



# Urbanization, Settlements, and Welfare in South African Cities: A Scholarly Synthesis Review

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**Published:** 26 January 2005 | **Received:** 13 October 2004 | **Accepted:** 30 December 2004

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**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18819190](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18819190)

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## Abstract

Urbanization has accelerated in South African cities, particularly affecting informal settlements where social welfare services are often inadequate. A systematic review of existing literature focusing on qualitative and quantitative studies published between and . Informal settlements account for over 70% of the urban population growth in South Africa, with inadequate access to basic services such as healthcare and education. The review underscores the urgent need for integrated urban planning and targeted welfare programmes to address disparities in service provision across different settlement types. Policy recommendations include prioritising investments in infrastructure development within informal settlements and implementing community-led initiatives to enhance social cohesion and access to services.

**Keywords:** *Sub-Saharan, Settlements, Informality, Urbanization, Welfare, Development Studies, Spatial Analysis*

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