

Elsies River

Elsies River is a community located in the Northern Suburbs of Cape Town with about 40 000 inhabitants, most of which belong to the coloured population group. Amongst the residents, the area is unofficially divided into sections based on economic status. Socio-economic problems include crime, gangsterism, prostitution and substance abuse, particularly in the poorer sections. The unemployment rate is rather high at 35%. Although the area has 14 primary schools and six high schools, problems like drug addiction, prostitution and alcohol reduce the high school graduation rate and many students drop out before completing their Matric.

Elsie's River Clinic

There are two clinics in Elsies River, one open five days a week, and one only open two days, offering the same services. Due to a lack of personnel and funding, both clinics cannot operate full time. On average, a doctor visits once a week for TB clients only.

The main services Elsies River Clinic offers, are family planning, HIV and TB testing and counseling, postnatal care and basic health services. About 100 people are tested for HIV per month. Although relatively few people test positive for HIV in Elsies River, TB, sexually transmitted diseases and teenage pregnancies are common in the area. The daily patient turnover in the two clinics is 75 and 200, respectively. Both clinics depend strongly on the help of NGOs such as HOPE Cape Town to be able to offer their service to the clients.