

## **Bellville South**

Bellville is situated about 25 km north of central Cape Town. The southern part of Bellville (Bellville South) is estimated to have 27 000 inhabitants, most of which fall into the low to middle income category. Most residents are from Cape Town or the surrounding areas. The area was established as a coloured community during the apartheid regime. The area is predominantly coloured (81%) with black Africans also living in the area (15%). Afrikaans is the dominant language (68%), followed by English (18%) and Xhosa (9%). Most of the dwellings are houses or brick structures with a yard with private electricity and water service. Another part of the population live in flats or blocks, usually rented. Bellville South has two high schools, three primary schools and several crèches. The school drop-out rate is very high at about 40%, which is linked to drug and abuse problems in the community. Other social issues are domestic violence and prostitution.

### **Bellville South Clinic**

This big clinic accommodates approximately 250 patients a day with 20 nursing sisters treating patients in 14 consulting rooms. The two full-time doctors mainly focus on the treatment of TB, the most common illness in the area. Due to the stigma of HIV and AIDS, many people in this area are reluctant to be tested for HIV, so the total number of tested clients is not as high as in other HOPE clinics.