

**TOWARDS AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE SPATIAL
ASPECTS OF SOCIAL COHESION IN SOUTH AFRICA**

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Introduction

- South Africa - diverse country in terms of race, culture and religion.
- The South African nation - people are united by a shared commitment to the principles of diversity, equality and justice.
- Social cohesion in relation to the place - urban & rural
- In urban areas, there are boundaries due to standards of living
 - the spatial concentration of the unemployed
 - disadvantaged areas - socially cohesive and socially excluded at one and the same time.

Introduction Cont...

- Migration also contributes towards social cohesion.
- In rural areas, the presence of extended families plays a major role in social capital and cohesion.
- There are two questions that will be addressed:
 - Does social cohesion have a spatial extent?
 - If yes, what socio-economic factors can be used to characterise social cohesion spatially?

Methods

- Datasets
 - South African poverty data 2006
 - Community Survey 2007
 - Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2007
 - South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) 2009
- The reason for using 2006 and 2007 datasets
 - Roughly time-compatible to the SASAS 2009.
- Crime data not available.

Methods Cont...

For SASAS, the two selected questions were grouped to obtain a simple 'yes' or 'no':

- The first question was: *"Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you cannot be too careful in dealing with people?"*
 - Respondents had to indicate their answer on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means "too careful" and 10 means that "most people can be trusted".
 - Values of 0-4 coded 'no' while 6-10 coded 'yes'.

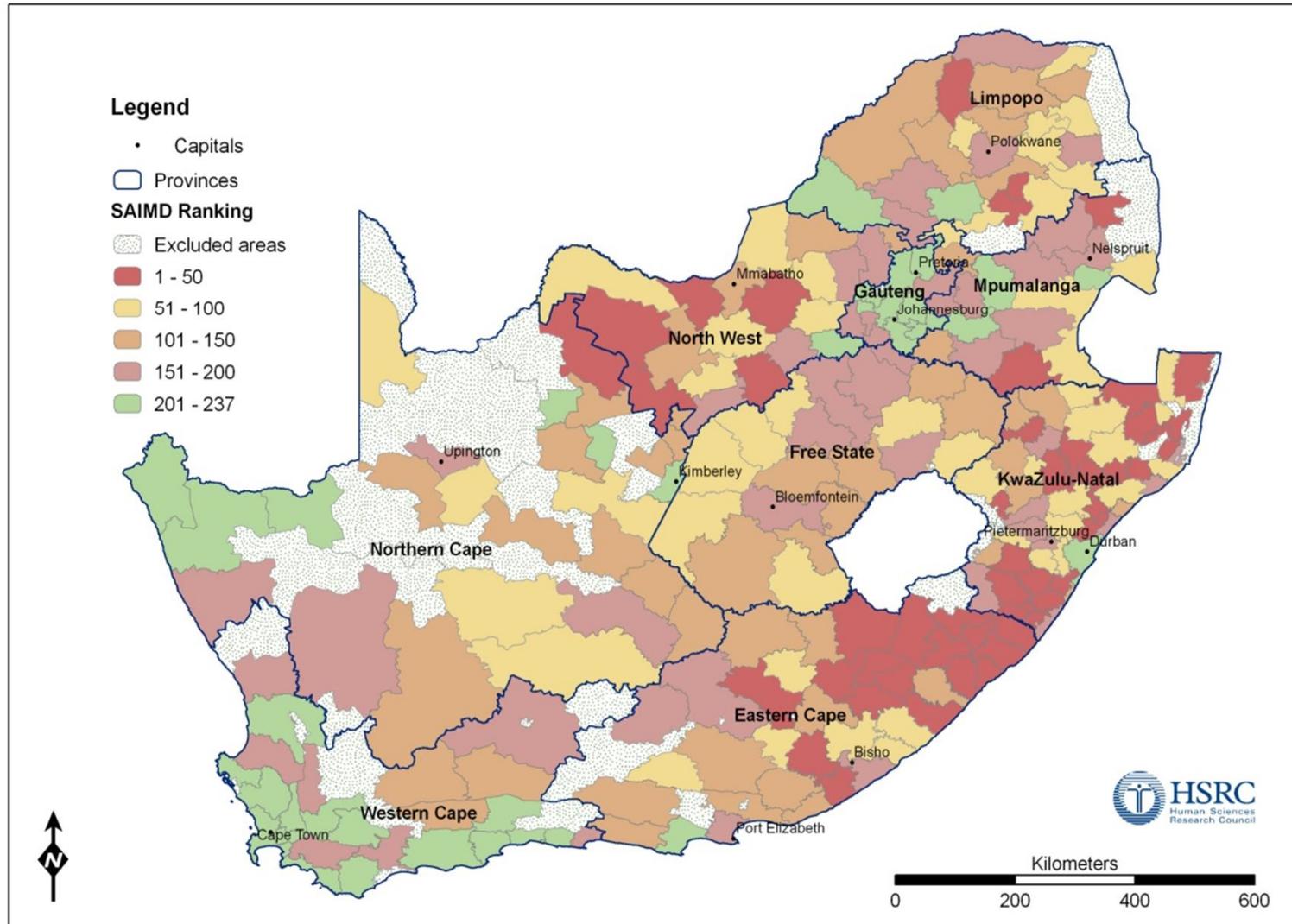
Methods Cont...

- The second question was: *"People of different racial groups do not really trust or like each other"*.
 - Respondents had to indicate their answer in a range of options ranging from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree".
 - 'Strongly agree' and 'agree' responses coded to form the 'yes,' while 'disagree' and 'strongly disagree' form the 'no' response.
 - Respondents who indicated neither 'agree' nor 'disagree' - excluded.

Results

- A low SAIMD score - area which is worse off.
- Figure 1 shows that many municipalities with lowest rankings (0 – 50) were in the Eastern Cape – The former Transkei and Ciskei areas.
- Similar case in KwaZulu-Natal – in former KwaZulu area
- In North West - 5 municipalities with lowest ranking while Mpumalanga and Limpopo had 2.
- No municipalities in the Western Cape, Northern Cape, Free State and Gauteng in lowest ranking.

Figure 1: SA Index of Multiple Deprivation



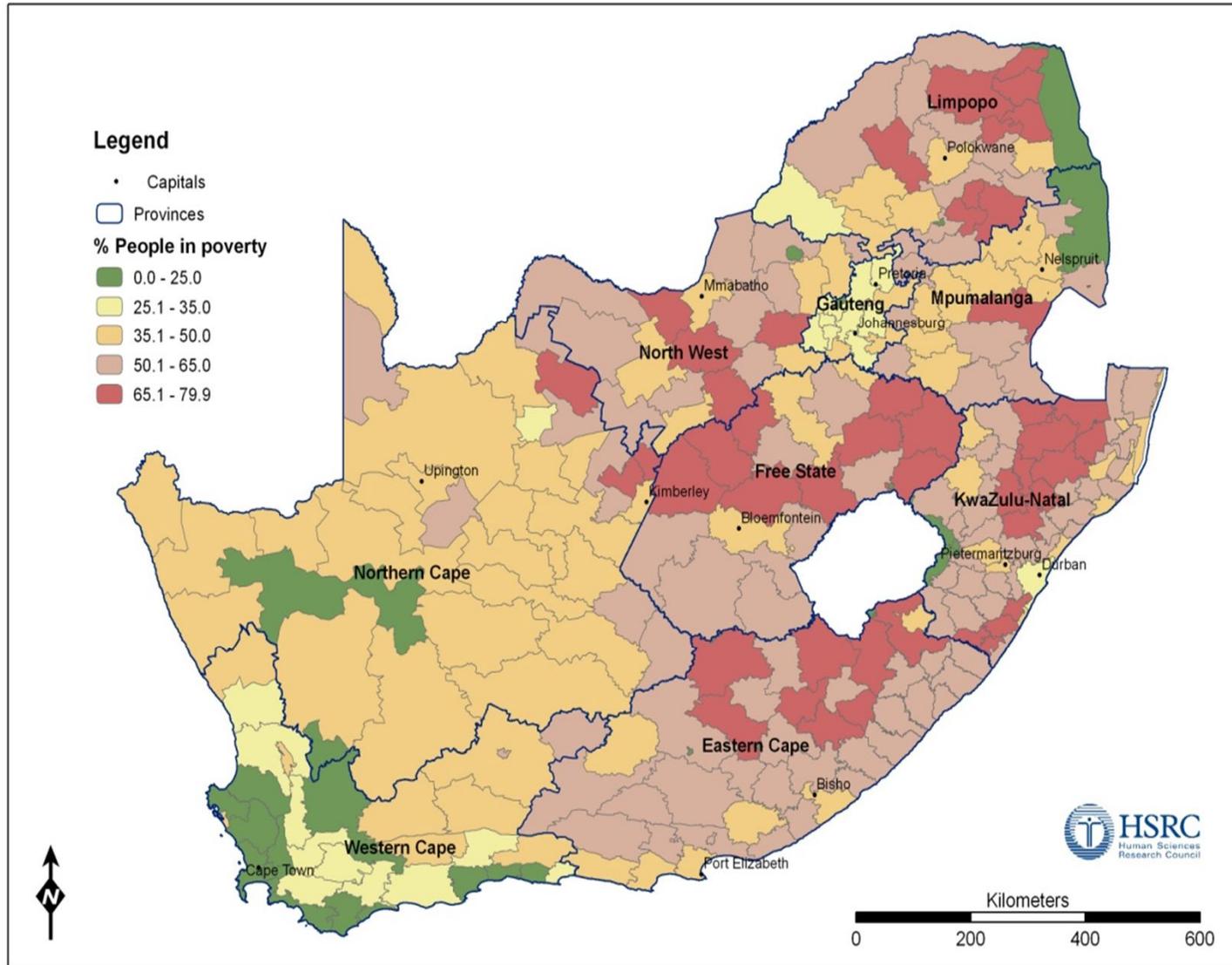
Results Cont...

- High unemployment (>50%) – in Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, few in Northern Cape, Mpumalanga and Limpopo.
- In general,
 - urban areas experienced a lower unemployment than rural areas
 - none of the capitals were located in a high unemployment municipality (50.1% to 73.8%).

Results Cont...

- The highest poverty rate category (65.1% to 79.9%) - Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Free State.
- Western Cape and Gauteng - no municipalities in the highest poverty rate category.
- All metros have fewer than 35%, except Nelson Mandela bay.

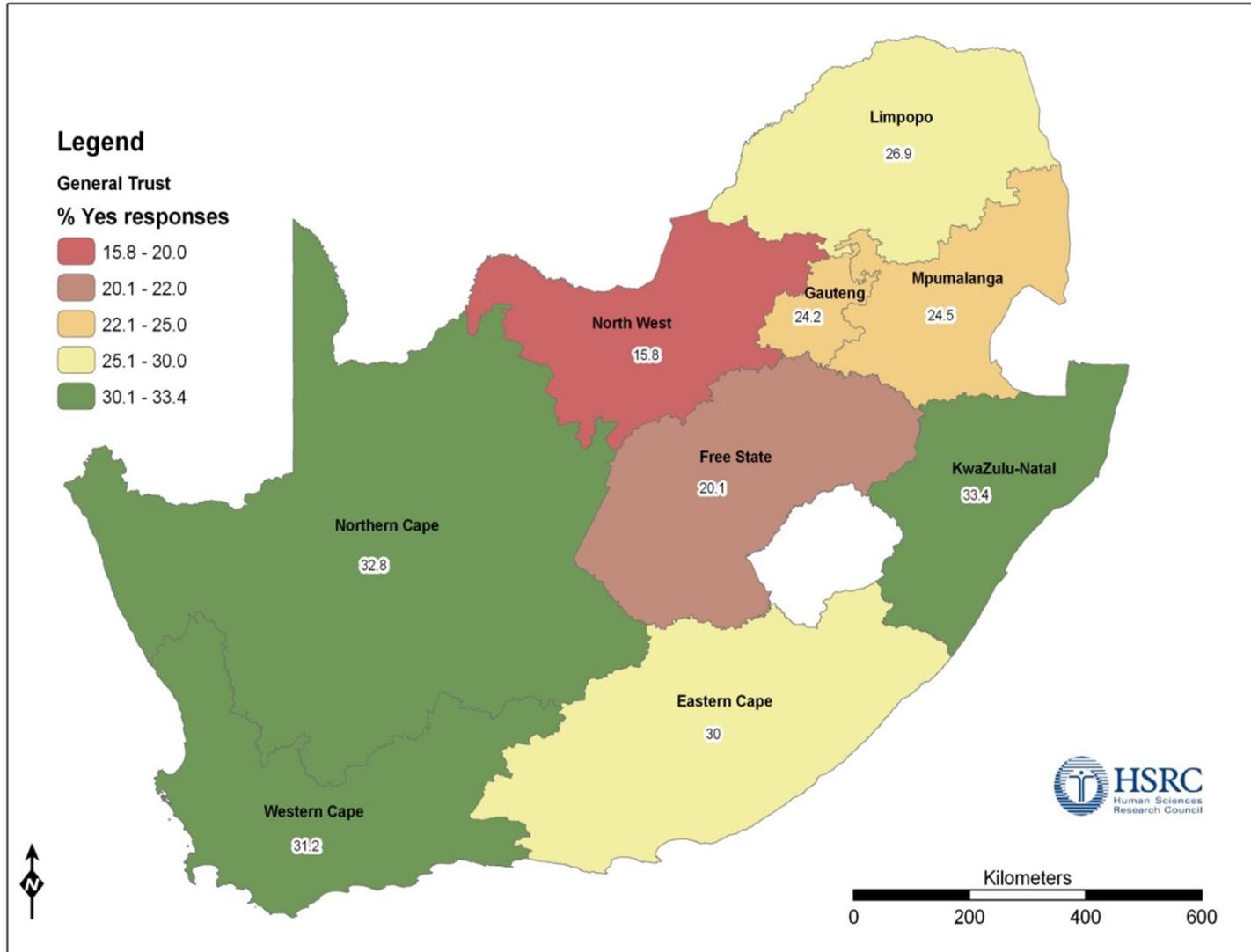
Figure 2: Percentage people in poverty in 2006



Results Cont...

- Figure 3 - low the percentage of respondents felt that most people can be trusted across the country.
 - Maximum value of 33.4% (KwaZulu-Natal which is worse off).
 - In contrast, the Western Cape which is well off, also have a high percentage of people (31.2%)
 - Turok et al. 2006 found similar results in UK state of the cities study.
- Gauteng had a lower proportion of people (24.4%)
 - Migration and urbanization.

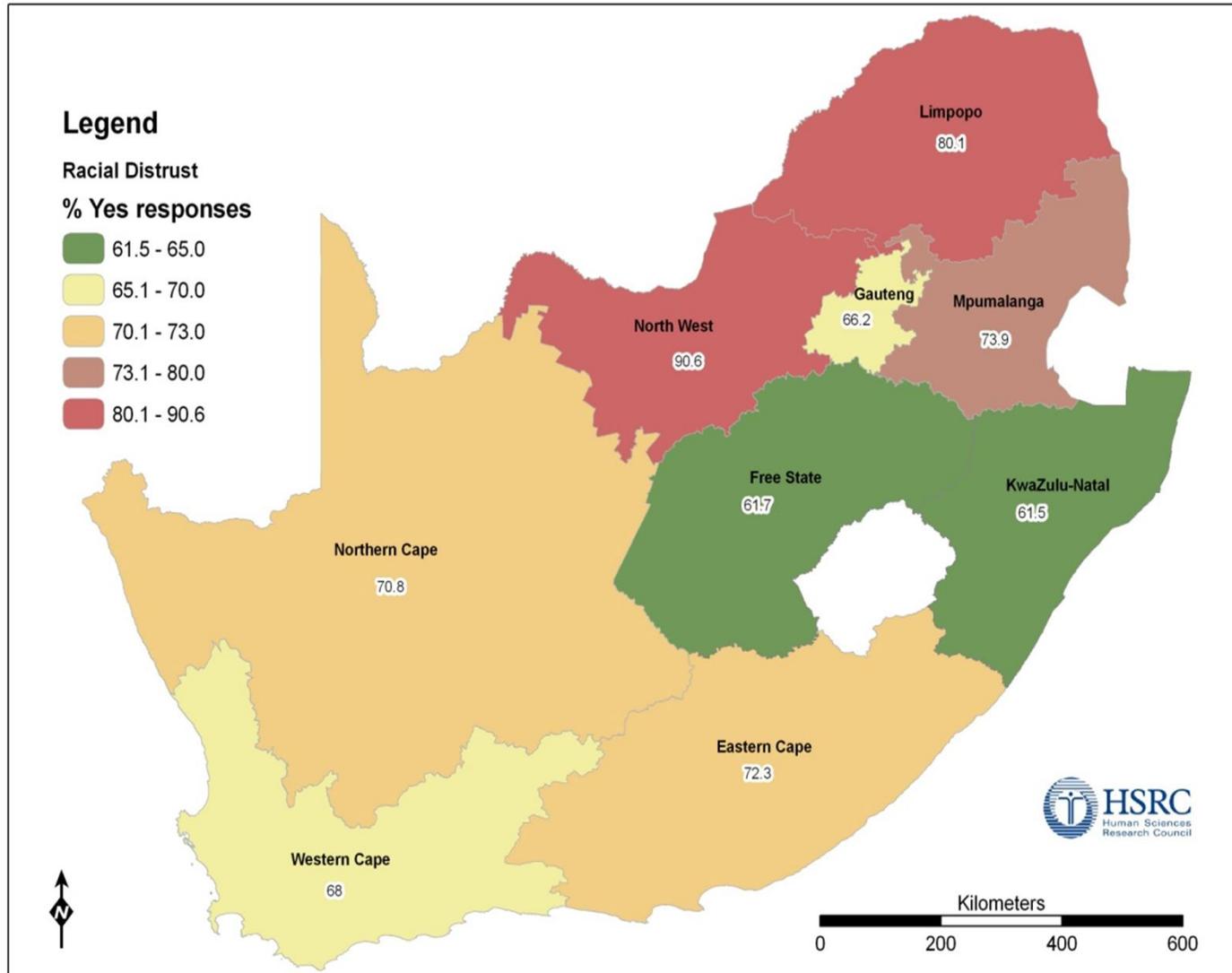
Figure 3: Percentage respondents who trust other South Africans in general



Results Cont...

- Very high levels of racial distrust were recorded in North West (90.6%), Limpopo (80.1%) and Mpumalanga (73.9%) (Figure 4).
 - North West is characterised by high levels of poverty (above 35% of the population), high levels of no schooling, unemployment of more than 25%.
- The lowest levels of racial distrust were recorded in KwaZulu-Natal (51.5%) and in the Free State (61.7%).

Figure 4: Percentage respondents who distrust other racial groups



Conclusion

- It seems that social cohesion has spatial extent
 - high relation between social cohesion and a specific location.
- The spatial extent of social cohesion - seen in areas of high multiple deprivation, high unemployment, low education and high racial distrust.
- It is therefore recommended that further research be undertaken to find out exactly why this trend exists.
- In addition, more spatially detailed research is required to confirm our preliminary findings.

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THANK YOU