This paper provides a description of research methodology of South Africa's first Demographic and Health Survey. The 1987-1989 South African Demographic and Health Survey remains the only data set available on social and demographic information about South Africa at the end of apartheid. The paper highlights some data quality issues and provides an evaluation of the data with specific reference to data on maternal health care.

The paper was published in 1999 on SA Journal of Demography. The author is Heston Phillips.

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