



# Internal Migration and Urbanisation in South Africa: implications for human rights

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**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Population Policy for South Africa**

**Maropeng: Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site**

**11-13 July 2023**

# Outline

- Global perspective
- Definitional issues
- SA perspective: Census 2011
- SA perspective: SAPRIN 2000-2021
- Gauteng ↔ Rural Mpumalanga: Agincourt Migrant Health Follow-Up Study
- Population development issues
- Consequent human rights issues

# Global perspective

- Currently ~ 56% of the world's population live in cities.
- By 2050, nearly 7 of 10 people will live in cities. (UN-Habitat 2022)
- The future of humanity is urban but not exclusively large metropolitan areas
- Urbanisation is transformative, but uneven - differentiated policy responses required
- Worst-case scenario is disastrous consequences; economic uncertainties, environmental challenges and expand existing vulnerabilities
- Business as usual = a pessimistic urban future with systematic discrimination and exclusion of the poor
- With concerted policy action it is possible for cities to avoid the pessimistic scenario and emerge into a more optimistic urban future

# Definitional issues

- Rural: urban dichotomy is a problem
- Urbanisation definitions count (de jure vs. de facto)
  - Beijing (China) 21M – includes 8M floating population
- Internal migration definitions count (temporary vs definitive)

# South Africa

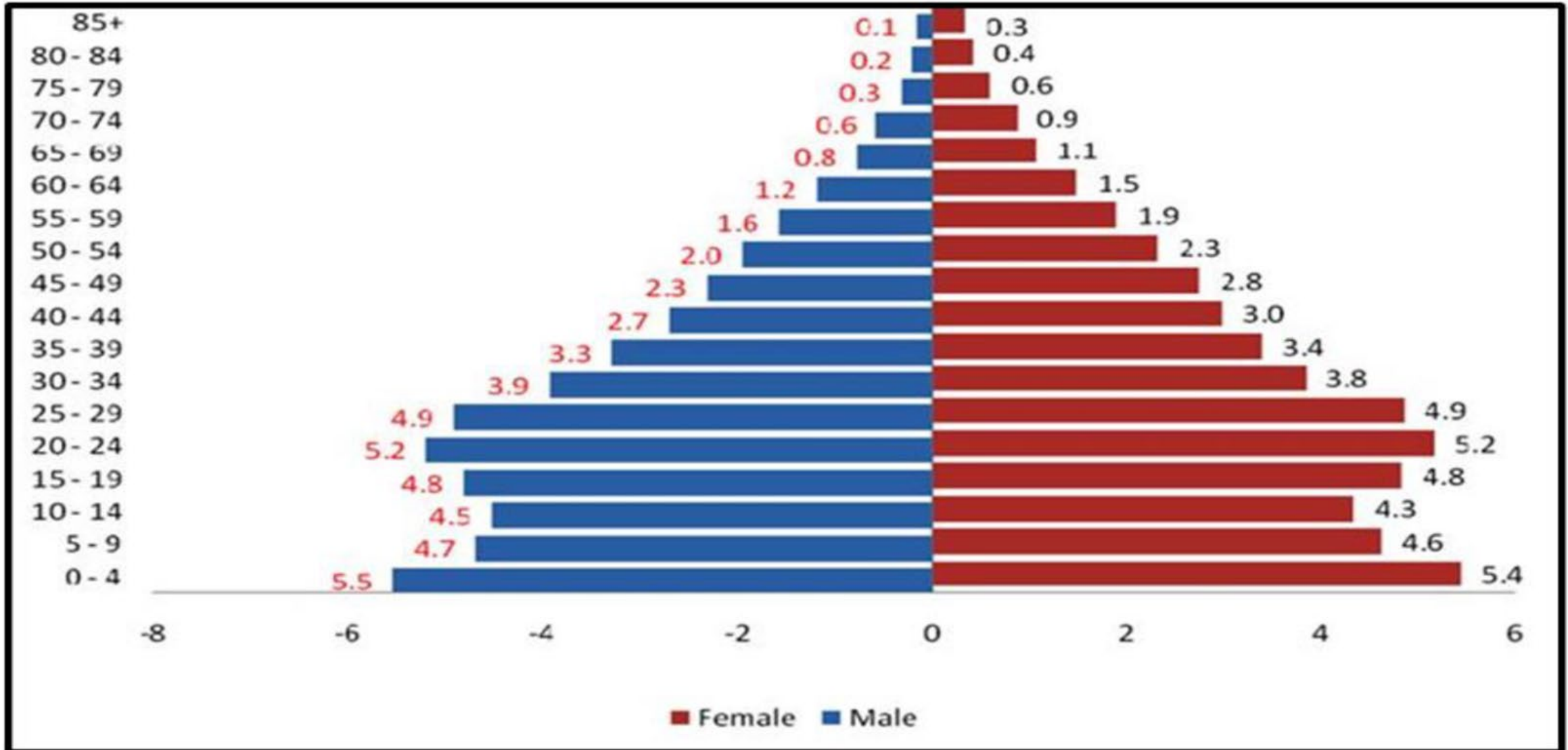
- 68% urban in 2022 (World Bank)

# Data source: National census 2011

Migration definition:

A migrant is a person who changed place of residence within the last 5 years to the index location.

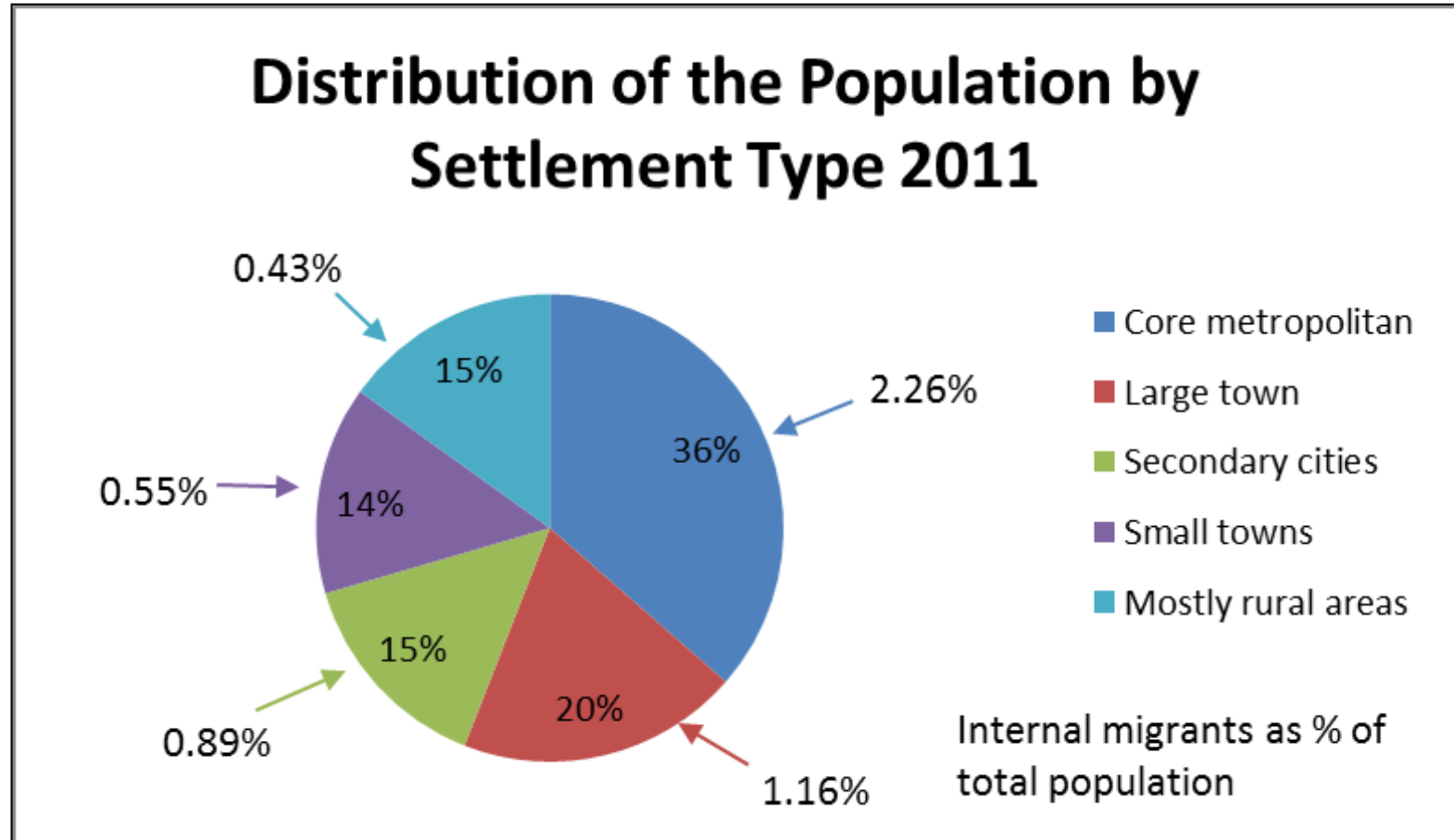
# South Africa national population – Census 2011



# Municipal Settlement Typology

| Settlement category   | Total rural population | Total urban population | % urban | Examples  | Nr of municipalities in category |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|---------|---|----------------------------------|
| <b>Metro core municipalities</b><br>More than 1 000 000 urban   | 742 874                | 18 126 409             | 96,1%   | Eg: Johannesburg, Cape Town, Ethekewini           | 6                                |
| <b>Secondary city municipalities</b><br>200 000 - 999 999 urban | 1 442 504              | 6 117 637              | 80,9%   | Eg: Mangaung, Buffalo City, Rustenburg, Newcastle | 16                               |
| <b>Major town municipalities</b><br>50 000 - 199 999 urban      | 4 034 661              | 6 133 173              | 60,3%   | Eg: George, Stellenbosch, Mafikeng, Knysna        | 67                               |
| <b>Small town municipalities</b><br>20 000 - 49 999 urban       | 5 072 480              | 2 366 782              | 31,8%   | Eg: Mussina, Tzaneen, Giyani, Ulundi              | 68                               |
| <b>Mostly rural municipalities</b><br>Fewer than 20 000 urban   | 6 999 666              | 734 376                | 9,5%    | Eg: Port St Johns, Nkandla, Prince Albert         | 77                               |

# Census: Municipal Settlement Types



**Males and females, all population groups**

# Migration flows into and out of metros

|                | Moving into core metro municipalities from: | Moving out of core metro municipalities into: | Net migration (positive means population gain for core-metro municipalities) |
|----------------|---|---|--|
| Secondary city | 7%  | 6%  | 1%   |
| Large town     | 9%  | 8%  | 1%   |
| Small town     | 6%  | 3%  | 3%   |
| Mostly rural   | 5%  | 2%  | 3%   |
| Total          | 27%   | 19%   | 9%   |

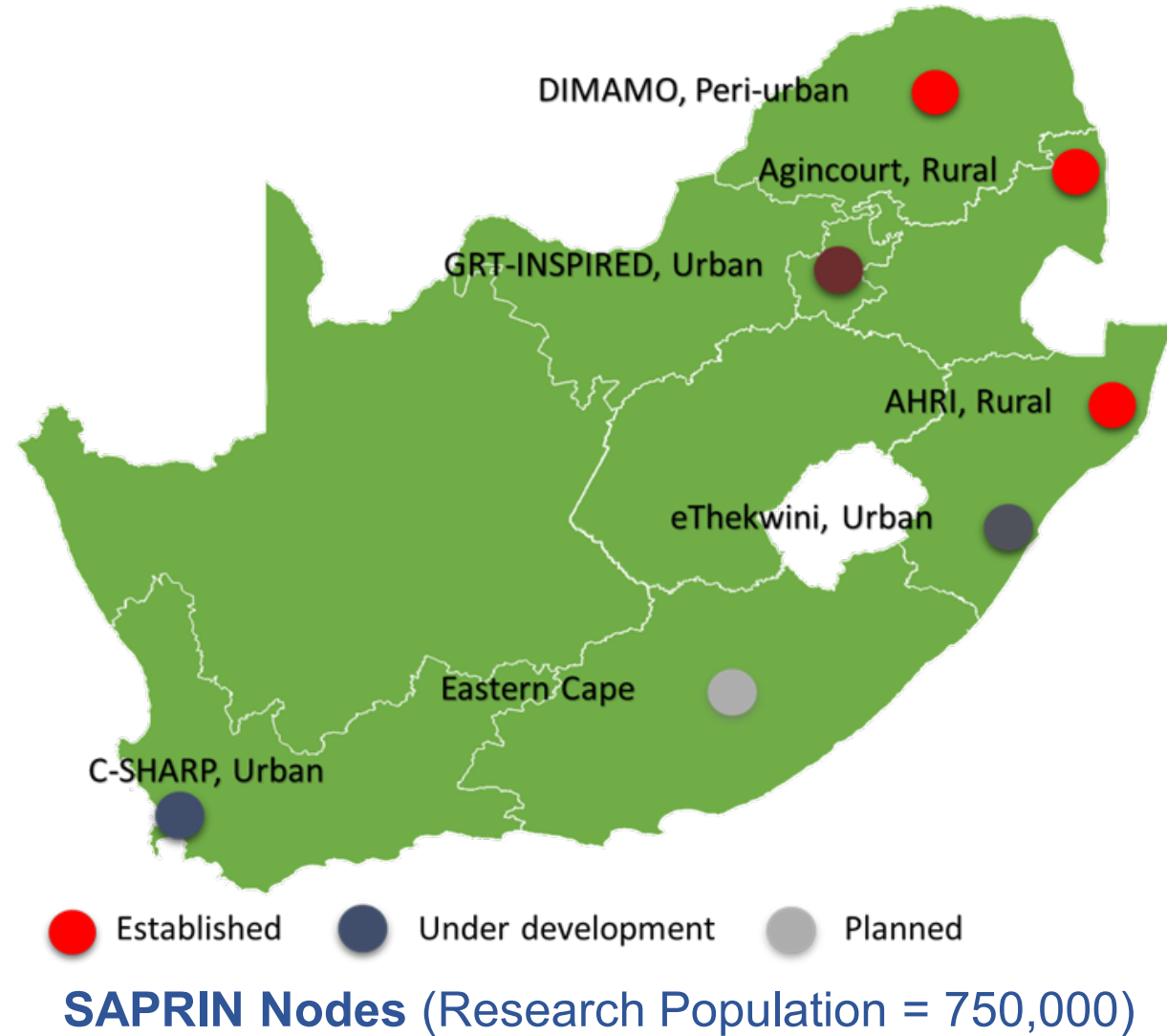
# South African Population Research Infrastructure Network (SAPRIN)

- Established in 2017 as part of the **South African Research Infrastructure Roadmap (SARIR)** by the **Dept of Science and Innovation (DSI)**.
- Hosted by the **South African Medical Research Council**.
- **Mission:** to enable impactful population-based research through supporting a network of **standardised longitudinal, whole population health and demographic surveillance nodes** in South Africa



# South African Population Research Infrastructure Network

- A network of Population Nodes (cohorts)
- Existing and new nodes; impoverished communities, both rural and urban
- New nodes incorporate bi-directional, migration flows, linking poor rural communities with urban centres
- Nodal populations of ~100 000 individuals
- When fully consummated, will consist of ~1% of national population

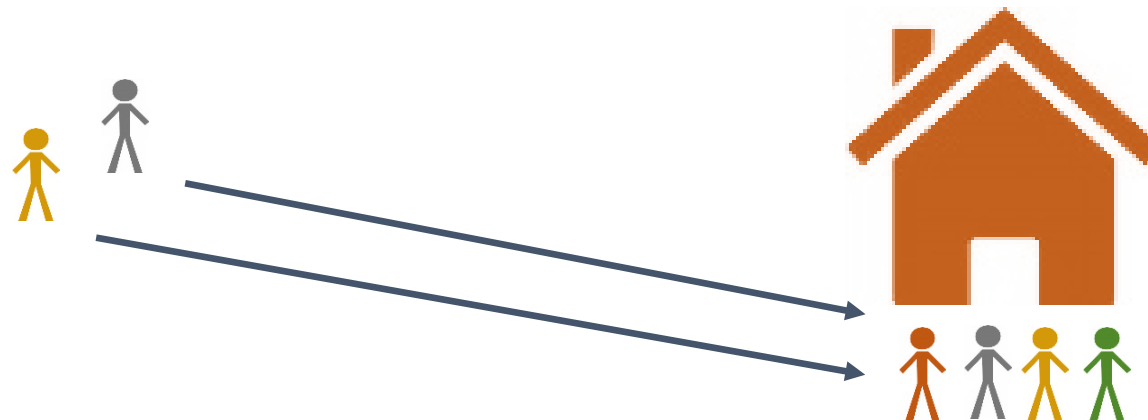


# HDSS Migration Definitions

**Permanent migrant:** a person who joins or leaves a household with a permanent intention

**Temporary migrant:** a non-resident household member who is away the majority of time.

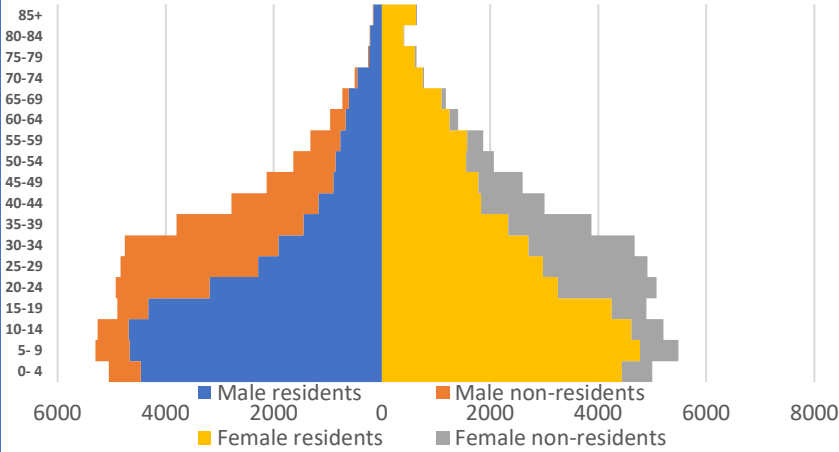
*de jure* household definition includes resident household members plus any non-resident household members



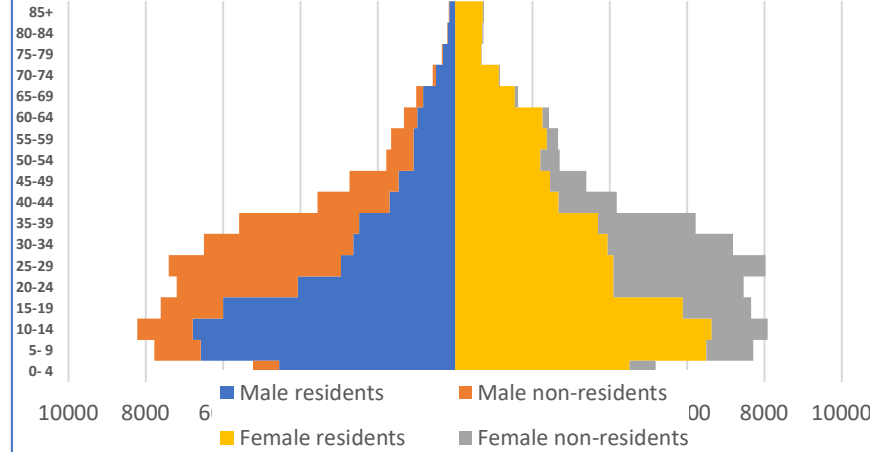
# SAPRIN – Age Sex Pyramids

## 3 Rural Nodes

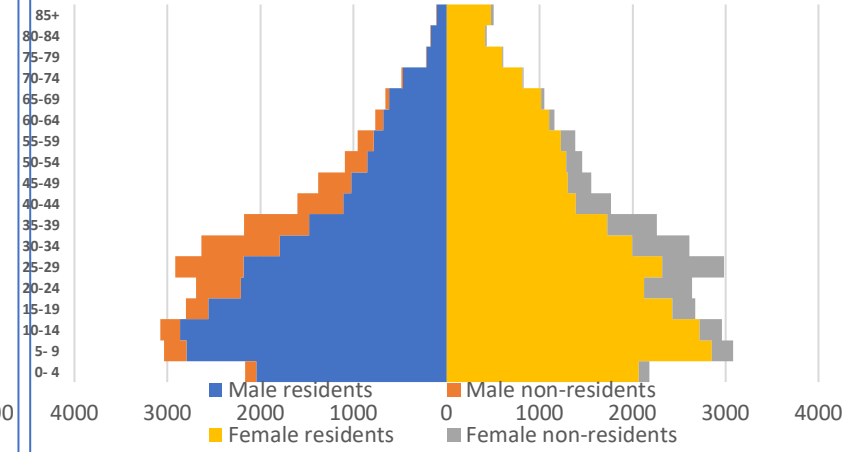
Agincourt surveillance population by sex, age and residence status on 1 July 2021



AHRI surveillance population by sex, age and residence status on 1 July 2021



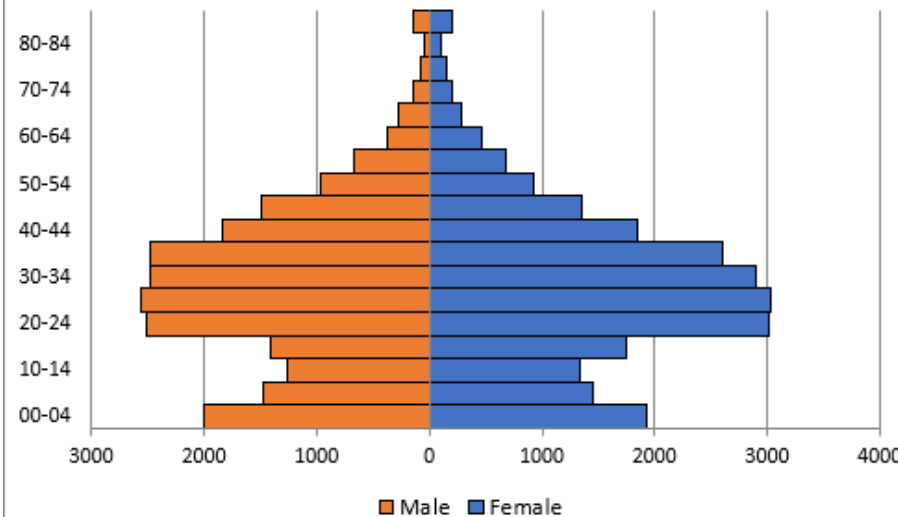
DIMAMO surveillance population by sex, age and residence status on 1 July 2021



SA rural nodes show the demographic dividend

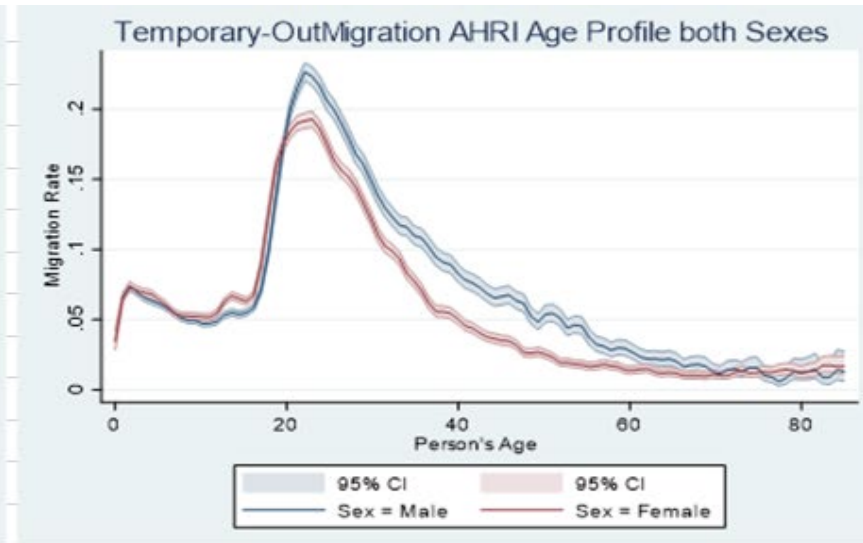
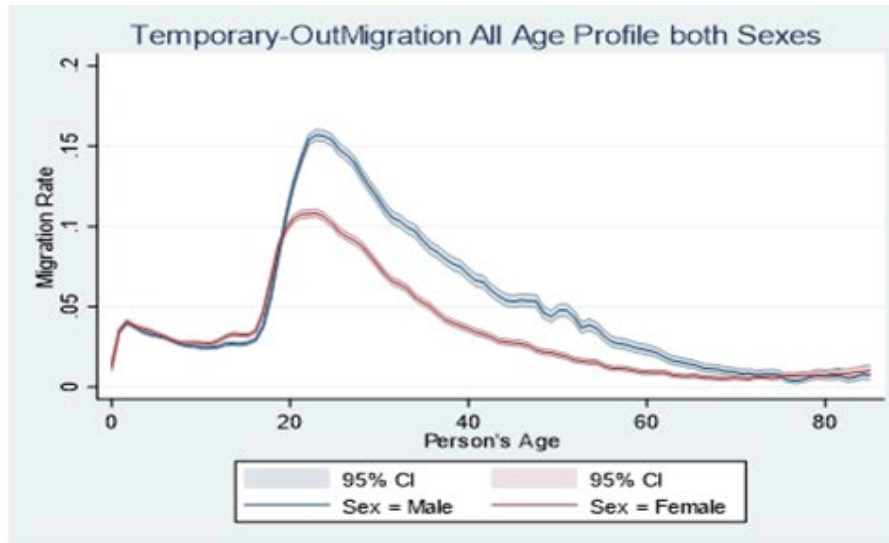
Urban node shows the links to rural areas where children reside

GRT-INSPIRED



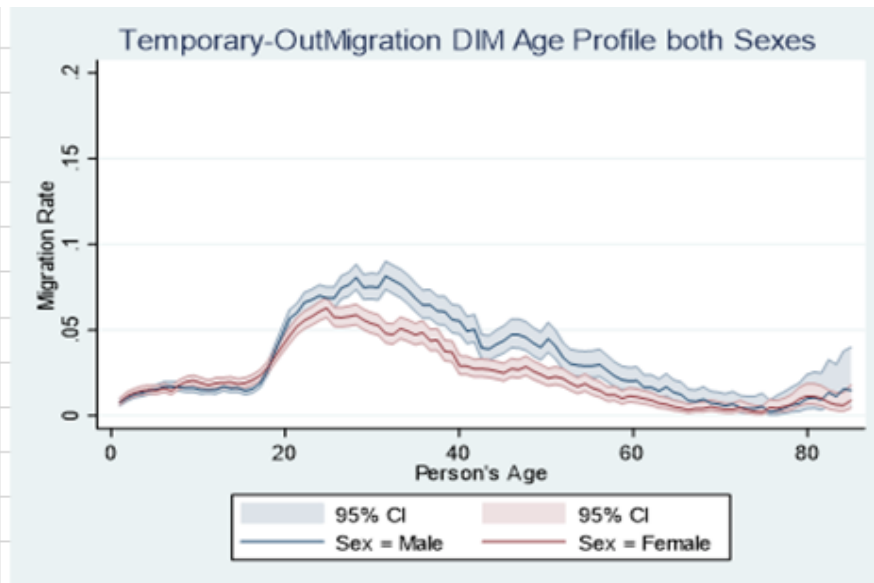
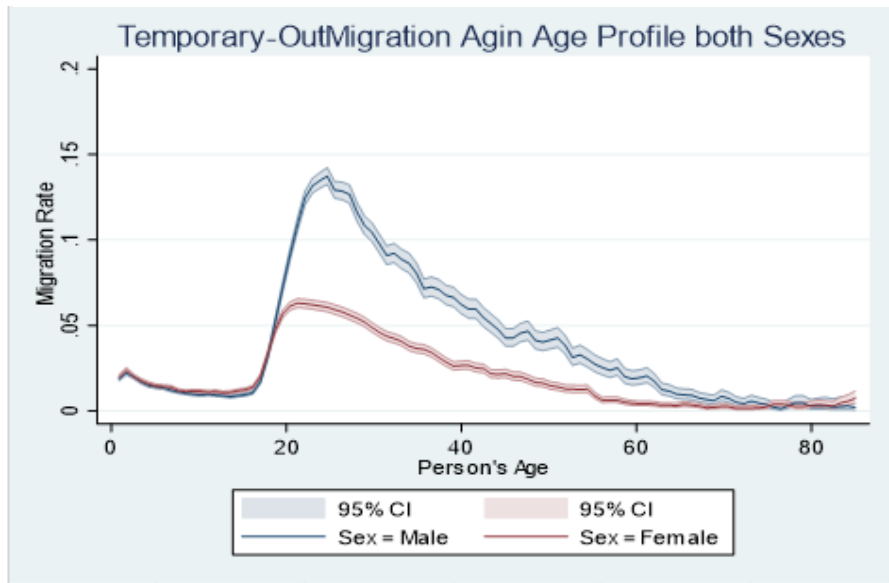
# Age-sex profile of temporary out-migration - SAPRIN

All nodes combined  
N=300,000



AHRI, KZN

Agincourt,  
Mpumalanga

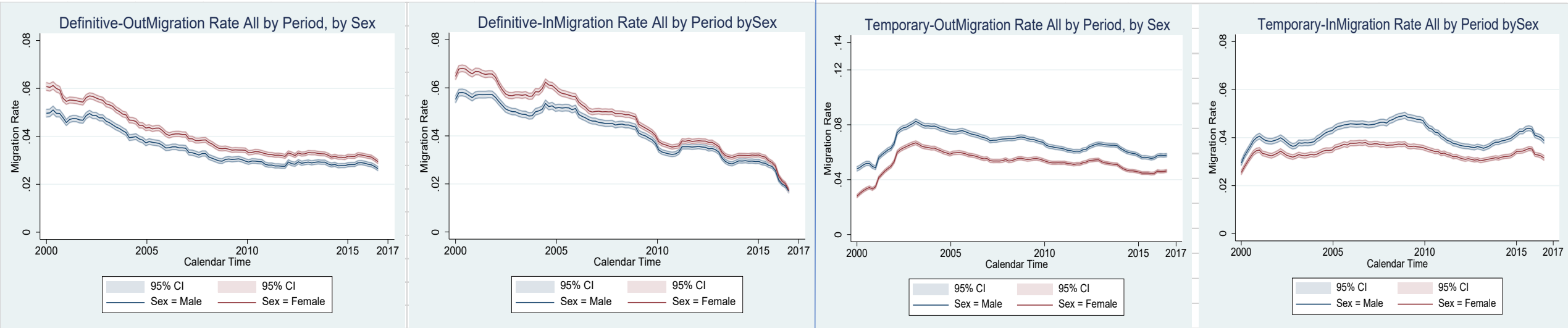


DIMAMO, Limpopo

# Trends of internal migration rates 2000 – 2017 Male and Female

Definitive internal in- and out-migration:  
Female rates higher than male  
Trend shows decline over time

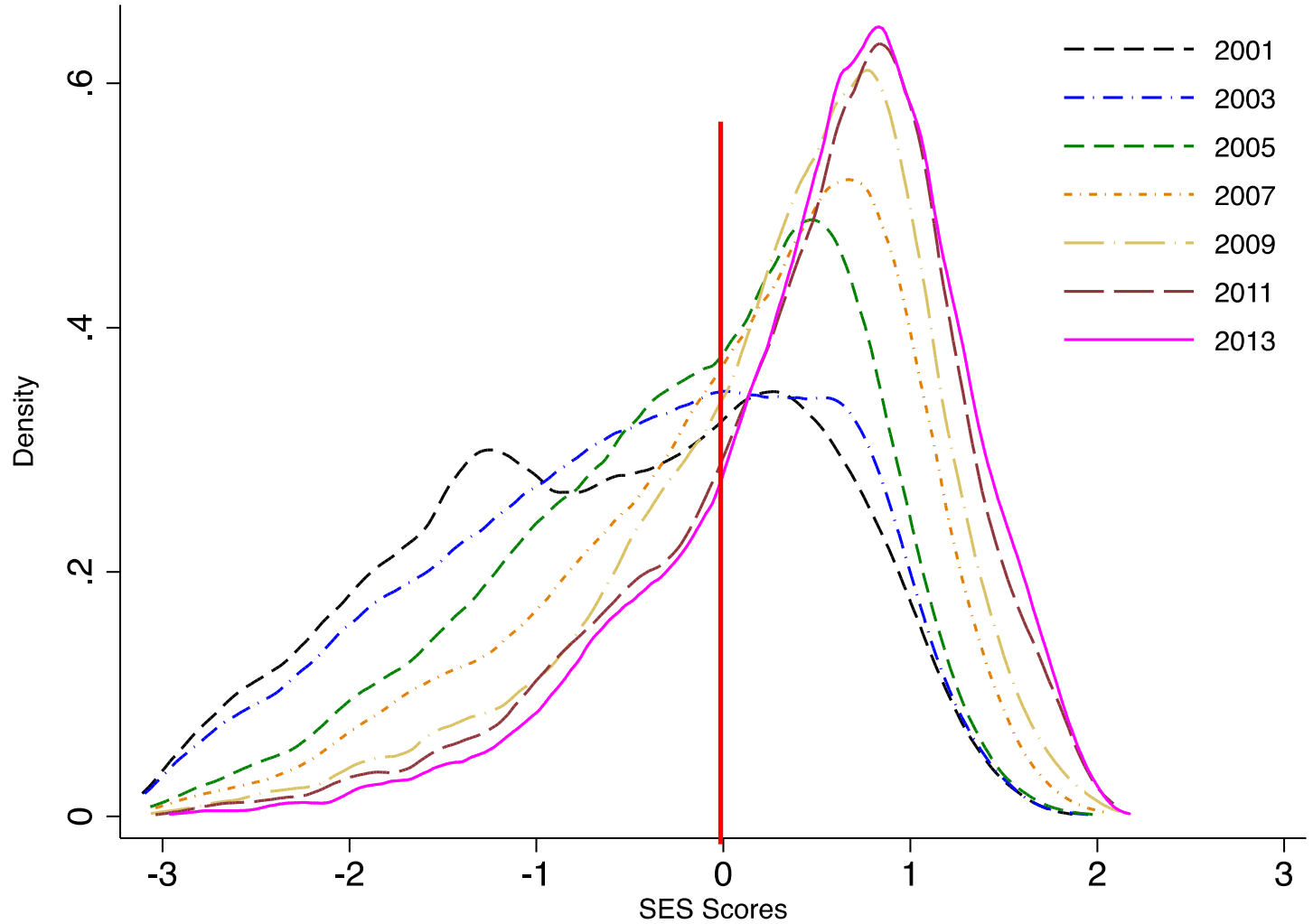
Temporary Labour in- and out-migration  
Male rates higher than female  
Trend steady over time



Source: Collinson M.A. and Biyase, M. *Migration and Remittances in South Africa*. ,“The Oxford Handbook of the South African Economy”, Oxford University Press 2021.

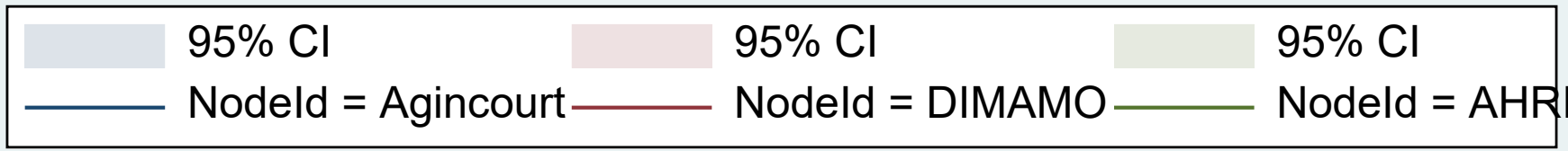
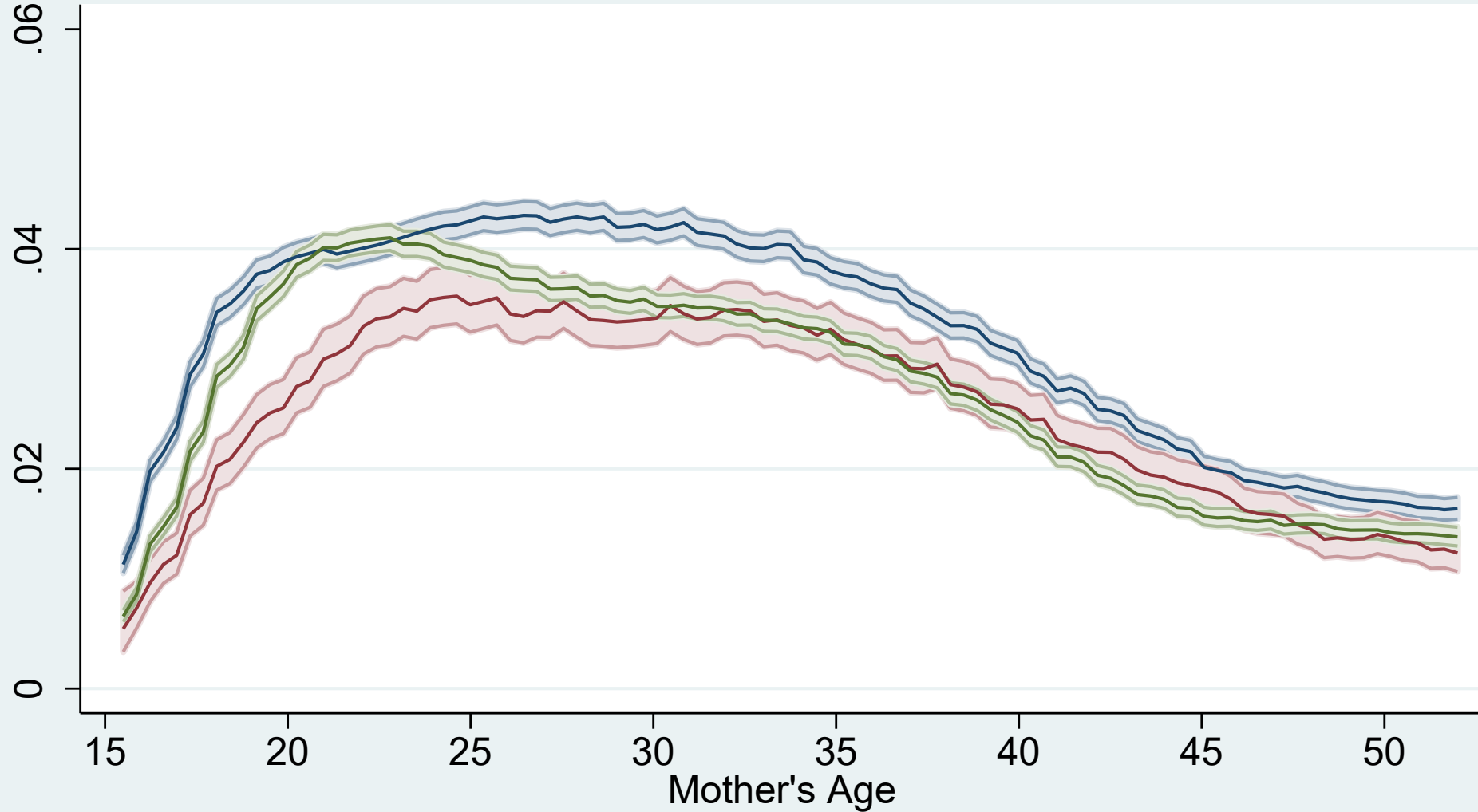
# Agincourt HDSS: Changes in household Socio-economic status

Poorest half:  
- Gvt grants  
- Female migrant remittances

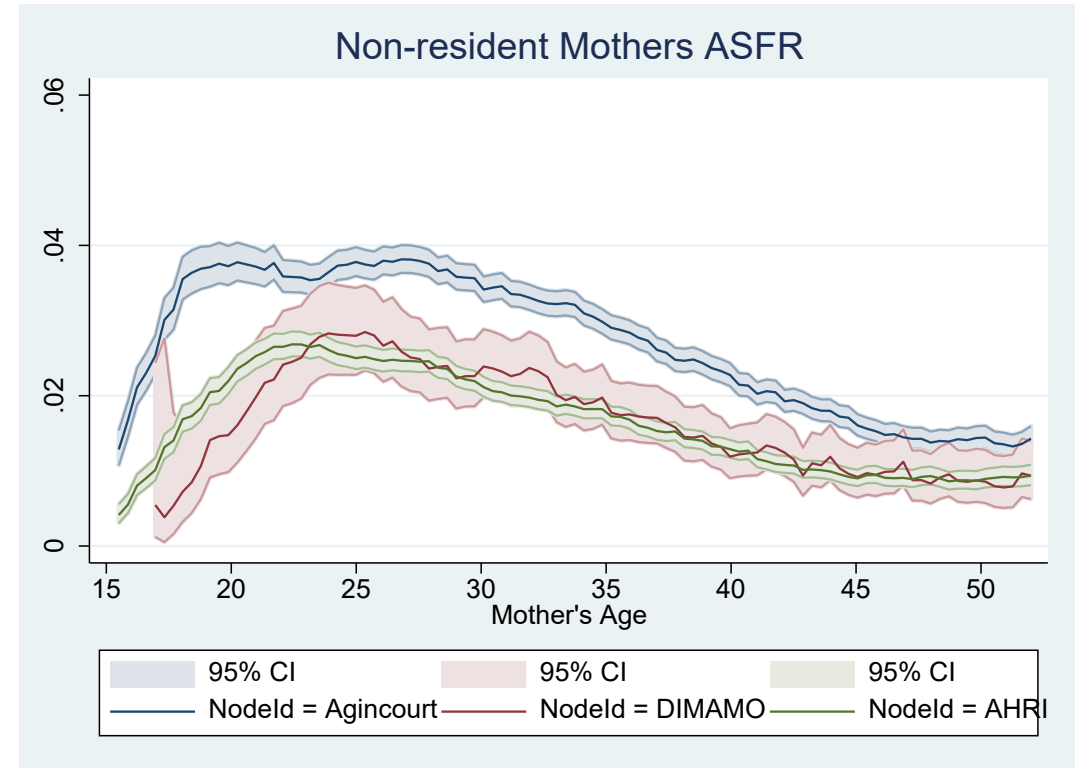
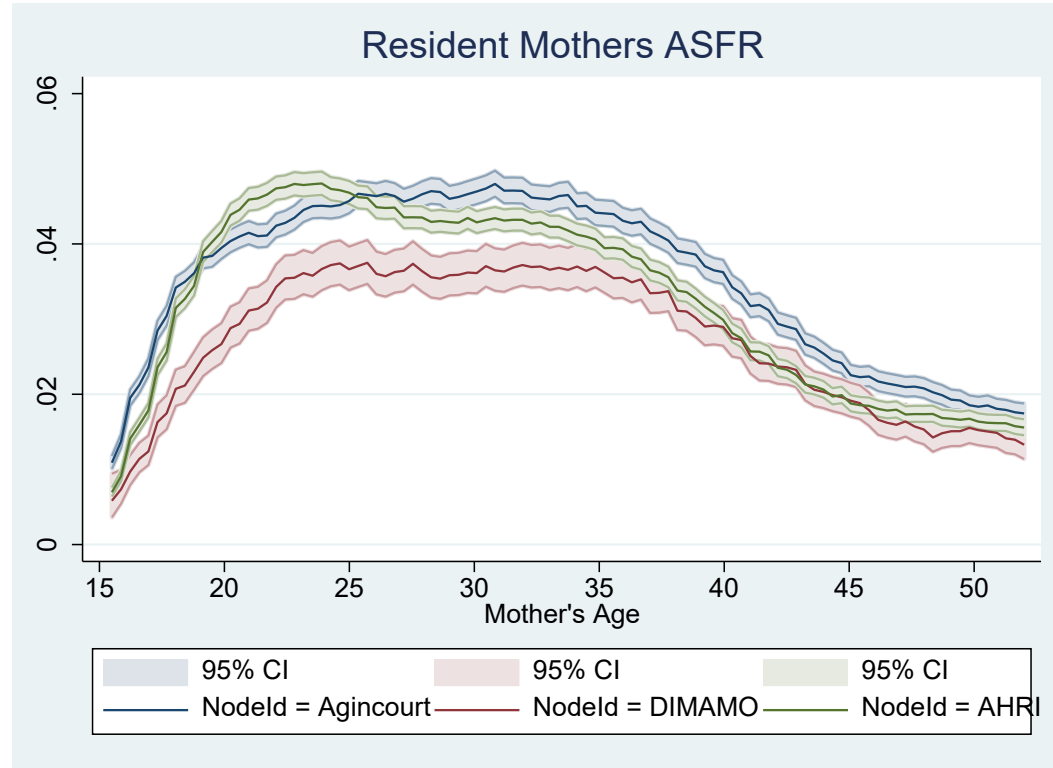


Less poor half:  
- Local employment  
- Male migrant remittances

# De jure population ASFR by node



# SAPRIN - Age-specific fertility rates by residence status



# Migrant Health Follow-Up Study (Agincourt)

**Agincourt Health and Socio-Demographic Surveillance System**

**Migrant Health Follow-Up Study (MHFUS)**  
3800 individuals aged 18 - 40

Non-migrants

Migrants

**Five data collection waves (face-to-face and telephone)**

Employment and residence history

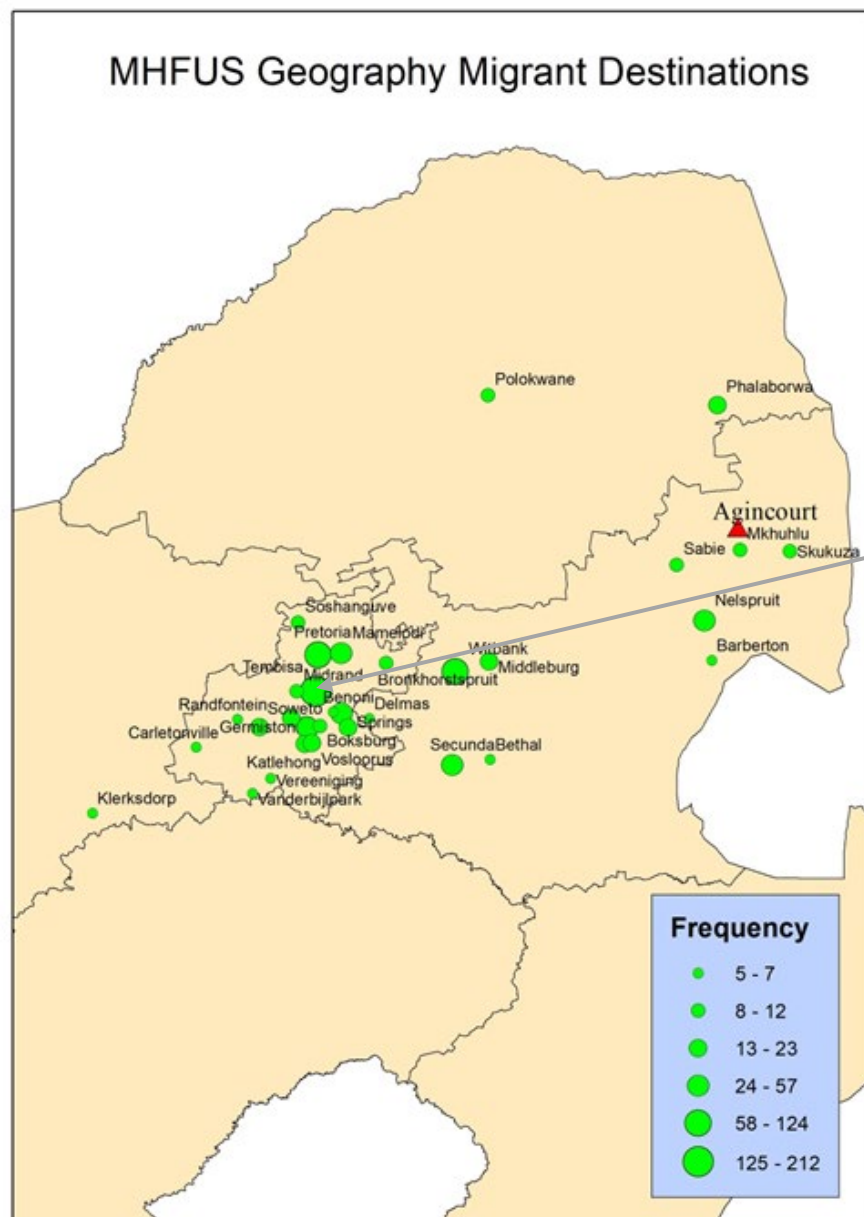
SES and remittances

Health status: BP, BMI, HIV, Diabetes

Health-related behaviours

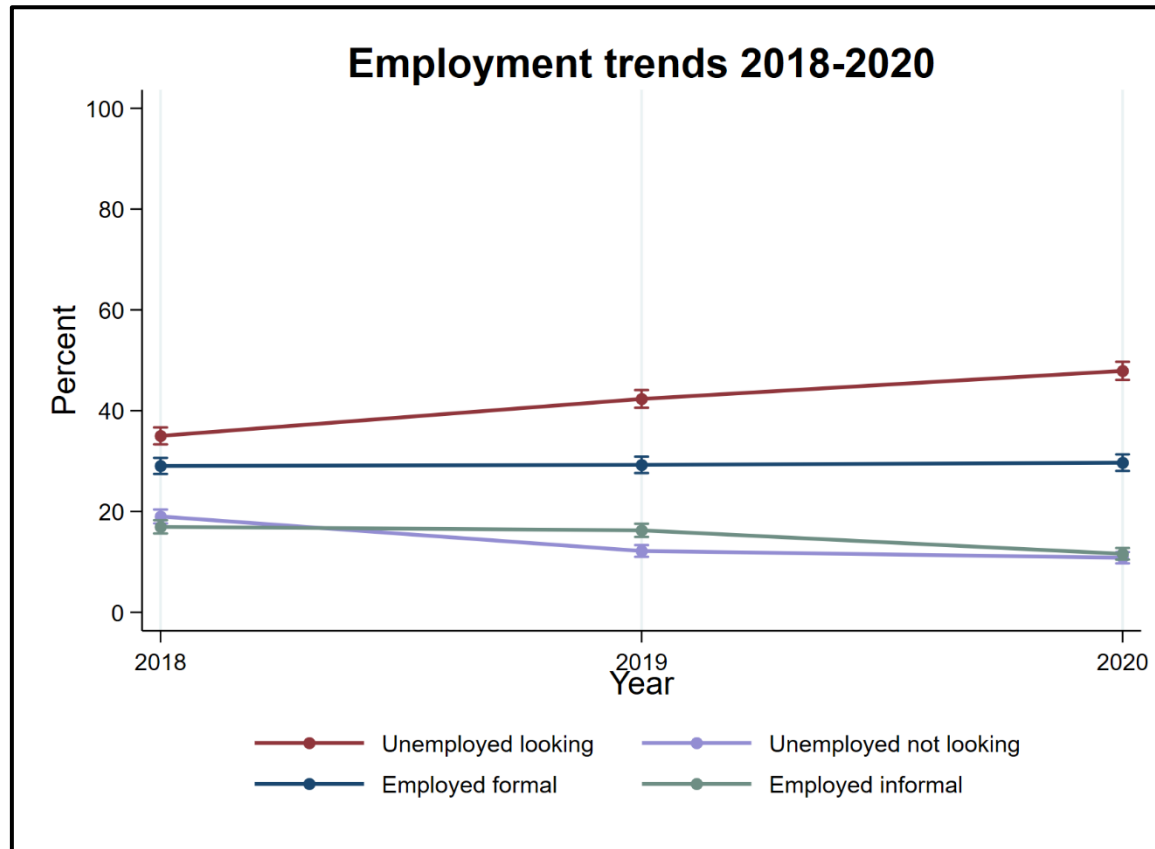
Health care utilisation

# Agincourt study site and migrant destinations



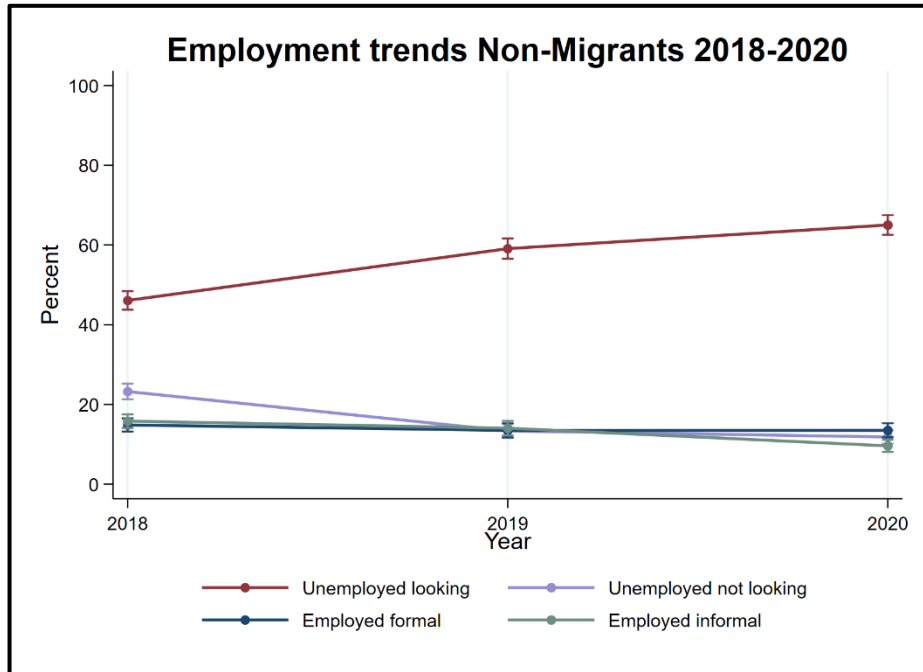
**Data collection waves and cohort retention**  
 First wave commenced in 2018, with the fourth wave complete in 2022.  
 Follow-up excellent: **98% of Wave 1 sample interviewed in Wave 4 in 2022**

# Employment trends: Full Cohort

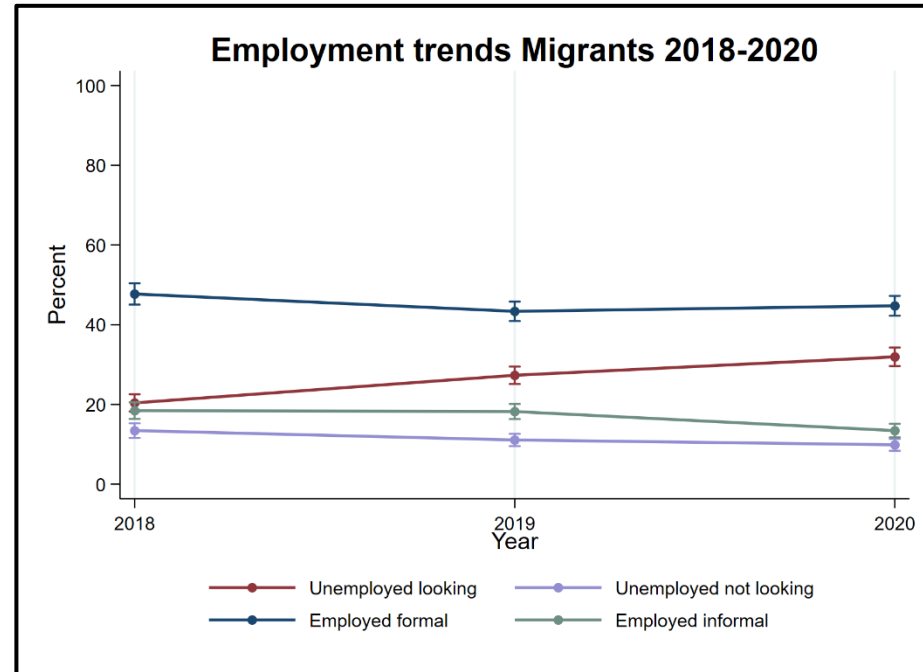


- Unemployment **increased** from **35% in 2018** to **42% in 2019** to **48% in 2020/21**
- Employment in the formal sector remained **stable at +- 29%**
- Informal sector employment **decreased** from **16% in 2018/2019** to **11% in 2020/21**
- “Unemployed not looking” **reduced** from **19% in 2018** to **11% in 2020/21**

# Employment trends: By Migrant Status



N=1435 W1, W2, W3



N=1540 W1, W2, W3

## Among Non-Migrants

- Unemployment **increased** from **46% in 2018** to **59% in 2019** to **65% in 2020/21**
- Formal sector employment **steady at +/- 14%**
- Employed informal sector **decreased** from **14% in 2019** to **10% in 2020/21**
- “Unemployed not looking” **reduced** over time (**23% in 2018** to **12% 2020/21**)

## Among Migrants

- Unemployment **increased** from **20% in 2018** to **27% in 2019** to **32% in 2020/21**
- Formal sector employment **reasonably stable (45% in 2020/21)**
- Employed informal sector **decreased** from **18% in 2018** and **2019** to **13% in 2020/21**
- “Unemployed not looking” **steady at +/- 10%**

# Conclusions regarding development

- Urban growth is a good thing for the country's economy by concentrating labour markets and services
- Criticism of urban growth tends to be from privileged people and poor people get the blame.
- Metros dominate, but small- and medium-sized towns important
- Constraining migration is not a good policy approach
- Rural and urban areas are fundamentally linked by temporary migration, especially of young adults
- Remittances remain important for socio-economic well-being of migrant-sending households. The poorest households have no temporary migrants.

# Conclusions regarding human rights

- As in the youth dialogue: what women and girls want matters
- A key strategy for tackling unemployment in young people is for them to migrate
- Access to safe and secure housing and basic services is critical for exploiting what cities have to offer.
- Sexual and reproductive justice demands that reproductive health services are accessible for migrants at their destinations
- Informal sector employment is crucial, especially for women, which was hit hard in the Covid epidemic
- Access to public transport is a policy priority
- Access to child-care is needed for working urban women – rural household steps in
- Tackling rural poverty is good for tackling urban poverty and vice-versa

## Acknowledgements:

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