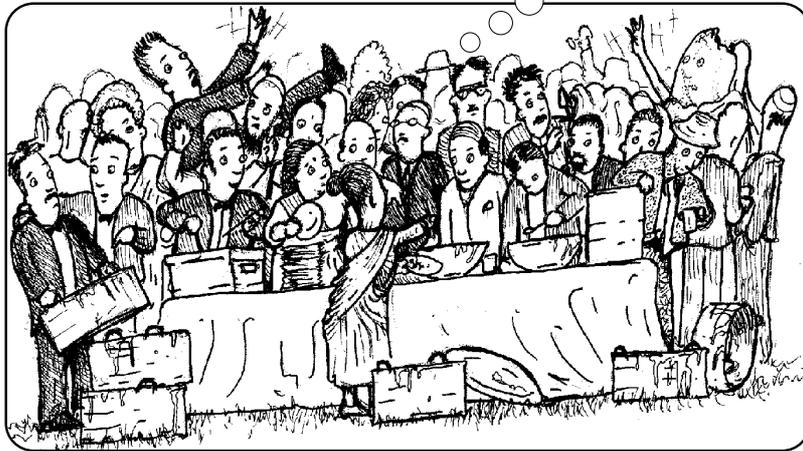
A sense of belonging is very important for most people, with good relationships with family and friends as well as people in the neighbourhood being top of the list for the majority of people. Places of Worship and the people who go to them were also very important. Of least importance, but still quite high, was association with work colleagues and organizations.

SENSE OF BELONGING WITH	% POPULATION
Family	90,1
Friends	83,7
People in Neighbourhood	74,0
Place of Worship	67,6
Cultural Community	49,2
Work colleagues	45,2
Organisations/groups	42,4

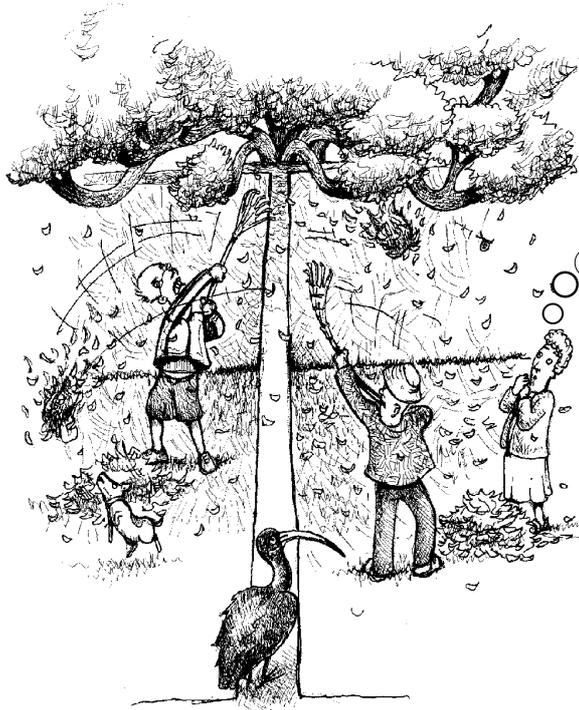
"We are one big family with all that that entails. Sometimes that can be a problem but mostly it's good. We help each other, we borrow from each other and we take care of each other's children. Our community is very close knit. It's how we survive." Wentworth resident



"Our community likes to pull together. We unite in our religious practices and attend each others family ceremonies. You can't have a small wedding in my community. You must feed everybody!"  
Chatsworth resident.



"Your business is my business. We know everything about each other. It has its good side and bad side. We become victims of gossip, even if we keep quiet."  
Umlazi resident



"I have lived next to the same people for twenty years and I don't even know their names. In my suburb we don't get involved with our neighbours - unless it's to complain about their dogs or their messy trees or the noise they make when they have parties..."  
Escombe resident

## TAKING IT EASY

As far as leisure activities are concerned people listed the following activities as their favorite spare time activities in order of importance:

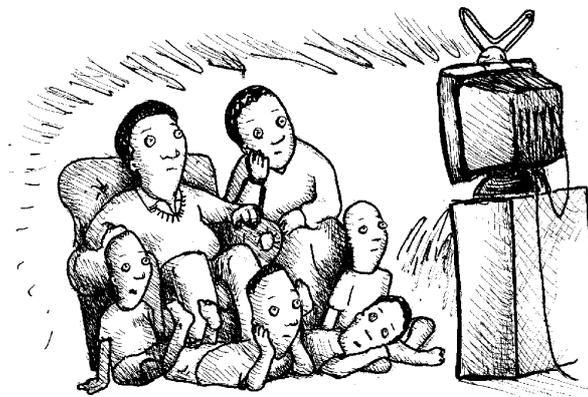
- 1) Home hobbies
- 2) Home entertainment
- 3) Reading
- 4) Religious activities
- 5) Staying at home

Why do people prefer to spend so much time at home?

Whilst one could say that most residents are satisfied with their homes and enjoy doing things at home there are other aspects to be taken into consideration. There are poor people who do not have much spare time and who are dependent on public transport and so would not be able to enjoy much in the way of entertainment outside their homes. There are also those who have said that they are afraid to leave their homes at night because of the high rate of crime.

When residents have gone out to visit public amenities they have mostly been very satisfied with them as seen in the table below.

How satisfied are you with	% Satisfied
Art Gallery	77.6
Beach	83.0
Library	86.9
Museum	72.3
Park	71.7
Sports Ground	70.0
Swimming Pool	66.2





## **DURBAN IS A GREAT PLACE TO ENJOY LIFE!**

“In spite of our problems, Durban can be an ideal place to live! We have beautiful weather! Durban is warm for most of the year with very mild winters. There are lots of places to enjoy recreational activities like swimming and hiking. The beaches are generally well-kept and clean and easy to access. On public holidays huge crowds throng to the beaches and the people enjoy themselves.” Glenwood resident



## **MUSIC IS POPULAR!**

Durban has a thriving art community in all the fields and disciplines of art. Music is especially popular, with gospel and amaskanda bands enjoying general appreciation from the majority of the population. Live music of all kinds from traditional to contemporary to philharmonic music are played and enjoyed in Durban, Our city is one of the few to have their own Symphony Orchestra.



## **ART & CRAFTS ARE A GOOD WAY TO EARN A LIVING!**

Visual arts and crafts have become a popular way for talented people to make a living. The Zulu crafts which include exquisite beading, basket weaving, wire weaving and carving are attractive to locals as well as to visitors to our city. The Durban Art gallery, which is central and free of charge hosts exciting exhibitions and encourages new talent



## **DANCE FROM ALL CULTURAL TRADITIONS**

Apart from the many contemporary dance companies who train youngsters as well as creating new works on a regular basis, Durban has many informal dance groups that practice ngoma or traditional dancing and enter competitions. The standard is extremely high and the competition is fierce. There is great pride in the cultural traditions of the many people of Durban and all the cultural groups express themselves through the expressive arts.



## **THEATRE**

With the Playhouse Company conveniently situated in the centre of Durban, theatre productions of all kinds are available to the public. Plays are commissioned to deal with issues that are important to the people and some of them are sponsored by the municipality. There are also educational theatre companies that tour the schools bringing live theatre to the learners.

“There is a great love of the arts here and many talented artists. The infrastructures required to support artists is growing and many peoples lives are changing as they realize that they can make a living out of their God given talents...” Arts Administrator Bat Centre

## THE DOWN SIDE

If we look at the five top serious day-to-day problems we find the following:

- 1) Poverty
- 2) Crime
- 3) Traffic congestion
- 4) Disease
- 5) Inadequate Housing

Crime will be discussed here only because poverty, traffic congestion, health and housing are discussed in elsewhere in this book.

Crime, domestic violence, substance abuse, alcoholism, prostitution and child abuse are serious problems in eThekweni

### CRIME AND THE eTHEKWINI RESIDENT

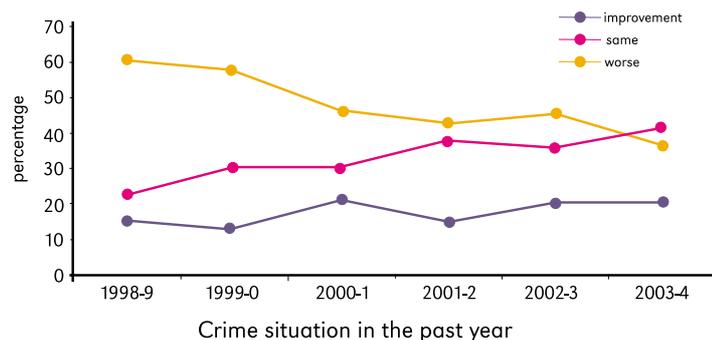
Crime in Durban is a major concern. When the crime rate is high residents become fearful and are unable to enjoy their lives. People would love to be able to walk freely in their city knowing that they and their possessions are safe. However crime in Durban is a big problem, impacting negatively on the quality of life of its residents.

When looking at this chart we can see that fewer people each year consider the crime rate to have got worse.

of people thought that crime was worse than the year before and in 2004 37% of people thought that crime was worse than before.

percentage of people who thought that crime was the same as before increased from 23% in 1998 to 43% in 2004.

Those who think that the crime situation has improved remain at about 20%.



*"We have to lock ourselves in prison. High walls, security gates, razor wire fencing, spikes, alarm systems and armed security guards are part and parcel of how we live these days. We worry about our houses, our cars and our possessions all the time."*  
Glenashly resident

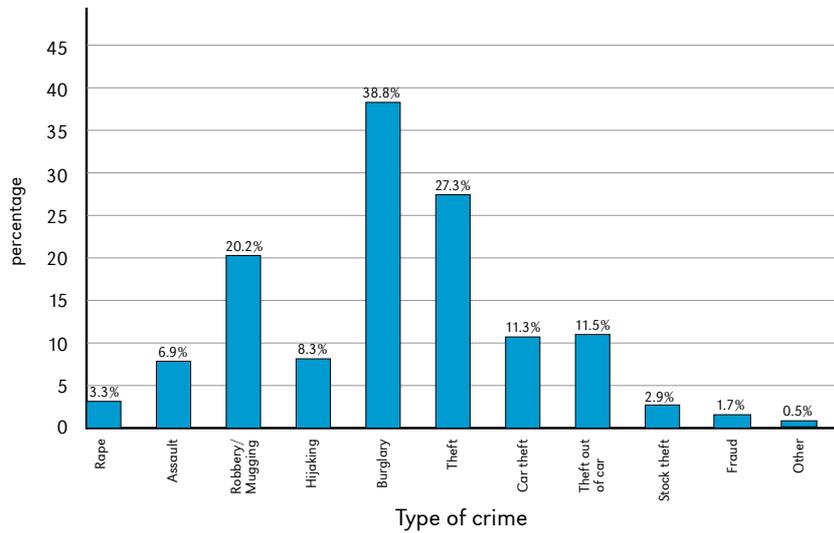


*"I think the crime rate is one of the biggest stumbling blocks to racial harmony in Durban. It perpetuates the prejudices and makes us fearful of those who do not belong to our own race group."* Manor Gardens resident



*"It is true that Durban has a very high crime rate. But we can't stop living a full and interesting life just because of that. People need to be careful and keep their eyes open. They should not take any unnecessary risks. But they should also feel free to enjoy themselves in our beautiful city..."*  
Hillary resident

Victims of crime experience impaired quality of life. It is very traumatic for the victim and the family members. To understand the situation better we can look at what kinds of crimes are being committed and who is being targeted.



Victims of crime in eThekweni

The 3 crimes most often committed are theft, burglary, and robbery/mugging.

Race	Theft	Burglary	Robbery/Mugging
Black	32.1%	43.4 %	11.8%
White	13.4%	28.8%	23.8%
Asian	23.4%	31.2%	34.7%
Coloured	12.3%	41.8%	53.3 %

### SAFE, MY MATE?

A sense of safety in the suburbs is also related to quality of life. Naturally residents are more relaxed if they do not have to worry about crime. When residents were asked about their sense of safety, most of the people said that they felt safe walking in their area during the day and most felt safe once they were in their homes. However, they did not feel safe at night.

### DO YOU FEEL SAFE?

- 70.6 % feel safe during the day
- 67.3 % feel safe at home
- 65.9 % do not feel safe at night

### HAVE YOU BEEN A VICTIM OF CRIME?

The crime victimization rate is dropping. 25% of residents reported that they had been victims of crime in 2004 and this was down from 35% in 2003 and 34% in 2002.



When we look at the victims of crime for each race group between 2003 and 2004 we see that for most groups there are fewer victims. The white, black and Asian groups all reported less victims of crime than in 2003. However, there were more victims in the coloured community.

There is a direct connection between these findings and the quality of life enjoyed by the various racial groups.

### **Link between unemployment and crime**

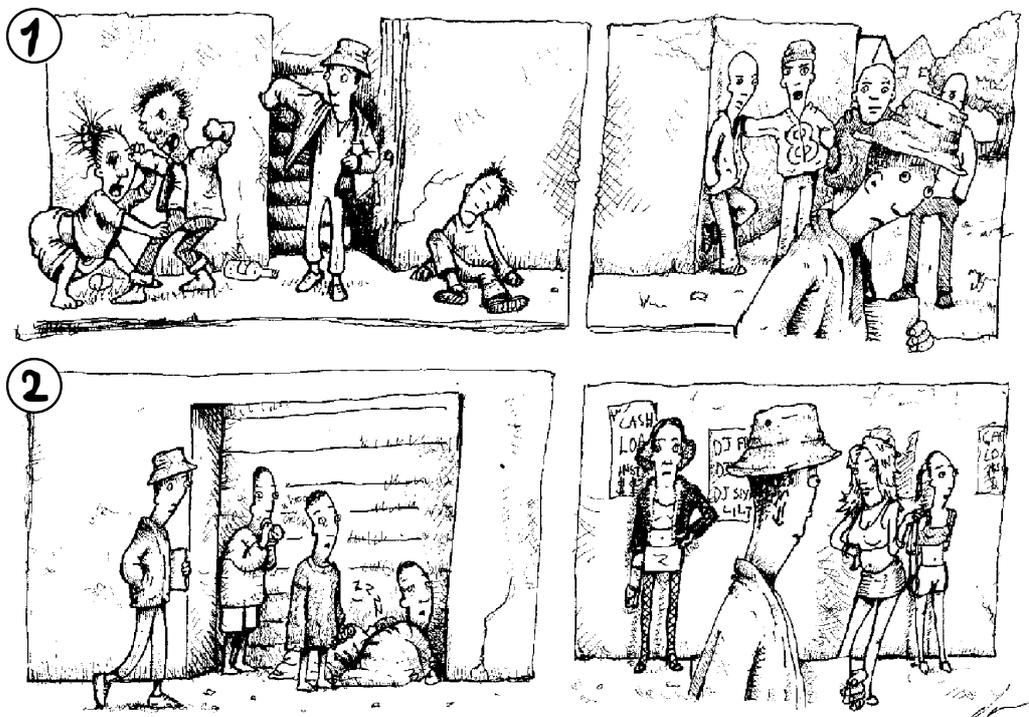
Most people believe that there is a link between unemployment and the crime rate. Some people who lack a formal education and so are unable to get skilled employment turn to crime as an easy way of making a soft living.

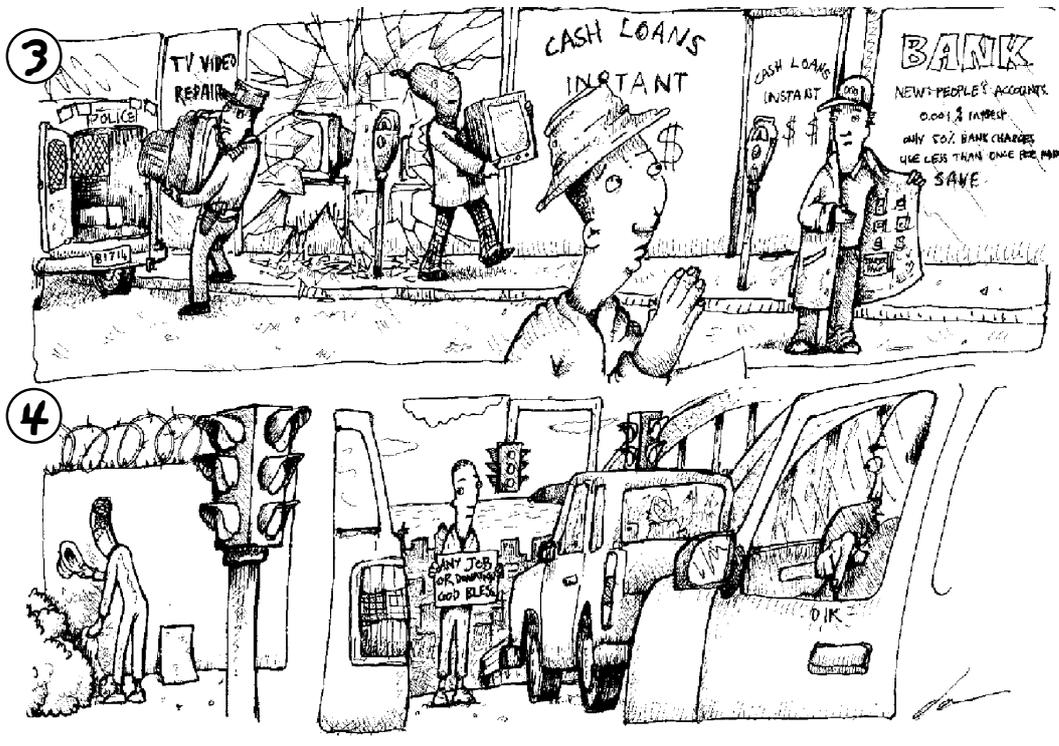
### **Link between unemployment and domestic violence**

There is also a link between unemployment and poverty and the occurrence of domestic violence. Unemployed people who are frustrated or ashamed are more likely to take their frustrations out on their families, especially their wives or girlfriends.

### **Link between unemployment and alcoholism**

Alcoholism and drug abuse are also connected to unemployment, as well as being a common problem for those who cannot accept their circumstances and look for easy ways to forget their problems. Money that should be used for education and food is used for alcohol, drugs, gambling and prostitution. These issues have been identified as common problems in communities where people have lost their sense of pride in themselves and their environment.





### Street kids

Children who have been abandoned by their families or who have lost their parents through violence or disease gang together and live on the streets, begging and scratching for food and money. Most are addicted to sniffing glue and nicotine to help them deal with the hardships of their lives. This is a serious problem in our city as 'street kids' often resist assistance and rehabilitation.

### Prostitution

Many young women turn to prostitution as a means of earning a living; sadly, this is sometime encouraged or even initiated by family members. In certain communities older men prey on the desires that young girls have for clothes or cell phones and persuade them to exchanger sexual favours for material goods. This is also contributing to the spread of HIV AIDS.

These social ills are of deep concern.

For those who are living in the thick of it, their quality of life is seriously impaired.