

Paarl

Paarl is the third oldest European settlement in South Africa with a population of approximately 108 000 people. Paarl means "Pearl" in Dutch, it is the largest town in the Cape Winelands and in general, it is a wealthy and well-kept area. However, on the outskirts of Paarl, there are the poorer communities served by TC Newman Clinic. These areas suffer from massive unemployment, high rates of HIV and AIDS, orphans are common and alcohol abuse is high. Many Government houses and shacks are in this area, often without proper sanitation. The schools in Paarl report a low drop out rate, but many teenage girls are leaving school due to pregnancy.

TC Newman Hospital

The TC Newman Hospital handles about 150-225 clients per day with patients waiting 1-2 hours if they arrive at the clinic around 7am, and up to 3-4 hours if they arrive anytime after 9am. The hospital also has a specialised paediatric unit. There are three nursing sisters, two staff nurses, 2 community health workers and a full-time doctor. The most common illnesses in the area are HIV and AIDS, TB and asthma. On average 50-100 children are tested for HIV monthly with a high HIV positive rate. The majority of the mothers of these children are teenagers themselves.