

Do male and female household heads spend differently on average on household welfare?

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2023-01-04

Per-capita food expenditure can serve as a proxy to understand consumption in the household: expenditure that directly relates to their wellbeing.

Some G2P transfers, credit disbursements and pensions alike are directed towards female members of the household, under the assumption that this could increase agency of the female members and prompt the resources to directly contribute to the overall welfare of the household. This is in comparison to male members that may direct the resources towards expenses outside the household, without directly benefiting the household.

Using data compiled from the 2009 National Income Dynamics Study (NIDS), we investigate whether there is a *measurable difference between per-capita food expenditure made by female and male household heads*. Answers to this question could have policy implications for development programs in their prioritizing/targeting of household heads.

Describing the Data

Gender	n	percent
Female	3158	0.4586117
Male	3728	0.5413883

The NIDS dataset contains responses from around 6886 individual household heads in South Africa of which 54.14% are male and 45.86% are female.

Gender	Female	Male	Total
African	2610	2617	5227
Coloured	377	609	986
Indian	26	81	107
White	136	409	545
NA__	9	12	21
Total	3158	3728	6886

Since this dataset has been compiled only on household heads, the mean age of the respondents is quite high. For males the mean age is around 48 years while for females it is 51 years. Males in the data set seem to have completed around 1.5 years more of education than females on average. The average household size among the respondents is 4. However it should be noted that, female household heads tend to have larger households on average even when controlling for their race, age and education. Additionally, on average male household heads tend to earn more income per capita than female household heads.

	Female	Male
Mean Age	51.36	46.82
Mean Years Education	6.03	7.45
Mean HH Size	4.10	3.63
Mean PerCap Income (Rands)	1094.10	2193.43
Mean PerCap Food Expenditure (Rands)	261.62	367.90

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Males in the data set have completed around 1.5 years more of education than females on average. The average household size among the respondents is 4. Additionally, female household heads tend to have larger households on average even when controlling for their race, age and education.

Important to note, on average male household heads tend to earn more income per capita than female household heads.¹

Appendix

Appendix 1: Data Dictionary

##	pos	variable	label	col_type	values
##	1	hhid	Household identifier	dbl	
##	2	pid	Individual identifier	dbl	
##	3	age	Age in Years	dbl	
##	4	male	Gender of Respondent	dbl+lbl	[0] Female
##					[1] Male
##	5	race	Population Group	dbl+lbl	[1] African
##					[2] Coloured
##					[3] Indian
##					[4] White
##	6	education	Education in Years	dbl	
##	7	hsgrad	HS Graduation (Matric)	dbl+lbl	[0] No
##					[1] Yes
##	8	satisfaction	Current Life Satisfacti~	dbl	
##	9	hstatus	Self Perceived Health S~	dbl+lbl	[1] Poor
##					[2] Fair
##					[3] Good
##					[4] Very Good
##					[5] Excellent
##	10	hysize	Household Size	dbl	
##	11	hhhead	1=Household Head	dbl	
##	12	hhpcinc	HH Per/Cap Inc (Rands/M~	dbl	
##	13	hhpcinc1000	HH Per/Cap Inc (Thousan~	dbl	
##	14	hhpcinc1000sq	HH Per/Cap Inc Squared ~	dbl	
##	15	pcfoodexp	HH Per Capita Food Expe~	dbl	
##	16	lnpcfoodexp	Natural Log of HH PC Fo~	dbl	
##	17	province	Province of Residence	dbl+lbl	[-9] Don't Know
##					[-8] Refused
##					[-7] Same as
##					[-5] Not Applicable
##					[-3] Missing

¹this is a footnote

##				[1] Western Cape
##				[2] Eastern Cape
##				[3] Northern Cape
##				[4] Free State
##				[5] KwaZulu-Natal
##				[6] North West
##				[7] Gauteng
##				[8] Mpumalanga
##				[9] Limpopo
##				[10] Outside RSA
##	18	smoker	Respondent Smokes Cigar~	dbl+lbl
##				[0] No
##				[1] Yes
##	19	pctransport	HH Per Capita Transport~	dbl
##	20	employed	Employment Status	dbl+lbl
##				[0] No
##				[1] Yes
##	21	alcohol	Alcohol consumption Per~	dbl+lbl
##				[1] Never
##				[2] Does not drink anym~
##				[3] Rarely
##				[4] Less than once/week
##				[5] 1 or 2 days/week
##				[6] 3 or 4 days/week
##				[7] 5 or 6 days/week
##				[8] Every day
##	22	cellphone	Cellphone in Household	dbl+lbl
##				[0] No
##				[1] Yes
##	23	nhcrime	Perceived amount of the~	dbl+lbl
##				[1] Never
##				[2] Very Rare
##				[3] Not Common
##				[4] Fairly Common
##				[5] Very Common
##	24	religious	Are religious activitie~	dbl+lbl
##				[0] No
##				[1] Yes
##	25	driver	Has a driver's License	dbl+lbl
##				[0] No
##				[1] Yes
##	26	Gender	-	fct
##				Female
##				Male