

HSRC RESEARCH OUTPUTS

2223

**SOUTH AFRICA'S FIRST NATIONAL POPULATION-BASED  
HIV/AIDS BEHAVIOURAL RISKS, SERO-STATUS AND MEDIA  
IMPACT (SABSSM) RESEARCH PROJECT**

## **Third Quarterly Progress Report**



**HSRC**

**Prepared by the HSRC**

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**for the**

**NMCF/NMF/HSRC Reference Group Meeting to be held on 23rd  
July, 2002**

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## **1.0 Introduction**

This report covers the third quarter of the SABSSM starting from the beginning of April 2002 until the end of the first week of July 2002. As was the case with the second quarterly report, no background information will be provided this time as this report should be read in conjunction with both previous quarterly reports. Instead, it will focus mostly on the progress that has been made on both the qualitative and quantitative research components of the SABSSM that have been undertaken to date. It should also be noted that this is the final progress report as the next one will be the draft final report that will be submitted by 15<sup>th</sup> October 2002.

## **2.0 Personnel**

### **2.1 Appointments of additional key people to coordinate fieldwork**

The following two key additional people were appointed to the HSRC team at the beginning of April.

#### **2.1.1 Mr Francois Bezuidenhout**

The GIS Manager of Geospace International, the company that is setting up the Master Sample, was appointed as the fieldwork project integrator/manager for the duration of the project. He will oversee both the creation of the Master Sample during Phase 1 of the study as well as fieldwork during Phase 2. He has some invaluable previous experience of running big projects like the census. He also appointed Mr T. Phalatse to assist him.

#### **2.1.2 Miss Jeannette Bloem**

She works as a consultant for Family Health International in Lesotho and is the fieldwork SABSSM manager for Phase 2 only. She has international experience running similar studies to SABSSM in several African countries.

### **2.2 Appointment of five American students funded by the Fogarty programme as research interns on SABSSM**

As was reported in the previous report, the five Fogarty Scholars from Penn State University students joined SAHA for 3 months starting in May and their visit will end towards the end of this month. Their names, degrees of study and place of study are as follows:

- Kyla-Marie Sawyer, doctoral student in Counsellor Education, North Carolina State University, Rolling
- Yvonne Ferguson, doctoral student in Health behaviour and health education, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- Lorraine Edwards, B.Sc. Psychology graduate from Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond
- Amber Mock, BSc student in Biology, Hampton University, Virginia
- Aranthan Jones, MPH in International Health, George Washington University in Washington, D.C. (left after 2 months)

Their main function has been to help with analyzing qualitative data using the ATLAS Ti computer software package under the supervision by Ms Dorkenoo. The students came to South Africa together with their mentor Prof Collins Airhihenmbuwa who is a world expert on the role of culture

on health issues. He is going to collaborate with us in August to write up the qualitative report for the SABSSM study.

### 2.3 Appointment of additional fieldwork supervisors/drivers for the main survey

To date, a total of 31 recently retired nurses with clinical supervisory experience and leadership skills or potential have been appointed as supervisors in the nine provinces. The breakdown per province is shown in the table below as well as the new targets which we hope to accomplish in order for us to fast-track fieldwork than has been the case hitherto.

Province	Current number of supervisors	Target
1. Eastern	5	6
2. Free State	2	2
3. Gauteng	4	4
4. KwaZulu-Natal	5	5
5. Mpumalanga	3	3
6. Northern Cape	2	3
7. North West	2	3
8. Limpopo (formerly Northern)	3	4
9. Western Cape	5	5
TOTAL	31	35

### 2.4 Appointment of fieldwork nurses for the main survey

Some 127 fieldworkers have been recruited and trained so far. Most have started fieldwork while a few are still waiting to get started. Another 23 fieldworkers are still being recruited in order to bring the total to almost 150 nurses altogether to do the fieldwork on this project. This will include the additional 8 White and Coloured nurses who will also repeat Phase 1 fieldwork in the Cape Town area due to the poor response rates which have been realized so far as well as some of the notification researchers who will assist with Phase 2 work.

## 3.0 Completed Tasks

1	PHASE AND TASK DESCRIPTIONS	DURATION (DAYS)	START DATE	END DATE	CURRENT STATUS
2	PROJECT INITIALIZATION	168d	02/01/2002	09/24/02	
3		0d	02/20/02	02/20/02	
4	Secondary literature review and write up	168d	02/01/2002	09/24/02	In progress
5	QUALITATIVE RESEARCH	149d	12/03/2001	06/27/02	
6	FOCUS GROUPS	149d	12/03/2001	06/27/02	
7	Data collection	54d	12/03/2001	02/14/02	Completed
8	Data analysis	32d	01/17/02	03/01/2002	In progress
9	Reporting	18d	03/04/2002	03/27/02	1 <sup>st</sup> interim draft report based on a few of the focus groups and interviews was completed in March 2002; write-up of the draft report based on all

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					transcripts will be submitted on October 15 is still in progress.
10	Further analysis	43d	04/02/2002	05/30/02	In progress
11	Final report	19d	06/03/2002	06/27/02	
12	<b>QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH</b>	181d	02/04/2002	10/14/02	
13	<b>MASTER SAMPLE</b>	18d	02/18/02	03/13/02	
14	Finalize sample design	1d	02/18/02	02/18/02	Completed
15	Received list of master sample EA's	1d	02/18/02	02/18/02	Completed
16	Drawing of EA's for Geo-type 1	1d	02/19/02	02/19/02	Completed
17	Paint polygons	1d	02/21/02	02/21/02	Completed
18	Check EA's for all 1 000	1d	02/21/02	02/21/02	Completed
19	Send list to GeoSpace, Leickness and Udesh	1d	02/21/02	02/21/02	Completed
20	Draw pilot EA's sample	1d	02/25/02	02/25/02	Completed
21	Identify criteria for visiting point identification	2d	02/26/02	02/27/02	Completed
22	Workshop to discuss visiting point identification	1d	02/28/02	02/28/02	Completed
23	Purchase of GPS/digital cameras/tents & mattresses	9d	03/01/2002	03/13/02	Completed
24	<b>GEOSPACE PROJECT</b>	90d	02/25/02	06/28/02	
25	Finalize contract	3d	02/25/02	02/27/02	Completed
26	Flight planning for select EA's	10d	02/25/02	03/08/2002	Completed
27	Capture aerial photography - 1st month	20d	03/01/2002	03/28/02	Completed
28	Identification of visiting points - desktop analysis	60d	03/08/2002	05/30/02	Completed
29	Fieldwork planning	60d	03/08/2002	05/30/02	Completed
30	Pilot EA's fieldwork - notification and basic demographics	5d	03/18/02	03/22/02	Completed
31	Fieldwork - pre-notification and basic demographics	60d	03/25/02	06/14/02	Completed
32	Capture aerial photography - 2-3 months	40d	03/29/02	05/23/02	Completed
33	Database population and map production	60d	04/08/2002	06/28/02	Completed
34	<b>FIELD SURVEY</b>	181d	02/04/2002	10/14/02	
35	Recruitment field workers supervisors and interviewers	25d	02/04/2002	03/08/2002	Completed
36	Develop questionnaire	20d	02/04/2002	03/01/2002	Completed
37	Develop indicators and measures	10d	03/04/2002	03/15/02	In progress
38	Translations	10d	03/04/2002	03/15/02	Completed
39	Production of pilot questionnaires	5d	03/18/02	03/22/02	Completed
40	Production of bar code stickers	5d	03/04/2002	03/08/2002	Completed
41	Purchase of ELISA tests	5d	03/04/2002	03/08/2002	Completed
42	Training of 15 trainers	5d	03/04/2002	03/08/2002	Completed
43	Development of training material and guidelines	5d	03/11/2002	03/15/02	Completed
44	Training of fieldworkers	10d	03/18/02	03/29/02	Completed but continuing for extra fieldworkers
45	Pilot study	5d	04/01/2002	04/05/2002	Completed
46	Evaluation of pilot and editing of questionnaire	5d	04/08/2002	04/12/2002	Completed
47	Production of questionnaires	5d	04/15/02	04/19/02	Completed
48	Conduct survey	70d	04/22/02	07/26/02	In progress
49	Testing of specimens by labs under MRC oversight	70d	05/06/2002	08/09/2002	In progress
50	Tenders for data capture	10d	07/29/02	08/09/2002	Completed
51	Data capture and quality control	20d	07/29/02	08/23/02	In progress
52	Weighting and export to ESPRI	1d	08/26/02	08/26/02	
53	Analyse data and report writing	40d	08/13/02	10/07/2002	
54	Present interim report	2d	08/29/02	08/30/02	
55	Final presentation and workshop	5d	10/08/2002	10/14/02	
56	<b>PROJECT MANAGEMENT</b>	254d	10/01/2001	09/19/02	
57	<b>STEERING COMMITTEE</b>	1d	10/01/2001	10/01/2001	
58	Set up steering committee	1d	10/01/2001	10/01/2001	Completed
59	Steering committee 1	1d	10/01/2001	10/01/2001	Completed
60	<b>WORKPLAN MANAGEMENT</b>	254d	10/01/2001	09/19/02	In progress
61	Weekly progress report meetings	254d	10/01/2001	09/19/02	In progress
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>271d</b>	<b>10/01/2001</b>	<b>10/14/02</b>	

## **Additional explanatory notes:**

### **4.1 Joint Steering and Technical Committees Meetings**

Two monthly meetings have been held as required and their minutes are attached to this report. In addition, irregular teleconferences have been held in-between these regular meetings among some key members of the two committees in order to iron out some urgent issues that come up from time to time which must be resolved timeously without waiting for the next scheduled meeting.

### **4.2 Weekly project meetings**

Since the start of fieldwork for Phase 2, core team members including, among others, Mr J van Zyl, the co-investigator and Ms Monica Peret, the Statistician, and Mr L Mokwena, the Geospace International's fieldwork supervisor of Phase 1.

### **4.3 Secondary literature reviews**

Drafts by Drs M Colvin of the MRC and K Kelly of CADRE have been completed. However, they have not as yet been reviewed systematically to finalise them for inclusion in the final reports. This will hopefully be done by the end of August.

### **4.3 Preparation of an interim report on the qualitative research**

This is now well advanced and should be completed a month before the quantitative report. As was mentioned earlier, Prof Airhihenbuwa of Penn State University in the USA will assist us with writing up.

### **4.4. Main survey**

The latest weekly progress reports by the Fieldwork Project Intergrator/Manager Mr Bezuidenhout and Statistician Ms Peret are attached at the end of the report. The highlights for each phase are shown below.

#### **4.4.1 Phase 1**

- Close to 95% of the fieldwork has been completed so far. Only about 50 or so EAs with mine hostels or those that have been problematic or substituted are still to be completed over the next 2 weeks.
- Of just over 8282 visiting points that were visited, 7762 of them were valid. Of these 68% were interviewed and agreed to participate in the study.
- Main concern has been very poor responses with only just about 40% in the Western Cape agreeing to participate in the study so far. We are therefore planning to repeat notification from next week or the week after using White nurses in White and Coloured neighbourhoods in the Western Cape to increase the national average of response rates to just over 70%. We have devised various other means to communicate with the various communities in the Cape Town area. These include a letter from the Minister of Health in the provincial government as well as involving Muslim religious bodies more to gain better access to all communities.
- We also are replacing a number of EAs that yielded as many as 9 refusals out of 11 households visited.
- We are about to do some quality assurance checks on 5% of the EAs in each province to verify the accuracy of the information collected by the notification researchers.

#### 4.4.2 Phase 2

- As shown in the progress report provided, progress has been slow but improving all the time. Fieldwork is now in full swing in all the nine provinces of the country although a few teams have yet to start in some of the regions within some provinces. A major problem is not finding people at home during working hours in the week especially in the urban areas. Therefore, most of the work is usually done after hours and during weekends.
- We are planning to increase the number of fieldworkers to speed up data collection. We now have 35 fieldwork teams each with 3-4 fieldworkers, bringing the total fieldwork team close to 160.
- We have also deployed three mobile trouble-shooters employed by SAMMS who go and help out the supervisors throughout the country whenever needed including accessing difficult terrain as well as visiting special communities such as male mine hostels.
- We are currently setting up quality assurance mechanisms for Phase 2 fieldwork that as with Phase 1 will involve re-visiting 5% of the EAs in each province and administering a brief questionnaire both to households that agreed to participate in the study and those that refused to do so. This will involve notification researchers from Phase 1 who will work in teams of two people each who speaking languages used in each province and will start next week.
- When Phase 2 commences in each province the first set of questionnaires are quickly examined by the coding assistants for mistakes and a few interviews have been re-done to correct some of the serious mistakes done by the fieldworkers such as substituting participants and interviewing a person of the wrong sex or age in a household.
- Three regional supervisors have also been visiting the teams in each province to monitor progress and deal with any problems that arise from time to time.

#### 4.11 Milestones for the next quarter

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Now - 21 August 2002	Continue with Phase 2 fieldwork data collection throughout the country, data capturing and HIV specimen analysis by the three virology labs used in the study
1 August –15 October 2002	Data analysis and report writing
15 October 2002	Submission of draft reports (qualitative and quantitative) to NMF and NMCF
15 <sup>th</sup> November	Submission of final reports to NMF and NMCF
18-20 November 2002	Media launch of final report in Pretoria