Quality of Life Survey
Frequently asked questions

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What is the Quality of Life survey? An introduction

Quality of Life Survey timeline

The Quality of Life (QoL) survey measures the quality of life, socio-economic circumstances, attitudes to service delivery, psycho-social attitudes, value-base and other characteristics of the GCR. The survey is a household-based survey with randomly selected adults (18+) in Gauteng as respondents. The QoL survey is run every two years, provides a tracking and diagnostic tool, affording a rich information resource for policymakers, business, civil society and the public, and enabling evidence-based planning.

The Quality of Life survey data set is available for academic and non-profit use, and cumulative requests for our data are shown here. The data is widely used, demonstrated in the number of academic outputs (both GCRO and independent) using the Quality of Life data.
The GCRO has conducted five QOL surveys.
How is the data from the Quality of Life survey used?

Type of Output

Primary QoL dataset used

- QoL I
- QoL II
- QoL III
- QoL IV
How many people request to use Quality of Life data?

QoL data requested
Who uses the data from the Quality of Life survey?
How does the size of the Quality of Life 2017/18 survey compare to other South African surveys?

This illustration shows other South African surveys and the number of respondents relative to the Quality of Life survey. The size of the circle represents the size of the sample for the most recent iteration of each survey.
What subjects are covered in the questions of the Quality of Life survey?

* QoL V 248 questions: The small blocks each represent a single question in the survey.
What subjects are covered in the questions of the Quality of Life survey?

* QoL IV 231 questions: The small blocks each represent a single question in the survey.
What subjects are covered in the questions of the Quality of Life survey?

QoL III 219 questions: The small blocks each represent a single question in the survey.
What subjects are covered in the questions of the Quality of Life survey?

* QoL II 198 questions: The small blocks each represent a single question in the survey.
What subjects are covered in the questions of the Quality of Life survey?

* QoL I 187 questions: The small blocks each represent a single question in the survey.
What is the Quality of Life index?

**The Quality of Life Index has 10 dimensions**

1. Global Life Satisfaction
2. Family
3. Community
4. Health
5. Dwelling
6. Infrastructure
7. Connectivity
8. Work
9. Security
10. Socio-Political

Scores are added together = Quality of Life Score out of 10

**Gauteng’s Average Scores:**

- 2009: 6.23 / 10
- 2011: 6.02 / 10
- 2013: 6.10 / 10
- 2015: 6.20 / 10
- 2017: 6.20 / 10
How are the interview sites selected?

Quality of Life V 2017/18 Survey

How the geolocations for survey interview sites are selected
Step 01

All residential buildings in Gauteng are identified (using data from GeoTerraImage).

LEGEND

- Residential buildings in Gauteng
Step 02

Ward boundaries are then applied to the residential buildings

LEGEND

- Residential buildings in Gauteng
- Wards in Gauteng
Step 03

The target interview sites are then randomly selected. For each ward, the appropriate number of interview sites are randomly selected. This is a minimum of 30 residential buildings per ward in non-metropolitan wards and a minimum of 50 per metropolitan wards.

**LEGEND**

- Local municipality
- Metropolitan municipality
- Wards in Gauteng
Step 04

Finally, a map of the survey locations for QoL V 2017/18 respondents

**LEGEND**

- Local municipality
- Metropolitan municipality
- Wards in Gauteng
How is the respondent at an interview site selected?

Quality of Life V 2017/18 Survey

Interview sites are assigned a geofence for the fieldworker to locate the sample point in the field.

After the target interview sites have been identified they are allocated to a fieldworker. The fieldworker uses a 80m geofence to locate the interview site on the ground. Once located, selection of the respondent can begin.
WHAT KIND OF DWELLINGS CAN BE FOUND AT THE INTERVIEW SITE?

- A HOUSE
- A HOSTEL
- A SHACK
- AN APARTMENT BLOCK
- A GATED COMMUNITY
HOW MANY SEPARATE RESIDENCES OR HOUSEHOLDS ARE CONTAINED IN THE DWELLING?

1. House
2. An apartment block
3. Gate community
4. Shack
5. Hostel

1 residence is randomly selected
HOW MANY ADULTS IN THE HOUSEHOLD?

1 adult is randomly selected to be interviewed
Quality of Life V 2017/18
Survey Quality control

01. In-field supervisors - checks progress and quality of surveys by fieldworkers

02. Quality control office - manually checks each survey for quality, and conducts telephonic verification of selected surveys

03. GCRO - research staff review selected surveys, and patterns across incoming data before providing the final approval

04. Research manager - reviews work of quality control office, checks selected individual surveys for quality, and explores potentially concerning patterns in surveys aggregated overall, and at the data collector level

FIELDWORKERS UPLOAD COMPLETED SURVEYS TO A CENTRAL SERVER ON A DAILY BASIS
Completed surveys are then downloaded and used for constant, 'live' quality control
# QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## TYPES OF QUALITY CONTROL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. IN ADVANCE</th>
<th>2. CHECKS BUILT INTO THE DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM</th>
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| · Fieldworkers provided with week-long training, including role-play, field pilots and completion of practice interviews | · Geofence ensures fieldworker is in the correct location  
· Logic checks within the application ensure that the correct questions are answered, and prevent questions from being skipped |

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<th>3. AUTOMATED CHECKS ON ALL UPLOADED SURVEYS</th>
<th>4. MANUAL CHECKING</th>
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| · The location of the survey  
· The selection of the respondent  
· How long the survey took to conduct  
· Internal consistency between questions in the survey | · Reviewing any issues detected by automated checks  
· Checking survey location on Google Earth  
· Checking duration of survey components  
· Checking fieldworker comments  
· Checking selected surveys for internal consistency |

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<th>5. VERIFICATION</th>
<th>6. MACRO-LEVEL CHECKS</th>
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| · 25% of respondents are called back to verify surveys  
· A small proportion of respondents are re-visited in person | · Aggregation of surveys at the fieldworker level to identify any concerning patterns  
· Mapping of survey progress against ward-level targets  
· Periodic review of survey demographics to ensure reasonable representation of the Gauteng population |
How we weight the Quality of Life V 2017/18 Survey results

Despite the large size of the survey sample, it always differs slightly from Gauteng’s population in terms of race and gender. In addition, ward populations differ and we use a fixed sample size in each ward. We use a process called weighting to ensure that the survey results reflect Gauteng’s population as accurately as possible. Our weights use gender, race, and ward size.
Gender

![Gender](image)

- **ACTUAL POPULATION**
- **SURVEY POPULATION**
- **WEIGHTED**
Race

02

Actual Population

Survey Population

Weighted
Ward

WARD POPULATION = SMALL
SURVEY RESPONSES = 30

WARD POPULATION = BIG
SURVEY RESPONSES = 30