

The marital status of South Africans, A spatial analysis

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Abstract

A decline in marriages has been observed over the years with a counter increase in those living together as married. The importance of marriage has been fading and more couples are rather living together as married and raising family together without getting married. The incidence of cohabitation is increasing steadily in South Africa and around the world. It has become more common and more socially acceptable in South Africa for couples to live together without being married especially in urban and mining areas. This study investigates the marital status of the South African community. The data from Census 2001 is compared with the data from Census 2011. The ages of the married community and the number of unmarried people living together is profiled by population group and other socio economic factors. Esri's ArcMap is used to map the results spatially.

Keywords: Cohabitation, Married, Spatial