

Chapter 3

ANALYSIS OF DEMOGRAPHICS OF CLIENTS WHO VISITED THE FACILITIES SAMPLED

3.1 Introduction

The age distribution of clients attending the facilities was determined from the records reviewed. The records were analyzed for age group and gender distribution. An age frequency distribution histogram was developed to determine comparative utilization of the health care facilities by the different age groupings.

3.2 Results

The results of age distribution of the clients are shown in table 2 below

**Table 2. The Age Distribution of Clients Attending a Health Facility
Between March and June 2003**

Age Group In Years	Males %	Females %	Total %
0 to 18	20	15	35
Mean Age $\pm$ SD	5.60 $\pm$ 5.85	4.64 $\pm$ 5.03	5.19 $\pm$ 5.45
19 to 35	14	18	32
Mean Age $\pm$ SD	26.33 $\pm$ 4.42	25.95 $\pm$ 5.40	26.09 $\pm$ 4.98
36 to 55	9	15	24
Mean Age $\pm$ SD	47.70 $\pm$ 4.98	45.46 $\pm$ 5.63	46.43 $\pm$ 5.64
56 to 75	1	7	8
Mean Age $\pm$ SD	59.66 $\pm$ 2.79	60.85 $\pm$ 4.98	61.18 $\pm$ 4.67
75 and Over	0	1	1
Mean Age $\pm$ SD	-	75 $\pm$ 3.21	75 $\pm$ 3.21

A closer look at table 2 shows that the majority of clients who visited the facilities during the reviewed period consisted of children under the age of 18 years (35%), mean age 5.19 $\pm$ 5.45. Of these, more males

(20%) were seen as compared to females (15%). In this age group a larger percentage of clients comprises the male population.

The second largest group of clients was between the ages 19 to 35 years (32%), mean age, 26.09 ± 4.98 . An interesting observation of this group is that, contrary to the first group, there were more females seen (18%) than males (14%).

The third largest group was from 36 to 55 years of age (24%), mean age, 46.43 ± 5.64 . Of this group, more females (15%) were seen than males (9%).

The age group 56 to 75 years, mean age, 61.18 ± 4.67 , accounted for 8% of the total population with more females (7%) than males (1%) being seen in this age group.

The age group 75 years and above, mean age, 75 ± 3.21 , accounted for only 1% of the sample made up of females only with no males being seen in this age group.

The age distribution results are shown graphically on figure 5 below.

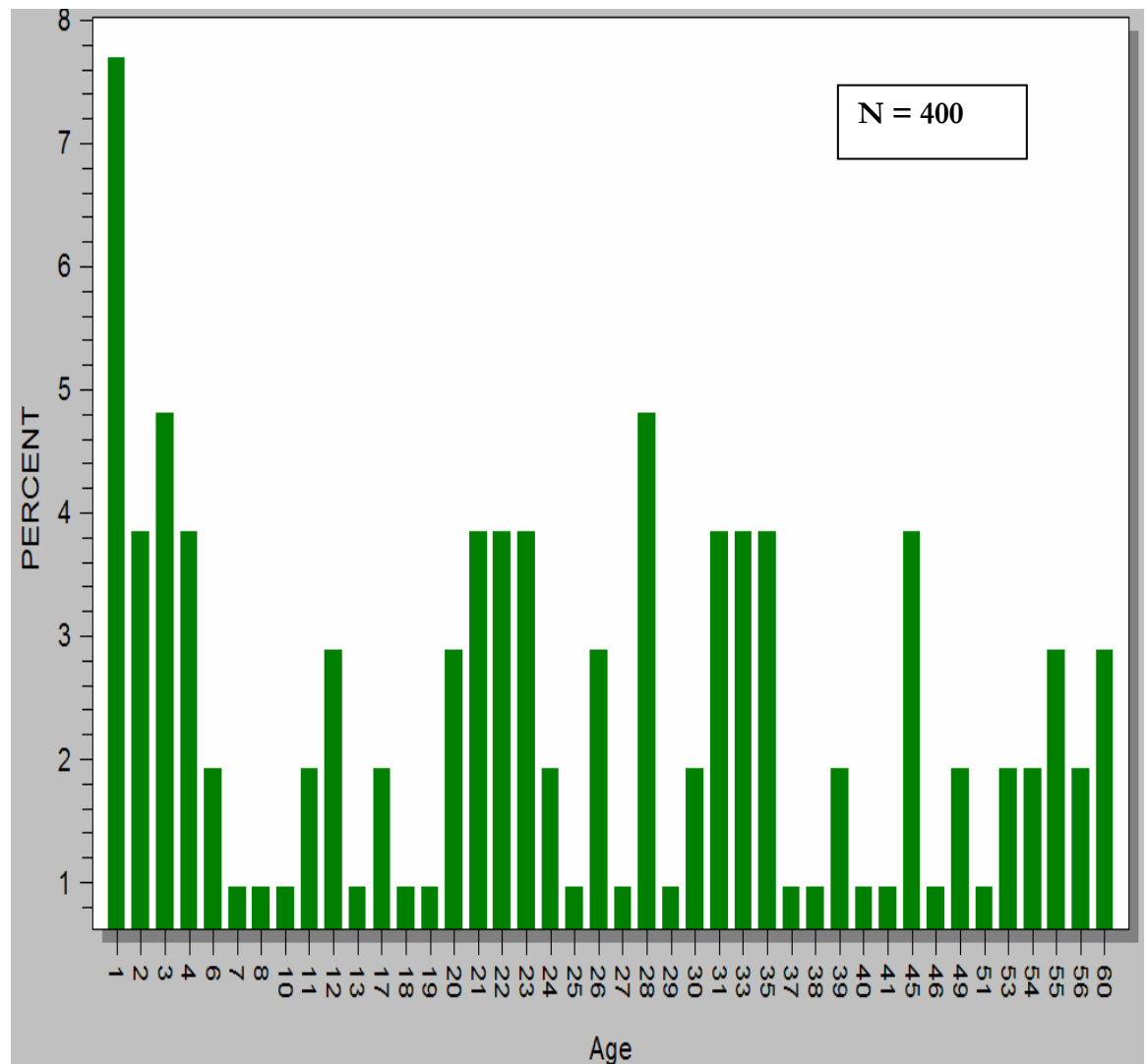


Figure 5. Age Distribution of Clients Visiting the Informal Settlements Health Care Facilities

While the grouped age presents a fair picture of the demographics of the informal health care facilities attendees, the age breakdown frequency presents a clearer picture as can be seen from figure 5. There is clustering of attendees between the ages 1 to 6 years, some

spikes at ages 11 and 12, another cluster occurs at 20 to 24, a spike at 28, clustering between 30 and 35, spike at 45 and finally some clustering between 53 and 60.

3.3 Discussion and Conclusions

The 1 to 6 years clustering could be an indication that infants are more susceptible to illnesses than the rest of the population. The apparent non attendance of health care facilities by children between 7 and 18 could indicate a period when children have acquired some immunity to most childhood illnesses. The intervening spikes in the age group 11 to 18 could be an indication of teenage problems such as skin related conditions or an odd cough.

The 20 to 24 clustering could be due to a number of conditions associated with young adulthood such as trauma, infections – particularly sexual transmitted infections and usually persistence of teenage related problems such as acne and other skin conditions.

Patients aged 30 years and over would be visiting health care facilities due to a preponderance of chronic conditions such as hypertension

and diabetes in this category of patients. It is also anticipated that these patients may also present acute infectious conditions such as STIs.

Young people (0 to 35 years) account for about 66% of the visits to health care facilities in the areas studied. The demographic results show a consistently decrease in the proportion of clients with increasing age.