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# Whites' opinions on public holidays and their holiday patterns

B.J. Dixon



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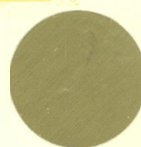
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Whites' opinions on public holidays and their holiday patterns



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# Whites' opinions on public holidays and their holiday patterns

B.J. Dixon

*Series in Statistics and Technology  
Group for Methodology and Technology*

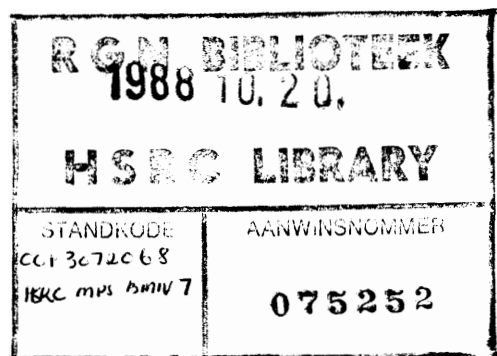
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<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE</b>	
1	<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	1
1.1	<b>Background and aim.....</b>	1
1.2	<b>Research design.....</b>	1
1.2.1	<b>Sample.....</b>	1
1.2.2	<b>Questionnaire.....</b>	4
1.2.3	<b>Method of analysis.....</b>	4
2	<b>DESCRIPTION OF THE SURVEY GROUP.....</b>	5
3	<b>FINDINGS.....</b>	7
3.1	<b>Public holidays.....</b>	7
3.2	<b>Holiday patterns.....</b>	10
4	<b>SUMMARY.....</b>	15
5	<b>CONCLUDING REMARK.....</b>	16
	<b>APPENDICES.....</b>	17



# WHITES' OPINIONS ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND THEIR HOLIDAY PATTERNS

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background and aim

On 20 March 1987 the State President, Mr. P.W. Botha, requested the President's Council to investigate the present calendar of public holidays and to determine whether it satisfies the requirements of the various population groups. The report was drawn up by the President's Council's Committee for Economic Affairs and tabled in Parliament on 15 September 1987. One of the recommendations was that Christmas Day, Good Friday, Republic Day and the Day of the Vow be retained as a core of statutorily determined holidays and another that Founders' Day and Kruger Day should be retained as festive days only but that they should fall away as public holidays.\*

The Opinion Survey Centre (OSC) of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) had, prior to the tabling of the report, identified the need of conducting a scientific investigation into the opinions of the South African public on this topical matter. Since OSC is constantly engaged in opinion surveys by means of individual interviews as well as postal and telephone surveys, a further need arose to obtain information on the holiday patterns of South Africans. It has been learned from experience for instance that there is little point in scheduling surveys for December, since most people are on leave at that time. However, since no information is available for the rest of the year, it was decided to obtain information on this period as well. A telephone survey on these two related topics was therefore carried out during the week from 14 to 17 September 1987.

The survey consequently had a dual purpose, firstly to obtain the opinions of white South Africans on public holidays and secondly to get some indication of their holiday patterns. A further aim was to obtain information which could be compared with that of a similar survey that was conducted among the other population groups at a later stage.

### 1.2 Research design

#### 1.2.1 Sample

##### (a) Random selection of telephone numbers

The sample consisted of 2 000 telephone numbers which were drawn randomly from all the telephone directories of the Republic of South Africa. Approximately 10 % additional numbers per region were also drawn to provide for telephone numbers which would be out of order during the survey, or for cases where no respondent would qualify for an interview.

Since comparatively few telephones have been installed in new residential areas and areas in which the lower socio-economic classes reside, the directory information does not provide an entirely representative picture of the white population. Still it remains the most effective source of information for purposes of sampling.

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\*Die Burger, 16 September 1987.

The procedure according to which the numbers for this sample were drawn was planned as follows:

The entire country was firstly subdivided into areas which correspond to the various telephone directory zones of the area concerned. The demarcation of these areas is indicated in the telephone directories.

Population figures for the white population of these areas were subsequently calculated according to the latest figures of the Central Statistical Services. The proportions calculated for each region were based on these figures, with the aid of which the number of telephone numbers from each zone was determined proportionally to obtain a total of 2 000 numbers. After establishing how many numbers per telephone directory zone had to be drawn, the correct number of telephone numbers was selected as follows:

The number of pages with telephone numbers in the directories of each zone was determined and these numbers of pages were divided by the number of telephone numbers required in that zone. The interval between pages on which a number had to be drawn were determined in this way. The procedure is set out in Table 1. A random decision had to be made beforehand regarding the position on the page at which the number should be taken. In cases where the number was that of a business, hotel, home for the aged or of somebody belonging to another population group, the first number thereafter of a white person was drawn.

The sample was consequently stratified according to geographical location and population density. The sample was also drawn systematically by deciding on the intervals between pages and then determining randomly the position on the page at which a number had to be drawn. Use was therefore made of complex or multistage sampling.

**TABLE 1: TELEPHONE SAMPLE AND NUMBER OF COMPLETED INTERVIEWS PER REGION**

Region/ telephone directory	Pages per di- rectory	Popula- tion per region	Percen- tage (%)	Numbers per region	Every n'th page	Addi- tional numbers	Completed interviews	
							N	%
Johannesburg	1 191	518 218	11,4	227	5	23	105	8,6
East Rand	795	505 425	11,1	221	4	19	132	10,8
West Rand	582	202 440	4,4	89	7	5	54	4,5
Pretoria	522	434 038	9,5	190	3	25	130	10,6
Vaal Triangle	206	210 686	4,6	92	2	5	67	5,5
Northern Transvaal	189	105 326	2,3	46	4	6	25	2,1
Eastern Transvaal	317	286 114	6,3	125	3	14	74	6,1
Western Transvaal	257	237 982	5,2	104	2	7	73	6,0
Cape Peninsula	1 010	456 210	10,0	200	5	17	112	9,2
Boland,West Coast	331	178 675	3,9	78	4	12	41	3,4
Southern Cape Karoo,	141	80 420	1,8	35	4	8	25	2,1
Namaqualand	69	38 415	0,8	17	4	5	12	1,0
Northern Cape	180	111 064	2,4	49	4	6	33	2,7
Eastern Cape	289	172 893	3,8	76	4	12	42	3,5
P.E. and sur- rounding area	309	173 902	3,8	76	4	7	51	4,2
O.F.S.	467	294 212	6,4	129	4	12	83	6,8
Durban	720	316 678	6,9	139	5	13	91	7,5
Natal	314	166 937	3,7	73	4	8	49	4,0
South Coast	65	34 208	0,8	15	4	5	9	0,7
North Coast	126	42 974	0,9	19	4	1	9	0,7
<b>Total</b>		<b>4 566 817</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>2 000</b>		<b>210</b>	<b>1 217</b>	<b>100,0</b>

(b) Selection of the respondent

One would expect to find more than one respondent who could be interviewed in most households. If the interview is simply conducted with the first person who answers the telephone the sample can become skew as regards sex for instance, since experience has shown that a woman answers the telephone in most cases. A specific person was therefore interviewed at each telephone number. The process by which this person was selected was in the form of a randomly compiled respondent table or grid, an example of which is given in Table 2.



**TABLE 2: GRID FOR THE SELECTION OF THE RESPONDENT**

Family consisting of:

1 person	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons	5 persons	6 persons
1	2	1	3	3	2
1	1	3	4	1	1
1	1	2	1	2	4
1	2	1	2	4	5
1	2	2	3	5	3

The selection of the respondents was done as follows:

- (i) The first step was to determine how many persons at each household were over the age of 18 years. Persons who would not be available for the duration of the survey were eliminated.
- (ii) The correct column on the grid was subsequently selected according to the number of persons available in other words the first column for one person, second column for two persons, et cetera.
- (iii) The top figure in that column was then used to select the respondent. The figure 1 indicates the oldest of the persons available, 2 the second oldest, et cetera.
- (iv) If a respondent had to be drawn from the same column at a subsequent telephone number, the first number in the column that had not been used previously was taken.

**1.2.2 Questionnaire**

The questionnaire consisted of 21 questions. In addition to the biographical questions, the respondents were asked in respect of each holiday whether they were satisfied with it, whether it should be abolished or moved to another day or month and what they had done on that day the previous year. They were also given the opportunity to suggest any additional holidays. The rest of the questions dealt with the duration and nature of long weekends and holidays which the respondents had spent away from home during the previous year. The complete questionnaire is included in Appendix 11.

The calls were made between 17h00 and 21h00 during the week from 14 to 21 September 1987. The interviews were conducted by 28 female and 7 male interviewers of the Opinion Survey Centre who had been thoroughly trained and tested in the technique of telephone surveys and handling the questionnaire. Interviews were conducted in Afrikaans or English, depending on the respondents' language preference. More than two thirds of the interviewers had had considerable previous experience of telephone surveys (ten persons had already completed ten or more surveys) whereas nine persons participated in a telephone survey for the first time.

**1.2.3 Method of analysis**

- (a) Frequency tables of the responses were obtained on the various questions.

- (b) Double-entry tables were compiled in which the responses were analyzed according to the following biographical variables: language, sex, age and level of education.
- (c) A multiple analysis was done with the aid of the CHAID computer program to obtain an indication of the role played by the biographical variables in the responses. More particulars on the CHAID program can be obtained from the report by Du Toit, Steyn en Stumpf (1984)\*.

## 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SURVEY GROUP

Although 2 000 numbers were drawn initially, 210 additional numbers were eventually dialled to provide for numbers which did not form part of the sample. These numbers included those of businesses, telephones out of order and other numbers where nobody qualified for the survey. Altogether 2 210 numbers were consequently dialled, at which 1 217 (55,1 %) interviews were completed. Slightly more than a tenth of the calls (11,5 %) resulted in refusals and an equal number remained unanswered after three attempts, whereas an engaged tone was encountered in 68 (3,1 %) of the cases. If wrong numbers and numbers at which no one qualified (which strictly speaking do not form part of the sample) are discounted it means that 66,3 % of the remaining 1 835 calls resulted in completed interviews and that there were 13,8 % refusals. This corresponds more or less to the normal pattern in telephone surveys among whites.

The number of completed interviews per region appears in Table 1. The geographical distribution generally compares very favourably with the population figures. The total realization is given in Table 3.

**TABLE 3: REALIZATION OF THE SAMPLE**

	Number out of order	Nobody qualifies	Re-fusal	En-gaged	No reply	Re-spondent not at home	Com-pleted	Total
N	192	183	254	68	254	42	1 217	2 210
%	8,6	8,3	11,5	3,1	11,5	1,9	55,1	100,0

The sex, age, language and level of education of respondents are indicated in Tables 4 to 7 respectively.

\*Du Toit, S.H.C., Steyn, A.G.W., Stumpf, R.H. Statistiese Grafika. Human Sciences Research Council. Report WS-30, Pretoria, 1984.

**TABLE 4: SEX**

	Male	Female	Total
N	513	704	1 217
%	42,2	57,8	100,0
Census	48,5	51,5	100,0

A comparison of the sex structure of the survey group with published figures of the 1985 population census reveals that women were slightly overrepresented\*.

**TABLE 5: AGE**

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+	Total
N	120	275	305	216	301	1 217
%	9,9	22,6	25,1	17,7	24,7	100,0
Census	17,4	23,5	20,4	14,7	24,0	100,0

The age distribution of the survey group compares most favourably with the census figures. The greatest deviation occurs in the 18-24 age group which can probably be ascribed to the fact that no hostels or defence force camps were included in the survey. It is also true that persons in this group are generally more inclined than others to be out of doors between 17h00 and 22h00.

**TABLE 6: LANGUAGE**

	Afrikaans	English	Other	Total
N	683	502	32	1 217
%	56,1	41,2	2,6	100,0
Census	52,9	36,8	10,3	100,0

The language structure of the survey group also compares fairly satisfactorily with that of the population.

\*South Africa (Republic). Central Statistical Services. Report no. 02-85-06 Population Census 85. 1985.

**TABLE 7: LEVEL OF EDUCATION**

	Up to and including std 8	Std 10	Further than std 10	Total
N	357	422	438	1 217
%	29,3	34,7	36,0	100,0

Unfortunately no census data in respect of education were available for purposes of comparison.

The biographical data of the survey group generally do not deviate to any great extent from the 1985 census data and no corrections were consequently necessary.

### 3 FINDINGS

#### 3.1 Public holidays

The first question was merely aimed at gauging the respondents' general opinion on the number of public holidays. The responses are indicated in Table 8. The questionnaire has been attached to the report as Appendix 11.

**TABLE 8: NUMBER OF HOLIDAYS ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN CALENDER AT PRESENT**

	Too many	Too few	Just enough	Total
N	170	224	823	1 217
%	14,0	18,4	67,6	100,0

It appears from Table 8 that slightly more than two thirds (67,6 %) of the respondents were of the opinion that there were just enough public holidays. Approximately one out of every five respondents (18,4 %) felt that there were too few and 14 % that there were too many. The dendrograms that were compiled from the multiple CHAID analyses appear in Appendix 1. From these it appears that age is the most important predictor in this regard. Older persons in particular (over the age of 55 years) thought that there were too many holidays whereas younger respondents (18-34 years) were of the opinion that there were too few. However, it should be remembered that younger respondents were slightly underrepresented, which could have had an influence on the responses.

Table 9 indicates the respondents' opinions on each of the existing public holidays. They were requested to indicate in respect of each holiday whether they were satisfied with it as it is at present, whether it should be abolished and whether it should be moved to the nearest Monday or Friday or to another month.

**TABLE 9: OPINION ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**

N %	New Year's Day	Founders' Day	Good Friday	Family Day	Workers' Day	Ascension Day	Republic Day	Kruger Day	Day of the Vow	Christmas Day	Day of Goodwill
Satisfied	1 170 96,14	986 81,02	1 184 97,29	1 131 92,93	882 72,47	1 123 92,28	1 098 90,22	912 74,94	1 088 89,40	1 205 99,01	1 144 94,00
Abolish	14 1,15	100 8,22	8 0,66	53 4,35	214 17,58	33 2,71	41 3,37	176 14,46	74 6,08	2 0,16	55 4,52
Move	33 2,71	131 10,76	25 2,05	33 2,71	121 9,94	61 5,01	78 6,41	129 10,60	55 4,52	10 0,82	18 1,48
Total	1 217 100,0	1 217 100,0	1 217 100,0	1 217 100,0	1 217 100,0	1 217 100,0	1 217 100,0	1 217 100,0	1 217 100,0	1 217 100,0	1 217 100,0

Most of the respondents were satisfied with the holidays as they are at present. The days with which comparatively fewer respondents were content were Workers' Day (72,5 % were satisfied), Kruger Day (74,9 %) and Founder's Day (81,0 %). Ninety-nine percent and 97,3 % of the respondents respectively expressed satisfaction with the Christmas Day and Good Friday religious holidays.

Workers' Day is the one holiday concerning which most respondents felt that it should be abolished. Almost one out of every five respondents expressed this view. Almost 15 % of the respondents were also of the opinion that Kruger Day should disappear, whereas practically nobody advocated the abolition of Christmas Day and Good Friday.

To the question whether the holidays should be moved 10,6 % and 10,8 % respectively suggested that Kruger Day and Founders' Day should move (in most cases to another month) while 9,9 % were also of the opinion that Workers' Day could be moved (50 % favoured another month and 50 % felt that it could move to the nearest Monday or Friday).

Respondents were also asked what they had done on each of the holidays the previous year. The answers appear in Table 10. The categories were made mutually exclusive with a view to facilitating interpretation. If a respondent indicated that he had attended a festivity or church service, that response was recorded irrespective of whether he had been at home, working or relaxing.



**TABLE 10: ACTIVITY ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**

N %	New Year's Day	Founders' Day	Good Friday	Family Day	Workers' Day	Ascension Day	Republic Day	Kruger Day	Day of the Vow	Christmas Day	Day of Goodwill
Cannot remember	10 0,82	28 2,30	8 0,66	9 0,74	26 2,14	15 1,23	21 1,73	37 3,04	15 1,23	7 0,58	7 0,58
Worked	80 6,57	130 10,68	49 4,03	75 6,16	189 15,53	66 5,42	83 6,82	112 9,20	77 6,33	33 2,71	57 4,68
Relaxed at home	609 50,04	801 65,82	399 32,79	679 55,79	866 71,16	605 49,71	723 59,41	790 64,91	563 46,26	386 31,72	622 51,11
Not at home	478 39,28	247 20,30	307 25,23	392 32,21	133 10,93	160 13,15	321 26,38	240 19,72	327 26,87	409 33,61	492 40,43
Church /festivity	40 3,29	11 0,90	454 37,30	62 5,09	3 0,25	371 30,48	69 5,67	38 3,12	235 19,31	382 31,39	39 3,2
Total	1 217 100,0	1 217 100,0	1 217 100,0	1 217 100,0	1 217 100,0	1 217 100,0	1 217 100,0	1 217 100,0	1 217 100,0	1 217 100,0	1 217 100,0

It appears from the table that Workers' Day is the day on which comparatively more respondents work (15,5 %) than on other days. However, the majority of people did not work on holidays. It also appears that about a third of the respondents attended church on religious holidays (Good Friday 37,3 %, Christmas Day 31,4 % and Ascension Day 30,5 %) while the Day of the Vow was by far the most important national festival or historical holiday. Approximately one out of every five respondents (19,3 %) attended a church service or festivity. The CHAID analyses show that Afrikaans-speaking persons were more inclined to attend church services and festivities than their English-speaking counterparts. Marital status also appears to be an important predictor, although there were no definite trends in this regard (see appendices 2.2, 2.4 and 2.5).

Respondents were given the opportunity to suggest any additional holidays and 109 (9,0 %) made use of the offer (see Table 11). The proposals in order of numerical importance are family days, days for black and other groups, historical festivals, seasonal festivals and Second New Year's Day. Almost three quarters of the 109 respondents (74,3 %) would prefer to have these additional holidays during the second half of the year.

**TABLE 11: ADDITIONAL HOLIDAYS SUGGESTED BY RESPONDENTS**

HOLIDAYS	N	%
Unanswered	1 108	.
Family days	23	21,1
Days for blacks and other groups	21	19,3
Historical holidays	14	12,8
Seasonal days	12	11,0
Second New Year	10	9,2
Days of Thanksgiving	9	8,3
Other	20	18,3
Total	109	100,0

### 3.2 Holiday patterns

The rest of the questionnaire dealt with holiday patterns. Although interest was focused mainly on holiday patterns during and outside school holidays, the respondents were also asked how many times they had been away from home during long weekends in the course of the previous year (i.e. September 1986 to September 1987) and whether they had been away from home during the immediately preceding long weekend (Table 12).

**TABLE 12: NUMBER OF TIMES AWAY DURING LONG WEEKENDS THE PAST YEAR**

Number of times	N	%
Unanswered	6	.
Not at all	485	40,0
Once	260	21,4
Two or more times	469	38,6
Total	1 211	100,0

It is worthy of note that 40 % of the respondents had not been away at all for a long weekend whereas almost the same number (38,6 %) had been away more than once. It appears from the CHAID analyses that younger respondents in particular (18 to 24 years) went away for long weekends while older respondents (45 years and older) were inclined to stay at home (see Appendix 3). In the 25 to 44 year category respondents without children tended to go away more often than those with children. The same tendency is also apparent from the CHAID analyses at Question 15 in which information was provided on the preceding long weekend (see Table 13 and Appendix 4). This is probably related to the fact that younger people do not have children or that their children have not yet reached school-going age.

**TABLE 13: AWAY DURING LAST LONG WEEKEND**

ANSWER	N	%
Unanswered	12	.
Yes	316	26,2
No	862	71,5
Cannot remember	27	2,2
Total	1 205	100,0

In Questions 16 and 17 respondents were asked about holidays spent during and outside school holidays. Table 14 indicates the responses to the questions that were aimed at discovering how many times the respondent had been away from home during and outside school holidays the previous year.

**TABLE 14: NUMBER OF TIMES AWAY DURING AND OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

Number of times	During		Outside	
	N	%	N	%
Unanswered	1	.	12	.
Not at all	677	55,7	796	66,1
Once	372	30,6	283	23,5
Two or more times	167	13,7	126	10,5
Total	1 216	100,0	1 205	100,0

Approximately 44 % of the respondents were away from home once or more times during school holidays and 34 % were away on the same number of occasions out of season. The CHAID analyses confirm the assumption that respondents with school-going children go on leave during school holidays, whereas those with children who do not yet attend school spend their holidays out of season (see appendices 5 and 6). In the group without children or with children who are not yet at school, the older persons in particular (over the age of 45 years) tended to remain at home during school holidays.

Table 15 indicates how long respondents were away for the previous holiday during and outside school holidays. This question as well as the following one (when the respondent was away) was only put to respondents who indicated at the previous question (see Table 14) that they had been away from home on one occasion or more.

**TABLE 15: DURATION OF ABSENCE DURING AND OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

Duration	During		Outside	
	N	%	N	%
Unanswered	9	.	10	.
1-2 weeks	300	56,6	256	64,2
2-3 weeks	159	30,0	78	19,5
3-4 weeks	56	10,6	43	10,8
Longer	15	2,8	22	5,5
Total	530	100,0	399	100,1

It appears from the table that 57-64 % of both groups of respondents had not been away for longer than two weeks during the previous school holiday.

Table 16 indicates the last holiday in which the respondents had been away for longer than a week during or outside the school holidays. The months in which a holiday was spent outside school holidays were combined in the same way as for during school holidays for purposes of comparison.

**TABLE 16: WHEN LAST HOLIDAY WAS SPENT DURING AND OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

Month	During		Outside	
	N	%	N	%
Unanswered	30	.	77	.
Dec/Jan	239	47,0	21	6,3
February	.	.	38	11,4
March/April	105	20,6	56	16,8
May	.	.	55	16,6
June/July	144	28,3	50	15,0
August	.	.	41	12,3
Sept/Oct	21	4,1	52	15,6
November	.	.	19	3,6
Total	509	100,0	332	100,0

It appears from the table that the most popular school holiday was during December and January (47,0 %), followed by June/July (28,3%) and March/April (20,6 %). The distribution outside school holidays was much more even with the peak periods in March/April (16,8 %), May (16,6 %) and September/October (15,6 %). If both groups of respondents are considered, it appears that the joint peak periods were December/January, June/July and March/April. Care should consequently be taken in planning surveys during these periods.

Respondents were subsequently asked what type of accommodation they had occupied during their previous holiday and where the holiday had been spent. Their responses appear in Tables 17 and 18 respectively.

**TABLE 17: ACCOMMODATION OCCUPIED DURING PREVIOUS HOLIDAY**

Type of accommodation	N	%
Unanswered	38	.
Holiday house or flat	542	46,0
Relatives or friends	217	18,4
Hotel	186	15,8
Camping facilities	180	15,2
Other	54	4,6
Total	1 179	100,0

Almost half of the respondents occupied holiday houses or flats, while staying with friends and relatives constituted the second most popular form of accommodation. Approximately equal numbers of respondents stayed in hotels or camped. It appears from the CHAID analyses (see Appendix 7) that younger and older persons (under 25 and over 45) were more inclined to occupy holiday houses or flats or to stay with relatives or friends, while persons between the ages of 25 and 45 preferred hotel accommodation or camping.

**TABLE 18: PLACE WHERE LAST HOLIDAY WAS SPENT**

Type of holiday resort	N	%
Unanswered	32	.
Beach	588	49,6
Relatives or friends	265	22,4
Inland resort	240	20,2
Other	92	7,8
Total	1 185	100,0

Table 18 shows that holiday resorts at the coast were most popular, since about half of the respondents had spent their previous holiday there. Although the category "Relatives or friends" appears in both Tables it need not necessarily correspond, since some respondents, for instance, spent their previous holiday at the seaside but at the same time occupied accommodation provided by friends or relatives, whereas others stayed with relatives or friends who do not live in seaside cities or towns. It appears from the CHAID analyses (see Appendix 8) that older persons in particular (over 55) spent holidays with relatives or friends.

Table 19 indicates the responses to the question regarding the money spent by respondents on holidays in relation to their monthly incomes.



**TABLE 19: MONEY SPENT ON HOLIDAYS IN RELATION TO MONTHLY INCOME**

Money spent	N	%
Unanswered	31	.
Less than one month's income	539	45,4
Approximately one month's income	328	27,7
More than one month's income	166	14,0
Not applicable (e.g.unemployed)	153	12,9
Total	1 186	100,0

Most respondents (45,4 %) indicated that they spent less than one month's income on holidays. The CHAID analyses (see Appendix 9) reveal that female respondents in particular spent less than one month's income whereas male respondents were more inclined to indicate that they spent about one month's income.

In the last question respondents were asked what sort of holiday they would like to have if money and time were no object. The responses appear in Table 20.

**TABLE 20: HOLIDAY WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS**

Type of holiday	N	%
Unanswered	9	.
Overseas	415	34,4
Inland holiday resort	343	28,4
Beach	224	18,5
Camping	65	5,4
Relatives	17	1,4
Other	144	11,9
Totaal	1 208	100,0

It appears that most respondents (34,4 %) would prefer an overseas holiday if there were no restrictions on time and money. From the CHAID analyses (Appendix 10) it appears that English-speaking persons and those with other home languages in particular would prefer to go overseas. A considerable group (28,5 %) of the respondents would also be satisfied with a holiday at an inland resort (which includes a hotel holiday at Sun City or a private game reserve).

**SUMMARY**

During the week from 14 to 21 September 1987, 1 217 white South Africans throughout the country were interviewed by telephone regarding their opinions on public holidays as well as regarding their holiday patterns. The interviews were conducted by 35 trained telephone interviewers of the Opinion Survey Centre (OSC) of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC). The most important findings were the following:

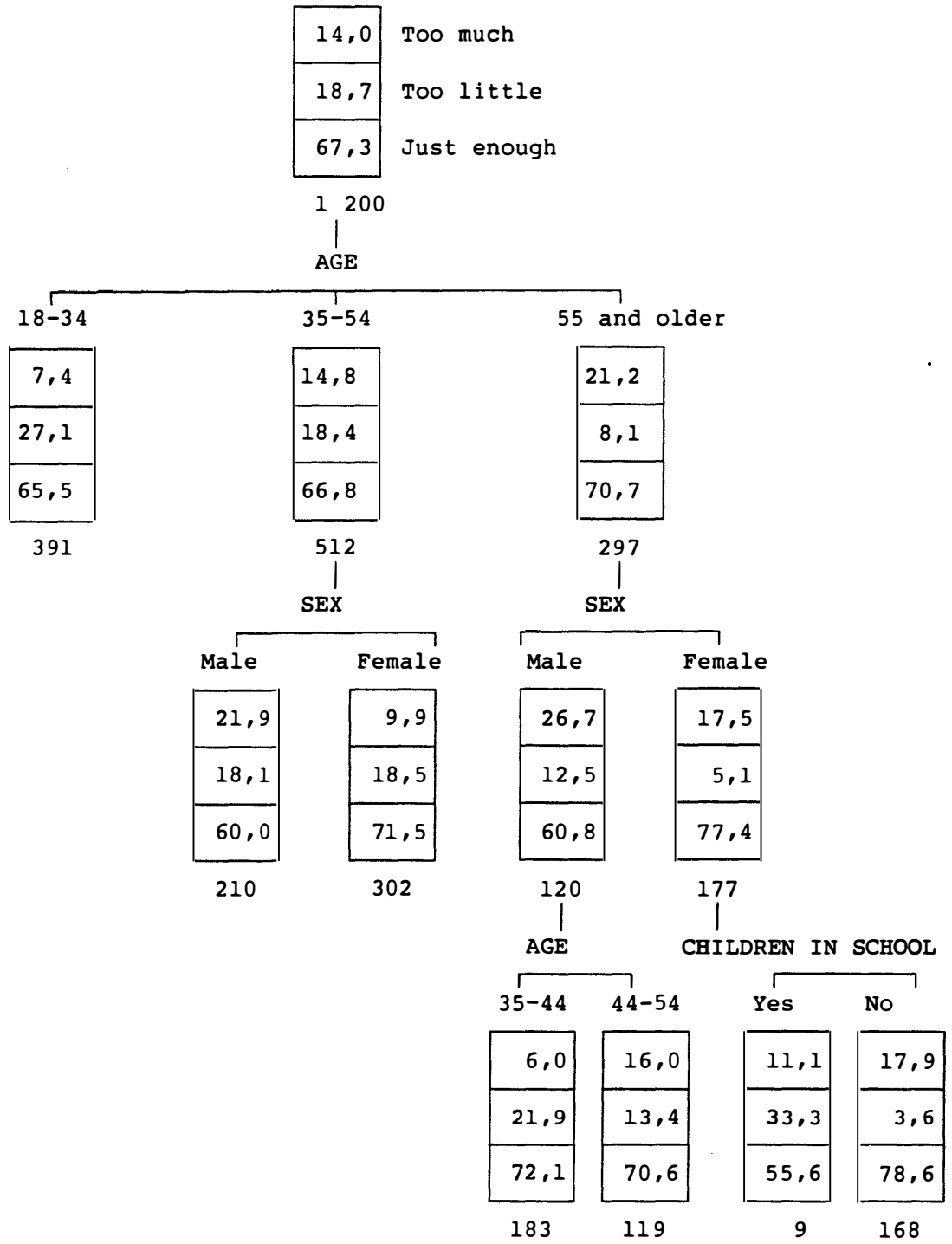
- 4.1 More than two thirds of the respondents were of the opinion that there were just enough holidays. Some of the younger respondents felt that there were too few.
- 4.2 Although the majority of the respondents were satisfied with the holidays at present, comparatively fewer respondents (about three quarters) were happy with Workers' Day, Kruger Day and Founders' Day while practically everybody was satisfied with Christmas Day and Good Friday. Approximately one out of every five respondents expressed the opinion that Workers' Day could be abolished.
- 4.3 About a third of the respondents attended church services on religious holidays during the year before the survey. The Day of the Vow is the most important historical holiday by far and almost one out of every five respondents went to church or attended festivities on that day.
- 4.4 Two out of every five respondents indicated that they had not been away from home at all for long weekends during the previous year. It also appeared that younger respondents in particular went away for long weekends while older respondents tended to stay at home.
- 4.5 Slightly more than two out of every five respondents (44,3 %) were away on leave during school holidays, whereas about a third (34,0 %) took their holidays out of season. It appears that persons whose children have not yet reached school-going age were more inclined to go away on leave outside school holidays.
- 4.6 Almost half of the respondents who were away on leave during school holidays went during the December/January holiday while only about 4 % went away during September/October. As regards respondents who preferred to go away out of season, the distribution was much more even with the peak period during March/April and May, and the slackest time in November. Peak holiday periods for both groups jointly were particularly December/January, March/April and June/July, which means that care should be taken in planning surveys at those times.
- 4.7 Holiday homes or flats appeared to be the most popular form of accommodation during holidays. Almost half of the respondents had used these types of accommodation for their most recent holiday.
- 4.8 It appeared that coastal resorts were the most popular places for respondents' holidays since almost half of them had spent their previous holiday there. If time and money were no problem, most respondents (especially English-speaking and those with other home languages) would prefer an overseas holiday.
- 4.9 Almost half of the working respondents indicated that they spent less than a month's income on holidays.

**CONCLUDING REMARK**

This survey provided interesting and useful information on holidays and holiday patterns. However, since it was conducted among whites only it should be viewed in relation to the results of the same survey which was carried out at a later stage among coloureds in the Cape and Indians in Natal. It should also be regarded as an exploratory venture which did not go into all the aspects of holiday patterns. More detailed investigations are necessary to establish the reasons for the public's holiday preferences and patterns as well as to determine distances that are travelled, means of transport and in conclusion, how all these preferences remain constant or change from year to year.

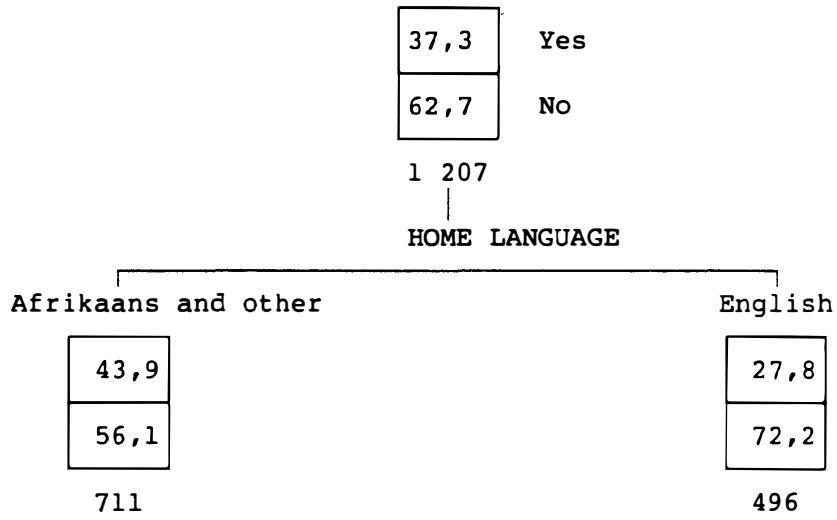
APPENDIX 1

CHAID ANALYSIS: NUMBER OF PUBLIC HOLIDAYS



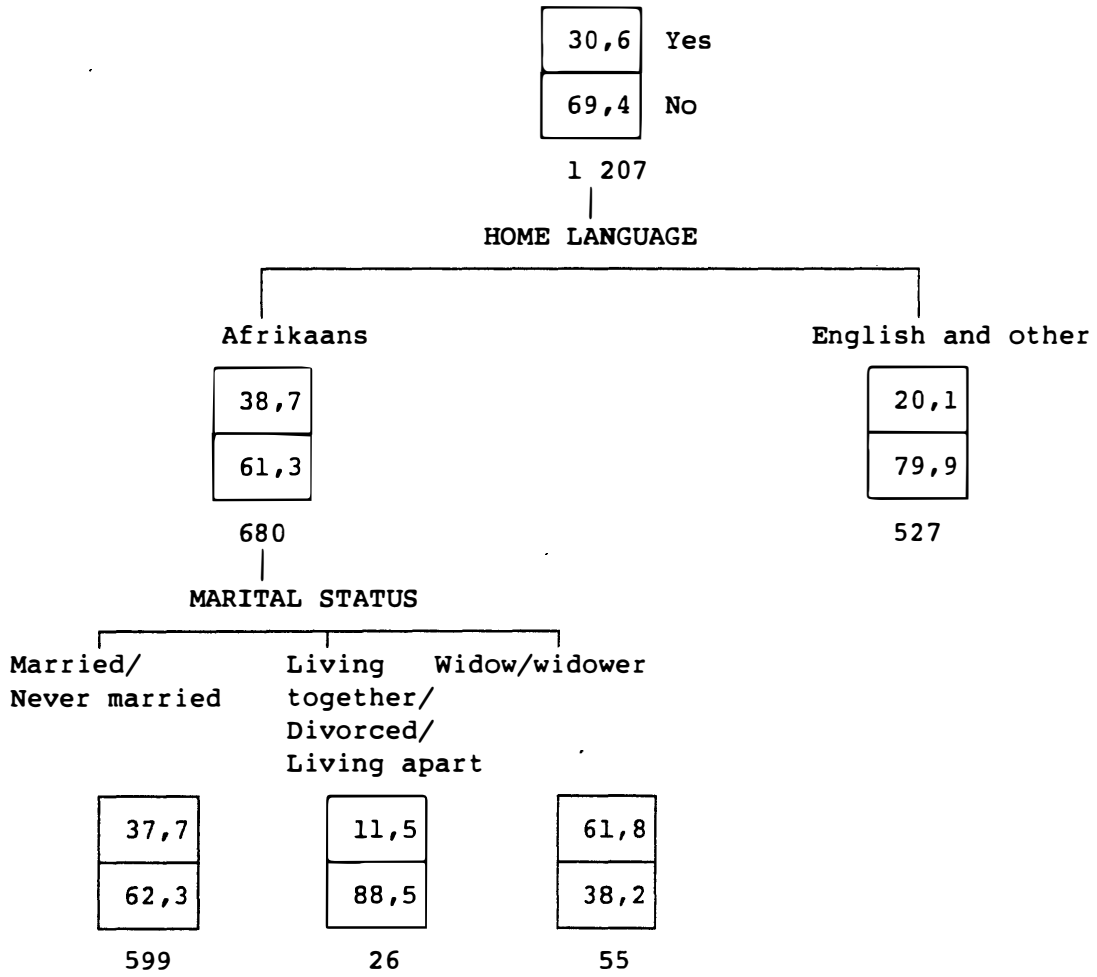
APPENDIX 2.1

CHAID ANALYSIS: ATTENDANCE OF CHURCH OR FESTIVITIES ON GOOD FRIDAY



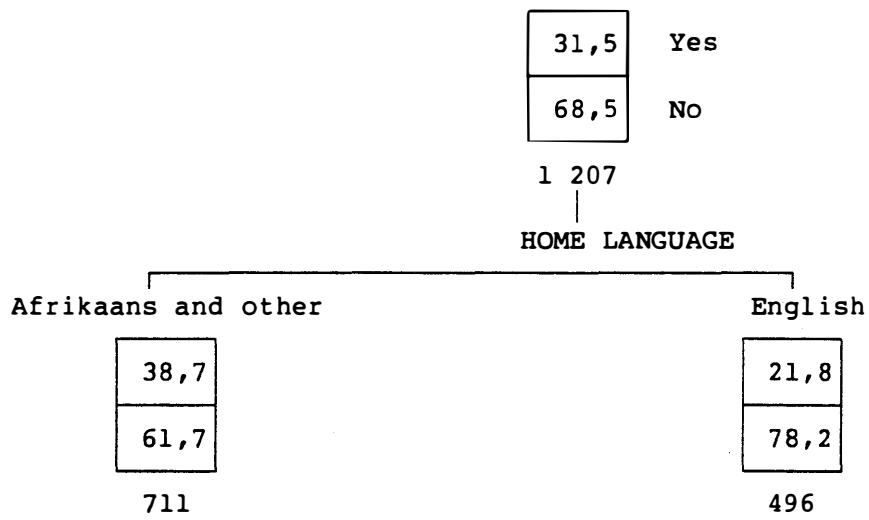
APPENDIX 2.2

CHAID ANALYSIS: ATTENDANCE OF CHURCH OR FESTIVITIES ON FOUNDERS' DAY



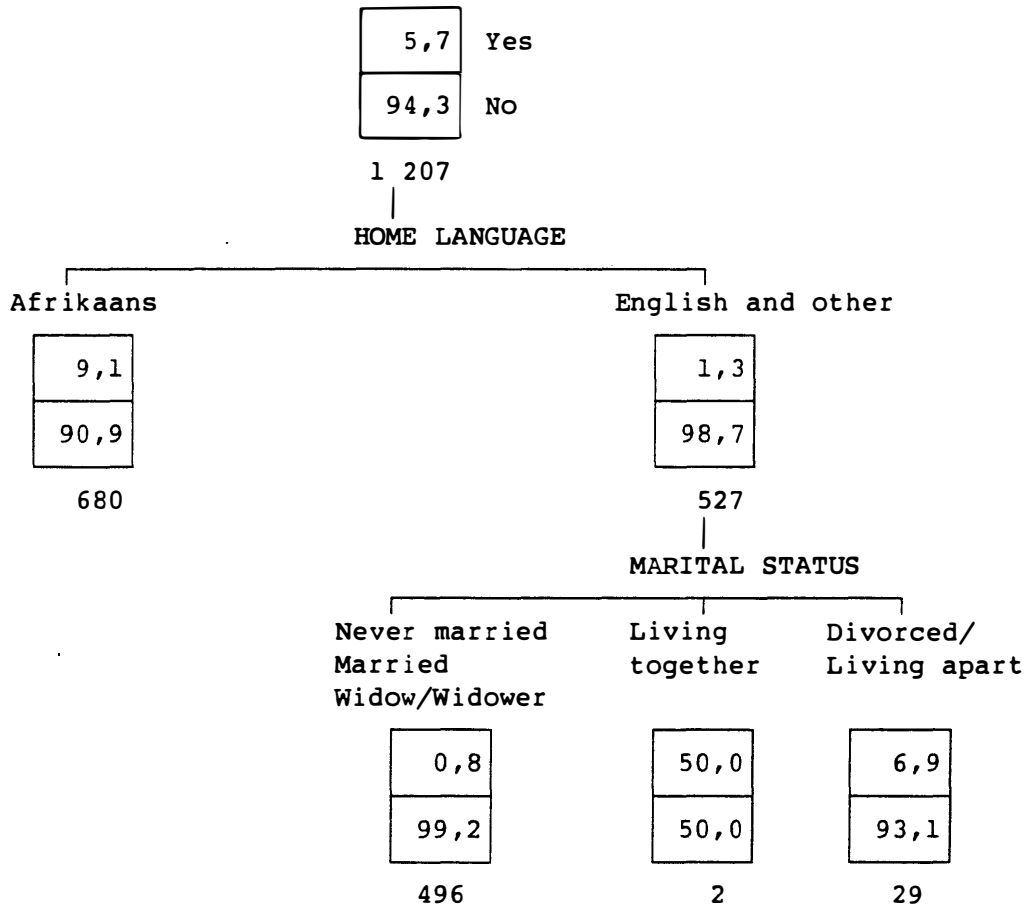
APPENDIX 2.3

CHAID ANALYSIS: ATTENDANCE OF CHURCH OR FESTIVITIES ON CHRISTMAS DAY



APPENDIX 2.4

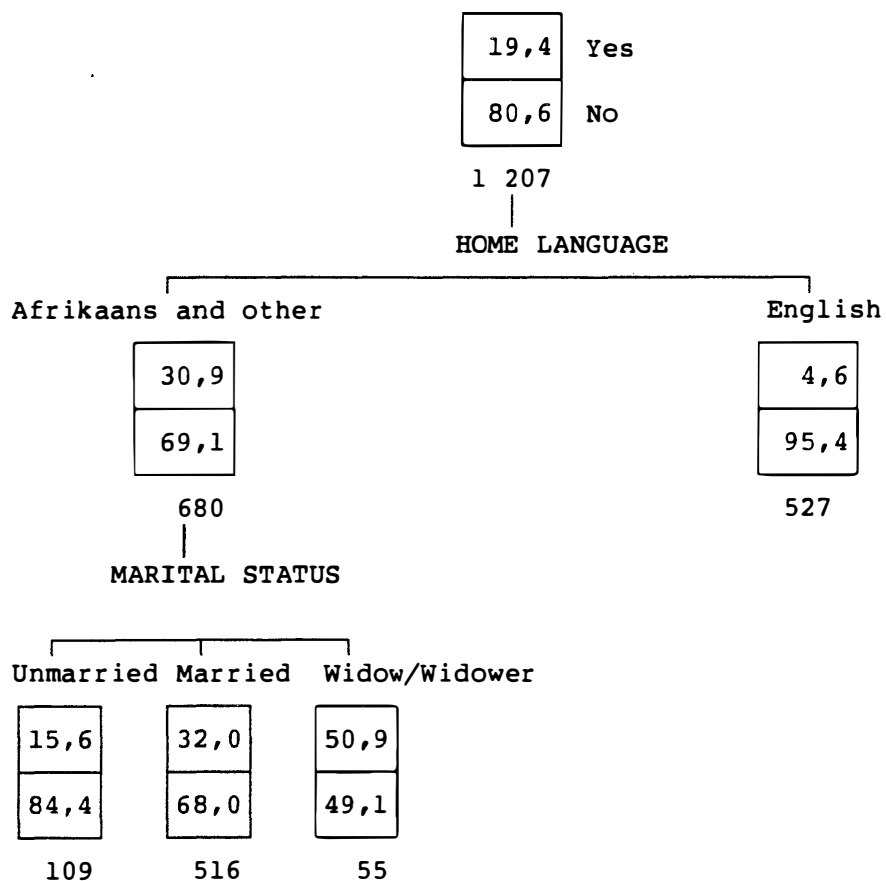
CHAID ANALYSIS: ATTENDANCE OF CHURCH OR FESTIVITIES ON REPUBLIC DAY





APPENDIX 2.5

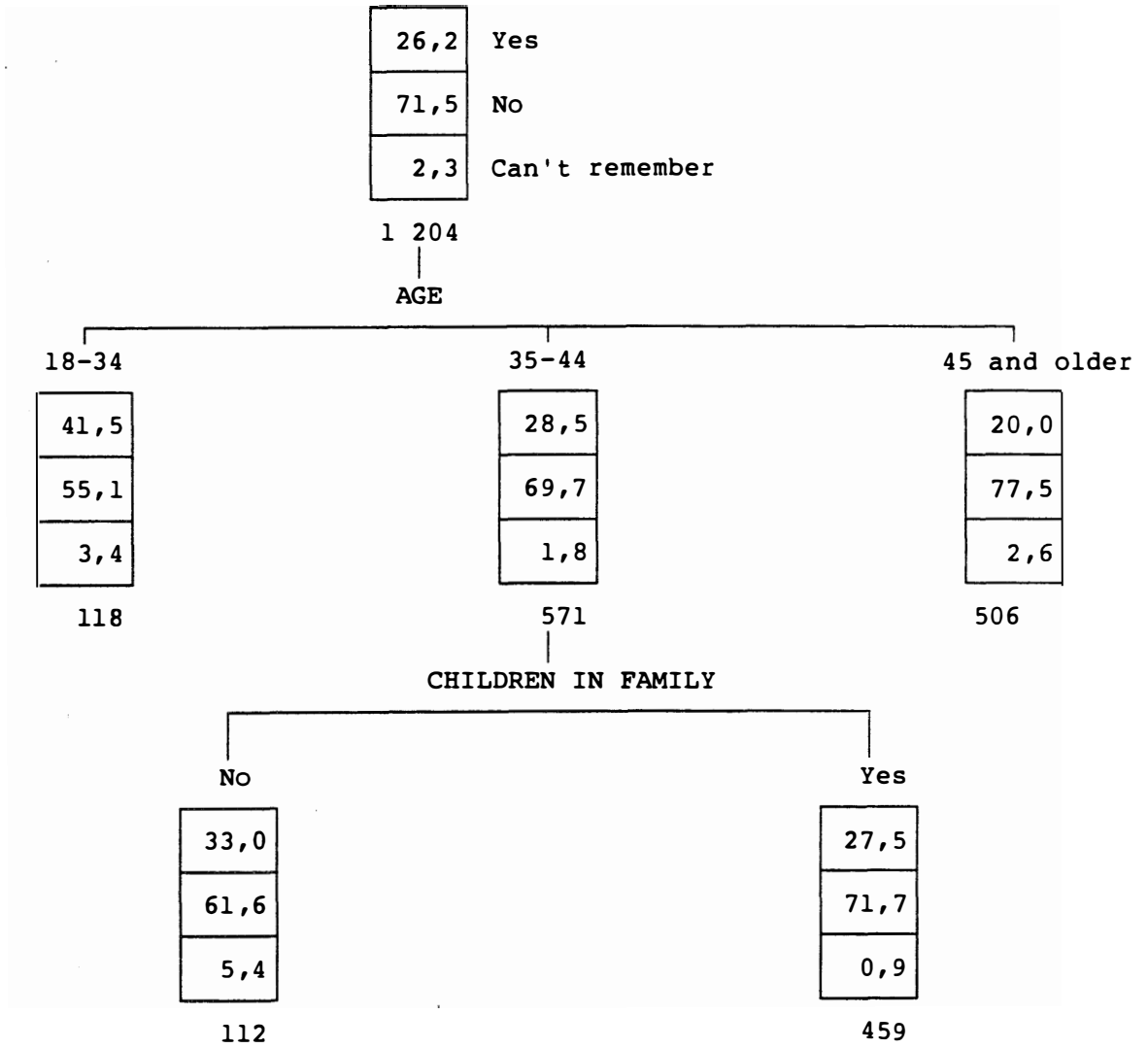
CHAID ANALYSIS: ATTENDANCE OF CHURCH OR FESTIVITIES ON DAY OF THE VOW





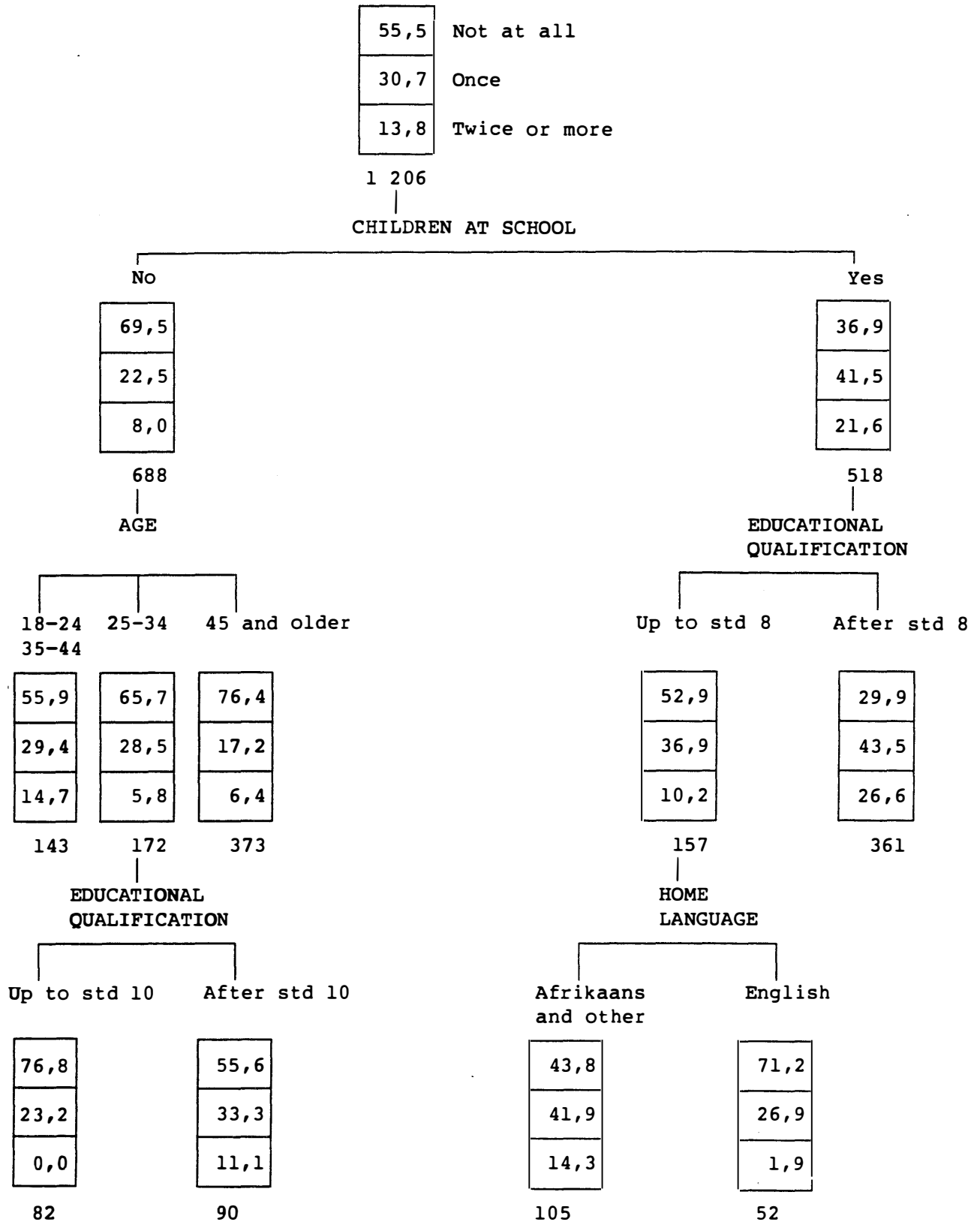
APPENDIX 4

CHAID ANALYSIS: AWAY FROM HOME DURING LAST LONG WEEKEND?



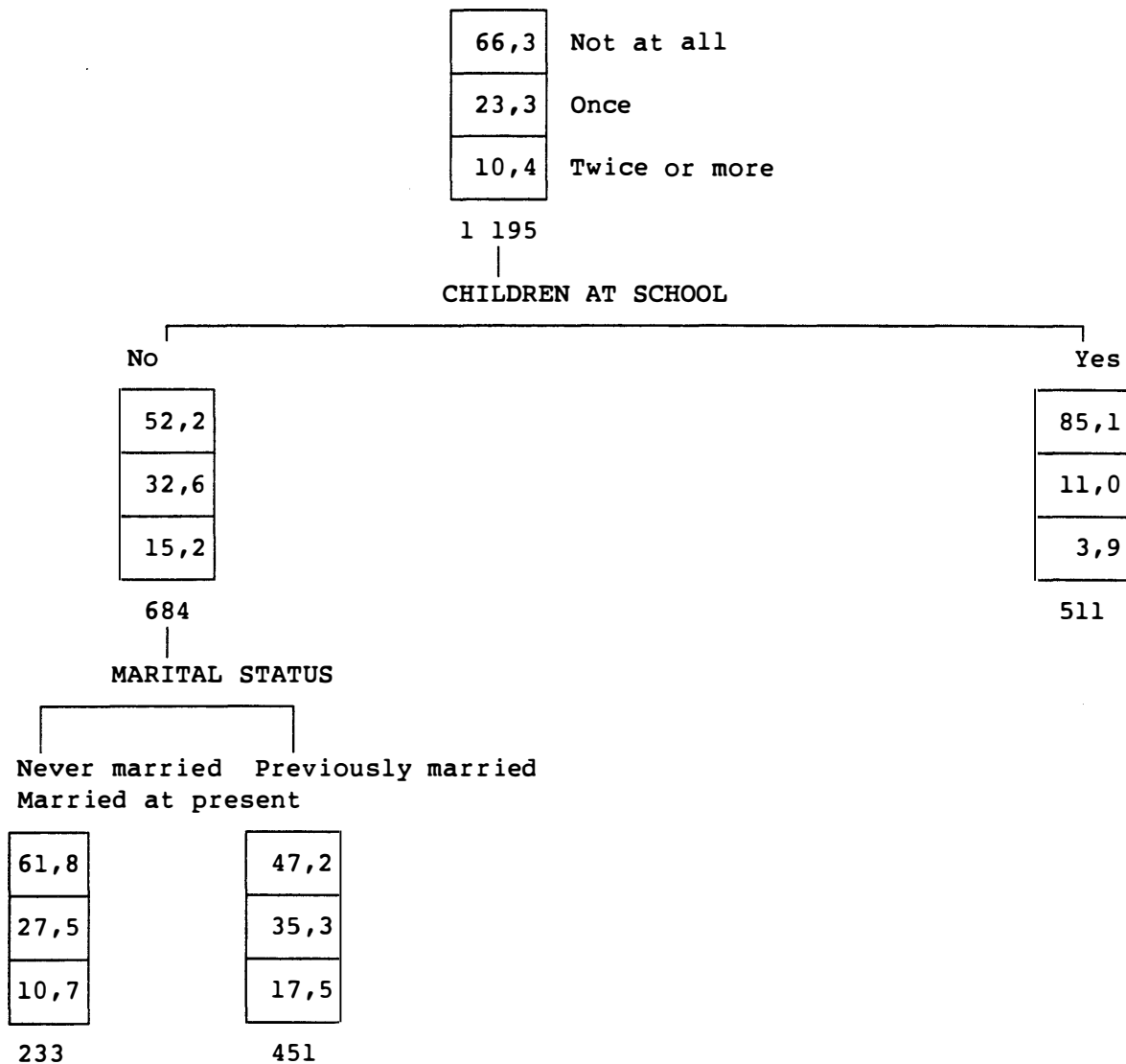
APPENDIX 5

CHAID ANALYSIS: NUMBER OF TIMES AWAY DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS THE PAST YEAR



APPENDIX 6

CHAID ANALYSIS: NUMBER OF TIMES AWAY ON LEAVE OUT OF SEASON THE PAST YEAR



APPENDIX 7

CHAID ANALYSIS: ACCOMMODATION USED DURING LAST HOLIDAY

45,9	Holiday house or flat
18,4	Family or friends
15,7	Hotel
15,4	Camping
4,6	Other

1 169

AGE

18-24  
45 and older

25-44

47,9
21,9
14,5
10,6
5,1

612

SEX

43,6
14,5
17,1
20,6
4,1

557

Male

Female

53,2
18,1
15,8
10,9
1,9

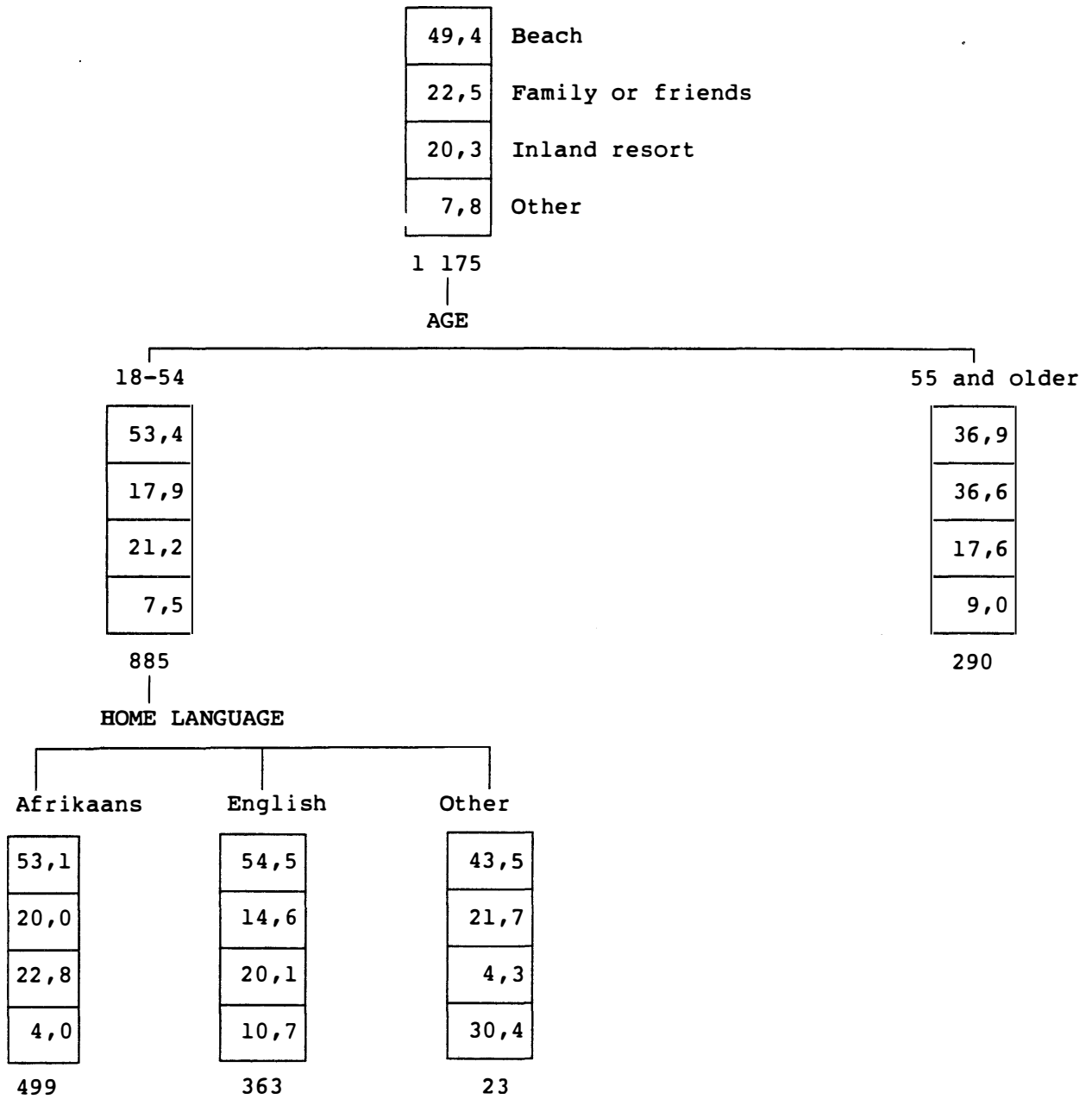
265

43,8
24,8
13,5
10,4
7,5

347

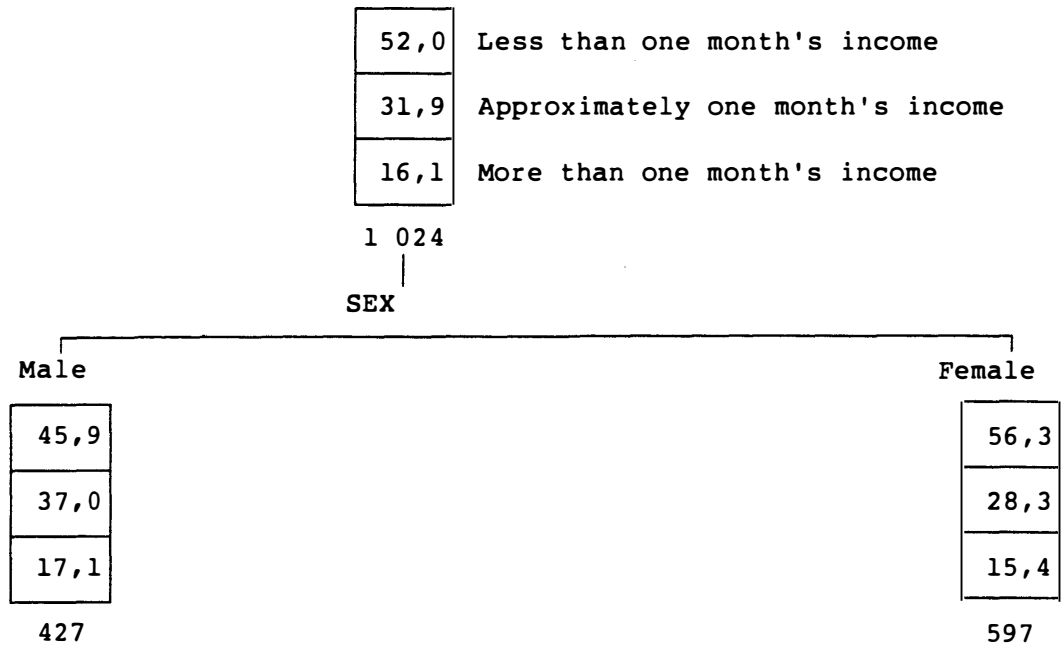
APPENDIX 8

CHAID ANALYSIS: PLACE WHERE LAST HOLIDAY WAS SPENT



APPENDIX 9

CHAID ANALYSIS: MONEY SPENT ON HOLIDAYS





CHAID ANALYSIS: HOLIDAY WITHOUT LIMITATIONS

34,4	Overseas
28,5	Inland resort
18,3	Beach
5,4	Camping
1,4	Family
12,0	Other

1 198

HOME LANGUAGE

Afrikaans

English and other

26,1
22,3
31,5
6,2
1,2
12,8

45,0
13,2
24,6
4,4
1,7
11,1

674

524

AGE

18-34

35-54

55 and older

40,2
21,0
23,8
6,1
0,5
8,4

21,8
24,8
33,7
7,8
0,7
11,2

15,7
19,3
37,3
3,6
3,0
21,1

214

294

166

APPENDIX 11

TELEPHONE SURVEY: CURRENT AFFAIRS  
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND HOLIDAY PATTERNS

CALLER CODE				1-2
RECORD NUMBER				3-6
CARD NUMBER			1	7
PROJECT NUMBER	BNBC03R154			8-15
DATE CODE				16-17
LANGUAGE CODE				18

Good evening, I am ..... of the Human Sciences Research Council in Pretoria. We regularly interview members of the public about various subjects. I want to interview someone at your address.

1 How many married and unmarried people, 18 years and older are living at this address?

Unmarried			19-20
Married			21-22

Ask postal address

**SELECT RESPONDENT**

I wish to interview ..... (select respondent)

To respondent

Good evening, my name is ..... and I work at the HSRC. The HSRC undertakes opinion surveys on various subjects, e.g. education and housing on a regular basis. We are currently busy with an opinion survey on public holidays and how holidays are spent in general. Are you willing to answer a few simple questions? We assure you that all information will be regarded as strictly confidential and that you will remain completely anonymous.

2	Question 3	Yes	1	
	End Interview	No	2	24

3	Have you ever heard of the HSRC before?		1	
	Question 4	Yes	1	
	Question 5	No	2	25

4	Where or from whom did you hear of the HSRC?	Yes	No	
	Radio	1	2	26
	TV	1	2	27
	Family	1	2	28
	Friends	1	2	29
	Employee of HSRC	1	2	30
	Previous survey	1	2	31
	Newspaper	1	2	32
	Magazine	1	2	33
	Other (specify) .....			34

5	How old are you?			
	18-24		1	
	25-34		2	
	35-44		3	
	45-54		4	
	55+		5	35

6	Sex (Not necessary to ask)			
	Male		1	
	Female		2	36

7	What is your home language?			
	Afrikaans		1	
	English		2	
	Other		3	37

			1	
8	What is your marital state?			
		Never married	1	
		Married	2	
		Living together	3	
		Widow/Widower	4	
		Divorced/living apart	5	38

9	What is your highest educational qualification?			
		Up to Std 8/9 (+diploma)	1	
		Std 10	2	
		Std 10 plus postschool training	3	39

10	How many children are there in the family who are .....			
		not yet going to school	1	40
		in primary school	2	41
		in high school	3	42
		at university	4	43

11	At present there are eleven public holidays on the South African calendar. Do you think it is too many, too little or sufficient?			
		To many	1	
		To little	2	
		Sufficient	3	44

12 There is speculation about the number, nature and desirability of some of the holidays and also about the distribution of holidays throughout the calendar year. I am going to name each of the holidays and you should tell me if you are satisfied with the present holiday, if you think it should be abolished, if it should be moved to the nearest Monday or Friday and whether it should be moved to another month to ensure a proportional distribution. We also want to hear what you did on that day the previous year.

Public Holidays	Satisfied at present		Should be abolished		Should be moved to nearest Monday or Friday		Should be moved to another month		What did you do on that day the previous year?					
									Wor-ked	Stayed at home	Away for		Atten-ded church or feast	
		day	week-end											
1 January New Years Day	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	1	2	3	4	5	45-49		
6 April Founders' Day	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	1	2	3	4	5	50-54		
Good Friday	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	1	2	3	4	5	55-59		
Family Day (Easter Monday)	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	1	2	3	4	5	60-64		
Workers' Day	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	1	2	3	4	5	65-69		
Ascension Day	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	1	2	3	4	5	70-74		
31 May Republic Day	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	1	2	3	4	5	75-79		

Public Holidays	Satisfied at present	Should be abolished	Should be moved to nearest Monday or Friday	Should be moved to another month	What did you do on that day the previous year?					
					Wor- ked	Stayed at home	Away for		Atten- ded -church or feast	
							day	week- end		
10 October Kruger Day	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	1	2	3	4	5	
16 Decem- ber Day of Vow	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	1	2	3	4	5	
25 Decem- ber Christmas Day	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	1	2	3	4	5	
26 Decem- ber Day of Goodwill	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	Yes 1 No 2	1	2	3	4	5	

13 Are there any public holidays you want to add?

Name ..... Date .....

.....

Name ..... Date .....

.....

14 How many times were you away from home for a long weekend during the past year (since September 1986)?

Not at all	1	
Once	2	
Twice or more	3	40

15 Were you away from home during the last long weekend (19 May - 1 June)?

Yes	1	
No	2	
Can't remember	3	41

2

16(a) How many times were you away from home during the school holidays the past year?

Go to Question 17

Not at all	1	
Once	2	
Twice or more	3	42

(b) For how long were you away during the last holiday (or the last two holidays)?

	Last time	The time before last time	
1 to 2 weeks	1	1	
2 to 3 weeks	2	2	
3 to 4 weeks	3	3	
longer than 4 weeks	4	4	

16(c) During which holiday were you away from home for longer than a week during the school holidays?

	Last time	The time before last time	
September/October 1986	1	1	
December 1986/January 1987	2	2	
March/April 1987	3	3	
June/July 1987	4	4	45-46

17(a) How many times were you away from home when you were on leave out of season during the previous year?

Not at all	1	
Once	2	
Twice or more	3	47

17(b) For how long have you been away during the last holiday (or the last two holidays) out of season?

	Last time	The time before last time	
1 to 2 weeks	1	1	
2 to 3 weeks	2	2	
3 to 4 weeks	3	3	
Longer than 4 weeks	4	4	48-49

2

17(c) What month were you away on an out-of-reason holiday for a period longer than a month?

The last month .....

50-51

The month before the last month .....

52-53

18 Which type of accommodation did you make use of during your last holiday?

Camping	1
Hotel	2
Holiday flats/House	3
Travelling	4
Other (specify) .....	

54

19 Where did you spend your last holiday?

Beach	1
Public holiday resort	2
National park	3
Holiday farm	4
With relatives	5
Health farm	6
Mountaineering	7
Nature trails	8
Other (specify) .....	9

55

56-57

20 How much money in relation to your monthly income do you spend on holidays:

Less than one month's income	1
Approximately one month's income	2
More than one month's income	3
N.a. not working/one self-employed etc.	4

58

21 Suppose money and time are no problem which type of holiday would you like to have?

.....

59-60

Thank you for your co-operation.



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Copy no 191743



1.10.40

# HUMAN SCIENCES RESEARCH COUNCIL RAAD VIR GEESTESWETENSKAPLIKE NAVORSING

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The HSRC undertakes, promotes, supports and co-ordinates research in the field of the human sciences. It also determines research priorities, disseminates the findings of human sciences research, facilitates and evaluates the implementation of research findings, stimulates the training of researchers, places the full spectrum of human sciences disciplines at the service of the inhabitants of the RSA and promotes science in general.

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