

On Rapid Increase of Households in South Africa and Implications on Delivery of Basic Services

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Official sets of data from Statistics South Africa in the post-apartheid era suggest a general trend of rapidly increasing numbers of households against the population of individuals which is increasing at a decreasing growth-rate. Using multivariate statistical methods, this study investigates the interaction of demographic variables and their impact on the rapid increase in household numbers in South Africa. This study also examines the impact of the rapid increase of households to delivery of basic services. The results provide a scientific confirmation that the rapid increase could best be attributed to fragmentation of households. The paper recommends that the fast pace of household growth in South Africa should adequately be factored into household-based service delivery models of government at least to the next decade as the trend is expected to continue into the near future.

Key Words: Households, Population, Rapid Growth, Household Size, Fragmentation, Service Delivery