

# Press Release

For immediate release

12 February 2014

---



# IRR

South African Institute of Race Relations

*The power of ideas*

Media Contact: Thuthukani Ndebele Tel: 011-482-7221 Email: [thuthukani@sairr.org.za](mailto:thuthukani@sairr.org.za)

## Extended households record short-term leap

Extended household numbers rose sharply by almost a million in just two years and were the only type of household to experience growth, according to the latest *South Africa Survey*, published by the South African Institute of Race Relations (IRR) last week.

The *Survey* is the annual yearbook on all social, economic, and political aspects of South Africa that the IRR has been publishing since 1946.

There were 7.3 million extended households in 2009 and almost 8.3 million in 2011. The three other household types all declined in number over the same period. Single households took a knock from 760 000 to 665 000, nuclear ones from 5.3 million to 5.1 million, and complex households from 442 000 to 419 000.

The IRR sourced the data from Statistics South Africa, which defines extended households as those with a head, their spouse or a single parent and/or their children and relatives. A household is a group of people who live together and provide for themselves jointly with food and other essentials, or a single person living alone.

Thuthukani Ndebele, a researcher at the IRR, said, 'The significant increase in extended households is an indication that more families are resorting to living with their kin.

'Unemployment, which is notably high among young people (currently at a rate of 53% among 15-24 year-olds, 30% among 25-34 year-olds) and poverty are some key factors that pressure people into living with extended family, as there is a need to share limited resources', Mr Ndebele said.

**Ends**

---