

Migration and household dynamics in the rural Umkanyakude district of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa.

Summary

The high levels of mobility in this area is already documented through the census and other measures, however Africa Centre Demographic Surveillance Area (ACDIS) reveals striking aspects of migration that can be missed through other surveillance systems. Migration can be analysed in the context of continuum of household membership; from resident members, to non-resident members, to those that are non members. a) 32% of household members in June 30th 2002 are non-resident b) 56% of in-migrations are existing members and 73% of out-migrants maintain their memberships after outmigrating; c) Female mobility is higher than male mobility; d) a higher proportion of males are non-resident than females; e) a high proportion of the migration occurs between households within the demographic surveillance area (DSA), and this local migration is more common for females than for male; d) there is slight net out-migration from bounded structures in the DSA, although for all other age groups there is net in-migration.

1. Objectives

The aim of the research is to describe the patterns of migration in this South African community in the context of broader household dynamics.

2. Background

Migration is perhaps the least explored area in demography. This may in part be due to the difficulties there are in defining migration and the variation in types of movement. Migration has historically played and continues to play an important role in South Africa's economy and social organisation. Much research currently focuses on the links between HIV and migration. Africa Centre Demographic Information System (ACDIS) is able to complement census data and explore the nuances of residency and household dynamics.

3. Method

The study uses data from ACDIS, a surveillance system following approximately 90,000 individuals in a rural, highly mobile population with high rates of AIDS mortality. Since 1st January 2000, all internal and external movements in the Demographic Surveillance Area (DSA) have been recorded at four monthly household visits. In and out, gross and net migration rates can therefore be directly calculated and analysed together with extensive information about the migrants and non-migrants. In ACDIS, information is collected about all the members of the household. Membership is defined by the household and can include those that are not resident at the bounded structure (they have spent most of their days since the last visit elsewhere).

Migration rates were calculated as follows:

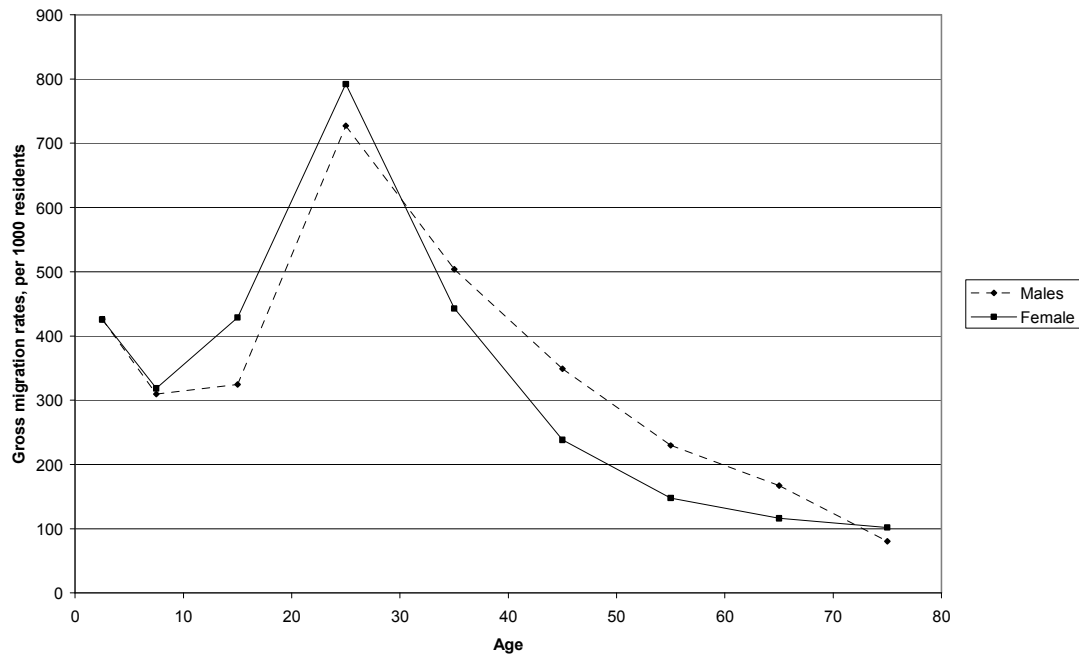
$$\frac{\textit{MigrationEvents}}{\textit{MidYear ResidentPopulation}}$$

3. Results

a) Gross migration rates

Mobility in this population is very high (405 migrations per 1000 residents in 2002). Gross migration rates increased annually in 2000, 2001 and 2002 (143, 298, 405 per 1000 respectively). Females make more movements than males overall; In 2002 female migration rates were 413 migrations per 1000 residents, male gross migration rates were 396 per 1000. In both sexes, mobility peaks around age 25, however it is high in all ages; it is more than 300 per 1000 in all ages up to age 40.

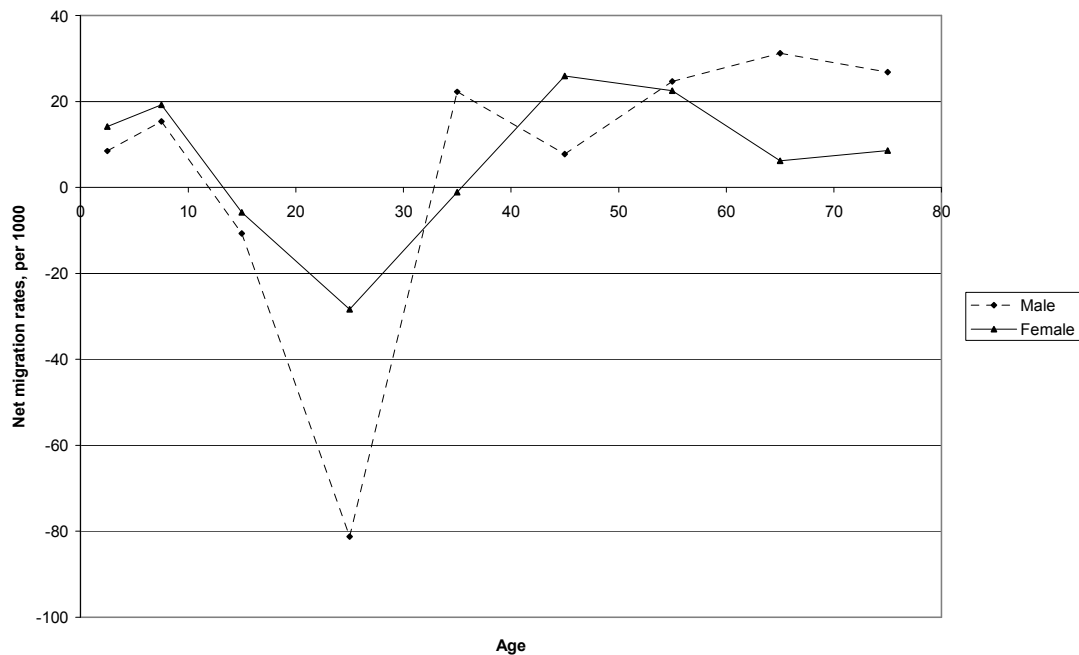
Gross migration rates by sex, 2002



b) Net migration rates

The number in-migrating to bounded structures almost equals those leaving (net migration is - 2.14 per 1000). When stratified by age and sex, net out-migration is highest between the ages 20-40, particularly for men. At other ages there is net in-migration into the bounded structures in this area.

Net migration rates by sex, 2002



c) Destination of migrations

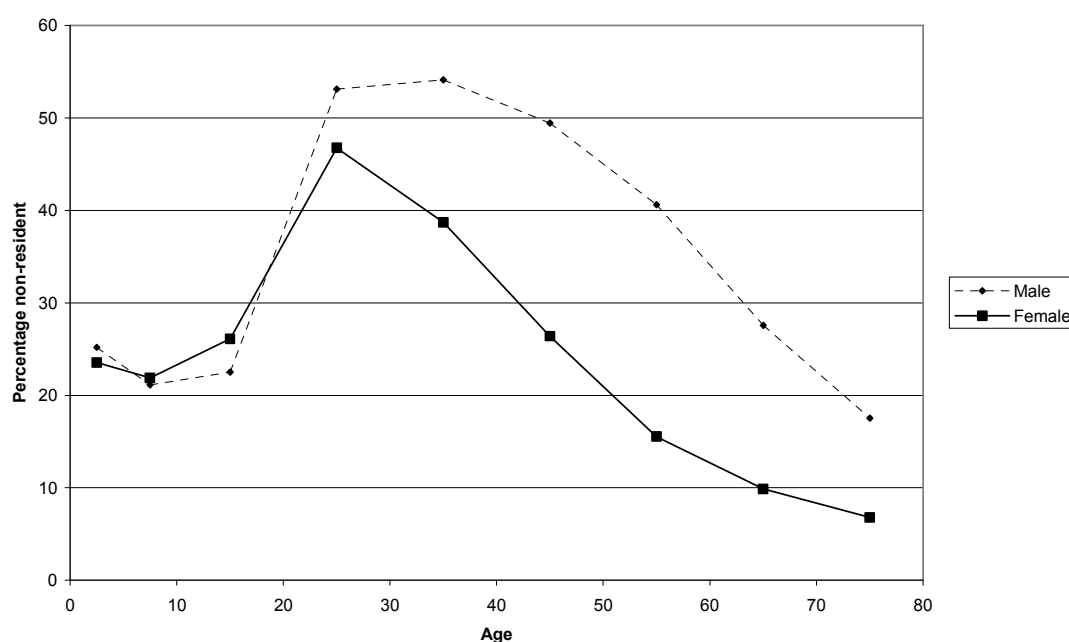
Although the DSA is predominantly rural there is not significant out-migration from the area. 38% of the migrations occur within the demographic surveillance area. Internal migration is

particularly high for women (41% of migrations by females occur within the DSA compared to 36% of migrations by males). The net migration out of the DSA is -19 per 1000 for males and -15 per 1000 females.

d) Stretched households

32% of all individuals that were members on 30th June 2002 were non-resident. Around 50% of members between the ages of 20 and 30 years are non-resident. This age group has the highest proportion of non-residents, although every age group up to age 60 has more than 20% non-resident members. A higher proportion of men are non-resident than women (35% of men compared to 29% of women are non-resident). While boys 0-5 are more likely to be non-resident, teenage girls are more likely to be non-resident. At all ages above 20, men are more likely to be non-resident.

Percentage of members that are non-resident, ACDIS June 30th 2002, by age and sex



57% of those that in-migrated in 2002 were already members of the household and 77% of those that outmigrated maintained their membership after they ended their residency.

4. Conclusion

The ACDIS data reveals aspects of migration that may be obscured by other data-collection methods. This helps increase our understanding of household and residency dynamics. In particular it is notable that:

- Female mobility is higher than male mobility. Males are more likely to be non-resident than females.
- A high proportion of movements are local migrations. Females are more likely to experience local migrations than males.
- The majority of movements occur within stretched households; existing members changing their residency status rather than moving and joining/leaving their households.
- Despite the volume of migrations in this predominantly rural area, there is very little net out-migration from the bounded structures in this area.
- Net-migration across the DSA border is only slightly negative.

It is hoped that findings from ACDIS will be able to complement the information available

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through other sources, to increase our understanding of movement and household dynamics in this highly mobile community. This in turn may be used to inform the debate around the links between this migration and socio-economic and health status in South Africa and elsewhere.