An analysis of single person households reveals that there are both challenges and opportunities associated with this type of lifestyle.

100% increase in people living solo in Gauteng between 2001 and 2011

Other households increased by 32% in the same period. This is a national phenomenon most prominent in Gauteng. Based on the best available data, not reflecting provincial boundary changes between 2001 and 2011.

1/10 or 1 170 734 people live solo in Gauteng

- Born in Gauteng: 53%
- Born outside South Africa: 37%
- South Africans born outside Gauteng: 10%

Household Profile

- Household earns <R1 600 per month: 50%
- Household earns >R25 000 per month: 30%
- Household in debt*: 18%
- Live in informal housing: 26%
- Live in rental housing: 49%
- Good - high quality of life*: 45%

Implications?

- What proportion of people living solo want to move from informal to formal housing?
- How many people are living solo out of choice?
- Is there sufficient rental accommodation, at the right price, available for the growing numbers of people living solo?
- The solo living market offers opportunities for private and public sector investment in low-cost rental, or high-density and low cost tenured housing.

*GCRO Quality of Life Survey 2011
All other data from Census 2011

Photo by Mikey Rosato

*Refer to http://www.gcro.ac.za/about-gcr/vignettes for more information