

4.3.4.4 Historical knowledge of place names

The next issue relates to the **historical knowledge of the respondents** to determine the extent to which knowledge about the origins of the place names “Pretoria” and “Tshwane” influences the respondents’ support for (or opposition to) a particular name. It was difficult to generalise about this, but a general observation was that there has been little published material so far on the place name “Tshwane”. This is a major limitation on the broader question of historical knowledge of the place names of South Africa’s administrative capital. Figure 5 below provides a summary of the knowledge of the respondents regarding the name “Pretoria”. About 27% of respondents related the name specifically to Andries Pretorius. Almost 40% of the respondents indicated that Pretoria was named after a European adventurer, whilst about 15% of the respondents were not sure precisely what aspects of Afrikaner history and culture the name related to. About 14% did not have any idea about the origin of the name.

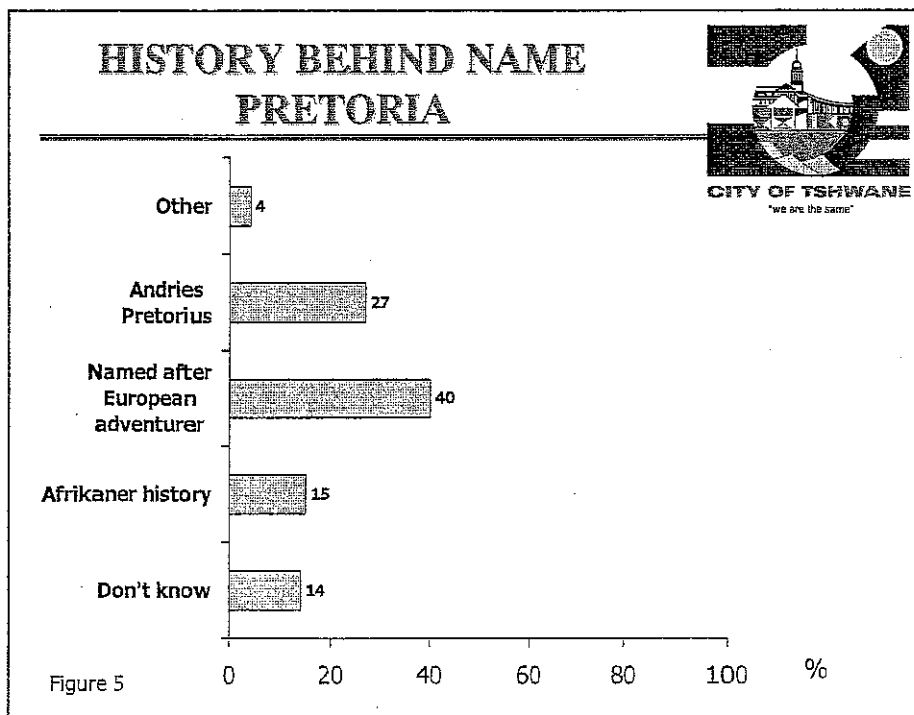
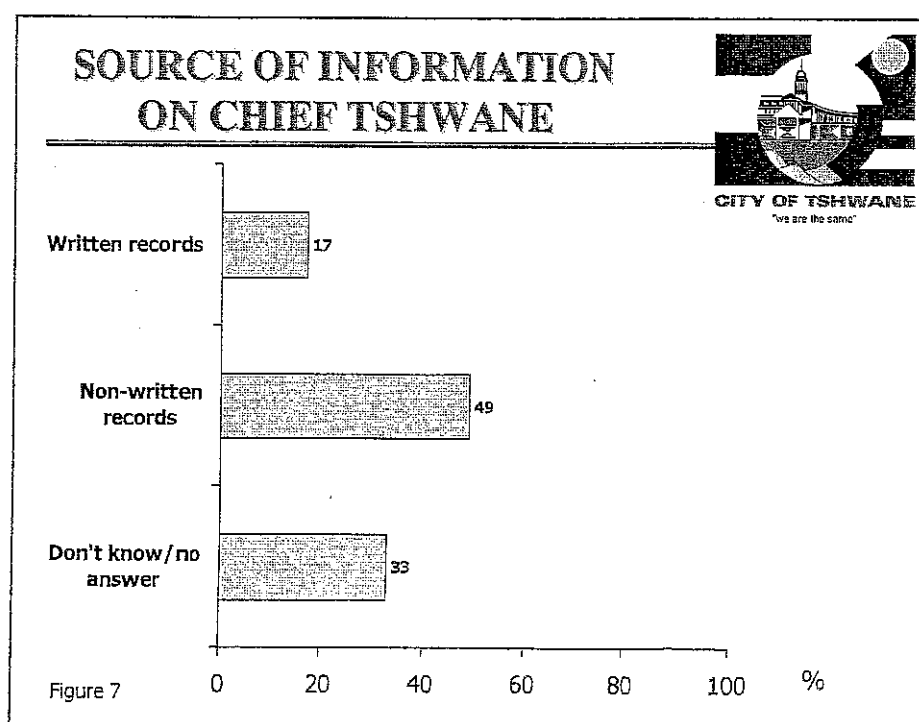
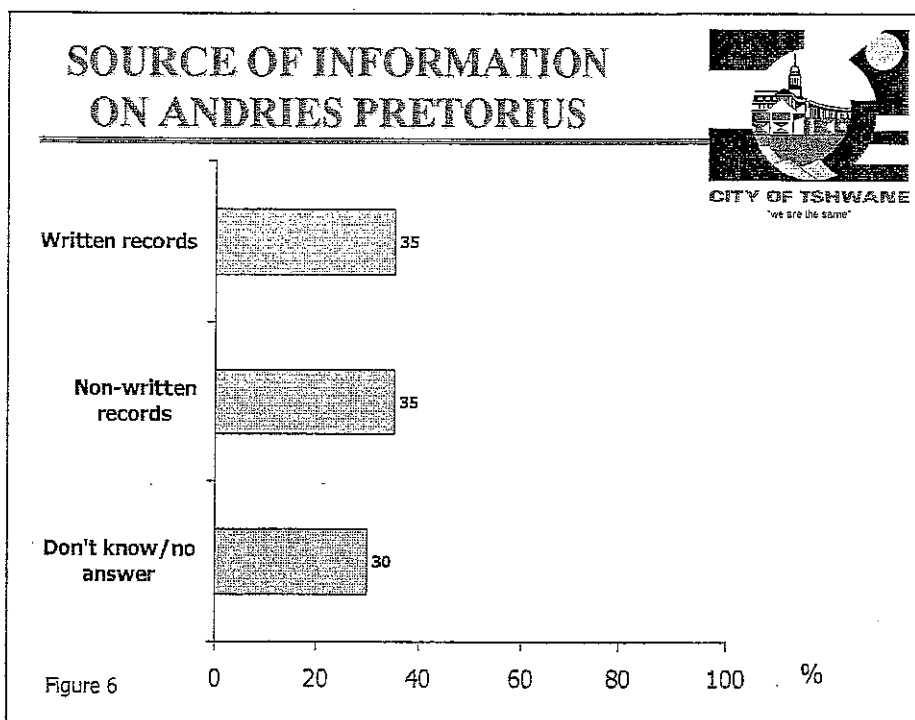


Figure 6 below relates to the question on the **knowledge of the respondents on Andries Pretorius**. The graph indicates that knowledge on Andries Pretorius derives largely from written records (about 35% of the respondents quoted written sources). Figure 7 below indicates that about 50% of the respondents who associated with Chief Tshwane pointed largely to unwritten sources, i.e. oral sources for their information. The relatively strong position which the name Andries Pretorius holds over Chief Tshwane can also be observed where the lack of published materials on Chief Tshwane explains why about 33% of the respondents indicated that they had no idea about their sources

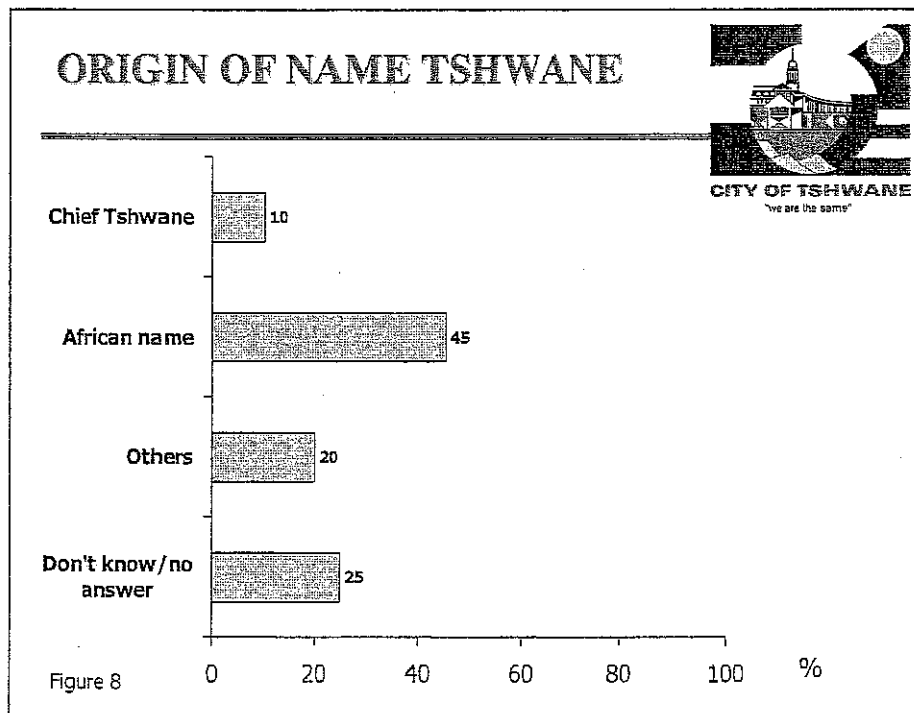
of information on the late chief. This situation illustrates how historical knowledge can be influenced by political factors.



4.3.4.5 Origin and meaning of the name Tshwane

This is an important part of this section of the report and relates to the meanings and connotations of place names (Jenkins et al. 1996: 11). Place names can arouse strong feelings through their meanings, denotations and connotations. A study of how place names create meaning is basically a matter of semantics and semiotics.

Figure 8 below indicates that about 10% of the respondents relate the place name Tshwane to the historical figure Chief Tshwane; about 45% mentioned that it is an African name, symbolising various features such as valleys, mountains, and animals. About 20% of respondents expressed other ideas about the name, whilst about 25% indicated that they had no idea about the origin and meaning of the name.

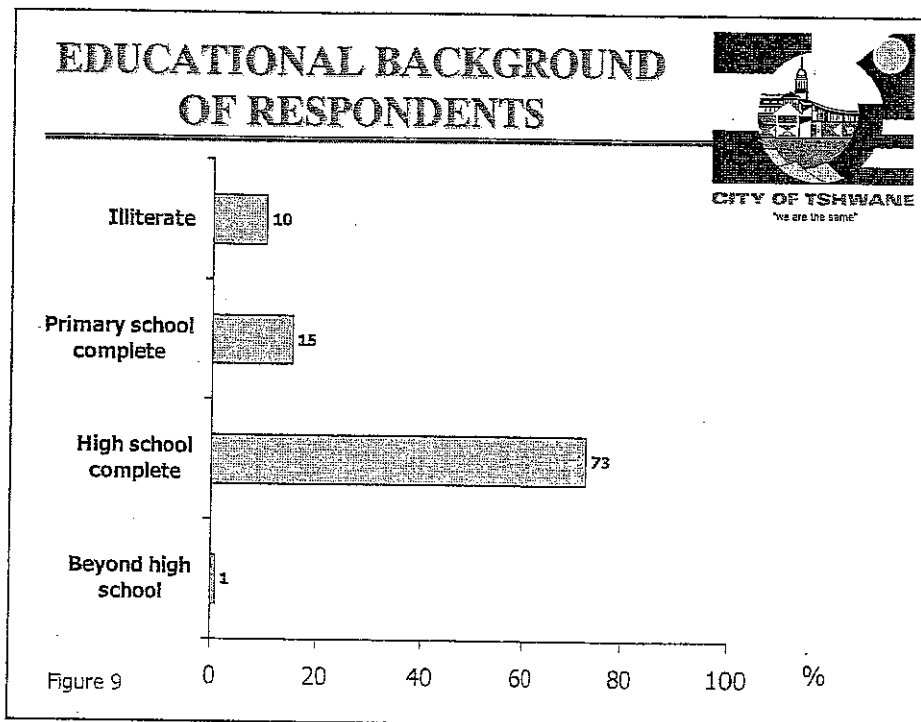


4.3.4.6 Years of residence in the municipality

The next item in the questionnaire looks at the relations between **years of residence of respondents in the Tshwane municipality and the types of answers they give about the place name**. Generally, it was observed that those who had spent the bulk of their lives living in the Tshwane municipality had considerable experiences and other resources to fall back on either to support or to oppose the name Pretoria or Tshwane. Recent residents invariably had little to offer on the place name debate. Age differences between the respondents need to be mentioned in this regard since the old and the young also had varying exposures to the political economies of the competing place names.

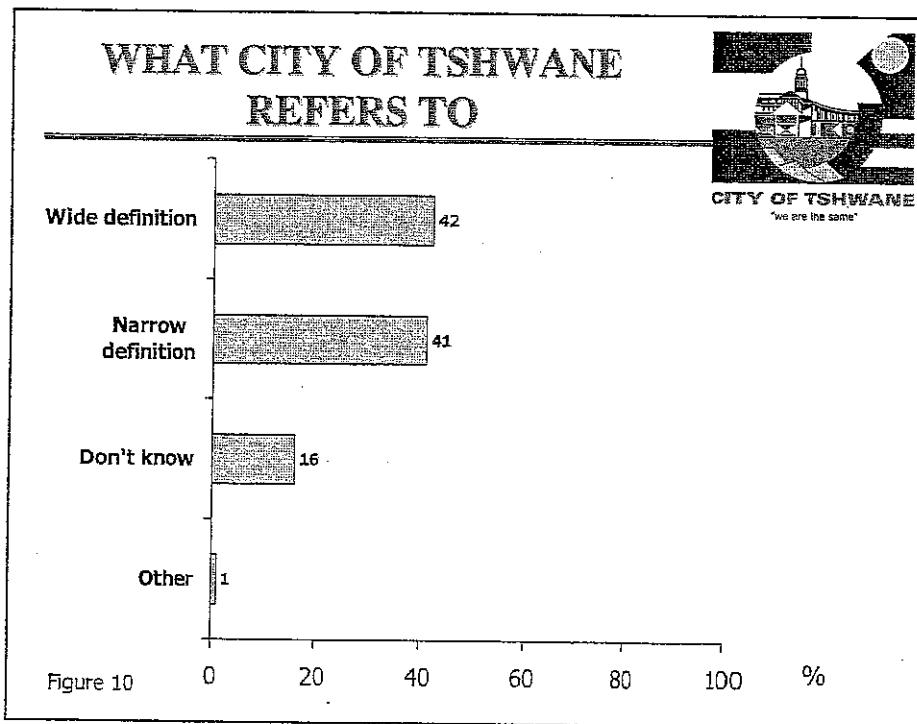
4.3.4.7 The educational background of the respondents

Education is the topic to which we now turn our attention. Figure 9 below provides vital statistics on this variable. It indicates that the majority of respondents (about 73% of them) had obtained education up to the high school level. Of those who went beyond high school, it was observed that about 20% had Technikon or University education. Only about 10% of respondents were illiterate. The relation of educational status to the place renaming research indicates that the educated generally had access to published materials which they often cited as their main sources of information on the debate but even here the major limitation of lack of adequate published materials on Tshwane should be mentioned. The illiterate respondents thus tended to cite oral histories as the major sources of their knowledge of the two place names.



4.3.4.8 The geographical definition of the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality

The survey also sought to establish the knowledge of the respondents regarding the geographical area occupied by the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality. The responses are summarised in Figure 10 below which indicates that the residents are quite knowledgeable about the suburbs or wards that make up the Tshwane metropolis. About 42% of respondents defined the metropolitan region in political/administrative terms to cover the area under the jurisdiction of the current Mayor of the Tshwane Municipality. Even the 41% who gave narrow definitions tended to do so within the framework of the current political/administrative structures. The responses in this section regarding boundary definitions thus revolved around the idea of the city as a political/administrative entity. The role of the Metropolitan Council as a key administrative structure in the metropolis thus emerges in this section of the report.



The sections which follow provide more examples of the motives which the respondents thought lay behind the actions of certain people and institutions in the Tshwane municipality. In disclosing the motives of people to the public, respondents are, in effect, highlighting the particular goals which they think the actors concerned intend to promote. This is what is known in social research as the "purposive" or "intentional" goals behind the opinions expressed by people (Neuman, 2000). In disclosing the motives of people one is also, in effect, disclosing their wishes or aspirations (Friedman, 2003). The sections which follow thus indicate that the respondents concerned see the

name of their city not only in terms of playing an important cultural role, but also as a future fabric of socio-cultural construction and integrated development representation. We begin this section then with what the respondents thought of as the motive of the Tshwane Metropolitan Council for initiating the debate on the name change.

4.3.4.9 Council's motives behind the renaming project

The question on the motives of the Metropolitan Council regarding the name change revealed that those in support of the name change saw it as an opportunity (or a means by which) the Council intends to get rid of the previous apartheid political system of cultural divisions and to usher in a new dispensation based on cultural integration. This theme of cultural pluralism and integration is also discussed in The City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality 2002 Report, page 278, in terms of promoting the city as a centre of African cultural excellence. Those against the name change, however, indicated that they were of the opinion that the Council intended to use the name change to marginalise Afrikaner cultural institutions in the municipality.

Figure 11 below highlights the importance which the respondents attached to the motives behind the Metropolitan Council's initiatives in the name change debate. The graph indicates that the majority of respondents (about 63% of them) see the motives in social and political terms, i.e. to integrate the previously racially segregated city through slogans such as "We are the same". Fig. 11 also indicates the low premium accorded to economic and other considerations related to the motives of the Metropolitan Council in initiating the place name change debate.

