THE SOUTH AFRICAN FAMILY

DZUNISANI MATHONSI

MISTRA

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Background

- Participants identified **Family** as a key stakeholder that can introduce the concept of **Social cohesion**

Outline

- Defining family

- Historical factors that impacted on the South African family

- Post 1994: Factors impacting on the South African family

- Types of families and households

- The Role of family

DEFINING FAMILY

Dictionary:

- A fundamental social group in society typically consisting of one or two parents and their children.

Normative household development cycle:

- Viewed households as constituted in temporality by a heterosexual couple (or a small nuclear family).

Historical factors that impacted on the SA family

- **Historical and persistent migrant labour**: colonial and later apartheid regimes instituted migratory labour, influx control, and the Immorality Act with immense consequences for the family.

- **Inequality and poverty:** patterns of unequal distribution of resources also played a role in the formation of these households.

- **Education:** the apartheid's legacy in education lives on. In 1953, finances for black and white schools were separated, and black children were given significantly less than white children.

- Families are still recovering from the past wounds.

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Post 1994: Factors impacting on family household formation

- High rates of unemployment – job-seekers migrating regularly

- Fertility rate decreasing ⟷ Socio-economic factors, bio-social factors, proximate determinants

- Spousal separation

- Decline of marriage rates

- Decreasing birth and fertility rates

- Expansive social grants system – giving support to female and grandparent-centred households in particular

- HIV and AIDS – missing generations, child-headed households

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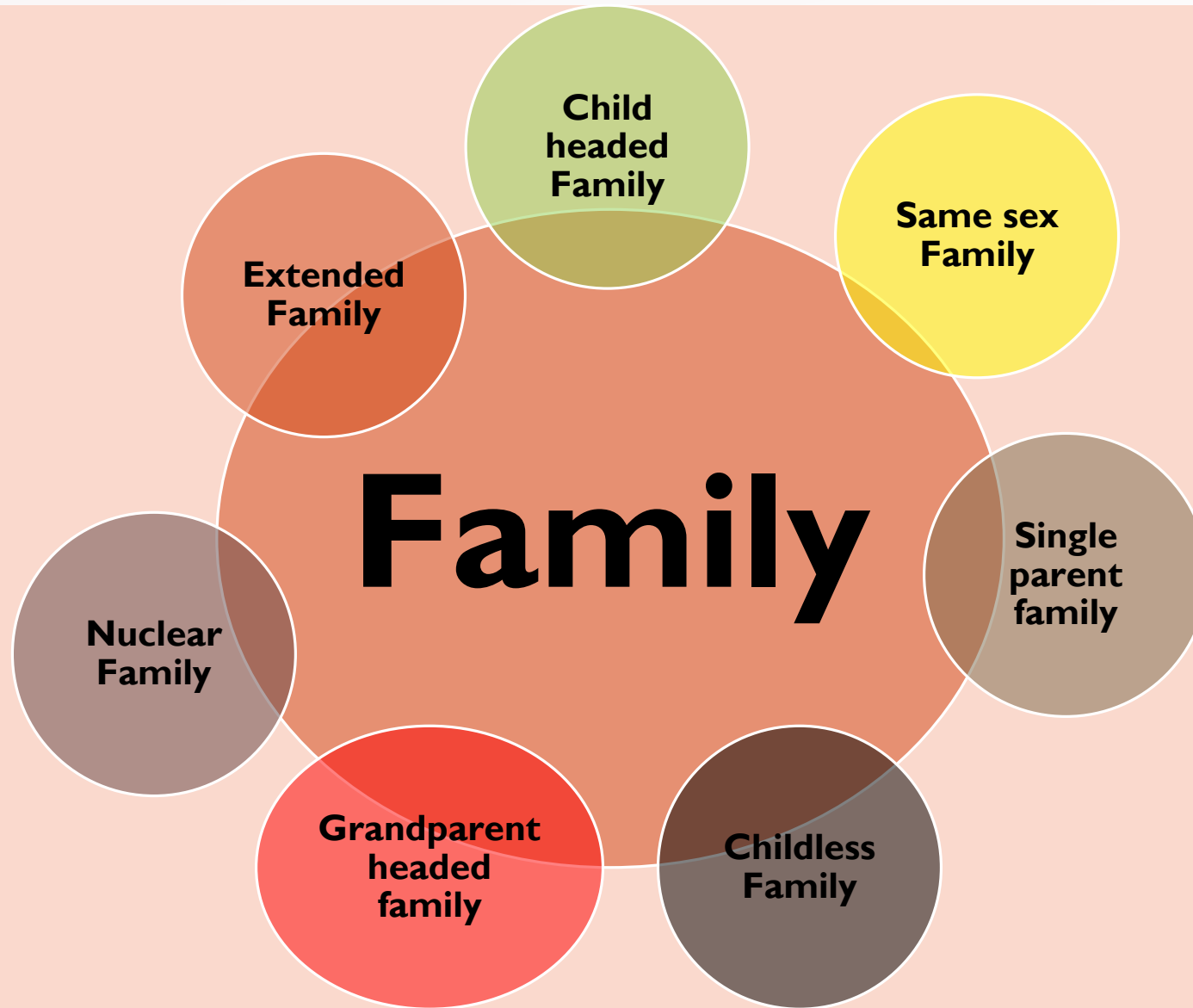
Types of family and households

Extended Family

- This type of family is constituted by extended relatives in the same household

- It also includes multiple generations in the same household

- Maintained for reasons of cultural preference and survival in the face of poverty

Nuclear Family

- Mother, father and children

- This type of family is slowly changing

- 2010 = **35.5 %**

- 2015 **= 34.5 %**

  - **StatsSA**

Types of family and households cont.

Grandparent-headed family

- Grandparents have been seen to take over the roles of parenthood to their grandchildren

- This may be due to children being orphaned, parents moving away from homes to find work, or grandparents co-parenting children alongside young parents

2010 = **56.5** %

2015 **= 52.9** %

- **StatsSA**

Childless family

- "Forgotten family"

- Couple living together

- Choice not to have children/unable to conceive

- 2010 = **2.47 %**

- 2015 **= 2.34 %**

- **World Bank**

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Types of family and households cont...

Child-headed family

- Household of members younger than 18 years
- Vulnerable group
- 2002 = **0.7** %
- 2014 = **0.3** %

Single parent family

- Most of these households are run by single mothers
- Fathers have been seen taking over the responsibility of caring for their children without the mother being involved
- **Female**
- 2010 = **38.9%**
- 2015 **= 36.7** %
- **Male**
- 2010 = **3.4** %
- 2015 **= 3.5** %

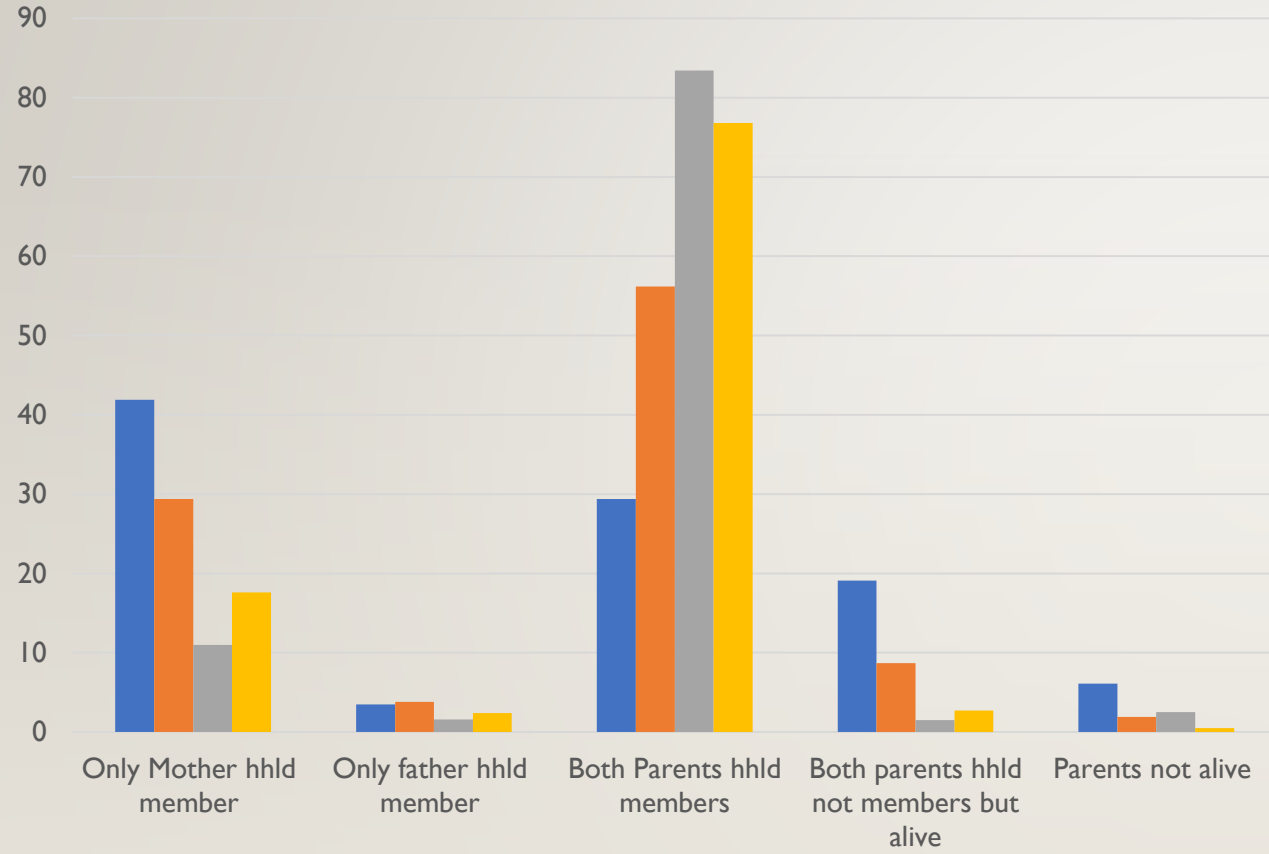- **StatsSA**

Same sex family

- Were associated with a childless lifestyle

- Slowly growing

- Legalisation of same-sex marriage in 2006

- 2007 = **80**
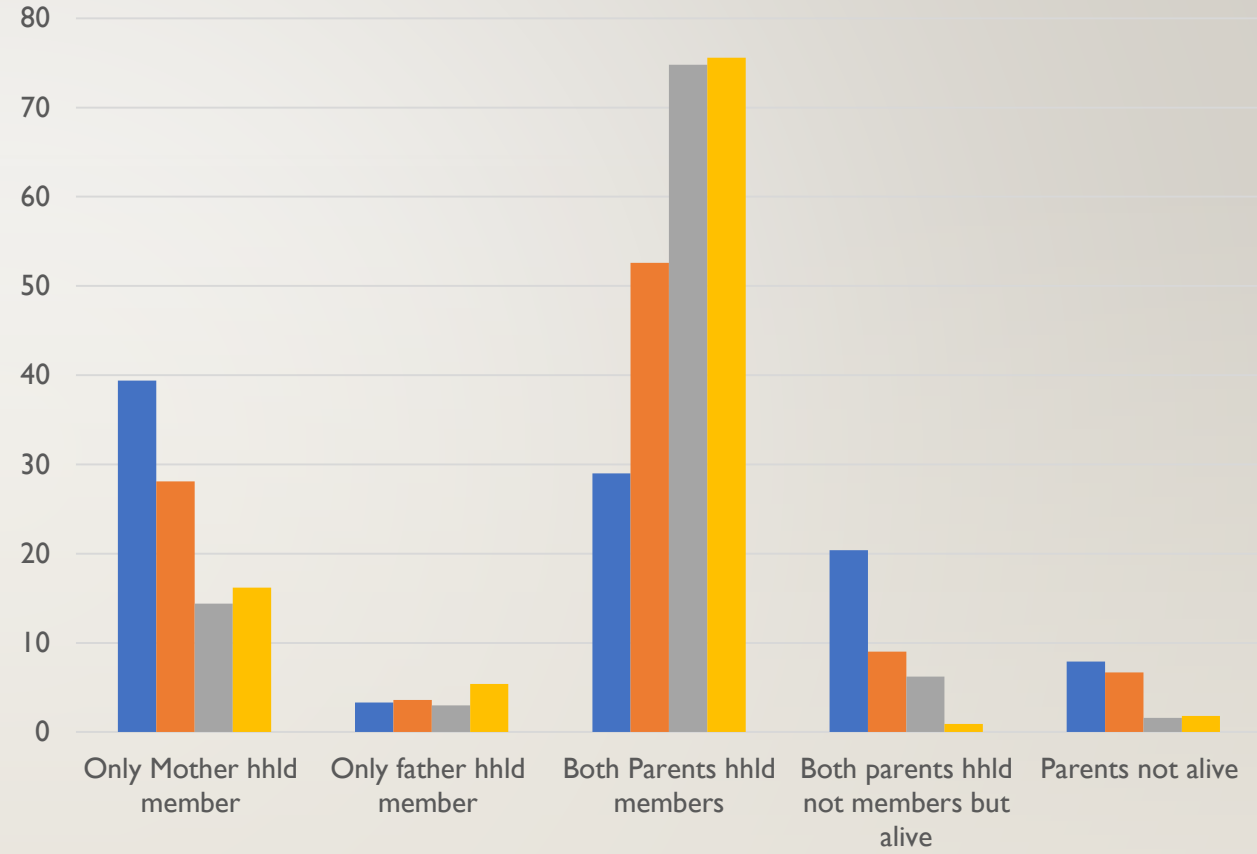
- 2010 = **867**

- 2015 = **1185**

  - **StatsSA**

All population groups

	Only Mother hhld member	Only father hhld member	Both Parents hhld members	Both parents hhld not members but alive	Parents not alive
2010	38	3.4	35.5	16.9	5.3
2015	36.7	3.5	34.5	18	7.3
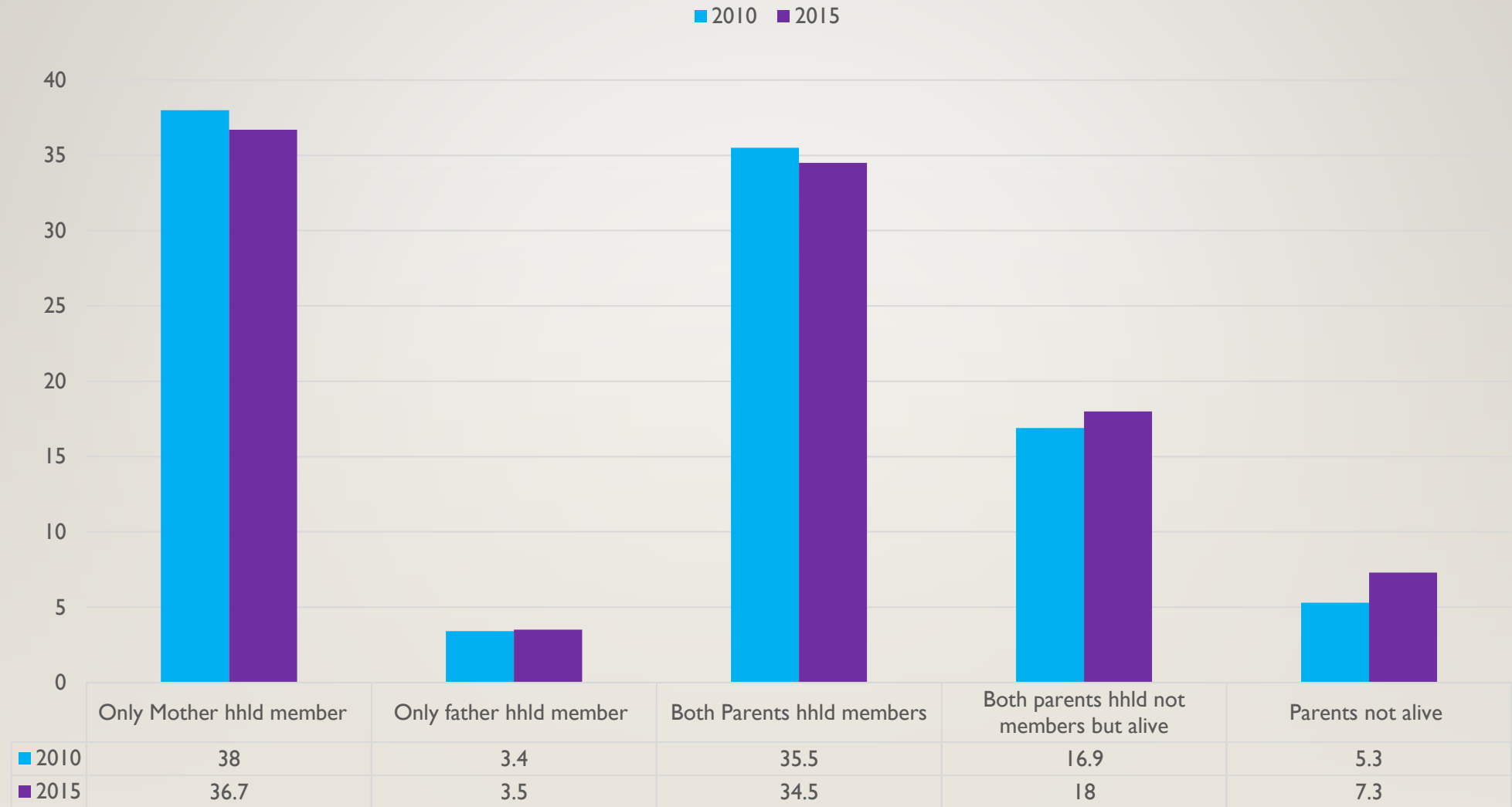
Trends
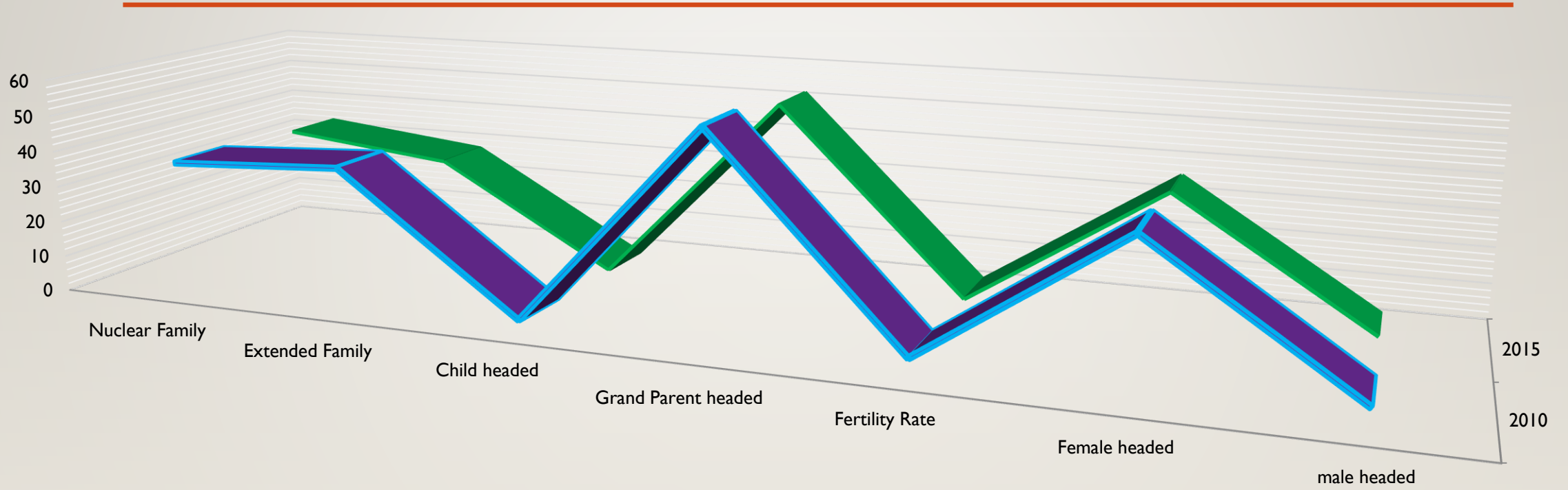
	Nuclear Family	Extended Family	Child headed	Grand Parent headed	Fertility Rate	Female headed	male headed
2010	35.5	38	0.7	56.5	2.47	38.9	3.4
2015	34.5	29	0.3	52.9	2.34	36.7	3.5

Role of family toward social cohesion

- The family has a greater role to play in introducing the concept in the upbringing of children

- Teaching from early stages of childhood

- Early Childhood Development

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Conclusion

- The family has traditionally and commonly been seen as the fundamental unit in society

- Family reflects society

- The idea of social cohesion speaks to the **"glue"** that brings a society and communities together.

Will South Africa reach social cohesion by 2030?

We can begin by teaching our children from an early age to be socially cohesive and that can be translated in to the rest of their lives.

Ndza Khensa.

Thank you.