



Chapter 3

- **Demographic profile of Youth in Johannesburg, the inner-city and Hillbrow**

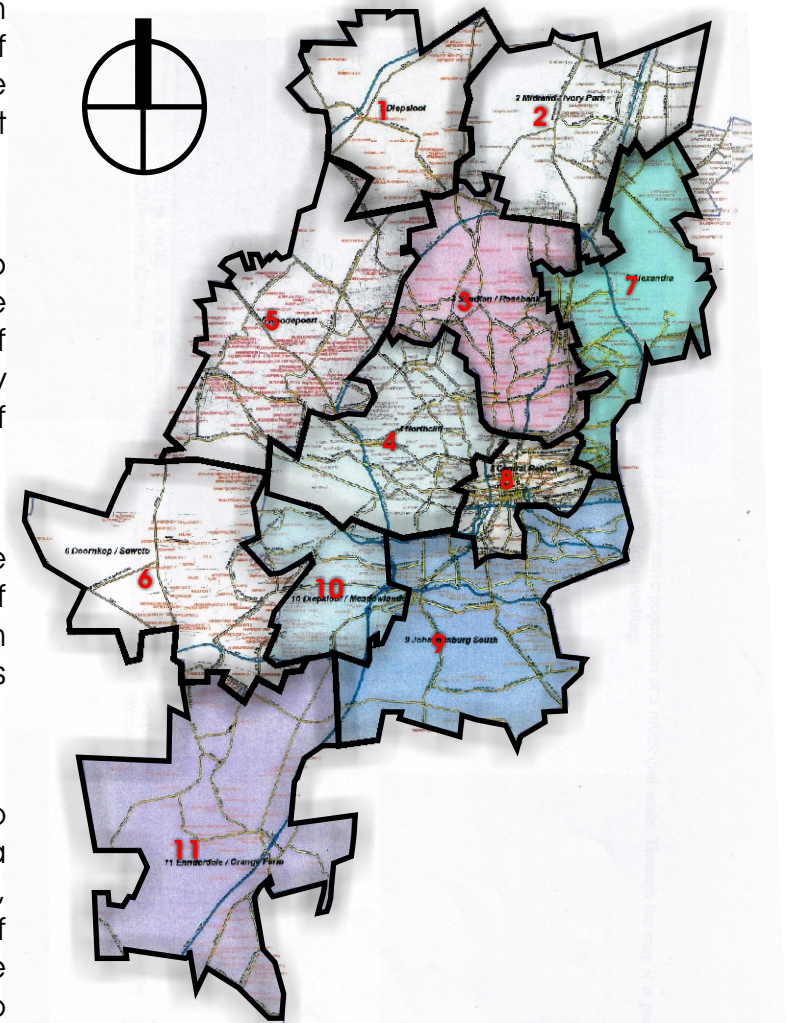
The Demographic Profile of the Youth of Johannesburg

According to Patel, a professor of social development studies (2004) in her report on 'Centre for Social Development', Youths aged 18-24 years make up 488 077 or 15.1% of the population of the City of Johannesburg which was 3.2 million in 2001. However, in the 15-25 year age cohort, this figure increases to 22%. Gauteng has the second largest youths' population in the country with 20%.


She further explains that the national population of youths in the 20- 24 year age group was 10% in 2001. From the above data, it can be inferred that Johannesburg is above the national figure, which confirms the need for an overall assessment of the situation of young adults in this cohort. The population of the City of Johannesburg has grown by 28% from 1996 to 36% in 2001 among the 15-34 year age group, which is reflective of the rural/urban migration pattern in the country as a whole.

The majority of these youths aged 18-24 years are Africans making up 79% of the population in the city; Coloureds (6.4%), Indians (3.9%) and Whites make up 10.3% of this age group. These figures are fairly reflective of the national racial profile of youths in this age group. There are slightly more men (51.2%) than women (48.8%) among this age groups in the City of Johannesburg (Patel, 2004).

Report from Statistics South Africa (2001), stated that as at 2001, with regard to educational attainment nationally, the largest proportion of these youths had a secondary education - in fact 97% of this age group is functionally literate. Overall, youths (aged 15 to 35 years) are more likely to be unemployed and they make up 70% of the unemployed if a broad definition is used which refers to 'discouraged' or passive unemployment. If the strict definition is used which refers to active work seekers, then two thirds of the unemployed are under 36 years of age and unemployment falls steadily as age rises (Statistics SA, 2001).



As of 2006 the regions were changed from [1-11] to [A-I]. For this thesis, the former is used because it has more detailed statistics



With an overall national unemployment rate of about 40% and youths unemployment estimated to be between 66% and 70% nationally, this remains as an under-utilised resource and social investment strategies for out of school youths is a critical national human development priority (Patel, 2004). In Gauteng, 35.2% of youths were unemployed and more women were unemployed than men in 2001. The national and regional situation mirrors largely the educational attainment of youth in the city with unemployment levels for the city as a whole increasing from 29.2% in 1996 to 37.5% in 2001. Unemployment is directly related to income poverty, and an overall decline in the human development status of the population (Statistics SA, 2001).

Age distribution of 15-24 year old youth by regions in the City of Johannesburg

Region Distribution by

Age of youth 15-24 years

Region 1: Diepsloot 13 632 (2.7%)

Region 2: Midrand/Ivory Park 32 741 (6.7%)

Region 3: Sandton/Rosebank 17 969 (3.7%)

Region 4: Northcliff 31 093 (6.4%)

Region 5: Roodepoort/Soweto 23 638 (4.9%)

Region 6: Doornkop/Soweto 102 937 (21.1%)

Region 7: Alexandra 37 320 (7.6%)

Region 8: Central 60 742 (12.5%)

Region 9: Johannesburg South 23 074 (4.7%)

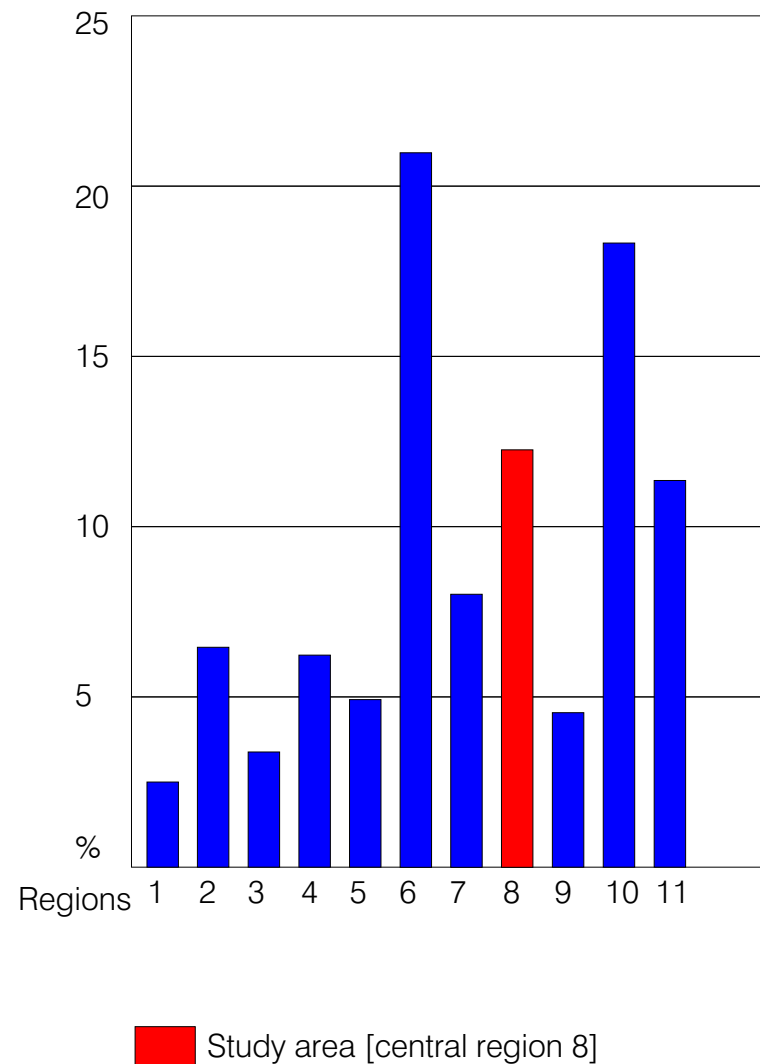
Region 10: Diepkloof/Meadowlands 89 991 (18.4%)

Region 11: Ennerdale/Orange Farm 54 936 (11.3%)

TOTAL 488 077 (100%)

(Adapted from Statistics SA, 2001)

The City of Johannesburg comprises of 11 regions as of 2006. The demographic patterns, social and economic indicators vary between the regions. Some of the regions are skewed towards a more youthful population, whilst others have a higher proportion of adults. Almost two thirds of young adults (62.5%) aged 15-24 years reside in four regions in the city. Doornkop/Soweto (Region 6) has the highest concentration of youths in the city amounting to 21.1%, followed by Diepkloof/Meadowlands (Region 10), which makes up 18.4% of youths, Johannesburg



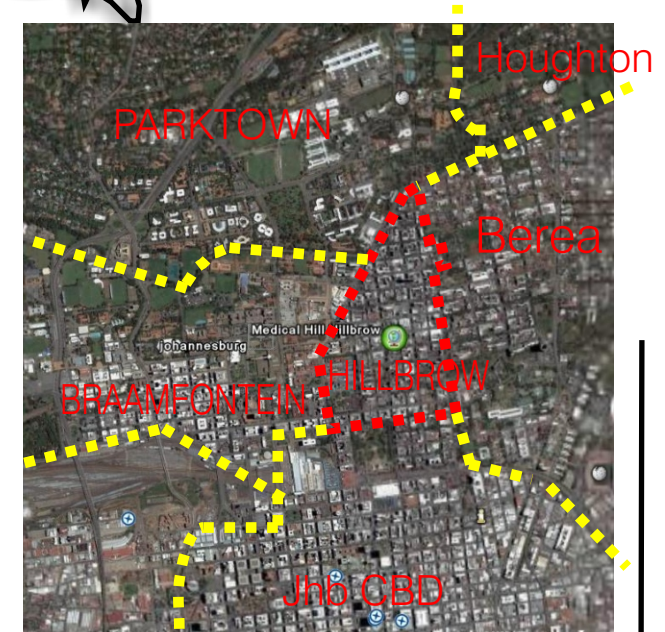
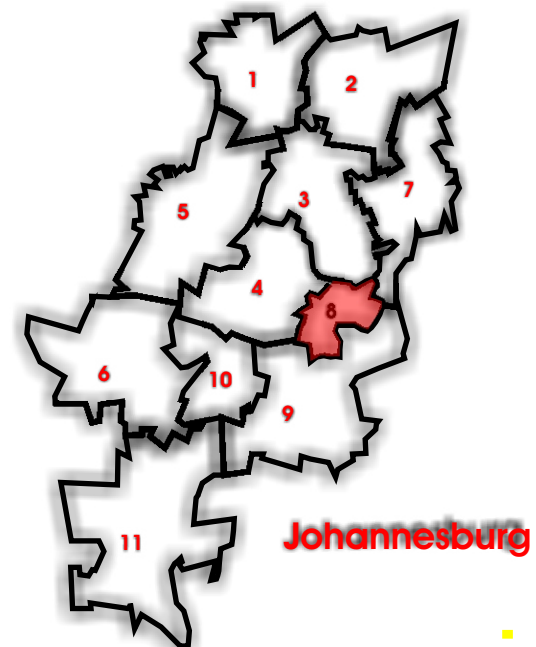
The inner city

The inner city, situated at the heart of Johannesburg, is considered to be the economic heart of Southern Africa, with a population estimated to grow from the current 211,000 to 251,000 in the year 2010. It is the golden city where people flock to for opportunities and wealth (City of Johannesburg, 2001). Johannesburg is currently a city in transition blemished by the impression apartheid left on its urban fabric and people. It is a city provided with extraordinary opportunity of re-creating itself in the wake of South Africa's transition from an apartheid system to a liberal democracy in 1994. This re-invention includes the reformation of its policies and planning practices as well as the reformation of its social institutions.

According to the Inner City Position Paper (2001), the visions for Johannesburg are as follow;

- The golden heart beat of Africa
- A dynamic city that works
- Liveable, safe, well maintained and welcoming
- People centred, accessible and celebration cultural diversity
- A vibrant 24 hour city
- A city for residents, workers, tourists, entrepreneurs and learners
- Focused on the 21st century
- Respecting its heritage and capitalizing on its position in South Africa, Africa and the world
- A truly global city
- The trading hub of Africa, thriving through participation, partners and the spirit of UBUNTU (the ability to treat people in a human way - like family)

These visions will be unattainable if the youths continue to be wasted and not gainfully and/constructively employed, especially with the huge populations indicated already in the study. In support of the above, Beall (2002) clarified that cities such as Johannesburg are not only sites of economic development, vibrant centres of social and cultural creativity or sites of political innovations. Beall,(2002), explains they are also places of disadvantage and division and can be divided along a range of axes, including class, race, gender, ethnicity and generation. Migrants into cities are largely young people and their immigration contributes to the high rate of natural increase in numbers within urban centres. It also constitutes a high rate of unemployment to youthful populations (Beall 2002).



Courtesy Google Earth

The social dysfunctionality in the inner city residential areas is due to the loss of control over increasingly crowded buildings. Factors that contribute to the current state of Hillbrow, Fraser (2004), explains, are said to be the increase in crime and decline of the urban fabric as well as an increasing emotional detachment from context. This deprivation of the urban fabric is amplified by the absence of police presence and greed of some landlords that saw the opportunity to maximize profit without delivering service and safety standards (Fraser 2004).

Therefore, the rejuvenation of the inner city can only be sustained when it is applied to all levels. The upgrading of the urban environment should go hand in hand with the uplifting of those using these environments.

To create the healthy urban street culture envisioned for the future of Johannesburg, unemployment must be confronted at the grass-root level, which is perceived as the most effective point of intervention. This puts the children and the youth of the inner city as the main target of this interception.

The inner city youth

Young people are generally experiencing grave difficulties in making the transition from adolescence to adult hood, from school to work. Following Patel's (2004) arguments, unoccupied youth, (those that are not schooling and are unemployed), lead unstructured lives tend to become involved with high risk behaviours such as alcohol, drugs, and sex. These high risk behaviours have significant influence on their future. This scenario may sound simplistic, but many of the risk factors pertaining to the social and economic situation of the city of Johannesburg's youths predispose them to high risk behaviours (ibid)

According to statistic SA (2001), Life in a dilapidating urban environment such as in Hillbrow with overcrowded flats and unsafe streets provides very little opportunity for growth. Abuse at home leads to youth taking to the streets where drugs, prostitution and gangs await them. When abused, they have nowhere to turn, turning to the police is not an option, and running away leads to worse living conditions (Legget, 2003). A need exists for facilities that will provide a safe, vibrant environment for the youth to socialize, exercise, learn, study and play in the inner city.



Picture of the Hillbrow tower through barbed wires



Picture showing youth in Hillbrow

Source: Author's own

Demographic figures for Hillbrow

Factor	Hillbrow
Population	49,608
Gender	M F
	27,002 22,606
Age [15 - 34]	33,374 [67%]
Area	0.76sqkm

Statistic South Africa [census 2001]

The official demographic figures for Hillbrow as derived from the 2001 South African census, indicate a population of just under 50,000

However, from obvious observations, it is clear that the demographics are a serious undercount. This undercount is as a result of a number of factors, which include

- A large non South African population in the study area
- A large number of people living in flat units [often 10 or more people in flat units who did not wish to be counted]
- Homeless people



Picture showing some of the flats Hillbrow

Source: Author's own

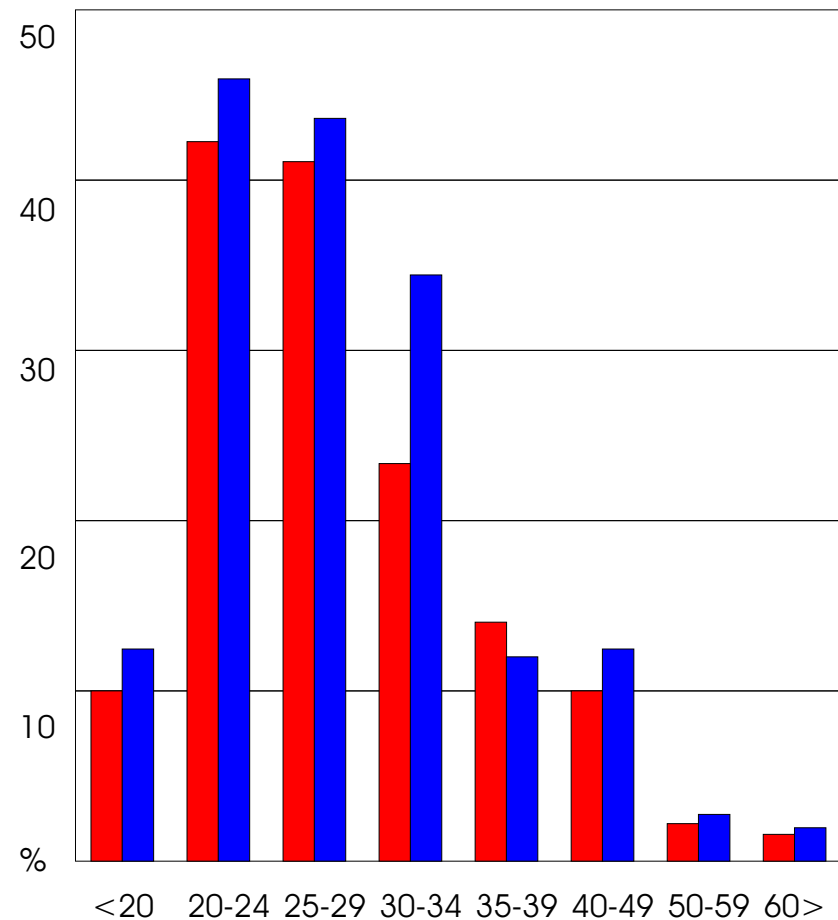
Age profile of people in Hillbrow

Age	Hillbrow
1 - 7	5 243
8 - 14	1 784
15 - 21	7 214
22 - 34	26 160
35 - 44	5 998
59 - 64	398
65 - 80	362
81+	63

Statistic South Africa [census 2001]

The age profile of the population of Hillbrow in the 2001 census indicates the majority of the population being between the ages of 15 and 34 years of age.

Female
Male



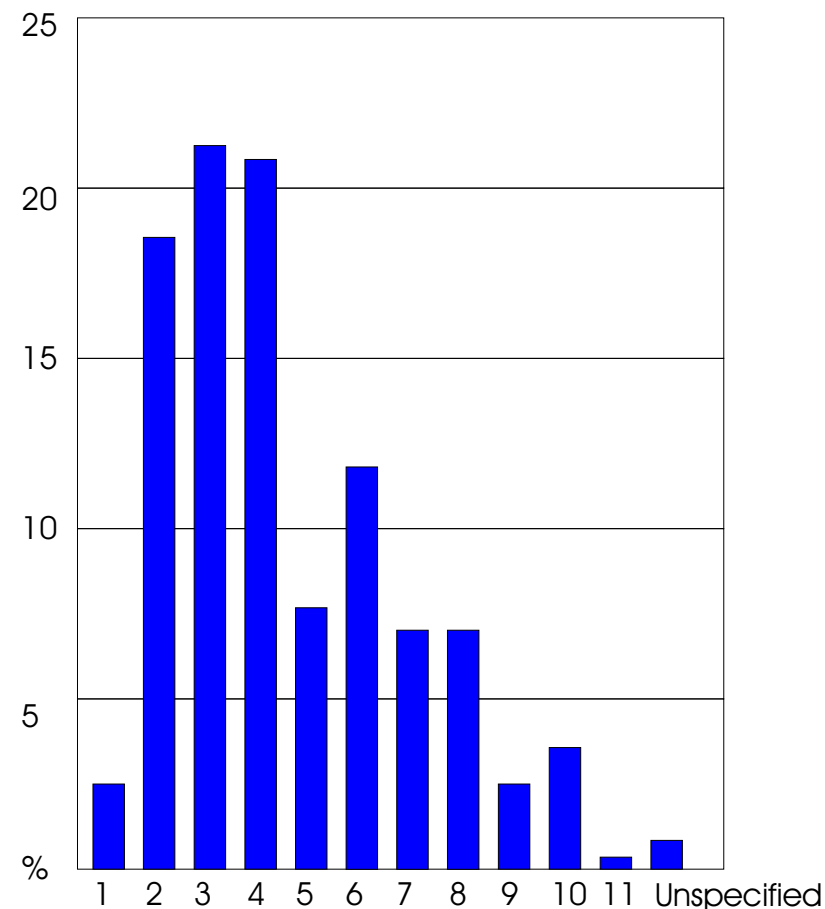
Setplan Dlodla Dev. Household Survey 2004

People in flats in Hillbrow

People in flat	Total [%]
1	2.3
2	18.7
3	21.3
4	21.0
5	6.7
6	11.3
7	6.0
8	6.0
9	2.3
10	3.3
11	0.3
Unspecified	0.7
Total [%]	100.0

Statistic South Africa [census 2001]

According to the Hillbrow Economic Regeneration Strategy (2004), a fifth of Hillbrow residents live with three people per flat, another fifth with four people per flat and almost a fifth of those interviewed live with two people per flat. As many as 11% share single flats with five other people. Another 6% of those living share a flat with six people. Almost 6% of those living in Hillbrow share flats with eight, nine or ten other people.



Setplan Dladla Dev. Household Survey 2004