



Stats
have
Faces

Ninety nine
percent of all
statistics only
tell 49 percent
of the story.

Ron DeLegge II

Handout 3

Find the figures

The local area report is the first step in discovering your local community. Take time to read through the information, tables and graphs, and consider what the statistics reveal about the neighbourhood in which you live.

- What percentage of people live alone?
- How many people are under 16 years of age?
- What percentage of the population are elderly?
- How many people in the community have a profound or severe disability?
- How many children attend school?
- What proportion of the community were born overseas or speak a language other than English at home?
- What kind of work do people do, and what is the unemployment rate?

Think about the unique aspects of your community:

- How does the community compare with other Queensland communities?
- Is your community growing and what are the projected population increases?

Note that we not drawing conclusions about what this information means for mission. At this stage the process is about analysis of the data. Once you have read the report, consider the following:

- What statistics grabbed your attention?
- What statistics did you disregard?
- Do the statistics match your own view of the local community?
- What changes have you observed?
- How might the community change in future years?
- Does this information provide any insight into how God is working in your neighbourhood?

Remember, *Stats have Faces*. Statistics are not just information to be used in isolation to support or disagree with a viewpoint or situation. The figures represent real people living in relationships, dealing with all the aspirations and disappointments of life.



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