

A Socio-Economic Survey of the Sutherland Population 2024-2025

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Principal Researcher: Ilse Eigelaar-Meets (PhD)

Assigned Author: Cornie Groenewald (DPhil)

Enquiries: Dr Ilse Eigelaar-Meets (iem@sun.ac.za)



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CHAPTER 1: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 About Sutherland

Sutherland is a small South African Karoo town with a current estimated population of approximately 2 767 residents and 728 households, situated far away from the main centres of South Africa. Founded in 1855 as a centre of worship for the local farming community, it took forty-four years to build and inaugurate the impressive Gothic Revival style Dutch Reformed Church in the centre of town, still a towering giant amidst the modest town and in use to this very day.

Administratively, Sutherland is part of the Hoogland Local Municipality, and the Namaqua District of Northern Cape Province. Some fifty years ago the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) with its head office in Cape Town (350 km away) established an observatory a few kilometers from Sutherland known for its clear skies, dark nights, and cold weather. SAAO added SALT (the Southern African Large Telescope, the largest in the southern hemisphere) in 2000 to 2005, to establish a scientific research base for astrophysics under the auspices of the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa. The Sutherland observatory has become an attraction for leading international players in this field as well as for ordinary and science tourists worldwide.

In 2012, after a nine-year bidding process, South Africa, together with its eight African Partner Countries, and Australia were named as co-hosts for the SKA (or Square Kilometer Array), one of the most ambitious international scientific projects of our time. The Karoo at large became the preferred site for the SKA, more specifically a portion of land near Carnarvon, where construction of radio telescopes started and is continuing. The Astronomy Geographic Advantage (AGA) Act of 2007, and the regulations that are associated with the Act, have implications for people living within an astronomy advantage area (AAA), which is declared in terms of the Act. The Northern Cape (excluding Sol Plaatje Municipality) has been declared an AAA. Core areas have been demarcated, where strict regulations are in place regarding electromagnetic interference. Currently, Sutherland's district seems not to be affected directly by SKA restrictions as the district falls outside the SKA impact boundaries (SARAO, Undated). However, generally Sutherland being the host town of the SAAO and the related telescopic installations, are affected by the philosophy and relevant regulations of the AGA Act (2007), mostly pertaining to the prevention of air pollution.

Of late, in line with the global trend towards clean energy, the Karoo became an ideal location for solar and wind farm installations for generating clean and renewable energy. Sutherland gained in this respect by the wind-farms erected and operating in the surrounding vicinity.

From a socio-economic and demographic point of view Sutherland's resident population increased because of new in-migrants from elsewhere that settled in town, for two reasons, firstly, retirement because of the perception that Sutherland offers a healthy and peaceful existence for retirees, and secondly, economic opportunity in commerce and tourism. The second consideration motivated new incomers including foreigners, to join the community of residents in Sutherland, causing trace elements of xenophobia on the part of established residents. An important consideration, however, relates to the requirement that environmental and especially air quality of the district be clean and

non-spoiled by industrial pollution. This restrictive condition causes a damper on industrial and associated pollution generated development. What has become the magnet of Sutherland to attract people, economic activity, and the need for infrastructural development, functions as a discouragement, if not a prohibition, to carbon dioxide producing industry and technology. More people also bring more diversity, in about all spheres of life: economically, culturally, socially, politically, and more.

Having repeated a socio-economic sample survey of Sutherland, the first in 2017, and now the second in 2024, changes in the population were to be expected, particularly when keeping in mind that two significant events/processes during the past seven years must have left an imprint on the people of Sutherland. The first is the occurrence of COVID-19 with its most acute impact during 2019 to 2022, and the second is the construction of wind-farms to produce clean (also known as renewable) energy. While the first event impacted health, social life, and the economy negatively, it is expected that the second event/process will have a positive and enduring economic impact, by creating jobs, and indirect benefits for the local economy (including expansion of the hospitality, tourism and commercial sectors). Unintended consequences such as unwanted negative, pathological social behaviour (criminality, violence, abuse of drugs and alcohol, gender-based violence, sexual abuse, youth issues, etc.) became the new, but ugly, face of local community life.

Findings from this survey provide evidence that Sutherland has become tremendously challenged to remain the small-town destination in the highlands of the Karoo as a retreat for those that want to withdraw from the hustle and bustle of city life, or a weekend excursion to enjoy star gazing and good Karoo lamb.

1.2 Parameters

Demographic and associated data about Sutherland's population is based on a sample survey conducted early in 2024. The sample consists of 304 households and 1 160 individuals. The estimated current resident population is 2 767, and the number of households is 724. The sample was selected randomly per household address and represents 42% of the total estimated population and households. The multiplying factor to estimate sample statistics to the full population is 2,3814. For example, to arrive at the estimated current population of the town the sample of individuals taken (1 160) multiplied by this factor gives the number of 2 767. Standardised figures, such as percentages can be used as an estimate valid for the total population allowing for an accuracy correction of ± 5 percent.

1.3 Demographic characteristics and trends

1.3.1 Residential areas: Demographic data enables one to describe the pattern of settlement of the population in the various residential areas of Sutherland. The household distribution across the four residential sites at the time of the survey was as follows: 47,3% in Skema, 36,9% in Hopland, 5,4% in Kerkgrond, and 10,4% in Dorp/Town.

1.3.2 Formal vs Backyard houses: Approximately 85% of the households occupy formal houses while 15% stay in so-called backyard structures, representing a slight increase in backyard dwellers. Hopland is the area with the strongest relative increase in both formal and backyard dwellings since 2017.

1.3.3 Population group: The composition of the population according to population groups shows that Coloured people are the absolute majority (95%) within the population. Since 2017, Whites decreased slightly while small quantities of Blacks, Indians, and Other were added.

All residential areas are dominated by Coloureds (95% to 99%), except for Dorp/Town where they represent about 25% of the residents and Whites the majority with 65%. Minute, insignificant quantities of Blacks and 'Other' also are staying in Dorp/Town.

1.3.4 Gender: The gender composition of the total population shows that women are in the majority (54,2%), which is also true for Coloureds, while men are in the majority among Whites. Blacks and Other have a minority of men in their respective populations.

1.3.5 Age: Comparing the age distribution profile of Sutherland's population of 2017 and 2024 it is clear that the town has lost population numbers in the early teens, early forties, and late sixties and beyond, and gained population in the early childhood period up to 10 years, in the early twenties, and the mid-forties to mid-sixties.

1.3.6 Age and sex: The pattern of changes in the age structure as indicated for the total population differs between men and women. Overall, the ratio of males to females has become smaller over the period.

Males experienced an initial decrease in the proportion of cohort 0-4 years and gained in the cohort 5-9. Thereafter for three consecutive 5-year cohorts (10-24) the proportion of males dropped relative to 2017. Males gained again in the late twenties and early thirties, thereafter, dropped again during late thirties and early forties. Since the mid-forties up to late sixties, the male proportions in 2024 were larger than the comparative 2017 figures.

Female proportions grew in the under-10 cohorts but dropped in their teenage years. Gains were observed for female residents in their twenties. In the early 30s their proportions increased, then dropped in the late 30s, to be repeated in a similar pattern of growth (early 40s) and decrease (late 40s). Thereafter, females gained in their share relative to 2017 in the cohorts of 50-64, stagnated then, and grew from 74+ years.

1.3.7 Age indicators: Age indicators show that the population structure reflects an older structure in 2024 in comparison to 2017. The Mean changed from 31 to 32,2 years; the Median from 28,5 to 29; and the Mode from 12 to 8 years. Inter-quartile ranges increased accordingly: Quartile 0-25: 13,3 to 14 years; Quartile 26-50: 15,2 to 15 years; Quartile 51-75: 20,1 to 21 years, and Quartile 76-100: 37,4 to 39 years.

Dependency ratios decreased from 70,2% (2017) to 65,2% (2024), due to proportionately less 0-14-year-olds (29,2% to 26,6%) and more 60+ year-olds (12,1% to 12,9%) versus an increase of 15-59-year-olds (58,7% to 60,5%).

In terms of life phases, the distributions for the various cohorts remain stable but changes of note, and supportive of the above-mentioned trends, were observed: the proportions of Young Children (2,8%) and Adolescents (1,3%) decreased and the proportion of Young Adults (2,7%) increased. The downward trend for Young Children and Adolescents will impact the school-going population, both

the primary and secondary grades, but more so the primary grades. The increase in Young Adults will impact the economy as this group includes job seekers that are dependent upon securing employment opportunities.

1.3.8 Households: Respondents in the survey were taken as a proxy for the Heads of Household. Of the 304 respondents, 68,4% are women, suggesting that the majority of the households are female headed. This implies that male headed households are in the minority with 31,6%, less than a third. Only one household is headed by a child (16 years of age).

On average, the 2024 size of households is 3,8 members per household unit, which is slightly smaller than the size of four reported for 2017.

With respect to internal household relationships and structure, horizontal relationships (inclusive of the Head) account for 57,2% of all members. Vertical relationships, again with reference to the Head, refer to Children of the Head (and Spouse) (and Foster children, which could also account for a horizontal relationship). These two categories account for 30,6% of the members. Furthermore, in a downward vertical line, one recognizes Grandchildren (9,9%). Upwards, the Parents (3,4%) and the Grandparents (0,2%) of the Head account for a total of 3,7%.

Households in the survey represent between one and five generations of household members. Generation 1 accounts for the highest number among the households, with Generation 2 for the second highest number. Generations 3, 4 and 5 do manifest some numbers but in minority proportions.

The core of households refers to what is known as the nuclear family that consists of the head, spouse and their immediate children. Where other categories are also present together with the core family, these households are known as extended families. Extended families include horizontal as well as vertical relationships. All these configurations are found in Sutherland.

1.4 Migration patterns with reference to in-migration

1.4.1 Migratory pattern: More than 86% of the persons in the sample of Survey 2024 were born in Sutherland, which implies that about 14% were born and had stayed elsewhere and had become in-migrants to Sutherland. Depending on how one phrases the question that probed on where they originated from, in-migrants predominantly had their roots in province(s) other than Northern Cape (72% to 85%), towns from within Northern Cape (15% to 28%) and from farms in the Northern Cape (3,5 to 11,7%) – mostly farms within the district of Sutherland itself. If one pinpoints the question to a previous address (quite a number have changed residence within Sutherland itself) the pattern of migratory behaviour demonstrates that before 2000 in-migration was low and more or less annually the same, but since 2000 it increased substantially and in fact exponentially. This may be ascribed to the inauguration in 2005 of the SALT facility and the durable and significant impact thereof on demography and within the economy of Sutherland. The data is unequivocal insofar that the Western Cape Province (both metropolitan Cape Town and various towns in the province) is a major sending area for migrants.

1.4.2 Social relationships: In-migrants are proportionately more represented among the adult groups - young, middle and senior, with more females than males among them, and are

overwhelmingly Coloured, but they do have a stronger contingent of Whites among them (about 20%). In this group one finds relatively more couples (married and co-habituating) but less children in comparison to the born-in-Sutherland population. In-migrants have settled in all four residential areas, at lower rates but with higher proportions in Kerkgrond and Town. They settled in main houses (slightly less) as well as backyard (slightly more) dwellings and consequently, in formal as well as informal structures.

1.4.3 Profile: In-migrants display a larger percentage of Grade 12 qualifications (21,3% vs 12,7%) as well as having achieved a post-school qualification (10, 6% vs 0,4%), than born-in-Sutherland persons. More in-migrants have employment earning an income (52,4% vs 47,6%) and less of them have had the need to apply for a social grant by SASSA (38,7% vs 42,3%). The grants they applied for include Old Age, Child Support, and Disability Grants. The main disabilities (for both groups) relate to physical mobility, audibility, and eyesight.

1.4.4 Financial experiences and expectations: In their assessment of whether their financial situation is better than it was in the previous year, both groups expressed the opinion that, for the largest part, it remained the same. The in-migrants marginally more than the born-in-Sutherland, thought it to be better - 31% vs 26,9%; with respect to the future, they also are more positive about the prospect of an improvement in their financial situation – 56,70% vs 52,60%. The assessment about the past took the same pattern of opinion expressed, in this case a bell-shaped distribution of better-same-worse situations, while the pattern for the expectation about the future differs from this distribution as both groups expressed a higher optimism about the future for a better situation, second, a lower expectation that financials will remain the same, and even a more lower expectation for it to be worse, than the present.

1.5 Scholastic and educational achievement

1.5.1 Access to public education: Data collected revealed that 3,3% of all members of the sample studied, young and old, were not in possession of a birth certificate or an identification document. In view of the importance of having the aforementioned documentation in order to inter alia enter public services, schools, businesses, employment opportunities, and to secure financial and security benefits, special effort needs to be made to ensure all members of the population to have access to these crucial and strategically important documents.

1.5.2 Preschool care: Among the cohort 0-4 year (representing a total of 104 children within the sample) the survey revealed that nearly 60% were not attending any early childhood educational and development facility. More than 80% of this group stayed at home during the day, cared for by a parent or guardian, and, for another 12%, in the care of another adult. Nearly 7% of the children were not accounted for regarding their care arrangements during the day. This is a serious shortcoming, and it is urgent that social care providers be made aware of the need to cover these children under a security blanket as well as providing sufficient facilities for education, nutrition and social and emotional development during the strategically important preschool years of the children.

1.5.3 Attending an educational facility: For members of the sample population 5 years and above approximately one quarter (24,1%) attended an educational institution. About 95% of this group attended institutions for children's education, including a preschool facility, a Grade R facility, and

schools (catering for Grade 1 to 12). While no exact figures were established, it can be safely assumed that preschool children did not attend fully educational and development facilities (an estimate would be that only about half attended such facilities – 23 of 44) and that a concerted effort must be made towards full attendance by this group (ages 5 to 6 years; 43).

1.5.4 Interruption of school attendance: More than 17% of the learners experienced interruptions (3 months or longer) attending school. Half of the reasons were health related (remembering that COVID-19 was prominent since the previous survey of 2017). Learners also had personal motivation issues, as well as issues related to the school itself, and family-based issues. While not investigated deeper, the mere volume of the interruptions declared point to a significant obstacle in the scholastic performance and advancement of many children.

1.5.5 Scholastic performance: With regards to the school-going population (7 to 18 years; 237 of the sample) it is estimated that approximately 92% of the qualifying age group members (218) did attend school. Learners that started attending school at an age higher than the age considered to be the corresponding age for the grade – or to put it differently, **learners who are attending a grade Below their assumed On-Par grade-for-age** - demonstrated even higher disparities as they progressed through their school career: 'Below' proportions increased over the school career from 27,3% to approximately 90% at the end of their school career. Below-percentages for 11-year-olds jumped to 64,7% and for 13-year-olds to 92,3%. Their respective 'On-Par' percentages were merely 11,8% and 7,7%. These are "red lights" indicating crisis moments in the child's school career. The 'Below' group requires from the onset of their school career more focused intervention and support to meet their severe scholastic challenges.

1.6 First pregnancies: Teenage, Adolescent and Adult sexual and reproductive health

In view of the data on the interruption of school attendance (about 17%) it is of utmost importance that schools attend more closely to adolescent pregnancies with the cooperation of health and social welfare services as some of the reasons for these interruptions are clearly linked to health and social issues. The absence of pregnancies as a reason for school career interruption among young women should be applauded. However, the ages of first pregnancies must alert the health authorities and services that 40 percent of first pregnancies were in the age cohort 13 to 19 years, the adolescent life stage. This pattern of reproductive health behaviour remains highly risky as it affects the adolescent's own health and social wellbeing, her future career in life, as well as the next generation's reproductive behaviour who may be inclined to model their reproductive behaviour on their mother's. Investments in adolescent health and wellbeing bring a triple dividend of benefits now, into future adult life, and for the next generation of children.

The role of the school as a prominent socialisation agent in the life course of the young person should also be reimagined. The concept of the health promoting school reflecting the whole-school approach had been voiced internationally for schools to strengthen their capacity to be healthy settings for living, learning and working.

Additional effort must be made to open opportunities for education and training to benefit the adult population of Sutherland, especially with a view to benefit occupationally from the advantages of

having science-and-technology-based industry within Sutherland.

The Sutherland population is composed of a mix of members born in town and those that migrated to the town. The latter demonstrated higher educational levels than the local group. This should be seen as an opportunity to benefit the local population and encourage them to take advantage of the available options as well as the symbiosis created by this historical development in the town.

1.7 Household economics

1.7.1 Defining household economics: The economic aspects of households - staying, living and working in Sutherland - were approached from a household economics point of view. This approach emphasizes the private sphere within the context of public policies, structures and processes. It includes residential economics, which refers to aspects such as the physical structure of the household dwelling, basic amenities, household energy and basic functions, and communication.

1.7.2 Residential occupancy: An outstanding feature of the housing situation in Sutherland is that approximately 80% of the households own the house they occupy, due largely because of the government subsidized housing scheme (also known as the RDP programme). In the HOP area home ownership is more than 90%. A minority of households rent the house or live gratis in the house. Occupants that benefit from the RDP programme are required to pay rates and taxes, as well as services, water and electricity if supplied by the municipality.

1.7.3 Physical structure of dwellings: The majority of the houses, approximately 88%, are constructed as formal houses and built with materials such as bricks and mortar. The rest of the houses are informal structures, like backyards, shacks, “Wendy-houses” (small timber constructions devoid of most basic services) or other non-permanent units. There is an overlap between households owning the house and a house constructed in a formal way. This points to the dwelling unit as a secure asset within the household economics of Sutherland.

1.7.4 Basic amenities: Almost all residential plots are serviced with piped water and about 40% of the housing units are as well. HOP and Skema houses have lower percentages of piped water inside the house. There are still the few occasional examples of houses without any water provisioning, where residents need to fetch water manually from other sources.

The differential provisioning of piped water impacts the availability of flushed toilets on the plot and inside the house and necessitates the use of pit/French drain toilets, and the occasional use of “the veld”.

1.7.5 Household energy and basic functions: Approximately all households have access to Eskom and their electricity supply systems, although payment and acquisition methods differ. The prepaid method is generally used.

Indoors heating of houses is a high priority in Sutherland for comfortable living due to exceedingly low winter temperatures experienced in Sutherland. The most important energy sources for housewarming are wood, gas and coal. Gas is used if wood is not available as the second most used energy source. In contrast, electricity is used mostly for heating water. Wood is the second most utilized energy source for water heating.

Electric appliances for heating and cooling water, and cooking and preserving food, such as kettles, stoves, and fridges, are widely used. The use of geysers, both electric and solar, is very low. For lighting inside buildings electricity is used almost exclusively.

Because of this pattern of energy applications, environmentally friendly methods and practices for heating, cooking, and lighting must be promoted. The low uptake of solar energy is a matter of concern.

1.7.6 Communication: The vast importance of access to and use of the internet is undisputable in this day and age, and Sutherland of all places, with its strategic positioning for telescopic use in astronomical research, and therefore a global asset, ought to be a showpiece of universal access to the net. Sadly, only about half the population of Sutherland are not connected, which means that a large portion of the population misses out on the advantages that internet communication brings to households – educational, business-wise, and many more that can break the isolation, marginalisation and exclusion of rural people. Almost all households have members that own smartphones (or cell phones) and therefore in principle the technology needed to enter the web. Audio-visual technology (TVs) is widely available.

1.7.7 Sewing machines: The near absence of the sewing machine among households (only 7,6% own such machines), reveals a general underestimation of the value of this appliance in the household economy, and potentially, for the general welfare of the community-at-large. We highlight for illustration purposes several examples and initiatives currently practiced elsewhere that show without a doubt how households can benefit and generate income from sewing machines, provided the correct business approach and social organization are followed. One proviso for the success of these initiatives is that a genderized development approach must be followed in which the emphasis on women-in-development should come to full fruition.

1.7.8 Transport: Motorized transport for reaching out-of-town destinations is virtually absent. Only 17,3% (52) of households have members with a legal drivers' license; and of this number, just 13 have a heavy-duty vehicle license. In the survey, no one indicated having a professional driving permit (i.e., a permit needed for driving a vehicle transporting (dangerous) goods, and passengers on a public road, and asking for money for the service). From an economic point of view this is a significant impediment to exporting produce from Sutherland to markets elsewhere, which implies an almost total dependence on transport means owned by outsiders.

1.7.9 Sources of income: Seven sources of household income were distinguished together with the number of households with members who receive income from the named source. The household respondent was also requested to rank the sources from most important to least important as a source of income for the relevant household. Respondents ranked salaries and commission combined as the most important source; government grants as second; pension received from previous employer as third; remittances and other moneys received as fourth; owning and operating a business as fifth; income from rent received as sixth; and the maintenance of a child paid privately as seventh.

1.7.10 Income: A job with a salary (and commission) is ranked as a most important asset within the context of household economics.

Eight (2,6%) of the households declared they did not receive an income. This sample estimate equals ±19 households (and potentially 72 individuals) within the population of Sutherland living without an income.

For households that reported receiving an income, the Mode (i.e., the highest frequency) equals R2 000 per month. This figure nearly equals the Median (R2 045), which means that 50% of the households have an income lower than R2 000 and the other 50% an income higher than this amount. The highest income reported was R70 000 per month. This implies that about half of the households (**±150 households**) found themselves densely concentrated in **an income-range of less than R2 000 per month**, and the other half thinly stretched over a range of R68 000, which manifests a very skewed distribution that demonstrates high and concentrated poverty levels in Sutherland.

Twenty-two (22) persons received a **pension from their previous employer** – 28,2% of potential retirees. The Median of the pensions received has a value of R4 201 per month.

SASSA grants were paid according to five types: OAG (Old age) (28,2%), DG (Disability) (14,1%), CSG (Child support) (56,9%), FCG (Foster care) (0,4%), and CDG (Care Dependency) (0,4%). Nearly all potential receivers (older persons 60+ years) for the OAG did receive the grant, and 77% of potential children (0-17 years) received the CSG, FCG, and CDG grants. According to figures emanating from the survey, it appears that 68 persons received the DG but that only 37 had been identified as disabled – an overrating of 184%. However, in total, across all of the individuals potentially qualifying for government grants, 89,8% (483/538) collectively accessed the relevant grants.

Thirty-two (32) individuals received **private maintenance support**. The Median amount per month is R570.

Twenty-seven (27) respondents indicated that they received an income from **renting out accommodation**. The Median amount is R1 004 per month.

1.8 Farming as household wealth creation

From data generated by various questions asked in the survey, it is estimated that 72 persons were gainfully employed in the agricultural sector, representing 17,5% of all that were employed gainfully (N=412). From a wealth creation point of view agriculture in and around Sutherland serves as a cash income source for daily living and survival, access to assets such as livestock and fresh produce, and to land. It is therefore assumed that agriculture's impact on the livelihoods of households is more than only its cash contribution, and in fact is potentially a significant and stable sustainable factor to the overall wellbeing of the affected households. This sector therefore needs to be continually nurtured and developed to fulfill its key role in the household economy of Sutherland.

1.9 Employment and unemployment

1.9.1 Definitions: Economists define **employment**, and its antonym, **unemployment**, using a rate that is based on the number of the population within the potentially economic active age cohort. For comparative purposes the cohort, 15-64 years (N=766), must be used.

The **unemployment rate (UR)**, (strict version) as defined and determined by StatsSA calculated the UR

(Strict) for Northern Cape Province, Quarter 1, 2024 as 28,3%. A surge in the rate occurred to Quarter 2, 2024, namely 32,0%. According to the data collected in Survey 2024, the UR (Strict) for Sutherland is calculated to be **20,6%**. This figure is valid as a comparative figure for Quarter 1 2024. Thus, it is estimated that the unemployment rate (UR) in Sutherland (20,6%) is significantly lower than the Provincial rate (28,3%).

Similarly, the **absorption rate** (AR) can be calculated. The AR is defined as the number of employed persons (412) divided by the sum of the cohort 15-64 years (766), which gives **53,8%**. This is a substantially higher rate than the Northern Cape's AR of 40,8% (valid for Quarter 4, 2203).

1.9.2 Public work opportunities: The **Government provides opportunities for job seekers** to participate in public works programmes and municipal job creation programmes. Currently (since January 2024 to date of survey), in Sutherland, 57 individuals participated in the programmes (6,8%; 57/842) and 62 persons did so previously (5,3%; 62/842) (8 missing cases). More than 85% did **not** participate in the programmes.

Eligible members of the population could register on the Community Work Programme (CWP) database to be considered for job opportunities. Out of 803 individuals 179 (22,3%) were registered. Twenty-five respondents did not know if they were on the database. There were 47 missing cases for answers pertaining to CWP participation.

1.9.3 Type of work: Most employees were employed in **general services (61,8%)**. Thereafter, agriculture, personal services, and safety and security proved to be the most popular sectors, followed by specialist services, hospitality, and administration. A host of other diverse sectors employed a lesser number of workers.

1.9.4 Place of work: Almost all workers worked in Sutherland and district, in the Northern Cape, with only a few elsewhere in Western Cape and Gauteng.

1.9.5 Challenges: About 3,6% of the total sample were challenged by **personal disabilities** including sight, hearing, mobility, intellectual and psychiatric issues. Most of these persons became disabled since being older to senior ages of adulthood, while about one-third suffered their disability since birth or childhood. Nearly half of the disabled persons need assistance in their personal care, mostly offered by someone from within the household.

About two-thirds of the households (67,7%) procured **financial loans**. One quarter of households found it necessary to engage in utilizing loans (such as buying on credit) for buying food. A number of methods of engaging in a loan agreement were revealed in the survey.

Absolute poverty measured as often going without food was experienced by 22,5% of households over the past year before the survey. Some (8; 2,7%) regularly or always struggled to find food. It must be noted that eight households also mentioned not receiving a regular or no income.

1.9.6 Conclusion on work opportunities

Although not highly paid, because of the nature of available work, the majority (and in some areas, about all) of the households had access to a permanent job in and around town, their own house

provided by the government, and basic municipal services. For those in dire need, government support grants were made available on application. For the unemployed, registration on the relevant public works list would give access to public employment. A few households experienced abject poverty. Although help was available by private initiatives it was noted that the church featured quite low on the list of benevolent institutions. Also missing was an indication that global industry, such as the Observatory and the wind-farms contributed significantly to the financial well-being of the ordinary member of the community. However, the hospitality industry surged as a result of external infrastructural projects. The digital divide experienced as a feature of developed versus less developed communities also seems to be present in Sutherland.

1.10 Good experiences cause positive futures

The research established that positive experiences of the past impact residents' expectation for the future to be positive as well, however the converse seems also to be true, namely that negative experiences generate negative expectations regarding future outcomes. We suggest this finding serves as a policy guideline in the local government administration of enhancing the quality of community life in Sutherland. A practical application could be regular monitoring of the experiences and perceptions of residents and feedback to residents for full integration into Sutherland's development plan and its implementation. This will "define the situation" on a continuous and sustained basis raising awareness among the citizenry of the real situation and create a positive action mode around and a keen interest in participating constructively in the public management and administration process.

1.11 Satisfaction levels regarding services and institutions

Residents' satisfaction with sixteen key institutions and services that have individually and collectively a direct impact on their quality of their life turned out to be fairly high (74,1% indicated satisfaction and, in contrast, a dissatisfaction percentage of 20,6%). However, two services reached the majority percentages of **dissatisfaction** by the respondents, namely the issuing of identity documents by Home Affairs (55,7%) and sanitation services rendered by municipality (50,5%), the latter being related to the service of the dry pit toilet installations (64,6% of households are served by this). All indications are that this sanitation practice is viewed extremely negatively by users and constitutes a health risk. Its social acceptability is about zero.

Compared to the ranking of satisfaction in a similar survey of 2017, the issuing of IDs then ranked fourth place in the rating of dissatisfaction with services (18,5%); in 2024 dissatisfaction increased with 37,2% to 55,7% in this area and occupied first place in the ranking order. This essential administrative service, run by Home Affairs, is a source of intense frustration among citizens, and is deteriorating. To aggravate matters, it has become an increasingly costly affair for the member of the public to acquire essential documents, such IDs and death certificates.

Dissatisfaction percentages increased since 2017 in the areas served by Social Services, the Clinic and Hospital, the Primary and the Secondary School, and Justice. Dissatisfaction percentages regarding services by SASSA and the Police dropped since 2017, but Police still received negative (dissatisfied) assessments from 31,3% of respondents.

Municipal services rated positively although the Municipal Office received an increase in the

dissatisfaction percentage compared to 2017 (4,4% to 9,7%, i.e., plus 5,3%).

Areas that received increases in their dissatisfaction percentages of more than 5% need follow-up on their quality-of-service delivery in an attempt to improve the situation.

1.12 Perceptions about Sutherland

1.12.1 Perceptions are important: Perceptions are statements of subjective fact based on one's own experiences interpreted from the viewpoint of one's social standing in life and community. One's perceptions help to make sense of the "world out there" and to find directives for living one's life. Perceptions are therefore people's "definition of the situation", having consequences for their actions and their eventual realities. In other words, perceptions may (or often indeed) become "self-fulfilling prophecies". To fulfill their obligations and responsibilities in their pursuit of a better quality of life for all, it is essential for the local institutional leaders and their respective organisations to know how people perceive their town. This conclusion supports the one discussed above regarding positive experiences and positive outcomes.

1.12.2 Special features of Sutherland: Regarding respondents' perceptions of what is special about Sutherland, four themes emerged:

- (1) **Science, technology, and energy (STE)** – as manifested in SAAO and SALT, large-scale clean or renewable energy units in the form of wind-farms, the use of engineering technology in the development and maintenance of these physical structures, and the opportunities gained for the practice of research in associated disciplines that include both physical and social sciences.
- (2) **Tourism and economic development (TAE)** – the combination of STE, the biosphere of the Karoo, small town lifestyle, and extensive livestock farming, attract visitors from all over the country and indeed the world, and stimulate businesses, including an expanding hospitality sector, as well as NGOs to target (if not exploit) the special opportunities for serving the town commercially and socially.
- (3) **Architecture and cultural heritage (ACH)** – Sutherland have manifested a pre-history of the two complexes of special features listed above in attractive and sentimental characteristics expressed in the construction, materials, and styles of the buildings and artifacts preserved in the historical museums.
- (4) **Rural small town (RST)** – Sutherland owns an exceptional sense of place because of its remoteness, unique topography, vegetation, climate, Karoo lifestyle, small population, and dominant conservative Afrikaans speaking and spiritually orientated people.

1.13 Proposals for development

Having defined the situation of Sutherland, the survey invited respondents to present proposals for development.

The main suggestion focuses on **job creation** that will provide **permanent** opportunities with an emphasis on **youth**.

To meet this demand **infrastructure development** will be necessary, that includes upgrading of and adding to existing infrastructure (e.g., the road system, upgraded to tarred roads, paving of sidewalks, substitution of pit toilets with flushed toilet systems and an increased stock of residential housing).

A comprehensive strategy is required that includes holistic town planning to guide residential and business development with due recognition of the requirements of the Observatory and the need for clean energy and quality domestic water. Quality social facilities are also in demand.

A sustainable human development (SHD) plan must accompany the comprehensive strategy. The SHD Plan must identify and target social groups and age cohorts (e.g., youth, older people) to address their specific needs and urgent issues.

Capital investments must capacitate strategy and plans. The strategy must identify national and international finance houses, including government promotional schemes (e.g., the social development and empowerment provisions that go with the renewable energy development projects), and bring all relevant actors on board to support local economic and social development.

1.14 Obstacles to development

The major overarching challenge for Sutherland is how to resolve the conundrum of the clash-of-interests scenario (referring to the Observatory's requirement of the absolute minimum air pollution versus the demand for job creation normally associated with pollution prone industrial development).

Another developmental dilemma is how to sell the "serene development" scenario to profit-orientated entrepreneurial development agents as an economic viable opportunity that promises ample financial benefit.

Past "developments" in Sutherland operated according to a typical supply-demand economic logic (e.g., demand shrunk during the drought, shops (=supply) closed, foreigners functioned as entrepreneurs and opened new shops). The in-migration of foreigners introduced socially unacceptable trends especially among youth, which implies that the solution itself has become a problem.

"Development" introduces behaviour patterns that traditional residents find not acceptable and so the community becomes divided about what the future holds.

Leadership is not effective and inspiring, power struggles have become endemic and disruptive, people subjected to abject poverty struggle to merely survive, and they follow a scape-goat approach to blame others for their troubles and to see themselves as powerless to act decisively.

The way out of these contradictions is difficult and multi-dimensional. The suggestion is that community leadership (formal and non-formal) consolidates, uses a consultative, democratic and inclusive approach in addressing the challenges and ensures that the rank-and-file population remains informed about how the process of "development" unfolds, and strategically important, to also empower the ordinary citizen to constructively participate in their own development.

1.15 Preferences about Sutherland

1.15.1 Respondents' most liked features of Sutherland

The research distilled six themes from the answers offered by the respondents as their expression of things they like most in Sutherland.

- (1) Ambiance of the town – sense of place that embraces the slow and easy-going countryside and farm lifestyle.
- (2) Climate and environment - the beautiful natural features and especially snow and rain.
- (3) People that are friendly, good natured and supportive of each other in many ways.
- (4) Personal connection and an emotive bond with Sutherland.
- (5) Physical aspects of the town, its architecture and proximity.
- (6) Social aspects, highlighting the spirituality they show as well as basic facilities and services.

The above-mentioned “definitions of the situation” may be seen as preferences of respondents that need to be considered as aspects and qualities of the town to be nurtured and preserved by development processes in future.

1.15.2 Respondents' least liked features of Sutherland

The least liked things about Sutherland add up to six themes as well, with two overlaps of the most liked things, but of course with a different content. This proves that the “definition of the situation” may differ from person to person and that the facilitation of change (or to preserve) requires exceptional skills.

- (1) Climate and environment, with reference to the cold and the contrasting heat.
- (2) Physical features of Sutherland, with emphasis on the dust of the gravel streets, and the waste scattered everywhere giving the impression of an un-kept and dirty town.
- (3) Personal behaviour of the residents, a host of unwanted behavioural deviance linked to the abuse of drugs, alcohol, begging, being loud, violence, and criminality.
- (4) Intergroup relations, quality of community life, and in-group versus out-group dynamics that reveal animosity among diverse sections of the population of Sutherland, such as residents from the various neighbourhoods stereotyping each other, population groupings, young versus old, local versus foreigners (“*inkommers*”), support groups of various political parties, and consequently the differential distribution of benefits, privilege, and means of subsistence, often defined as unfair, that negatively impact the quality of community life and social cohesion.

- (5) Public and community services, referring to Government, business, and private services, their presence in Sutherland, and their efficiency in delivering services that have a direct bearing on individuals and families/households and how they make a living.
- (6) Cost of living and associated living standard and quality of life, with an indication of enduring and abject poverty among residents, unemployment, and continuous struggle to survive.

The above-mentioned least liked features of Sutherland, as defined by respondents, are targets for action and focused intervention in order to change the situation for the better or to do something about it where feasible. For example, one can't do anything about changing low outside temperatures (the cause of being cold) but it would be possible to avail heaters, geysers for water heating, or isolation on the ceiling of a house, etc.

1.16 Progression and deterioration in Sutherland

Response rates for either progression (52,1%) or deterioration (78,9%) with reference to the overall state of affairs of and in Sutherland differ significantly, which means that respondents were inclined to focus more on negative trends than positive trends. In view of an earlier finding, this may point to a more negative outcome in future for Sutherland. These trends support the conclusion that the respondents in this survey tend to see development in Sutherland negatively, not progressing at a satisfactory rate, and in fact, showing stagnation and going backwards.

There is a wisdom that claims that ignorance is bliss, which implies that people without proper knowledge and insight resign themselves to their deplorable circumstances. On the other hand, knowledge is power, meaning people can change their life when empowered to do so with proper capacity building that includes information, knowledge, and insight. Keeping people sufficiently informed is the beginning of this process.

1.17 Perceptions regarding renewable energy and the wind farm(s)

The large-scale need for renewable, clean energy, globally as well as locally, and the way this need currently is addressed by the South African government, inter alia as an opportunity to benefit disadvantaged communities and households by equity-driven socio-economic and enterprise development, have become a window of opportunity for towns, communities, and people that want to make a quality living in rural districts such as Sutherland.

Globally the phrase sustainable human development (SHD) provides a definition for such development as well as an operational framework for its implementation. The Millennium Development Goals and the subsequent Sustainable Development Goals are conceptual and policy tools for monitoring and evaluating just and sustainable development. The four foundational cornerstones of sustainable human development as summarized by Mahbub Ul Haq (1995) are: Equity, Sustainability, Productivity, and Empowerment (ESPE). The renewable energy construction and production enterprises erected and operational in the rural districts of South Africa were conceived to address holistically and sustainably their wind and solar energy outputs according to these principles. However, in the case of Sutherland's wind-farm(s), the present survey reported mixed messages about this project. The following **conclusions** may serve as pointers in addressing community needs.

1.17.1 More than half the respondents do not know what **renewable energy** is. It appears there is an awareness of the physical wind-farm, but the real rationale and philosophy underpinning it is not fully grasped or known. The idea that renewable energy is a means to improve people's quality of life in a durable way needs to be communicated and explained to the people in an accessible format.

1.17.2 Slightly more than a quarter of the respondents were able to link the renewable energy project as beneficial for their **households**, i.e., beneficial in a personal way. The largest group among the beneficiaries (more than 40 percent) secured **employment opportunity** – not necessarily permanent, but one would surmise that the long-term impact of the experience of having a job (even temporary) amidst so many unemployed people, will remain.

1.17.3 The second largest beneficiary group (nearly one-third) was amongst school-going learners that had experienced an increasing level of their sense of human dignity. This was caused by having received essential learning equipment and school and sport outfits, which surely will have a longstanding impact on the learners, arguably, also into their adult life.

1.17.4 One fifth of the beneficiaries received food, indicating an immediate need for daily survival.

1.17.5 A small proportion (6,5%) gained materially by renting out accommodation to workers of the wind-farm.

1.17.6 More than half of the respondents were able to recall benefits in favour of the **community** of Sutherland at large. Nearly three-quarters of the respondents identified benefits for the **town** of Sutherland. An overall conclusion is that these benefits were given in response to the needs listed. It was not clear how the needs lists were generated. However, the endowments to the community and town infrastructure, institutions and organizations were welcomed and appreciated as valuable contributions to enhance the quality of community life.

1.17.7 Without being probed to assess the donations, endowments and support received by Sutherland some respondents alluded to favouritism and preferential treatment in decisions regarding who and where support was to be given, as well as to an inability by the wind-farm to deliver and/or complete community projects. Such responses emphasize the importance of **transparency** and **participatory methodologies** to be employed when deciding on the potential beneficiaries of support to benevolent charities, organizations and institutions, households and individuals.

1.17.8 The findings of the survey have emphasized the importance of following a **community development approach** according to the sustainable human development (SHD) paradigm. This approach starts from the four foundational cornerstones quoted from Mahbub Ul Haq above – equity, sustainability, productivity, and empowerment (ESPE). In determining the needs of a local community, with the purpose of designing policies, programmes and plans (PPP) for achieving SHD, **authentic participatory methodologies** must be applied.¹

1.17.9 **Sustainability**, one of the cornerstones in SHD, does not mean that short-term needs (e.g., hunger) should be ignored. However, the design and implementation of the local development PPP

¹ An example of an authentic participatory methodology is described by Groenewald and Smith (2002).

must be authentic in the eyes of the affected community and carry legitimacy to the extent that it will sustain into the distant future of the community.²

1.17.10 Training and skills development to be conducted among the members of the community of Sutherland are **essential elements of building capacity, i.e., to empower people to participate productively in the public processes of the economy, civil life, and community affairs.**

1.18 Conclusion – the four generations of development

The research **concludes with the recommendation** that a **participatory community development approach**, based on the foundational principles of sustainable human development must be followed for exploiting the full potential of the renewable energy programme according to the provisions of the South African government, as explained in the report. We suggest David Korten's four generations development model (Korten, 1990; Ferreira & Groenewald, 2010).

1.18.1 Generation 1: The provision of immediate charitable welfare

Charitable provisions for the absolute poor must be in place continuously. This needs to be a community wide activity based on the equity principle that embraces all sections of the population to participate. This programme must serve as a social cohesion building project, an opportunity for participants to learn and practice skills in reaching out to people in need, and to restore hope among residents that have become morbid and hopeless.

1.18.2 Generation 2: Empowerment of people locally

Second generation development entails capacity building and empowerment of individuals and community groups, to build and restore inner strength, a positive outlook on life, respect for one's private space, the public and shared spaces, and for the environment in all respects. Learning opportunities need to be created, practiced, and exercised to enhance personal skills, organizational capacity, and a long-term perspective on the future.

1.18.3 Generation 3: Influencing policy and institutions locally and nationally to produce sustainable development

This can be achieved by building systems that can survive time, and distances (social and physical) by developing policies, programmes, and plans (PPP) according to which small, medium and large groups (Micro, Meso, Macro – MMM) can organise themselves from local to national to global.

1.18.4 Generation 4: Social movement – use networks, coalitions, and alliances to obtain justice, sustainability and inclusiveness

The fourth generation of development focuses on the identification of and participation in global social movements (e.g. environmental movements, sustainable agriculture, faith movements, small

² David Korten (1990) distinguished four generations of human development, the first (1) is the provision of immediate charitable welfare (which includes addressing the immediate need for food). Subsequent generations of development are (2) empowerment, (3) policy and institution building, and (4) social movement (with due consideration of global trends) as an ongoing development drive.

town revival movements, etc.), with a view to defining Sutherland /Karoo/SA in relation to these macro worlds. Sutherland and the Karoo districts are in an excellent strategic position to consider this approach.

CHAPTER 2: INTRODUCTION TO THE SURVEY AND THE REPORT

This research report presents the findings of a socio-economic survey conducted in the town of Sutherland in February 2024.

The survey was conducted by a team from the Department of Science and Technology/ National Research Foundation South African Research Chair Initiative (DST/NRF SARCHI) in Sociology of Land, Environment and Sustainable Development, based in the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Stellenbosch University, with support from the Hoogland Local Municipality and other stakeholders.

This was the fifth household survey, and second of Sutherland, conducted in the Karoo by the SARCHI Chair since its establishment in 2016. The first was done in Vanwyksvlei (2016), followed by Sutherland (2017), Loeriesfontein (2019), Williston (2021), and recently again in Sutherland (2024). The objective of these surveys was to collect data on the socio-economic circumstances in selected Northern Cape Karoo towns for developing a better understanding of local conditions and to support state, non-governmental and local community initiatives aimed at addressing these conditions. The longer-term intention was to draw on these reports to inform future research on the issues that commitments to sustainable development in the Karoo regions of South Africa must address, with a sustainable development agenda understood as embracing a complex integration of concerns around the promotion of social justice and human well-being, as well as the conservation of biodiversity and healthy social-ecological systems, across different scales. (see Walker & Hoffman, 2024, for a comprehensive publication that inter alia draws on findings from these surveys).

An important feature of the surveys was the recruitment and training of unemployed matriculants from the respective towns to serve as fieldworkers. The matriculants received SAQA-accredited training, and those who successfully completed the initial training were appointed as fieldworkers for the survey. Those whose performance during fieldwork met expectations were awarded official certificates from Stellenbosch University during a reflection session with key stakeholders once the survey was completed.

Various stakeholders, including the Hoogland Local Municipality, the Office of the Mayor, state departments and the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT), pledged their support to the survey during a meeting at the Sutherland Community Development Centre on 3 October 2017. Survey 2024 was conducted over the last two weeks in February 2024. During the first week, the fieldworkers were trained, local stakeholders were engaged, and final plans were put in place. Fieldwork was carried out during the second week. The data collection phase concluded with a feedback session attended by the Mayor, where local fieldworkers were awarded their certificates.

The study methodology and questionnaire were approved by the Stellenbosch University Research Ethics Committee.

This report comprises various chapters. The first chapter (1), preceding the present chapter, serves as an **executive summary** of the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the survey. The chapter

outlines the development dilemma of Sutherland, and neighbouring towns of the Karoo, as well as the findings in summary format. The chapter concludes with a developmental proposal for future reference.³

The present chapter (2) gives a brief **introduction and rationale for the survey**. The next chapter (3) introduces the **methodological considerations** relevant to a study of this nature, and an outline of the research design, as well as relevant aspects that describe how the study proceeded.

The substantive chapters (4 to 9), each with their own sections, provide data, analysis, findings, and conclusions regarding the various themes reviewed in the survey study. Themes covered are the **demographic characteristics** of the sampled residents (4); their **migration patterns** with reference to in-migration (5); their level of scholastic achievement and **educational status** (6); **household economics** in Sutherland, residents' economic profile with respect to employment, income and matters related wealth creation (7); **respondents' perceptions** about and of experiences **living in Sutherland** as a town of residence, **services** rendered to residents and access to and satisfaction of these; the **development opportunities** available and the stumbling blocks in the way of development, their likes and dislikes regarding Sutherland, their take on progress and deterioration of Sutherland, and the views they have on the future development of the town (8); and finally, perceptions regarding **renewable energy** and the wind farm(s) and the role they play in the well-being of the town and her people (9).

The report includes a **reference list** of sources consulted and one annexure with resource tables that provide statistics supporting the presentations in the text (Annexure 1). A **PowerPoint** presentation is also available separately to the report and can be used for occasions and events where this study and its findings are to be presented and discussed.

A list of **abbreviations** is included at the end of the report.

Enquiries about the availability and sharing of the report and related materials can be directed to the Principal Researcher, Dr Ilse Eigelaar-Meets (iem@sun.ac.za).

³ This Chapter (1) is available also as a separate document and as the executive summary of the survey findings.

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH APPROACH AND DESIGN

3.1 Data collection method

Data for the socio-economic study was collected by means of a household survey during February 2024. Interviews were conducted with a representative (in this report named “respondent”) of each of the 304 households, together representing 1 160 individuals, distributed across the four residential areas of Sutherland, namely the Skema (“Scheme”), Hopland (HOP, i.e. RDP housing area), Kerkgrond (“Church ground”) and the Dorp (“Town”, the former “white” area). The respondents were taken as a proxy for the head of the household. Data were split between respondents (“heads”; households) (N=304) and the rest of the members (N=856) of the household for certain analyses, while residents (N=1 160) were defined as the total of all members of households, respondents/heads included.

For this survey, a household was defined as everyone who regularly shared the house (also called the dwelling) and who was partially or fully dependent on or contributing to the household, including dependent children who attended school elsewhere, students who return home over weekends and holidays, and those who worked elsewhere and help support the household, e.g., a member who is employed elsewhere, but regards the household as his/her permanent home (such as fencers, shearers, and seasonal agricultural workers).

A structured questionnaire was used to collect data pertaining to both collective household characteristics and individual members of the household, as well as to perceptions held by the respondent interviewed⁴. Households were selected by means of representative sampling to ensure that the findings represent an accurate reflection of a cross-section of Sutherland residents and households.

3.2 The sample

Sampling refers to the process of selecting households to form part of the survey. Sampling is a scientific method that enables researchers to generalize to a larger population or community based on findings from a relatively small number of observations. When using a randomised sampling procedure, all members of the community have an equal probability (chance) of being selected to be included in the sample which means that no systematic bias was exercised in the selection of the sample units.

For the purposes of this study, systematic proportionate stratification was used as the sampling method to select plots as the sampling unit. The number of plots per residential area was thus based on the proportion of each area in relation to the larger town. Fieldworkers were then instructed to interview all households living on a plot with the aim to include both households that live in formal and informal dwelling units.

A sample size of 252 plots were selected and interviews completed with 304 households, representing 1 160 individual members. Although individual figures are based on a total of 1 160 individuals and 298 households, missing information has in some instances resulted in a variation in the totals

⁴ A copy of the questionnaire is available on request by contacting iem@sun.ac.za

reflected in the tables.

When interpreting the findings contained in this report, it is important to consider that all samples are subject to a margin of error, which is determined by the sample size, response rate and sampling method. The margin of error for this survey is ± 5 percent. This means that where 50% of the sample falls into a particular category (e.g., 50% of adults have completed Grade 10), one can be certain that if everyone in Sutherland were to be interviewed, between 45% and 55% would fall into that category (i.e., 45-55% would have completed Grade 10). Survey findings presented within a 5% margin of error are deemed scientifically credible estimates in social-economic survey research practice.

The sample was proportionately stratified in terms of the four residential areas as well as the prevalence of formal and informal (also known as backyard dwellings) residential units in Sutherland. Based on statistics provided by the municipality and observations by the coordinator of the fieldwork team, plots in each residential area were selected in a randomised way (see Table 3.1 for the sample realisation). Figure 3.1 (following Table 3.1) graphically displays how proportions of the different residential areas and dwelling unit types in the samples have changed since 2017 noting that the sampling unit for 2017 survey were households and not plots as was the case for the 2024 survey.

Table 3.1: Sample realisation by residential area

	Survey 2024		Compared to	
Residential Area	2024 Sample realization N	2024 Sample %	2017 Sample %	2011 Census %
Skema formal	110	36,9	39,9	40,5
Skema backyard	31	10,4	11,1	11,7
Hopland formal	95	31,9	26,1	24,0
Hopland backyard	15	5,0	0,8	0,8
Kerkgrond formal	16	5,4	8,3	11,2
Kerkgrond backyard	0	0	2,8	2,1
Town formal	31	10,4	11,1	9,6
Town backyard	0	0	0	0
Total	298	100.0	100,0	100,0

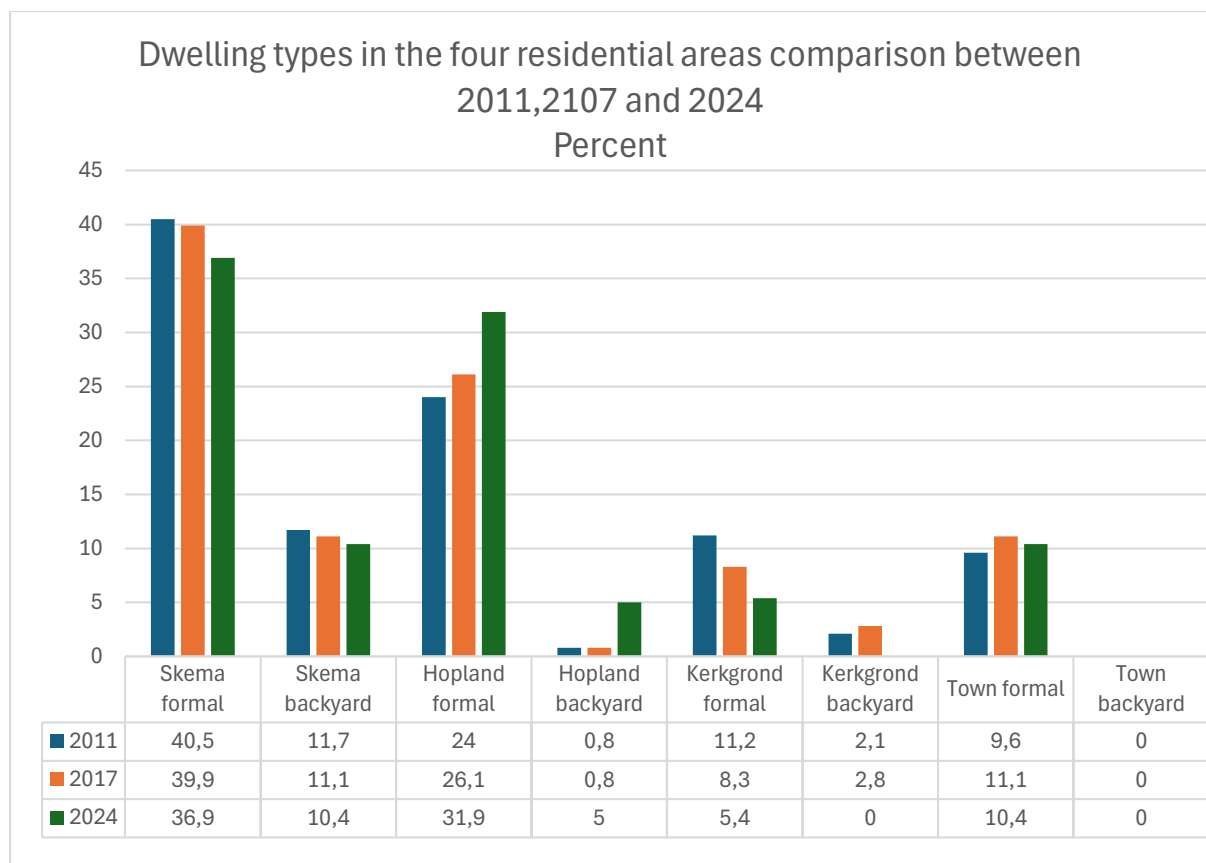


Figure 3.1: Dwelling types in the four residential areas, comparison between 2011, 2017, and 2024

3.3 Quality control

In addition to applying the appropriate methodology and sampling methods, it is vital to develop and adhere to a data quality control plan to ensure data validity and reliability. These aspects were managed by means of:

- pre-testing of the questionnaire,
- training of the fieldworkers, and
- quality control measures applied during the fieldwork.

To ensure the questionnaire would be relevant to the Sutherland context, it was thoroughly workshopped and tested with stakeholders. The questionnaire was also tested during the week-long fieldworker training session before actual fieldwork commenced.

The fieldworkers were unemployed youth who had been registered on the database of the local municipality's Community Work Programme (CWP). Prospective candidates had to have passed Matric, attend five days of preliminary training as well as successfully complete an assessment at the end of the training in order to qualify as fieldworkers. The training consisted of a formally accredited fieldworker course of Stellenbosch University, registered with the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology. All the successful candidates were awarded an official fieldworker certificate by the after

they had successfully completed the fieldwork phase of the survey.

There are both advantages and disadvantages to using local residents as fieldworkers. Their familiarity with the community context and dynamics eases survey logistics and, in most instances, facilitates access to households. However, this very familiarity may also be a drawback, as residents may be less inclined to share personal and sensitive information with an acquaintance than with strangers. To protect respondents' privacy in disclosing sensitive information, each fieldworker signed a contract in which they pledged to treat all information as confidential.

Collected data were subjected to daily quality control. Returned questionnaires were scrutinised and in the event of uncertainties or omissions, fieldworkers were required to return to the relevant household(s) and fill in omissions or correct errors. The fieldwork management team undertook spot checks and provided ongoing on-site support to the fieldworkers each day of the survey.

3.4 Characteristics of respondents

Fieldworkers identified respondents by asking which member of the household would be best able and most suitable to answer questions about the household. Respondents tended to be mostly female (68,4%). All except four respondents indicated Afrikaans as their home language.

The average (Mean) age of respondents was 47,9 years. This is just below the Median of 50 years. The youngest 25% were aged 35 years or below, while the oldest 25% were aged 58 years or above. In addition, respondents were overwhelmingly Coloured (91,1%), while only 6,6% were White, 1,6%, and 0,7% Other – a close reflection of the overall demographics in Sutherland (Coloured – 94,6%; White – 3,3%; Black – 1,4%; Indian - 0,1%; Other – 0,7%).

3.5 Time dimension

Another aspect that lends a specific character to survey data and subsequent conclusions to be drawn is the time dimension linked to a survey. A survey provides information pertaining to a particular research community as prevailing at the time of the survey. To try and understand changes in the community over time, one needs similar data collected from a time prior to or a time following that particular point in time. In the absence of reliable community data because of deficiencies in the latest census of 2022 (see Moultrie and Dorrington, 2024) the 2017 survey serves as a baseline against which the present survey data may be compared. Where national data is necessary for such comparison the 2011 census data has been utilized.

3.6 Contextual dimension

To provide contextual information from a broad administrative-geographic perspective, some population trends of the **Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality (KHLM)** are provided. Data in this respect made use of the Community Survey 2016 (as well as previous census data) by Statistics South Africa.

Figure 3.2 reveals that after a sharp decline in the population growth rate over the intercensal period of 1996 to 2001, growth in the population of the KHLM area reached nearly a rate of two percent per annum over the 2001-2011 period. However, this surge in population growth slacked down to less than one percent per annum during 2011-2016. No comparable population growth figures for

Sutherland (Ward 4) were available at the writing of the current report, but these trends suggest that the town is in a slow growth phase trajectory currently.

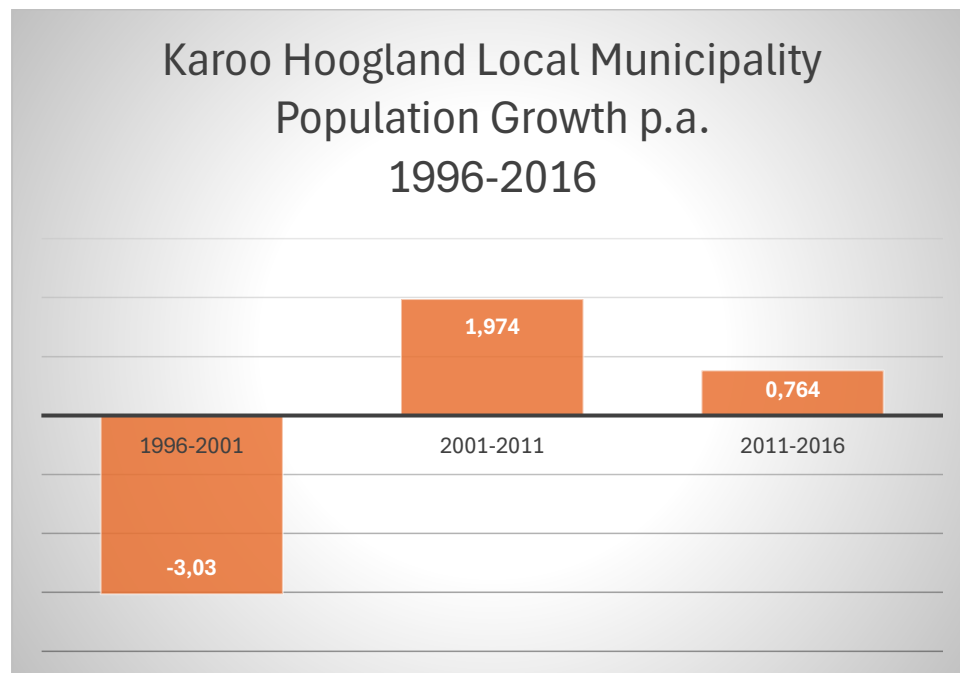


Figure 3.2: Per annum population growth, 1996-2016, KHLM

The above-mentioned trend of population growth during 2011-2016 is true for both Coloured and White population groups that caused the overall population growth in this period. It must be noted that Blacks and Indians have shown a strong decline in their numbers during 2011-2016. Both are presently tiny minority groups within the KHLM area after a high influx on the area probably because they were moving out of the area. In Sutherland, Survey 2024 counted only one Indian, a young person of 16 years, and 16 Blacks, clearly the last remaining individuals of a larger number of whom most must have migrated elsewhere. The KHLM figures are reported in Figure 3.3.

The KHLM figures provide a background scenario for the estimation of the total population (also called the universe population) of Sutherland. KHLM estimates Sutherland as contributing 20 percent to the KHLM population. The size of this population was sourced from census sources, for 2011 and 2016. Assuming Sutherland's portion of 20% stayed unchanged over the period 2011 to 2024, this portion was used to arithmetically calculate numbers for Sutherland. From Figure 3.3 we see that in 2011 the total count was 12 588 and five years later in 2016 the number was 13 068, a difference of 480, or 96 per annum. Extrapolation as from 2016 to 2024, at this constant rate (96), enables one to add ($8 \times 96 = 768$) to the 2016 figure, giving 13 836. One fifth (20%) of this number equals 2 767, which is the product of the division of the estimated resident population by 3,8, the average size per household as determined by the survey. Using these figures as the parameters, we can claim that the percentage representation of the resident population and of the households is 42 percent ($1\,160 / 2\,767 = 42\%$ and $304 / 728 = 42\%$). A sample statistic may therefore be multiplied by a factor of 2,3814 ($100 / 42$) to provide an estimate of the universe population characteristic. Based on the size of the sample the statistical accuracy is ± 5 percent.

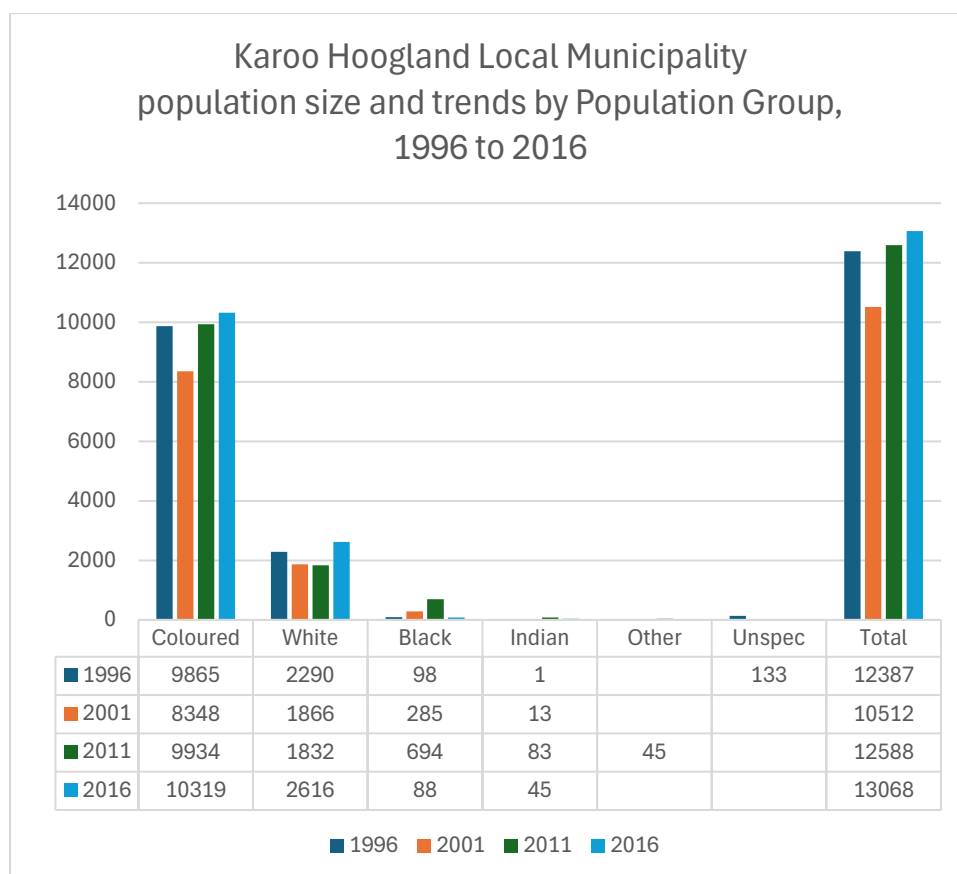


Figure 3.3: Population size and trends by population group, 1996-2016, KHLM

Trends in the gender composition of the KHLM population are reported in Figure 3.4 and summarized in Figure 3.5. The historical pattern was that the population numbers of males were less than that of women, but males increased to a majority in the period 2011-2016. According to Survey 2024 females currently are the majority in the Sutherland population.

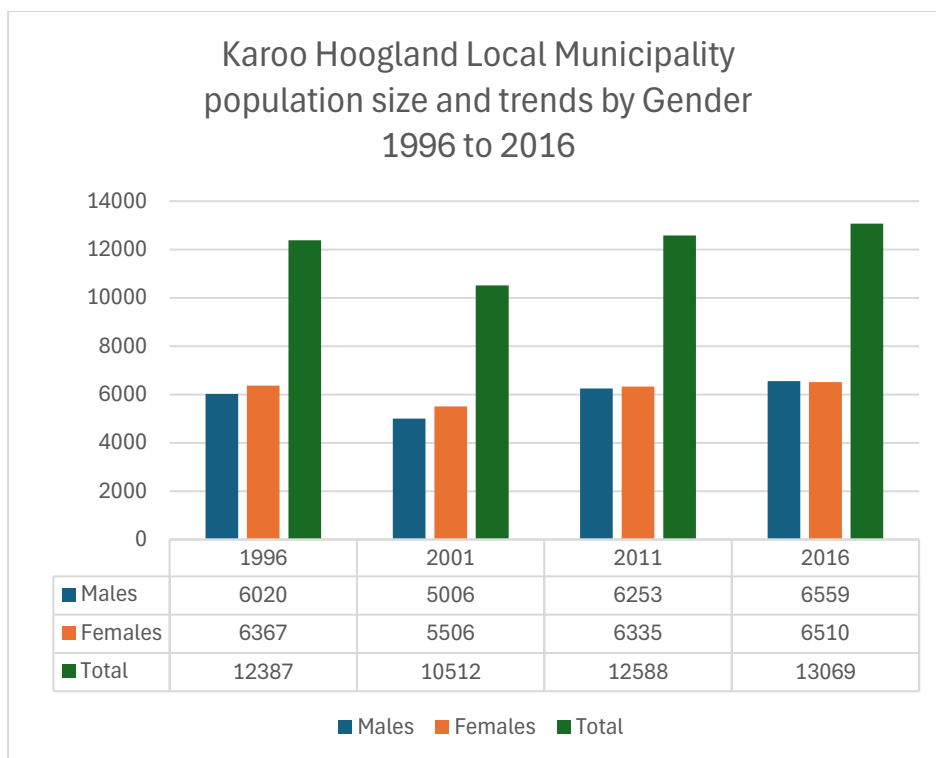


Figure 3.4: Population size and trends by gender, 1996-2016, KHLM

The line graph below pictures the Sex Ratio within KHLM, which is the ratio (or percentage) of the number of men divided by the number of women in the population. This is a summary statement of the gender distribution in the population of KHLM.

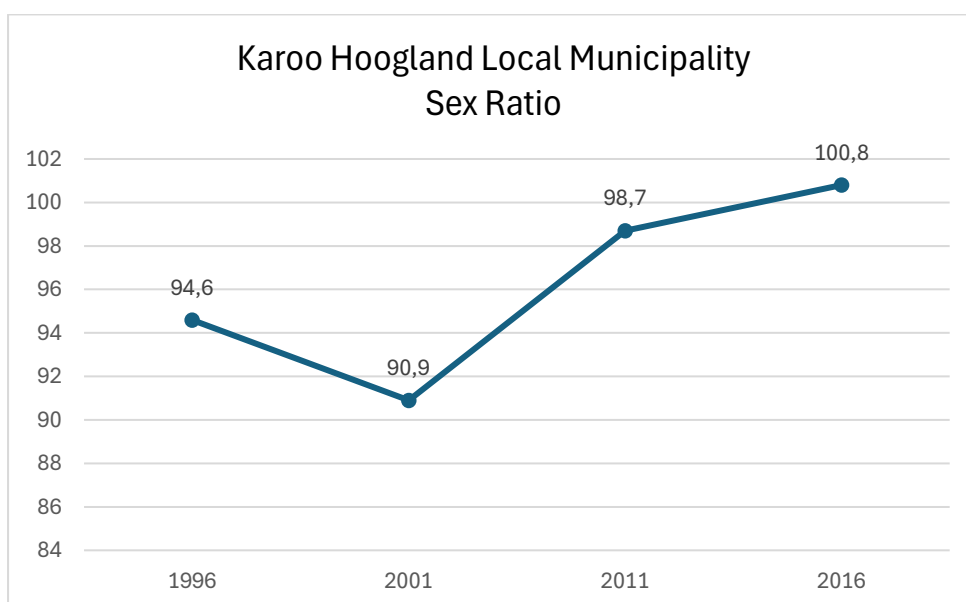


Figure 3.5: Sex Ratios KHLM, 1996-2016

3.7 Ethical dimension

Research ethics in social science studies, such as the present survey and socio-economic study, are important and indeed imperative to ensure the legitimacy of the findings and the application thereof for public policy, programming, and planning of human development and civil infrastructure, facilities, and services.⁵

The principles for ethical research include and necessitate that participation by citizens in surveys or other research methods be voluntary. This means that each and every selected participant has the right to refuse to participate, in total or in part, in the data collection process. The selected subject therefore may decline a request to participate in the research or may decline to answer specific questions put to him or her while answering other questions posed by the questionnaire. This right was recognized and respected in the present survey.

The research should not harm those who participate in it. Therefore participants need to be informed of potential risks involved by participating in the project and of their right to withdraw at any time should they wish. This option was available and explained to participants in this project.

The information that the participant shared with the research personnel should not enable anyone, not even the researcher, to identify the individual that the information is about. This is called anonymous information. Should this be impossible (for example, as in an interview with the respondent by the fieldworker) the fieldworker/researcher needs to legally state that all information that could identify the participant or subject be treated confidentially, and that all analysis and reporting of findings be conducted in such a way that no individual can be identified in the process. These undertakings are and have been honoured in this research.

In no way must subjects be deceived through false promises or corrupted by incentives to participate in the research. No such practices were followed or allowed in present research.

To protect the interviewee as well as third parties who shared potentially incriminating information with the interviewer, such information was presented as an allegation and not as a statement of fact. For instance, while the gender identity of an interviewee, member of the household, or a third party was anonymously shared as a statement of fact in reporting, behavioural labeling of these individuals, such as the identification of a person as a thief (someone stealing money for example), in reporting was stated as an allegation and not as a statement of fact. This precaution and protection were needed because some questions in the interview dealt with the respondent's perceptions about public figures in the community.

To ensure that the research design, implementation, and reporting would conform to these ethical principles and practices ethical clearance had to be given by the ethics committee of the Stellenbosch University, which is accredited for issuing such guarantees, before commencement of the research, which have been done in the present case.

It must be noted that the research findings are earmarked for informing the public and legal bodies governing and managing the human well-being and development of the population of Sutherland

⁵ This section was informed by Babbie & Mouton (2001), Chapter 10: The ethics and politics of social research.

(such as the local authority and other stakeholders). In this sense an expectation might have been created among the members of this population of the betterment and improvement of the aspects mentioned by them and of the quality of life of individuals and families in Sutherland as a result of this research. This expectation, based on information parted by such authorities and the research group, implies a social responsibility on the part of researchers to report the findings in a truthful manner, and on the relevant public stakeholders and authorities to ensure responsiveness to priority issues highlighted.

CHAPTER 4: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the demographic characteristics of residents and households in Sutherland. Where applicable, reference will be made to data from the 2011 Census, merely with the intention of providing context and/or complementing the survey data, as needed. Furthermore, to identify the trend in any change in the demographics of the Sutherland population the current survey's data (labeled as Survey 2024) will be compared to Survey 2017 findings. As previously noted, interviews were conducted with respondents on behalf of 304 households, and data were collected on 1 160 members of households living in Sutherland.

To ensure the flow of the discussion as well as to limit the length of the report, only the most relevant figures and tables are included in the body of the report; additional tables are contained in Annexure 1 for further reference. Table 4.1 below serves as a **fact sheet** and a reference for diverse demographic aspects of the Sutherland population as described by Survey 2024. Comparative data from Survey 2017 are listed as well.

Table 4.1: FACT SHEET - Demographic characteristics of Sutherland population, Survey 2024 with comparisons to Survey 2017

Age and Life Phase Indicators					
Line	Age Indicators	Survey 2017	Survey 2024		
1		Value / %	Value	Number	%
2	Range: Total population	0-86 yrs	0-89 yrs		
3	Quartile 1 or 25	13,3 yrs	14 yrs		
4	Quartile 2 or 50 (Median)	28,5 yrs	29 yrs		
5	Quartile 3 or 75	48,6 yrs	50 yrs		
6	Low range (0 – 25)	13,3 yrs	14 yrs		
7	Inter quartile range (25 – 50 – 75)	26-50: 15,2 yrs 51-75: 20,1 yrs 26-75: 35,3 yrs	26-50: 15 yrs 51-75: 21 yrs 26-75: 36 yrs		
8	High range (76 - 100)	37,4 yrs	40,4 yrs		
9	Mean (or Average)	31 yrs	32,2 yrs		
10	Mode: Exact age within 4-year cohort	12 yrs (10-14)	8 yrs (5-9)		
11	Legal age: Children (0-17)	35%		361	31,1%
12	Legal age: Adults (18+)	65%		799	68,9%
13	Child dependency age: 0-14	29,2%		308	26,6%
14	Potentially economic age: 15-59	58,7%		702	60,5%
15	Old dependency age: 60+	12,1%		150	12,9%
16	Dependency ratio: (line 13+15)/(line 14)*100	70,2/100	65,2/100		
17	Sex ratio (males/females)*100	87,0	84,5		
18	Life phases (approximate age definitions)				

19	ECD: Infant: 0-1 (2017: intrapolation from 0-4)	n=35,2; 3,6%		43	3,7%
20	ECD: Toddler: 2-4 (2017: intrapolation from 0-4)	n=52,8; 5,5%		62	5,3%
21	ECD: Preschooler (Grade R): 5-6 (2017: intrapolation from 5-9)	n=31,2; 2,2%		44	3,8%
22	Young child: Primary scholar: 7-13 (2017: intrapolation from 5-9 and 10-14)	n=143,2,6; 14,6%		137	11,8%
23	Adolescent: Senior scholar: 14-18 (2017: intrapolation from 10-14 and 15-19)	n=100,2; 10,2%		103	8,9%
24	Young adult: 19-34 (2017: intrapolation from 15-19 and 20-34)	n=201; 21,0%		274	23,6%
25	Middle adult: 35-59	n=295; 30,0%		347	29,9%
26	Senior adult/Young old: 60-74	n=119; 12,1%		120	10,3%
27	Old old/Frail: 75+			30	2,6%
28	Total: Life Phases	n=984; 100%		1160	100,0%
29	Households				
30	Household: Child-headed (Age <18)	n.a.		1	0,3%
31	Household: Women-headed (>19)	n.a.		208	68,4%
32	Household: Men-headed (>19)	n.a.		96	31,6%
33	Total Households	n.a.		304	100
34	Household size (average)	4		3,8	

Line 19-21: ECD – Early Childhood Development phase

Line 30-32: Respondent used as proxy for Head of Household

4.2 Residential areas, households, and dwelling units

The household distribution across the four residential areas was as follows: 47,3% in Skema, 36,9% in Hopland, 5,4% in Kerkgrond, and 10,4% in Dorp.

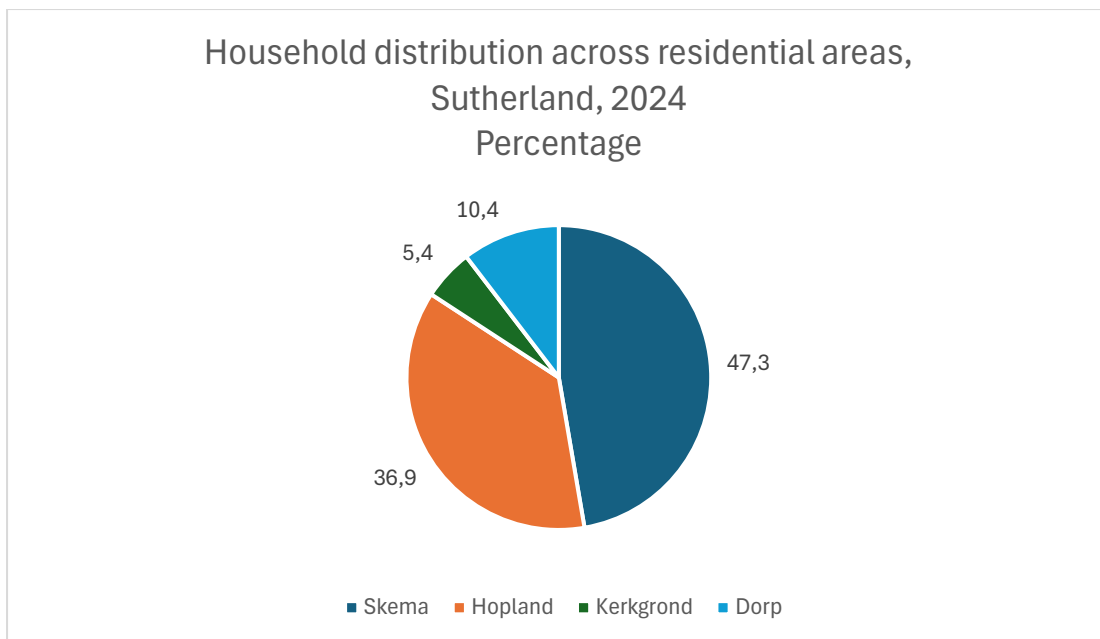


Figure 4.1: Distribution of households according to residential areas of Sutherland, 2024

Some households resided in formal houses and others in backyard dwelling units. There seems to be a slight increase in the proportion of backyard dwellings in Sutherland for 2024, but the percentage has remained quite stable since 2011, on average 15%, although the last seven years (2017 to 2024)

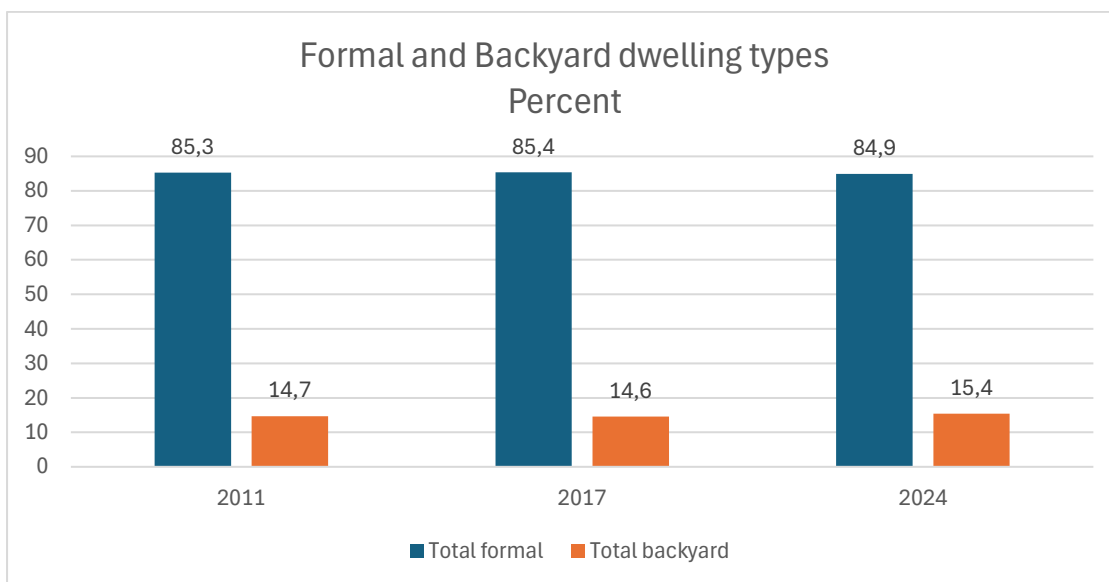


Figure 4.2: Formal and backyard dwellings

have shown a slight increase (14,6% vs 15,4%) in these dwellings. When the different residential areas are considered, Skema still has the majority share of backyard dwellings, although the percentage slightly dropped in 2024. Hopland currently (2024) has a minority share (5%) of backyard dwellings, but this had grown from 0,8% to 5% over the period. Other areas do not have backyard dwellings recorded in the sample.

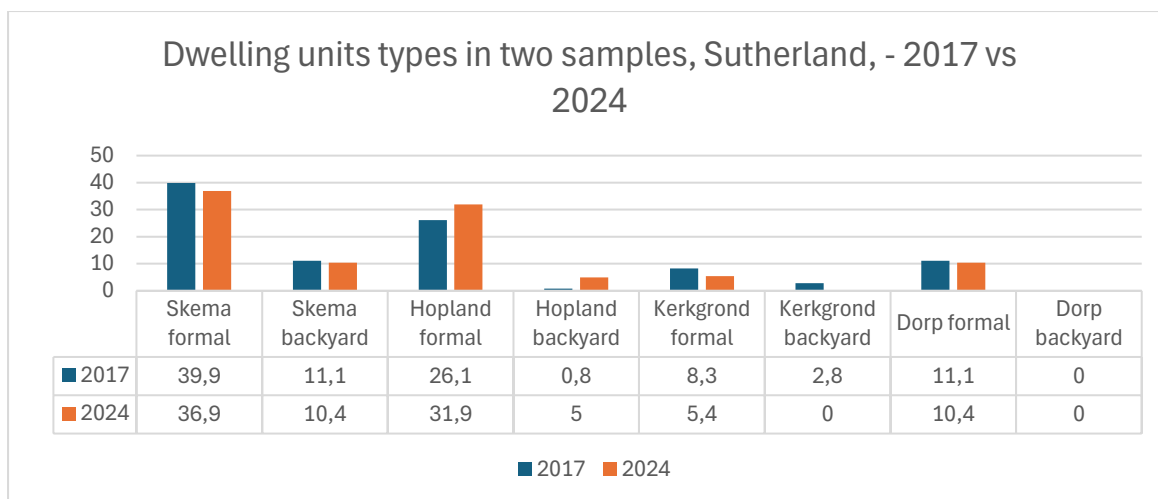


Figure 4.3: Residential areas and dwelling unit types in the samples of 2017 and 2024

The residential area Skema remained the largest area over three data points although the percentage dwelling units decreased over time. The formal units as well as the backyard units followed the same decreasing pattern. Hopland, in contrast, showed an increase over time both in formal and backyard units. The increase of 2024 seemed to be more dramatic and unexpected. Kerkgrond showed a decrease in formal dwellings – relative to other areas - but in 2024 no backyard units were identified in this sample. Dorp as a residential area initially showed an increase but lately a decrease in formal units. No backyard units were detected in 2024.

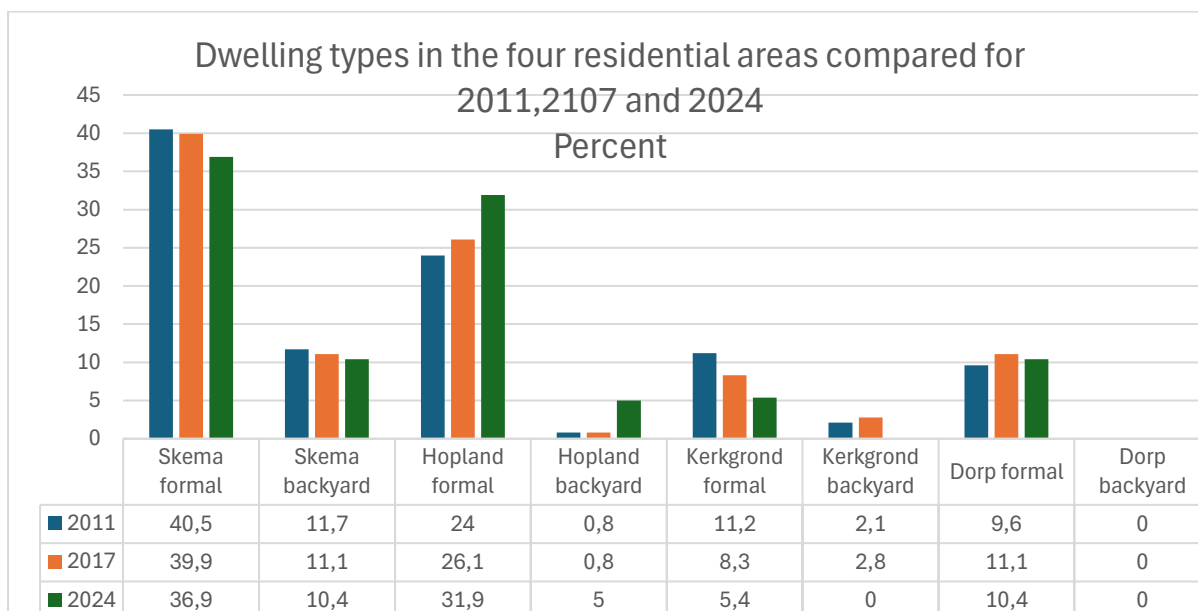


Figure 4.4: Dwelling types in the four residential areas of Sutherland, 2011, 2017, 2024.

4.3 Population group

In terms of population group, the overwhelming majority (94,6%) of the survey population (i.e., as

individuals, N=1 160) of 2024 identified as Coloured, and only 3,3% as White. This is similar to the 2017 distribution for Coloured (95,2%) and White (4,8%) population groups. But different from the 2017 survey, when none of the following were identified, the current survey identified 16 (1,4%) individuals as Black and 1 (0,1%) as Indian. Eight persons (0,7%) were identified as Other (Figure 4.5).

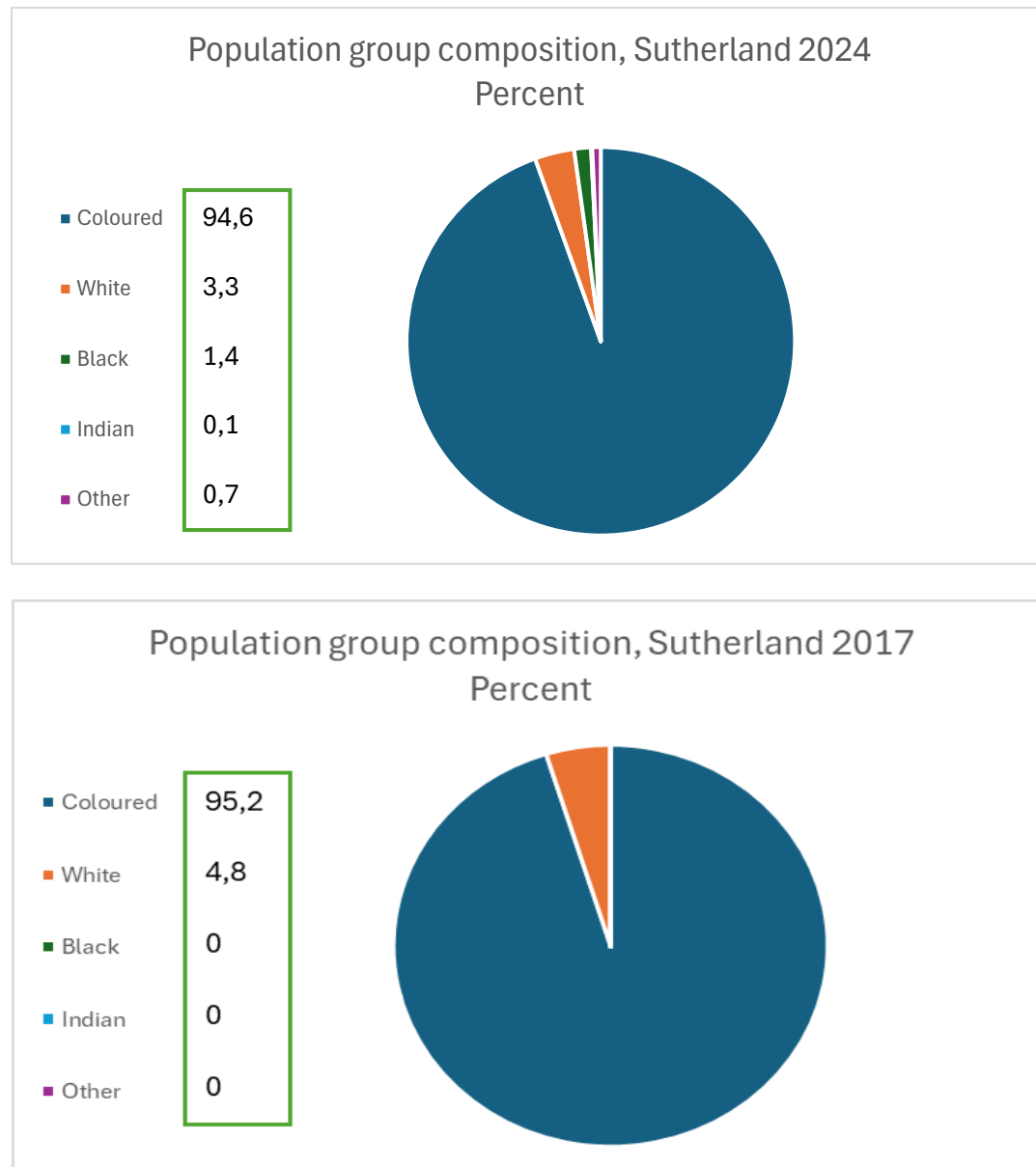


Figure 4.5: Population composition of Sutherland, 2024 compared to 2017

4.4 Population group and residential areas

Regarding residential area, only 2,9% (n=8/276) of **households** whose **respondents** self-identified as Coloured resided in Dorp (Town) (the former White area), while all White respondents (n=20/20) specified this as their place of residence. Of the five households that identified as Black one household was staying in Town, while the other four black households were located one each in Kerkgrond and Hopland and two in Skema, the latter three previously (2017) all occupied with Coloured households. Two households were currently classified as Other and were both staying in Town.

In the 2024 survey, Town has assumed a more mixed composition in terms of population group, with the majority (64,5%) still White, and second still Coloured (25,8%) but less than in 2017 (34,7%). Two groups, Black (3,2%) and Other (6,5%), were now residing as households in Town (Annexure 1: Table 3). Figure 4.6 below, a ‘treemap’, visually describes the composition of the residential areas in terms of population group.

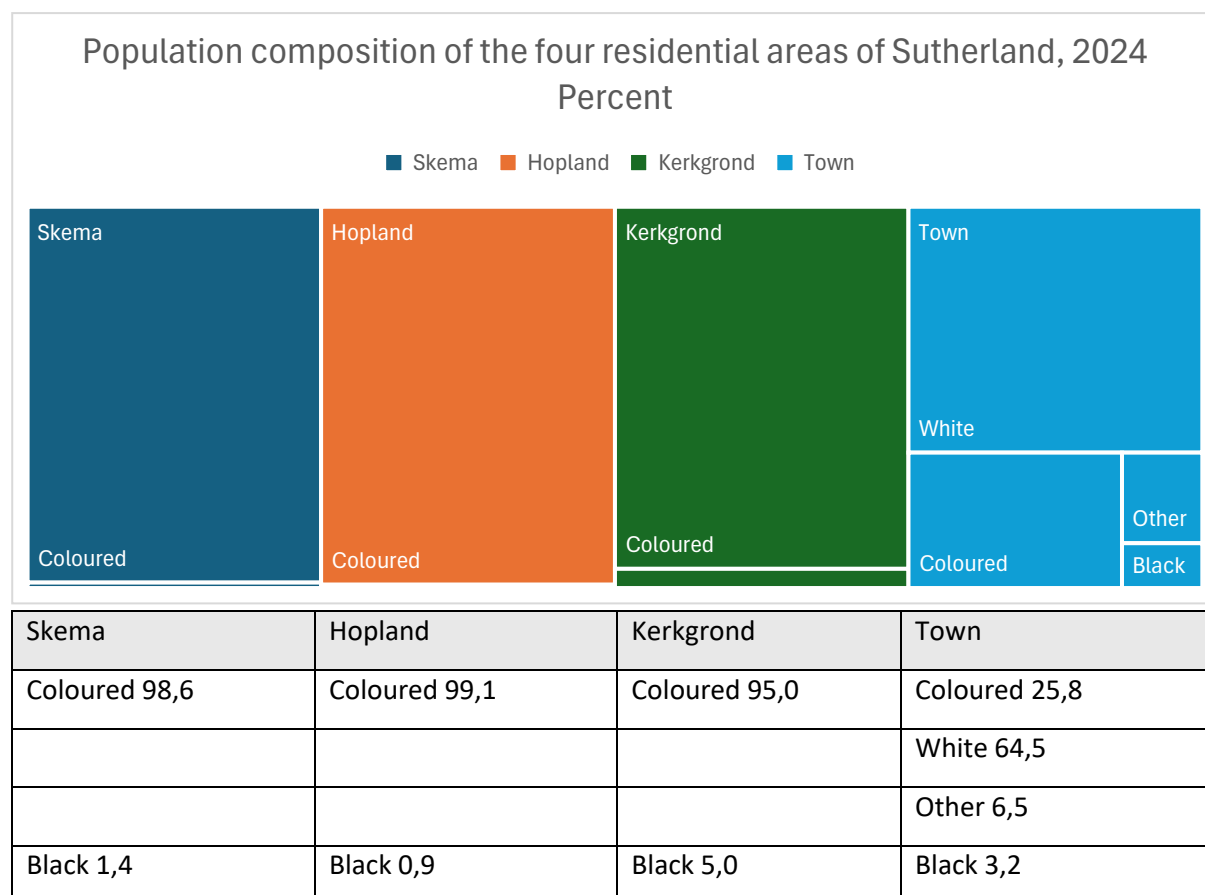


Fig 4.6: Population composition (household data) of the four residential areas of Sutherland, 2024, using a treemap as the graph.

4.5 Population group and gender

Annexure1, Table 2 illustrates, for 2024, that women account for a majority percentage (54,2%) of the population overall, because of the strong Coloured group presence (94,6%) within the total Sutherland population and **their** majority female proportion (54,1%). The gender distribution among the White population group presents however a stronger male presence (52,6%). Compared to 2017 survey, the gender distribution remains similar except for a small decrease in the proportion of females among Whites (50,0% vs 47,4%). The Sex Ratio (i.e., the number of men expressed as a percentage of the number of women) confirms these trends. The demography of Sutherland is still defined by the characteristics of the Coloured group. A very small constituent of Blacks and Other were observed in Sutherland in 2024 while there were none such groups in 2017. The indicator Sex ratio provides a concise summary of the numeric relationship between men and women as demonstrated in Figure 4.7.

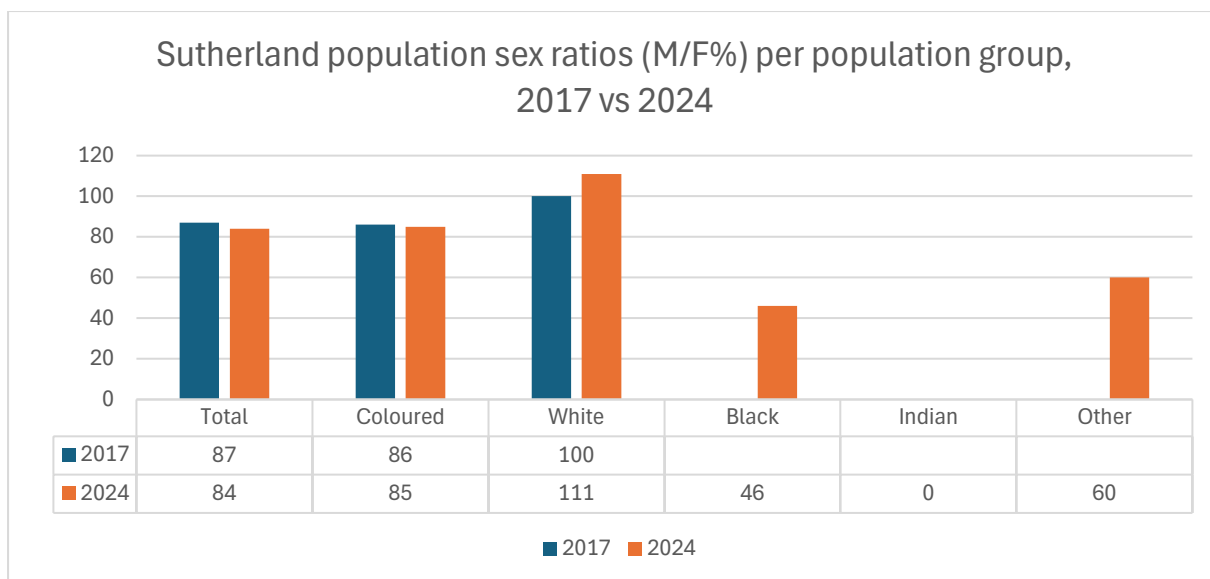


Figure 4.7: Sutherland population sex ratios per population group, 2017 vs 2024

4.6 Age and gender

The age-gender composition of a population is often portrayed with a Population pyramid, which actually is a back-to-back graph (bar-diagram) of men and women according to five-year cohorts starting at 0-4 years, increasing up to the maximum age within the population. Presented below is a graph similar to a Population pyramid but with all data on the **same side of the X-line**, but now **presented horizontally**, which is easier to read and better understood by the novice (see Figures 4.8 (total), 4.9 (males), 4.10 (females)). The table that contains the data that generate the bar-diagrams (for total, males and females according to the age cohorts) is Annexure 1, Table 3 and 4. The data enables one to compare Survey 2017 and Survey 2024, i.e., over a period of seven years that included the pre-, during, and post-Covid pandemic experience.

With respect to the **total population** (i.e., both genders) – see Figure 4.8 - the under 10 years population (i.e. cohorts 0-4 and 5-9) proportionately had increased over the period, initially only slightly but most definitely in the 5-9 cohort. The 2024 cohort for 10-14 year in contrast showed a decrease of nearly 5%, which continued for the next two cohorts (15-19 and 20-24) albeit at a lower rate. The next cohort, 24-29, featured a sharp increase of approximately 3%, followed by no-change for two cohorts and then a sharp decrease of about 2% in cohort 40-44. From cohorts 45-49 to 60-64, 2024 figures gained slightly over those of 2017. For the cohorts of 65+ years the 2024 figures again showed a decrease relative to 2017. Therefore, it may be concluded that over this period Sutherland lost population in their early teens, early forties, and late sixties and beyond, and gained population in the early childhood period up to 10 years, in their early twenties, and their mid-forties to mid-sixties.

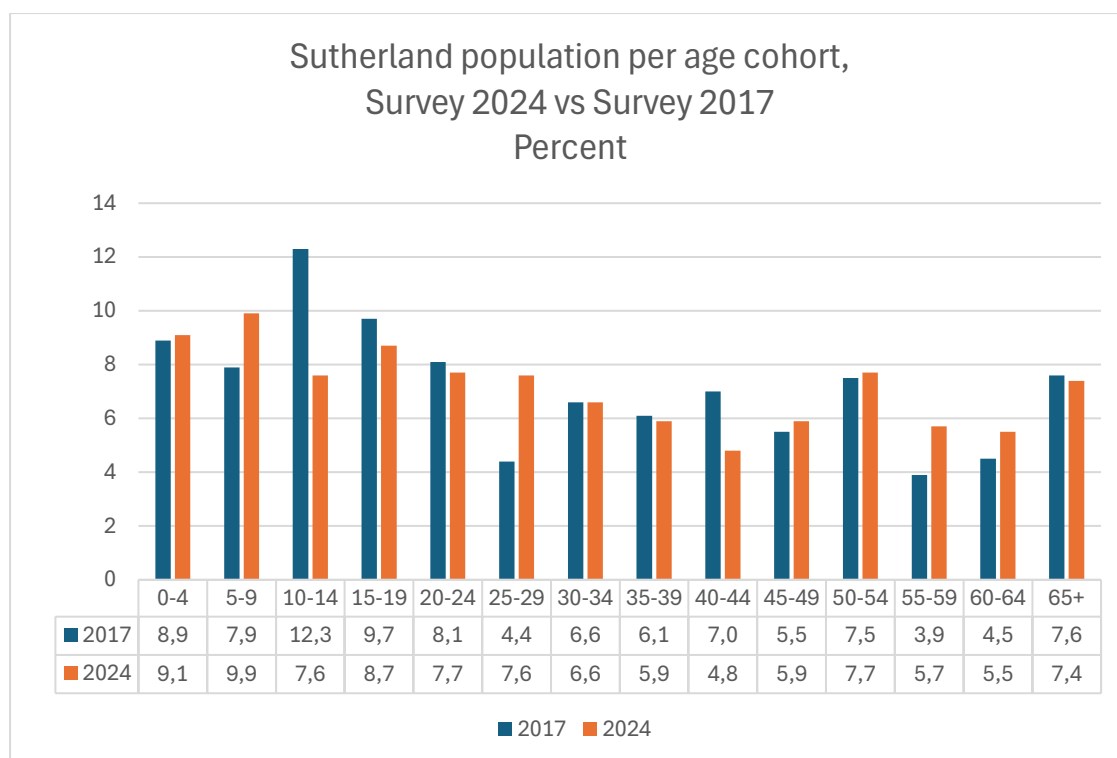


Figure 4.8: Sutherland population per age cohort, both genders, Survey 2024 compared to Survey 2017

This pattern of population change in the past six years differs between males and females. For **males** (Figure 4.9) an initial drop in the proportion of cohort 0-4 years, was observed (which is in contrast with the general expectation that more boys are born than girls), but a gain of boys over 2017 was evident in the cohort, 5-9. Thereafter for three consecutive cohorts (10-24) the proportion of males dropped relative to 2017. Males gained again in the late twenties and early thirties, thereafter, dropped again during late thirties and early forties. From mid-forties up to late sixties, the male proportions in 2024 were bigger than the 2017 figures.

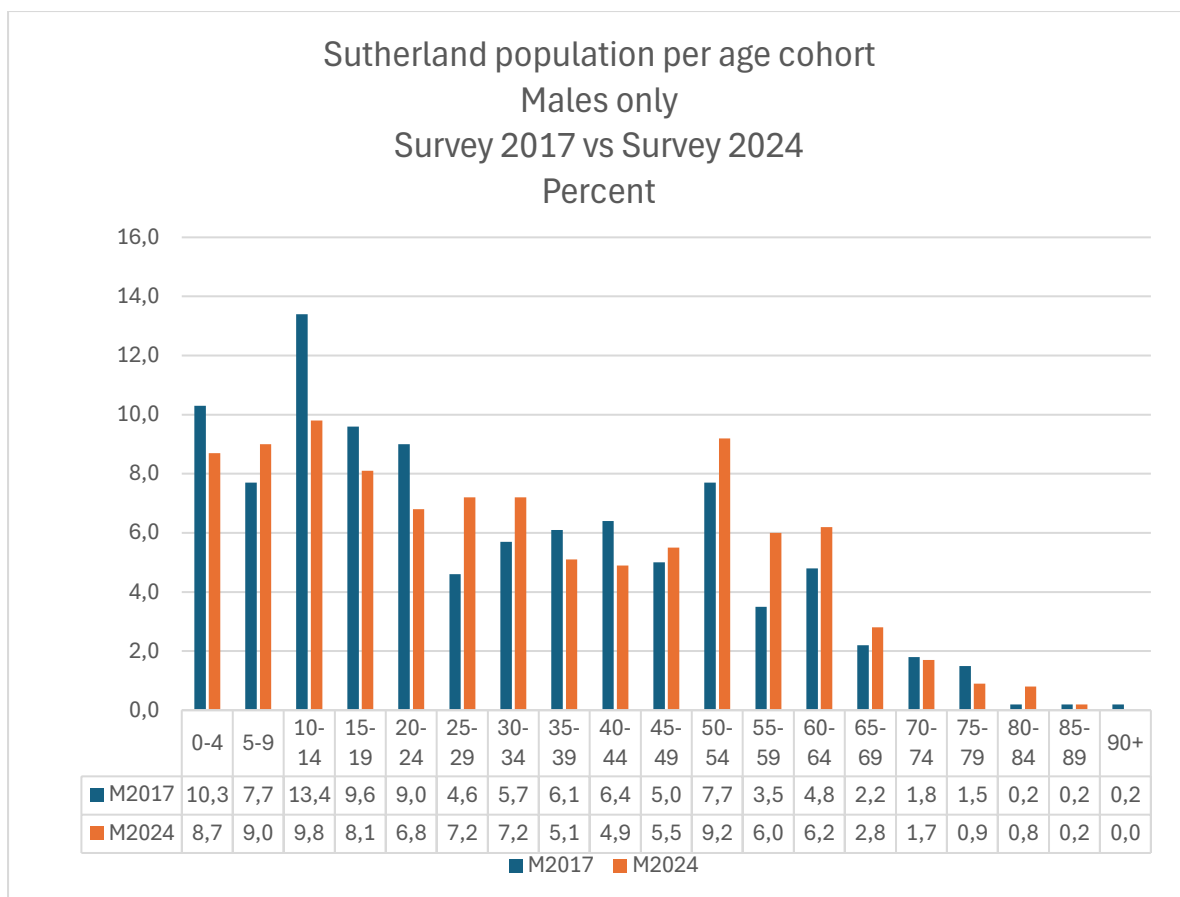


Figure 4.9: Sutherland population per age cohort, Males only, Survey 2024 compared to Survey 2017

Female proportions (Figure 4.10) grew in the under-10 cohorts but dropped in their teenage years (10-19). Gains were observed for the twenties (20-29). In the early 30s their proportions increased, then dropped for the late 30s, to be repeated in a similar pattern of growth (early 40s) and decrease (late 40s). Thereafter, females gained in their share relative to 2017 in the cohorts of 50-64, stagnated then, and grew from 74+ years, which is of course consistent with the general pattern that females dominate the population proportions in old age.

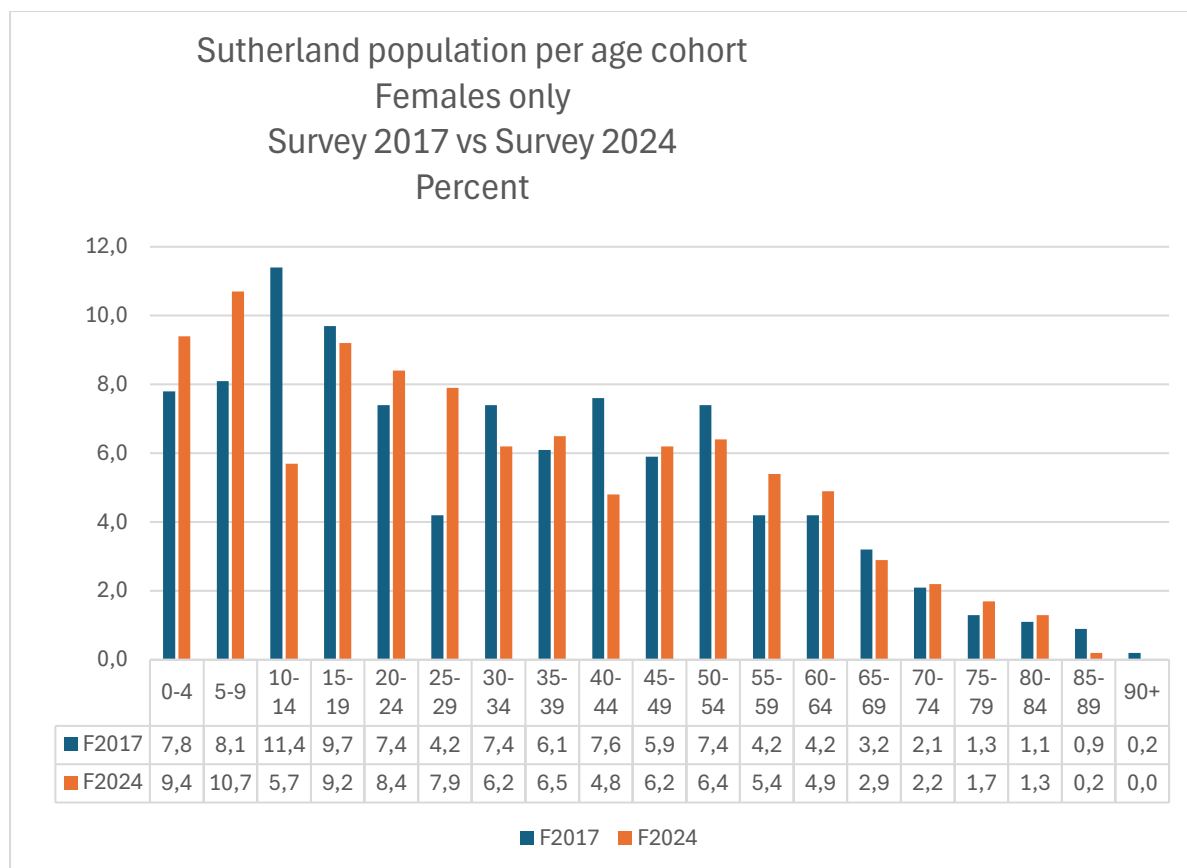


Figure 4.10: Sutherland population per age cohort, Females only, Survey 2024 compared to Survey 2017

According to **Figure 4.7 (Sex Ratios)** above, the ratio of males to females became smaller over the period. The question whether the number of males were actually less than before, or whether the number of females were more than before, is not answered by the changes observed in the sex ratios reported. However, the age cohort analyses for males and females indicated proportional increases, for men, in cohorts 25-34, and for women, in cohorts 20-29 and 35-39, which suggests in-migration of men and women in these cohorts (or in the seven years foregoing these cohorts). The alternative explanation would be the contrary: men and women of the corresponding ages left Sutherland in this period. Should it be true that women in these ages migrated to Sutherland, this fact might explain the increases in the proportion of total population in the cohorts below 10 years of age in 2024. This growth in these proportions must therefore not be seen as an increase in the number of births per woman but rather as the result of an increase in the number of women in their fertile years.

The gains in the proportion of males in 2024 in the cohorts 45 to 69 may be due to in-migration of men to Sutherland who have viewed Sutherland as a retirement destination more for men and less for women, as females did not show the same increases following the time lapse between the two Surveys. Women majorities in the older cohort must be therefore explained as biologically driven (the general pattern is that women outlive men) and not as in-migration from elsewhere.

Migration data and analyses will be presented in chapter 5 below for further elucidation.

4.7 Age indicators

The Fact Sheet (Table 4.1: Lines 2-8; see above) lists various age indicators that assist in understanding the structure and changes in the population of Sutherland. These indicators were composed for Survey 2017 and Survey 2024 to provide insight into the trends of population change. The **Range** shows the number of years between the lowest age and the highest age observed in the two surveys - respectively 86 and 89 years.

The **Quartiles** (25 percent) classifies the population in four categories: the first, second, third, and fourth 25-percent distributions of the population according to age. The **Median** (the midpoint (50th)) shows the age where half the population are younger and half older than the calculated age (e.g. 28,5 vs 29 years for 2017 and 2024 respectively). The **Inter-quartile range** (IQR) shows the range of the years between two quartile points (e.g. for Quartile 25 (in 2024) the IQR is 14 years – from age 0 to age 14, which is more than the IQR of 13,3 years in 2017. In Line 7 it is clear that the age ranges in the older IQRs stretched while the second lowest range (26-50) shrunk from 15,2 to 15 years. Note that these figures do not tell us about the magnitude of the population involved but only the change in the ages across the population range. See Figures 4.11 and 4.12 for a graphic presentation of these trends.

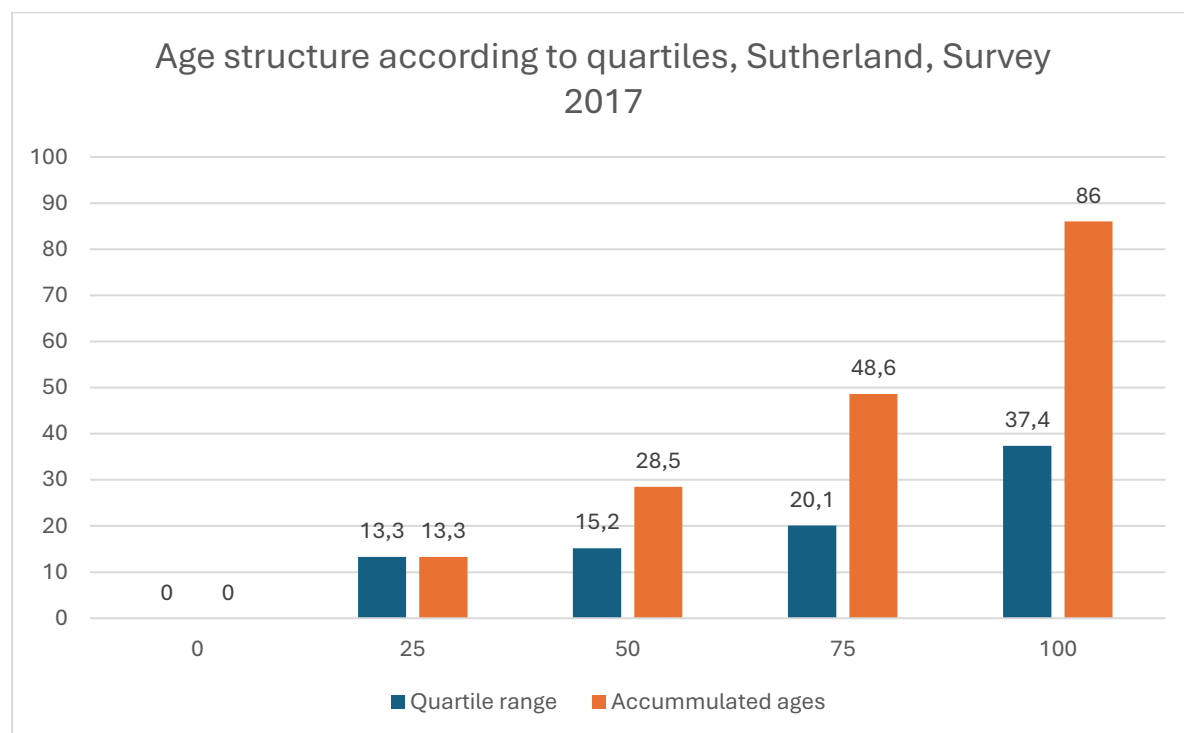


Figure 4.11: Age structure according to quartiles, Sutherland, Survey 2017

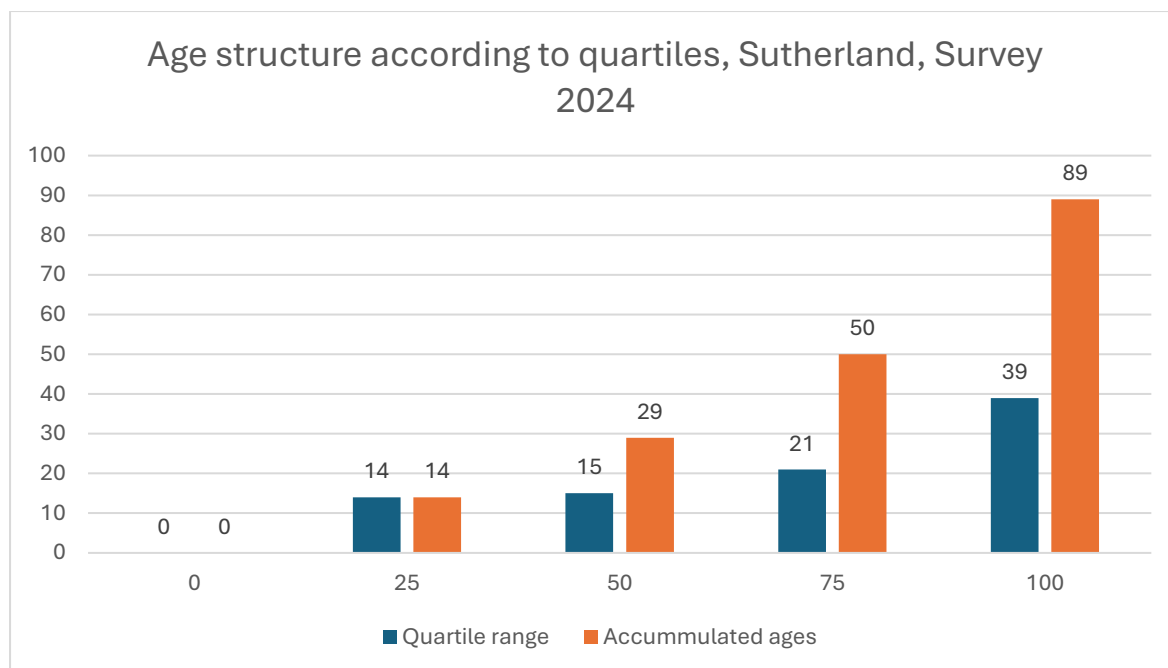


Figure 4.12: Age structure according to quartiles, Sutherland, Survey 2024

The **Mean** (31 years vs 32,2 years for 2017 and 2024 respectively) indicates the average age and shows at what age the population concentrates. The **Mode** tells at what age the strongest concentration in the total range is found (12 years vs 8 years for 2017 and 2024 respectively). (See Line 9 and 10).

The average (Mean) age of the population members at the time of Survey 2024 was 32,18 (2017: 31) years, while the median was 29 (in 2017: 28,5). The median is the mid-point of the age range (i.e. separating the lowest half from the highest half). In terms of population age, this means that approximately 50% of the population were below the age of 29. From Annexure1: Table 4, which presents the age distribution of members of population according to 18 cohorts of five years each, it appears that the 5-9-year cohort (2024) is the largest (9,9%) compared to the other cohorts. According to Survey 2017 the 10-14-year cohort had the largest percentage with 12,3%. Table 4.1 (Fact Sheet) above also shows that 26,6% (vs 2017: 29,2%) of the population comprised children aged 14 or below. The 60+ age cohort had a higher proportion (12,9%) in 2024 compared to the 2017 survey (12,1%). These figures show that the Sutherland population of 2024 has developed an older population structure in the past seven years since 2017.

However, according to the comparison for dependency ages (0-14 and 60+) to the potentially economic active ages (15-59) for the two surveys (2017 vs 2024) (see Lines 14-16 in Table 4.1, Fact Sheet - above; and Figures 4.13 and 4.14 - below) the 15-59 cohort increased with a growth of 1,8% (58,7% to 60,5%) while the child dependency (0-14) cohort decreased with 2,6% (29,2 to 26,6%). The elderly dependency (60+) cohort grew but only 0,8% (from 12,1% to 12,9%) over the period. This implies that the **Dependency Ratio decreased** from 70,2% (2017) to 65,2% (2024) – a total of 5 percent lower. This means that for every 100 potentially active persons there were 5 dependents less in 2024 than in 2017. The older age structure mentioned above impacted more on the potentially economic active cohort (15-59) which strengthened the economic viability of the Sutherland population.

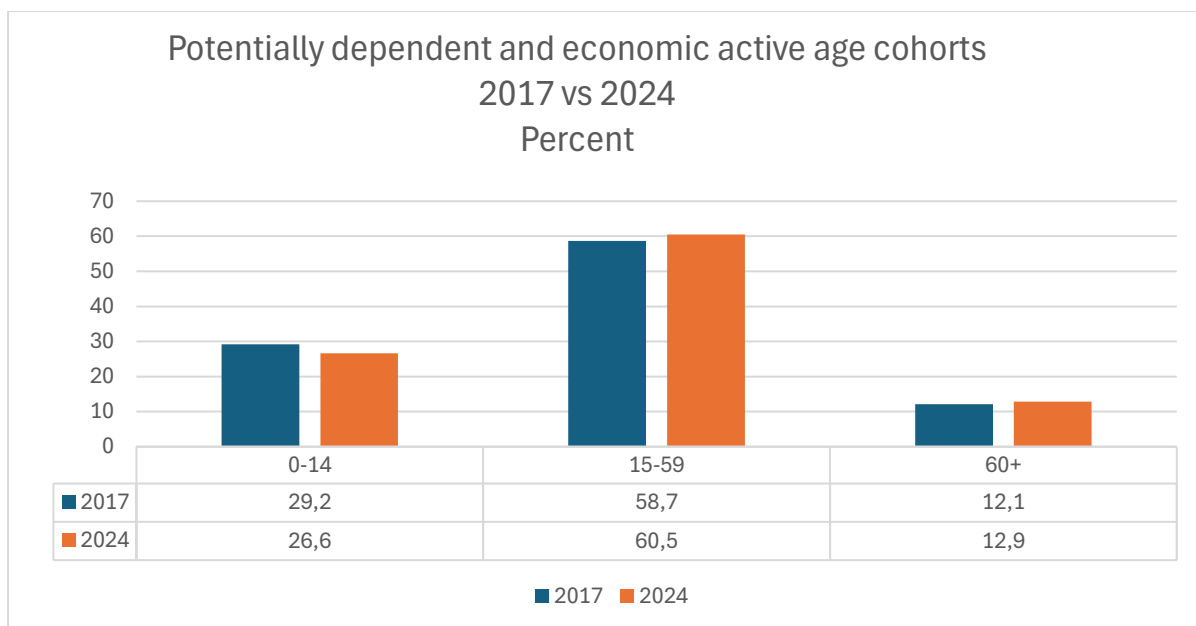


Figure 4.13: Dependency ages vs potentially economic active ages compared for 2017 and 2024

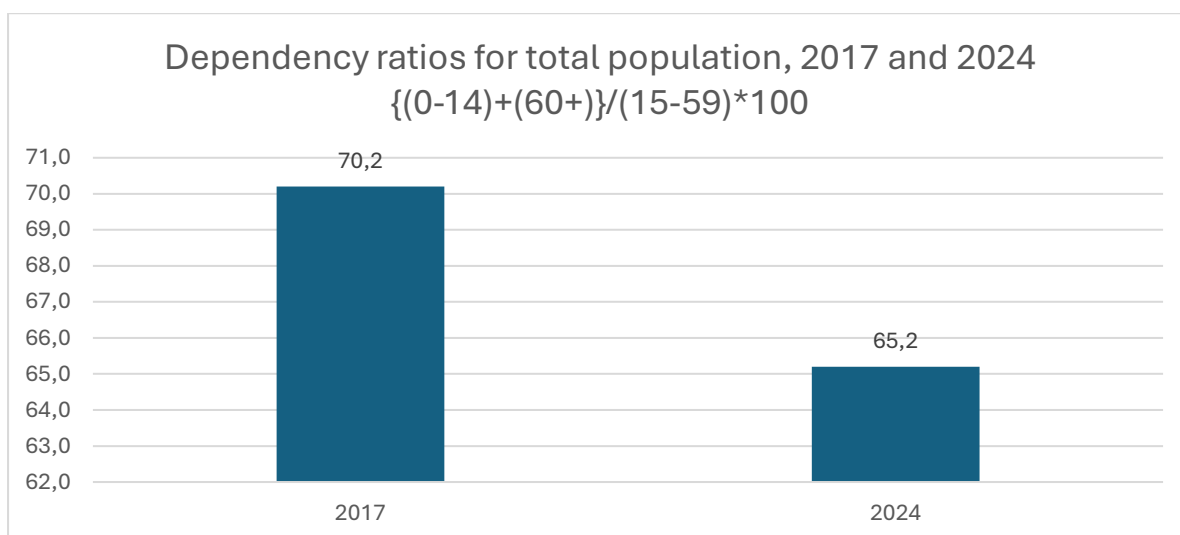


Figure 4.14: Dependency ratios compared for 2017 and 2024

Comparing the **legal ages** of persons, as children (0-17 years) and adults (18+ years) confirms the observation that the Sutherland population has developed an older age-structure since 2017. Data reported in lines 11 and 12 in the Fact Sheet (Table 4.1 above) show that children's portion decreased from 35% to 31,1% and adults portion increased from 65% to 68,9% over the period 2017 to 2024.

4.8 Life phases

Many attempts were made by different scholars to describe the human life cycle and phases of development. Some names that come to mind include Ivan Pavlov (1849-1936), Sigmund Freud (1856-1939), John B Watson (1878-1958), Jean Piaget (1896-1980), Erik Erikson (1902-1994), and BF Skinner (1904-1990) to name a few. Most of these scholars attached **age cohorts to describe the phases of**

life which they distinguished but none of these were hard and fast cut-off points and allowed soft ends and for different conditions to co-define the cohorts. In the outline provided in the Fact Sheet (Table 4.1: Lines 18-28), the terms used, and the age cohorts linked to them, should not be considered as fixed categories, or seen as a true reflection of typologies proposed by the above-mentioned scholars. The “life phases” are used to describe major chronological transitions in human life, with measurable ages, for the purpose of analysis of data gained from surveys.⁶

Significant differences in population percentages between the 2017 and 2024 surveys are of interest. None of the differences were significant in the sense that they surpassed the 5% level, as the biggest change recorded was 2,8 percentage points. The changes of note are as follows: the proportions of Young Children (2,8%) and Adolescents (1,3%) decreased and the proportion of Young Adults (2,7%) increased. Other changes were small and negligible. The downward trend for Young Children and Adolescents would impact the school-going population, both primary and secondary grades, but more so the primary grades. The increase in Young Adults impacts the economy as this group would be job seekers and dependent on finding job opportunities.

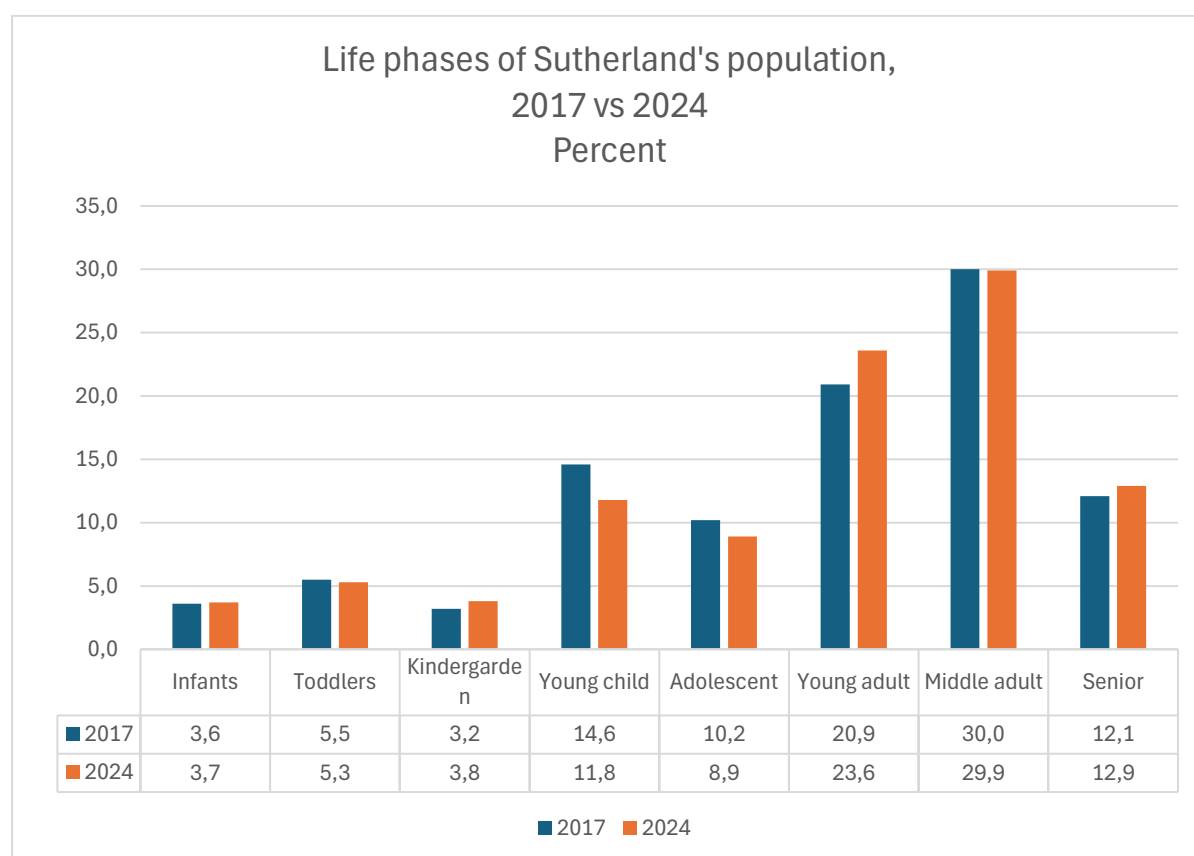


Figure 4.15: Life phases in descriptive terms, 2017 vs 2024

4.9 Households

As mentioned already, the total number of households in Survey 2024 is 304. Respondents in the

⁶ This practice has become known as “fuzzy demographics”. Fuzzy demographic values are qualitative demographics that may be derived from quantitative data, for example the categories of toddler, teenager, young adult, etc. that are derived from grouping by age (D’Urso et. al, 2017).

survey were taken as a proxy for the Head of Household. Of the 304 respondents, 68,4% are women, suggesting that the majority of the households are female headed. This implies that male headed households are in the minority with 31,6%, less than a third. Only one household was found to be headed by a child (16 years of age).

In 2024, the average household size is 3.8 members, down from 4.0 in 2017.

Households are considered as socio-economic units that consist of one or more individuals that share a living space and means of existence on a regular basis. In cases where the household consists of more than one person, the relationship among the members of the household may assume beyond the economic arrangements for living together social, legal and biological dimensions, defining the unit as a family. Households are therefore described in terms of the internal relationships that bind the participants together. One way of describing these interrelationships is to specify each member's relation to the head of the household. The head normally has some kind of authority in terms of the occupation rights on the dwelling unit, over minors, and decision-making regarding the maintenance and mode of existence of the household. This may become a complicated responsibility especially when the household consists of multiple generations. Questions were asked in the survey that shed light on these and related issues. In this research the respondent (the person knowledgeable about the household and the members) was taken as the proxy of the head of the household.

Internal relationships within the household are defined with reference to the Respondent/Head. Horizontal relationships with the Head would be first and foremost the Spouse or Partner of the Head, and secondary to this relationship a family member, such as a brother or sister, or other family-related person, as well as in some cases non-family members. In the survey, horizontal relationships (including the Head) accounted for 57,2% of all members (see diagram pictured in Figure 4.16).

Vertical relationships, again with reference to the Head, refer to Children of the Head (and Spouse) (and Foster children, which could also be seen as a horizontal relationship). These two categories accounted for 30,6% of the members. Furthermore, in a downward vertical line, one would recognize Grandchildren (9,9%). Upwards, the Parents (3,4%) and the Grandparents (0,2%) of the Head would be counted as well, a total of 3,7%.

According to this analysis, households in the survey represented between one and five **generations** of household members. Generation 1 accounted for the highest number among the households, with Generation 2 for the second highest number. Generations 3, 4 and 5 do manifest some numbers but they represent minority proportions.

The core of households refers to the core, sometimes called the **nuclear family**, typically consisting of the head, spouse and their immediate children. If other categories are also present, they would be known, together with the core family, as an **extended family**. Extended families include horizontal as well as vertical relationships, as shown in Figure 4.16. All these configurations are present in Sutherland.

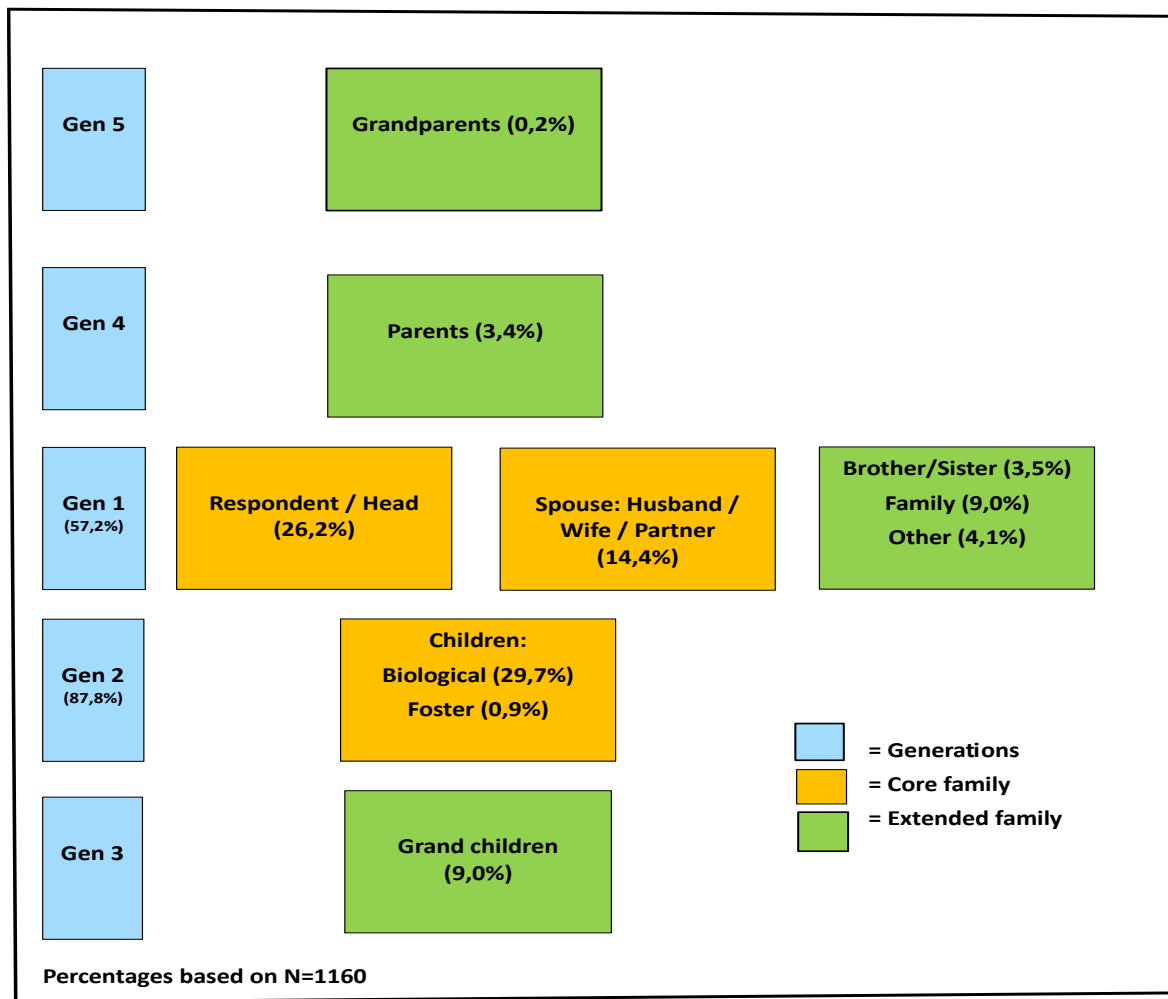


Figure 4.17: Diagram of internal relationships and generations of households

Figure 4.16: Internal relations and generations of households

4.10 Summary of demographic characteristics and trends

1. Demographic data about Sutherland's population is based on the sample survey conducted early in 2024. This sample consists of 304 households and 1 160 individuals.
2. Demographic data enables one to describe the pattern of settlement of the population in the various residential areas of Sutherland. The household distribution across the four residential sites at the time of the survey was as follows: 47,3% in Skema, 36,9% in Hopland, 5,4% in Kerkgrond, and 10,4% in Dorp/Town.
3. Approximately 85% of the households occupy formal houses while 15% stay in so-called backyard structures, representing a slight increase since 2017 in backyard dwellers. Hopland is the area with the strongest relative increase in both formal and backyard dwellings.

4. The composition of the population according to population groups shows that Coloured people are the absolute majority (95%) within the population. Whites show a slight decrease, and small quantities of Blacks, Indians, and Other were added since 2017.
5. All residential areas are dominated by Coloureds (95% to 99%), except for Dorp/Town where they represent about 25% of the residents and Whites the majority with 65%. Small quantities of Blacks and Other also are staying in Dorp/Town.
6. The gender composition of the total population shows that women are the majority (54,2%) which is also true for Coloureds, while men are the majority among Whites. Blacks and Other carry minorities of men.
7. With respect to the overall age distribution of the population, and in comparing this distribution between 2017 and 2024, Sutherland have lost population numbers in the early teens, early forties, and late sixties and beyond, and gained population in the early childhood period up to 10 years, in the early twenties, and the mid-forties to mid-sixties.
8. The pattern of changes in population as indicated for the total population differs between males and females. Overall, the ratio of males to females has become smaller over the period.
9. Males experienced an initial decrease in the proportion of cohort 0-4 years, and a gain in the cohort 5-9. Thereafter for three consecutive cohorts (10-24) the proportion of males dropped relative to 2017. Males gained again in the late twenties and early thirties, thereafter, dropped again during late thirties and early forties. Since mid-forties up to late sixties, the male proportions in 2024 were larger than the comparative 2017 figures.
10. Female proportions grew in the under-10 cohorts but dropped in their teenage years. Gains were observed for the twenties. In the early 30s their proportions increased, then dropped in the late 30s, to be repeated in a similar pattern of growth (early 40s) and decrease (late 40s). Thereafter, females gained in their share relative to 2017 in the cohorts of 50-64, stagnated then, and grew from 74+ years.
11. Age indicators show that the population structure reflects an older structure in 2024 in comparison to 2017. The Mean changed from 31 to 32,2 years; the Median from 28,5 to 29; and the Mode from 12 to 8 years. Inter quartile ranges increased accordingly: Quartile 0-25: 13,3 to 14 years; Quartile 26-50: 15,2 to 15 years; Quartile 51-75: 20,1 to 21 years, and Quartile 76-100: 37,4 to 39 years.
12. Dependency ratios decreased from 70,2% (2017) to 65,2% (2024), due to proportionately less 0–14-year-olds (29,2% to 26,6%) and more 60+ year-olds (12,1% to 12,9%) versus an increase of 15–59-year-olds (58,7% to 60,5%).
13. In terms of life phases, the distributions for the various cohorts remain stable but changes of note, and supportive of the above-mentioned trends, were observed: the proportions of Young Children (2,8%) and Adolescents (1,3%) decreased and the proportion of Young Adults (2,7%) increased. The downward trend for Young Children and Adolescents will impact the school-going population, both the primary and secondary grades, but more so the primary grades. The increase in Young

Adults will impact the economy as this group includes job seekers that are dependent upon securing employment opportunities.

14. Respondents in the survey were taken as a proxy for the Heads of Household. Of the 304 respondents, 68,4% are women, suggesting that the majority of the households are female headed. This implies that male headed households are in the minority with 31,6%, less than a third. Only one household is headed by a child (16 years of age).
15. On average, the 2024 size of households is 3,8 members per household unit, which is slightly smaller than the size of four (4) reported for 2017.
16. With respect to internal household relationships and structure, horizontal relationships (inclusive of the Head) account for 57,2% of all members. Vertical relationships, again with reference to the Head, refer to Children of the Head (and Spouse) (and Foster children, which could also account for a horizontal relationship). These two categories account for 30,6% of the members. Furthermore, in a downward vertical line, one would recognize Grandchildren (9,9%). Upwards, the Parents (3,4%) and the Grandparents (0,2%) of the Head account for a total of 3,7%.
17. Households in the survey represent between one and five generations of household members. Generation 1 accounts for the highest number among the households, with Generation 2 for the second highest number. Generations 3, 4 and 5 do manifest some numbers but in minority proportions.
18. The core of households refers to what is known as the nuclear family that consists of the head, spouse and their immediate children. If other categories are also present these would be known, together with the core family, as an extended family. Extended families include horizontal as well as vertical relationships. All these configurations are found in Sutherland.

CHAPTER 5: MIGRATION

5.1 Introduction

Population change, such as change in the size, location, and the structure (age and sex) of the population, is primarily the result of three demographic processes, fertility, mortality, and migration. Data on the first two processes is collected through administrative processes managed by the government department of Home Affairs, such as the registration of births and deaths in a given area (e.g. a municipal district). Such data is not regularly, and reliably, collected through surveys, or even censuses. (An exception is official periodical efforts of specialized demographic and health surveys (DHS))⁷.

Migration, the third demographic process, refers to the resettlement of people, from one area to another. This process implies a total uprooting from one location and settling in in another area. This involves a new residential arrangement as well as a new social, economic, and administrative ecology and context. In the present survey, relevant migration data pertain to people (individually and as a household) that had moved from another area to Sutherland and in this process have crossed borders of areas of jurisdiction by municipal and/or provincial governments (and on occasion international borders). Except for international border crossing, internal migration to a different part of a country does not need to be officially registered (except for giving notice of change of address as may be relevant) and is therefore not officially documented. Surveys are used to collect mobility data such as once-off change of residential location, between and/or within municipal boundaries. Other migratory processes may include seasonal mobility (e.g. seasonal workers in agriculture that find periodical employment during harvesting seasons, sheep shearing, fencing, etc.). Such information can be best sourced through surveys.

In this chapter, data is reported about people that moved residentially across municipal boundaries, as well as within the same municipal area, as when one moves from one residential address to another within the same town. The data limitations include weak memory about such events, second-hand information, and inaccurate reporting about place of origin. Such places include the place of birth. Only in-migration trends have been included in the survey.

5.2 Overall migratory trends

5.2.1 Data issues

Data on in-migration seems deceptively easy to collect, but the figures show that 24 cases potentially could be added to the analysis. There were missing cases (i.e. cases about whom no reporting were done) (13), miscoded (invalid coding) cases (8), and cases where the respondent did not know the correct answer (3), altogether thus another 24 or 2,1% (24/1 160). In the subsequent analysis, we use 168 cases of in-migrants since 1959 to 2024 about whom sufficient information was available for further analysis.

⁷ RSA, 2016. For more information, see: <https://www.samrc.ac.za/research-reports/south-africa-demographic-and-health-survey-2016>

5.2.2 In-migration trends

Although the number of in-migrants to Sutherland increased exponentially as of late it must be recognized that the proportion of in-migrants contributing to the current population (168 to 1 160) constitutes only 14,5% over the period since 1959, covering 65 years.⁸

From persons that moved into Sutherland, information was sought about the year that they arrived and settled in Sutherland (see Annexure 1: Table 6). **In-migration** was steady and low (less than 10 persons per 8-year interval) before the year 1994, but with the advent of the **new millennium** the number of incomers multiplied, up to by more than three times. This coincided with the opening of SALT, the largest single optical telescope in the southern hemisphere, in 2005, which together with SAAO⁹, became instrumental in an upsurge in tourists visiting the town and the establishment of businesses and creation of job opportunities across the scope of the local economy. These significant events stimulated the in-migrant figures positively.

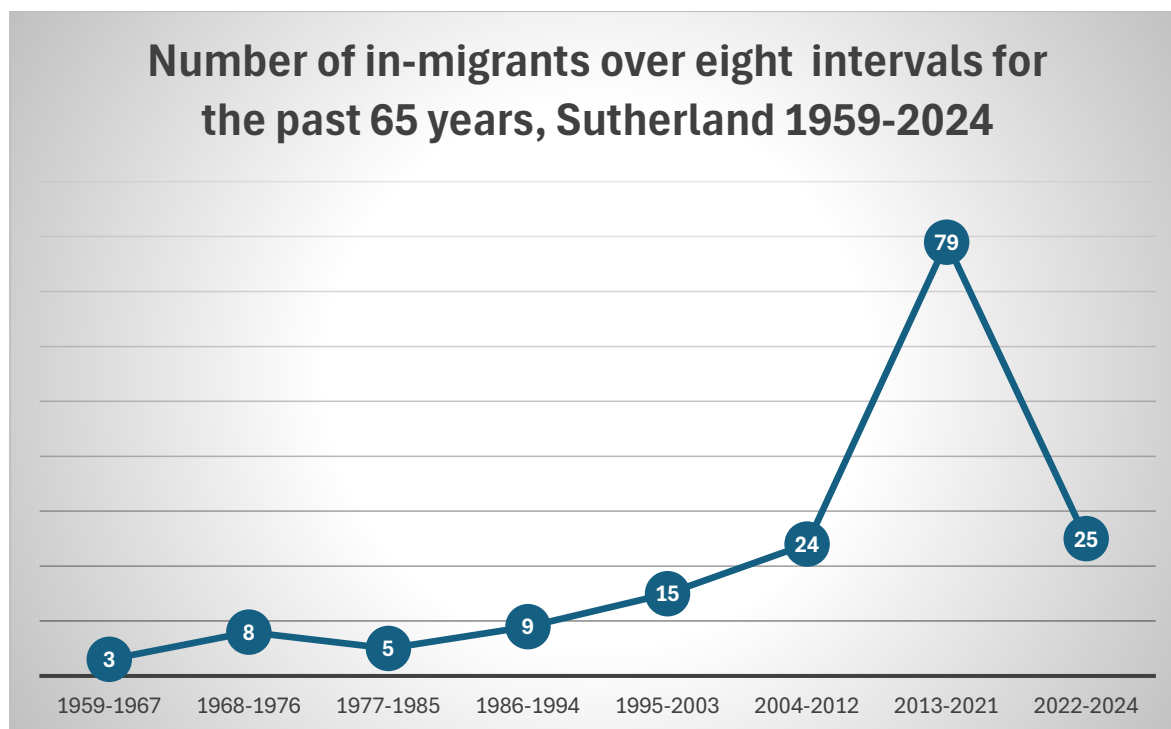
An interesting aspect of the in-migration trend described here is that **the trend continued unabatedly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic (2019-2022) except for a short-term break in the trend that restored back to a higher level of in-migration since the 2017 survey**. Detailed annual figures showed COVID-19 effects: low figures were reported for 2016 (2 in-migrants), 2017 and 2018 (8 each year), and then unexpectedly 12 for 2019 and 19 for 2020; thereafter a sharp decline to 9 for 2021 and 2 for 2022. In 2023, the pattern returned to a high increase as 2023 reported 15 in-migrants, an increase that sustained for the first two months of the survey into 2024 (8 in-migrants¹⁰).

Average numbers per year of in-migrants over the period of analysis (1959-2024; 65 years) are reported in Annexure 1: Table 6. Figures 5.1 and 5.2 below demonstrate the trends graphically.

⁸ Of course, this is an absolute minimum estimate as in-migrants that passed on during this period are not counted in.

⁹ SAAO was established in Sutherland in 1972. The head office was, and still is, in Observatory, Cape Town. Note the rise in annual in-migrants in the early 1970s (Annexure 1: Table 6).

¹⁰ Should this rate of 8 over two months continue for 2024, an estimated 48 in-migrants may be expected to move to Sutherland during the course of the year.



Note: Duration of 2022-2024 equals 2 years and 2 months (a factor of 2,1)

Figure 5.1: Number of in-migrants, Sutherland, 1959-2024 (n=168)

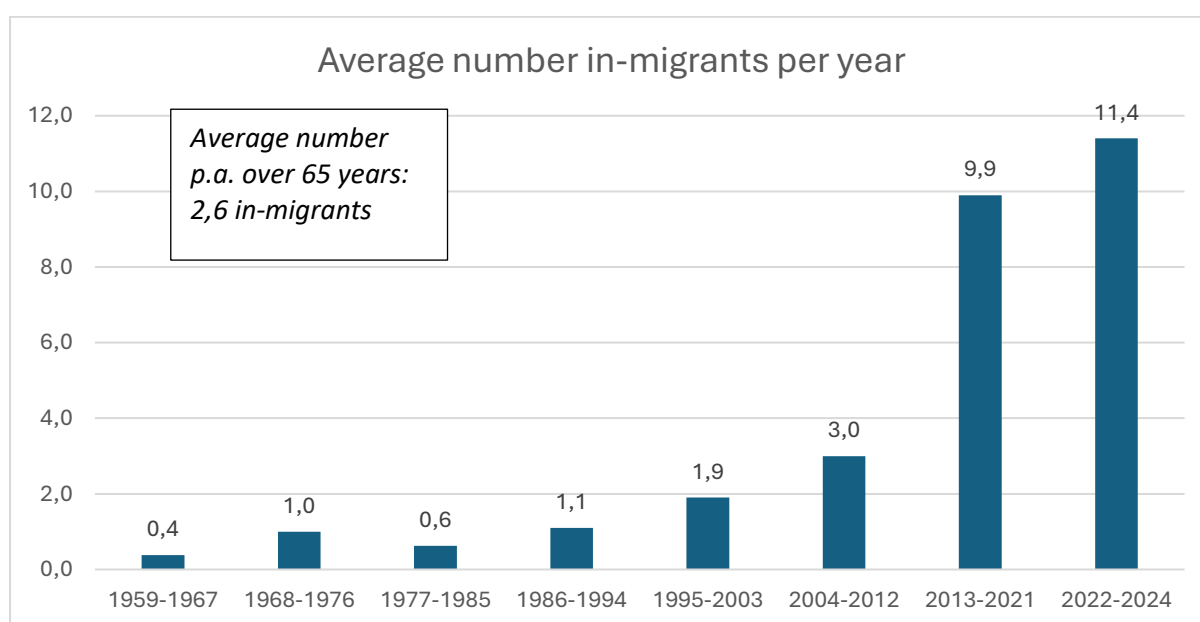


Figure 5.2: Average number of in-migrants, per year, over eight interval years for the period 1959-2024.

More research is needed to explain the variations noted, but one theory on COVID-19 response points to the phenomenon of *panic mobility*, or *flight*, a common human response to epidemics. The concept *cordon sanitaire* refers to a containment measure that can be used to stop the spread of a virus, a strong metaphor, to which people react often vehemently by a panic response, such as to flee from

the danger zone to a perceived or assumed safe zone. Robin Cohen¹¹ points out that the *privileged* flee as they are having a retreat (e.g., a holiday home). The *less privileged*, however, are sometimes accused of fleeing even when they are not. They often move from cities to their rural and childhood home because of the loss of jobs caused by the panic among urban residents and drastic government curtailment policies. Such possibilities need to be studied carefully lest mistaken conclusions are made about the causes and outcomes of such movements.

5.2.3 Where born

Of the 1 160 persons that were reported on in Survey 2024, respondents indicated that 1 000 (86,2%) were **born** in Sutherland (in the 2017 survey this percentage was indicated as 77%). This implies that 160 persons were born elsewhere. Of the persons not born in Sutherland, 71,9% (115/160) indicated their birthplace to have been in another **province** than the Northern Cape. The rest, 28,1% (45/160) were all born within the Northern Cape Province. The majority of the persons born in Northern Cape, 89,0% (40/45) were born in a **town** of the Northern Cape and a few (5; 11%) on a farm in this province. Those not born in Sutherland were born mostly outside of the province as well.

5.2.4 From where to Sutherland

The question was asked where the in-migrants stayed **immediately before** they settled in Sutherland. The number of answers received gives a total of 171 (11 more than those who were born elsewhere).¹² From this total, 11,7% (20/171) moved to Sutherland from **farms in the Sutherland district**; 3,5% (6/171) from a **farm in another district**; and 84,8% (145/171) from a **town or city from another district**.

The district, town or city where they stayed **immediately before moving to Sutherland** are listed and grouped according to the province of this place. The result is as reported in Table 5.1 (note: data were available for 151 cases, including one person from abroad). With respect to Provinces (n=150) the strongest sending areas are located within the Western Cape and Northern Cape, especially as far as towns are concerned. City (metropolitan regions) are also strong sending origins, specifically in the case of Cape Town.

¹¹ Emeritus Professor of Oxford University, sociologist and migration specialist; and a South African borne academic. Information sourced from Compas. See References.

¹² A possible explanation for this higher number than persons born elsewhere, could be that some persons (possibly 11) that have been born in Sutherland since their birth had moved elsewhere and returned to Sutherland at a later stage.

Table 5.1 Province of the town or city from where the in-migrants have come from

	Province		City		Town	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
Eastern Cape	2	1,3	0	0,0	2	2,0
Gauteng	5	3,3	5	9,4	0	0,0
Limpopo	2	1,3	0	0,0	2	2,0
Northern Cape	34	22,5	0	0	34	34,7
Western Cape	107	70,9	48	90,6	59	61,2
New Zealand	1	0,7	n.a.		n.a.	
Total	151	100,0	53	100,0	97	100,0

5.2.5 Moving within and settling in Sutherland

The next Figure (5.3) displays **the year of settling in at the current address**, which is the address within Sutherland. However, the data refers to only the year of settling at the person's current address. This includes persons that have been living already in Sutherland but at another address than the one where the respondent was visited by the fieldworker for Survey 2024. The answers received on this question therefor include (1) a combination of those people that have entered Sutherland to settle at the current address where they were interviewed and **who never have changed address within Sutherland** itself, as well as (2) people that have settled in Sutherland at another address than they were residing at the time of the interview for this survey, but since **have moved from a previous Sutherland address to the current Sutherland address**. The number of people from both these two sources was **671 persons**. This number of persons were able to provide an answer to the question. Figure 5.3 (below) is based on this total of 671 persons. Annexure1: Table 7 provides the frequencies for the horizontal bars in Figure 5.3.

The graph (Figure 5.3) complements the trends that were shown in Figure 5.1 above. It confirms the fact that Sutherland experienced exceptionally high mobility during 2005 with the inauguration of the SALT as noted above. The spike shown in Figure 5.3 for the year 2005 points out the movement of 97 persons to their current address. The small number of mobile people for 2024 (n=24) is because of the fact that only the first two months of this year were recorded at the time of the survey.

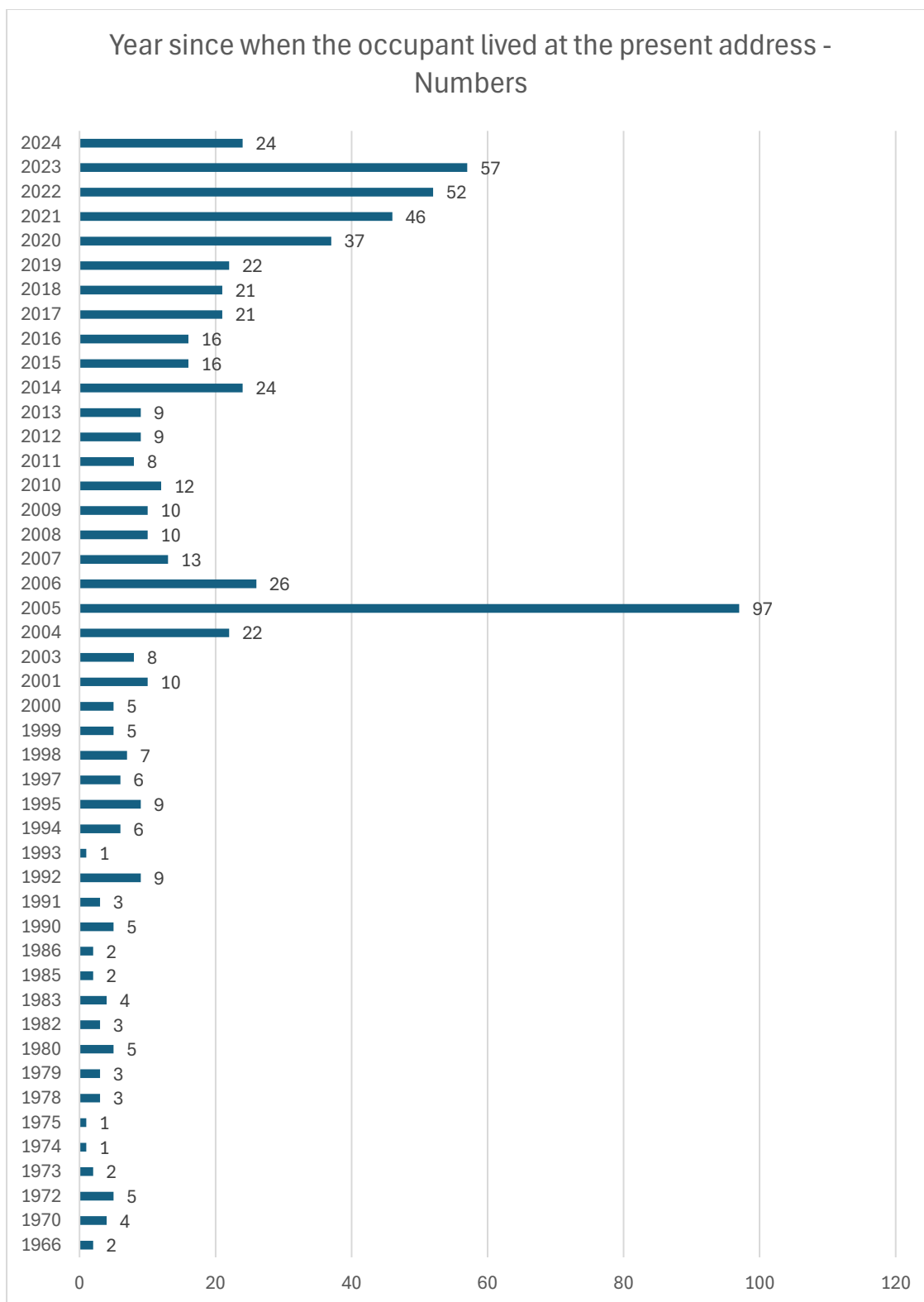


Figure 5.3: The year and the number of persons that settled at their current address (N=671)

5.3 Profile of in-migrants

This section provides a profile of the in-migrants **as at the time of Survey 2024**. The profile is

structured in terms of six types of characteristics:

- (1) Features that may be best described as **ascribed** such as age (life phases), gender, and population group.
- (2) **Social relationships** such as marital status and intra-household relationships or composition.
- (3) How they fit in **residentially** within Sutherland, according to the residential area and the type of housing they occupied.
- (4) The **potential** that in-migrants brought with them positively in terms of educational status, and challenges due to the disabilities they display.
- (5) Earning an **income** and receiving grants.
- (6) Financial prospects and their **outlook on the future**.

5.3.1 Ascribed features

- **Life phases** (following age brackets or cohorts) – Figure 5.4 below

In-migrants impacted on the age structure of the Sutherland residential population mostly in the adult phases as from the age of 20 and beyond, i.e. to the very old. They did not add many numbers to the pre-adult phases (ages 0 to 19) and therefore did not impact significantly on the use of health care, ECD, primary and secondary educational, and associated facilities such as sport and recreation.

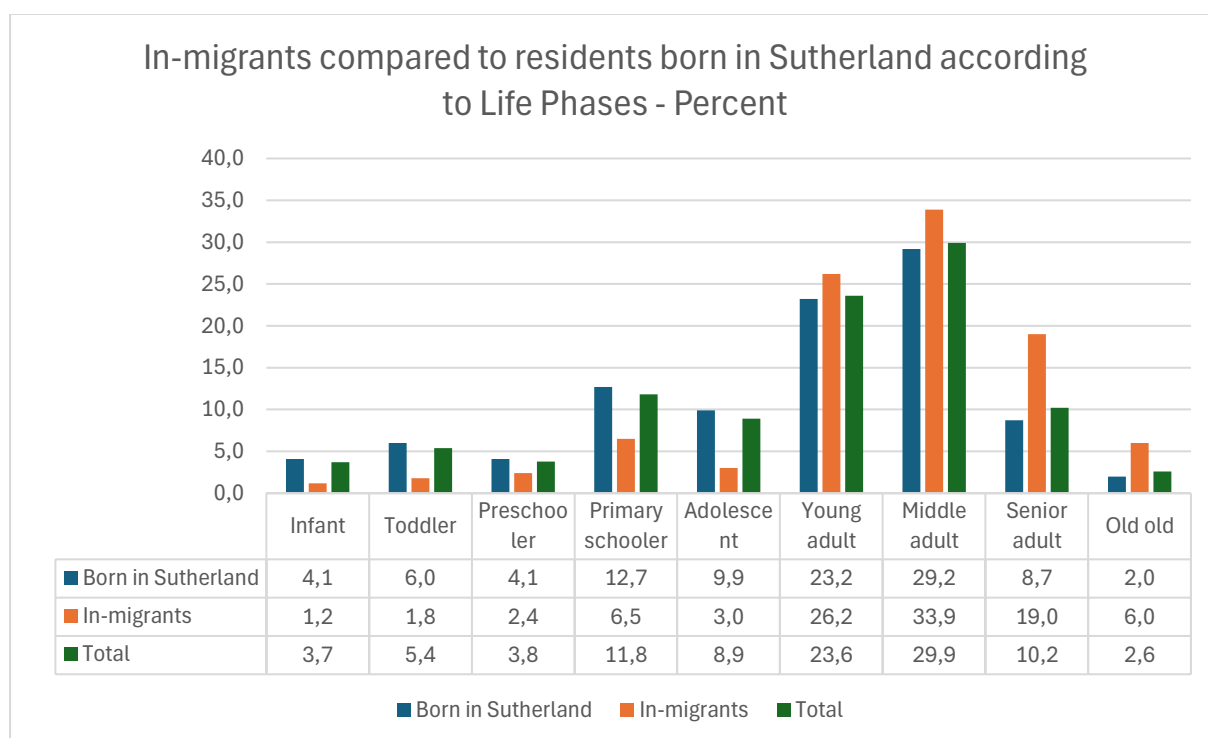


Figure 5.4: Comparison of in-migrants and born-in-Sutherland according to life phases (age)

- **Gender**

Females represent the majority share of the population at large (54,4%); the same is true for the population born in Sutherland (54,7%) and also for in-migrants although at a lower percentage of 52,4%. This implies that the Sex Ratio for in-migrants (90,9) is higher than for those born in Sutherland (82,8).

- **Population group**

The population of Sutherland consists mainly of the Coloured group (94,5%), which is also the case for those born in Sutherland (98,0%). Coloureds remain the majority group among in-migrants, however at a lower proportion, now 74,4%. The second largest group are Whites among in-migrants, 19,6%. Only 0,5% of those born in Sutherland were White people. In total, they represent 3,3% of the population. Blacks are a small minority (1,4% in total), and 4,8% among the in-migrants; 0,8% of those born in Sutherland were Blacks. One Indian person was born in this town, and six persons from the so-called Other group. Only two in-migrated to Sutherland.

5.3.2 Social relationships

- **Marital status**

Slightly more than sixty percent (61,3%) of the total population are single, never married or in a relationship as man and wife cohabiting. The corresponding proportions for those born in Sutherland is 65,5% and for the in-migrants 36,9%. This latter significantly lower percentage is due to the fact that the proportion of in-migrants in the lower ages (below twenty years) is far smaller (14,9%) than that of the population born-in-Sutherland (36,8%). As expected, and as a consequence of this disproportion, the proportions among in-migrants of the legally married (33,3%) and cohabitating couples (22,6%) are consistently higher than the corresponding percentages for those born-in-Sutherland (respectively 11,4% and 18,6%). Proportions for other statuses regarding marriage, or in a state of termination of the marital relationship, such as being divorced, deserted, and widowhood are for both groups small and quite similar.

- **Household internal relationships and composition**

With regard to internal relationships of households the core relationship is that of the head of the household and his or her connection with a spouse or partner. In this analysis the respondent is taken as a proxy for the head of the household. Among the in-migrants 42,3% were identified as respondents (heads), versus 23,6% in the case of the population section born-in-Sutherland. The same pattern repeats itself for the spouses or partners where it is found that spouses/partners are 22,0% versus 13,1% among the born-in-Sutherland group.

This pattern is a consequence of the respective age structures of the two populations sections, where the in-migrants represent an older population, and the born-in-Sutherland group a younger group. Consequently, one finds proportionately more children (i.e., biological children) of the head and spouse in the case of the born-in-Sutherland group, namely 31,9%, than in the in-migrant group (18,5%). This pattern is repeated with grandchildren, in which case the born-in-Sutherland group reflects 9,9% and the in-migrant group 3,6% of the grandchildren.

Other family and non-related members represent small percentages in both instances with no significant differences among them. Only in the case of brothers and sisters of the head/spouse a larger percentage is found among the born-in-Sutherland population than among in-migrants.

Grandparents and great grandparents represented very small numbers and with no significant differences between the two populations. Less than one percent of foster children, exclusively among the born-in-Sutherland population, is mentioned.

5.3.3 Residential and housing types

- **Residential areas**

In-migrants settled within all four residential areas, albeit at different proportions. It is evident that relatively more in-migrants settled in Dorp/Town although almost the same percentage settled in Skema as well.

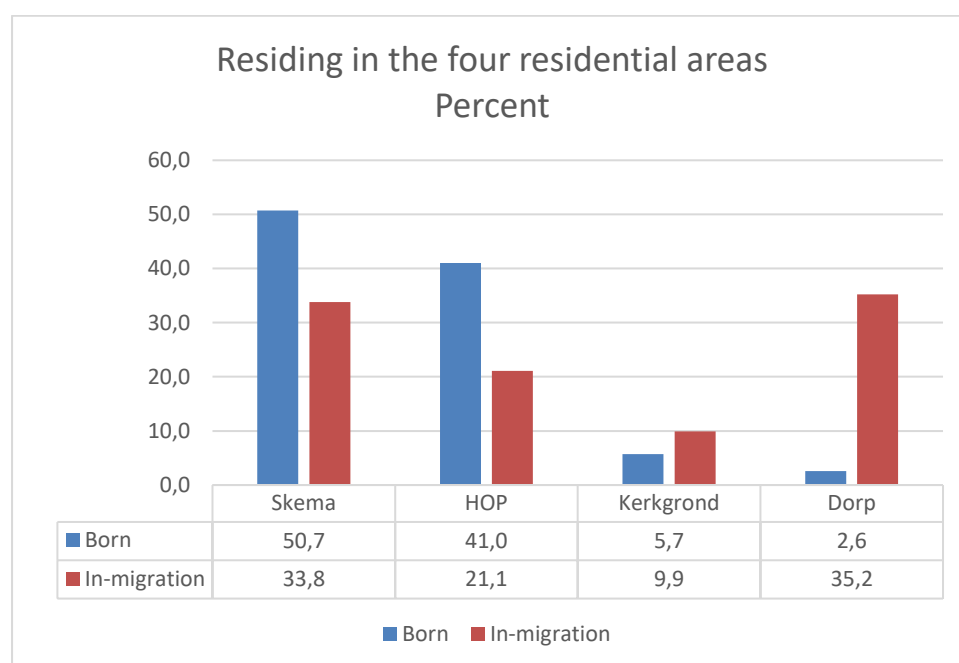


Figure 5.5: Residing in the four residential areas, in-migrants vs born-in-Sutherland

- **Housing – type and structure**

Nearly twenty percent of in-migrants settled in backyard dwellings (19,1%), more than born-in-Sutherland households (14,5%). In the classification of the structure of the house, 15,5% of in-migrants occupied an informal dwelling in a backyard, constructed as a shack or Wendy house (8,7%). These percentages are substantive but also represent minorities in the profiling of in-migrants as 80,9% settled in a main house, in formally and brick constructed houses (77,4%).

5.3.4 Potential of in-migrants

- **Educational status**

Educational status is described according to the highest grade/standard and qualification completed by members of the population **seven years and above**. The proportion of the population without any formal training is 6,6%. A section of this group cannot read or write (4,4%) while another section 2,2% can read and write, i.e. functional literate. The differences regarding educational status between the born-in-Sutherland (BIS) and the in-migrants populations (IMS) are significant on certain levels. Small percentages (below 10%) completed only the lower grades (Grades 1 to 7) with a slightly higher performance achieved by the born-in-Sutherland population. Grade 8 proved to be the most popular qualification for the born-in-Sutherland population as 15,7% have achieved this level, while a lesser percentage of 12,7% achieved Grade 12. In contrast, 21,3% of the in-migrants achieved Grade 12. Post/extra-school qualifications were completed but only in small quantities. However, **10,6% of the in-migrants completed a university degree or Technikon diploma**, significantly more than the born-in-Sutherland group (0,4%). More details are available in Annexure1: Table 8, which also serve as the source document to Figure 5.6 below.

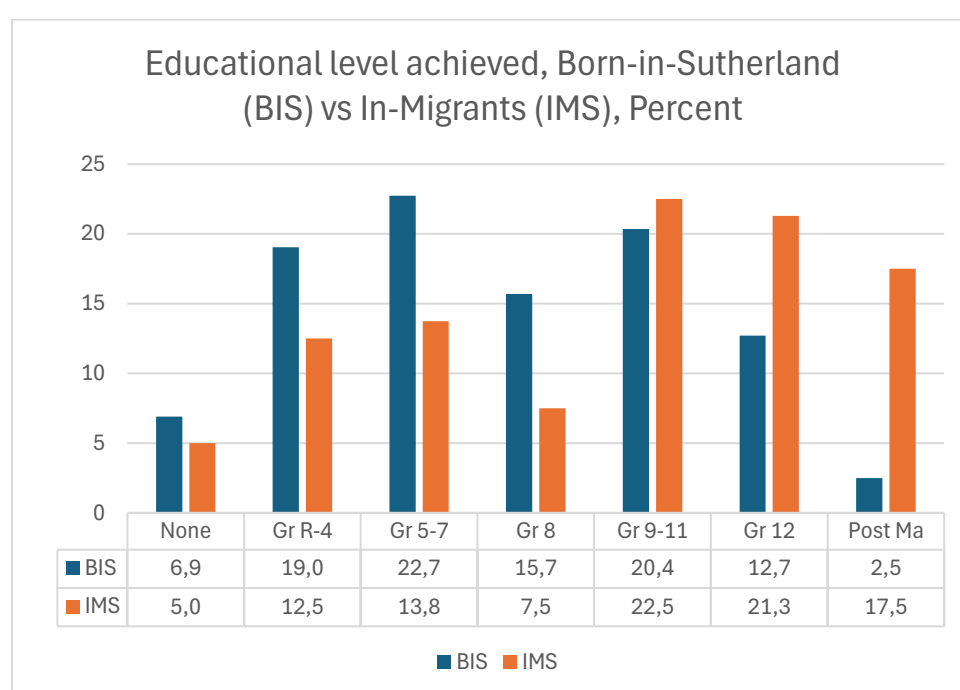


Figure 5.6: Grouped educational levels compared for Born-in-Sutherland and In-migrants to Sutherland.

- **Disabilities**

Personal disabilities that challenge individuals to perform their daily chores, tasks and performances include weak visuality, audibility, physical mobility and performance, below average intellectual ability and psychiatric/mental functioning. Just short of 100% of the total population indicate that they do not have such challenges, meaning that only about three percent do manifest these challenges. Six and a half percent of in-migrants declare such challenges, while 2,4% born-in-Sutherland indicate as such. Physical mobility is most often mentioned (20 in total, 14 by the born-in-Sutherland versus 6 among the in-migrant population). Nine mentioned weak sight/blindness, five versus four between the two groups respectively. For all other disabilities, only one or two cases are mentioned. Serious as it is, the magnitude of disabilities seems small and therefore manageable.

5.3.5 Earning capacity

- **A job to earn an income (age 15+ years)**

Just over half the in-migrants (52,4%) affirm that they do have a job (or something they do) that earns them an income while 47,6% of the born-in-Sutherland do not have such an opportunity, which is indicative of high levels joblessness among both groups.

- **Receiving SASSA grants**

Just below 60% of the total population say they do not receive SASSA grants - with a distribution of 61,3% of in-migrants and 57,7% born-in-Sutherland not receiving grants. Three grants are in specific demand: CSG (Child Support Grant) – 273 recipients, OAG (Old Age Grant) – 133; and DG (Disability Grant) – 66; for all other grants there are no more than two receivers respectively. In-migrants depend mostly on the OAG (19%; 32); CSG (13,7%; 23), and DG (6,0%; 10), while born-in-Sutherland depend on CSG (250; 25,7%); OAG (101;10,4%); and DG (56; 5,8%).

5.3.6 Financial prospects

Comparisons between assessments and expectations regarding the financial situation of the population, from the past to the current, and from present to the future, are diagrammatically presented in two graphs below. These graphs reveal that the assessments of the current financial situation of the population (those born-in-Sutherland, in-migrants, and the two groups combined) are quite similar to each other with no significant variations or differences. The bar-diagrams in Figure 5.7 display normal bell-shaped distributions between better, same and worse assessments of the financial situation. The second figure (5.8) also displays similar shapes, but now it is very different from the first figure. There seems to be a strong positive expectation regarding the future with progressively less emphasis on the other options: same and worse. In fact, the negative expectation displayed in Figure 5.8 by the third bar (worse) in the three series differs significantly (almost half -13,7%) from the assessment of a worse scenario in the current situation (26,2% - Figure 5.7). In-migrants have a more positive expectation than the born-in-Sutherland group (Figure 5.8 - 56,7% vs 52,6%).

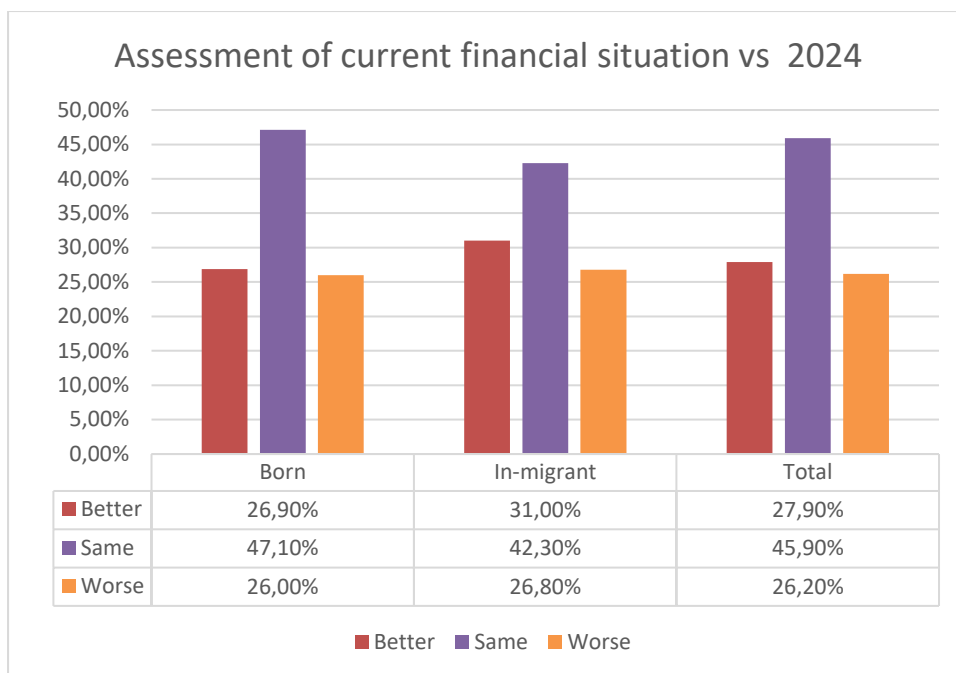


Figure 5.7: Assessment of the current financial situation versus 2024

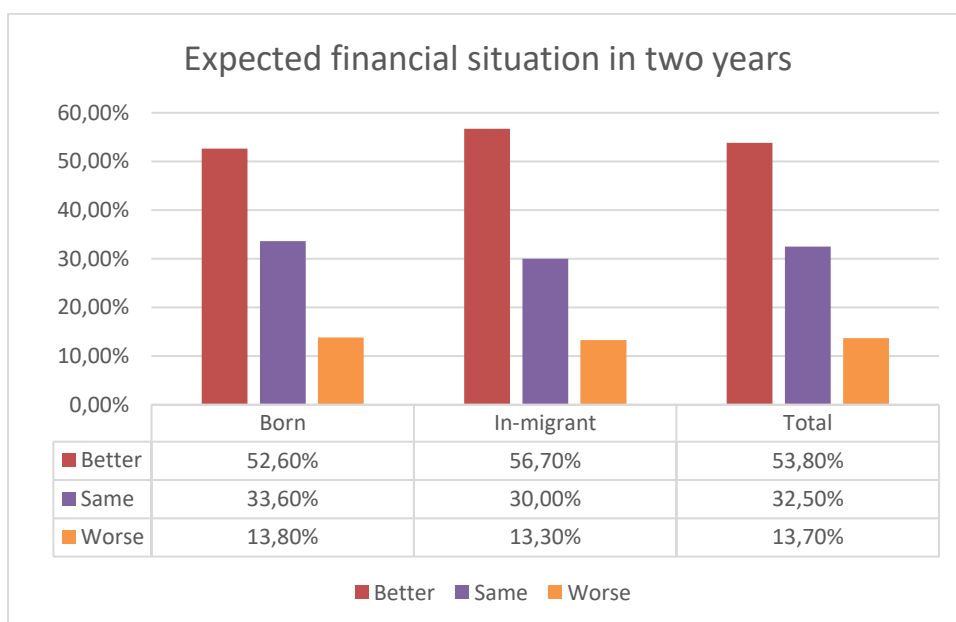


Figure 5.8: Expected financial situation over two years

5.4 Conclusion on migration

More than 86% of the persons in the sample used for Survey 2024 were born in Sutherland, which implies that about 14% were born and had stayed elsewhere and had become in-migrants to Sutherland. Depending on how one phrases the question that probed where they originated from, in-migrants predominantly had their roots in province(s) other than Northern Cape (72% to 85%), towns from within Northern Cape (15% to 28%) and from farms in the Northern Cape (3,5 to 11,7%) – mostly farms within the district of Sutherland itself. If one pinpoints the question to a previous address (quite a number have changed residence within Sutherland itself) the pattern of migratory behaviour

demonstrates that before 2000 in-migration was low and more or less annually the same but since 2000 it increased substantially and in fact exponentially. This may be ascribed to the inauguration in 2005 of the SALT facility and the durable and significant impact thereof on demography and within the economy of Sutherland. The data is unequivocal insofar that the Western Cape Province (both metropolitan Cape Town and various towns in the province) is a major sending area of migrants.

In-migrants are proportionately more represented among the adult groups - young, middle and senior, with more females than males among them, and are overwhelmingly Coloured, but they do have a stronger contingent of Whites among them (about 20%). In this group one finds relatively more couples (married and co-habituating) but less children, in comparison to the born-in-Sutherland population. In-migrants have settled in all four residential areas, at lower rates but with higher proportions in Kerkgrond and Town. They settled in main houses (slightly less) as well as backyard (slightly more) dwellings and consequently, in formal as well as informal structures.

In-migrants display a larger percentage of Grade 12 qualifications (21,3% vs 12,7%) as well as having achieved a post-school qualification (10, 6% vs 0,4%), than born-in-Sutherland persons. More in-migrants have employment earning an income (52,4% vs 47,6%) and less of them have had the need to apply for a social grant by SASSA (38,7% vs 42,3%). Grants needed are Old Age, Child Support, and Disability Grants. The main disabilities (for both groups) relate to physical mobility, audibility and eyesight.

In their assessment of whether their financial situation is better than it was in the previous year, both groups expressed the opinion that, for the largest part, it was the same. The in-migrants marginally more than the born-in-Sutherland, thought it to be better - 31% vs 26,9%; with respect to the future, they also are more positive about the prospect of an improvement – 56,70% vs 52,60%. The assessment about the past took the same pattern of opinion expressed, in this case a bell-shaped distribution of better-same-worse situations, while the pattern for the expectation about the future differs from this distribution as both groups expressed a higher optimism about the future for a better situation, second a lower expectation that financials will remain the same, and even a more lower one for it to be worse, than the present.

CHAPTER 6: EDUCATION

6.1 Introduction

The South African Schools Act of 1996 stipulates that all children between the ages of 7 and 15 are compelled to attend school. Parents and guardians should ensure that all learners of this age are registered to attend school and that their children do so regularly. Every child is regarded as a national asset and therefore must be in a position to develop his and her potential fully, which is mainly facilitated through the formal or public educational system.¹³

This chapter introduces and analyses various relevant aspects of accessing educational opportunities and institutions as well as the outcome of participation in this system. To register at an educational institution, such as a public or an independent school, a learner requires some official documents. Three documents are required, depending on the stage of the educational career of the learner: (1) a birth certificate, (2) an immunization card, and (3) a transfer card or last school report for learners who have been to school previously. The survey established that 38 individuals (of all ages) (3,3%) were not in possession of either a valid identification document or birth certificate, thus they may encounter difficulty in attending school or accessing government services. The corresponding ages of the persons not having an ID or birth certificate are reported below.

The overall educational level of the population is reported in terms of the highest qualification achieved. Furthermore, preschool children's attendance of early childhood institutions is reported and related to the provision of care for the child, in the age cohort 0-4 years. Attending an educational institution by all individuals five years and older is interrogated next. The issue of non-attendance of schools by those compelled to attend is highlighted and investigated for 6 to 18-year-old children. Included also is a corresponding analysis of scholastic performance and the learner's age.

Finally, some conclusions and recommendations are listed regarding issues identified.

6.2 Possession of IDs and/or birth certificates

As mentioned above, 38 (3,3%) individuals within the sample used for Survey 2024 declared that they do not have the required documentation. This is an issue across all ages in the sample, from the very young to the very old.

¹³ <https://www.education.gov.za/Home.aspx>

Table 6.1: Number of individuals not having an ID or Birth Certificate according to age

Individuals not in possession of an ID or Birth Certificate according to age							
Age	Number	Age	Number	Age	Number	Age	Number
0	9	17	3	34	1	55	1
2	1	18	2	36	1	57	1
4	1	19	2	41	1	59	1
7	1	20	2	43	1	65	1
15	1	25	1	50	1	80	1
16	3	32	1	52	1	Total	38

- Eleven (11) children 4 years and below do not have a Birth Certificate/ID.
- Eight (8) children between 7 and 17 years (inclusive) do not have these.
- Seventeen (17) adults between 18 and 57 years (inclusive) do not have IDs.
- Two (2) 65 years and older do not have IDs.

It is quite urgent for the children identified (19) to gain access to the necessary documentation, otherwise they will experience challenges in accessing school and receiving recognition for their performance. Adults (especially younger adults) need documentation for securing employment and registering for the various associated benefits (e.g. unemployment insurance, occupational safety, etc.). Older persons will need documentation when applying for social grants, such old age pension. It is recommended that these persons are targeted in a drive to gain access to the relevant documentation.

6.3 Cohort 0-4 years

This cohort includes 102 cases. A mere 4 (3,9%) children of pre-schooling age attended educational and development opportunities provided by preschool, kinder garden and Grade R facilities. Another 38 (37,3%) attended a crèche or the Educare Centre. The rest of this cohort, 59 (57,8%), indicated that they do **not** attend any early childhood development facility. One said that some other arrangement was followed but did not specify what this is.

For those that declared that they do not attend an educational or childcare facility (n=58; 1 person unaccounted for), it was established 81% stayed at home with a parent or guardian, and another 12,1% with an adult. Accordingly, 6,8% were not accounted for.

There seems to be a huge gap in ensuring that preschoolers receive the necessary systematic and holistic orientation as the foundation for their school career that is to follow. Abundant evidence is available that confirms that in contemporary society children do need a solid foundation for making a

success of their further life, scholastic development and eventual career in the world of work.

6.4 Cohort 5 years and beyond

The question was asked if individuals in this cohort (total 1 057) attended an educational institution. Positive answers were provided for 257 persons that do attend such institutions, two of whom are doing home schooling. The following summary is provided to give an overview of the remaining 255 responses.

Table 6.2: Persons 5 years and older attending an educational institution

Persons 5+ years attending an educational institution		
Institution type	Number	Percent
Preschool	8	3,1
Grade R	15	5,9
School (grades 1-12)	218	85,5
FET College	2	0,8
Adult Education & Training	2	0,8
Other College	1	0,4
University	9	3,5
Total	255	100,0

Current attendance of educational institutions of this cohort is dominated by school going learners – 94,5%. A mere 5,5% of the sub-sample attended out-of-school or post-school institutions. No reasons were prompted from respondents regarding why the latter were pursuing further education, and where these facilities were available. Currently, many opportunities do exist for distance learning provided that internet access is available. One may assume that Sutherland does have such access in view of the local science-based research and investigative infrastructure for space observation and analysis. These must be exploited as much as possible for the benefit of the local population.

6.5 Cohort 6-18 years: School attendance interrupted

Answers by members of this cohort (N=258) to a question about the interruption of school attendance, for three months or longer, revealed that 17,1% (44/258) indeed experienced interruptions. Twenty-two answers were offered that pointed to health issues (50%) as the most pronounced reason. The following reasons were mentioned:

Table 6.3: Reasons provided for interrupting the school career

Reasons provided for school interruption	Number	Percent
Health issues, including COVID (n=19)	22	50,0
Did not want to go to school	9	20,5
Left school to go to work; because of financial issues	4	9,1
Family had travelled too many times	2	4,5
Disciplinary actions against the learner	2	4,5
Learner had been teased about father's behaviour	1	2,3
Learner complained about teacher's behaviour	1	2,3
Parents neglected the learner	1	2,3
Learner had to take care of someone at home	1	2,3
Learner tried to do home schooling	1	2,3
Total	44	100,0

COVID-19 was the major health issue in the period since the previous survey (2017). Other reasons seem to be of an individual nature and should be attended to as a special issue regarding the learner. For instance, 20,5% expressed the attitude of not wanting to go to school, suggesting motivational issues among learners. At least three other reasons point to school-based issues, disciplinary action, learner being teased, and learner complaining about a teacher (adding another four learners to the category: school-based issues). Other reasons are related to family-based issues.

6.6 Cohort 7-18: Scholastic performance of school attending learners

While the Schools Act has made it compulsory for children between ages 7 and 15 to attend school, the Act allows admission to a public school for Grade 1 at age five turning six by 30 June in the year of admission. This arrangement makes it possible to determine if learners are on par with the corresponding grade of study in terms of their age. Grade R is regarded as the commencement for the learner's school career. A child aged four turning five by midyear may enter Grade R; therefore he or she will be attending Grade 1 at age five turning to six years of age. However, the legal age for starting to attend school is seven years. The assumption then is that the normal corresponding year for Grade 1 is seven years. Should the learner progress from thereon uninterrupted, the subsequent grades and ages will follow a perfect match of one year increases annually, i.e., an eight-year-old learner will be in Grade 2, a nine-year learner in Grade 3, etc. **These learners are regarded as being on par**

scholastically.

In the real world, however, some learners attend a grade that is a lower grade than the one expected for the learner's age, for example, a learner is nine years of age but attending Grade 1, in which case this learner is **grade-wise below the on-par grade for age, which is seven years for Grade 1. "Below" means therefore the learner is doing a grade (or grades) lower than the expected grade for his/her age.** The nine-year-old learner would be expected to have been attending Grade 3. This may be because of various circumstances (for example, the reasons for interrupting the school career of a learner as listed in section 6.5 above).

On the other hand, some learners are attending a grade higher than the expected grade for his/her age. Grade-wise these learners are **above the on-par grade for age.** An example is where an eight-year-old learner is doing Grade 3 while the on-par age for this grade is nine years; or to put it in other words, this eight-year learner is attending a grade above the expected grade for his/her age. **We refer to these learners as "above" the corresponding grade for age.**

Table 6.4 below presents data from Survey 2024 on this matter.

On average, learners have demonstrated higher correspondence in the early part of the school career (ages 7 to 10), but sadly lower correspondence in the latter part of their studies. This means that 'below' patterns were more prevalent in the higher school grades for those who started off in a 'below' situation. Those in an 'above' grade vis-à-vis corresponding age, on the other hand, seem to maintain this positive scholastic level in their performance.

Table 6.4: Scholastic performance

Numbers of learners aged 7-18 years and corresponding grades attending: identification of learners in grades Below, On Par, and Above the expected Grade-for-age.												
Grade												
Age	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Gr. R	6	4	1									
Gr.1	12	8	1								1	
Gr.2	4	11	3	2				1				
Gr.3		10	8	6	4	1	2					
Gr.4			2	7	7	5	2	3	2	2		
Gr.5				2	2	5	3	1		1	1	1
Gr.6					2	4	5	3	2	3	4	
Gr.7						2	1	4	2	3	4	4
Gr.8					1	1		6	5	2	2	5
Gr.9								3	3	1	2	9
Gr.10					1				3	3	6	4
Gr.11											1	2
Gr.12												3
Totals	22	33	15	17	17	18	13	21	17	15	21	28
Key		Below			On par			Above		See Text for definitions		

Note: The total observations reported in the table count to 237. Some children were not attending school; according to responses to another question, 218 school-attending persons were counted in the total sample. The discrepancy is $(237-218=)$ 19, or 8% of the total count. Close inspection to outliers (e.g., a 17-year individual attending Grade 1) seems to be obviously not a valid case in the present analysis – i.e., either a person that left school after completing Grade 1, or a case of miscoding). The general trends in scholastic performance reported in the analysis do not seem to be affected significantly by these deviations and the findings presented generally seem to be a fair approximation of the situation.

Findings (trends in percentages appear in Figure 6.1 below)

- More than half (54,5%) of the 7-year-olds present an On-Par performance attending Grade 1 with an alarmingly high percentage 27,3% being Below their performance level (attending still Grade R). On the other hand, 18,2% were Above their expected grade level, attending already Grade 2.
- The situation differs dramatically for 11-year-olds, four years older than the 7-year-olds. Here only 11,8% of this cohort are On-Par, attending Grade 5, with 64,7% Below their expected performance level. However, an encouraging proportion (23,5%) were Above their expected grade level. This percentage needs to be interpreted carefully as some cases reported Grade 8 and even Grade 10 attendance, which seems highly unlikely (perhaps a miscode).
- The situation weakened dramatically for 16-, 17-, and 18-year-old learners, where the Below percentages increased alarmingly to respectively 80%, 95,2%, and 89,3%. The On-Par percentages dropped to seriously low levels. No Above cases were reported.
- It must be noted that disturbing “red lights” came on with 11-year-olds and 13-year-olds (learners expected to be attending Grade 5 and 7 respectively). Their On-Par percentages dropped (11,8% and 7,7% respectively), and the Above percentage disappeared in the case of 13-year-olds.
- It seems that serious issues presented themselves for the Primary School learners and that these issues left their enduring impact on learners particularly aged 16 to 18 years, i.e., Grades 10 to 12. The future educational and vocational prospects for these latter age groups are indeed bleak.

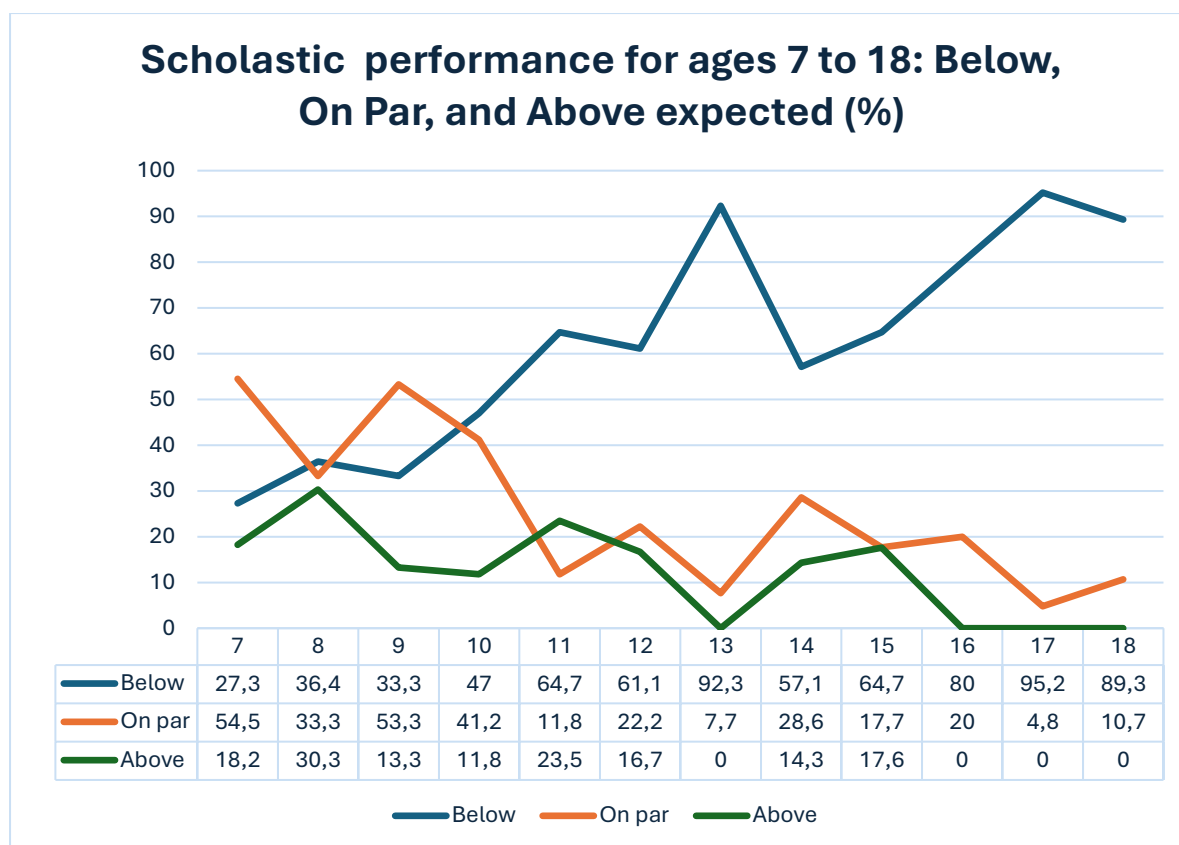


Figure 6.1: Correspondence analysis of the grade and learner's age, 7 to 18 years.

6.7 Teenage pregnancies

Among the options in the answer-set to the question regarding reasons for interruptions of the school career (see section 6.5 above¹⁴) two options were available among other options for explaining school interruptions, **but not chosen by respondents**, namely:

5. Was pregnant, but returned to school after the baby
6. Was pregnant, but never returned (is yet to return) to school

In other research projects similar to the present one, these options often appeared to be valid reasons. These two options point to a serious matter which is called "Teenage Pregnancies" and regarded as an obstacle in the school career of adolescent girls, and one that requires pertinent and sympathetic policy measures for strengthening the learner's chances of overcoming the "interruption". As mentioned, none of the **reasons** listed have mentioned being pregnant as a teenager.

In another question, Question 5 of the Questionnaire, it was asked: "How old was X (i.e., all female members of the household with biological children) when she first fell pregnant?" inter alia, as an attempt to determine to what extent early (teenage) pregnancies occurred in the sample population and subsequently, might have interrupted their school careers. Annexure 1: Table 9 provides the

¹⁴ See also: Annexure 2: Questionnaire – Question 13: "Why was X's school career interrupted?"

answers to this question as well as explanatory statistics. Figure 6.2, a summary, is based on this table.

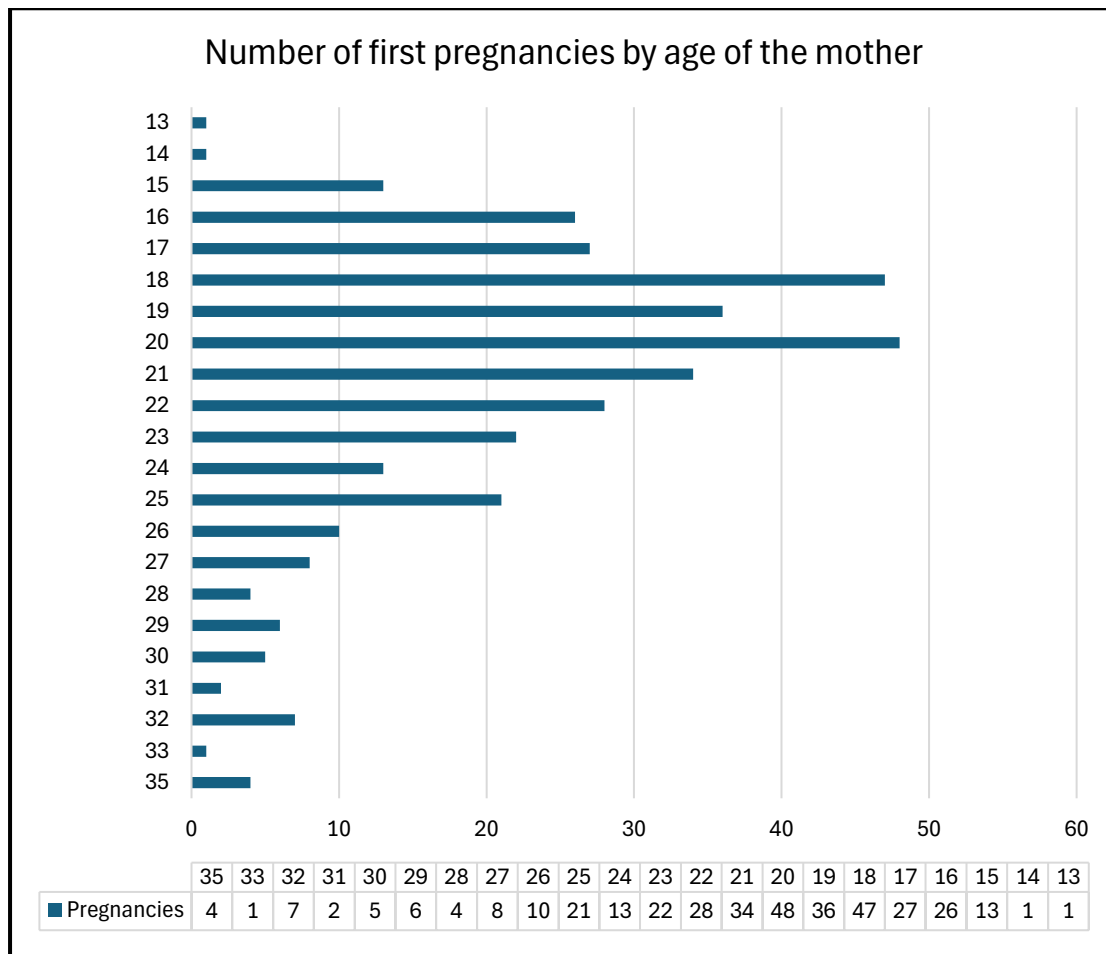


Figure 6.2: Number of first pregnancies by age of the mother at the time of the pregnancy

First pregnancies occurred over a range of 22 years of age. The midpoint of the pregnancies' age is 20 (Median) which also is the Mean for this distribution. The Mode is also at 20 years of age (48 pregnancies) but a second Mode (47 pregnancies) occurred at 18 years of age, indicating **a trend towards younger ages for the first pregnancy**. However, the lowest ages – 13 and 14 – registered only one pregnancy per year, which contrasts significantly with the older ages. From the Quartiles (25-50-75) it is clear that the age-band 18 to 23 (6 years) bundles the first pregnancies within this cohort.

Stated differently, 41,5% of the first pregnancies occurred in the age bracket 19 years and younger to 13 years. This implies that 58,5% of first pregnancies occurred from 20 years and above. Another interesting observation is that of all first pregnancies 59,1% clustered in the cohort 18-23 years, and 80,8% in the age-bracket 15-24 years.

Teenage pregnancies as first pregnancy of the expectant women therefore were fairly high (40+%). A distinction made globally divide teenage pregnancies into two cohorts: **10-14 years of the mothers-to-be, which may be called Young Teenage Pregnancies (YTPs) and Adolescent Pregnancies (TPs) within the 15-19 cohort**. In the Sutherland sample the first cohort included only two cases (0,6%), while the second cohort represented 40,9% of all the first pregnancies. This means that first

pregnancies within the total teenage cohort (10-19 years) clustered almost exclusively within the adolescent age bracket. “Teenage pregnancy” labelled as a social problem is therefore actually an **adolescent phenomenon**.¹⁵

Schools, as a public institution everywhere in the world, are tasked with the responsibility of providing of safe, nurturing environments that lay the foundation for learners to grow, learn and become healthy, educated, engaged and well-rounded citizens. This role seems to be re-emphasized increasingly by international agencies, inter alia, the World Health Organization, that recently addressed the question of how school systems can improve health and well-being, a theme of utmost importance within the Sustainable Human Development Goals and Framework driven by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), among other, with a view to address these critically important issues within the domain of sexual and reproductive health. In this respect, the concept of a **health promoting school (HPS)** has been voiced and unpacked. HPS are schools with strengthened capacity to be healthy settings for living, learning and working. HPS reflect a whole or holistic school approach, comprising healthy school policies, curricula, environments, communities and health services. The aim of a comprehensive school health programme is to enable every school to become a health-promoting school that can be achieved by building health-promoting education systems. A health-promoting education system is one that, through intentional and planned actions, institutionalizes health promotion in all its functions: (a) governance of the educational process and its content, (b) resource allocation, (c) educators’ professional development, (d) information systems, and (e) performance management. Sutherland would be well advised to review and consider this concept closely in addressing the “red lights” identified in this report and the present section on education.¹⁶

Another point is that the **oldest ages for first pregnancies** appeared in the thirties with the maximum age registered 35. Generally, pregnancies of women 35 years and below are regarded as of a lesser health risk than for older women. Women older than 35 enter the “**advanced maternal age**” (AMA) or stage (a term that replaces the outdated term “geriatric pregnancy”) when they have an increased risk for certain complications such as miscarriage, genetic disorders, and certain pregnancy complications like high blood pressure or gestational diabetes.¹⁷ The sample used in Sutherland does not demonstrate high risks in this regard because of the fact that first pregnancies did not occur in ages later than 35. However, further analysis is needed to substantiate this conclusion, as the number of pregnancies/children per birthmother has not been determined in the survey. All other births logically would have occurred at a later age of the birth mother, inviting risks that would be associated with 35+ pregnancy ages.

It is concluded that the **age distribution for first pregnancies does indicate a risk element in so far as the lowest 40+% appears in the teenage band (13-19 years)**. This trend demands reproductive and maternal health interventions to safeguard the mothers’ and babies’ health and needs to be a definite point on the agenda of the local health authorities and service providers. The higher ages of first pregnancies (a majority of almost 60%) fall within a 20-year-up-to-35-year band. This trend seems to

¹⁵ For the significance of this distinction, see World Health Organization: Adolescent pregnancy. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/adolescent-pregnancy>

¹⁶ World Health Organization: How school systems can improve health and well-being. <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/378518/9789240094567-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

¹⁷ Cleveland Clinic, Advanced maternal Age (<https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/22438-advanced-maternal-age>)

be desirable from a health point of view.

However, in view of the trend for first pregnancies to be highly concentrated in the adolescent years, health and educational institutions and services need to be alerted and encouraged to craft holistic and integrative policies, programmes and plans to address the risks and challenges implied in this area. Investments in adolescent health and wellbeing offer a triple dividend of benefits now, into future adult life, and for the next generation of children (Patton, et al. 2016).

6.8 Highest educational level achieved – sub-sample 7 years and beyond

Annexure 1: Table 8 provides data on the highest scholastic and educational level achieved by members of the sample, 7 years and above, in total 1 000 individuals (see Figure 6.3).

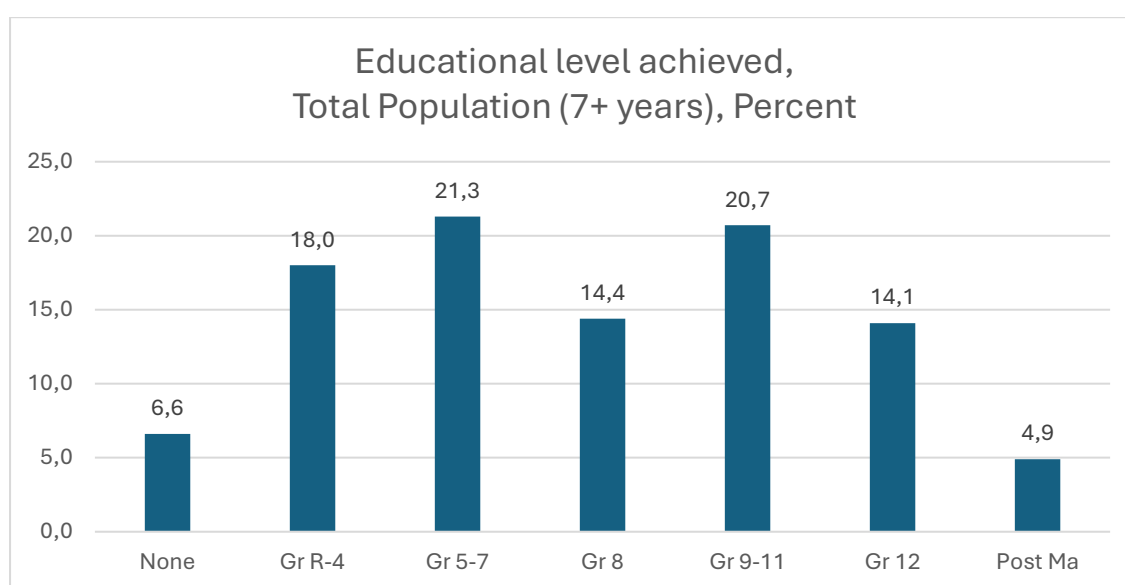


Figure 6.3: Educational level achieved, population 7+ years (1 000), summarised

Highlights show that:

- 39,3% (n=393) completed Grade R to Grade 7,
- 14,4% (n=144) completed Grade 8
- 15,2% (n=152) Grades 9-10,
- 19,6% (n=196) Grades 11-12; 14,1% (n=141) completed Grade 12,
- 4,9% (n=49) completed other and post school qualifications, including 2,0%; (n=20) a university degree.

It should be noted that 66 (6,6%) participants in the study reported not having had formal training. About half of them cannot read or write; the other half claim to be able to read and write.

In Chapter 5 above, it was shown that stronger educational qualifications were prevalent among in-migrants to Sutherland than those who have resided since birth in the town. For instance, 10,6% of in-migrants completed a university degree or Technikon diploma against the 0,4% among the residents that were born in Sutherland. Not as stark a difference but still significant, 21,3% among the in-migrants had completed their matric (Grade 12) versus 12,7% of the born-in-Sutherland section of the population. These differences suggest that the local population scholastically performed stronger at lower levels than the in-migrants. For instance, 15,7% of the born-in-Sutherland achieved Grade 8 against the 7,5% of the in-migrants, who as presented above, performed stronger at the higher levels (see Figure 5.6 above; and Annexure 1: Table 8).

6.9 Conclusion

Access to public education: Data collected revealed that 3,3% of all members of the sample studied, young and old, were not in possession of a birth certificate or an identification document. In view of the importance of having the aforementioned documentation, in order to inter alia enter public services, schools, businesses, employment opportunities, and to secure financial and security benefits, special effort needs to be made to ensure all members of the population have access to these crucial and strategically important documents.

Preschool care: Among the cohort 0-4 year (representing a total of 104 children within the sample) it was established that nearly 60% were not attending any early childhood educational and development facility. More than 80% of this group stayed at home during the day, cared for by a parent or guardian, and, for another 12%, in the care of another adult. Nearly 7% of the children were not accounted for regarding their care arrangements during the day. This is a serious shortcoming, and it is urgent that social care providers be made aware of the need to cover these children under a security blanket as well as providing sufficient facilities for education, nutrition and social and emotional development during the strategically important preschool years of the children.

Attending an educational facility: For members of the sample population 5 years and above approximately one quarter (24,1%) attended an educational institution. About 95% of this group attended institutions for children's education, including a preschool facility, a Grade R facility, and schools (catering for Grade 1 to 12). While no exact figures were established, it can be safely assumed that preschool children did not attend fully education and development facilities (an estimate would be that only about half attended such facilities – 23 of 44) and that an effort must be made towards a full attendance for this group (ages 5 to 6 years; 43).

Interruption of school attendance: More than 17% of the learners experienced interruptions (3 months or longer) in attending school. Half of the reasons were health related (remembering that COVID-19 was prominent since the previous survey of 2017). Learners also had personal motivational issues, as well as issues related to the school itself, and family-based issues. While not investigated deeper, the mere volume of the interruptions declared point to a significant obstacle in the scholastic performance and advancement of many children.

Scholastic performance: With regards to the school-going population (7 to 18 years; 237 of the sample) it is estimated that approximately 92% of the qualifying age group members (218) did attend school. Learners that started attending school in an age higher than the age considered to be the

corresponding age for the grade – or to put it differently, **learners who are attending a grade Below their assumed On-Par grade-for-age** - seemed to demonstrate even higher disparities as they progressed through their school career (Below proportions increased over the school career from 27,3% to approximately 90% at the end of the school career). Below-percentages for 11-year-olds jumped to 64,7% and for 13-year-olds to 92,3%. Their respective On-Par percentages were merely 11,8% and 7,7%. These are so-called “red lights” indicating crisis moments in the child’s school career. The Below group requires from the onset of their school career more focused support to meet their severe scholastic challenges.

First pregnancies: Teenage, Adolescent and Adult sexual and reproductive health:

In view of data on the interruption of school attendance (about 17%) it is of utmost importance that schools attend more closely to adolescent pregnancies with the cooperation of health and social welfare services as some of the reasons for interruptions are clearly linked to health and social issues. The absence of pregnancies as a reason for school career interruption among young women should be applauded but the statistical trends analysis of the age pattern of first pregnancies must remind the health authorities and services to be aware of a still significant trend of about 40 percent of first pregnancies to be in the age cohort 13 to 19 years of age, the adolescent life stage. Although a historical pattern, it defines a pattern of reproductive health behaviour that still is highly risky with often profound disabling long-term consequences for both mother and child.

The role of the school as a prominent socialization agent in the life course of the young person should also be reimagined.

Additional effort must be made to open opportunities for education and training to benefit the adult population of Sutherland, especially with a view to benefiting occupationally from the advantages of having science-and-technology-based industry within the Sutherland environment.

The Sutherland population is composed of a mix of members born in town and those that migrated to the town. The latter demonstrated higher educational levels than the local group. This should be seen as an opportunity to benefit the local population and encourage them to take advantage of the available options as well as the symbiosis created by this historical development in the town.

CHAPTER 7: HOUSEHOLD ECONOMICS

7.1 Introduction

Within socio-economic studies, a household is assumed to be a basic unit of analysis. A household is a collective of individuals bound together by sharing domestic space, resources for daily survival and wellbeing, both materially, culturally and emotionally. In most cases it encompasses the nuclear family (a social unit of individuals bound together by legal or customary arrangements, such as marriage, parent-child interdependency, etc.) although single person households are also common. For a protracted period, the study of consumption and household production was sidelined by mainstream economics. The need is, however, to understand the relationships of public and private spheres, with respect to living standards, quality of life and human development, i.e. aspects beyond mere macro-economics. In this section, household economics is the focus of study. The topics included are residential occupancy, physical construction of houses, the availability of amenities and basic services like water and energy as well as appliances used. Household sources of incomes, including employment of members of household, adequacy of these resources for comfortable and quality living, as well as challenges in surviving healthily are issues that are dealt with in this study. The extend families can successfully cope with poverty is also included. Apart from survey data collected the analysis and interpretations will be informed by general economic, social and development theory.

7.2 Residential occupancy

Three types of occupancy¹⁸ were observed among the households (N=303¹⁹) in the sample, namely the property in which the household members are staying is **owned** by someone within the household, the property is **rented** from the owner who are not a member of the household, and the property is neither owned nor rented but available for staying **gratis** to the household (Table 7.1).

Ownership: Most of the households own the property where they are staying. However different expressions of ownership were established in the study. For instance, 66,6% of the households stay in a house where the plot as well as the structure (house) are owned by a member of the household and is fully paid. Another 6,3% are owned in the same way but the property is paid for only partially, i.e., the property still needs to be paid for fully. In other cases, only the house (the improvement on the property) is owned by a member of the household, paid for fully (5,3%) or paid for partially (1,0%), but not the property on which the structure is built. Altogether, 79,2% of the households own the property they are staying on. Property ownership is by far the most frequent among households in the HOP area (90,9%). Ownership in the other areas is lower but still high on average: Skema – 74,6%; Kerkgrond – 68,4%; Dorp – 64,5%.

Renting: Some 12,9% of the households rent the house they occupy. Only 1% rent from the municipality/government, while 11.9% rent from someone that is not a member of the household.

Gratis: A small proportion, 7,9%, have a house gratis at their disposal. One household (0,3%) occupies their house as a benefit from the company they work for. Other households (7,6%) stay gratis in a

¹⁸ The term occupancy is used here to refer to the act and mode of owning, renting, or taking possession of a building.

¹⁹ Data missing: one case.

house owned by someone who is not a member of the household. Included in this arrangement is one household that stays gratis on a property owned by the municipality.

Table 7.1: Terms of occupancy of residential property

Terms of occupancy	All	Comments			
Own the property	79,2%	N=240			
• Plot and house fully paid	66,6%	Paid by a member of the occupant household			
• Plot and house partially paid	6,3%				
• Only the house fully paid	5,3%				
• Only the house partially paid	1,0%				
		HOP	Skema	Kerkgrond	Dorp
Ownership (all types): Total and Areas	79,2%	90.9%	74,6%	68,4%	64,6%
Base N of total and each area	303	110	142	20	31
Occupancy by renting the property	12,9%	11,9% (36) Renting from someone other than the household 1,0% (3) from the Municipality			
Occupancy is gratis	7,9%	0,3% (1) Gratis as a benefit from the employer of a member of the household 7,6% (23) Gratis available by the Municipality			
Total: Occupancy terms	100,0				

From a wealth creation point of view, approximately 80% of the Sutherland households own the houses they occupy. However, this seems to be made possible overwhelmingly by the government subsidized housing scheme, also known as the RDP programme, in terms of which beneficiaries are provided with a fully built house free of charge. In the HOP area more than 90% of the households are owners of their houses. Occupants are required to pay for all municipal rates and services that may include water and electricity or other service surcharges (RSA: Human Settlements).

7.3 Physical structure of dwelling

The norm in South Africa for a formal and sturdy house is a permanent construction of **bricks and mortar**. The majority of the houses in Sutherland comply with this norm, namely 85,5% of the 303 households interviewed. However, a distinction between houses constructed for RDP (public) and private purposes is made in most cases. In Sutherland, 65,7% of the houses were erected for RDP-**public** housing and 19,8% for **private** houses. In the areas Skema (66,9%; N=95/142) and HOP (84,5%; N=93/110) the majority of houses were public (RDP) units while in Kerkgrond (55%; N=11/20) and Dorp (67,7%; N=21/31) the majority, now at lower rates, were private houses. Another distinction was made also, namely **partially brick** constructed units considered to be formal constructions, presumably houses that were certified as permanent structures for habitation. Only 2,3% (N=7/303) of the total stock was in this category. Among all the households, 87,8% therefore indicated that they were occupying **formal** dwelling units.

Thirty-one houses (10,2%) were defined as **informal houses**, popularly named a shack or a Wendy, and found in the backyard of a another (usually permanent) house. Informal houses were found mostly in Skema (13,4%; N=19/142) and HOP (10%; N=11/110) areas. Also, servant quarters or an

outdoor building were noted (2 cases – 0,7%) as well as two caravans (0,7%) that served as a dwelling unit. One sturdy construction was a steel construction refurbished as a dwelling unit.

Table 7.2: Housing types and construction

Classification	Construction type	Percent	Total %	N
All areas: Total			100,0	303
Formal			87,8	266
	Bricks & mortar	85,5		259
	Partially brick	2,3		7
Non-formal			12,2	37
	Wendy, Schack	10,2		31
	Caravan	0,7		2
	Steel construction	0,3		1
	Servant quarters	0,7		2
	Outdoors	0,3		1
Public & Private housing	Majority type in areas			
Areas				
Majority public housing	Skema	66,9		95/142
	HOP	84,5		93/110
Majority private housing	Kerkgrond	55,0		11/20
	Dorp	67,7		21/31

There is an overlap between owning the house and a house constructed in a formal way. This points to the dwelling unit as a secure asset within the household economics of Sutherland.

7.4 Basic amenities

Apart from a secure construction, a valuable asset, the functionality (or efficacy²⁰) of the dwelling unit for human living and quality of life is significantly enhanced by having access to basic services, modern amenities and useful utensils.

Access to **clean water** that can be used for human consumption is a basic health provision, for safe drinking water, preparing food, cleaning and washing, bathing, and in modern equipped houses, for personal hygiene, practices and technologies for removing excretions and refuse. Beyond these personal and household uses, fresh water is a prerequisite for gardening and vegetable growing, animal husbandry, poultry, and the like. Food security is therefore dependent on the availability of sufficient quality water.

Piped water accessed by opening a tap, available on the plot, preferably within the house, is a first prize for urban living. Sutherland households generally have such access in 98,4% of households interviewed (303). Households that have tap water **within the house** count 39,3% and those that have tap water available only on the plot, 59,1%. In the Dorp area 83,9% (N=26/31) of households have tap water inside the house; Kerkgrond area 55% (N=11/20); Skema (35,9%; N=51/142); and HOP 28,2% (N=31/110). From these figures it is therefore clear that the majority of households in the HOP and Skema areas have water **piped onto the plot** and not into the house. This is a second-best option

²⁰ Efficacy: the ability to produce a desired or intended result

regarding first-class water availability.

A few of the households (5) have made alternative arrangement to access their household water. They buy water (presumably in containers) and get it from a borehole at the school. One household fetches water from a neighbour's tap.

Table 7.3: Access to water

Access to water		Area				All
Piped water		Skema	HOP	Kerkgrond	Dorp	Total
Tap inside house	%	35,9	28,2	55,0	83,9	39,3
Tap on plot	%	63,4	71,8	40,0	6,5	59,1
Other*	%	0,7		5,0	9,6	1,7
Total	%	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
	N	142	110	20	31	303
*Other						
Buy in container	%			5,0	3,2	0,7
Buy and borehole	%				6,4	0,7
Neighbour	%	0,7				0,3

The conclusion on the availability of water to households for personal and domestic use is that generally provision regarding water has been made for this basic need in a secure and protected way, yet there seems to be a marked difference between the areas Skema and HOP on the one hand and Kerkgrond and Dorp on the other, the latter been provided more favourably and comfortably.

This difference alluded to above is demonstrated perhaps clearest when looking at the way human excretion is removed from the house and plot where the household is staying. Households in Dorp are equipped with **flush toilets inside the house** in 93,3% (N=28/30) of the households, which is relatively far more than in any of the other areas: 50% (N=10/20) households in Kerkgrond; 19,7% (N=28/142) in Skema; and HOP 16,4% (N=18/110). **Flush toilets are available outside of the house on the plot:** Dorp 3,3% (N= 1/30); Kerkgrond 10% (N=2/20); Skema 4,9% (N=7/142); and 6,4% (N= 7/110). In total, **flush toilets (inside and outside of the house)** are available to 33,4% (101/302) of the households.

In contrast to the households having access to flush toilets, 64,6% (195/303) of the households are using a **dry earth sanitation system (pit toilet) or French drain (in need of pumping the substance out of the pit)** which are located on the plot outside the house. Two areas are using this system for the majority of the households living in Skema - 73,9% (N=105/142), and HOP - 74,5% (N=82/110). In the two other areas, only a few of this type of sanitation is in use: 35% (N=7/20) in Kerkgrond, and 3,3% (N=1/30) in Dorp. This is an outdated system, quite labour intensive, and far more unhygienic than the flush option. New technology for removing excretion from these systems are becoming more

and more in use lately.²¹

Table 7.4: Access to toilet

Access to toilet		Area				All
Type of facility		Skema	HOP	Kerkgrond	Dorp	Total
Flush inside house	%	19,7	16,4	50,0	93,3	27,8
Flush outside on plot	%	4,9	6,4	10,0	3,3	5,6
Pit toilet/French drain	%	73,9	74,5	35,0	3,3	64,6
Go to the veld	%	0,7				0,3
None	%	0,7	2,7	5,0		1,7
Total	%	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
	N	142	110	20	31	303
If one has a choice:						
If pit toilet, prefer the pit instead of going to the veld	%	92,6	95,1	57,1	100,0	92,4
Prefer to go to the veld		7,4	4,9	42,9	0,0	7,6
	N	108	82	7	1	183

One household from Skema indicated that they use “the veld” as their toilet. On the question, if one has a choice between the “pit” and the “veld”, the majority (92,4%) of the households responding to this question (N=183) would prefer using the pit before going to the veld. Note that 195 (64,4%) households, concentrated in Skema and HOP, are indeed using the pit system. If there was a choice, 7,6% (N=15) would prefer the “veld”.

This basic aspect of human existence, i.e. taking care of human excretion through access to acceptable toilet facilities, links with subsistence and protection regarding physical health, the living environment, personal, social and emotional care, and human identity and dignity as formed and demonstrated in everyday settings. “Living a decent life” has a very literal meaning in this respect. It is indeed worrisome that a town with such an international profile, in a sense, a gateway to stars, is struggling to guarantee a hygienic system for healthy and decent biological living.

7.5 Household energy and basic functions

Like water, energy is an absolute necessity to survive, and to produce consumer goods and commercial commodities, live a decent life, and access services and markets of the world around us. Energy

²¹ See Chapter 11 for a description

sources are manifold, but in the modern era we became used to producing electricity from non-renewable sources such as fossil fuels, and lately, on a larger scale, due to environmental challenges, renewable sources gained from onshore wind, photovoltaic, concentrated solar power, landfill gas, and hydro technologies. Currently, the South African energy supply is dominated by coal that constitutes 82% of the primary energy supply in 2021, followed by crude oil at 9% and nuclear at 4%.²² From a sustainable development point of view, it has become imperative that electricity generation be far more fed by renewable energies than non-renewable sources. Sutherland and the surrounding districts have become affected by this trend as more and more renewable energy programmes have been put in place. Examples are nearby wind-farms and solar power plants that have found their way into the Karoo. The SKA and SALT installations and programmes²³ require clean energies to enhance their functionalities. Because of these developments it has become strategically important to understand the local energy demands and applications by the people of the Karoo. The local household-economic demand for energy in performing the residents' daily chores, routines and processes in making a living in Sutherland is the focus in this section.

7.5.1 Access to electricity

All households have access to electricity, but in different ways. The largest majority of households (83,4%; N=252/302) buy prepaid electricity from Escom, while only 6,3% are billed by Escom directly. Some other households (7,6%) buy Escom electricity by paying the main household where they stay directly according to their own private arrangement. One household uses a mix of Escom power and solar power, and another two households use only solar power.

Eight households (2,6%) answered that they do not have access to electricity.

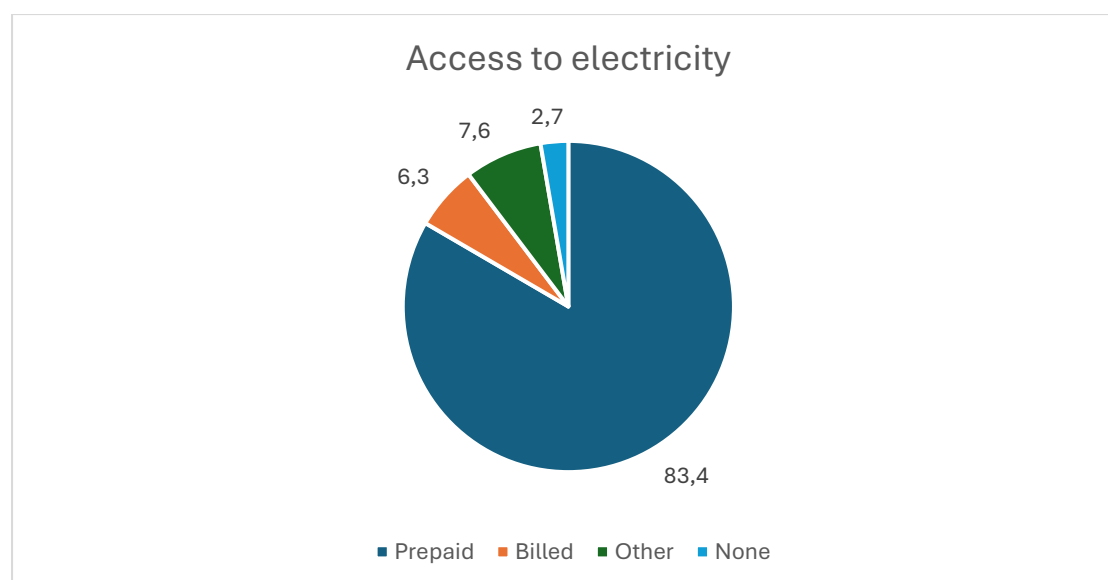


Figure7.1: Access to electricity

These figures show that the Sutherland households with the exception of only a few have access to

²² For more information, see RSA: Department Mineral Resources and Energy, 2023. See also more on renewable energy, in Section 11 intra

²³ SKA: Square Kilometer Array; SALT: South African Large Telescope

Eskom through its diverse electricity supply systems.

The four residential areas in Sutherland do not differ markedly in the patterns described above, except for Dorp where 54,8% (N=17/31) of the households are billed by Eskom (only 35,5% use the prepaid method). Three households in Dorp use only solar power or in combination with electricity supplied by Eskom. In Skema, HOP, and Kerkgrond, the prepaid method is used by most (almost exclusively) households. In Skema and HOP some households pay their electricity dues directly to the main household – these are presumably backyard dwellers.

7.5.2 Using electricity for household purposes

The survey inquired about the sources of energy used for heating (the house, water), cooking, and lighting being basic uses in domestic living of a household.

Heating the house: In South Africa, Sutherland arguably is said to be the coldest **town**, because of its height above sea level (1 458 km), and it be situated on the southwest escarpment of the inland plateau, and consequent exposure to cold air coming in from the southwest. Due to the low moisture levels and thin air, heat radiation at night is high.²⁴ Indoors heating is therefore a priority need for comfortable living.

The **most important** energy sources for **housewarming**, as indicated by the respondents, are threefold: wood bought (41,9%), wood self-collected in the fields (5,3%), coal and charcoal (11,6%) – in total 58,8% of households. Heating with electricity (bought from Eskom/municipality) is the next most important source of energy (32%). Gas is used by 4% of households. Note that 4% of households do not use heating energy at all. The **second most important** energy sources for heating the house include wood bought (39,3%), and gas (28,7%). Charcoal, coal, and wood collected are also mentioned. Households not using a second source of energy for housewarming are now 11,9% of the total number of households. Two households mentioned that they generate their own electricity using batteries or a generator for heating purposes.

²⁴ For weather data on Sutherland, consult: <https://en.climate-data.org/africa/south-africa/northern-cape/sutherland-25274/#temperature-graph>

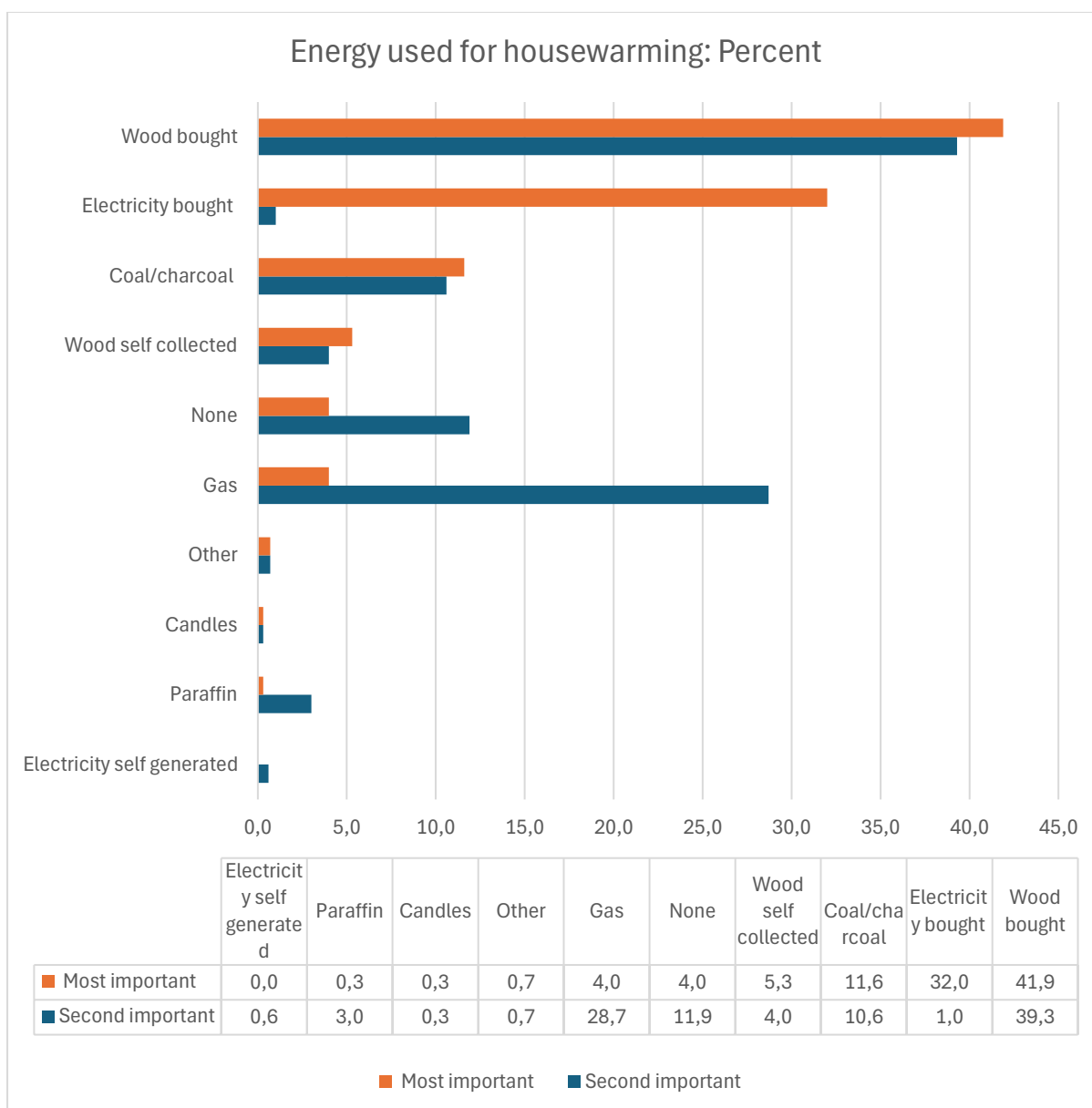


Figure 7.2: Sources of energy used for housewarming, most and second most important energies compared.

Heating water: Electricity from Eskom is used for water heating in 85,5% (N=259/303) of the households. One household (0,3%) generates its own electricity and another two (0,7%) use renewable electricity. This brings the total electricity users for water heating to 86,5%. The second largest heating source is wood, bought (6,9%) and self-collected (1,3%). Depending on how the wood is harvested and from what plants, this practice may be environmentally disadvantageous, i.e. to natural vegetation. Coal and charcoal (1,0%) are used as well as paraffin (0,3%). It is clear that heating water for household and personal use depends on the availability of affordable electricity. Environmentally friendly methods and practices must be encouraged and followed. Figure 7.3 gives a diagram of the information.²⁵

²⁵ Information on the second most important source for water heating is not available.

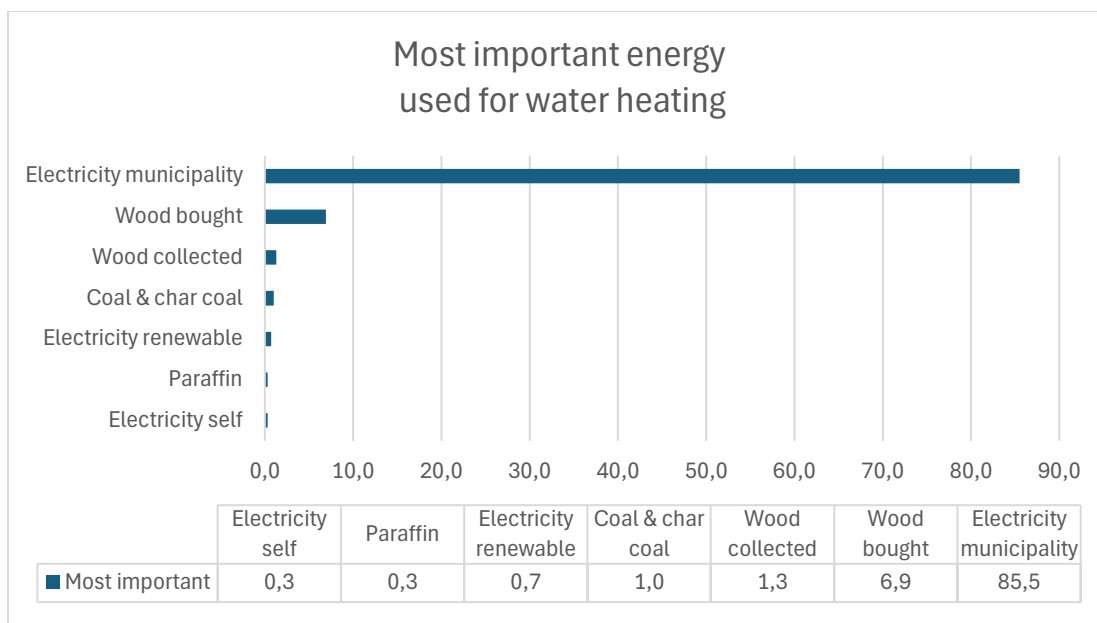


Figure 7.3: Most important sources of energy used for water heating

Various electric appliances are in use for heating and cooling water, such as geysers (using electricity from the grid and others using solar power), kettles, stoves, and fridges (for cooling). The latter two appliances are of course also used for food preparation and preservation.

A very low percentage of households have the use of a geyser – 10,6% an electric geyser and 1,7% a solar geyser; 12,3% in total (Figure 7.4). No electric geyser, and only one solar geyser, was mentioned in HOP; in contrast Dorp has 74,2% electric geysers. Very few solar geysers were mentioned.

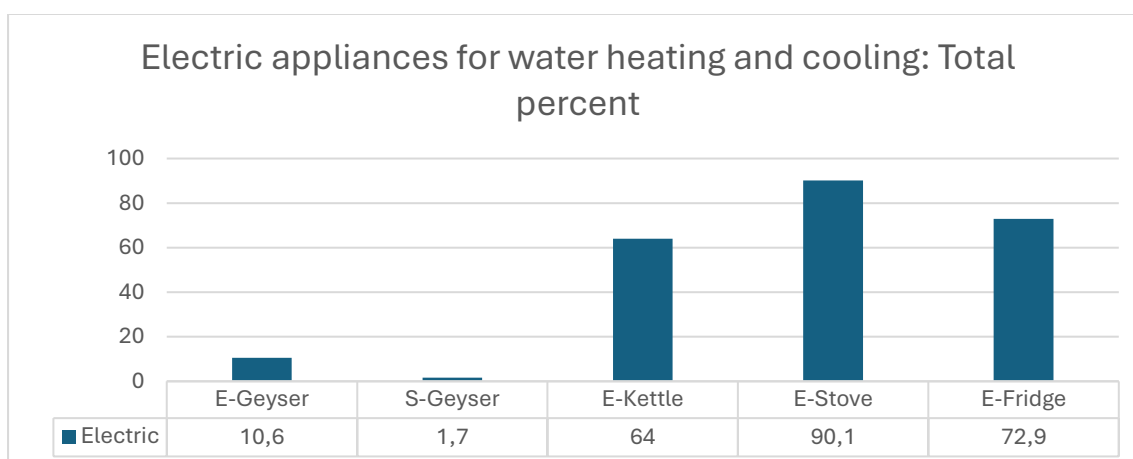


Figure 7.4: Electric appliances used for water heating and cooling

Far more households equipped with a stove (90,1%), a fridge (72,9%), and a kettle (64,0%), all electric, are in use by households. The areas differ significantly in this respect: households in Skema and HOP have relatively more stoves than households in Kerkgrond and Dorp; households in Kerkgrond and Dorp have relatively more fridges, and kettles, than households in Skema and HOP. In all areas, the majority of households own these appliances, although the majority percentages differ vastly. (Annexure 1: Table 10 and Figure 7.5 below – 6 pie diagrams).

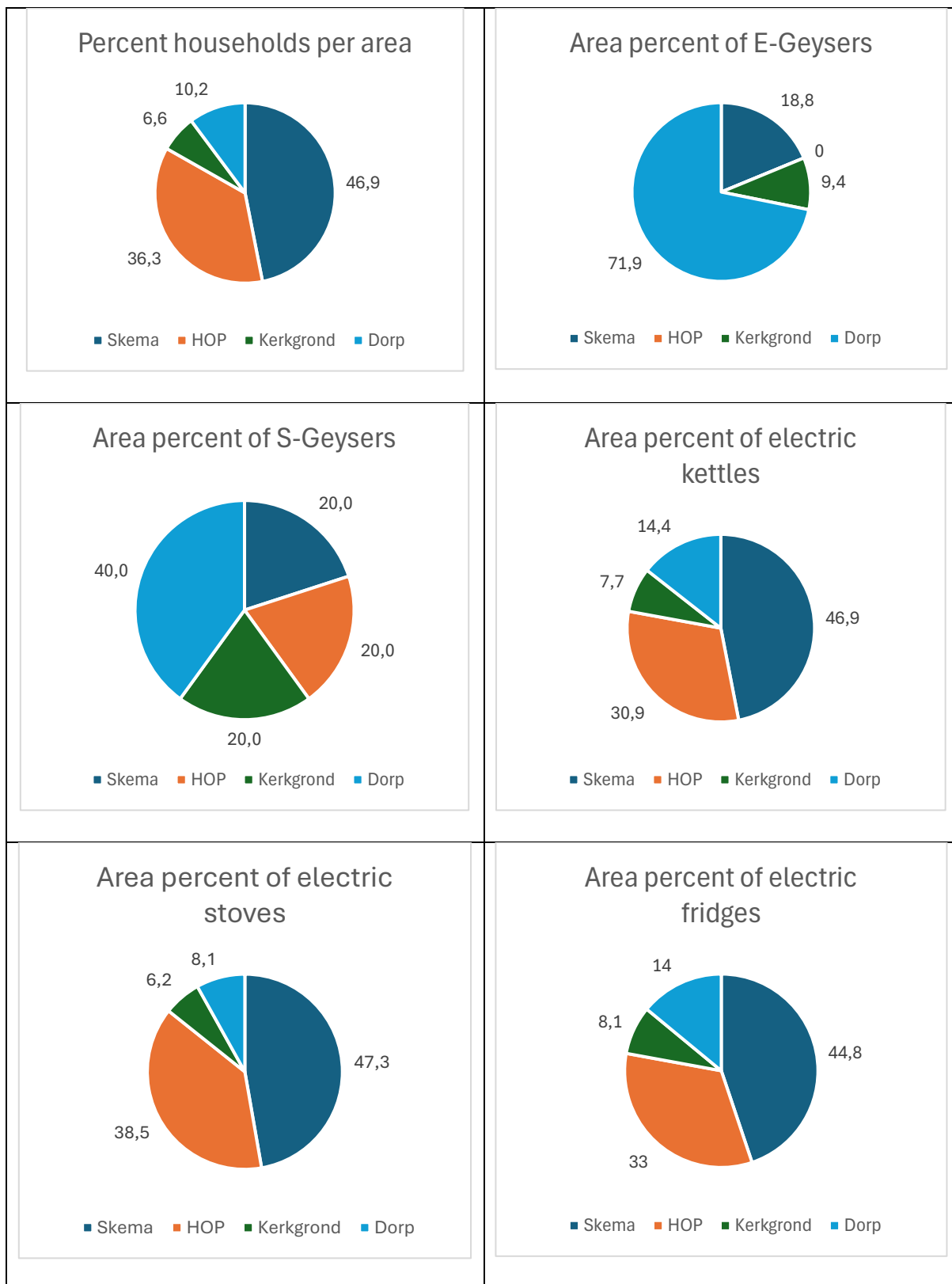


Figure 7.5: Electric appliances used for water heating and cooling per area - percentage

Energy used for cooking: Figure 7.6 diagrammatically shows that electricity (85,1%) is by far the most

important energy used for cooking. This is a significant cost factor in household economics as most of the electricity is bought as is indicated already. Only one household mentioned that they generate their own electricity. Wood and Gas are mentioned as the second most important source of energy for cooking.

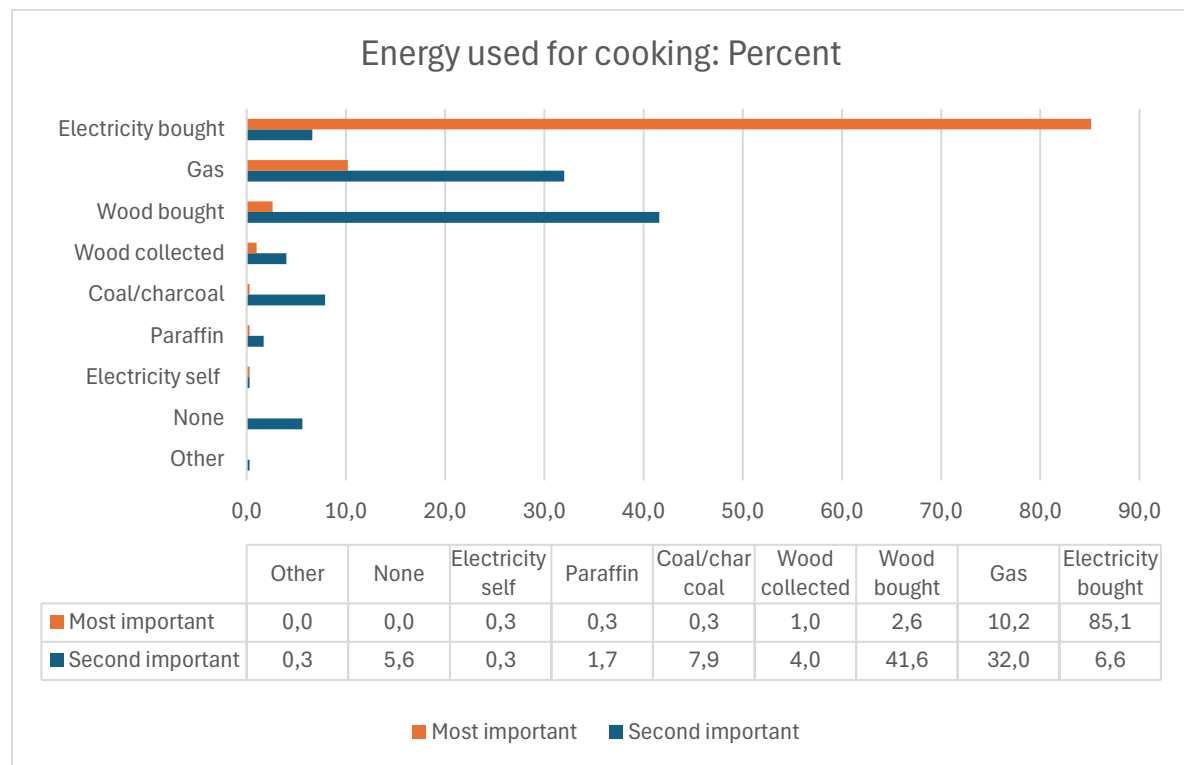


Figure 7.6: Sources of energy used for cooking

Energy used for lighting: Electricity is the predominant source for lighting within the house. Bought food is indicated as a second most important source. Half the households do not mention a second source as important. It is clear that there is an overwhelming dependence on electricity for household needs. (Fig. 7.7).

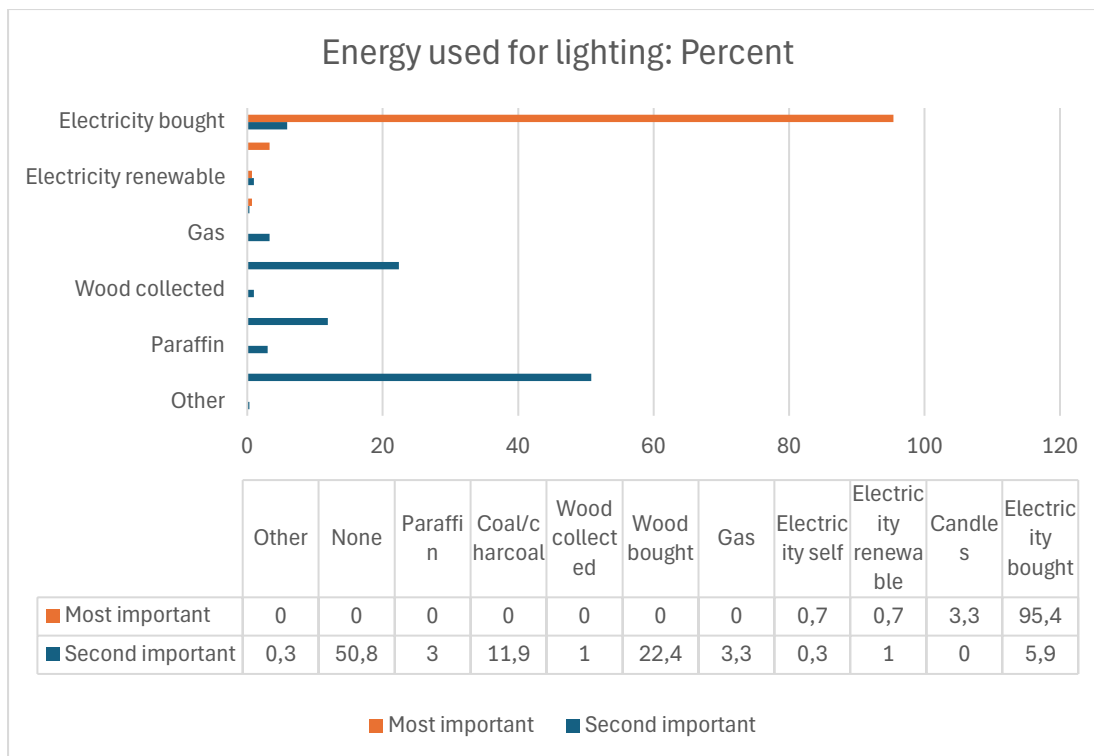


Figure 7.7: Energy used for lighting

7.6 Communication

Together with humans' **basic needs** (*subsistence, protection and affection*) humans have a need for **understanding** themselves, as individuals and human beings are in relationships to one another (that deal in turn with the needs for *participation, identity, and freedom*), their environment, as space and time (past, present, and future), in which they can create (*creativity*) and recreate (*idleness*)²⁶. Communication is a universal **satisfier** for *understanding* and related needs. Communication has many types, forms, methods, media and manifestations. Modern technology has improved communication exponentially, both personal, impersonal, verbal and non-verbal, formal and informal, and with masses of people simultaneously. The **Internet** is one such unprecedented technological advance in the human capacity to communicate. The Internet is defined as a vast network (a global communication system) that connects computers and individual networks all over the world. Through the Internet, people can share information and communicate from anywhere with an Internet connection. In the modern world, human populations have become classified as those connected to and those not connected to the Internet. In this section, we shall establish what proportion of the population of Sutherland is connected and what media they are using in this respect.

7.6.1 Internet access

According to the respondents, speaking on behalf of their respective households, 49,5% of the 303 households do have access to the Internet. Therefore, of this sample of households, 153 (50,5%) declared that they do **not** have internet access. Because the sample drawn may be regarded as

²⁶ Terminology as used by Manfred Max-Neef (1991) when writing about *human scale development*. He proposed that one may distinguish between needs on the one hand and satisfiers of needs on the other.

representative of the household population of Sutherland, it can be safely said that about **half the population are not connected**.

Proportionately residential areas Skema (41,4%) and HOP (44,5%) have **significantly** less access to Internet than the total connection average connection (49,5%) while Kerkgrond and Dorp have higher percentages; Dorp has 93,5% connection.

Of those connected (N=150), the study enquired about their means and ways of connecting with the Internet. Table 7.5 provides information.

Table 7.5: Methods of connecting to the Internet

Connection methods	Percent (based on N=150)	Comments
Smartphone	99,3	Areas do not differ significantly from the general figure.
Connect via the school	18,7%	Areas do not differ significantly from the general figure, except for Kerkgrond that has a higher connection percentage (53,8%; only 7/13 households)
Connect via the library	25,3	Areas do not differ significantly from the general figure, except for Kerkgrond that has a higher connection percentage (46,2%; only 6/13 households)
Connect via the Community Centre	4,7	Areas do not differ significantly from the general figure. Dorp does not use the Community Centre for connection to the Internet at all.
Connect via the workplace	4,7	Areas do not differ significantly from the general figure. Dorp does not use the Workplace for connection to the Internet at all.
Connect via a home with a Wi-Fi connection	30,7	The connection proportions differ among the areas; Dorp has a significantly higher connection facility at home (79,3%), while HOP (24,5%) is lower than the average percent but higher as both Skema (15,3%) and Kerkgrond (15,4%), the latter having the same percentage connection.
Connect via the SALT computer centre	6,0	Differences among areas are not significant, Skema (6,8%) and HOP (6,1%) have similar percentages while Kerkgrond a higher percent (15,4%).

Two households indicated alternative methods of connecting to the Internet; one respondent from

Kerkgrond uses a pocket router and one from HOP uses their family's connection.

7.6.2 Other appliances used in the communication sphere

Cell phones and smart phones

Smartphones are in great demand as a technological means to connect to the Internet, as shown above. The study found that the use of cell phones (not necessarily smartphones) is generally very popular. It was established that members of 232 households (76,6%; out of 303) own cell phones in working order. All households in Dorp have cell phones; 90% in Kerkgrond. In Skema (72,5%) and HOP (72,7%) lower percentages were found. The differences between the areas are statistically significant.

Cell phones serve as a telephone that offers text messaging and does not need a landline connection. They differ from smart phones in the sense that cell phones are less advanced technologically than smart phones with limited applications.

Smartphone is a mobile phone that performs many of the functions of a computer, typically having a touchscreen interface, internet access, and an operating system capable of running downloaded Apps. It is an electronic device that combines a cell phone with a hand-held computer, typically offering Internet access, data storage, and text and email capabilities.²⁷ A cellphone is simply a telephone that does not need a landline connection. Users can make and receive phone calls, and some cellphones also offer text messaging. A smartphone has more advanced features, including web browsing, software applications and a mobile operating system.

Computer

A desktop computer is one designed to be used in one fixed location. Unlike laptops or tablets, they do not have batteries or a touchscreen. Some key differences between laptops and desktops include portability, power source, size, storage capacity, and number of ports. Laptops are portable, run on batteries, and have limited storage. Desktops are stationary, run on mains power, have more storage, and more ports. Although these distinctions were not pursued in the questions directed to the respondents it was assumed that either type would qualify as a computer, when it was asked if the household has access to an operating computer.

Only 16,8% of all households answered in the affirmative. The areas differ **significantly** in this respect. Dorp indicated that 83,9% have a computer; Kerkgrond 30%; HOP 11,8%; and Skema 4,2%.

TV, DSTV (Dish), and Radio

These appliances are mass communication media, where a TV set in South Africa requires the payment of an annual license to the public broadcaster (SABC), DSTV a regular subscription (different packages are available) to the national private service provider as well as a so-called dish fitted to the outside of the house. Radio offers sound communication only. The question in respect of a radio includes the term HIFI, which refers to a sound system integrated to a radio instrument. No questions were asked

²⁷ A thorough yet accessible introduction to the smartphone is available on Wikipedia (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smartphone>)

about streaming services.

Table 7.6 Mass media for sound and image

Appliance	Percent (based on 303)	Comments
Television set	72,9	Significant differences among areas noted: higher proportions in Kerkgrond (95%) and Dorp (87,1%) and lower proportions in Skema (69,7%) and HOP (69,1%).
DSTV Dish	33,3%	Significant differences among areas noted: higher proportions in Dorp (67,7%) and Kerkgrond (40%); lower proportions in Skema (29,6%) and HOP (27,3%).
DSTV	45,7%	Calculated as DSTV-Dish/TV-Set*100. Significant differences between Dorp and rest of areas: Dorp (77,8%), vs Kerkgrond (42,1%), Skema (42,4%), and Hop (39,5%)
Radio HIFI	41,40%	Differences among areas significant – Dorp (54,8%), Skema (43%), HOP (3,6%), Kerkgrond (30%)

7.7 Sewing machines

Basically, there are two types of sewing machines, domestic and industrial. Domestic machines are typically made for personal and home use. They are slower and have a cap on speed; and they do not need to be cleaned. Industrial machines are typically made for businesses and factories and deliver high performance in the quality of sewing. Industrial machines have powerful motors that can handle heavy-duty thread and heavy-weight fabric such as upholstery material and leather. They are also more expensive than the domestic models.

Respondents were asked if they own a sewing machine but were not required to specify what kind of machine they have.²⁸

Altogether only 23 households have a sewing machine; this is 7,6% of the sample of households (Table 7.7 for more information). Numerically and proportionately, Dorp has more sewing machines than the other areas – 12 or 38,7%. The other areas have 5% or less. This means that Sutherland households have only a few sewing machines available. One may assume that the machines they do have are domestic machines, and that there are no industrial machines.

²⁸ For more information, see: <https://www.goldstartool.com/blog/what-is-the-difference-between-industrial-and-domestic-sewing-machines.htm>

Table 7.7: Possessing a sewing machine

Sewing machine	Skema	HOP	Kerkgrond	Dorp	
Number	8	2	1	12	23
Percent	5,6	1,8	5,0	38,70	7,6
N Total	142	109*	20	31	302*
Percent of Households per Area (Fig 7.5)	46,9	36,3	6,6	10,2	100,0

*One household missing (no answer given)

This trend indicates the unfortunate absence of an opportunity to use a sewing machine (or the mark-up industrial version) for wealth creating purposes. The few machines that are available in Sutherland perhaps would be used for personal household application. However, there are many examples elsewhere of the productive use of the sewing machine, especially among low income, poverty ridden communities, particularly in rural areas. Such materialistic productive use does not exclude artistic applications and cultural expression in making clothes and household artifacts when using the sewing machine and performing associated activities, such as knitting, embroidery and the like. The inspiring story of Kaross hand embroidered home décor comes to mind – and can be followed in the reference below.²⁹

Furthermore, a study reported by the West Virginia University' Regional Research Institute, in 1998, offers an overview of such initiatives and comparatively analysed sewing and knitting projects conducted in rural South Africa (Northwest Province) and Appalachia in the eastern USA (for more detail, see Oberhauser, 1998).

Other more recent and purposeful examples, include the Eastern Cape Government's Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (DRDAR) that procures protective clothing for its staff from clothing and textile enterprises which it supports under its home industry directorate, namely 503 textile cooperatives, with 2 808 beneficiaries, supported with industrial and domestic machines, sewing equipment, and sewing materials across the province. Nomabali Crafts in Coffee Bay is one of the successful cooperatives in the textile and clothing sector that DRDAR has invested in. The cooperative has made a name for itself in international markets as a reliable exporter of Umbhaco and other Xhosa traditional wear. Their products are sold in countries like England, USA and Netherlands.³⁰

Since 2017 to 2022, 13 projects under the Engcobo Local Municipality have been supported with the 11-member Siyakhana Sewing Project being the latest beneficiary. Siyakhana is spearheaded by 10

²⁹ See: https://kaross.co.za/pages/product?srltid=AfmBOopqhgZTzUuGn8FtKOe2FyNyh8a-2y_FVyPIx2KfScCmuuV4FjKN; and <https://kaross.co.za/pages/our-story>

³⁰ <https://www.news24.com/news24/community-newspaper/mthathaexpress/sewing-project-given-machines-20220524>

elderly women and a single unemployed youth, who holds a tertiary qualification.

Enel Green Power (EGP), an international company providing renewable energy through wind and solar, undertakes such projects near Adelaide, Eastern Cape Province (the Nxuba and Nojoli wind farms). EGP also collaborates with D'Bongs Trading, a sewing and laundry company founded by Ntombodidi Dilima, a female entrepreneur. With the support of EGP, this company has grown since 2014, and supplied by sewing and embroidery machines, was given a contract for sewing car parts with Mercedes-Benz's East London plant.³¹

D'Bongs Trading said: "Supporting long-term entrepreneurship projects is part of our commitment to the areas in which we operate, where we create shared value with communities, in many cases providing trading and materials, and revitalizing the local economy."

Among other, two points stand out as crucial in transforming efforts to put sewing machines, their owners, and related materials to productive use and sustainable livelihood enterprise, namely organizing participant sewers (as well as knitters, embroiders, etc.) into a suitable operating business-oriented body, and appropriately train them to deliver marketable products (Coetzee, et al, 2019). Research has emphasized a consciously gendered (in particular involving women) approach in this regard (Oberhauser, 1998).

7.8 Transport

It goes without saying that the modern household, as part of the need for communication and interaction, needs transport technology for moving around physically. The Sutherland sample survey inquired about the means of transport namely possession of an in-working-order motor vehicle, bicycle, motorbike, and donkey/horse cart. The percentages of households having these are quite low, as shown in Figure 7.8 below. While a high percentage (80,8%) of households residing in the **Dorp** do have access and use of a motor vehicle, only minority percentages of the other areas had this access: Kerkgrond – 40%; HOP 18,2%; Skema – 12,7%. The percentages for the other means of transport are even lower, in total, and for the various areas. The survey did not explore access to public transport, especially to other centres in the district.

³¹ <https://www.enelgreenpower.com/countries/africa/south-africa/sewing-the-future-of-entrepreneurship-in-south-africa>

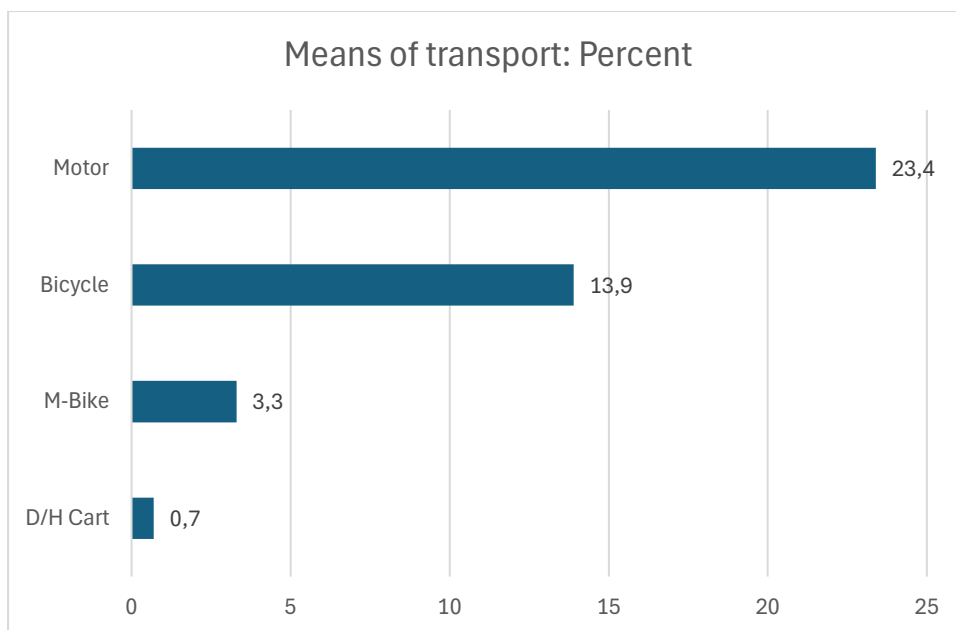


Figure 7.8: Means of transport

The conclusion is that except for Dorp households motorized transport for reaching out-of-town destinations is virtually absent. From an economic point of view this is a significant impediment to exporting produce from Sutherland to other markets that causes almost total dependence on means of transport owned by non-residents.

Having a valid driver's license is of enormous value to meet the need for independent travelling. It was established that in 249 (82,7%) households no driver's among 18+ year olds was available. Households that do have members with a valid license (52; 17,3%) were as follows:

- Motorbike license – Code A or A1: 4 households
- Motor or Bakkie license – Code 8 or EB: 35 households
- Heavy duty vehicle license – Code C1/C/EC1/EC: 13 households

As the economy had moved towards proportionately more road transport, especially in substituting for a fairly dysfunctional current rail transport infrastructure, for large volume goods, and home delivery of household items (food, groceries, etc.), driver's licenses have become an invaluable asset. In an agriculturally based economy, the possession and operation of small truck vehicles will always be in demand. The availability of vehicles for passenger transport will also be a big asset, especially for populations in remote areas. To drive on a public road in South Africa transporting goods, dangerous goods or passengers for an income one must have a professional driving permit (PrDP).³²

7.9 Sources of income

The financial status of a household is determined by **assets**, fixed and non-fixed, as reviewed in the sections above. The running income and expenses of the household, however, is defined by the

³² <https://www.gov.za/services/driving-licence/professional-driving-permit>

amounts of the respective entities: income and expenses. The survey did not include questions about expenses but asked about income sizes and the sources thereof. Seven different sources were distinguished, firstly by asking which of the items on the income list was indeed a source of income (by simply answering Yes or No) and then secondly, asking the respondent to name the most important source of income from this list as valid in their case. The relevant data have been organized in Annexure 1: Table 11 and Figure 7.9 below respectively.

More than 75% of the total number of households receive government grants and 72% an earned salary/commission. Except for Dorp (38,7%) more than 75% (up to 90%) of households in the areas receive grants. Relatively less households in Kerkgrond and Dorp receive salaries/commission than in Skema and HOP but in all areas a majority of households do earn a salary/commission. Other sources of income listed were mentioned in about all areas but at a far lower rate than the above percentages. Kerkgrond and Dorp households draw income from renting property (20% and 22,6% respectively). In Dorp, all households except one (96,8%), have an income from their own business. Examples of businesses include selling secondhand items, being a tour guide, doing handyman chores, freelance work, and drawing income from investments and savings.

While the above-mentioned sources attribute to an income collectively in many cases, the most important or main income source was identified. Figure 7.9 lists the most important source from highest to lowest for the **total sample** and sub-lists the rankings for the **areas** relative to this list – note based on household numbers (N=303). The figure provides a table with percentages of the most important sources. For the **total sample salaries/commissions** rank highest (55,4%), which is true for all areas but with varying percentages. HOP ranks highest of all areas with 65,5% for salaries/commissions. **Government grants** are also fairly highly rated as the second most important income source. In Dorp this rating is quite low (9,7%) while all other areas' households depend quite heavily on grants. In Dorp and Kerkgrond a **pension from an employer** serves as significant sources of income, in this case as the third important source. Other income sources do serve as important income but only in relatively small proportions.

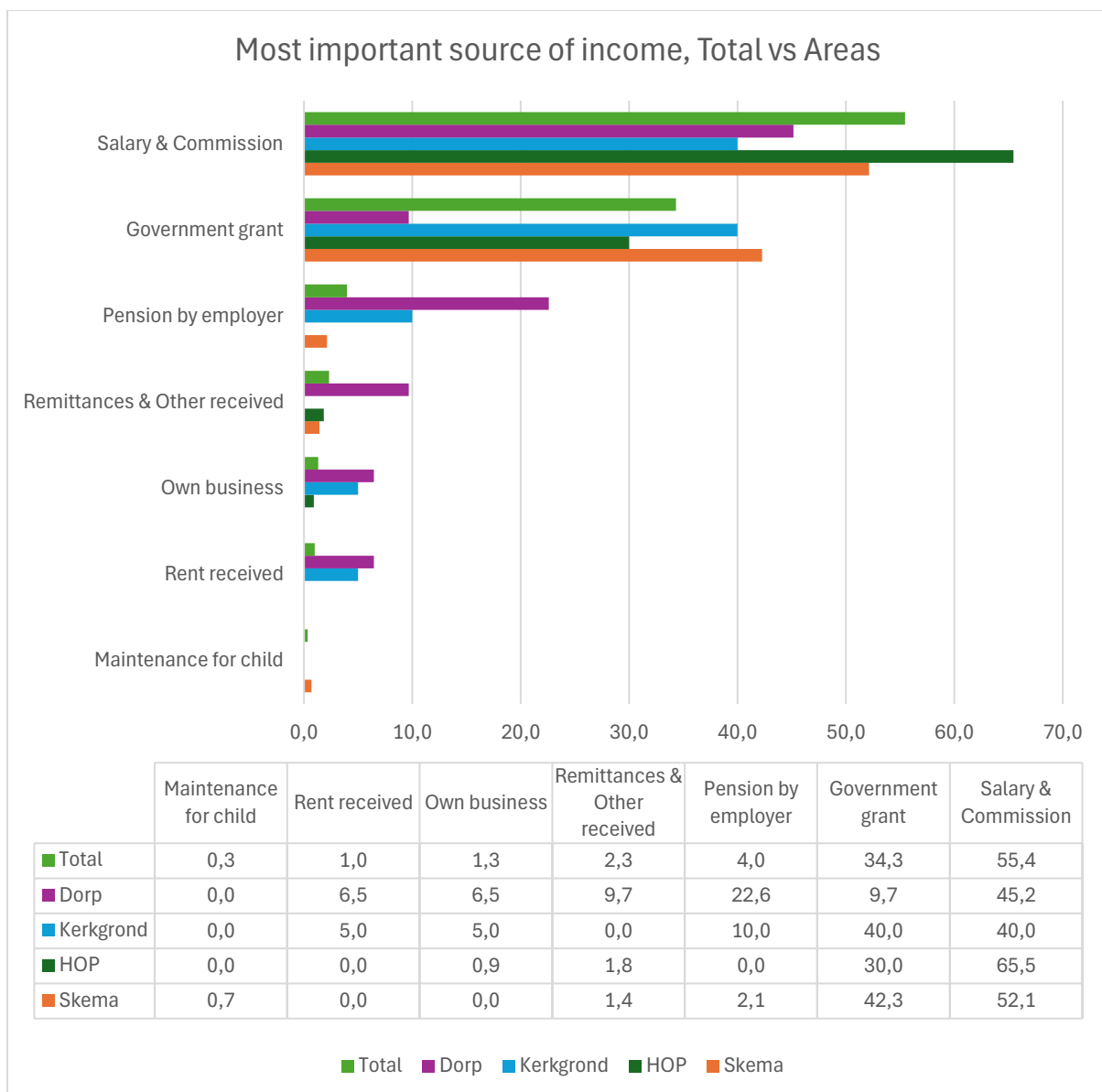


Figure 7.9: Most important source of income as percentage of all sources of income

No source of income: A last question on sources of income, probed whether there are households that have no source of income. Eight households (2,6%) state that they do not have access to any source of income. These households stay in Skema (2; 1,4%) and HOP (6; 5,5%). Although there are a small percentage of the residents, the situation calls for emergency measures to provide a safety net for destitute persons and families, which often is provided by neighbours, family, social welfare services, and the church.

Monetary value of income: Above, Figure 7.9 revealed that the category: salaries (and commission), is the most important source of income for households in Sutherland. To determine the value of incomes, respondents were requested to indicate the income earned per **individual** earner before deductions. Information was available for 413 earners.

Table 7.9: Summary statistics on monthly income earned by individuals from work and business.

Monthly income summary statistics				Comments
N	Valid	413		Number of individuals (15+ years of age) that have indicated income from work/business
	Missing	747	1 160	Total sample of individuals
Mean		R4 541,43		The average of the monthly income
Standard Deviation		R8 119,123		A measure of how dispersed the data (here expressed as the monetary earnings) is in relation to the mean
Median		R2 045,71a		The midpoint of earnings mentioned; 50% earned less and 50% more than this amount.
Skewness		+0,9222		Highly positive skew (approximate +1)
Mode		R2 000,00		The monthly income mentioned by the highest number of earners per amount mentioned.
Minimum		0		Lowest income
Maximum		R70 000,00		Highest income
Sum		R1 875 612,00		Total of all incomes mentioned.
Percentiles	5	R465,36		5% earn this amount or less
	10	R635,00		10% earn this amount or less
	25	R1028,13		Quarter 1: 25% earn this amount or less
	50	R2045,71		Median/Quarter 2: See Median above
	75	R4316,67		Quarter 3: 25% earn this amount or more
	90	R9820,00		10% earn this amount or more
	95	R15 850,00		5% earn this amount or more

This histogram below (Figure 7.10) shows an income distribution that has a moderate positive skew (value of skewness 0,92), i.e., trending towards a concentration of lower incomes per month with a long stretched-out tail of higher incomes to the right (i.e., the positive skew) as the main characteristic of the monthly income profile. Fifty percent of the earners received R2 045,71 or less per month while the other 50% are spread over a range of approximately R68 000 per month.³³

³³ <https://library.soton.ac.uk/skewness-and-kurtosis>

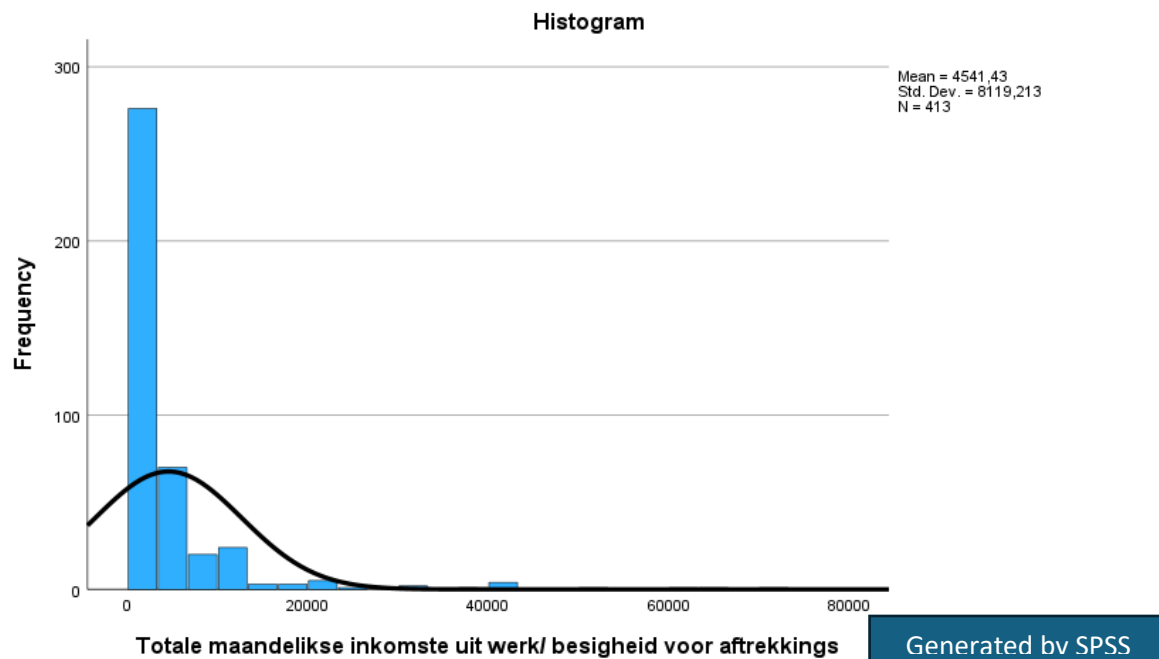


Figure 7.10: Total monthly income of individuals from work/business before deductions

Pension received from a former employer: The survey identified only a few individuals that received a pension from a former employer (or an annuity): 22 of the of potential pensioners - 65 years to 89 years, which include a total of 78 individuals, thus 28,2% of this total. The lowest pension per month is R700, the mode value is R2 000 with 3 pensioners, the median R4 201, and the mean R7 870. The value range ends with one pensioner receiving R35 000. Three pensioners received R1 250 (Quarter 1 (25%) value or less; the Quarter 3 (75%) amount is R12 000, meaning 25% of the pensioners (N=8) receive this amount and more.

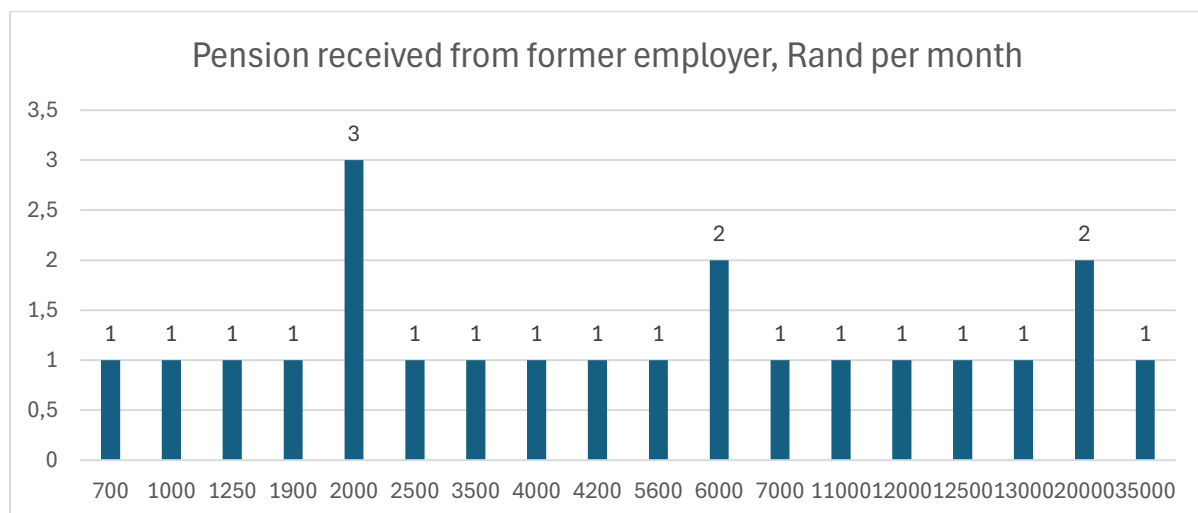


Figure 7.11: Number of persons receiving a pension from former employer, amount per month

SASSA grants: Of all members of household, 483 received grants from the SASSA office. This number

represents 41,8% of the total sample (1 160-5 missing = 1 155). Most beneficiaries (56,9%) received Child Support Grants (CSG). Other grants include Old Age Pensions (or Grants) (OAG) (28,2%) and Disability Grants (DG) (14,1%). Only two persons each receive Foster Child Grant (FCG) and Care Dependency Grants (CDG).³⁴

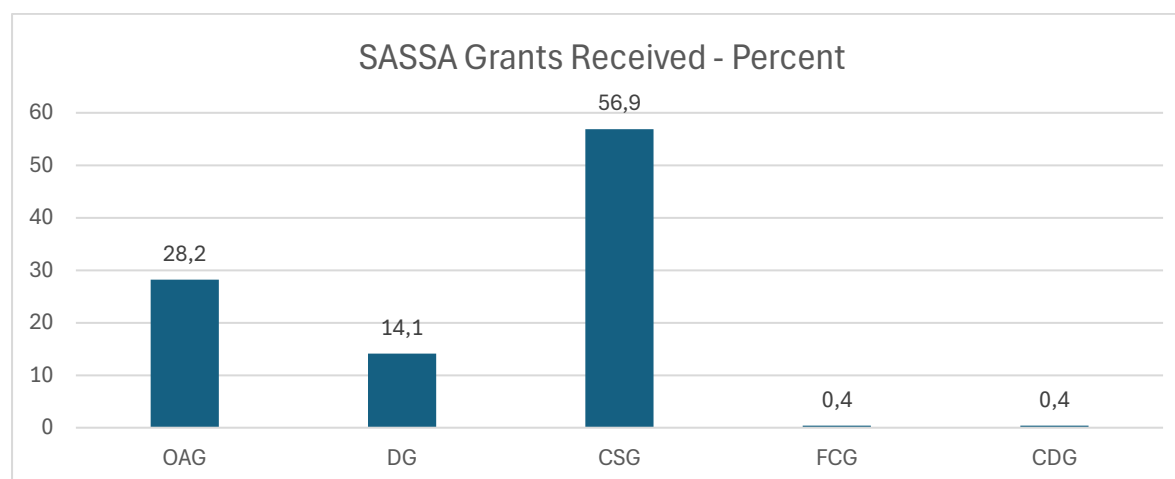


Figure 7.12: SASSA grants received

A person **60 years and older** may receive the OAG under conditions as specified by legal provisions. The survey sample included 140 individuals 60 years and older, thus 97,1% (N=136) of this cohort were recipients of the OAG.

The survey identified 37 persons with **disabilities** that affect their normal functioning, including visual (10), audio (2), physical mobility (21), intellectual functioning (2), and psychiatric conditions (2). Under prescribed legal provisions these persons may qualify for disability grants. The number that received DGs, 68, representing 184% of the survey's number of self-identified disabled persons.³⁵

With respect to **children**, 361 children aged 0-17 years were part of the survey sample. Of this cohort, 279 (77,3%) beneficiaries received grants for support and care of various types for children.

However, while in terms of information collected according to the survey sample potentially 538 persons were eligible for a grant provided that they had qualified according to the legal and technical provisions for receiving benefits from the respective grants, a lesser number (483; 89,8%) made use of the opportunity to become a recipient of this benefit (Table 7.10).

³⁴ For official information regarding government social welfare grants, see <https://www.gov.za/faq/government-services/how-do-i-apply-social-grant>

³⁵ This discrepancy (68-37=31; 184%) became only apparent in the analysis of the figures and could not be double-checked with the Respondents.

Table 7.10: SASSA grants uptake versus potential beneficiaries

Grant type	Percentage share	General qualification	Potential according to sample	Actual uptake	Beneficiary percentage
OAG	28,2	Older persons 60+ yrs	140	136	97,1
DG	14,1	Disability self-defined	37	68	183,8
CSG	56,9	Children 0-17 yrs	361	279	77,3
FCG	0,4				
CDG	0,4				
Total	100		538	483	89,8

Private maintenance support: Thirty-two (32) individuals received **private** maintenance support, and indicated the monthly amount received. These contributions may have originated from court orders (e.g., in a divorce case, for maintenance of children, etc., or private and individual arrangements between working adult children and their parents, as so-called remittances to the family of origin). Most (the Mode) received R500 per month, while the Median amount is R570, and the Mean R643. Eight (25%) receive an amount of more than R1 000 per month. About two-thirds of the individuals (65,4%; n=17/26) paying private maintenance support are paid by a parent of the beneficiary; 19,2% (5/26) are a spouse or partner. Other persons paying monies, which may be called remittances, include a family member such as a child, or another non-related person. Payments from individuals to the household/member in Sutherland that are living elsewhere vary between R180 and R1 000 per month, with R500 the most common amount.

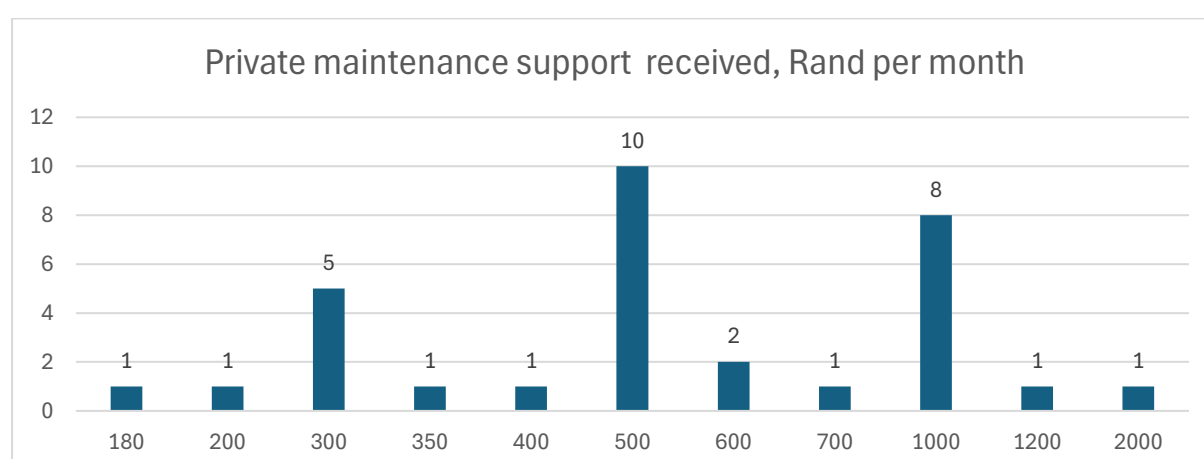


Figure 7.13: Number of persons receiving private maintenance support, amount per month

Rent (Boarding) received: Twenty-seven (27) respondents indicated that they received rent as a

source of income. The monthly amounts vary from R200 (lowest) to R12 500 (highest) (Range: R12 300) with an average (mean) value of R3 266 per month. The median (50%) and mode (largest frequency) are quite similar, R1 004 and R1 000 respectively. The first Quarter (25%) is R501 (meaning 25% of the rent payers pay this amount or less. The third Quarter (75%) is calculated as R6 759, meaning 25% of the rent payers pay more than this amount (Table 7.11; Figure 7.14).

Table 7.11: Rent received by household

Statistics	Monthly value
Lowest value	R200
Highest value	R12 500
Range	R12 300
Quarter 1 (25%)	R501
Median (Q2)	R1 004
Quarter 3 (75%)	R6 759
Mean	R3 266
Mode	R1 000
Number of rent payers	27

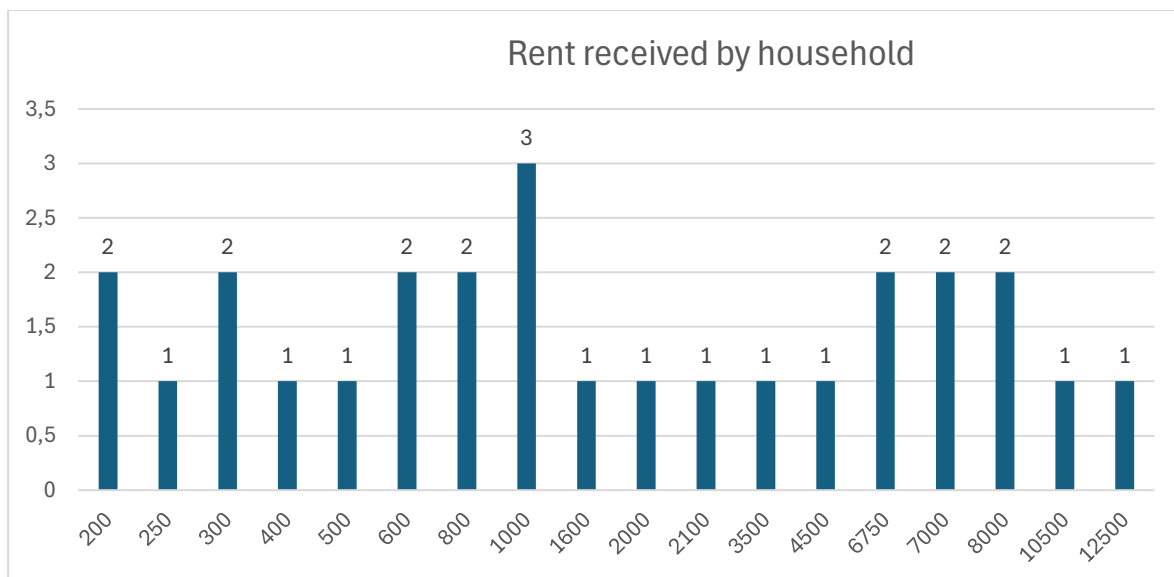


Figure 7.14: Number of households receiving rent, amount per month

7.10 Wealth creation: Farming

Sutherland is located in a rural area with farming activities mainly concentrating on livestock. Some residents surveyed indicated that they have access to grazing and natural pastures and are involved in poultry farming as well. The number of households engaged in farming seems to be a small minority

within the sample.

A relevant question to the respondents was whether they do have access to land, use it, and if their activities on this land contribute to food security for the household. Only one respondent answered in the affirmative, i.e. the household does have access, the land is utilized, and provides food for the household. Four respondents also answered in the affirmative but qualify that the food contributes only partially to the needs of the household. Thirteen (13) have access but the land and agricultural inputs do not provide (or very little) food on the table. Altogether 18 (5,9%) respondents offered answers.

Responses from other questions linked to the residents' involvement in agriculture and stock farming confirmed that less than 6 percent of respondents are engaged in wealth creation initiatives by tilling the soil and/or keeping livestock and poultry. Here follows answers and numbers that shed some light on the role of agriculture and farming in the economic wellbeing of the households interviewed.

- **Do you have access to grazing fields and use it?** Yes, and use it – 10 (3,3%); Yes, but do not use it – 3 (1,0%); No, but do have livestock wandering around – 2 (0.7%). By default, 95% of the 303 households do not have access.
- **Do you own grazing farm area(s)?** Three respondents have commercial farms; two do not have their own land but have access to and use of the common land portions of town; one has some other arrangement. Five indicate that they use the plot that they live on for keeping livestock; and one has access to the government's farm.
- **Some counts given regarding livestock:** 14 cattle are owned by one respondent; eight respondents in total own 2 189 sheep – one owns 2 000, and another 100; all others have 40 or less sheep; 15 goats are owned by two respondents each; one pig is owned by a respondent. Sixteen respondents indicate they have donkeys and horses, but no numbers were provided. In Figure 7.8 above it was noted that only two households have donkey/horse carts in working order.
- **Poultry:** Only small numbers of poultry were mentioned, in total 39.
- **Interested in farming?** A question was asked: Is there anyone farming on the town's common area? – to which only three persons' names were mentioned. The next question probed as follows: Is there anyone not farming at present but interested in farming? Surprisingly, 45 persons indicate they would be interested. Interest in farming was expressed from all residential areas.
- **Existing farmers?** Depending on the way the question was phrased, the survey determined at most two commercial farmers and one small-scale farmer. Except for the few persons mentioned, most respondents seem to have a few livestock and poultry for domestic purposes. While this may assist in food security it is quite clear that no commercial large scale and concerted effort is attempted to create long-term wealth creation from farming activities. Perhaps, the latent interest highlighted here needs to be reacted to by the relevant authority

by launching relevant programme(s) in activating farming interest amongst the local populace and honing their agricultural skills.

- **Working in the agricultural sector?** In the context of gainful employment, the category of farm (or agricultural) workers was mentioned, but it was difficult to pin down a definite trend in this regard. On the question of what **main work an employee** (i.e., a person working within a contractual relationship with an employer for a financial benefit (e.g. salary, wage, or other monetary benefit as agreed upon)) was performing, 25 individuals indicate that they are farmworkers. When asked about the agri-sector that employees have been working in, 16 indicated that they were working on a wine producing farm, while 31 mentioned that they were working in agriculture meaning they were working on farms.³⁶ Clearly, these figures are contradicting themselves to the extent that no trend can be discerned. Apart from these indications of being workers on a farm or farming themselves, four persons indicate fencing (*draadspan*) as their speciality, and one respondent occupying in a professional capacity as an agricultural economist.
- **Unemployment:** When interviewed about reasons for unemployment (see next section 7.11), a question to unemployed persons, inter alia, was: Were you working on a farm just before you have become unemployed? Fifty persons answered in the affirmative. Of these, 16 answered that they lost their position as farmworker because of the draught; four said they were discharged from work; and 30 indicated that they resigned.

From these observations, an estimated 72 persons were regarded as remuneratively employed in the agricultural sector, representing 17,5% of all that were employed gainfully (N=412; see next section, 7.11). From a wealth creation point of view, agriculture in and around Sutherland serves as a source of cash income for daily living and survival, access to assets such as livestock and fresh produce, and to land. It is therefore assumed that agriculture's impact on the livelihoods of households is more than its cash contribution, and in fact is potentially a significant and stable sustainable factor that contributes to the overall wellbeing of the community at large. This sector therefore needs to be continually nurtured and developed to play its key role in the household economy of Sutherland, especially for ensuring food security for the financially vulnerable cohort of this town's population.

7.11 Employment

The survey determined employment figures among the sample drawn by asking respondents to indicate the paid work participation of individual household members aged 15 years and above, a range of 74 years that stretches to 89 years of age. It must be noted that the figures thus produced are *de facto* employment figures, and not as customary defined by the rather artificial demographic indicator of 15 to 59 years as the potential economic active cohort.³⁷ By having done so, another 150 persons have been added to the cohort 15 to 59 years, namely 702, to give the base number of 852 for further analysis of employment characteristics of the sampled population. Two missing counts

³⁶ The higher number of 31 (versus the earlier mentioned 25) working in agriculture may be explained as another six respondents working in the sector but not as a main employment

³⁷ Potentially economically active cohort ranges differ: Some are 15-59 years, while other define the cohort as 15-64 years. Depending on the cohort used, calculated figures may differ.

were noted, lowering the **base number to 850**.

The opening question for the analysis asked if the person currently was **working or doing something that earned money** to the benefit of the person. Less than half of the respondents answered in the affirmative: 48,5% (412/850), therefore implying that 51,5% (438/850) of this cohort did not occupy a gainful work opportunity and could be regarded as unemployed.

The members who were not gainfully employed were asked to provide reasons why not. The answers provided are listed in Table 7.12. One-third of the respondents were active job seekers, looking for work, but did not succeed as yet in finding a work opportunity of any kind or suitable for the person seeking a job. Analysing some other reasons listed in the table, it is doubtful whether all the reasons are legitimate for a person to technically qualify as being unemployed. Some of the categories included are not being considered as defining one as unemployed – pensioner, student, homemaker, and disabled person. There are also a number of respondents that did not answer the question or that provided eligible reasons as asked.

Table 7.12: Reasons why not gainfully employed

Reason	Number	Percent	Comment
Looking for work but can't get any, or suitable, work	150	34,2	Can't get any work (138); or suitable work (12)
Other reasons not detailed	8	1,8	Did not explain reasons
Homemaker, not looking for work	27	6,2	
Have income, do not need to work	2	0,5	
Pensioner	103	23,5	
Disabled	29	6,6	
Student or Leaner	59	13,5	
Perceived self as too old/too young to work	34	7,8	
Do have work but wait for contract/season to start	8	1,8	People that have contracts but who are temporarily off duty
Total that provided reasons	420		
Unaccounted for (no answer)	18	4,1	Respondent not identified or answer offered
Total that declared not gainfully working	438	100,0	

To conclude, it is suggested that the unemployment rate for this sample be estimated at 18,6 percent at the very least – referring to the first two lines in the table above (158/850) if cohort 15-89 (N=850) is used; for cohort 15-64 (N=766) the rate is 20,6%, and for cohort 15-59 (N=702) 22,6%. The middle rate (20,6%) is suggested as the universally used indicator.

Within the context of Northern Cape trends, StatsSA reported unemployment figures that show a surge in the quarterly rates, for example 28,3% for Quarter 1, 2024 and 32,0% for Quarter 2, 2024³⁸. The survey's estimated unemployment figure was inferred from data collected end February/start March 2024. It must be kept in mind that the provincial figures are calculated as an average for the province as a whole, while the survey's data have a bearing only on Sutherland. The provincial unemployment rate (28,3%) is significantly higher than the Sutherland estimated rate (20,6%).

The **absorption rate** (number of workers (412) divided by the sum of cohort 15-64 years (766), expressed as a percentage) is 53,8%. The comparative figure for the Northern Cape Province (Quarter 4, 2023) was 40,8%. (Northern Cape Province, 2024)

Own business: Apart from being economically active as an employee, some people are involved in business enterprises, often as free (non-paid) labour. Twenty-five persons mentioned that they were running their own business, and five that they assisted with a family business without any payment to them.

Public work programmes: The government sector, including local government, provided opportunities for job seekers to participate in public works programmes and municipal job creation programmes. Currently (since January 2024 to date of survey), 57 persons participate in these programmes (6,8%; 57/842) and 62 persons did so previously (5,3%; 62/842) (8 missing cases). More than 85% did not participate in this programme.

Members of the population could register on the CWP³⁹ database to be considered for job opportunities – 179 (out of 803 respondents), i.e., 22,3% were registered, and 74,6% (599/803) not registered. Twenty-five respondents did not know if they were on the database. There were 47 missing cases for answers to these questions.

7.12 Type of work

The previous section (7.11) started off by noting that 412 (48,5%) of the persons 15 years and older (n=850) are gainfully employed. A breakdown of this number shows that 56,3% were contracted permanently, thus providing the employees with financial stability and work security. More than a third of the employees were full-time employed. Nearly forty percent of the employees were, however, in no permanent contract with an employer and performing seasonal work and odd jobs. A small percentage worked for themselves.

³⁸ https://www.statssa.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/StatsBiz_February2024.pdf. See also: <https://www.power987.co.za/featured/sas-unemployment-rate-increased-to-33-5-in-the-second-quarter-of-2024/>

³⁹ Community Works Programme. This is a government initiative under the aegis of the Department of Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) designed to provide employment safety net to eligible participants by offering them a minimum number of regular days of work each month.

Table 7.13: Stability status of gainful employment

Stability of gainful employment	N	Percent
Permanently and full-time employed (5-6 days per week)	140	34,0
Permanently but part-time employed (e.g. 3 days per week; working according to a time contract or piecework)	92	22,3
Odd jobs (2), seasonal work (162)	164	39,8
Working for oneself, or in own business	16	3,9
Total	412	100.0

Apart from the employees contracted to perform general services (no specific sector of the economy) – 61,8% - three sectors employed the highest numbers of workers: agriculture, personal services, and safety and security. Annexure 1: Table 12 gives more details and Figure 7.15 (below) provides the rank order of the sectors where workers were employed.

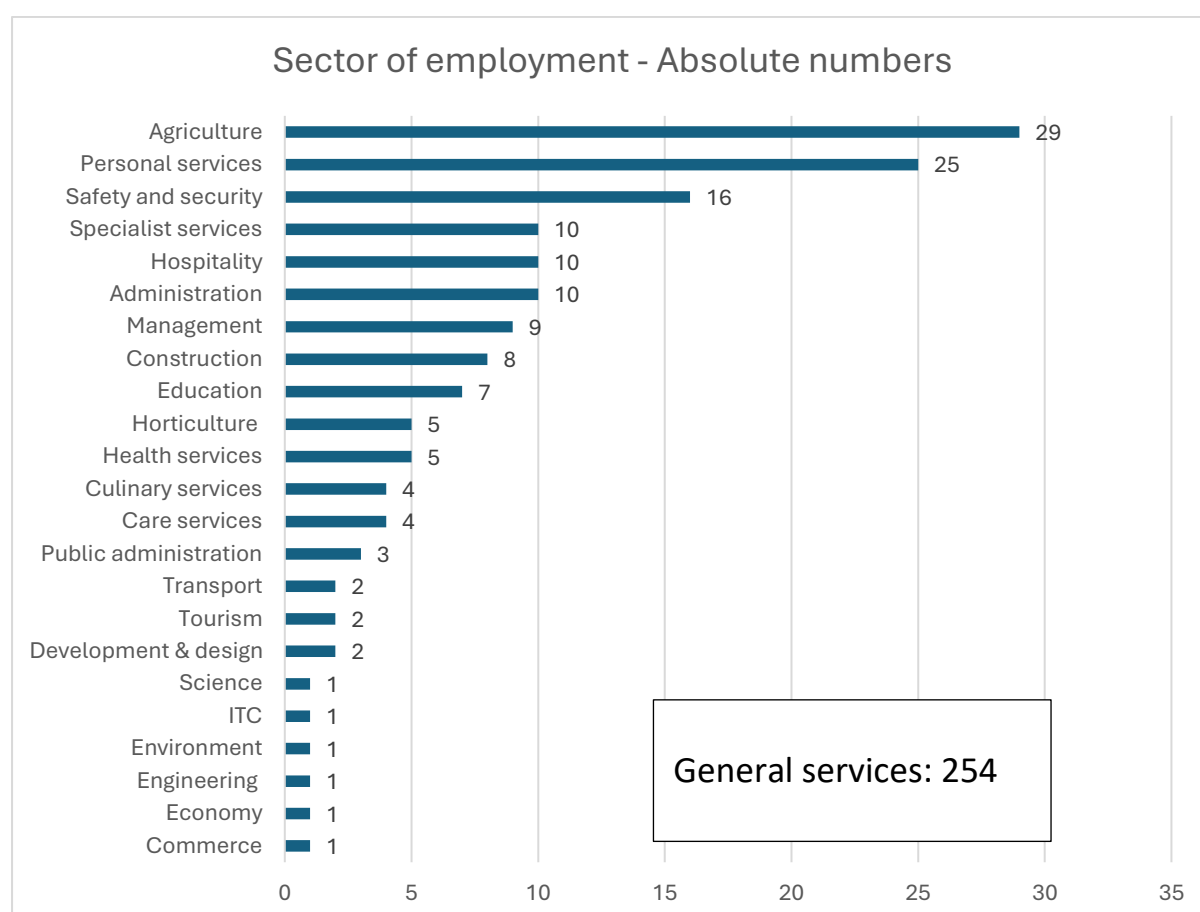


Figure 7. 15: Sector of employment

7.13 Place of work

Table 7.14 reveals that almost all employees are working within Sutherland (including the immediate

district), and in the Northern Cape. A few were working in Western Cape and one person in Gauteng. One person worked online.

Table 7.14: Town and province of workplace

Town and Province	N	Percent
Sutherland – Northern Cape	401	97,6
Ceres – Western Cape	1	0,2
Calvinia – Northern Cape	1	0,2
Goodwood – Western Cape	1	0,2
Johannesburg _Gauteng	2	0,5
Kimberley - Northern Cape	1	0,2
Laingsburg – Western Cape	3	0,7
Online country wide – South Africa	1	0,2
Total (1 missing)	411	100,0

7.14 Challenges faced

7.14.1 Personal disabilities

The survey identified 42 persons, or 3,6 percent of the total number of members of households included in the sample, living with serious disabilities, as listed in Table 7.15. Half of this group (50%) were challenged by physical immobility, and nearly a quarter (23,8 %) by weak or no sight. Other challenges they faced are mentioned in the table below.

Table 7.15: Persons challenged because of disability

Personally challenged / disabled	N	Percent
Sight – very weak OR blind	10	23,8
Audio – very OR totally deaf	2	0,8
Mobility – paralyzed, cripple, mobility very weak	21	50,0
Intellectually challenged and limited	2	0,8
Psychiatrically challenged and disturbed	2	0,8
Not specified	5	11,9
Total (42/1 160=3,6%)	42	100,0

Nearly one-fifth (19%) of the disabled persons had their impairment since birth, and a tenth (9,5%)

since childhood. More than 70% started having disability in their adulthood with 54,8% suffering since their older adulthood (28,6%) and senior years (26,2%).

Table 7.16: Age since when person had been disabled

Age or Life Phase since when disabled	N	Percent
Since birth	8	19,0
Since childhood (0-17)	4	9,5
Since Young Adulthood (18-35)	7	16,7
Since Older Adulthood (36-59)	12	28,6
Since Senior Age (60+)	11	26,2
Total	42	100,0

A particular issue is the challenge of taking care of disabled persons. More than half (52,4%) of the disabled persons seem to be in a position to care for themselves, but unfortunately the rest (47,6%) need assistance in their personal care. For those that need assistance, the principal carer is someone else from the household (35,7%; 15/42). Therefore, individual disability is in many cases also a burden on the household.

7.14.2 Financial challenges

Access to credit often is an asset in creating wealth provided the credit serves as a capital investment. However, when credit acquired is to be used for daily survival, the loan made becomes a drain on the available income and is an indicator of the severity of financial challenges that the household are facing. The list below indicates that 25,4% of the households found it necessary to buy food on credit, a sure indicator of shortfall in income available for the bare necessities of life. Making use of credit providers such as micro loan agencies (“loan sharks”) is quick and easy, but highly risky and debilitating financially due to exorbitant interest charged. This is sadly often the financial downfall of a household – 12,2% of households use this method. The “lay-buy” system (often used to buy furniture, or clothing – approximately 11% of loans) is another risky credit arrangement. Four respondents testified that since November 2022 they have bought items on “lay-buy” but could not continue paying off the loan resulting in the repossession by the retailer of the items bought. For details, see Annexure 1: Table 13; and a summary Figure 7.16 below.

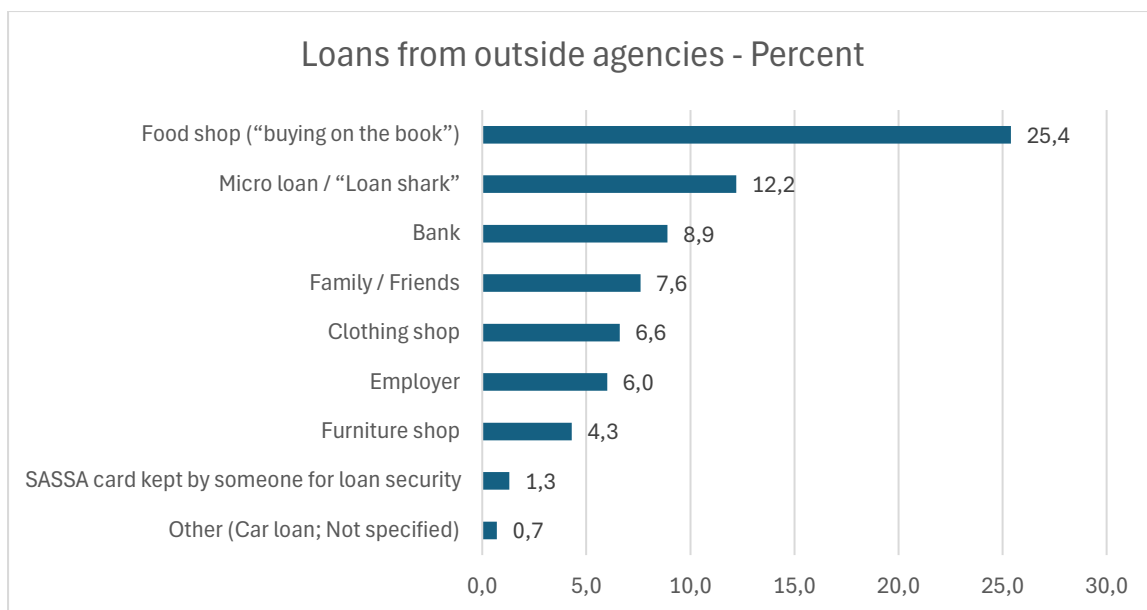


Figure 7.16: Loans from outside agencies

7.14.3 Absolute poverty

Twenty-two and a half percent (22,5%) of the respondents affirmed that over the past twelve months (from the survey, i.e., March 2023 to February 2024) their household had to go without food on occasion – as listed in Table 7.17:

Table 7.17: Household had to go without food last 12 months

How often do you have to do without food?	N	Percent (Based on n=302)
Seldomly	30	9,9
Sometimes	30	9,9
Regularly	5	1,7
Always	3	1,0

Bearing in mind that “Food loans” were top of the list for loans, food security seems to be a serious challenge for about a quarter of the households. Going without food at times (and for some regularly or always) seems to be a reality – and a sure sign of absolute poverty for some households (gracefully only a minority).

Resolving this need for food, compelled households to seek assistance from sources such as institutions, persons, etc. to help if they “do not have food on the table” – see Table 7.18. Note the desperate comment “There is no one to go to”, as well as the small number willing to call on the “church” when in need.

Table 7.18: Who a household would approach when in need of food

To whom / Where household go to if in need of food	N	Percent (Based on N=302)
Family	50	16,6
Neighbour / Friends/ Other members of community	44	14,6
Church / Faith organization	7	2,3
NGO / CBO	25	8,3
Buy on credit at a shop	21	7,0
There is no one to go to	10	3,3

7.15 Summary and conclusion

7.15.1 Introduction

The economic aspects of households - staying, living and working in Sutherland - were approached from a household economics point of view that focused on the private sphere within the context of macro policies, structures and processes – the individual experience against the background of the wider society.

7.15.2 Residential occupancy

An outstanding feature of the housing situation in Sutherland is that approximately 80% of the households own the house they occupy largely because of the government subsidized housing scheme (also known as the RDP programme). In the HOP area ownership is more than 90%. A minority of households rent the house or live gratis in the house. Occupants that benefit from the RDP programme are required to pay rates and taxes, as well as for services like water and electricity if supplied by the municipality.

7.15.3 Physical structure of dwellings

The majority of the houses, approximately 88%, are formally constructed houses built with materials such as bricks and mortar. The rest of the houses are informal structures, like backyard tin and timber shacks, “Wendy houses” or other non-permanent units. There is an overlap between households owning the house and a house constructed in a formal way. This points to the dwelling unit representing a secure asset within the household economics of Sutherland.

7.15.4 Basic amenities

Almost all residential plots are serviced with piped water and about 40% of the housing units as well. HOP and Skema houses have lower percentages of access to piped water inside the house. There is still a few occasional examples of houses without any water provisioning, where residents need to fetch manually water from other sources.

The differential provisioning of piped water impacts the availability of flushed toilets on the plot and inside the house and necessitates the use of pit/French drain toilets, and the occasional use of “the veld”.

7.15.5 Household energy and basic functions

Approximately all households have access to Escom and their electricity supply systems, although payment and acquisition methods differ. The prepaid method is mostly used.

Due to the extremely low winter temperatures experienced in Sutherland, indoors heating of houses is a high priority in Sutherland for comfortable living. The most important energy sources for heating dwellings are wood, gas and coal. Gas is used if wood is not available as the second most used energy source. In contrast, electricity is used mostly for heating water. Wood is the second most energy source used for heating water.

Electric appliances for heating and cooling of water, as well as for cooking and preserving food, such as kettles, stoves, and fridges, are widely used. The use of geysers, both electric and solar, is very low. Electricity is used almost exclusively for lighting inside buildings.

Because of this pattern of energy applications, environmentally friendly methods and practices for heating, cooking, and lighting must be encouraged and followed. The low uptake of solar energy is a matter of concern.

7.15.6 Communication

The immense importance of access to and use of the internet is undisputable in this day and age, and Sutherland of all places, with its strategic positioning for telescopic use in astronomy research, and therefore a global asset, ought to be a showpiece of universal access to the internet. Sadly, only about half the population of Sutherland are connected, which means that a large portion of the population misses out on the advantages that internet communication brings to households – educational, business-wise, and many more that can break the isolation and exclusion of rural people. Almost all households have members that own smartphones (or cell phones) and therefore in principle the technology needed to enter the web. Audio-visual technology (TVs) is widely available.

7.15.7 Sewing machines

The near absence of the sewing machine among households (only 7,6% have access to one), reveals a general underestimation of the value of this appliance in the household economy, and potentially, for the general welfare of the community-at-large. Several examples and initiatives, as used for illustration purposes, without a doubt show that household industry and income-generation can be developed given access to such machines and the correct business and social organization. One proviso for the success of these initiatives is that a genderized approach must be followed.

7.15.8 Transport

Motorized transport for reaching out-of-town destinations is virtually absent. Only 52 (17,3%) of households have members with a legal drivers' license and of these 52, only 13 have a heavy-duty vehicle license. In the survey, no one indicated having a professional driving permit (i.e., a permit

needed for driving a vehicle transporting (dangerous) goods and passengers on a public road, and being paid for the service). From an economic point of view this is a significant impediment to exporting produce from Sutherland to markets elsewhere. This implies almost total dependence on transport owned by outsiders.

7.15.9 Sources of income

Firstly, seven sources of income were distinguished, and the number of households with members who receive income from the named source was specified. Secondly, the household respondent ranked the seven income sources from most important to least important as a source of income for the particular household. Both indicators ranked salaries and commission (combined) as the most important source; followed by government grants as second, and pension received from previous employer as third most important source of income. Remittances and other moneys, together as a source of income, was the fourth, followed by owning and operating a business as fifth, rent received as sixth and maintenance of a child paid privately as the seventh.

Eight (2,6%) of the households do not have an income.

The single most reported monthly income is R2 000, the Mode, which nearly equals the Median (R2 045). This means that 50% of households have a lower monthly income than R2 045 and therefore, that ± 150 households found themselves densely distributed in a precariously low income-range of less than R2 045 per month. The other ± 150 households, all above this Median, are thinly stretched in a Range of approximately R68 000, i.e., from R2045 to R70 000. This distribution pictures a typical positive skewed spread of households with one the one hand a dense grouping of extremely low income earners and on the other hand a long stretched and thin distribution of higher income earners.

Twenty-two (22) persons received a pension from their previous employer – 28,2% of potential retirees. The median of the pensions received has a value of R4 201 per month.

Five types of SASSA grants were paid out: OAG (28,2%), DG (14,1%), CSG (56,9%), FCG (0,4%), and CDG (0,4%). Nearly all potential receivers (persons 60+ years) for the OAG did receive the grant, and 77% of potential children (0-17 years) received either the CSG, FCD, and CDG grant. According to figures collated in the survey, it appears that 68 persons received the DG but that only 37 had been identified as disabled – an overrating of 184%. However, in total, across all of the individuals potentially qualifying for government grants, 89,8% (483/538) utilized the relevant grants.

Thirty-two (32) individuals received private maintenance support. The Median amount per month is R570.

Twenty-seven (27) respondents indicated that they were recipients of income through renting out accommodation. The Median amount is R1 004 per month.

7.15.10 Farming as household wealth creation

From data generated by various questions asked in the survey, it is estimated that 72 persons were gainfully employed in the agricultural sector, representing 17,5% of all that were employed gainfully (N=412). From a wealth creation point of view agriculture in and around Sutherland serves as a cash income source for daily living and survival, access to assets such as livestock and fresh produce, and

to land. It is therefore assumed that agriculture's impact on the livelihoods of households is more than only its cash contribution, and in fact is potentially a significant and stable sustainable factor in ensuring the overall wellbeing of households. This sector therefore needs to be continually nurtured and developed to fulfill its potential and strategic key role in the household economy of Sutherland's population, especially the more economically vulnerable portion thereof.

7.15.11 Employment and unemployment

Economists define employment, and its antonym, unemployment, using a rate that is based on the number of the population within the potentially active economic cohort. For comparative purposes the cohort, 15-64 years (N=766) must be used

The unemployment rate (UR, strict version) as defined and determined by StatsSA calculates the UR (Strict) for Northern Cape Province, Quarter 1, 2024 as 28,3%. A surge in the rate occurred to Quarter 2, 2024, namely 32,0%. According to the data collected in the survey, the UR (Strict) for Sutherland is calculated to be 20,6%. This figure is valid as a comparative figure for Quarter 1 2024. Thus, it is assumed that the unemployment rate (UR) in Sutherland (20,6%) is lower than the Provincial rate (28,3%).

Similarly, the absorption rate (AR) can be calculated. The AR is defined as the number of employed persons (412) divided by the sum of the cohort 15-64 years (766), which translates in 53,8%. This is a higher rate than the Northern Cape's AR of 40,8% (valid for Quarter 4, 2203).

The government provided opportunities for job seekers to participate in public works programmes and municipal job creation programmes. Currently (since January 2024 to date of survey), in Sutherland, 57 individuals participated in the programmes (6,8%; 57/842) and 62 persons did so previously (5,3%; 62/842) (8 missing cases). More than 85% did not participate in this programme.

Members of the population could register on the CWP database to be considered for job opportunities. Out of 803 individuals 179 (22,3%) were registered. Twenty-five respondents did not know if they were on the database. There were 47 missing cases for answers to these questions.

7.15.12 Type of work

Most employees worked in the general services sector (61,8%). Thereafter, agriculture, personal services, and safety and security proved to be the most popular sectors, followed by specialist services, hospitality, and administration. A host of other diverse sectors employ workers.

7.15.13 Place of work

Almost all workers' places of work were located in Sutherland and district, in the Northern Cape, with only a few elsewhere in Western Cape and Gauteng.

7.15.14 Challenges

About 3,6% of the total sample were challenged by personal disabilities including sight, hearing, mobility, intellectual and psychiatric issues. Most of these persons were disabled since adult to senior ages of adulthood, while about one-third suffered their disability since birth or childhood. Nearly half

of the disabled persons need assistance in their personal care, mostly offered by someone from the household.

About two-thirds of the households (67,7%) arranged financial loans. One quarter of households found it necessary to make loans (bought on credit) for getting food. A number of methods of making a loan were revealed in the survey.

Absolute poverty, measured as going without food, was experienced by 22,5% of households over the past year before the survey. Some (8; 2,7%) regularly or always struggled to find food. It must be noted that eight households also mentioned not having a regular or no income.

7.15.15 Conclusion:

Although not highly salaried, because of the nature of available work and a general modest level of formal education, the majority (and in some areas, about all) of the households had access to a permanent job, owned a house that was provided by Government, basic municipal services, and to their place of employment in and around town. For those in dire need, government grants were made available on application. For the unemployed, registration on the relevant public works list would give access to public employment. A few households experienced abject poverty. Although help was available by private initiatives, it was noted that the church featured quite low on the list. Also missing was an indication that global industry impacted significantly on the lives of the ordinary member of the community. However, the hospitality industry surged as a result of external infrastructural projects. The digital divide experienced as a feature of developed versus less developed communities also seems to be starkly manifesting itself in Sutherland.

CHAPTER 8: SUTHERLAND AS TOWN: EXPERIENCES AND PERCEPTIONS

8.1 Introduction

This chapter provides data and findings about the respondents' experiences and their perceptions based on living in Sutherland.

To establish respondents' perceptions of Sutherland, they were asked a series of questions regarding the positive and negative features of the town and their views on the town's development challenges.

The first topic addresses this question: What were the good things that happened to your household since 2022, and how do you rate the household's financial situation now in relation to a year ago, and how do you foresee your household's financial situation two years from now? The analysis of the answers to these questions was guided by the hypothesis that positive experiences and qualitative assessment of the past impact one's expectation of the future, i.e., to be positive as well. This hypothesis was confirmed by the finding that respondents who had experienced positive (good) experiences in the past indeed expressed optimism and painted a positive scenario regarding an enhanced and thus more secure financial future for their households.

Respondents were furthermore asked to indicate how satisfied or dissatisfied they were with a wide range of services and institutions delivering services. Respondents that were dissatisfied had to give reasons for their dissatisfaction. The information collected was compared to similar data collected in Survey 2017 to determine if the community of Sutherland was indeed moving towards a more positive situation and lived experience and subsequently has become more satisfied with the local community services. From this analysis it was possible to identify positive and negative trends among the residents.

The analysis was extended to highlight the unique characteristics of Sutherland that respondents would tell outsiders as unique to Sutherland that made it a special destination and location. In similar vein, respondents were probed regarding what can be done to develop Sutherland and what perceived stumbling blocks were in the way of such development.

In a final assessment of Sutherland respondents had to tell what they like most, and least about Sutherland, and whether Sutherland has advanced, or deteriorated in the past ten years.

8.2 Perceptions about household situation

8.2.1 Good experiences

What good things have happened to the household during the past two years, since 2022? The answers to this question were used to understand how experiences of the past impact perceptions respondents expressed about trends in Sutherland.

Of the 303 households, 53,5% (162) were able to name one or more things that they feel good about, and to explain briefly what this good experience, event, or thing was. The rest of the respondents,

46,1% (141), were not able to name any particular incident or experience, good or bad.

The communications about “good things” centered on the household and the wellbeing of the members, their relationships, joys, and achievements. Following is a list abstracted from the 162 “good” responses gained. No count is given of similar responses as all responses were judged to be of equal value to the household, whether it was a hamper given to them when there was no food on the table, a business that proved to be successful, or a newborn baby in the family.

- Achievements of children at school or university, in sport, success in passing a grade, good marks, etc., receiving a bursary and success in been accepted for further study at university.
- Adults qualifying for a new job, and receiving certificates and diplomas, or promotion.
- Finding a job and appointed on a part-time, contractual, or permanent basis.
- Finances improved because of one or more members of the household had been appointed in an employment position or received a raise or bonus.
- Finances improved because of insurance that paid out.
- Their own business is successful and expanding, securing better income for the household.
- More tenants and boarders were added and household income therefore increased.
- The sheep had lambed.
- Felt content and good about the work situation.
- Received aid, food, clothing, when they were in need.
- Could afford to buy something for oneself and for the house, such as a TV, washing machine, microwave, kettle, etc., or some clothing.
- Bought a motor vehicle or finally paid off their vehicle.
- Some house improvements and repairs were done (*“My hokkie se dak lek nie meer nie!”*)
- Had found a house for the family.
- Stopped drinking alcohol and experienced the resultant improvement for the family.
- Met a friend, or a partner, and developed a fulfilling relationship.
- Found new peace and happiness in the family, love among partners, strengthened relationships.
- A positive change in one’s outlook to life, because of finding faith in God and being involved in the church.
- Family and friends visited them after a long time of absence.
- A baby was born to the respondent or spouse, a child or grandchild, or a family member.
- Moved from farm to town, or from elsewhere (another town) to Sutherland, and found a good life and peaceful environment.

- Quote: “Vrou het voltydse beurs gekry, motor is afbetaal, kinders doen goed op skool, man het graad gekry.”

8.2.2 Financial situation

Assuming that the responses listed above demonstrate a positive feeling among the respondents about their living in Sutherland versus respondents that did not have anything to say that was good and positive regarding their feelings towards, or lived experience in, Sutherland, the analysis used this distinction to assist with interpreting answers to the next two questions:

1. How do you view your current financial situation compared to a year ago, at the beginning of 2023? Is it Better, The same, or Worse?
2. How do you think, what will your household finances be in two years’ time? Will it be Better, The same, or Worse?

The responses for each question are given in Figure 8.1 below. This Figure compares the responses to the above two questions **(a) without considering the answers to the question:** “What do you feel good about that happened to you/your household since February 2022?” (the Full Sample), and **(b) considering the answers**, and in particular, the answer “Yes” and the **positive responses** that were listed above, in section 8.2.1 (the Good Things sample). These two considerations are labelled in Figure 8.1 respectively as (1) & (3) Full sample, and (2) & (4) Good Things.

To explain:

Bar diagram (1) Full sample refers to respondents that said the **current financial situation** is better/the same/worse than in 2023, **regardless of** what they have said about them having good or not good experiences since 2022.

Bar diagram (2) Good Things refers to respondents that said the **current financial situation** is better/the same/worse than in 2023 **as well as** that they have experienced good things since February 2022,

Bar diagram (3) Full sample refers to respondents that said their **future financial situation** will be better/the same/worse in 2026, **regardless of** what they have said about having good or not good experiences since 2022.

Bar diagram (4) Good Things refers to respondents that said their **future financial situation** will be better/the same/worse in 2026 **as well as** that they have experienced good things since February 2022.

Note that bar-diagrams (1) and (2) respectively deal with the perception of how the current situation compares to the historical situation of 2023; and diagrams (3) and (4) in their turn, with the expectation of what will happen in future up to 2026.

It is hypothesized that the expectation about the future situation will be impacted by the experience (or not) of “good things” from 2022 to 2024. Furthermore, that a perception that the past year, since 2023, turned out financially to be better now in 2024, another positive perception, will add to a positive expectation about the future, i.e., the expectation that finances will be better in 2026.

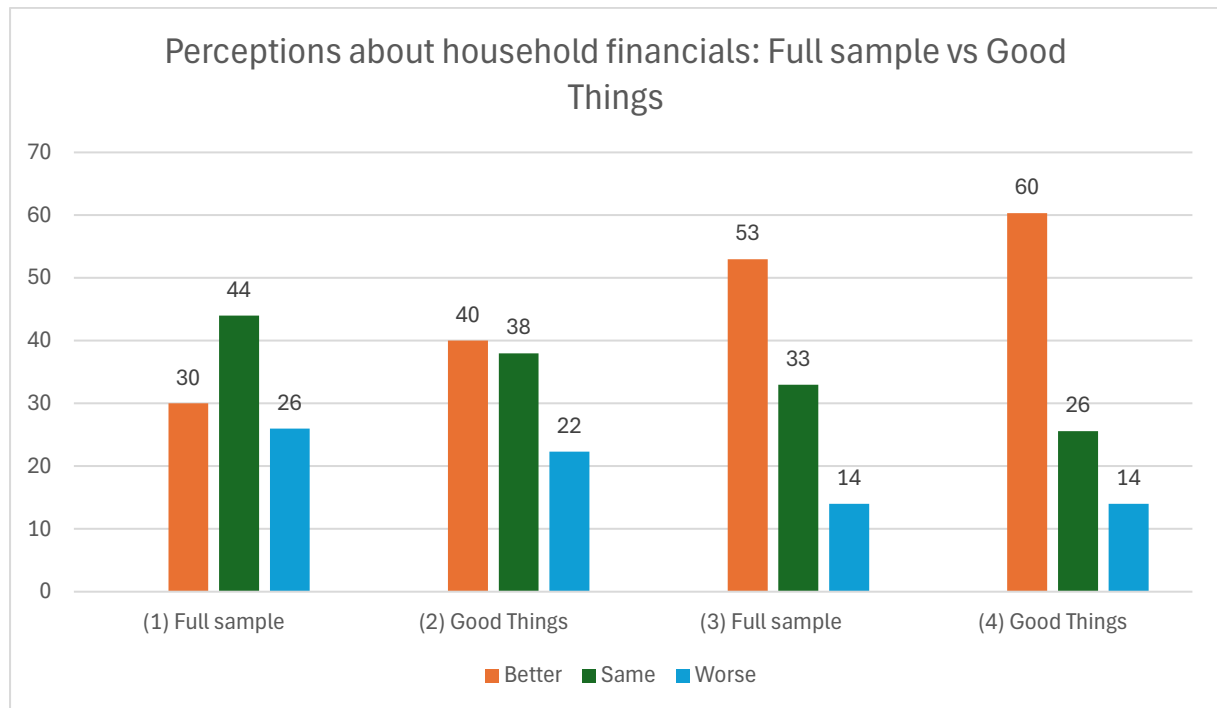


Figure 8.1: Perceptions about household financials

Findings:

- The comparison of (1) Full sample and (3) Full sample, on the Better option, reveals that the perception that the financial position improved ((1) Better 30% to (3) Better 53%), strengthens the assumption that an experience of the past, when positive, encourages a future positive expectation.
- The comparison of (2) Good Things and (4) Good Things, on the Better option, 40% to 60%, confirms the assumption above, this time working with a positive experience (a good thing that happened in the past) as a foundation for a future positive outcome.
- The converse seems to be true as well: a comparison of options between Diagrams (1) and (3) shows that initial negative perceptions and experiences (i.e., the financial situation has turned out to be worse; 26%) produce lower negative expected outcomes (i.e., the financial situation is expected to turn out as worse; 14%).
- The “balancing” middle position – the option The Same – which “feeds” the two extremes positions (Better and Worse) have lost its own weight (percentages) in favour of the “positive” (Better) options and at the cost of the “negative” (Worse) options (Compare (1) 44% vs (3) 33%; and (2) 38% vs (4) 26%).

These findings confirm the hypothesis that positive experiences from the past impact one's expectation of the future, to be positive as well, and suggest that the converse may be also true, namely that negative experiences generate negative expected outcomes in future.

The policy implication of this analysis and the outcomes shown is that regular monitoring of the experiences and perceptions of residents needs to be undertaken so that they can be continuously informed with data regarding inputs by government and associated agencies in the management and implementation of the various initiatives and aspects related to **residents' quality of life, and especially those aspects that translate to a better life for all**. This will "define the situation" on a continuous and sustained basis raising the awareness of the real grassroots situation as experienced by the local population and create a positive action mode about and a keen interest in participating constructively in the public management and administration process.

Note that the list of "good things" as reported in section 8.2.1 above, provides practical examples of the concept "quality of life" and "a better life for all", which can be considered in the design and implementation of a monitoring exercise to determine the "quality of life" of residents.

8.3 Municipal and other community services

8.3.1 Introduction

This section reports on responses from respondents about their **level of satisfaction** with various services delivered to the community of Sutherland. Two types of services are included here, municipal services (Refuse, Electricity, Water and Sanitation) and community services provided by the Government (local, provincial, and national) that include Police, Municipality and the Municipal Office, Health (Clinic, Hospital), Library, Home Affairs (IDs), Education (Primary and Secondary/High School), Social Services and SASSA, and Justice. Sixteen services were listed, and data was collected on respondents' satisfaction and dissatisfaction with reference to each of the listed services. The scale used is a simple three-point one, Satisfied, Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied, and Dissatisfied. If respondents chose to select the Dissatisfied option, a reason for this choice had to be provided. All data provided is summarized in Table 8.1. The reasons given for dissatisfaction are registered and summarized in this table for quick reporting and reference. Also see Annexure 1: Table 14 for the relevant statistics only.

8.3.2 Presentation of data

As stated above, the data collected are reported in a table format, as presented below. It must be noted that in the sections "Reasons for Dissatisfaction" summaries of verbatim quotes were presented. These are statements respondents provided as the reasons for their dissatisfaction and are based on **alleged actions, behaviour, utterances and characteristics of the service-delivery agents they have referred to and cannot be taken as statements of fact**; in other words, the reporting below is based on the **perceptions** of the respondents of what they believe to be unsatisfactory conditions and situations.

Table 8.1: The satisfaction/dissatisfaction with municipal and general community services and reasons for dissatisfaction

Refuse removal	Satisfied	Neither/Nor	Dissatisfied	N
Percent	95,4	1,0	3,3	303
Reasons for Dissatisfaction Allegations as summarized from the notes by fieldworkers: Refuse removals are not at regular times, quite late, and slow responding when requested to remove something. Cleaning is not done properly, and dirt is left after removal, and for long periods. Proper removal trucks are needed.				
Electricity supply	Satisfied	Neither/Nor	Dissatisfied	N
Percent	72,9	6,9	20,1	303
Reasons for Dissatisfaction Allegations as summarized from the notes by fieldworkers: Most households are frustrated by load shedding, the fact that it is practiced, the power being off for long times (days and even weeks on end), not according to schedule and irregularly. Eskom is blamed for not being responsive when breakdowns in power boxes (substations) occurred, for the non-availability of power boxes and supply, and lamp poles not working. Prepaid electricity units are not in stock, or sufficiently available and expensive. Poor households do not receive gratis/subsidized power. Some households do not have access to power at all. Substitute power sources (wood, gas, etc.) are expensive.				
Water supply	Satisfied	Neither/Nor	Dissatisfied	N
Percent	96,4	1,7	2,0	303
Reasons for Dissatisfaction Allegations as summarized from the notes by fieldworkers: The water supply is switched off at times, water in taps running very slow, and water pressure low. Infrastructure issues such as bursting of pipes and “they” not knowing their infrastructure. Water tariffs are increasing even in the face of personal lower consumption. However, many interruptions in the water supply have been resolved, and the supply is fine. (<i>“Het in middel van droogte hier gekom en was nooit sonder water nie.”</i>)				
Water quality	Satisfied	Neither/Nor	Dissatisfied	N
Percent	82,2	7,6	10,2	303
Reasons for Dissatisfaction Allegations as summarized from the notes by fieldworkers: The main issue is the high salt level, and the fact that water needs to be treated with chemicals like lime and chloride. The water is sourced from bore holes that produce brackish water and is stored in a reservoir, which is not cleaned properly and regularly. People complain about the taste and smell of water, call it toxic, and suffer stomach pain and skin irritation. Household appliances get scaled and pipes clogged. Many people buy pure bottled water, which is an extra cost, and use the local water supply only				

for cooking.

Sanitation supply	Satisfied	Neither/Nor	Dissatisfied	N
Percent	45,5	3,3	50,5	303

Reasons for Dissatisfaction

Allegations as summarized from the notes by fieldworkers: Matters of concern include the large number of dry-pit and French drain toilets, outside the house, their irregular and improper cleaning and servicing, the weak and dilapidated state (doors off, the pit tumbling in, the building structure bad). Unhygienic conditions, such as bad and irregular cleaning practices, the increasing presence of insects and worms. This causes unhealthy conditions and sickness, with women and children the main sufferers. Households have to buy their own cleaning agents and clean and sanitize the toilets themselves. Flushed toilets have narrow drainpipes and can become clogged easily. Some toilets are overcrowded with multiple households using the same facility.

The cleaning of toilets (emptying, pumping) is not efficient, and waste is always remaining, adding to the occurrence of unhygienic conditions. Sometimes toilets are full and spill over. A common complaint is the overwhelming smell of human excretion (*"Die reuk bly sit op ons"*; *"Jou klere ruik na stront"*). Having to use outdoors facilities, in the winter, during nighttime, in such unhygienic, unhealthy, unsafe and dangerous conditions, create breeding spaces for unpleasant and contagious diseases.

Police service	Satisfied	Neither/Nor	Dissatisfied	N
Percent	59,2	9,6	31,3	272

Reasons for Dissatisfaction

Allegations as summarized from the notes by fieldworkers: Police availability is problematic, they are not coming out when called upon, or take long before arriving, and do not visit crime scenes. They do not give due attention to complaints and give their attention selectively. The police station is kept locked, and the police cells are in a bad state. They do not succeed in resolving various cases, including murder cases. They act sneakily and secretly, some use drugs, do not follow police protocol, use violence and hit people, and act criminally. When asked, they do not give cooperation to members of the public. They do not act proudly as they ought to, and do not show due respect to their uniform as it seems they are more interested in their salary.

Office of the Municipality	Satisfied	Neither/Nor	Dissatisfied	N
Percent	81,0	9,3	9,7	290

Reasons for Dissatisfaction

Allegations as summarized from the notes by fieldworkers: Municipal officers display a bad attitude towards the public, letting them not feel welcome in their office, creating an atmosphere of avoiding and rather than assisting members of the community. They do not answer the phone. They seem to be negligent (throwing files, CVs away), and acting discriminatively when it comes to appointments to a job opportunity (*"Hulle kyk jou by die gesig"*). The perception is that the Municipality does not create jobs for the community. They do not assist in cases where tax is still

due by deceased members of the community. Doubt is expressed whether the municipal officers do have the proper qualifications for doing their work. The perception exists that the service generally is weak. One respondent in an attempt to be fair says *“they try their level best, but roads remain in a bad shape”*. A strong complaint, shared by many, is about sanitation, specifically the pit system, and the weak service rendered in this respect. A specific alleged incident is mentioned about theft in the office.

Clinic	Satisfied	Neither/Nor	Dissatisfied	N
Percent	59,7	6,0	34,3	283

Reasons for Dissatisfaction

Allegations as summarized from the notes by fieldworkers: Issues that frustrate members of the public include: insufficient number of staff; not always on duty as expected; disorganized processes and procedures; shortage of medicine and no timely stock replenishment; medical doctor available only once a week; no provision to deal with emergencies; no oxygen available; patients' prescribed tablets not available; does not deliver prescribed treatment to patients; long waiting hours before treatment is available and often patients have to leave without attended to; no preferential attention for older persons; service hours for patients interrupted by staff meetings; staff display a dismissive attitude creating the perception that patients are not welcome; the perception that staff lie to patients.

Hospital	Satisfied	Neither/Nor	Dissatisfied	N
Percent	67,9	7,5	24,6	134

Reasons for Dissatisfaction

Allegations as summarized from the notes by fieldworkers: There is no hospital, no equipment, no staff, no medical doctor, no pharmacist, no medication, only one ambulance. One can be assisted only at certain hours like in the clinic, except that the service is even worse than the clinic's. One can be assisted in emergencies, but the ambulance takes quite a long time to arrive. Patients have to go Calvinia (± 160 km; gravel road, travelling time more than two hours) for further assistance and procedures.⁴⁰

Library	Satisfied	Neither/Nor	Dissatisfied	N
Percent	97,0	0,6	2,4	166

Reasons for Dissatisfaction

Allegations as summarized from the notes by fieldworkers: Only three comments were volunteered: The cost for tasks (school projects given to learners) is too expensive and the mothers of the children do not have the money available; do not have the correct information and the required material; the service is delivered in a way that appears to be unfair to children of colour.

IDs	Satisfied	Neither/Nor	Dissatisfied	N
Percent	40,8	3,5	55,7	255

⁴⁰ The definition and description of what the “hospital” entails was not forthcoming, and it is unclear how the “hospital” differs from the clinic.

Reasons for Dissatisfaction

Allegations as summarized from the notes by fieldworkers: Home Affairs (HA) does not have an office in Sutherland, but it is alleged that HA do send a mobile truck to Sutherland to provide services locally. It is not clear how regular these visits are – some households complain that HA has no fixed timetable while other respondents have it that HA visits the town monthly, three-monthly, six-monthly, annually, or bi-annually! When the visit occurs, one is not assisted fully, or even not at all. Forms can be completed but then one needs to visit the office in Calvinia (± 160 km; gravel road, driving time two hours plus) to complete the business and to receive the ID. Some claim that they have to go to Worcester (± 240 km; 2 hours 40 minutes) for services. It happens often that the online system collapses while the mobile office visited Sutherland, and that no service can be rendered as a result. A specific complaint was that the applicant's mother death certificate could not be issued. Quite a few respondents find the entire process troublesome, inconvenient (especially for older persons), time-consuming and extremely costly (people need transport to another town). The mobile facility does not provide facilities for the taking of the required photos. One respondent complains that he has been struggling since 2009 (5 years now) to get his ID. (Earlier in this report it was mentioned that 38 (out of the sample of 1 160 individuals) (3,3%) do not have an identity document or birth certificate).

Primary school	Satisfied	Neither/Nor	Dissatisfied	N
Percent	82,6	3,6	13,8	195

Reasons for Dissatisfaction

Allegations as summarized from the notes by fieldworkers: The standard of education, the teaching staff, and the principal are not regarded by respondents as good, in fact it is described as weak. Classrooms are overpopulated, that affects teaching standards and the maintaining of good discipline in the classroom. Discipline over learners is applied differentially and respondents mention that suspension of learners happens without proper explanation to parents. Bullying is exercised among learners, and it is alluded that nothing is done about it. The dropout rate is high, and this is attributed to bad teaching and teachers, and the prevailing low standards of education. Staff do not give sufficient attention to learners. Teachers do not have control over the learners. Respondents view teachers as rude, not addressing learners properly and correctly, and not performing their work according to the teaching profession's standards. Respondents express the sigh that more experienced teachers are needed.

On the other hand, learners are guilty of being absent from school, they are regarded as rude, not behaving properly, they smoke and drink, bully fellow learners, and they on their turn, viewed the teachers as rude. Some learners were suspended from school.

Some respondents are of opinion that the primary school does not offer subjects (Mathematics is mentioned) that will encourage and prepare learners to pursue their studies in secondary school. The observation is made that socio-economic circumstances of the community and its children (the learners) are bad and impacting negatively the children's motivation and readiness to be diligent in their school career.

When track suits were donated (see chapter/section on renewed energy) the school's learners did not benefit. Another discouraging factor is that the toilets at school are broken. Allegations about

the molesting of children are made. The phrase “*nothing was done about it*” occasionally appear in the comments by respondents in the interviews, which may be a factor in building distrust between the community and the school as an educational institution entrusted with the education of the community’s children.

Secondary school	Satisfied	Neither/Nor	Dissatisfied	N
Percent	79,6	6,8	13,6	147

Reasons for Dissatisfaction

Allegations as summarized from the notes by fieldworkers: The school is in a very bad shape, physically (it burnt down), apparently nothing was been done about it (although some classrooms were regarded as still in shape to be used for teaching – a demotivating environmental factor in school education), the principal is not respected (respondents described the incumbent as pathetic, hopeless), management of the school is weak (incompetent), discipline is deficient, teachers are leaving the school for better options, a math and science teacher is not available, the school is said to be not on standard and is running empty, teachers are breaking learners down, learners are not assisted, learners are treated badly in class. School fees are regarded as high, while the school facilities are substandard.

Learners are dropping out of school, and they manifest bad behaviour (they are called hooligans), they lack respect for others (they curse, smoke - as teachers are doing as well), doing drugs, and involved in rape cases. Learners were not prepared for secondary school, thus studying with a backlog to start with.

Social services	Satisfied	Neither/Nor	Dissatisfied	N
Percent	52,8	5,1	42,1	178

Reasons for Dissatisfaction

Allegations as summarized from the notes by fieldworkers: Many respondents are uncertain if Sutherland does have a social worker as a representative and professional worker of social services, and if there is one, respondents felt that this person is quite “invisible” as he or she does not have an office (an address) to operate from. Many children are walking the streets, not attending school, and in need of professional attention, which apparently is not forthcoming. Some respondents claim that they called on social services for a response in vain. Hence, there is no focused plan and strategy of intervention inter alia to attend to dropouts from school, children under legal oversight, neglected children, and homeless individuals without shelter, food or proper clothing. One respondent has a foster child, but the official process and paperwork is not concluded. Many respondents are concerned that the proper work to be done by a professional social worker is not performed in Sutherland and that the worker is “invisible” in the community that needs this service.

Access to SASSA grants	Satisfied	Neither/Nor	Dissatisfied	N
Percent	92,3	1,6	6,1	245

Reasons for Dissatisfaction

Allegations as summarized from the notes by fieldworkers: Issues with SASSA grants include firstly, that the correct grant amount is not paid, the payment does not happen, and that unnecessary deductions are made. Secondly, using an ATM for withdrawing the grant money is frustrating as the money within the ATM is exhausted when the withdrawal is made. Thirdly, there are issues that problematize the authorization of the grant in terms of the specific conditions and criteria for issuing the grant. Fourthly, the beneficiary of the grant is of the opinion that the value of the grant is too small to cover the beneficiary's financial obligations. A final point made in the comments of the respondents relates to SASSA officers visiting the town. The visits to Sutherland are only occasionally and are attended selectively to only some people. One beneficiary always experience a problem with the grant and would like to personally discuss the issue with a SASSA representative.

Justice	Satisfied	Neither/Nor	Dissatisfied	N
Percent	85,1	5,6	9,3	161

Reasons for Dissatisfaction

Allegations as summarized from the notes by fieldworkers: Some individual issues were raised as explanations for respondents' dissatisfaction with the practice of justice. According to one respondent, the correct procedure was not followed in a certain case. General issues refer to the perception that offenders are given too many chances. Innocent persons are incorrectly sentenced. Many cases take too long to conclude. Many offenders are not prosecuted. Too many cases are being thrown out. There is often an inability to see both sides of a case and judicial action are therefore one-sided, and justice is not served. Staff are incompetent and do not have the relevant documentation when needed.

8.3.3 Ranking dissatisfaction

The above review highlights sixteen services as practiced in Sutherland from the point of view of the respondents interviewed. Respondents assessed the services individually by rating each as satisfactory, neither/nor satisfactory, and as not satisfactory (i.e., they were dissatisfied). The respondents were asked to explain the issues they have experienced with the service if they were dissatisfied. **The percentage of respondents dissatisfied with each service is now ranked from highest dissatisfaction to lowest dissatisfaction according to the number of respondents that expressed dissatisfaction.** Figure 8.2 provides the information graphically.

In terms of the relative figures (percentages) the highest dissatisfaction is registered with Home Affairs with their issuing of IDs and other important documents citizens need for their daily living (55,7%).

Second, and also more than half the respondents registering dissatisfaction, is with the supply and management of sanitation services, as a municipal competence (50,5%). Sanitation is a public and personal health issue.

The third highest service that dissatisfaction was expressed about is Social Services, and more specifically the "invisibility" of the Social Worker that is supposed to be the face of this department (42,1%). The related service regarding social need, namely social grants, provided by SASSA, drew a

low level of dissatisfaction (6,1%).

Health services (Clinic and Hospital) have relatively high levels of dissatisfaction, 34,3% and 24,6% respectively, and touch upon the very necessary functions in the health of a community and its members. Sutherland is understandably a remote rural area and not a priority location with a high population concentration. It has become a tourist destination because of the astronomy installations and educational/scientific value of the site. Functional and adequate health provision for locals as well as visitors are non- negotiable high-level priorities and need to be in immaculate condition.

Although not having high percentages of dissatisfaction, the content and nature of comments expressing dissatisfaction regarding the two schools (primary (13,8%) and secondary (13,6%)) are both equally disturbing and point to a situation that calls for urgent and decisive attention and action by all stakeholders.

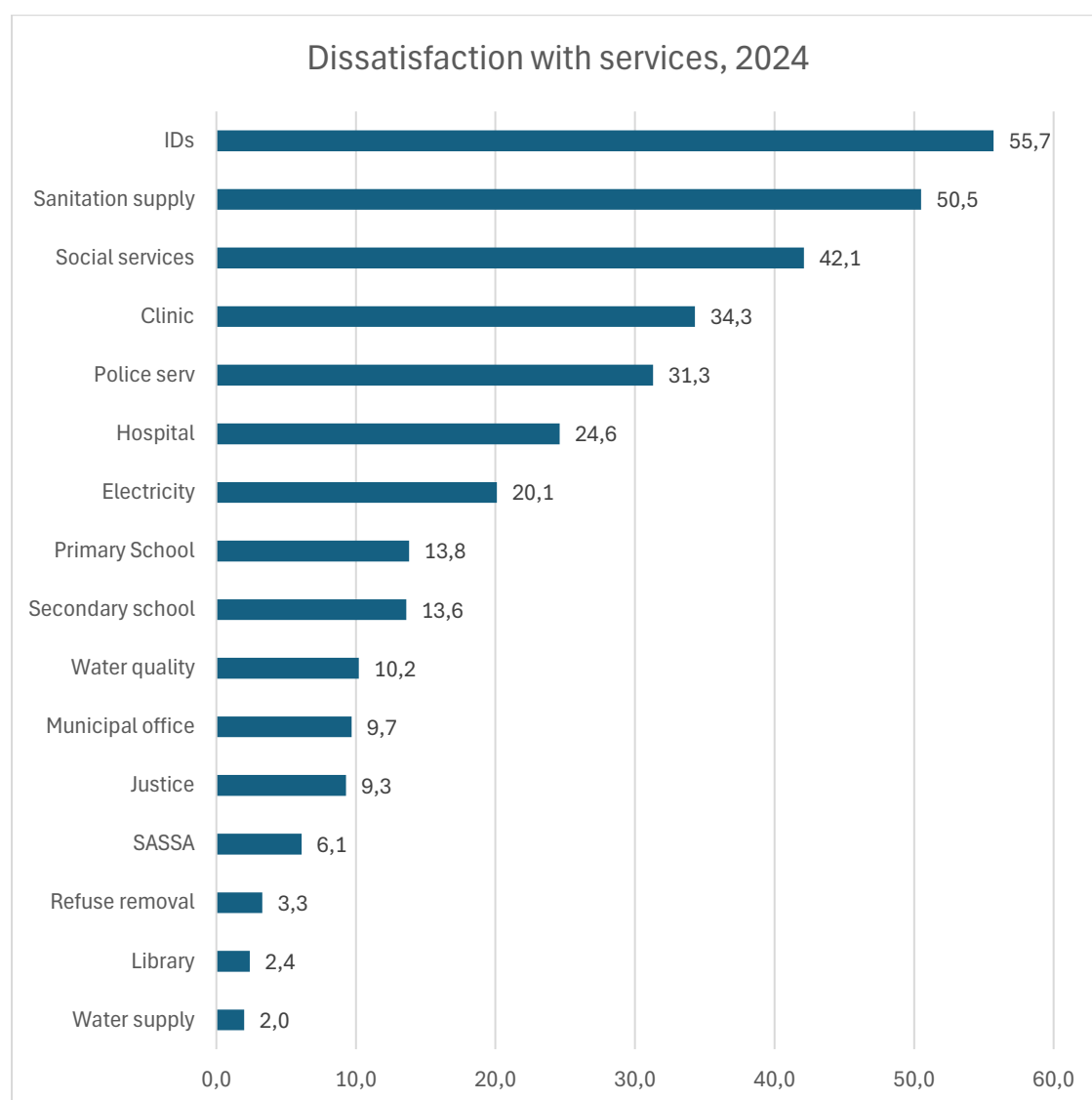


Figure 8.2: Ranking of the percentage dissatisfied with the 16 services

Sixteen areas for service delivery were ranked as from the highest percentage of dissatisfaction to lowest percentage of dissatisfaction. **The average percentage of dissatisfaction across all sixteen**

areas is 20,6%, which may be regarded as low given the inclination of respondents in surveys like the present to rate services' quality levels as high. In this survey satisfaction across all sixteen areas is on average 74,4%, which may be regarded as high. The rest represent respondents that are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, 5.0% in total. One may therefore conclude that respondents were decisively clear on whether they are satisfied or dissatisfied and predominantly satisfied with the services they received.

Only two areas stood out as majority dissatisfied areas, namely services by (1) **Home Affairs** for issuing identity (and other) documents – 55,7%, and (2) **Sanitation services** rendered by the local municipality, specifically in relation to the pit toilet system - 50,5%. All other dissatisfaction percentages were minority ratings.

With reference to the areas of service delivery with the minority dissatisfaction ratings, it is informative to group services together that are within the same institutional domain and list the average dissatisfaction percentages for these domains.

Dissatisfaction average per domain, from high to low:

- (1) Health domain – 29,5% (inclusive of Clinic 34,3% and Hospital 24,6%).
- (2) Social domain – 24,1% (inclusive of Social Services 42,1% and SASSA 6,1%)
- (3) Law and Order – 20,3% (inclusive of Police 31,3% and Justice 9,3%).
- (4) Municipality – 10,5% (inclusive of Electricity 20,1%, Water Quality 10,2%, Municipal Office 9,7%, Water Supply 2,0%. If we include Sanitation (50,55) to the group, the average turns out to be 18,5%).
- (5) Education – 9,9% (inclusive of Primary School 13,8%, Secondary School 13,6%, Library 2,4%).

8.3.4 Comparing 2024 and 2017

Survey 2017 of Sutherland assessed eleven of the sixteen services, the so-called community services (excluding the four municipal services of sanitation, electricity, water, and refuse removal).⁴¹ The analysis compared the findings of 2017 with the current survey of 2024 – Figure 8.3. Also see Table 8.2 for supporting data of the analysis of the eleven items.

Broadly speaking, the rank order of the 11 items investigated has remained the same (Spearman's $R=1$ ⁴²). Five services' ranked positions changed but the values of their ranks (1 to 11) cancelled out the differences to zero. The following observations are important though:

- Dissatisfaction about “**Access to IDs**” (Home Affairs) changed from fourth position (2017) to first position (2024), which represent an increase in dissatisfaction from 18,2% to 55,7%, i.e.,

⁴¹ See Vorster & Eigelaar-Meets, 2019

⁴² The Spearman's Correlation measures the strength and direction of association between two ranked variables. In the present case, the two variables are the Rank order of Survey 2017 for Dissatisfaction of Services and the Rank order of Survey 2024 of the same. A value of +1 indicates a perfect (or near perfect) similarity in the rank order of the two variables. (Schober et al 2018; https://journals.lww.com/anesthesia-analgesia/fulltext/2018/05000/correlation_coefficients_appropriate_use_and.50.aspx)

+37,5%. The troubles around getting personal life documents, and especially the ID, have become the number one issue and intensified significantly over the last five years in terms of the magnitude of dissatisfaction.

- The changes with respect to **Municipal Office** and **Justice** are minimal; the rank order positions changed only one position upwards each, but the dissatisfaction percentage intensified from below 5% to just below 10%, which is regarded as a statistically significant change.
- Dissatisfaction about access to **Social Services, Clinic and Hospital** remain in the same rank order position, but the intensities of dissatisfaction increased significantly; respectively with 19,3%, 14,2, and 12,9%.
- The same is true for the dissatisfaction about the **Primary and the Secondary School**, but at lesser intensities of dissatisfaction, yet still significantly – respectively 4,2% and 5,4%.
- Dissatisfaction regarding access to **SASSA** changed two rank order positions downwards, and the intensity changed with 0,5% from a low 6,6% to 6,1%. Although small changes, they are all directing to a positive improvement with respect to access to social grants.
- Dissatisfaction about **Police Services** decreased; the rank order changed from position 1 in 2017 to 4 in 2024, a significant three positions less in the dissatisfaction ladder. The intensity of dissatisfaction unfortunately did not decrease significantly (only 1,7% less) but nevertheless in the right direction.
- Dissatisfaction about **Library** has been quite low in 2017 and increased not significantly with 1,0% in 2024, but the rank position (11, last on the list) remained unchanged. Issues with Library seem to be of an incidental nature and can be addressed with close supervision and regular monitoring.

Table 8.2: Changes in the rank order position and the intensity of dissatisfaction percentage

Changes in Rank Order Position and Percentage				
ACCESS TO ...	Rank order 2024	Rank order 2017	Difference between 2024 - 2017	Difference in Percentage dissatisfaction
IDs	1	4	-3	+37,5
Social Services	2	2	0	+19,3
Clinic	3	3	0	+14,2
Police	4	1	3+	-1,7
Hospital	5	5	0	+12,9
Primary school	6	6	0	+4,2
Secondary School	7	7	0	+5,4
Municipal Office	8	9	-1	+5,3
Justice	9	10	-1	+6,4
SASSA	10	8	2+	-0,5
Library	11	11	0	+1,0

Note: Rank order: 1 = highest percent dissatisfaction; 11 = lowest percent dissatisfaction; Difference in percentage dissatisfaction = % in 2024 - % in 2017 for each item (see Table included in Figure 8.3).

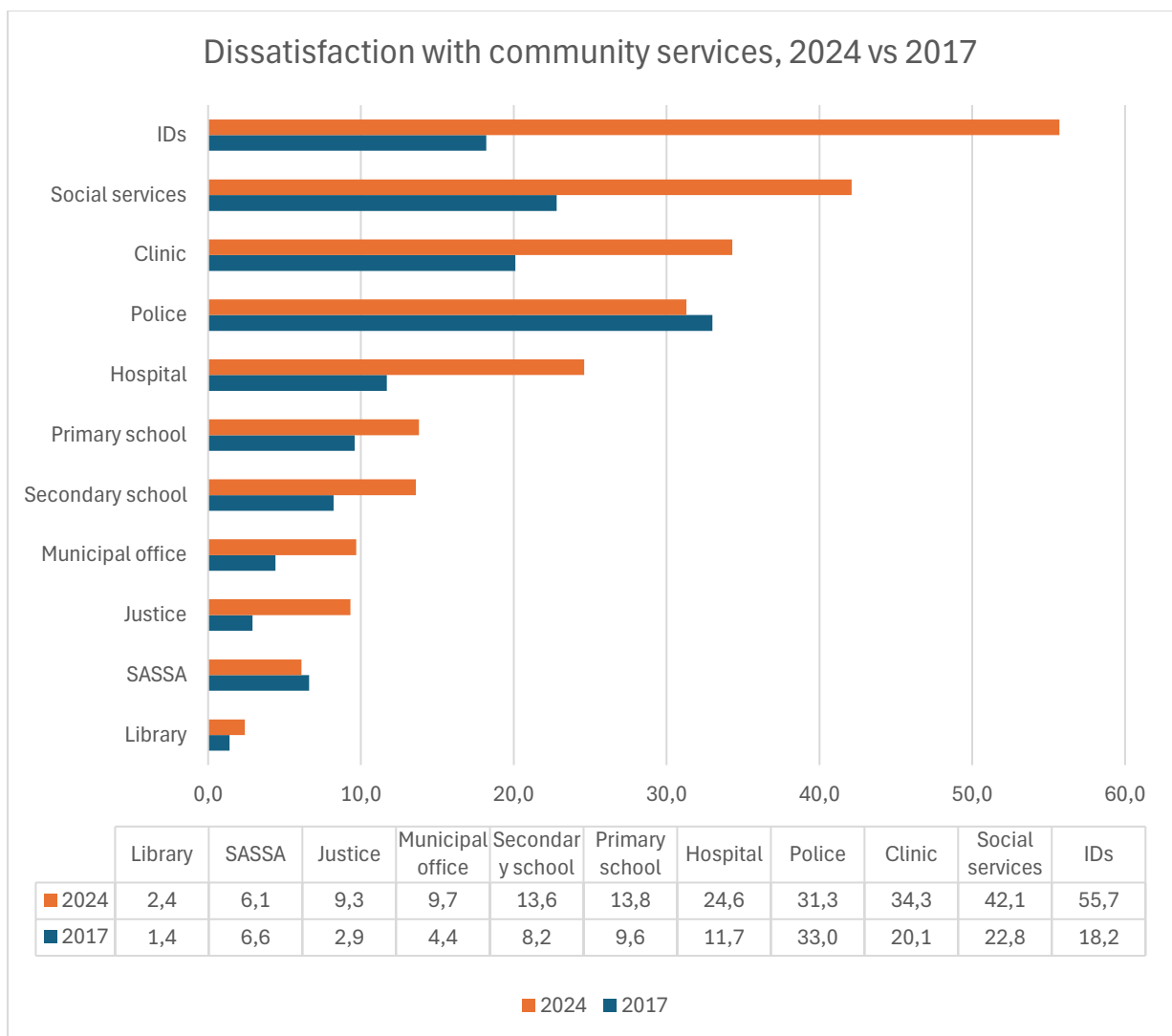


Figure 8.3: Ranking of the percentage dissatisfied with the 11 community services, 2024 vs 2017

In conclusion, the dissatisfaction levels regarding Home Affairs (IDs), Social Services, Health, Education and Justice increased and service delivery in these domains causes frustration. This is a matter of deep concern, given the strategically critical and vital functions many of these services fulfill in ensuring the wellbeing of the residents of Sutherland.

8.4 Perceptions about Sutherland

8.4.1 Introduction

To learn more about respondents' perceptions of and sentiments towards Sutherland, they were asked the following questions regarding the positive and negative features of the town and their views on its development challenges:

- (1) If you had to tell an outsider what is special about Sutherland, what would you say?

- (2) What do you think can be done to develop Sutherland and what are the stumbling blocks in the way of the development of Sutherland?
- (3) What are the things you like most, and the things you like least about Sutherland?
- (4) In what way would you say Sutherland has advanced, and has declined in the past ten years?

The next four sections provide an overview of the findings on each of these questions.

8.4.2 Special features of Sutherland

The 303 respondents each provided their input to this question, namely what they regarded as special features of Sutherland. Although no count was made of the repetitions of the answers provided, a close inspection of the answers enabled the analysis to identify the unique features embedded in the general themes mentioned below. Characteristics and themes that relate to science, technology and energy (STE), tourism and economy (TAE), architecture and cultural heritage (ACH), and rural small town (RST) were identified. A brief overview of this analysis follows.

(1) Science, technology and energy (STE)

The main and most frequent mentioned special feature of Sutherland is the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO), founded in 1972 and managed by the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa, and its large telescope (SALT), as well as other large telescopes operated or owned by international partners. This facility is well developed and equipped to receive and educate visitors. It is a scientific institution researching astronomy and astrophysics in collaboration with other high-level partners around the world. It is an international tourist attraction specializing in informing audiences about the field of astronomy. It offers special programmes for introducing learners, students and interested people to this field as well as showcasing an interesting display of people using the stars for spatial and time orientation in pre-scientific eras. SAAO expanded its focus beyond astrophysics to include social-cultural anthropology, studying the interaction between earth, universe, and human environments.

Large-scale high-level engineering developments, in the field of renewable energy, have also been constructed in strategic spots in the vicinity. The so-called wind-farm is mentioned as a tourist attraction as well as a facility that provides employment. More information on this technological enterprise in energy generation, and its human development implications, is available in the last section on renewable energy in this report.

The SAAO is also seen in combination with other special features. The natural beauty of Sutherland's environment, the green fields, snow in wintertime, a result of the low temperatures characteristic of the area and the topography, the clean night skies have all been praised as very special to this town.

(2) Tourism and economy (TAE)

These characteristics attract tourists from elsewhere. The accommodation facilities have increased in numbers and quality over time. Respondents especially mentioned the hotel in Sutherland. Guesthouses, B&B's, and restaurants in town are attractions as do the guest farms and the game farm in the district.

The economy of the town is viewed as developing into an industrious livelihood opportunity. Shops and services have increased and serve the needs of visitors and residents well. Job opportunities have increased, which makes the town attractive for new residents. One respondent remarked that Sutherland is “‘n lekker aftree-dorpie” (a nice retirement place).

(3) Architecture and cultural heritage (ACH)

The architecture of the older buildings of Sutherland is a special feature for some respondents. They refer to the stone houses which are sturdy but attractive buildings, many still in use as residences or for other purposes. The DRC’s church building is a definite attraction because of its architectural style and historical significance, and indeed part of the tourist’s itinerary. Sutherland is rich in culture with museums to celebrate heritage. Some noted: Sutherland Museum, Sutherland NG Kerk, Sutherland Planetarium, Sterland Stargazing, and Van Wyk Louw Museum.

(4) Rural small town (RST)

The character of Sutherland is typical of a remote hinterland small town – not overcrowded, peaceful, safe, with friendly and helpful people, “goeie mense” (good people) that assist where there is need, and a low crime rate. “A place where one can live and raise your children in peace.” One respondent mentioned the “stofstrate” (gravel roads) as special.

Some respondents have pointed out that there are indeed activities in which one can participate, either as a participant or spectator, such as different sport activities. The active and lively sport events were acclaimed by quite a number of respondents.

There are those that find the serene atmosphere not attractive and rather dismissively state that there is nothing special about Sutherland, one is here only to work.

8.4.3 Development opportunities and stumbling blocks

Two open-ended questions were posed that respondents had to reflect on. The first regarding their proposal about what must be done to develop Sutherland, and the secondly, what they foresee as the stumbling blocks in the way of developing Sutherland. For each question 303 self-generated answers were received. As above, the answers were not counted as groups, but unique ideas were identified and reported.

(1) What must be done to develop Sutherland?

The main suggestion focuses on **job creation** that will provide **permanent** opportunities with an emphasis on the **youth**.

However, to meet this demand, a focus of **infrastructure development** is needed that leads to the upgrading and adding to existing infrastructure. The following comes to mind; improvement of the existing **road system** such as tarring the gravel roads that link Sutherland to her neighbouring towns, as well as of the dust streets in town, and paving of sidewalks. A second upgrade entails the **substitution of dry pit toilets with flush toilets** and connecting these to the inside of the existing houses. This will entail major construction and plumbing work.

Due to the number of backyarders and informal dwellings, residential housing developments should be implemented to meet modern urban living standards. Such developments imply that **holistic town planning and development** will be needed, as a master plan that allocate spaces and in such a way that these improvements are in line with the requirements for operating the Observatory and its associated installations and functions. First and foremost, there is the guarantee of non-pollution of the air. Residents and businesses of Sutherland need to understand this requirement and must be willing to accept and live within these crucial limitations as it is associated with opportunities and advantages that it brings about. This implies clean industries and energy amidst the social needs of the human population settled in Sutherland.

Therefore, proposals made for **recreation facilities and venues for public mass participation, such as a hall, a pool, play and gym parks, a community activity centre**, need careful and informed consideration and if approved, will require engineering and various specialist skills (tradesmen such as plumbers, bricklayers and builders, painters, etc.), draughts men, and town planners, financial providers, and more.

Expansion and reorganization of **shops** – larger, or more, shops in the marketplace that can offer a greater variety of products, will create more fierce competition, downward price adaptations, and improved shop management.

A major health and social issue concern the **pit latrines**. They are unpopular, unhygienic, increase contagious diseases, socially unacceptable, many are not safe for young children, and they are not well served by the municipality. It is an absolute need and imperative to replace pit toilets with better sanitation technology (flush toilets) but will require installation, materials, workmanship, maintenance, and of course adequate water availability.

Youth issues are manifold: many are not attending school, either as dropouts or truants, in need of guidance and constructive activities and facilities for practicing such activities. Because of the scope and depth of social issues (see below) youth and social/community workers are needed. Entrepreneurial capacity needs to be developed. Suggestions made by respondents include educational excursions, skills development, a youth centre equipped with facilities, group and community development projects, and sport activities.

Social issues to be addressed include shebeens/smuggler houses, smoking, drugs, alcohol, dropping out of school, truancy, expulsion, GBV, bullying, premature (teenage) pregnancies, sexual and reproductive health issues. Proper health facilities are needed, such as a well-functioning clinic, community nurse, social worker, youth worker(s).

Older persons need a service centre, equipped as a community facility and organized activities - for example, physical and mind exercises, social interaction, regular health checks, management of medication, personal care, mobility aids, and more.

Capital investments are needed as well as entrepreneurial input. This needs to be based on a **holistic human development plan**, that includes all facets of a life cycle and age-based needs, and in particular life career planning and orientation (aspects relating to education and training), business development (new businesses, small or corporate, appropriate choice of markets, etc.).

Respondents have mentioned the Observatory and Wind-farms as investors / entrepreneurs / stakeholders in physical (infrastructure) and human development. Role clarification of the various stakeholders must be defined – what will be each stakeholder's role and what are the expectations for each, and how will they benefit by participating.

Quote received from one respondent summarizing the sentiments of residents: *“Upgrade town, tar roads, build decent place or park where kids can play, create opportunities for youth to get out of alcohol and drug use”*.

(2) What are the stumbling blocks in the way for development in Sutherland?

Sutherland is a small town, with a small population, secluded, far from the metropolitan centres, with no known natural source of wealth (e.g. minerals that can be mined) or industry that can generate wealth. Its main fame is the Observatory and the large telescope, located here, geographically and topographically, a perfect site, and exactly because of the lack of air pollution brought about by large-scale industrial production and modern living. The main agricultural commodity is sheep (producing wool and meat), thus practicing extensive farming, a clean industry, that typically needs a nearby town as a community services centre to provide in daily living needs – essential household products, maintenance services, cultural (spiritual, educational, civil), primary health care, and social services. The local economy thus is based on a services-delivery motive, with a limited market. Modern day living is highly dependent on electricity, that needs to be produced by clean, renewable energy sources (solar, wind). Sutherland has now its first wind-farm as a large-scale unit for producing such energy. This development fits the paradigm of creating and maintaining a clean environment and air to optimise the functioning of the Observatory installation and its telescopes.

The demand for “development” in Sutherland therefore creates a **typical clash-of-interests scenario**. The answers to the question of what the stumbling blocks and obstacles are in the way of development of Sutherland demonstrate this complexity.

Only a few of the respondents verbalize the **“developmental dilemma”** of Sutherland. At least two arguments against the industrial formula (the high intensity pollution option) are made, one that argues the need to keep the air clean so that the telescopes can function optimally, and another that follows the “serene development” line: keep Sutherland a peaceful town characterized by tranquility, where one can retire peacefully (for example, farmers that retire from their farms in the district, or use the town as their base from where they manage their farming interests) and/or raise children conservatively (according to values that were historically accepted). “Development” would mean creating and restoring a town that serves these purposes and interests.

Some respondents observed that **entrepreneurs capitalize on the above scenario and develop their commercial interests around the needs of this type of market** – expanding shops, accumulating retail units under one roof, and are accused of **seeking their own selfish interests at the cost of the small shop owner** and enriching themselves without ploughing back to the community. **A xenophobic reaction accompanies this response, labelling people of foreign cultures to have intruded the Sutherland community and displaying values and business behaviour that are not approved by the residents that have lived here for generations.** These foreigners are allegedly also promoting drug and alcohol consumption among local residents, especially the youth.

Many responses use **conspiratorial arguments**, where the **anonymous “they” are accused of stealing project money**, enriching themselves, serving only their own interests. These respondents claim that there is money allocated for development projects (for instance, by government to undertake infrastructure development and upgrading projects) but that the money appears to be running out or not to be enough because allegedly it was stolen by project workers. These projects are not completed. The accusations that money is stolen, or that people in responsible positions are corrupt and that they enrich themselves or others related to them, have been exceedingly frequent among the respondents.

The lack of social cohesion within the community, the fact that people work against each other, envious of one another, and that there are historic divisions within the community, some along family lines, other racially, and more recently, political party divisions, are all examples forwarded by respondents. **Power struggles** seem to be the order of the day. Factions are working against each other, and this is manifested within the municipality, causing **inefficiencies** in the work they are supposed to do.

The **leadership** within the municipality and Council is accused of self-interest, inefficiency, abusing their power, and corruption.

Weak **communication** between the Municipality and Community is observed as another stumbling block.

The perception of **neglecting Sutherland** in favour of her neighbouring towns within the District Municipality has been expressed.

The **socio-economic state of the community** of Sutherland has been mentioned as another stumbling block towards development. Large-scale unemployment, abject poverty, inadequate accommodation for the poor, criminality and social pathologies, children not at school, dropping out of school, truant, not advancing from one grade to another, are mentioned as serious constraints and defects within the social and economic fabric of Sutherland’s community.

8.4.4 Personal preferences – Most liked things and least liked things about Sutherland

(1) The power of perceptions

The present section of the survey’s findings focuses on perceptions held by the respondents regarding the socio-economic situation prevailing in Sutherland. A perception is defined as a belief or opinion, often held by many people and based on how things seem.⁴³ Perceptions refer to the outcome of the process by which individuals organize and interpret their felt impressions to understand their environment.⁴⁴ Their understanding determines their future actions. From these definitions it is clear that perceptions are not proven facts, like scientific facts, but may serve as data in scientific studies, like the present survey. **Perceptions have consequences for people’s behaviour in the sense that what people define or belief to be true (i.e., based on their perceptions) become true in their**

⁴³ Cambridge Dictionary. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org>

⁴⁴ IGI Global. <https://www.igi-global.com>

consequences.⁴⁵ The significance for the present study of this truism that has become known in sociology as the Thomas Theorem, may be understood as follows, if residents like something very much about Sutherland this “something” will stand a chance of being perpetuated even if the “something” is disliked by others, and vice versa, “something” disliked by residents may have a chance of being discontinued even if there are protagonists among residents for keeping the “something”. At the community level, the Thomas Theorem may find truth more easily if the people holding a certain perception are **powerful, influential, and persuasive, and outnumbering those who hold contradictory perceptions**. Another version of the Thomas Theorem, **the self-fulfilling prophecy**, holds “a false definition of situation (evokes) new behavior which makes the originally false conception come true”.⁴⁶ Thus, knowing what residents in Sutherland “like” and “dislike” (the questionnaire asked: What the respondent likes most, and what s/he likes least) provides a sense of how respondents “define” Sutherland and her people, assuming that this definition gives a foresight of the future. This data is an important input into planning and implementation of future actions.

(2) Method

Respondents were given the opportunity to tell what they like most (and then least) about Sutherland and her people, by giving threefold answers, i.e., the first most liked, the second most like, and the third most liked “thing”; and the same for most disliked “things”. This procedure generates six lists of approximately 300 responses each. In analysing the data, the first list (most liked and most disliked) was taken as a master list and organized in terms of the common themes abstracted from the individual answers. The answers were then grouped together under the headings of the common themes respectively. Similar/identical answers were not repeated and individual answers not counted as each abstracted idea or concept was considered as qualitatively equally important as the perception expressed by respondents. The first list of the most liked things is a complete list of all the variations reported, while the second and third lists reported only additions, and no repetitions of the ideas mentioned already in the first list. These themes (or topics) are reported in table format that follows below. The same procedure was followed for the things least liked.

(3) The most liked things

Six themes or topics were abstracted from the answers given by respondents, as follows:

- (1) **Ambiance of the town** – sense of place that praises the slow and easy-going rural, country and farm lifestyle.
- (2) **Climate and environment**, highlighting the beautiful natural features and especially snow and rain.
- (3) **People** that are friendly, good natured and support each other in many ways.
- (4) **Personal connection** and emotive bond with Sutherland.
- (5) **Physical aspects** of town, its architecture and proximity.
- (6) **Social aspects**, noting the spirituality they show as well as basic facilities and services.

⁴⁵ WI & DS Thomas, 1928.

⁴⁶ Merton, 1968:477

Table 8.3: Personal preference of the most liked things of Sutherland

First list (generated by respondents)	Second list (added to Nr 1)	Third list (added to Nr 1&2)
Ambiance of town: Sense of place		
<i>The unique character of a locality and attachments to the place that convinces residents to view Sutherland as a preferred place to stay</i>		
Silent, intimate place	Countryside	Farm life
Tranquility	Easy-going socializing	No rat race
	Lazy hangout	
Climate and environment		
Breathtaking natural environment		Flowers in spring
Clear skies and stars		No air pollution
Snow and rain		Winter in Sutherland
People		
Family and friends		Discipline of the residents
Friendly, good-natured, humane people		Diligence - eagerness to work when jobs are available
Good neighbours, helpful		Music
Know and love one another		People do not pretend
Many spiritual people of faith		
Personal connection and emotive bonds		
Born in Sutherland		
Dad's birth town		
I found my bride to be here		
Guest farm owned by in-laws' family		
Physical aspects of town		
Architecture, old stone buildings	Domes on buildings at Observatory	Beacons that designate areas
Cleanliness	Love to see changes made	Secluded
Proximity - everything within walking distance	Light traffic	
Streets - dust streets	No highways	
Social aspects		
Basic services available		Food at discount rates
Encourage active participation in faith activities		Fresh Karoo meat and slaughter animals
Free to walk around		Good social services
Good community		High school
Good restaurants		Home shops
Safe, no violence, no gangsterism		How teachers treat their learners
Soup kitchen		Low crime rate
Sport activities – as spectator, as participant, Youth involvement		Safe to be outdoors at night
Variety of shops		Good social services
Work on farms available		

(4) The least liked things

The least liked items are summarized according to six topics.

(1) **Climate and environment**, with reference to the cold and contrasting heat.

(2) **Physical features** of Sutherland, with emphasis on the dust of the gravel streets, and the waste scattered around giving the impression of a dirty town.

(3) **Personal behaviour** of the residents, a host of non-desirable behaviour demonstrated mostly linked to the abuse of drugs, alcohol, begging, being loud, violence, and criminality.

(4) **Intergroup relations**, quality of community life, and in-group versus out-group dynamics that reveal animosity among groups in Sutherland, such as residents from the various neighbourhoods stereotyping each other, population groupings, young versus old, local versus foreigners (*"inkommers"*), support groups of the different political parties, and consequently the differential distribution of benefits, privilege, and means of subsistence, often defined as unfair, that impacts the community's quality of life.

(5) **Public and community services**, referring to government, business, and private services, whether they are present in Sutherland, and their efficiency in delivering services that have a direct bearing on individuals and families/households and how they make a living.

(6) **Cost of living**, living standard, and quality of life, with an indication of enduring and abject poverty among residents, unemployment, and high cost of living.

Table 8.4: Personal preference of the least liked things of Sutherland

First list (generated by respondents)	Second list (added to Nr 1)	Third list (added to Nr 1 & 2)
Climate and environment		
	The cold winters.	The heat.
Physical features of Sutherland		
The town is dirty as a lot of rubbish and paper lies around.	Communication bias: TV programs only show the beauty of Sutherland.	
The many gravel roads around the town damage car tires, become very muddy when it rains, and cause a lot of dust. In town there are "stofstrate" (dust streets) that true to the name kick up dust.	Pedestrians suffer when walking the dust streets. Wear-and-tear of one's shoes, clothing, bad for respiratory health of older people.	Streets in town are in bad condition. Roads' maintenance is weak. Drainage of water is not effective; it causes water pools during raining.
Sutherland is a remote town that is perceived to be "disconnected" from the rest of South Africa.	High transport cost.	
Personal behaviour manifested by residents		
A neighbour throws their refuse on my property.	People are not changing their way of life.	
Residents let their dogs wander loose in the street,	Dogs barking through the night.	

which other residents find a risk to their own safety.		
Family trouble (“ <i>huismoles</i> ”) is very disturbing.	Child neglect.	Family violence. Broken families.
Gossiping among people.		
Begging on the street, especially when tourists are around.		
Social pathology of the community manifested in alcohol abuse in town, drug smugglers, shebeens, and drugs sold to children and youth. Children and young people abuse alcohol and drugs. People are noisy and scold when drunk. High frequency of theft, burglary, and other kinds of crime, including serious crime, such as murders.	High prevalence of drugs and alcohol abuse among children. Sexual violation (rape) of young girls.	
Dance parties and the loud music that goes with it, without consideration of the neighbours.	Does not like people’s lifestyle.	
People who fight and hurt each other, drink and drive, denigrate each other, play loud music, envy one another, stay drunk on end.	People are looking for trouble. People are violent, destructive, and rude, hinder each other.	
Corruption among officials and leaders that act unfriendly.		
People from wind farms staying in guesthouses are disrespectful.		
Intergroup relations, quality of community life, ingroup vs outgroup		
<i>Intergroup relations as a topic describes the relationships between in-groups and out-groups. Examples of variations of such relationships include favouritism, denigration, derogation, xenophobia, power display, racism, ageism, and sexism. Comments by respondents about their dislikes demonstrate these variations.</i>		
An example of in-group favouritism is the perception of a tight or closed community not keen on allowing outsiders to enter their space. Another example is councilors that favour like-minded people as their workers.	Nepotism.	
An example of out-group denigration and envy is where residents respond aggressively		

to visitors when they are approached with a question on the street.		
People selfishly claim to themselves success, privilege and benefits and do not allow others to share in public goods. This may happen even at the cost of others (<i>"mense druk mekaar af"</i>).	Clique formation within our community.	
Xenophobia is demonstrated when respondents do not like foreigners that open shops in Sutherland.	Foreigners take our jobs.	Illegal immigrants in town.
Displaying power seems to be a big issue to respondents. Politics (as exercised by political parties) overshadow everything, but they are not effective in bringing progress and development for all within the community, because of their mutual conflict, and lack of cooperation among themselves, and self-enrichment.	Community is not working together; lacks social cohesion.	
A perception is that apartheid is still present. People are perceived as very conservative and racist, in the case where the white group is stereotyped as racist because they behave unfairly towards other groups. In another example, Coloureds are stereotyped typically as alcohol and drug users.	Stereotyping residential areas: Skema's residents are loud and noisy.	<i>"Some of the white people treat coloureds with no respect."</i>
An observation that children are rude and do not have respect for older people may point to stereotyping based on age or generational distinctions within the community (ageism).		
Some residents were excluded from receiving donations while others were included without proper explanation to those excluded, which may be seen as a case of unfair discrimination.	Soup kitchen provides food to only certain groups.	

A respondent alludes to riotous or rebellious behaviour based on the perception of group discrimination. (No details were forwarded to substantiate this dislike.)	No competition for a business that exploits the local consumer public.	
Public and community services		
<i>Dislikes mentioned regarding public and community services in Sutherland.</i>		
There are only a few shops.	Scarcity of fresh produce.	No public toilets near shops.
Incompetent handling of job applications. CVs (of applicants) are thrown away/gone lost.		
No work is available.		
The bank closed in town and visits Sutherland now only two days per week.	Loan sharks.	Need another ATM in town.
No Home Affairs office available.		
No SASSA office available.	SASSA cards are used for credit at high interest rates.	Abuse of SASSA money, especially child grants.
Accessibility of the Police station, services are weak, the way that police officers treat people, they allegedly attack drunk people violently.	Child neglect and abuse. Teenage pregnancies. Social services are very weak.	No law and order.
Sanitation is a much-discussed issue. The pit toilet system is widely practiced yet not the preferred facility. Residents are not cleaning their facilities. The toilets smell bad and are broken.		
Respondents state that health services are very weak. There is no medical doctor, no service from clinic/hospital, and emergency services are not available.	No pharmacy.	No veterinary services. The way the clinic staff nurses conduct their duties.
Darkness, because of nightlights not switched on, creates an unsafe situation.		
Sutherland has many liquor shops and after-hour sales. Shebeens in Sutherland are viewed as part of the widespread problem of alcohol and drug abuse.		
Sutherland has a shortage of houses. No housing is available	Sharing the same plot.	

for farm people moving to town.	Houses in need of repair; they have become dilapidated.	
Recreation facilities are not available.	No play parks for children.	
No training centres are available for people that want to prepare themselves for a future career.		Teachers work just for pay and are not interested in serving the learners. High school has no sport. The High School is failing.
Linked to planning ahead one's own future respondents recognize the challenge of the high frequency of dropouts from schools.	Truancy of learners. It promotes drug abuse.	
Respondents dislike load shedding.		
Respondents observe the lack of transport for residents that need to travel out of town.		
Cost of living, living standard and quality of life		
<i>A deterioration in the quality of life is noted because of certain conditions and processes.</i>		
Enduring poverty in the community.		
No permanent work and sustainable job opportunities are available.		
Shops and food are very expensive.		
There is no progress and no development in sight.		No change is seen in the present situation.
Unemployment, especially among young people, is a serious, and stubborn feature determining the quality of life in Sutherland.		"Youth don't have purpose."
The cost of living in Sutherland remains high.		Expensive food, shops.

8.4.5 How Sutherland has progressed, deteriorated, or stagnated over the past ten years

The final set of perceptions "tapped" from respondents consists of two questions that turned out to be related to each other. Responses (the perceptions that the respondents put in words, mostly in short sentences) were transposed to form two variables in line with the two questions: **Progress perceptions** and **Deterioration perceptions** about Sutherland. The two questions are respectively: (1) In what respects Sutherland has progressed in the past ten years? and (2) In what respects Sutherland has deteriorated in the past ten years.

An initial reading of the responses (421 line-items in total⁴⁷) has made it clear that five response values were needed to simplify the many responses on a scale that encompasses the variations in positive and negative trends. Three “progress” scale values and two “deterioration” scale values were distinguished. The five scale values are defined and quantified as follows – see graphics in Figure 8.4.:

Definitions of variables and scale values

Variable 1: Progress perceptions (Valid responses: N=182/303=60,1% response rate). Missing 121: Don’t know (63); Have stayed too short to answer (19); No answer given (39).

Pro 1: Progress in all respects, and no reference to deterioration (52,1%; 95/182).

Pro 2: Some progress recognized, projects in process, not yet completed (25,8%; 47/182).

Pro 3: A response on Progress Question noting incomplete projects, not on standard or according to expectation (22,0%; 40/182).

Variable 2: Deterioration perceptions (valid responses: N=239/303=78,9% response rate). Missing 46: Don’t know (31); Have stayed too short to answer (15)

Det 4: Similar to Pro 3, but a response on the Deterioration Question, pointing out that conditions weakened and that projects were started but not completed or stagnating. (31,7%; 76/239).

Det 5: A response to the Deterioration Question, with no reference to progress, stating that conditions remained the same, and nothing has been done to address issues mentioned, and if, the actions were unsuccessful. (68,2%; 163/239).

⁴⁷ See Annexure 1, Table 15, for themes and topics mentioned by respondents when they expressed opinion regarding the questions on Progress and Deterioration in the past ten years (in alphabetic order).

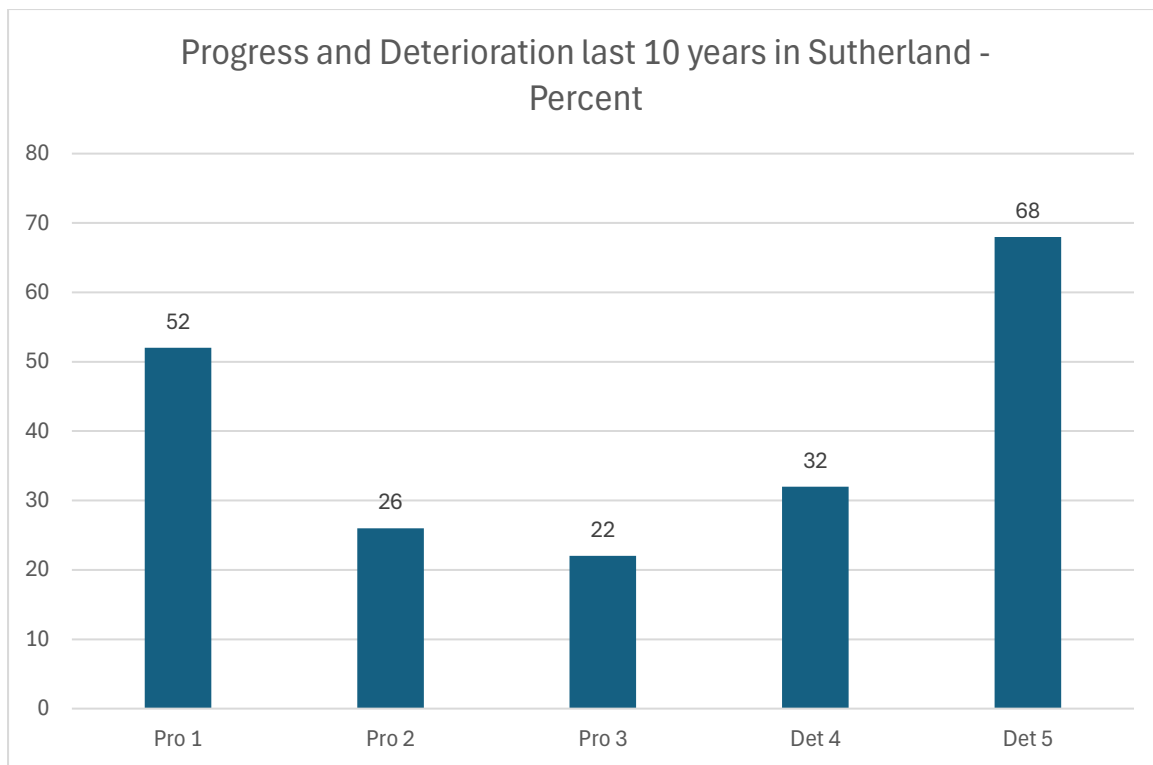


Figure 8.4: Progress and deterioration of Sutherland over the last ten years

Findings

- (1) The response rate for Deterioration trends (78,9%) is significantly higher than that the response rate for Progress trends (52,1%).
- (2) Within the Deterioration spectrum of responses two-thirds (68,2%) of the respondents represented the extreme position of negative perceptions, by defining a situation of utmost deterioration, stagnation, and inaction as their reaction to what they have defined as deplorable conditions. The rest of the respondents (31,7%) gave recognition to attempts that addressed the deteriorative conditions but pointed to the perceived inability by public actors to complete the restorative projects they had observed.
- (3) Within the Progress spectrum it is noticeable that more than one-fifth (22,0%) of the respondents identified deteriorative conditions, like variable Det 4, which means that less than 80% of the respondents focused on perceived Progress trends. Just more than half of the Progress responses (Pro 1: 52,2%) pointed to successes without mentioning stagnation or deterioration. More than a quarter (Pro 2: 25,8%) focused on progress but found it necessary to point to incomplete projects or stagnation in improving negative conditions.
- (4) These trends support a disconcerting conclusion that the respondents in this survey tend to see development in Sutherland negatively, not progressing at a satisfactory rate, and in fact, showing stagnation and backwardness.

8.5 Summary and conclusions

8.5.1 Introduction

This chapter reviewed Sutherland's socio-economic profile through the lens of residents' experience of living in this town and their perceptions of Sutherland as forces in shaping community as their habitat.

8.5.2 Good experiences cause positive futures

The research established that positive experiences from the past impact residents' expectation for the future to be positive as well, however the converse seems also true, namely that negative experiences generate negative expected outcomes in future. We suggest this finding as a policy guideline in the local government administration of enhancing the quality of community life in Sutherland. A practical application could be regular monitoring of the experiences and perceptions of residents and feedback to residents for full integration into Sutherland's development plan and its implementation. This will "define the situation" on a continuous and sustained basis raising awareness among the citizenry of the real situation and create a positive action mode about and a keen interest in participating constructively in the public management and administration process.

8.5.3 Satisfaction levels regarding services and institutions

Residents' satisfaction with sixteen key institutions and services that have individually and collectively, a direct impact on their quality of life turned out to be quite high (74,1% indicated satisfaction and, in contrast, a dissatisfaction percentage of 20,6%). However, two services reached majority percentages of dissatisfaction by the respondents, namely the issuing of identity documents by Home Affairs (55,7%) and sanitation services by municipality (50,5%), the latter being related to the servicing of the dry pit toilet installations. All indications are that this sanitation practice is viewed negatively by users and constitutes a health risk. Its social acceptability is about zero.

Compared to the ranking of satisfaction in a similar survey of 2017, the issuing of IDs then ranked fourth place in dissatisfaction rates (18,5%); in 2024 dissatisfaction increased with 37,5% in this area and took first place in the ranking order. This essential administrative service, run by Home Affairs, is a source of intense frustration among citizens, and is worsening. On top of all things, it has become a costly affair for the member of the public to get essential documents, such IDs and death certificates.

Dissatisfaction percentages increased since 2017 in the areas served by Social Services, Clinic and Hospital, Education (Primary and Secondary School), and Justice. Dissatisfaction percentages regarding services by SASSA and the Police dropped since 2017, but Police still received negative (dissatisfied) assessments from 31,3% of respondents.

Municipal services rated positively although the Municipal Office received an increase in the dissatisfaction percentage compared to 2017 (4,4% to 9,7%, i.e., plus 5,3%).

Areas that received increases in their dissatisfaction percentages of more than 5% need follow-up on their quality-of-service delivery in an attempt to improve the situation.

8.5.4 Perceptions about Sutherland

Perceptions are important

Perceptions are as statements of subjective fact based on one's own experiences interpreted from the viewpoint of one's social standing in life and community. One's perceptions help to make sense of the "world out there" and to find directives for living one's life. Perceptions are therefore people's "definition of the situation", having consequences for their actions and their eventual realities. In other words, perceptions may (or often indeed) become "self-fulfilling prophecies". In this sense, knowing how people perceive their town is indeed essential for institutional leaders and their organisations to fulfill their obligations and responsibilities in their striving towards a better quality of life for all.

Special features of Sutherland

Regarding respondents' perceptions of what is special about Sutherland, four themes emerged:

- (1) Science, technology, and energy (STE) – as manifested in SAAO and SALT, large-scale clean or renewable energy units in the form of windfarms, the use of engineering technology in the development and maintenance of these physical structures, and the opportunities gained for practicing research in associated disciplines that include both physical and social science.
- (2) Tourism and economic development (TAE) – the combination of STE, the biosphere of the Karoo, small town lifestyle, and extensive livestock farming, attract visitors from all over the country and indeed the world, and stimulated businesses as well as NGOs targeting (if not exploiting) the special opportunities for commercially and socially serving the town.
- (3) Architecture and cultural heritage (ACH) – Sutherland have a pre-history to the two complexes of special features listed above, manifested in attractive and sentimental features expressed in the construction, materials, and styles of the buildings and artifacts preserved in the historical museums.
- (4) Rural small town (RST) – Associated with remoteness, unique topography, vegetation, climate, Karoo lifestyle, small population, dominant conservative Afrikaans speaking people, spiritually orientated, Sutherland owns a unique sense of place.

Proposals for development

Having defined the situation of Sutherland, the survey invited respondents to present proposals for development.

The main suggestion focuses on **job creation** that will provide **permanent** opportunities with an emphasis on **youth**.

To meet this demand **infrastructure development** is necessary, including upgrading of and adding to existing infrastructure (e.g., the road system, upgraded to tar roads, paving of sidewalks, substitution of pit toilets to flushed toilet systems, residential housing).

A comprehensive strategy that includes holistic town planning to guide residential and business development with due recognition of the requirements of the Observatory and the need for clean energy and quality domestic water. Social facilities are also in demand.

A sustainable human development (SHD) plan must accompany the comprehensive strategy. The SHD Plan must identify and target social groups and age cohorts (e.g., youth, older people) to address their specific needs and urgent issues.

Capital investments must capacitate strategy and plans. Strategy must identify national and international finance houses, including government promotional schemes (e.g., the social development and empowerment provisions that go with the renewable energy development projects) and bring them on board to support local economic and social development.

Obstacles in the way of development

The major overarching challenge for Sutherland is how to resolve the conundrum of the clash-of-interests scenario (referring to the Observatory's requirement of absolute minimum air pollution vs the demand for job creation normally associated with pollution prone industrial development).

Another developmental dilemma is how to promote the "serene development" scenario to profit-orientated entrepreneurial development agents as an economic viable opportunity that will give ample financial benefit.

Past "developments" in Sutherland operated in a typical supply-demand economic logic (e.g., demand shrunk during the drought, shops (=supply) closed, foreigners functioned as entrepreneurs and opened new shops). The in-migration of foreigners introduced socially unacceptable trends according to some respondents, especially among youth, which implies that the solution itself has become a problem.

"Development" brings also behaviour patterns that traditional residents find not acceptable and so the community becomes divided about what the future holds.

Leadership is not effective and inspiring, power struggles have become endemic and disruptive, people subjected to abject poverty struggle to survive only and follow a scape-goat approach that accuse others of their troubles and see themselves as powerless to act decisively.

The way out of these contradictions is difficult and multi-dimensional. The suggestion is that community leadership (formal and non-formal) consolidates, uses a consultative, democratic approach in addressing the challenges, and ensures that the rank-and-file population stays informed about how the process of "development" unfolds, also to empower the ordinary citizen to constructively participate in their own development.

Respondents' most liked features of Sutherland

The research distilled six themes from the answers offered by the respondents as their expression of things they like best in Sutherland.

- (1) **Ambiance of the town** – sense of place that embraces the slow and easy-going rural, country and farm lifestyle.
- (2) **Climate and environment**, highlighting the beautiful natural features and especially snow and rain.
- (3) **People** that are friendly, good natured and support each other in many ways.
- (4) **Personal connection** and emotive bond with Sutherland.
- (5) **Physical aspects** of town, its architecture and proximity.
- (6) **Social aspects**, noting the spirituality they show as well as basic facilities and services.

The above-mentioned “definitions of the situation” may be seen as preferences of respondents that need to be considered as things to be preserved by development processes in future.

Respondents’ least liked features of Sutherland

The least liked things about Sutherland add up to six themes as well, with two overlaps of the most liked things, but of course with a different content. This proves that the “definition of the situation” may differ from person to person and that the facilitation of change (or to preserve) requires exceptional skills.

- (1) **Climate and environment**, with reference to the cold and contrasting the heat.
- (2) **Physical features** of Sutherland, with emphasis on the dust of the gravel streets, and the waste scattered around giving the impression of an unkempt, dirty town.
- (3) **Personal behaviour** of the residents, a host of unwanted behaviour linked to the abuse of drugs, alcohol, begging, being loud, violence, and criminality.
- (4) **Intergroup relations**, quality of community life, and ingroup versus outgroup dynamics that reveal animosity among groups in Sutherland, such as residents from the various neighbourhoods stereotyping each other, population groupings, young versus old, local versus foreigners (“*inkommers*”), support groups of various political parties, and consequently the differential distribution of benefits, privilege, and means of subsistence, often defined as unfair, that impact the quality of community life.
- (5) **Public and community services**, referring to government, business, and private services, whether they are present in Sutherland, and their efficiency in delivering services that have a direct bearing on individuals and families/households and how they make a living.
- (6) **Cost of living**, living standard, and quality of life, with an indication of enduring and abject poverty among residents, unemployment, and excessive cost of living.

The above-mentioned least liked features of Sutherland, as defined by respondents, are targets for action that aim to change the situation or to do something about it (e.g., one can’t do anything about changing low outside temperatures (the cause of being cold) but it would be possible to avail heaters, geysers for water heating, or isolation on the ceiling of a house, etc.).

Progression and deterioration in Sutherland

Response rates for either progression or deterioration differ significantly (Deterioration, 78,9%, and Progression, 52,1%), which means that respondents were inclined to focus more on the negative trends than the positive trends. In view of an earlier finding, this may point to a more negative outcome in future for Sutherland. These trends support the conclusion that the respondents in this survey tend to see development in Sutherland negatively, not progressing at a satisfactory rate, and in fact, showing stagnation and going backwards.

There is a wisdom that claims that ignorance is bliss, which implies that people without proper knowledge and insight resign themselves in their deplorable circumstances. On the other hand, knowledge is power, meaning people can change their life when empowered to do so with proper capacity building including information, knowledge, and insight. Keeping people sufficiently informed is the beginning of this process.

CHAPTER 9: RENEWABLE ENERGY

9.1 Introduction

The Roggeveld Wind Farm is a 147 MW wind-farm project owned by Red Rocket - a fully integrated African Independent Power Producer. Information about this initiative was sourced from this project's website.⁴⁸ Headquartered in Cape Town, South Africa, Red Rocket has 377 MW of renewable energy projects in operation, under construction and Near Notice To Proceed (NNTP) projects across the African continent. Located along the straddling boundaries between the Western Cape and Northern Cape Provinces near the towns of Laingsburg, Matjiesfontein and Sutherland, the Roggeveld Wind Farm will generate around 613 GWh per year. The energy generated will satisfy the energy needs of roughly 49 200 households every year while avoiding about 502 900 tons of CO₂ emissions. Developed under the South African Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP), the wind-farm's primary purchaser of power generated will be Escom. According to the Global Energy Monitor⁴⁹ the Sutherland wind-farm is an entity in pre-construction in Karoo Hoogland Local Municipality, Namakwa District Municipality, Northern Cape, South Africa.

Janet Cherry and co-workers (2023), researchers from the Nelson Mandela University, reviewed renewable energy projects within the context of the Just Energy Transition (JET) thrust promoted by the Presidential Climate Commission's Just Transition Framework, in which Social Ownership for Renewable Energy (SORE) and REIPPPP projects were distinguished. Cherry et al (2023) expressed the opinion that between the large-scale REIPPPP installations and the off-grid household solar PV installations, there is a gap that is waiting to be filled. They explained: "As the Just Transition Framework (Presidential Climate Commission, 2022) document emphasizes, '(s)upporting municipalities to develop a new revenue model for electricity sales in the transition to clean electricity system' (p.21) is required. If this new revenue model can encourage not only businesses and middle-class households but millions of township residents to contribute energy to the grid with the incentive of receiving economic benefit, one of the main barriers will be overcome."

In addition to the financial investments into the economy and favourable equity structures that had been secured, the REIPPPP targets broader economic and socio-economic developmental benefits. According to the Department Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) (RSA, 2024), REIPPPP is regarded as one of the world's most successful and progressive private sector renewable energy procurement programmes. DMRE claims: "Through its innovative approach and design, the programme is effectively contributing to transforming the economy towards a sustainable, low carbon energy growth trajectory, while securing an inclusive and equitable society" (RSA, 2024).

Without going into details, some explanation is in order. When bidding for the construction, maintenance, and operation of an energy producing plant, IPPs⁵⁰ commit upfront of achieving targets in respect of job creation, economic development, and socioeconomic upliftment. IPP Projects' Economic Development commitments are **forward-looking** to be fulfilled over the 20-year term of the Projects. The improvements in bidding obligations must be specifically aimed at historically excluded

⁴⁸ <https://roggeveldwindfarm.energy/>

⁴⁹ https://www.gem.wiki/Sutherland_wind_farm (31.05.2024)

⁵⁰ IPPs: Independent Power Producers

and vulnerable groups, and at improving gender and disability equality. The IPP project must optimize benefits for local communities and leave an indelible mark on social and economic development, local industrialization, and poverty alleviation.

Therefore, as part of the bid obligations, IPPs had to commit to contribute a share of the revenue to community needs. These contributions accrue over the 20-year project lifetime and are earmarked to be used for housing and infrastructure as well as healthcare, education and skills development, and other community and enterprise development initiatives.

While the generation of renewable energy is not the topic of investigation in this final chapter of the survey, it was deemed necessary to inquire among the Sutherland respondents to what extent they have an understanding of renewable energy in view of the fact that such a project is underway within their district and to what extent they as a town, community and as households are gaining from the construction and establishment of the wind-farm. Accordingly, respondents were required to respond to relevant questions regarding renewable energy. The respondents commented mostly on personal, educational, economic, social, and infrastructural aspects.

9.2 Awareness of renewable energy

Respondents were asked: ***Many people haven't heard of renewable energy, did you hear of it, and do you know something about it?***

The split of the answer on this question is about half: 48,5% (147/303) answered in the affirmative and 51,5% (156/303) said no. Thus, just over half of the respondents declared that they haven't heard about **renewable energy**, and that they do not know anything about it. It is evident that the Sutherland respondents have clearly confirmed a need for grassroots information dissemination in an accessible format about this crucial topic of 'just energy generation' in the face of socio-economic disparities and the challenges of climate change. One respondent, though, is of the opinion that the wind-farm is a reliable energy source.

9.3 Advantages for Sutherland as a town

A question on the benefits gained from the **wind-farm** requested the respondents to express their opinion on **what Sutherland as a town gained** in this respect. Three-quarters of the respondents (73,3%; 222/303) confirmed Sutherland benefits. The following eleven points derived from 222 responses provide a summary of the perceived benefits for Sutherland as a town.

1. Endowments: Large volume and diversity of endowments, donations, and sponsorships in general were received.
2. Education:
 - 2.1 Schools: white boards, iPads, stationery, a library, solar panels, rebuilding of burned down secondary school, painting of school.
 - 2.2 Learners: school uniforms and clothing. Bursaries for further studies. Crèche, toys, equipment. Aftercare.
3. Health: stock to hospital and clinic, backup battery.

4. Older people: old age home.
5. Police (not specified in what ways).
6. Sport: sport fields; fencing; grass planting; rugby clubs; travel costs.
7. Soup kitchen; hampers.
8. Work and income: Creation of job opportunities and services contracts; causing an improved quality of life at home; stronger buying power that benefit businesses, even if only temporally; benefit youth.
9. Wind-farms employ staff that strengthen the general buying power and encourage business development and derived economic development – examples: shops, guest houses, B&Bs, hotels (renovations), restaurants, hair dressing, taxi's (indirect), tourism.
10. The repair of infrastructure, such as roads, and upgrading of public services such as removal of rubbish (trucks); road to Calvinia is being tarred. A quote: *Things that municipality can't attend to (are) now given attention.*
11. Houses in disadvantaged areas.

While the above list reflects a general satisfaction with the assistance, support, donations, endowments, and developments forthcoming from the wind-farm some answers expressed reservations whether the gain was equally available and/or distributed to the benefit for all in the community. Verbatim quotes below show perceptions and sentiments of selective benefiting based on the assumption that discriminatory practices prevailed. Some statements also expressed opinion on the quality of the value and sustainability of the initiatives.

- *Because of all the projects, yes (Sutherland received gain). But none of these projects hold real value.*
- *There were promises that roads will be repaired, but nothing happened so far. (Daar was beloftes dat die paaie reggemaak sal word, maar niks het nog gebeur nie.)*
- *Everything is done halfway.*
- *They (the wind farms) have done a lot for the town, but some projects were not completed, such as the road for the primary school. (Hulle het baie vir dorp gedoen, maar van die projekte was nie voltooi nie, bv. die pad van laerskool).*
- *Job opportunities were created for the community, but not for all. (Daar's werksgeleenthede geskep vir die gemeenskap, maar nie vir almal nie).*
- *They came and created jobs in Sutherland, but only for certain people. (Hulle het werk kom skep in Sutherland maar ook net vir sekere mense).*
- *Thus far only businesses and government departments gained from the wind farm. (Dis nog net die besighede en staatsdepartemente wat voordeel getrek het uit windplaas).*
- *Hampers and other things were handed out, but again just certain people benefited. (Daar was hampers en ander goed uitgedeel, maar weer het net sekere mense baat gevind).*

- *Here are some places that they assisted, but they do not help all. (Hier is paar plekke wat hulle help, maar hulle help nie almal nie).*
- *Only the guest houses and shops, and students, receiving bursaries, gained. (Net die gastehuse en winkels, en studente wat beurse gekry het, (is bevoordeel)). Other comments expressing the same sentiment referred to: schools, soup kitchen, hospital, and certain shops (OK; Pakistani shops), and the presumed singular attention to job creation (Net werkskepping wat hier plaasgevind het).*
- *It is only the schools that gained from the wind-farms and students that received bursaries. (Is net die skole wat voordeel uit windplase getrek het, en studente wat beurse gekry het).*
- *More disadvantages are experienced; businesses did arrive, but they are owned by people from the outside, and job creation is only temporary. (Meer nadele, daar het besighede gekom, maar word besit deur mense van buite, werkskepping is net tydelik).*
- *Ten million rands for a bore hole, but the money disappeared to Fraserburg; the R354 was repaired but this was for their own trucks. (Tien miljoen Rand om boorgat te sink, maar die geld het na Fraserburg verdwyn; maak R354 reg, maar vir hul eie trokke).*
- *Yes, but it is not valuable or necessary, issues like small houses, toilets, proper education should be most important.*
- *Finally, the alleged inability of local government seems to be an issue for at least one respondent: They have done more for the town than what council members and the mayor had done. (Hulle doen meer vir die dorp as wat raadslede en burgemeester doen).*

In conclusion, respondents recognize the value of the endowments for the people of Sutherland, but the research listed quotes by respondents that expressed doubt and caution whether the town in its entirety gained and if the endowments have long term and sustained impact on the beneficiaries.

9.4 Community initiative

In a follow-up question, the survey asked respondents **if they knew of any community projects or initiatives undertaken by the wind-farms in Sutherland**. Respondents answered positively in 55,1% (167/303), and negatively in 44,9% (136/303), of the cases.

The answers given to this question were **similar** to responses to the previous question that was dealt with above – how the wind farm impacts the town of Sutherland. The distinction made between town and community seemed not to be clear to the residents of Sutherland. For them, Sutherland as a town including the district, equals the community of residents living there.

Noteworthy additional points made are as follows.

1. The wind-farm also endowed churches as a community-based organization.
2. Training and skills development activities were mentioned as initiatives directed at the community. Training was mentioned as a strategy in starting a crèche, a very necessary foundation for life-long personal human development. Also, it was mentioned that the wind farm supports “mothers and

babies”, an area of critical importance for enhancing the life chances of the individual – linked with the national priority emphasis on maternal and reproductive health and social development.

3. Another critically important approach noted is the establishment of community programmes with a life span of more than five years – addressing therefore the challenge of sustainability in community development.
4. An awareness of environmental challenges is recognised: **eco-centres** are supported, which is a necessary awareness raising initiative regarding environmental challenges including climate change, which has become a key issue in the developmental discourse. Unfortunately, no additional information was provided in this connection.
5. A very practical initiative, which supports the municipality in their service delivery mandate, also linked to addressing environmental challenges, namely a sponsoring of the so-called honey sucker, a specialised waste management vehicle. The donation of a waste vehicle (called a “rubbish truck”, or just “lorry” by respondents) is important as it offers a sustainable solution to environmental challenges posed by traditional waste management.⁵¹ The response also emphasizes the need for more information sharing on environmental issues, and links with the previous point.
6. In the area of economic and enterprise development, some respondents mentioned initiatives in the development of small businesses, small-scale farmers, and young people, as specific target groups, again crucial foci within the context of local community development.
7. Not mentioned before was the support by the wind-farm for the sport of pigeon flying. Quite a lot had been mentioned about developing sports fields (especially with a focus on rugby) but there was a dearth of information about recreational activities and clubs with different foci.
8. On a critical note, a negative attitude was demonstrated in statements and responses such as the following:
 - *There are many things promised but not completed (Beloftes van goedere wat nie voltooi word nie).*
 - *Wind-farms talk of many projects, but I do not know about many that materialized (Windplase praat van baie projekte, maar (ek) weet nie van baie wat gerealiseer het nie).*
 - *I only heard about the work of the wind-farms but not about the (community) projects (Het nog net gehoor van werke wat windplase het, maar nie van gemeenskapsprojekte nie).*
 - *Projects are not above board, but clandestine (Projekte word onderduims gedoen).*
 - *Here are a lot of jobs given out, but we do not get the jobs. (Hier is meer werke weggegee, maar ons kry nie werk nie).*
 - *Wind-farms provide contract work, but economic contributions are caused by alcohol (abuse) and sex work impregnating women. (Die windplase) help met kontrakwerk, maar die meeste ekonomiese bydrae kom van alkoholisbruik en sekswerk wat vrouens swanger maak).*
9. Finally, the observation was made by one respondent that while the wind-farms spent a substantial amount on supporting schools, they damaged the roads, which they then repair,

⁵¹ More information on this solution can be found at <https://drainblasters.co.za/the-benefits-of-using-a-honey-sucker-truck/>

but their spending to the benefit of the community is a formal part of their contract, and therefore they are obliged to benefit of the community.

9.5 Benefit to respondents' household

The following question probed the aspect of whether the respondents and their household gained any benefit from these initiatives by the wind-farms: **Are you of the opinion that your household up to now gained any benefit from the wind-farms?** Just over a quarter of the respondents claimed a benefit of some kind, namely 26,4% (80/303). They provided the following details about what the household has gained. Four types of benefits were received, mostly only one of these, but in a few instances, households received more than one benefit, or more than one household members were beneficiaries. Of all the possibilities only seventy-seven (77) responses were clearly expressed and could be accounted for in the following analysis as tabled (Table & Figure 11.1).

Table 9.1: Benefits to households and their members

Type of benefit	Number of households	Percentage	Benefits to households Figure 9.1: Benefits to households
Food to household	15	19,5	
A work opportunity (either temporary or for a contractual period)	33	42,9	
School necessities (uniforms, sportswear, shoes, stationery, etc.) to school-going children	24	31,2	
Renting accommodation to wind-farm workers	5	6,5	
Total	77	100,0	

It is significant that the largest number of responses indicated that a job opportunity, and therefore a household income, became available. Respondents mentioned that this also implied the added benefit of gaining work experience, even if the job was temporary, and therefore provided a benefit with a lasting impact on the individual. In one case, the worker received an increase during the contract. The group that mentioned the second largest benefit points to enabling learners at school to attend school and participate in extramural activities in a dignified manner, in particular to be dressed appropriately. This benefit would potentially have a long-lasting and positive impact on the schoolchild's self-image.

It is worth noting that two comments accompanied the responses reported above, one positive and one negative. One respondent found the benefits received creating a good foundation for the future - a better future: *"Now we can build on what we have."* The other comment displays an irritation with the presence and behaviour of wind-farm workers in town: *"They are a crowd staying in town, noisy, driving around, and kicking up a lot of dust"*. This comment demonstrates how traditionally oriented

people perceive change in their midst, namely as disruptive to their accustomed (and presumably orderly or peaceful) way of life, which they rather want to be uninterrupted and to remain the same. The agents of modernizing forces, developments and changes must go away and settle elsewhere – not in their backyard, the NIMBY response.

9.6 Conclusion and recommendation

The large-scale need for renewable, clean energy, globally as well as locally, and the way this need currently is addressed by the South African government, inter alia as an opportunity to benefit disadvantaged communities and households by equity-driven socio-economic and enterprise development, have become a window of opportunity for towns, communities and people, subsequently enhancing the quality daily living in rural districts such as Sutherland. Globally the phrase sustainable human development (SHD) provides a definition for such development as well as an operational framework for its implementation. The Millennium Development Goals and the subsequent Sustainable Development Goals are conceptual and policy tools for monitoring and evaluating just and sustainable development. The foundational four cornerstones of sustainable human development summarized by Mahbub Ul Haq (1995) are: Equity, Sustainability, Productivity, and Empowerment (ESPE). The renewable energy construction and production enterprises erected and in operation in the rural districts of South Africa were conceived to address holistically and sustainably their wind and solar energy outputs in these terms. In the case of Sutherland's wind-farm(s), the present survey reported, however, mixed messages about the relative beneficial impact of this project on the community and town of Sutherland. The following conclusions may serve as pointers in addressing community needs.

1. Just more than half the respondents do not know what **renewable energy** is. It seems there is an awareness of the physical wind-farm, but the real concept behind it is not fully grasped or known. The idea that renewable energy is a means to improve people's quality of life in a durable way needs to be communicated and explained to the people in an accessible format.
2. Only just slightly more than a quarter of the respondents were able to link the renewable energy project to have been beneficial for their **households**, i.e., benefits in a personal way. The largest group among the beneficiaries (more than 40 percent) secured **employment opportunity** – not necessarily permanent, but one would surmise that the long-term impact of the experience of having a job (even temporary) among so many unemployed people, will remain.
3. The second largest beneficiary group (nearly one-third) was amongst school-going learners that had experienced an increasing level of their sense of human dignity. This was caused by having received essential learning equipment and school and sport outfits, which surely will have a longstanding impact on the learners, arguably, also into their adult life.
4. One fifth of the beneficiaries were provided food, indicating an immediate need for daily survival.
5. A small proportion (6,5%) gained materially by renting out accommodation to workers of the wind farm.
6. More than half of the respondents were able to recall benefits in favour of the **community** of Sutherland at large. Nearly three-quarters of the respondents identified benefits to the **town** of

Sutherland. The nature of these benefits was very similar in these two instances. An overall conclusion is that these benefits were given in response to needs listed. It was not clear how the needs lists were generated. However, the endowments to the community and town infrastructure, institutions and organizations were welcomed and appreciated as valuable contributions to enhance the quality of community life.

7. Without being probed to assess the donations, endowments and support received by Sutherland some respondents alluded to favouritism and preferential treatment in decisions about who and where support was to be given, as well as to an inability by the wind-farm to deliver and/or complete community projects. Such responses emphasize the importance of **transparency** and **participatory methodologies** to be employed when deciding on the potential beneficiaries of support to benevolent charities, organizations and institutions, households and individuals.
8. The findings of the survey have emphasized the importance of following the **community development approach** in the sustainable human development (SHD) paradigm. This approach departs from the four foundational cornerstones quoted from Mahbub Ul Haq above – equity, sustainability, productivity, and empowerment (ESPE). In determining the needs of a local community, with the purpose of designing policies, programmes and plans (PPP) for achieving SHD, **authentic participatory methodologies** must be exercised.⁵²
9. **Sustainability**, one of the cornerstones in SHD, does not mean that short term needs (e.g. hunger) should be ignored. However, the design and implementation of the local development PPP must be authentic in the eyes of the affected community and carry legitimacy to the extent that it will sustain into the distant future of the community.⁵³
10. Training and skills development conducted among the members of the community of Sutherland are **essential elements of building capacity (i.e. empowering people to participate in public processes) and for being productive in many ways of participating in economic, civil and community affairs.**

This chapter **concludes with the recommendation** that a participatory community development approach, based on the foundational principles of sustainable human development must be followed for exploiting the full potential of the renewable energy programme according to the provisions of the South African government, as explained in the introduction section of this chapter.

⁵² An example of an authentic participatory methodology is described by Groenewald and Smith (2002).

⁵³ David Korten (1990) distinguished four generations of human development, the first (1) is the provision of immediate charitable welfare (which includes addressing the immediate need for food). Subsequent generations of development are (2) empowerment, (3) policy and institution building, and (4) social movement as an ongoing development drive.

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ANNEXURE 1: FOR TABLES AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Table 1: Residential areas according to population group in Sutherland: Households and Individuals, Survey 2024

Area		Population Group					Total
		Coloured	White	Black	Indian	Other	
Skema	Number	140	0	2	0	0	142
	Row %	98,6	0	1,4	0	0	100,0
Hopland	Number	109	0	1	0	0	110
	Row %	99,1	0	0,9	0	0	100,0
Kerkgrond	Number	19	0	1	0	0	20
	Row %	95,0	0	5,0	0	0	100,0
Town	Number	8	20	1	0	2	31
	Row %	25,8	64,5	3,2	0	6,5	100,0
Total Households	Number	276	20	5	0	2	303
	Row %	91,1	6,6	1,7	0	0,7	100,0
Total Individuals							
	Number	1097	38	16	1	8	1160
	Row %	94,6	3,3	1,4	0,1	0,7	100,0

Table 2: Gender and population group, 2024 vs 2017

Population group		Gender		Total	Sex ratio
		Male	Female		
Coloured	2024 Number	503	594	1097	85
	2024 Row %	45,9	54,1	100,0	
	2017 %	46,2	53,8		86
Indian	2024 Number	0	1	1	0
	2024 Row %	0	100,0	100,0	
	2017 %	-	-	-	-
Black	2024 Number	5	11	16	46
	2024 Row %	31,3	68,8	100,0	
	2017 %	-	-	-	-
White	2024 Number	20	18	38	111
	2024 Row %	52,6	47,4	100,0	
	2017 %	50,0	50,0	100,0	100
Other	2024 Number	3	5	8	60
	2024 Row %	37,5	62,5	100,0	
	2017 %	-	-	-	-
Total	2024 Number	531	629	1160	84
	2024 Row %	45,8	54,2	100,0	
	2017 %	46,4	53,6	100,0	87

Table 3: Age cohorts by gender, Sutherland, for 2011 (census), Survey 2017, and Survey 2024, in percentages

	2011 Census			2017 survey			2024 survey		
Age cohorts	Male %	Female %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
0-4	7,3	5,8	6,5	10,3	7,8	8,9	8,7	9,4	9,1
5-9	12,8	9,3	10,9	7,7	8,1	7,9	9,0	10,7	9,9
10-14	11,6	10,3	10,9	13,4	11,4	12,3	9,8	5,7	7,6
15-19	8,4	8,0	8,2	9,6	9,7	9,7	8,1	9,2	8,7
20-24	5,0	5,6	5,3	9,0	7,4	8,1	6,8	8,4	7,7
25-29	4,8	6,2	5,5	4,6	4,2	4,4	7,2	7,9	7,6
30-34	5,5	5,6	5,5	5,7	7,4	6,6	7,2	6,2	6,6
35-39	5,2	6,6	5,9	6,1	6,1	6,1	5,1	6,5	5,9
40-44	5,7	6,2	5,9	6,4	7,6	7,0	4,9	4,8	4,8
45-49	7,1	5,8	6,4	5,0	5,9	5,5	5,5	6,2	5,9
50-54	5,5	5,0	5,2	7,7	7,4	7,5	9,2	6,4	7,7
55-59	4,8	4,8	4,8	3,5	4,2	3,9	6,0	5,4	5,7
60-64	4,6	5,4	5,0	4,8	4,2	4,5	6,2	4,9	5,5
65-69	5,5	5,8	5,6	2,2	3,2	2,7	2,8	2,9	2,8
70-74	3,4	4,8	4,1	1,8	2,1	1,9	1,7	2,2	2,0
75-79	1,6	2,2	1,9	1,5	1,3	1,4	0,9	1,7	1,4
80-84	0,7	1,6	1,2	0,2	1,1	0,7	0,8	1,3	1,0
85-89	0,5	0,6	0,5	0,2	0,9	0,6	0,2	0,2	0,2
90+	0,2	0,8	0,4	0,2	0,2	0,2	-	-	-
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 4: Age cohorts for total population, Sutherland, for Survey 2024 and Survey 2019

Age cohorts	Survey 2024			Survey 2017		
	Number	Column %	Cumulative %	Number	Column %	Cumulative %
0-4	105	9,1	9.1	88	8,9	8,9
5-9	115	9,9	19.0	78	7,9	16,9
10-14	88	7,6	26.6	121	12,3	29,2
15-19	101	8,7	35.3	95	9,7	38,8
20-24	89	7,7	43.0	80	8,1	47
25-29	88	7,6	50.6	43	4,4	51,3
30-34	77	6,6	57.2	65	6,6	57,9
35-39	68	5,9	63.1	60	6,1	64
40-44	56	4,8	67.9	69	7	71
45-49	68	5,9	73.8	54	5,5	76,5
50-54	89	7,7	81.5	74	7,5	84
55-59	66	5,7	87.2	38	3,9	87,9
60-64	64	5,5	92.7	44	4,5	92,4
65+	86	7,4	100.0	75	7,6	100
Total	1160	100.0		984	100	

Table 5: Household internal relationships and generations, Sutherland, Survey 2024

Relationship to Head and Generations cross tabulation								
			Generations					Total
			1	2	3	4	5	
Relation- ship to Respon- dent	Respondent	Count	304	0	0	0	0	304
		% of Total	26,2%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	26,2%
	Husband/ wife/ partner	Count	167	0	0	0	0	167
		% of Total	14,4%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	14,4%
	Child	Count	0	345	0	0	0	345
		% of Total	0,0%	29,7%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	29,7%
	Brother/ sister	Count	41	0	0	0	0	41
		% of Total	3,5%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	3,5%
	Father/ mother	Count	0	0	0	39	0	39
		% of Total	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	3,4%	0,0%	3,4%
	Grand- parent	Count	0	0	0	0	2	2
		% of Total	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,2%	0,2%
	Grand child	Count	0	0	101	0	0	101
		% of Total	0,0%	0,0%	8,7%	0,0%	0,0%	8,7%
	Other family	Count	104	0	0	0	0	104
		% of Total	9,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	9,0%
	Foster child	Count	0	10	0	0	0	10
		% of Total	0,0%	0,9%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,9%
	Other non- family	Count	47	0	0	0	0	47
		% of Total	4,1%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	4,1%
Total		Count	663	355	101	39	2	1160
		% of Total	57,2%	30,6%	8,7%	3,4%	0,2%	100,0%

Table 6: In-migrants to Sutherland: Number of in-migrants per 8-year interval, and average number per year, over 65 years

Intervals over 65 years, dates, duration		In-migrants (N)	Average per year
1959-1967	8 years	3	0,4
1968-1976	8 years	8	1,0
1977-1985	8 years	5	0,6
1986-1994	8 years	9	1,1
1995-2003	8 years	15	1,9
2004-2012	8 years	24	3,0
2013-2021	8 years	79	9,9
2022-2024	2,2 years	25	11,5
Total		168	2,7

Table 7: The year since when the occupant lived at the current address (as from 2024)

Year	f	Year	f
1966	2	2002	no info
1970	4	2003	8
1972	5	2004	22
1973	2	2005	97
1974	1	2006	26
1975	1	2007	13
1978	3	2008	10
1979	3	2009	10
1980	5	2010	12
1982	3	2011	8
1983	4	2012	9
1985	2	2013	9
1986	2	2014	24
1990	5	2015	16
1991	3	2016	16
1992	9	2017	21
1993	1	2018	21
1994	6	2019	22
1995	9	2020	37
1997	6	2021	46
1998	7	2022	52
1999	5	2023	57
2000	5	2024	24
2001	10		
2003	8	Total	671

Note: A total of $1160 - 671 = 489$ persons is excluded from the analysis which includes 455 persons that have been born at the current address but did not provide a year-date to the question, plus another 34 that either did not know the answer to the question (25) or did not provide any answer (9).

Table 8: Educational level achieved, population 7 years and above, Survey 2024, BIS and IMS compared

Educational level	BIS	IMS	Number	Percent
No formal training, cannot read or write	40	4	44	4,4
No formal training, can read and write	18	4	22	2,2
Grade R	20	1	21	2,1
Grade 1	31	2	33	3,3
Grade 2	26	3	29	2,9
Grade3	37	6	43	4,3
Grade 4	46	8	54	5,4
Grade 5	53	4	57	5,7
Grade 6	65	5	70	7,0
Grade 7	73	13	86	8,6
Grade 8	132	12	144	14,4
Grade 9	69	8	77	7,7
Grade 10	60	15	75	7,5
Grade 11	42	13	55	5,5
Grade 12	107	34	141	14,1
NTC2/N2/NV (C) Level 3	1	0	1	0,1
NTC3/N3/NC Level 4	2	5	7	0,7
N4/NTC 4	1	0	1	0,1
N6/NTC 6	2	1	3	0,3
Diploma/Certificate with Matric	12	5	17	1,7
University Degree/Technikon Diploma	3	17	20	2,0
Other			1	0,1
Total (all in age group 7+ years)	840	160	1000	100
Don't know			3	
Missing (not in age group 7+ years)			145	
Grand Total			1160	

BIS: Born-In-Sutherland; IMS: In-Migrants to Sutherland

Table 9: Number of first pregnancies by age of mother and associated statistics

Age of first pregnancy by women in the sample (2024)				
Age first pregnancy	Number of pregnancies	Percent	Statistics (years)	
13	1	0,3	Minimum	13
14	1	0,3		
15	13	3,6		
16	26	7,1		
17	27	7,4		
18	47	12,9	Quartile 1	18
19	36	9,9		
20	48	13,2	Mode Median (Quartile 50)	20 20
21	34	9,3	Mean	20,96
22	28	7,7		
23	22	6,0	Quartile 3	23
24	13	3,6		
25	21	5,8		
26	10	2,7		
27	8	2,2		
28	4	1,1		
29	6	1,6		
30	5	1,4		
31	2	0,5		
32	7	1,9		
33	1	0,3		
35	4	1,1	Maximum	35
Total First Pregnancies	364	100,0	Range	22
No answer	265			
Total Women	629			

Table 10: Electric appliances used for water heating and cooling, four areas

Percent that possess item	Sutherland % (Fig 7.5)	Skema %	HOP %	Kerkgrond %	Dorp %
E-Geyser	10,6	4,2	0	15,0	74,2
S-Geyser	1,7	0,7	0,9	5,0	6,5
E-Kettle	64,0	64,1	54,5	75,0	90,3
E-Stove	90,1	90,8	95,5	85,0	71,0
E-Fridge	72,9	69,7	66,4	90,0	100,0
N Total	303	142	110	20	31
Percent of Households per Area	100,0	46,9	36,3	6,6	10,2
N & % that possess item per Area	N	Skema %	HOP %	Kerkgrond %	Dorp %
E-Geyser	32	18,8	0	9,4	71,9
S-Geyser	5	20,0	20,0	20,0	40,0
E-Kettle	194	46,9	30,9	7,7	14,4
E-Stove	273	47,3	38,5	6,2	8,1
E-Fridge	221	44,8	33,0	8,1	14,0

Table 11: Sources from which households earn their income

Source of income		Skema	HOP	Kerkgrond	Dorp	Total
Salary & Commission	N	102	87	13	17	219
	%	71,8	79,1	65,0	54,8	72,3
Pension by employer	N	9	1	3	10	23
	%	6,3	0,9	15,0	32,3	7,6
Government grant	N	116	83	18	12	229
	%	81,7	75,5	90,0	38,7	75,6
Remittances & Other moneys received	N	16	4	2	4	26
	%	11,3	3,6	10,0	12,9	8,6
Rent received	N	5	4	4	7	20
	%	3,5	3,6	20,0	22,6	6,6
Own business	N	0	2	10	30	42
	%	0	10,0	50,0	96,8	13,9
Maintenance received for child	N	13	12	1	3	29
	%	9,2	10,9	5,0	9,7	9,6
	Base N*	142	110	20	31	303
*Percentages in each column based on the area household totals and overall household total respectively, and not on income sources collectively. Column percentages do not add to 100.						

Table 12: Sector of work

Sector	N	%	Sector (continued)	N	%
Administration	10	2,4	Health services	5	1,2
Agriculture	29	7,1	Horticulture	5	1,2
Care services	4	1,0	Hospitality services	10	2,4
Commercial services	1	0,2	ITC services	1	0,2
Construction	8	1,9	Management	9	2,2
Culinary services	4	1,0	Personal services	25	6,1
Development and design services	2	0,5	Public administration	3	0,7
Economic services	1	0,2	Safety and security	16	3,9
Education	7	1,7	Scientist	1	0,2
Engineering	1	0,2	Specialist services	10	2,4
Environmental services	1	0,2	Tourism	2	0,5
General services	254	61,8	Transport	2	0,5
			Total	411	100,0

Table 13: Loans provided from outside agents

Loan from ...	N	Percent based on N=303
Bank	27	8,9
Employer	2	6,0
Micro loan / "Loan shark"	37	12,2
Family / Friends	23	7,6
SASSA card kept by someone for loan security	4	1,3
Clothing shop	20	6,6
Furniture shop	13	4,3
Food shop ("buying on the book")	77	25,4
Other (Car loan; Not specified)	2	0,7
	207	67,7%

Table 14: Satisfaction/dissatisfaction with municipal and general community services

Service	Satisfied	Neither/Nor	Dissatisfied	N
Row percentages add up to 100				303 minus missing cases
Refuse removal	95,4	1,0	3,3	303
Electricity supply	72,9	6,9	20,1	303
Water supply	96,4	1,7	2,0	303
Water quality	82,2	7,6	10,2	303
Sanitation supply	45,5	3,3	50,5	303
Police service	59,2	9,6	31,3	272
Municipal Office	81,0	9,3	9,7	290
Clinic	59,7	6,0	34,3	283
Hospital	67,9	7,5	24,6	134
Library	97,0	0,6	2,4	166
IDs	40,8	3,5	55,7	255
Primary school	82,6	3,6	13,8	195
Secondary school	79,6	6,8	13,6	147
Social services	52,8	5,1	42,1	178
Access SASSA grants	92,3	1,6	6,1	245
Justice	85,1	5,6	9,3	161

Table 15: Themes and topics mentioned by respondents when they expressed opinion regarding the questions on Progress and Deterioration in the past ten years, as from 2024 (in alphabetical order)

Bank: closed and services scaled down, ATM
Community: divided, social cohesion, standing together
Cost of living: expensive, high prices
Demographic trends: Groups (population groups, foreigners), Ageing (e.g. White people), In-migration (<i>Inkommers</i> /Foreigners), Youth (unemployed, crime, drugs, out-migration)
Drugs: abuse of alcohol, drugs, smuggling of drugs, shebeens
Education: High school restoration
Electricity: loadshedding, generators
Employment: unemployment, temporary employment, sustainability, foreigners/ <i>inkommers</i>
Health: Clinic, Nursing staff, Medical doctor, Hospital
Home Affairs: IDs
Housing: no new developments, structurally dilapidated, too small for household
In-migration: foreigners - taking over of shops, occupying employment opportunities, illegal commercial activities
Leadership: Municipality, Officials, Schools, Political Parties – divisive, corrupt, self-interest, nepotism
Police
Post Office: closed
Roads: connecting with other towns, gravel surface, flood damage, vehicles damaged, unsafe road surfaces, partly tarred
Sanitation: pit toilets, public toilets
SASSA: grants, abuse of grants
Shops: big shops closed, prices
Social services: social worker
Sport and recreation: facilities, fields, parks
Streets: gravel/dust, bad condition, potholes, pavements, street names
Violence: crime, theft, corruption, prostitution, rape, murder
Wind Farms: workers' negative influence on local community, rude, noisy, molesting girls, bad for tourism
Youth: dropouts, truancy, teenage pregnancies, unemployment, leaving town

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AAA	Astronomy Advantage Area
ACH	Architecture and Cultural Heritage
AGA	Astronomy Geographic Advantage Act of 2007
AMA	Advanced Maternal Age
AR	Absorption Rate
BIS	Born-In-Sutherland
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CDG	Care Dependency Grant
CO2	Carbon dioxide emissions
COGTA	Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease (SARS-CoV-2 virus, outbreak 2019, Wuhan, China)
CSG	Child Support Grant
CWP	Community Work Programme
DG	Disability Grant
DMRE	Department Mineral Resources and Energy
DST	Department Science and Technology
DSTV	Digital satellite television service, received by using a small dish
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EGP	Enel Green Power
ESPE	Equity, Sustainability, Productivity, and Empowerment
FCG	Foster Care Grant
FET	Further Education and Training College
GBV	Gender-based Violence

GWh	Renewable electricity output (Gigawatt hours of power plants using renewable resources including wind, solar PV, solar thermal, hydro, marine ...)
HLM	Hoogland Local Municipality
HPS	Health Promoting Schools
ID	Identification Document
IMS	In-migrants to Sutherland
IPP	Independent Power Producers
IQR	Inter-quartile range
ITC	Information Technology and Communication
JET	Just Energy Transition
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MW	Megawatt is the standard term of measurement for bulk electricity
NC	Northern Cape (Province)
NDM	Namakwa District Municipality
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NMU	Nelson Mandela University
NNTP	Near Notice To Proceed projects
NPO	Non-Profit Organisation
NRF	National Research Foundation
OAG	Old Age Grant/Pension
PPP	Policies, Programmes, and Plans
PrDP	Professional driving permit
PV	Photo-voltaic
RE	Renewable Energy
REIPPPP	South African Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme

RDP/HOP	Reconstruction and Development Programme
RST	Rural Small Town
SABC	South African Broadcasting Corporation
SA / RSA	Republic of South Africa
SAAO	South African Astronomical Observatory
SALT	Southern African Large Telescope
SAQA	South African Quality Authority
SARAO	South African Radio Astronomy Observatory
SARChI	South African Research Chair Initiative
SASSA	South African Social Security Agency
SCDC	Sutherland Community Development Centre
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SHD	Sustainable Human Development
SKA	Square Kilometer Array
SORE	Social Ownership for Renewable Energy
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (IBM)
StatsSA	Statistics South Africa
STE	Science, Technology and Energy
SU / US	Stellenbosch University
TAE	Tourism and Economic Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UR	Unemployment rate