



## The Results Are In

A weighted analysis of the actions and opinions of urban SA women.

FEMALE NATIONS SURVEY ♀ 2008

Brought to you by



# Women24 Female Nation Survey 2008: Analysis

## METHODOLOGICAL POINTS

The survey is generalised to individuals that are:

- ▶ female
- ▶ 20 or more years of age
- ▶ urban
- ▶ educated (matric or more)
- ▶ have a non-trivial income R2501 or more a month.

This reveals a population just shy of 3 million. The weighting itself is then based on age and race. Income could not be used because the income categories did not match census data. The demographic profile of the survey is women 20 or more, urban educated with non-trivial income, which demographic is approximately 46% black, 36% white, 10% Coloured and 6% Asian/Indian.



Brought to you by



# Findings

## Being in a couple protects against living with extended family

- ▶ Women most likely to live with their extended family are the never married (49%) followed by the divorced or separated (29%).
- ▶ Living together couples are the least likely (17%) and second least likely are married couples (22%).
- ▶ The most likely to live alone are the divorced or separated (36%) followed by the widowed (30%).
- ▶ The least likely to live alone are the unmarried couples (5%) and married couples (10%) – surprising that 1 in 10 of married women live alone.

## Married women and children

- ▶ Married women comprise almost 2 out of 5 of this demographic (37%).
- ▶ Some 32% (almost 1 in 3) of married women have no children living with them.
- ▶ Some 18% (almost 1 in 5) of married women have no biological children, while 7% (1 in 14) have one or more adopted child and 21% (about 1 in 5) have stepchildren.

## Never married women and children

- ▶ Just over a third of women in this demographic have never been married (34%).
- ▶ A third of never married women have had one or more biological child (33%).
- ▶ Only 1 in 50 (2%) have an adopted child.
- ▶ Some 6 out of 10 do not live with any children.

## Divorced or separated women and children

- ▶ Almost 1 in 10 in this demographic are divorced or separated (9%).
- ▶ Almost 9 out of 10 (87%) of these women have biological children and 9 out of 10 (89%) have step-children.
- ▶ About 1 in 17 have adopted children (6%).
- ▶ Almost two thirds are living with children at present (63%).

## New mothers, primary caregivers and breadwinners

- ▶ About 6% of women in this demographic are new mothers (oldest child under 12 months).
- ▶ Of these women, some 3 out of 4 are the primary caregiver of some or all the children in the household, while almost half (45%) of new mothers claimed also to be the main breadwinner in the household.

### Living away from baby

- ▶ Of the 1 in 4 mothers who are not the primary caregiver, more than half (51%) do not live with their baby.
- ▶ 80% of these women who do not live with their baby are black – 13% of black new mothers don't live with their baby, compared to 3% of white new mothers. This seems to come at a cost of happiness for black mothers – almost half (45%) of these black new mothers who do not live with their children are unhappy with their home life – compared to the average for new mothers of only 9% who are unhappy with their home life.
- ▶ Almost 6 out of 10 black new mothers living without their children are the main breadwinners (57%) compared to 45% of new mothers generally (and only 32% of white new mothers), yet none of these women earn more than R11 000 per month.

### Age and physical health

- ▶ Older women were most likely to say they were unhealthy – a quarter of those over 70 and a fifth of those over 65 say they are unhealthy.
- ▶ Those aged 35-39 were least likely to say they were unhealthy (11%) – yet 48% of this age group claimed not to exercise, which is the same proportion as for women generally.
- ▶ However only 18% smoke, compared to the average of 1 in 4 women in the survey demographic.

### Age, lack of sex, and marriage

- ▶ The group most likely to have had no sexual partners in the last year were the under 25s, among whom 1 in 5 had no sexual partners (19%), followed by the 60-64s (14%).
- ▶ The likelihood of married women not having a sexual partner in the last year increases with age – around 5%-10% of married women aged 30 to 54 have not had a sexual partner in the last year. The proportion jumps to 20% of married women aged 55-59 and 33% of those aged 60-64.

### Age and enjoyment of sex

The age-group most likely to say they enjoy sex “all of the time” are the 45-49ers, of whom 44% say they enjoy sex all the time – compared to 31% overall of women in the survey demographic.

### Employment status and happiness

- ▶ The self-employed are most likely to be happy about their employment status with almost 9 out of 10 (87%) saying they are happy with their status, while more than half of part-time employees (54%) are by contrast unhappy.
- ▶ Only 6% are in fact self-employed and only 6% part-time employed.

- ▶ Similarly 9 out of 10 of self-employed enjoy their job (89%) but only 3 out of 4 part-time employees (75%).

### Working from home and flexible hours

- ▶ Apart from housewives and students, the self-employed were most likely to work at home, with 36% working at home while only 1 in 12 of women in the survey demographic work at home (8%).
- ▶ Just under 1 in 10 had a flexible work arrangement (9%) and only 1 in 20 who work full-time had a flexible arrangement or could work from home (5%).

### Use of office day care

- ▶ Some 1 in 14 had an office day care available to them (7%).
- ▶ But only 20% of women with an office day care available made use of it.
- ▶ Yet 64% of those who do not have an office day care say they would use it if it were available.

### Job enjoyment and turnover

- ▶ The fewer jobs had in the last 5 years the more likely that the current job is enjoyed – 75% of those with only 1 job in last 5 years enjoy their job compared to only 62% of those who had had 4 jobs. Almost half of those who currently enjoyed their job have had the same job for the last 5 years (45%).

### Spanking as main form of discipline

Some 8% of those whose youngest child was a baby, 16% with toddlers, 14% with pre-schoolers, 8% with primary school-goers, 7% with pre-teens and 2% with teenagers and 5% whose youngest child was a teenager use spanking as their main form of discipline.

### Happy home life and marriage – Jane Austen was right

- ▶ So being married does appear to bring happiness to women. Almost half (47%) of married women say their home life is “very happy” compared to just over a third (35%) of those who have never been married, and a similar proportion of the divorced and separated (37%).
- ▶ Even the 3% of those who have been widowed are as happy as the smug married (48% of widows are “very happy” at home).
- ▶ Living together scores somewhere in between at 40% “very happy”

### Marital bliss with no children

- ▶ The trend is even more pronounced among those who don't yet have any kids (biological, adopted or step), with 56% of married women without kids saying they are "very happy" but only 36% of never married women who don't have any kids.
- ▶ Living together with no kids still scores in between, with 49% "very happy" at home.

### Add one biological child

Among those with one biological child, the proportion of smug married "very happy" at home drops from 56% (no children) to 47% (one child), while never married drop to 32% and living together goes right down to bottom place at only 30% "very happy".

### Add one adopted child

An adopted child however seems to boost marital happiness even above childless levels to 60% "very happy" at home.

### Money not necessarily a determinant of happy home life

While higher income categories of women generally have a somewhat higher proportion saying they are happy at home (with the R16 001 – R30 000 category at 45% "very happy" scoring top), a more confusing trend is observed with married women, with very low income categories scoring similarly to higher income categories.

### Being main breadwinner negative impact on married home life

There is little difference in terms of a "very happy" home life among main breadwinners and non-main breadwinners who have never been married (about 35% "very happy"), but almost half of married women who are not the main breadwinners say they are "very happy" compared to 40% of married main breadwinners.

### Frequently depressed highly likely to be primary caregivers

Almost half (49%) of the 8% of women who described their mental health as "frequently depressed and anxious" were primary caregivers of children, yet this population of women comprises only 39% overall who are primary caregivers.

### Smoking somewhat rare

- ▶ Smoking seems to be increasingly rare among women, with 62% saying they have never smoked and a further 14% claiming to have given up.
- ▶ A stoic 16% smoke every day and that rare breed, the "social smoker" comprise 8% of this demographic.
- ▶ White women are much more likely to be everyday smokers than other race groups, with fully a quarter of this group still smoking every day.

### Vices go together – sometimes

- ▶ Just under a quarter of women in this demographic (24%) claim never to have smoked and never to have drunk alcohol. Among those who have never drunk, 87% have never smoked.
- ▶ On the other end of the scale binge drinkers are highly likely to be smokers – while only 18% say they binge drink, 34% of social smokers binge drink and 29% of everyday smokers.
- ▶ Interestingly, social drinkers – the one or two a night tipplers which comprise 36% of women – are much more likely to be reformed smokers or still smokers than non-smokers.

### Exercise and happiness with body

- ▶ More than half (56%) of women who are unhappy with their bodies don't exercise at all, compared to 44% of those who are happy with their bodies.
- ▶ Yet only 13% of women who don't exercise have ever had an eating disorder.
- ▶ Just over half (51%) of women who've ever had an eating disorder are still unhappy with their bodies.

### Sexual enjoyment and happiness with body

- ▶ Sexual enjoyment is correlated with body happiness – while 79% of those who are very happy with their bodies enjoy sex all or most of the time, only 57% of those who are unhappy with their bodies enjoy it all or most of the time.
- ▶ But it is certainly not the only thing going on, with close on half of those who say they never or hardly ever enjoy sex nevertheless saying they are happy with their bodies.

### Websites and feelings about SA future

- ▶ Women who said Women24.com was their favourite website were somewhat more positive about SA future than women generally – while 41% of women are now negative or very negative about South Africa, only 32% of Women24 fans are negative or very negative.
- ▶ Women who plumbed for News24.com were however slightly more negative than women generally, with 44% negative or very negative.
- ▶ Even more negative were mweb.co.za website fans, of whom 56% were negative or very negative.
- ▶ By contrast iol.co.za website fans had only 27% negative or very negative about South Africa's future.

### Websites and feelings about world future

While 30% of women are now negative or very negative about the future of the world, a somewhat smaller proportion of Women24 fans are similarly negative (26%).

## Experience of discrimination as a woman and affirmative action for women

- ▶ More than half (52%) of women said they were discriminated against “all the time” – and the remainder selected other workplace problems as a woman. However do note that women were not given the option of saying they were not discriminated against.
- ▶ Some two thirds (68%) of women believe affirmative action favouring women is necessary. Most likely to believe that affirmative action was necessary were those who said they were taken less seriously in the workplace – 78% of these women said it was necessary.
- ▶ Among race groups, black women were most likely to think it necessary (85%) and white women least likely (50%).
- ▶ Among marital status, never married women were most likely to think it necessary (78%) and married least likely (61%).
- ▶ Among age groups, younger women were most likely to think it necessary (34 and under had 70% or more thinking it necessary).
- ▶ In terms of employment status, students and the unemployed were most likely to think it necessary (80%+) housewives and the self-employed least likely (50%), while 71% of full-time employees said it was necessary.
- ▶ Almost three quarters (73%) of main breadwinners thought it was necessary.

## Victims of crime and feelings of safety

- ▶ Just under 10% of women had been victims of crime in the last year.
- ▶ Most likely to be victims of crime are younger women – with 12% of under 30s (1 in 8) saying they were victims of crime.
- ▶ By race, black women were most likely (12%) and Asian/Indian women least likely (6%) to have been victims of crime.
- ▶ Some 26% of victims of crime feel unsafe or very unsafe at home, compared to only 10% of those who have not been victims of crime in the last year.
- ▶ In terms of marital status, most likely to feel unsafe at home are divorced or separated women (17%) and least likely are the never married (9%) or widowed (6%).
- ▶ Those who are very unhappy at home are also most likely to feel unsafe at home (31% unsafe).
- ▶ Although white and Asian women were less likely than black and Coloured women to have been victims of crime, they were more likely to feel unsafe at home (13% Asian women and white women feel unsafe).

## Sex and barrier protection

- ▶ Some 43% of women “never” use a condom or other type of barrier protection when having sex.
- ▶ This rises to 70% among married women.
- ▶ Only 13% of the “never married” said they “never” use protection – in fact 46% of never married women say they use protection “all the time”.

## Unplanned pregnancy

- ▶ Some 40% of women have had an unplanned pregnancy.
- ▶ Divorced or separated women were most likely to have had an unplanned pregnancy (54%) followed by those living together (48%).
- ▶ Those who say they use protection “sometimes” were most likely to have had an unplanned pregnancy (54%).
- ▶ Of those who had an unplanned pregnancy, 18% have no children, suggesting their pregnancy ended in a miscarriage or was terminated.

## Attitudes to abortion

- ▶ Almost 1 in 10 (10%) women think there should be no restriction on abortion, while 30% believe it should be available on request up to three months.
- ▶ Some 48% think it should only be available in special circumstances and 12% believe it should never be permitted.
- ▶ Marked differences are observed by age, with younger women having more extreme views: around 1 in 5 women under 29 think there should be no restriction on abortion i.e. they are twice as likely to hold this view as women generally – but 44% in this age group also think it should never be permitted, compared to the 12% average.

## Gay marriage not yet as popular as straight marriage

- ▶ About 3% of women in this demographic said they identified as other than straight (gay, bisexual, or undecided).
- ▶ 1 in 20 of these women were divorced or separated, 1 in 5 (20%) were living together and 22% were married.

## Number sexual partners

- ▶ Some 69% of women in this demographic have had only one sexual partner in the last year, while 11% have had two and 4% three to five.
- ▶ While 90% of married women had only one sexual partner in the last year, some 8% said they had none – and 2% of married women had two sexual partners.
- ▶ Almost half (45%) of never married women had no sexual partners in the last year, while 21% of divorced or separated women had no sexual partners in the last year.

## Faking orgasm

More than a quarter of married women “sometimes” fake orgasm (27%). Married women are most likely (35%) to have sex just more than once a week.

For more info, go to [www.women24.com](http://www.women24.com)  
or contact us at [editor@women24.com](mailto:editor@women24.com)

Brought to you by

