

FEMALE NATIONS SURVEY
2006



Female Nation Survey 2006

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Methodological Notes

There are 7468 responses in this survey.

Respondents who said they are male are excluded from the analysis.

A perusal of the data also revealed that some individuals had entered more than one response. We have assumed the first response is the "true" response. Subsequent responses from the same person are deleted from the data set. After these two types of deletions, the data set contained 7396 responses.

Analysis of the demographics of the responses in comparison with the latest Labour Force Survey shows the survey is reasonably representative of urban women below 65 who earn a "reasonable" income. When this is defined as those earning more than R3000 per month, the survey can be taken to represent approximately two million people. The survey has been weighted accordingly.

However the weighting does affect some responses – for example 17% of the weighted population say they use/have sex toy. In the un-weighted dataset this rises to 26%. This indicates that the respondents are somewhat more likely to use/have a sex toy than the average urban woman who earned an income above R3000.

Where we refer to the un-weighted sample, we will use the term "respondents", whereas when the weighted sample is used, we will use the phrases "women generally" or "women represented by the survey" or the "weighted sample". Generally a distinction will only be drawn when (a) there is a difference between the results or (b) it seems relevant to draw attention to the difference. Generally the weighted sample is used. The respondent sample is of relevance largely for marketing purposes.

An implicit assumption of this analysis is that women who use the Internet are unlikely to be different from women who do not. This is certainly true in respect of women's views and practices. However, only relatively wealthy women who are housewives are likely to have access to the Internet. Thus the respondent sample may not have captured less wealthy women who are housewives. While the weighting in terms of income will to some extent have corrected this imbalance, it will not have done so entirely. Thus it is more legitimate to speak to women's views and practices in this survey than to their employment status. While we have done so in this analysis, in terms of published results in the media, the emphasis should rather be on women's views and practices.

Selected Summary

This survey has data to support the following contentions:

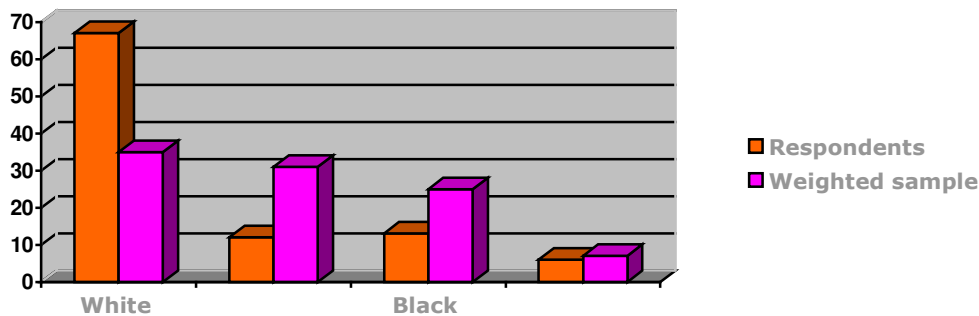
- Gym bunnies have the best physical and mental health
- Couch potatoes as happy with their bodies as athletes
- Money buys happiness at home
- Married women feel more unsafe at home
- Athletes most at risk of eating disorders
- Almost 80% of possible alcoholics are white
- Queer women more likely than straights to binge drink
- Gay women enjoy sex more than straight women
- Having a baby increases sexual enjoyment
- Almost a fifth of women haven't had sex in a year
- Almost half of women don't masturbate
- Half of women never use a condom
- Almost half of women victims of crime are binge-drinkers
- Students are most in favour of affirmative action
- At least a fifth of unplanned pregnancies end in miscarriage or abortion
- Having more children reduces opposition to abortion
- Black women are more positive about South Africa

1. "Me"

This section, which emphasises the demographics of the respondent population in comparison to the target population in terms of age, race and income, is most likely to be useful for marketing purposes but should not be used in media briefings.

The majority (60%) of the respondents are aged between 25 and 39. Respondents showed a slightly older spread than the weighted sample: while 59% of respondents are under age 34, in the weighted sample a greater proportion (66%) are under 34.

The majority of respondents (67%) are white. A third of respondents identified themselves as other than white. There are 13% black, 12% Coloured and 6% Asian/Indian respondents. This compares to the weighted sample of 35% white, 31% Coloured, 25% black and 7% Asian.



Age and ethnicity are strongly correlated. Black respondents are likely to be somewhat younger than respondents in other categories, with more than half of black women respondents (58%) falling into the 20-29 age-group.

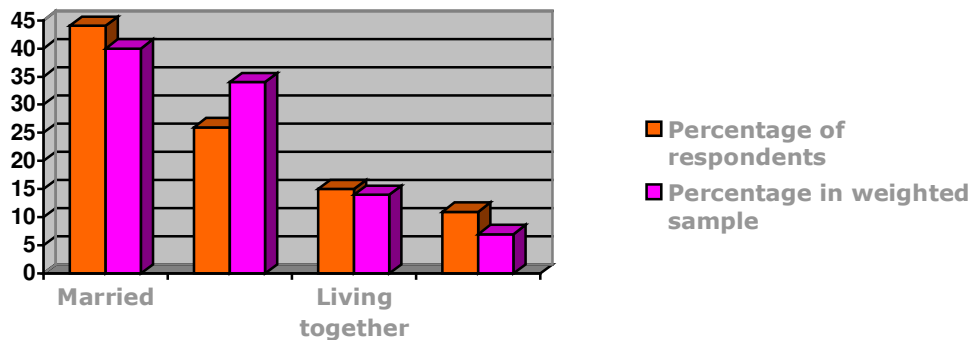
However, the weighted sample had 78% of black women falling into this age category; thus black respondents are indeed mostly aged 20-29 but not to as high a proportion as in the weighted sample.

White respondents showed a wider age spread, with more than half of respondents covering the 20-39 age-groups, while the weighted sample puts more than half of white women in the smaller, younger 20-29 age category. Thus white respondents appear to be somewhat older than women in the weighted sample.

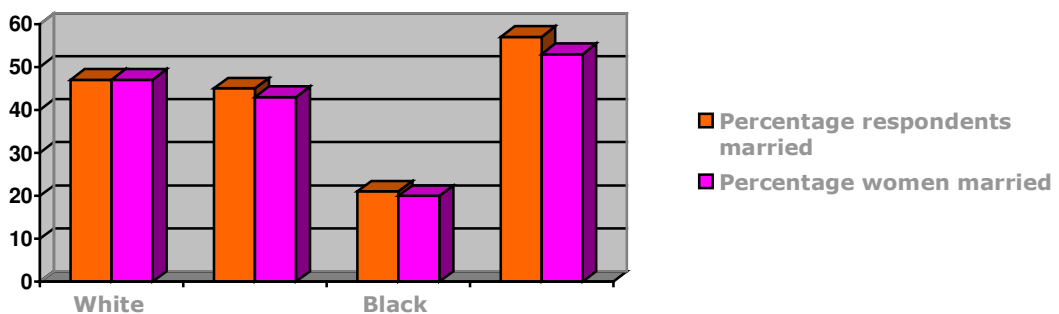
2. "Me and my family"

2.1 Marital status

Respondents are somewhat more likely to be married than women generally, as 44% of respondents are married compared to 40% in the weighted sample. Respondents are also somewhat more likely to be living together or divorced and somewhat less likely to be never married than women generally: 25% of respondents are never married, 15% are living with a partner, and 11% are divorced or separated. This compares with 34% never married, 14% living together and 7% divorced or separated in the weighted sample.



Age and marital status are strongly correlated. In age groups younger than 40, less than half of respondents are married, but after age 40 more than half are married. Respondents appear to get married younger than women generally. More than half of respondents are married after age 30. This accords with the greater likelihood of respondents to be married than women generally. The proportion of divorced women also steadily increases with increasing age, reaching a maximum of 20% in the 55-59 age-group (27% among respondents). After age 59 the proportion of divorced women begins decreasing.

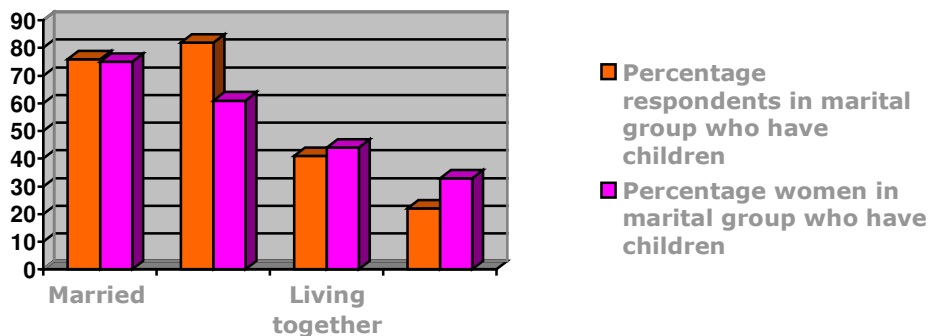


Black women are least likely to be married while Asian/Indian women are most likely (the trend is similar among respondents). More than half of black respondents (55%) said they had never been married while only 20% of white and Indian and 30% of Coloured respondents said they had never been married. This is fewer 'never married' than in the weighted sample but the overall trend among the races is the same in the weighted sample.

White women were most likely to living with someone (16%) or to be divorced/separated (11%) of all race groups.

2.2 Children

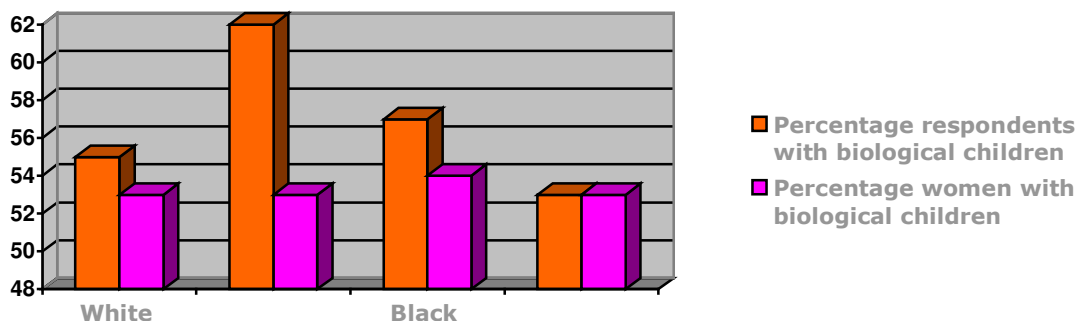
Just over half (56%) of respondents have biological children – in other words, 44% have no children (compared to 53% with children in the weighted sample). Slightly more respondents have two children (24%), than have one child (21%) (compared to 23% for both in the weighted sample). Divorced respondents are most likely to have children (82%) followed by those who are married (76%), those 'living together' (41%), and those 'never married' (22%), while in the weighted sample it is married women (75%) who are most likely to have children (see below).



Of those respondents who have children, those with teenage or adult children as their oldest child comprise over half (53%). First-time mothers of children under one comprise only 4% of respondent who have children.

Of respondents aged 45-49 with children, 59% said their oldest is older than 18. This means the majority of respondents born 1957-1961 would have had their first child when they are no older than 27. Of respondents aged 40-44 with children, 55% said their oldest child is older than 15. This means the majority of respondents born 1962-1966 would have had their first child when they are no older than 29.

Having biological children and ethnicity is more markedly correlated among respondents than women generally, with 62% of Coloured, 57% of black, 55% of white, 53% of Asian respondents having biological children compared to 53/54% for women generally among each race group (see below).



Asian and White women (and respondents) are more likely to have 2 children (24% and 25% respectively; 23% and 26% respondents) than any other number of children while black and Coloured respondents are more likely to have 1 child

(35% and 25%) than any other number of children as are black women generally (32%). However Coloured women generally are more likely to have 2 children (26%) than any other number of children.

The most popular main form of discipline used is removing privileges (25%) while 8% mainly shout. Only 5% mainly use 'time-outs' and only 4% mainly use spanking. However, spanking was more likely to be the main form of discipline among those whose youngest child was between 1 and 3 years of age (16%), between 3 and 6 (10%) or under 12 months (9%).

2.3 Home

Contrary to expectation, being married seems to offer some protection from living with extended family. While only 20% of women generally live with extended family members, of those who are never married, 59% live with extended family members (The trend is the same among respondents but less pronounced).

Living with extended family is correlated with ethnicity. As much as 44% of black women, 41% of Asian women, 35% of Coloured women live with extended family members, while only 26% of white women live with extended family.

Some 18% of women represented by the survey live alone. The age-groups most likely to live alone are the 25-29 age group (20%), the 50-54 age-group (21%) and the 55-59 (21%) and 60-64 (24%).

Black women respondents are most likely to live alone (23%). However, this is not the same as the weighted sample, in which Coloured and black women are most likely to live alone (20%) then white (16%) and then Asian/Indian (15%).

While 53% of women represented by the survey have biological children (56% respondents), a slightly lesser proportion of 52% (53% respondents) live with children- the difference is greater among respondents than women generally.

Of those respondents who have no biological children, 10% nevertheless live with children – this rises to 13% in the weighted sample. Overall, 15% of women represented by the survey do not live with their children (similarly among respondents).

Among respondents, those having more than one child are somewhat more likely than those with only one child, to escape living with children. Of those respondents who have one child, 11% did not live with children; of those who have two children, 13% did not live with children; of those who have three children, 16% did not live with children; of those who had 4 children, 25% did not live with any children.

The trend is not the same in the weighted sample, where 20% of those with one child do not live with any children, but 8% of those with two children, 16% of those with three children, 9% of those with four children do not live with any children.

Among respondents, married women are most likely to be living with children (71%) while of respondents who are divorced or separated, 68% live with children; of those who are living together, 36%; of those who are never married, 30%. This is the same broad trend as among women generally with 67% of

married women, 54% divorced, 42% living together and 40% never married living with children.

Married respondents are more likely to live with two children (28%) than any other number of children (33% respondents) while divorced respondents are more likely to live with one child (23%) (31% respondents) than any other number of children.

An amazing 40% of respondents are 'very happy' with their life at home while a further 50% are 'happy', making 90% of all respondents who are positive about life at home.

Looking at the 'very happy', those who are self-employed are more likely than any other employment group to say they are 'very happy' at home (48%). Full time and part-time employees and housewives had almost equal likelihood's of being happy at home – 40%, 41%, 40%.

2.4 Primary caregivers and breadwinners

Respondents were more likely than women generally to be breadwinners – 44% of respondents compared to 39% of women generally. Respondents were also more likely than women generally to be primary caregivers – 42% of respondents are primary caregivers compared to 34% of women generally.

Just over two thirds (68%) of respondents who have children said they are the primary caregiver of a child, while 39% of respondents said they are the major breadwinner in their household. The two are strongly correlated (100%) – but not in the direction expected. Primary caregivers are more likely to be breadwinners (41%) than those who are not primary caregivers (23%). In fact, among those who have children, 77% of breadwinner respondents are primary caregivers of a child.

Among women generally, the trend is similar but more pronounced. Some 70% of those who have children are the primary caregiver of a child, while 44% of women are breadwinners. Primary caregivers are more likely to be breadwinners (42%) than those who are not primary caregivers (13%). In fact, among those who have children, 87% of breadwinners are primary caregivers of a child.

Unsurprisingly, those who are divorced or separated are more likely (85% - 63% among respondents) to be primary caregivers than those who are married (58% - 51% among respondents). Married respondents made up just over half (56%) of all primary caregivers, but just less than half (43%) among women generally

The vast majority of those who are divorced or separated (91% - 87% among respondents) are major breadwinners, while only 29% (24% - among respondents) of those who are married are the major breadwinner.

Furthermore, 81% (82% respondents) of primary caregiver respondents are employed full-time, with 9% self-employed, only 8% working part-time and only 2% identifying as housewives. In fact of the 81% of all respondents who are employed full-time, 32% are primary caregivers. Those who did not have children are most likely (95%) to be employed full-time.

3. *Me and my money*

Some 74% of women are employed full-time, 8% self-employed, 7% part-time, 5% at university and 4% housewives. The self-employed are most likely to be happy with their employment status (90%) compared to 72% overall happy with their employment status. Excluding the unemployed and students, part-time employees are least likely to be happy (40%) with their employment status.

Unsurprisingly, the higher income earners (R16000-R30 000; R30 000+) are more likely to be happy with their employment status (83% and 99% respectively) than the lower income groups. Money may well buy happiness at home too, with 42% of R30 000+ earners and 47% of R16000-R30 000 being 'very happy' at home. Overall only 38% are 'very happy' at home.

Of those who earn R30 000 or more, some 75% are full-time employees. However, housewives are most likely to fall into this top income group, with 46% of housewives having an income of more than R30 000, 44% of the self-employed, and 23% of full-time employees.

Among respondents, housewives are most likely to be in the top income group of R30 000+ (with 11% of this group having an income of this amount). However, this finding may be as a result of the implicit assumption referred to in the methodological notes. Some 8% of self-employed respondents fall into this income group. Only 3% of full-time employee respondents fall into the highest income bracket.

The most common income bracket for full-time employees and the self employed among respondents is R11001 to R16000 (19% and 18%).

As many as 69% of women think they do not have sufficient savings for their retirement. Unsurprisingly, the top income groups are more likely to think they have sufficient savings (51% and 46%) than the lower income groups.

Excluding the unemployed, the self-employed are most secure in this regard, with 43% who think they have sufficient savings. Housewives are also secure, with 32% (58% among respondents) saying they had sufficient savings, with part-time employees least secure (18%).

Breadwinners are slightly more secure than non-breadwinners (33% vs 28% with sufficient savings (This relationship is reversed among respondents, with 27% versus 30% with sufficient savings).

By age, among respondents the under 29s are most insecure about their retirement savings, followed by the 55+ respondents. Among women generally, under 24s and over 45s are most insecure about their savings.

Some 21% of women represented by the survey have hidden secret savings. Divorced women were least likely (10%) to have such savings while those living together were most likely (40%), followed by never married (25%) and married (20%).

Among respondents, married women respondents are least likely (17%) to have such savings and the 'never married' most likely (27%). Among respondents, housewives are also less likely (18%) than other employment groups to have

hidden secret savings. These two results may suggest that such savings among respondents are hidden from extended family rather than from husbands.

However in the weighted sample, housewives are most likely of all employment groups (54%) have hidden secret savings, followed by school students (35%) and the self-employed (31%).

Some 64% of women (62% respondents) felt their income is not sufficient, while 78% (79% respondents) said they had personal debt. Women who had hidden secret savings are less likely (74%) than those who did not have secret savings (79%) to have personal debt.

Some 66% of all women are stressed about money (71% respondents). Breadwinners are much more likely to be stressed about money (75%) than non-breadwinners (61%). Those with personal debt are more likely to be stressed about money (70%) than those who do not (32%) have personal debt.

4. *Me and my lifestyle*

Almost two-thirds think their mental health is good, with 34% identifying as 'very well' and 33% 'well'. But 22% feel they have more ups and downs than they would like and 8% are frequently depressed, angry or anxious. Of all marital groups the 'never married' is the group with the highest proportion of 'very wells' (36%).

Some 87% of women think they are physically healthy (61%) or very healthy (26%). Yet 48% of women do not exercise at all. Gym-goers are most positive about their health: some 97% of those who go to gym think they are healthy or very healthy, compared with 95% of those who enjoy outdoor activities, 93% of those who go to classes, 90% of those who engage in competitive sport, 90% of those who go to classes and 77% of those who don't exercise at all.

Two thirds of women rated their mental health as being 'I am well or very well'. The best mental health appeared to be exhibited by gym-goers (75% 'well or very well') and outdoor-types (70%) followed by competitive athletes (68%). Those who go to classes (53%) and those who don't exercise at all (65%) were least likely to be well or very well.

Gym-goers are most likely be positive (60%) about their bodies (52% happy and 8% very happy), followed by those who don't exercise and those who engage in competitive sport (56% each). Those who go to classes are least likely (37%) to be positive about their bodies, followed by those who enjoy outdoor activities (48%).

Those of undecided sexual orientation are more likely to be happy or very happy with their bodies (61%) than women of other orientations (50%).

Some 13% of women have had an eating disorder. Some 59% of these women are still unhappy or very unhappy with their bodies. Those in the 45-49 age group are more likely to have had an eating disorder (39%) than any other age group, followed by 15-19 (20%) and 20-24 (17%). Competitive athletes were most likely to have had an eating disorder (16%) and gym-goers least likely (11%). Black women are more likely than any other ethnic group to have had an eating disorder (20%) and Coloured women least likely (8%).

Just under half of women (49%) feel their lives have balance (compared to 53% of respondents). Some 75% of those who are 'very happy' at home feel their lives have balance. The higher income groups are more likely to feel their lives had balance (58%).

Almost half (49%) of women have never smoked and 16% have given up smoking. A quarter (25%) smoke every day, but 39% of those who identify as 'very unhealthy' smoke every day, while 57% of the 'very healthy' have never smoked.

As many as 18% of women have never drunk alcohol. This is closely related to ethnicity, with 45% of Asian/Indian, 37% black, 29% Coloured but only 10% white never having drunk alcohol.

Some 79% of those who worried they might have an alcohol problem are white. Bisexuals, the undecided and gay women are more likely to be binge drinkers (41%, 27% and 27%) than straight women (20%). Gay, bisexual and undecided

women are more likely to smoke every day (38%) than straight women (16%).

5. *Me and my sex life*

Some 73% of women had one sexual partner in the last year, but 94% of married, 88% of those living together, 55% of never married, and 38% of divorced/separated had one sexual partner. The divorced/separated were most likely (49%) to have no sexual partners. Almost a quarter (24%) of never married women had no sexual partner in the last year, and 4% of married women, but only 2% of those living together. Some 2% of married women had more than one sexual partner.

Some 79% of women enjoy sex most or all of the time. The 33% who enjoy sex 'all the time' were most likely (44%) to have sex more than once a week (but less than once a day). The 45% who enjoy sex 'most of the time' were most likely (35%) to have sex once week.

Of the 3% who 'never' enjoy sex, 91% don't have sex. Of the 2% who 'hardly ever' enjoy sex, 36% do not have sex but 25% have sex once week. The 16% who only enjoy sex 'sometimes' were more likely (37%) to have sex once a week than any other frequency.

While breadwinners were most likely to enjoy sex 'most of the time' (48%) followed by 'all the time' (32%) this indicated slightly more who enjoyed it all or most of the time (80%) than non-breadwinners (78%), where 43% enjoyed it 'most of the time' but 35% 'all the time'.

Some 69% of non-breadwinners had sex once a week or more than once a week compared to 57% of breadwinners. Furthermore, 85% of those who had sex more than once a day (just over 1% of all women) were non-breadwinners, while 75% of those who hadn't had sex in more than a year (8% of all women) were breadwinners. Indeed breadwinners were much more likely (14%) than non-breadwinners (3%) not to have had sex in the last year.

Amazingly, 90% of women whose youngest child was under 12 months enjoy sex 'all the time' (60%) or 'most of the time' (30%), compared to the average of 79% of women who enjoy sex most or all of the time. This group with babies were most likely to enjoy sex, followed by those whose youngest child was 3-6 years old (85% most or all of the time) and then 6-9 years old (83% most or all of the time).

However, first time mothers with babies were slightly less likely than second time mothers with babies to enjoy sex most or all of the time (86% of those whose oldest child is under 12 months enjoy sex most or all of the time) but still more likely than the average to enjoy sex (79%).

Those with one child were most likely to enjoy sex some or all of the time (82%), followed by those with five children (81%) and then those with two children (80%).

Least likely to enjoy sex are those whose youngest child is over 18, with only 66% enjoying sex most or all of the time, followed by those whose youngest child is 15-18 years old (76%).

Primary caregivers are somewhat more likely (80%) than those with children who are not primary caregivers (77%) to enjoy sex most or all of the time, almost the same proportion as those who do not have children (78%). Most likely among

primary caregiver types to enjoy sex most or all of the time are the 3% of women who are primary caregivers for some but not all the children (82%).

Women aged between 25 and 44, and women 60-64 were more likely than the average (79%) to enjoy sex most or all of the time, with the 35-39 and 60-64 age-group being top-scorers, with 89% of these women enjoying it most or all of the time. However, top scorers in the 'all the time' category are the 40-44 year olds, where 56% of this age-group enjoy sex 'all the time' compared to the average of 33% who enjoy it all the time. Least likely to enjoy sex most or all of the time were 15-19 year olds and 45-49 year olds, where only 55% enjoy sex most or all of the time (compared to the 79% average).

By far the majority of respondents identified as being of 'straight' sexual orientation, while almost 2% said they are 'bisexual', just over 1% said they are 'gay' and just over half a percent said they are 'undecided'. In the weighted sample the percentage of 'straights' rose to 97%. White women are slightly more likely to be 'queer' (96% straight) and Coloured and Asian women least likely (98% straight).

Some 9% of women don't have sex, while a further 8% haven't had sex in the last year. Of those who don't have sex, an amazing 64% also don't masturbate. Some 4% of women fake orgasm all the time.

Gay women are more likely to have sex once a week (45%), while straight women are most likely to have sex more than once a week (33%) followed by once a week (30%). Almost a quarter of 'undecided' women do not have sex at all (24%).

An amazing 90% of gay women enjoy sex all the time (68%) or most of the time (22%), while straight women are most likely to say they enjoy sex most of the time (46%) followed by all of the time (33%).

Some 4% of women fake orgasm 'all the time' and 6% fake most of the time making 10% who fake all or most of the time. Of the 34% who enjoy sex 'all the time' just over half (52%) 'never' fake orgasm and this is more than the average 41% who never fake. But of the 4% who fake all the time, 59% nevertheless say they enjoy sex 'all the time'. Of the 3% who 'never' enjoy sex, 85% never fake orgasm, while 8% fake all the time. The 27% who fake 'sometimes' are most likely (54%) to enjoy sex 'most of the time'.

Of those who fake orgasm all the time, 53% are married. Half (50%) of gay women never fake orgasm, while only 41% of straight and 32% of bisexual women claim never to fake.

An amazing 46% of straight women (and 45% of all women) don't masturbate, while bisexuals are most likely (44%) to masturbate 'sometimes' and gay women most likely to masturbate 'regularly' (37%). Married women are most likely not to masturbate (53%) followed by those living together with a partner (44%). Asian/Indian women are most likely not to masturbate (57%) and black and white women least likely not to masturbate (42%).

Of those who fake orgasm all the time, 66% don't masturbate. This implies that some 3% of women are not having orgasms at all. Of those 3% of women who never enjoy sex, some 77% also don't masturbate.

Yet of those who enjoy sex 'all the time', almost half (49%) don't masturbate and 53% don't fake orgasm.

Those who enjoy sex all the time are most likely to be moderate drinkers (34%) and least likely to be those worried about an alcohol problem or binge-drinkers (1% and 18%).

Respondents were somewhat more likely (25%) than women generally (17%) to use sex toys. Some 54% of bisexuals and 51% of gay women have or use sex toys, compared to 39% of the undecided and 16% of straight women.

Some 73% of women had one sexual partner in the last year, followed by none (15%) and then two partners (8%), with 4% having more than two partners in the last year. Of those who had only one partner, 51% think it 'very unlikely' they will get HIV/AIDs, compared to 32% of those who had two partners. Of the 73% who had one sexual partner, 82% never wear a condom.

Almost half (49%) of women say they never use a condom, but 25% say they use a condom all the time. Some 25% of women who use a condom all the time, have had an unplanned pregnancy. An amazing 63% of those who never use a condom think it very unlikely they will get HIV/AIDs. White women are most likely 'never' to use a condom (62%), while only 21% of black women never use a condom. Some 40% of black women use a condom all the time.

Some 38% of all women have had an unplanned pregnancy. Those who use a condom 'hardly ever' are most likely to have had an unplanned pregnancy (67%). Some 61% of those who thought it likely or very likely they would get HIV/AIDs have previously had an unplanned pregnancy.

Of those who had unplanned pregnancies, 34% are married and 34% never married. Those living together are most likely of all marital groups to have an unplanned pregnancy (58%). Half of black women had had an unplanned pregnancy, but only 28% of white women.

Those who worried they might have an alcohol problem are most likely to have unplanned pregnancies (56%). The undecided and bisexuals are most likely to have an unplanned pregnancy (48% and 40%) followed by straight (35%) and then gay (13%) women.

6. Me and my society

Respondents are slightly less positive (although still positive) about South Africa's future than women generally, who are overall positive. Some 62% of women generally are positive (49%) or very positive (13%) about South Africa's future, compared to 59% of respondents (49% positive and 10% very positive).

Positive sentiment is correlated with ethnicity. Thus 87% of black women are positive about the future of South Africa (60% positive and 27% very positive) compared to 48% of white women (44% positive and 4% very positive). Some 67% of women are positive about the future of the world, with similar trends as found with positive sentiment about South Africa.

6.1 Crime

Some 8% of women (and respondents) had been victims of crime in the last year – this represents about 160 000 women. Among respondents, those who had been victims of crime are slightly less likely to be positive (52%) about SA than those who had not been victims (59%).

But paradoxically, among women generally, those who had been victims of crime are *more* likely to be positive about SA than those who had not (70% victims versus 62% non-victims). This is possibly because black women (who are more positive) are slightly more likely to be victims of crime than white women, and comprise 31% of victims of crime but only 24% of non-victims.

Just over half (53%) of women feel 'very safe' at home while 37% feel 'somewhat safe', with just over 10% feeling 'not safe' or 'very unsafe'. The proportion feeling unsafe at home rises to 17% among those who have been victims of crime in the last year. Respondents were slightly less likely (9%) than women generally to feel unsafe at home.

Coloured women were most likely of all race groups to feel unsafe at home (14%), with as much as 6% feeling 'very unsafe'. Those who live alone were somewhat *less* likely to feel unsafe at home (9%) than those who did not live alone (12%), with this mostly due to almost 4% of those not living alone feeling 'very unsafe'. This coupled with the fact that married women are more likely to feel unsafe at home than any other marital group (12%) suggests that feelings of safety at home may relate to levels of domestic violence.

Those women who binge drink or worry that they may have an alcohol problem are significantly more likely to have been victims of crime (19% and 15%) than those who drink moderately or not at all (around 5%). Binge-drinkers comprised almost half (46%) of those who have been victims of crime in the last year.

Yet those who have never drunk alcohol or have given up drinking are more likely than drinkers to feel unsafe at home (17% and 18%). On the other hand, those who have given up drinking are also most likely to feel 'very safe' (49%). Those who have one or two drinks a night are least likely to feel unsafe (6%).

Bisexuals are also more likely to have been victims of crime in the last year (18%) followed by gay women (12%) compared to straight (8%) or undecided women (3%).

6.2 Affirmative action for women

Some two thirds (66%) of women think there should be affirmative action favouring women (58% of respondents), yet only half of women (50%) currently feel discriminated against as a woman. Of those who do not feel discriminated against, 55% nevertheless feel there should be affirmative action for women.

The group most likely to think AA for women necessary are those who feel they are passed over in promotion – 85% of these women are in favour of AA. The most common form of discrimination experienced is being taken less seriously at work (22%), while some 10% get paid less than their male counterparts.

Main breadwinners are more likely (71%) to think AA for women necessary than non-breadwinners. Some 90% of school students and 94% of university students think AA for women is necessary, while only 27% of housewives think similarly. Some 85% of black women feel there should be AA for women but only 53% of white women feel similarly.

6.3 Abortion

Some 38% of all women have had an unplanned pregnancy. But half of women (50%) think either that abortion should be permitted only in special circumstances such as rape or medical health conditions (36%) or that it should never be permitted under any circumstances (14%). Respondents are slightly more conservative than women generally, with 54% thinking similarly.

Of those who think abortion should be available on request, 53% have had an unplanned pregnancy.

Of those who had an unplanned pregnancy, 20% have no biological children, implying at least 20% of women who had an unplanned pregnancy had their pregnancy ended either via abortion or miscarriage (this drops to 14% in the respondent sample).

Thinking that abortion should never be permitted is closely related to the number of children a woman has. Those who had no children at all were most likely to think that abortion should never be permitted under any circumstances (55%).

The proportion of those who think abortion should never be permitted drops steadily with an increasing number of children: among those with one child 22% feel this way, among those with two children, 15%; among those with three children, only 6% feel abortion should never be permitted under any circumstances.

Those who had sex once a week (23%) or more than once a week (26%) were more likely than those who don't have sex (14%) to think abortion should never be permitted. Those who 'never' use a condom were most likely to think abortion should never be permitted (43%), followed by those who 'always' use a condom (39%).

Black women were most conservative, with 35% thinking abortion should never be permitted, while only 9% of Asian women thought similarly (30% white, 27% Coloured).

6.4 Community involvement

Some 60% of women say they feel part of their community (64% among respondents). Some 28% of women are members of a women's group (22% among respondents). Some 24% of women engage in volunteer work (22% respondents).

The employment groups most likely to engage in volunteer work are the unemployed (53%) school students (52%) and the self-employed (40%). Coloured women (27%) are slightly more likely than other ethnic groups to engage in volunteer work, and Asian/Indian slightly less likely (21%).

Those who have given up smoking are most likely (28%) to engage in volunteer work, while social smokers are least likely (14%). Those who are happy or very happy at home are more likely (25% and 29%) to engage in volunteer work than those who are not happy. Main breadwinners (29%) are more likely than non-breadwinners (20%) to engage in volunteer work.