"**Patterns of Residential Mobility amongst Children in Greater Johannesburg: Observations from the Birth to Twenty Cohort** "

Children and Migration Conference, Cork

11 April 2008

Carren Ginsburg

Shane Norris, Linda Richter

Jacky Galpin, David Coplan

Birth to Twenty
Research Programme

BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

- The question of "why people move" is significant - movement impacts on population size and population movements are indicators of underlying social and economic processes.

- Movement of children under researched in developing countries.

- High levels of mobility amongst children associated with psychological distress, lower levels of academic achievement and a range of negative health outcomes.

SOUTH AFRICAN CONTEXT

- Apartheid policies of influx control and the Group Areas Act prevented permanent urban settlement, which gave rise to a system of labour migration.

- Post Apartheid, levels of urbanisation have increased, however, evidence suggests that patterns of circular migration have persisted for both adults and children.

SOUTH AFRICAN CONTEXT

- SA studies primarily focused on the labour migration system, little data is available on current migration trends.

- Children shown to move in different ways for different reasons.

- There is a need for research in the area of child mobility in South Africa that will utilise definitions and models for migration that are culturally appropriate and acknowledge the child as an active participant in movements.

AIM OF THE STUDY

This study aims to establish the patterns and frequency of residential mobility in the Greater Johannesburg area, observed over a period of 14 years, amongst children who form part of the Birth to Twenty cohort.

RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS

Given the history of population movements in South Africa, high levels of mobility within urban areas and between rural and urban areas would be anticipated.

STUDY OBJECTIVES

- To identify the patterns and frequencies of child residential mobility within the Birth to Twenty cohort over a 14 year period.

- To determine the push-and-pull factors motivating residential mobility within the cohort.

- To explore the biographical and demographic factors associated with differing levels of residential mobility.
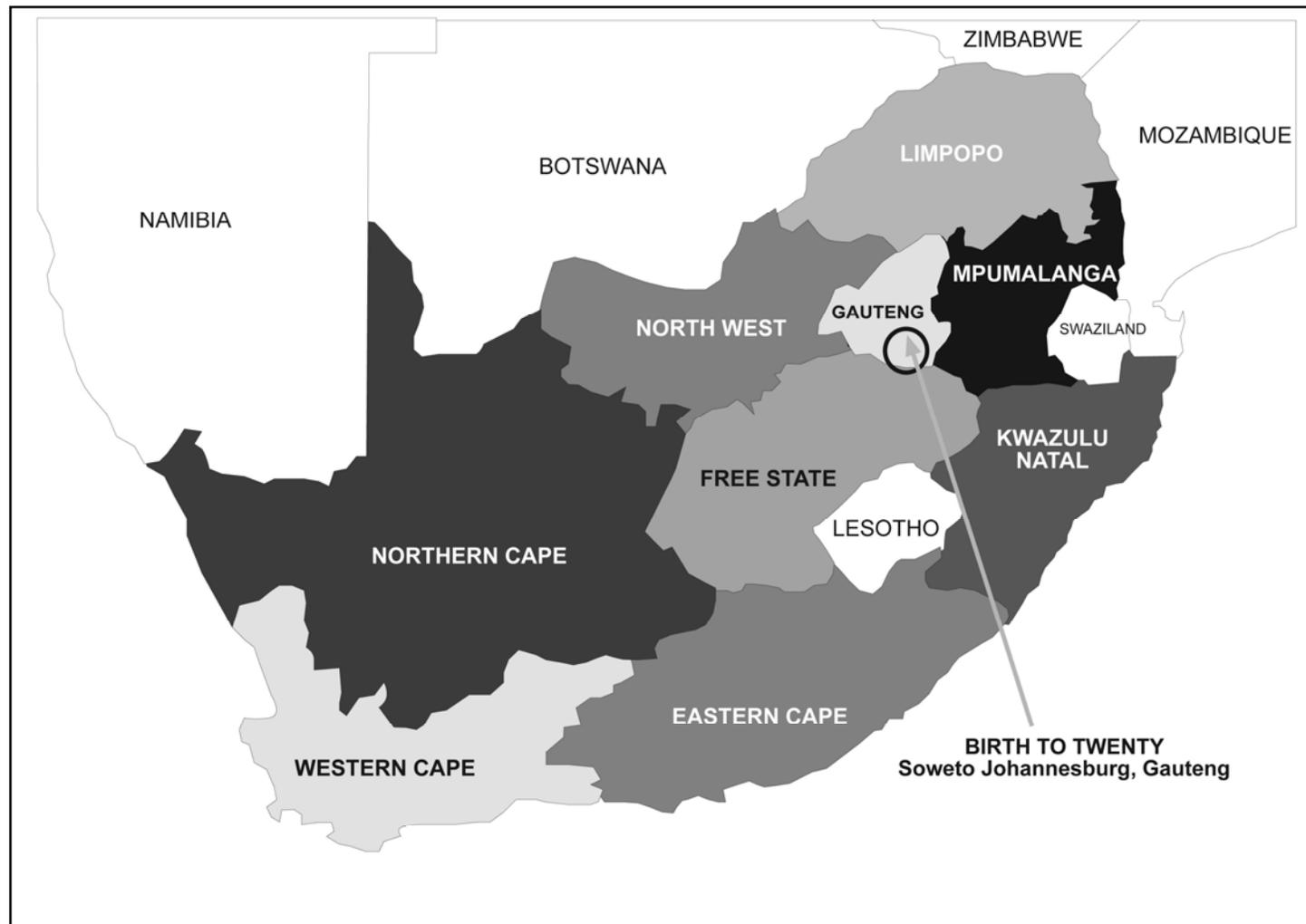
BACKGROUND TO BT20

- Longitudinal study of child health and development - began in 1990.

- The Cohort: all children born between April and June 1990 at hospitals in Johannesburg Metropolitan Area.

- The longitudinal sample: 3273 children.

- Data collection activities: Antenatal, Year 1, 2, 3/4, 5/6, 7/8, 9/10, 11/12, 13 and 14; spanning the years 1990 to 2004.

MAP OF STUDY AREA

METHODS

The study of residential movement comprised four components:

1. Construction of prospective address dataset
2. Construction of survey instrument for Year 15 data collection wave
3. Implementation of study protocol
4. Data preparation and analysis

METHODS

1. Construction of Prospective Address Dataset

   ➤ Caregiver's address data collected and maintained to correspond with and locate cohort members and monitor attrition.

   ➤ Address data available at each of the ten data collection time points.

   ➤ Address data collated and summarised to generate a profile of address information for each participant.

METHODS

2. Construction of the Survey Instrument

   ➤ Limitations identified with the use of the historical address data.

   ➤ A questionnaire was designed to:

     • Verify historical address data of child's moves

     • Complete any missing address components or undocumented moves

     • Record additional information around reasons prompting movement

METHODS

3. Implementation of the Study Protocol

   ➢ Data collection conducted during Year 15 / Year 16 data collection waves.
   ➢ Questionnaires administered in the form of a structured interview with children's primary caregivers.

METHODS

4. Data Preparation and Analysis

➤ Questionnaire data was collected from 2158 cohort members (66% of cohort).

➤ The balance of 1115 participants identified as cases of cumulative attrition.

➤ A dataset of attrition cases was constructed.

➤ A longitudinal migration profile was created to capture any documented address changes at each of the ten time points .

METHODS

4. Data Preparation and Analysis Continued

➢ First set of analyses: conducted on the pooled sample of 3273 participants.
- Aim: to document descriptively the overall movement of children in the cohort

➢ Second set of analyses: based on the reduced sample of 2158 participants who had completed the Residential Move Questionnaire.
- Aim: to document more detailed components around the classification of the move, reasons for movement and the characteristics associated with differing movement profiles.
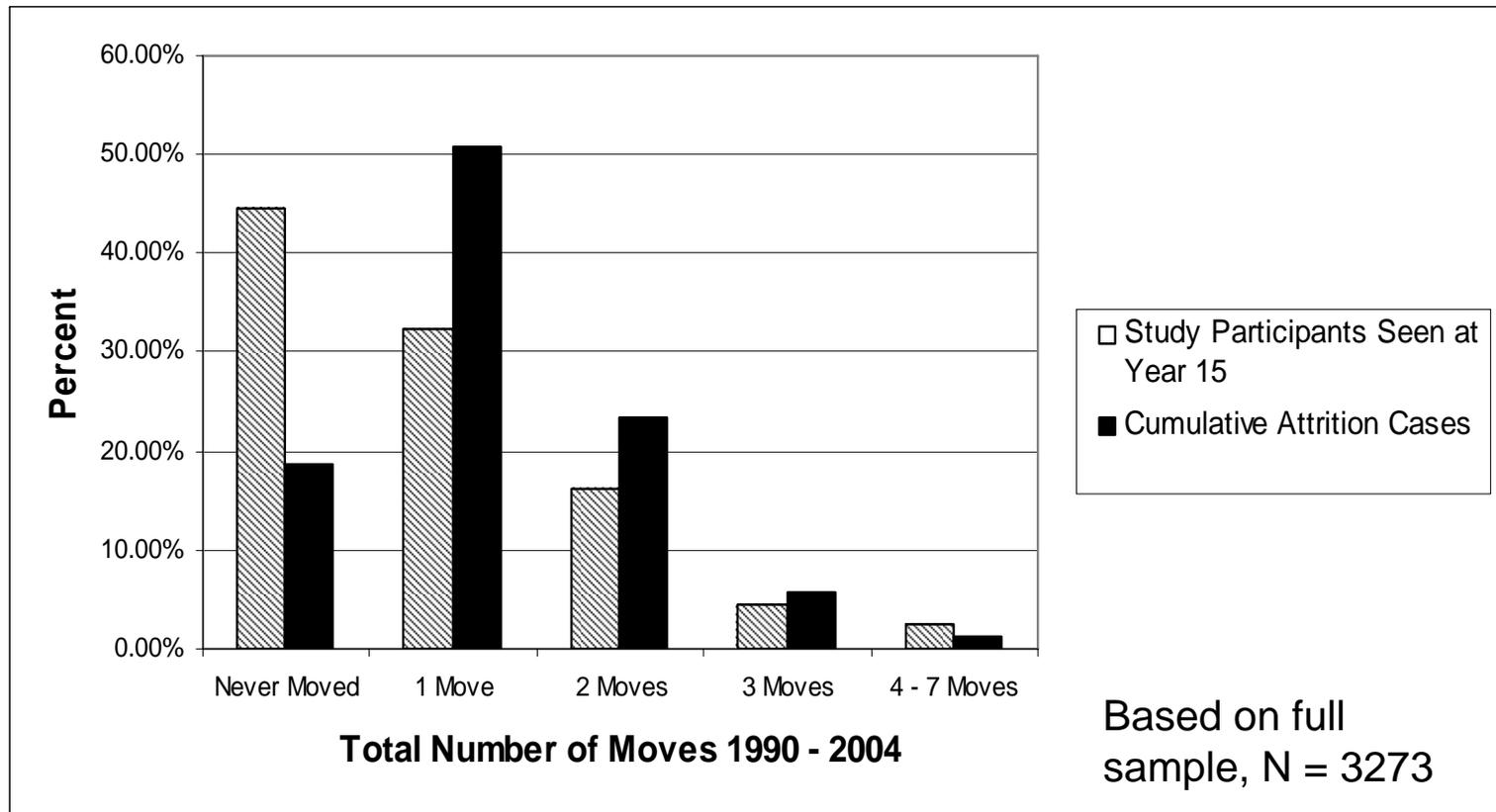
RESULTS

Characteristics of the Cohort

Gender	Male: 48.6% Female: 51.4%	
Population Group	Black: 78.5% White: 6.3%	Coloured: 11.7% Asian: 3.5%
Hospital of Birth	Public: 86.5% Private: 13.5%	
Maternal Age at Delivery	<= 18: 10.4% 19 – 34: 79.3%	35+: 10.2%
Maternal Marital Status	Married/ Cohabiting: 43.2%	Single/ Divorced: 55.4%
Maternal Education	None: 5.3% < = Grade 10: 50.8%	Grade 11-12: 27.3% Post School: 10.0%

RESULTS

Longitudinal Summary of the Frequency of Residential Movement from 1990 – 2004

Based on full sample, N = 3273

RESULTS

Distribution of Residential Moves by Move Category over Time

Based on full sample, N = 3273
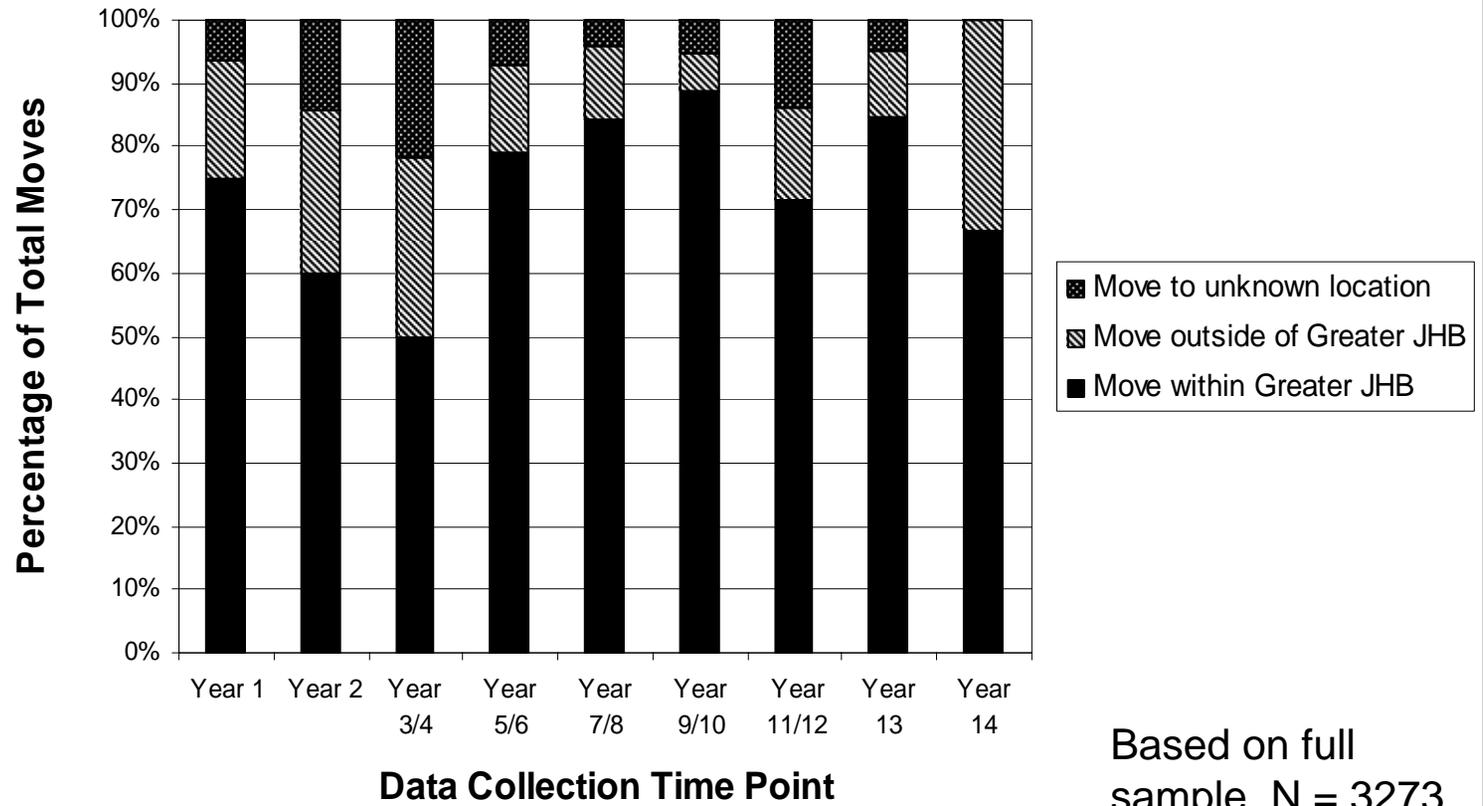
RESULTS

Comparison of Cumulative Attrition Group to Study Participants Seen at Year 15

Characteristic	Significant? (p<0.05)	Group with Higher Attrition Level
Gender	No	N/A
Population Group	Yes	White & Asian
Hospital of Birth	Yes	Private
Maternal Age at Delivery	Yes	19 – 34 Years
Maternal Marital Status	Yes	Single
Maternal Education	Yes	No Education & Post School
Asset Index (4 Category)	Yes	Lowest & Highest

Based on full sample, n = 3273

RESULTS

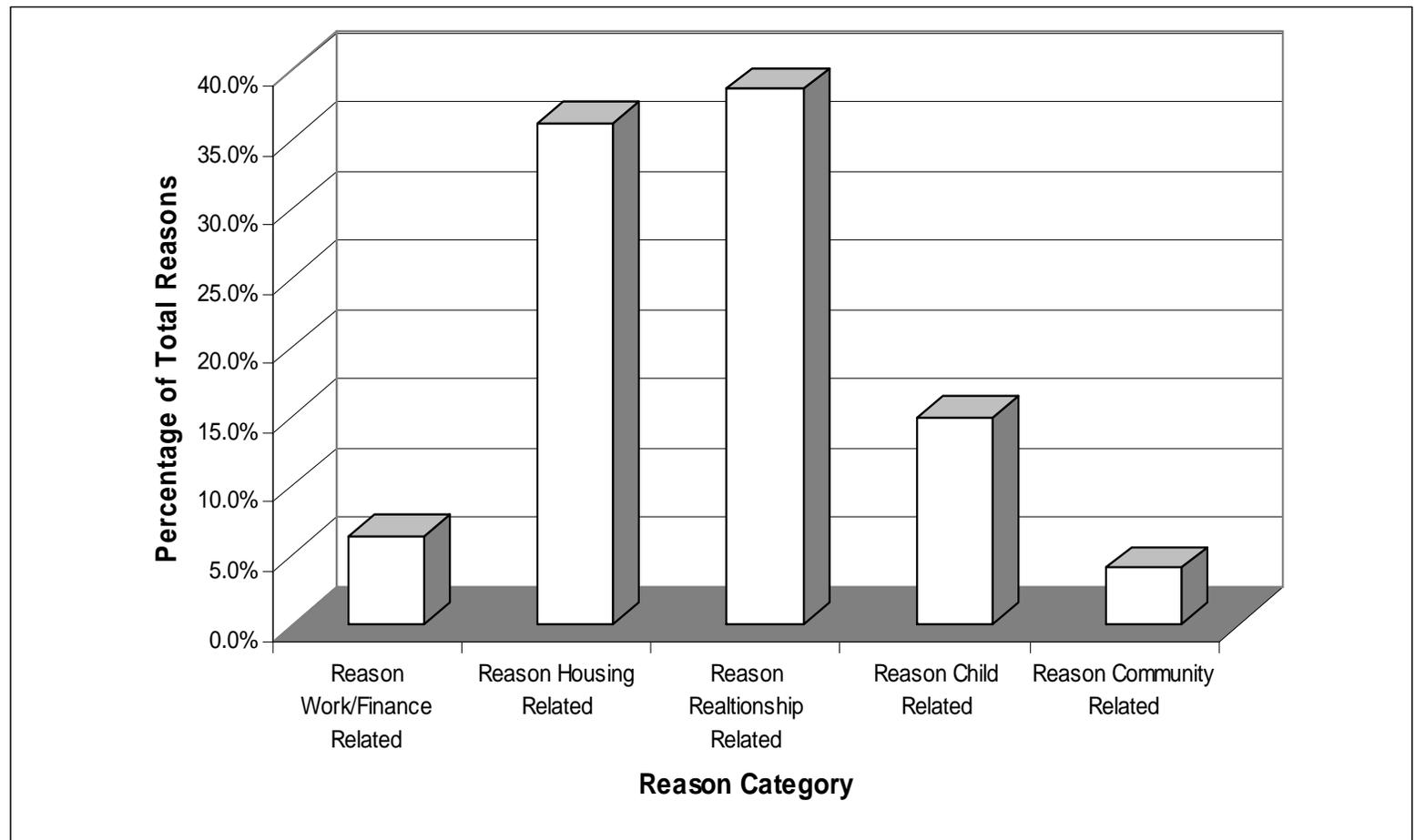## Distribution of Total Moves by Move Category within Gauteng Province

Move Category	Percentage
Change of Dwelling	1.1%
Change of Street	16.2%
Change of Suburb	47.8%
Change of City/Town	34.9%

Based on sample of study participants seen at Year 15, n = 2158

RESULTS

Distribution of Reasons for Moves

Based on sample of study participants seen at Year 15, n = 2158

RESULTS

Comparison of Movers to Non Movers

Characteristic	Significant? (p<0.05)	Which Group(s) Moved more?
Gender	No	N/A
Population Group	Yes	White & Asian
Hospital of Birth	Yes	Private
Maternal Age at Delivery	Yes	19 – 34 Years
Maternal Marital Status	Yes	Married or Cohabiting
Maternal Education	Yes	Post School
Asset Index (4 Category)	Yes	Lowest & Highest

Based on sample of study participants seen at Year 15, n = 2158

LIMITATIONS

- Difficulties with investigating children's movements longitudinally - the group lost to follow up are likely to display different longitudinal patterns of movement.

- Under-reporting of movement within the cumulative attrition group

CONCLUSION

Cumulative Attrition Cases

- Most residential movements occurred when children were aged 4 years or younger, a substantial proportion to locations outside of study area: indicates a more temporary form of settlement in Greater Johannesburg.

- Patterns of oscillatory migration evident particularly within this group.

- Group comprises lower resourced and higher resourced participants.

DISCUSSION

In Contact Study Participants

- By age 14 a large group of children had never experienced a residential move.

- Movement within this group associated with higher socio-economic proxies.

- The results raise the issue of whether stability is advantageous. Movement in as far as it is associated with upward social mobility appeared to occur at low levels within this group.

DISCUSSION

Child Residential Movement

- A number of reasons for movement were child centric - children may be a central push-pull factor in movement decisions.

- Children's patterns of movement cannot be anchored to a biological mother or single caregiver, children may move independently.

- In an urban South African environment, households and family structures are often fluid and a range of livelihood strategies may be employed around child care.
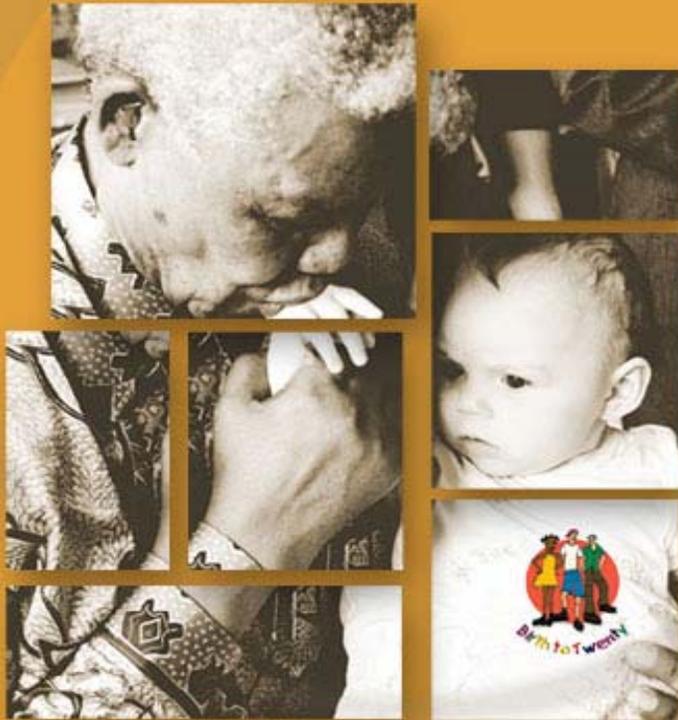
KEY CONCLUSION

Data indicates that urban families may be more stable than would have been anticipated in Post Apartheid South Africa, but raises the question of whether stability is advantageous.

FUTURE RESEARCH

Planned further research includes:

➢ An investigation of the relationship between residential mobility and the educational attainment of children within the cohort.

➢ A qualitative study investigating children's perceptions of movement, family histories and the relationship between residential mobility and children's social networks.

➢ A questionnaire aimed at completing the movement histories of the cohort participants from the age of 15 to 20.

THANK YOU

Birth to Twenty
Research Programme