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Ethnic groups in South Africa

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The **ethnic groups in South Africa** have a variety of origins. [Statistics South Africa](#) asks people to describe themselves in the census in terms of five [racial](#) population groups.^[1] The 2011 census figures for these categories were [African \(South African\)](#) at 76.4%, [White](#) at 9.1%, [Coloured](#) at 8.9%, [Asian](#) at 2.5%, and [Other/Unspecified](#) at 0.5%.^{[2]:21}

[Statistics South Africa](#) provided five [racial](#) categories by which people could classify themselves, the last of which, "unspecified/other" drew negligible responses, and these results were omitted.^[3] The 2010 midyear estimated figures for the other categories were * [Black](#) at 78.4%, [White](#) at 10.2%, [Coloured](#) at 8.8%, [Asian](#) at 2.6%.^[4] The first census in South Africa in 1911 showed that whites made up 22% of the population; it declined to 16% in 1980.^[5]