

Making a life in informal dwellings in Gauteng

Although migrants into Gauteng hope for improved services and economic opportunities, some 18% of Gauteng residents live in informal dwellings (StatsSA 2016). People living informally are more likely to be under 35 years and to live alone than those living in formal accommodation. Not only are they unable to secure adequate accommodation; they also struggle to penetrate the formal job market, and are more likely to be unemployed. Government grants help to sustain livelihoods for informal dwellers, but most make a living through provisional means, temporary work, or the informal sector.

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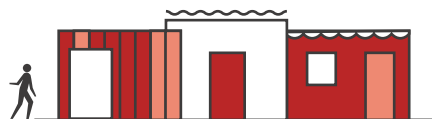
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Source

GCRO's 2015 Quality of Life survey

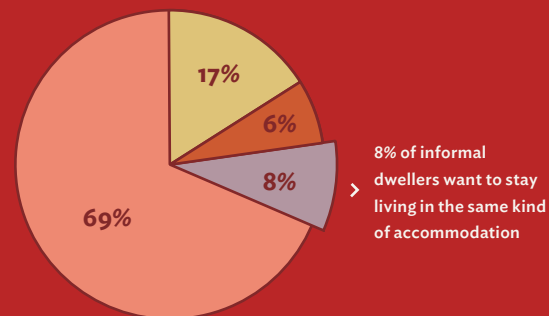


Informal dwellings include:

- Backyard shacks in formal housing settlements
- Free standing shacks in informal settlements

Housing aspirations of informal dwellers

if they could move into another dwelling in the next year

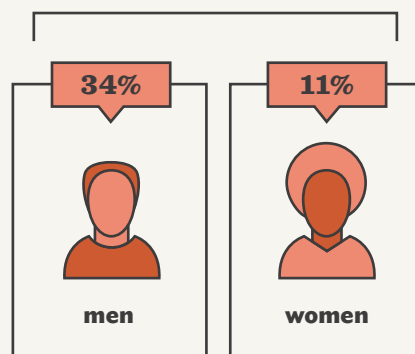


8% of informal dwellers want to stay living in the same kind of accommodation

- Formal house on a separate stand
- Complex or townhouse
- Informal dwelling
- Other

Gender and cohabitation

34% of men living informally **live alone**, compared to only 11% of women



Informal dwellers and entrepreneurship



90% of **business owners** living in **informal dwellings** operate in the **informal sector**

