Quality of Life Survey 6 2020/21

Filling data blind spots: recognising sexuality and gender identity

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GCRO | Gauteng City-Region Observatory

*Photographs are just an illustration and do not depict respondents. Thato Mabaso

Introduction

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Introduction

What is the GCRO's Quality of Life Survey?

One of South Africa's largest and longest-running social surveys

Randomly sampled adults are interviewed in their homes

Data is representative at ward, municipal and provincial levels

Data can be mapped in many ways, and is comparable over time

Introduction

QoL 6 (2020/21) sample size and distribution

13 616

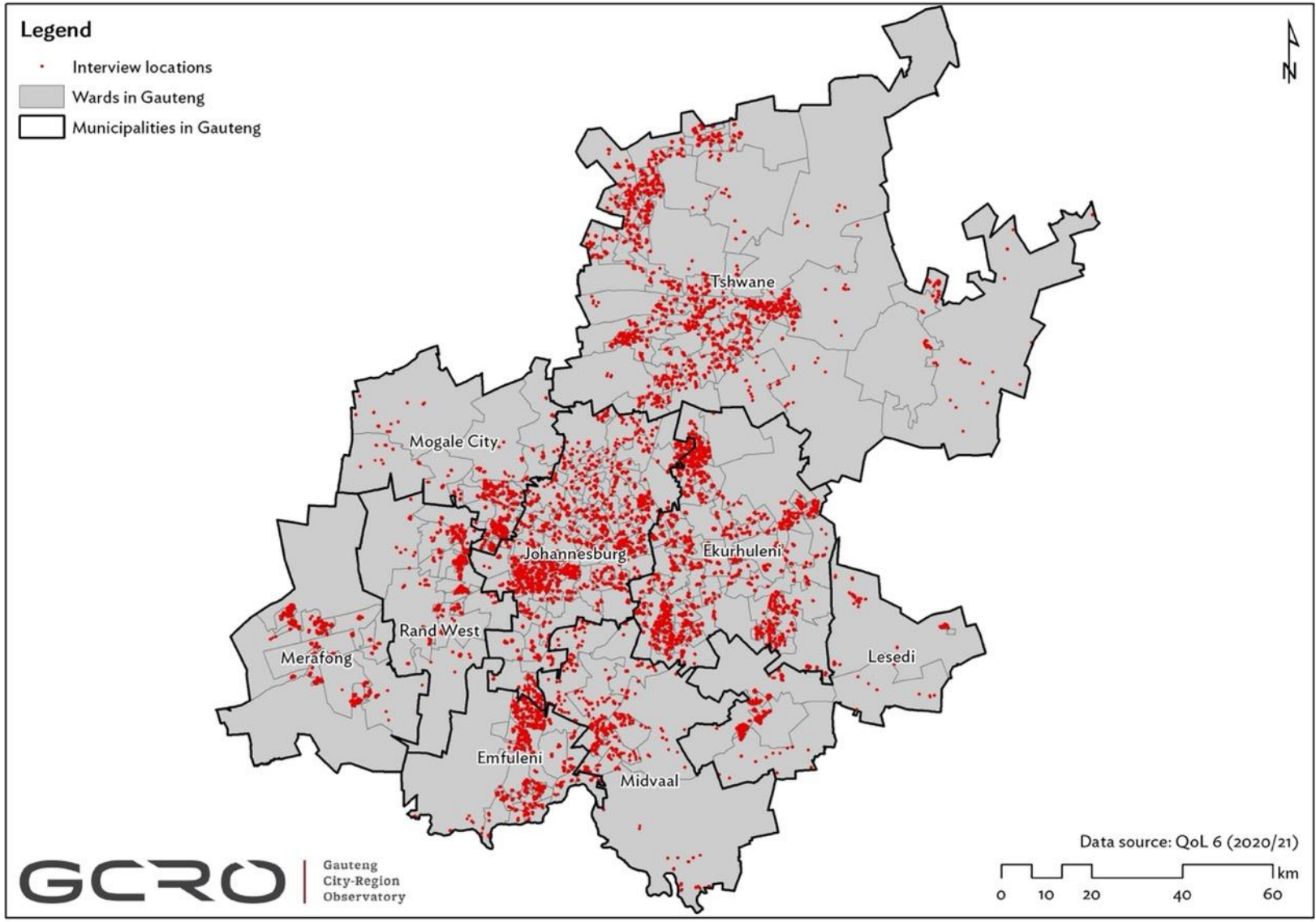
respondents

600

or more interviews per municipality

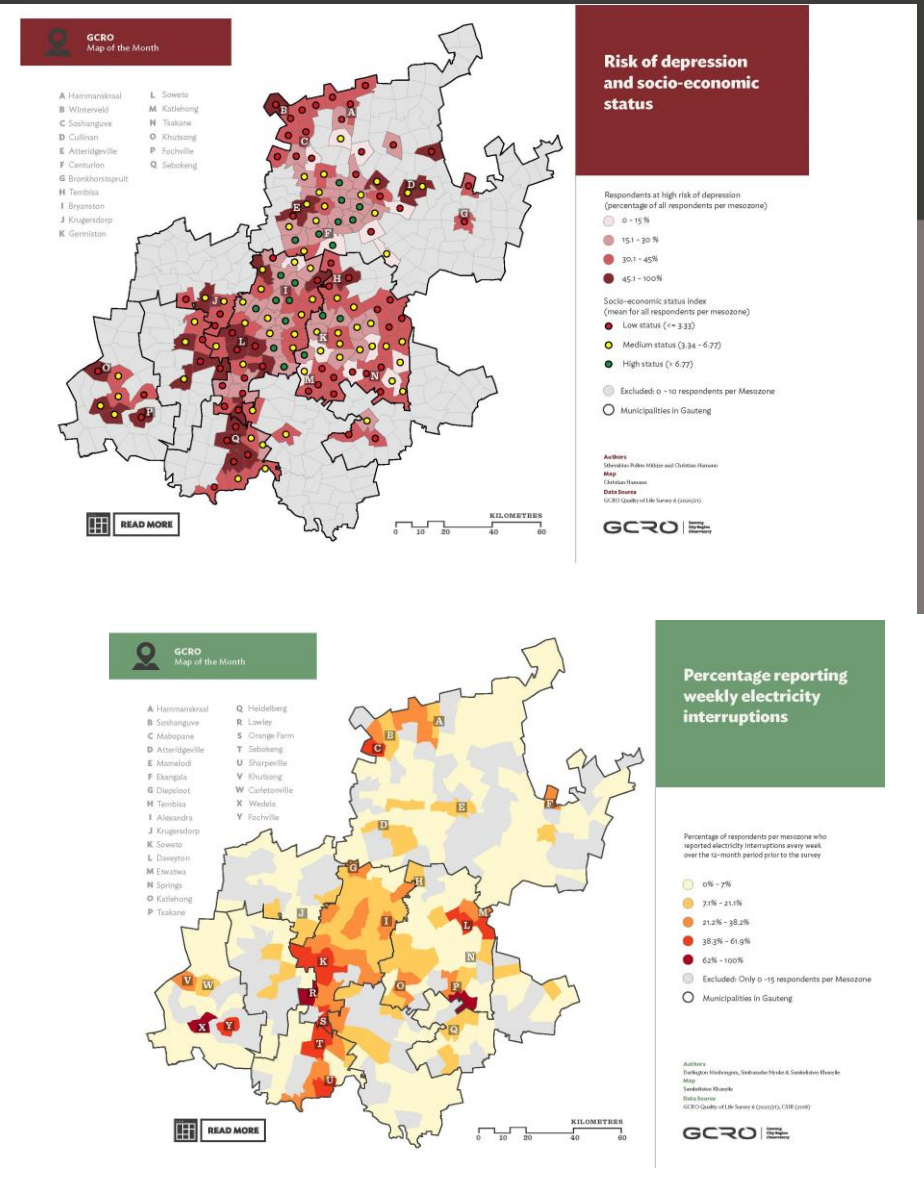
529 wards

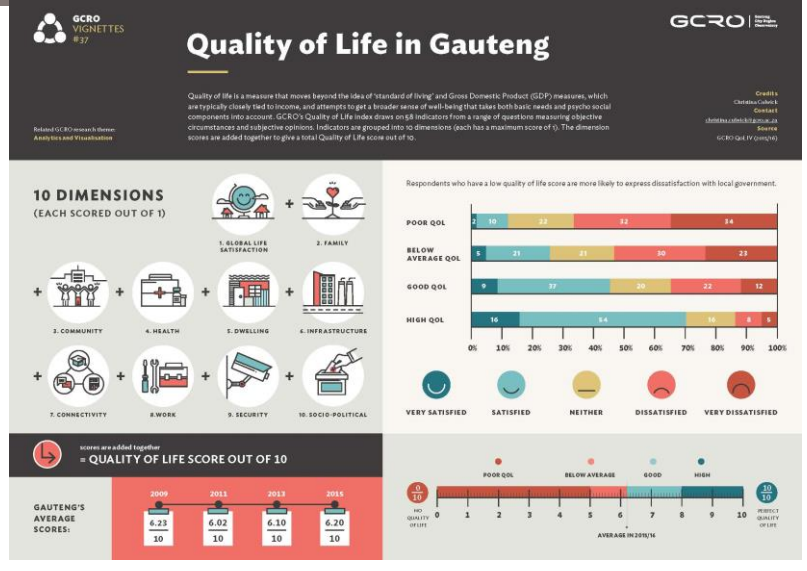
with at least 20 interviews in each

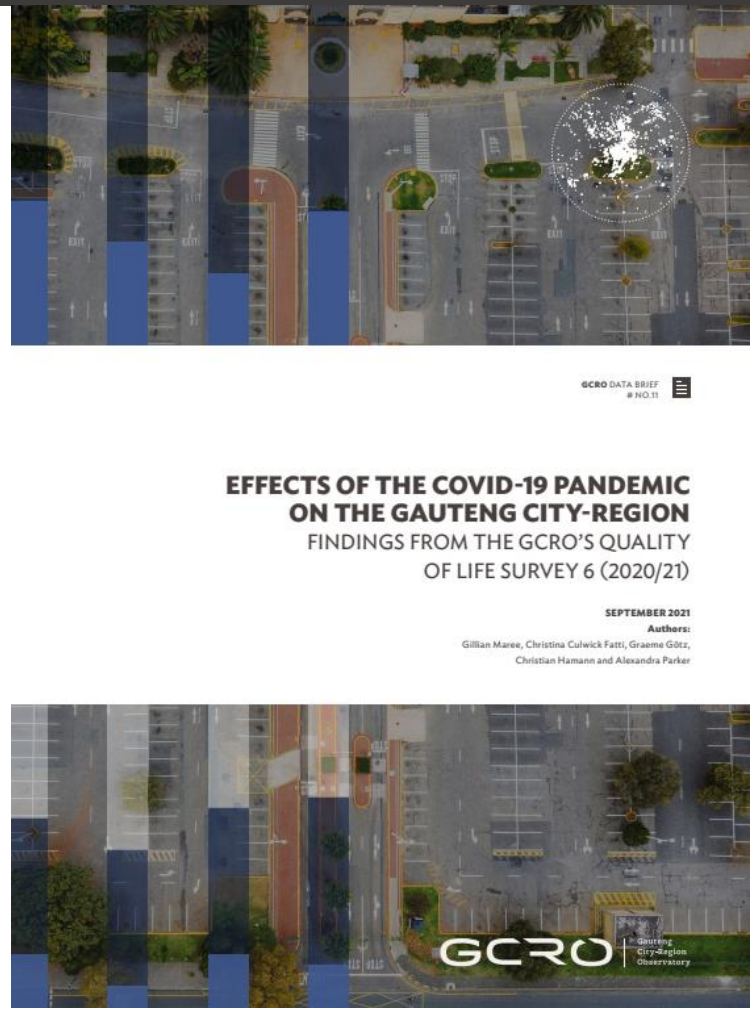


Introduction

How do we share survey results?







Recognising SOGI in QoL 6 (2020/21)

*Photograph is just an illustration and does not depict the respondent. Keitumetse Segoati.

Recognising SOGI in QoL 6 (2020/21)

The breadth of QoL 6 (2020/21) questionnaire

214 questions

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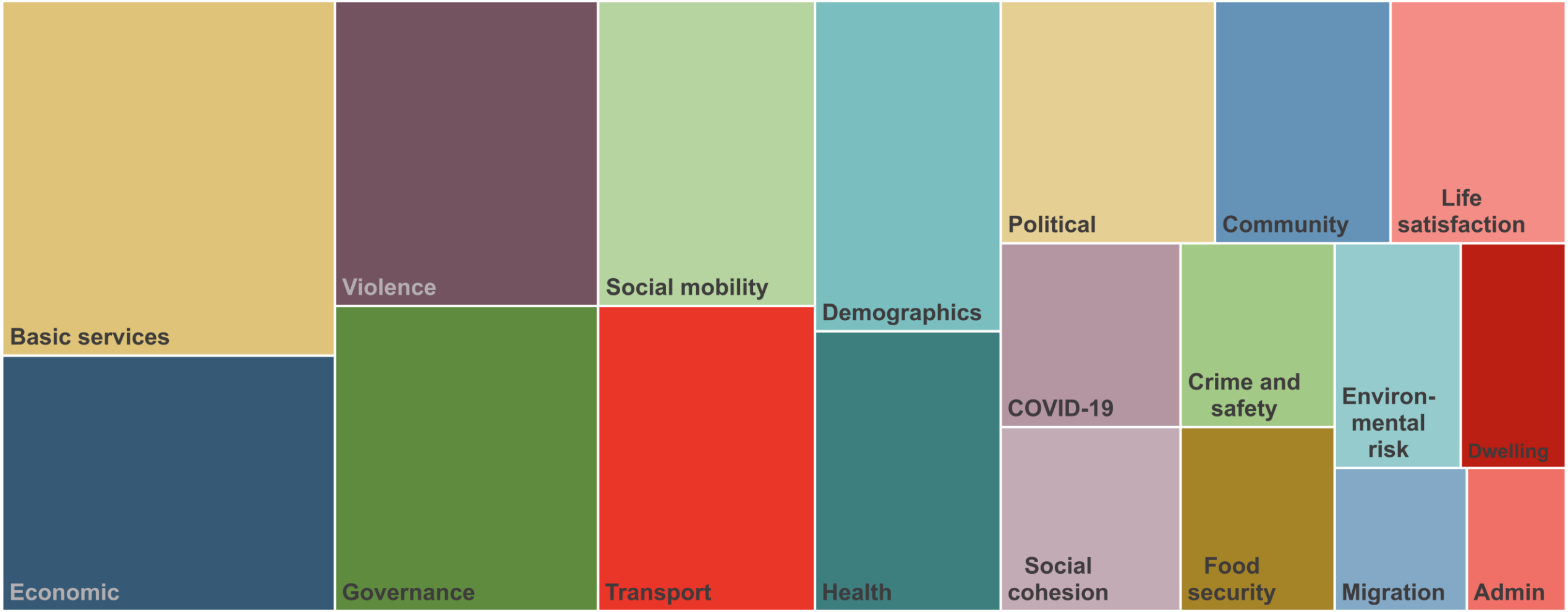


Recognising SOGI in QoL 6 (2020/21)

Self-complete section

- For the first time in QoL 6 (2020/21), a separate series of voluntary and self-complete questions were introduced.

- This section asked about the respondent's:
  - Gender identity and sexual attraction.
  - Experiences of violence during childhood, and over the past year.

*Photograph is just an illustration and does not depict the respondent. Sello Dhlabo.

Recognising SOGI in QoL 6 (2020/21)

Data collection and ethics

- Given the inclusion of a sensitive section on gender identity, sexuality and experiences of violence, a dedicated training module in early September 2020 was provided to the field team.

- During fieldwork, respondents were given a list of organisations that offer free counselling and other services.

* Photograph taken with the permission of respondent. Sello Dhlabo.

Recognising SOGI in QoL 6 (2020/21)

Data collection and ethics

- In-field pilot was conducted in early October 2020.
- Full-scale data collection: late October 2020 – May 2021.
- Self-complete section: data collection devices were handed over to respondents who gave consent to participate in the confidential section.
- Quality control was undertaken throughout data collection period.
- Data weighted against the 2021 municipal population estimates by race and gender.

* Photograph taken with the permission of respondent.

Filling data blind spots

*Photograph is just an illustration and does not depict the respondent. Tracy Mutugi

Filling data blind spots

Binary vs non-binary

Binary approach

- Five QoL surveys (2009 – 2017/18) followed a binary approach to sex/gender.

- **Question:** What is the sex of the respondent?
- **Response options:** 1) Male, 2) Female

Non-binary approach

- In QoL survey 6 (2020/21) explored the strategies to collect reliable data on gender identity/sexuality from a non-binary perspective.

- **Questions:**

(1) What is your gender?

(2) Who are you attracted to?

- **Response options:** Included four similar categories; 1) Male, 2) Female, 3) Gender diverse, 4) Prefer not to answer.

Filling data blind spots

What does the non-binary data tell us?

- "What is your gender?"
  - Can tell us how many respondents identify their gender as 'male', 'female' or 'gender diverse'.
  - Gender diverse respondents may include, but are not limited to, trans-men, trans-women and gender-diverse individuals.

Q15.1 - What is your gender?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	5881	43.2	50.0	50.0
	Female	5839	42.9	49.6	99.6
	Gender diverse	28	.2	.2	99.8
	Prefer not to answer	20	.1	.2	100.0
	Total	11768	86.4	100.0	
Missing	Missing due to skip	1848	13.6		
Total		13616	100.0		

- "Who are you attracted to?"
  - Can tell us how many respondents are attracted to 'male', 'female' or 'gender diverse'.

Q15.2 - Who are you attracted to?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	5437	39.9	46.2	46.2
	Female	5803	42.6	49.3	95.5
	Gender diverse	107	.8	.9	96.4
	Prefer not to answer	421	3.1	3.6	100.0
	Total	11768	86.4	100.0	
Missing	Missing due to skip	1848	13.6		
Total		13616	100.0		

Filling data blind spots

Recoding

- Recoding to get figures for a singular variable for sexuality/ sexual orientation (SO):
  - if (q15_1_gender=1) and (q15_2_attraction=1) SO=1.
  - if (q15_1_gender=2) and (q15_2_attraction=2) SO=1.
  - if (q15_1_gender=1) and (q15_2_attraction=2) SO=0.
  - if (q15_1_gender=2) and (q15_2_attraction=1) SO=0.
  - if (q15_1_gender=1) and (q15_2_attraction=3) SO=2.
  - if (q15_1_gender=2) and (q15_2_attraction=3) SO=2.
  - if (q15_1_gender=3) and (q15_2_attraction=1) SO=3.
  - if (q15_1_gender=3) and (q15_2_attraction=2) SO=3.
  - if (q15_1_gender=3) and (q15_2_attraction=3) SO=3.
  - if (q15_1_gender=4) or (q15_2_attraction =4) SO=-99.

q15_1_gender	1	Male
	2	Female
	3	Gender diverse
	4	Prefer not to answer
q15_2_attraction	1	Male
	2	Female
	3	Gender diverse
	4	Prefer not to answer

SO

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	-99.00	2278	16.7	16.7	16.7
	0. Heterosexual	9992	73.4	73.4	90.1
	1. Gay/Lesbian	1221	9.0	9.0	99.1
	2. Pansexual	97	.7	.7	99.8
	3. Queer/ Sexuality-diverse	28	.2	.2	100.0
	Total	13616	100.0	100.0	

Grouped

SO2

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	-99.00	2278	16.7	16.7	16.7
	0. Heterosexual	9992	73.4	73.4	90.1
	1. Sexual minority	1346	9.9	9.9	100.0
	Total	13616	100.0	100.0	

Filling the data blind spots

Strengths and Limitations

Strengths

- Contributes to efforts of rethinking the measurements of SOGI.
- The data itself allows us to analyse and understand the experiences of certain members of the LGBTIQ+ community.
- Filling data blind spots is crucial to end the harm that violence causes towards LGBTIQ+ individuals across Gauteng (and across the country).
- Sexuality data can still be grouped and analysed to depicts the experiences of whole LGBTIQ+ community.

Limitations

- Can be exclusionary to certain members of the LGBTIQ+ community.
  - May need to rethink how to best ask about gender identity and sexuality.
- The binary sex data remains key to weighting the final dataset.
- Issue of terminology: ‘male’ and ‘female’ are normally used as a biological description of sex.
- Not comparable to the previous iterations of QoL survey.
- There are discrepancies between interviewer-recorded sex and self-reported gender (strength for QoL 7 survey).

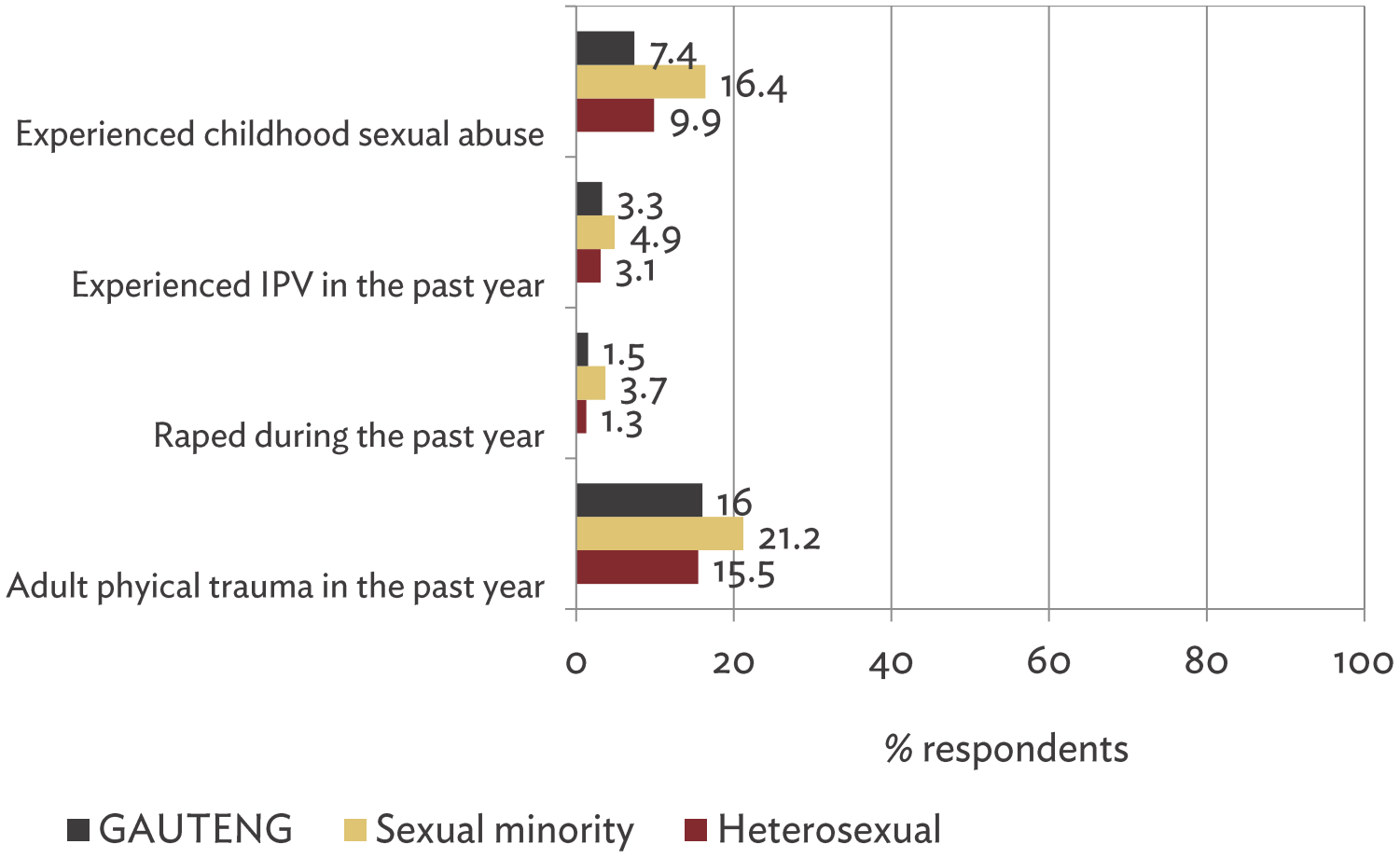
Preliminary analysis from the data

*Photograph is just an illustration and does not depict the respondent. Tshepiso Seleke

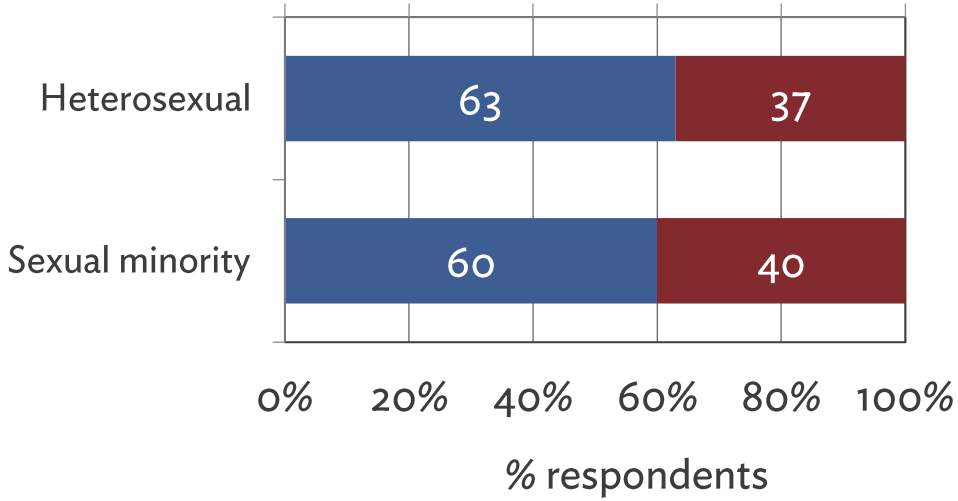
Preliminary analysis from the data

Some results from the data

Experiences of violence



Risk of depression



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Conclusion

A drop in the ocean of survey data

Many data possibilities

- Data could be analysed by sex, gender and sexuality
- Satisfaction with services
- Satisfaction with government
- Access to services, including health.
- Self-reported health status

More resources to explore

- GCRO website
- Quality of Life Survey 6 (2020/21): Overview report
- Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Gauteng City-Region: Findings from the GCRO's Quality of Life Survey 6 (2020/21)
- The Quality of Life Index 2020/21 – interactive visualisation

- The dataset is freely available under the CC BY 4.0 license from the UCT's DataFirst service. For more information, please email info@gcro.ac.za.

Thank You

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