

Comparing the Psychomotor Development of Black Infants in Johannesburg and White Infants in Brussels

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The study concerns psychomotor development, from 0 to 6 months, of 78 black infants and 105 white infants. The black infants belonged to the Zulu, Basonho, Xhosa, or other neighboring tribes, and were tested at the Orlando clinic. (Orlando was at the time one of the black neighborhoods of Johannesburg.) The white infants were tested in three hospital clinics in Brussels. The comparison is based on 20 behavioral indices resulting of a selection from 248 items which constituted a temporary developmental scale worked out by a team of researchers from the National Institute for Personal Research in Johannesburg. Our data did not confirm the results of the literature, in that we did not discover a marked overall developmental superiority of one group over the other.

We did discover some developmental differences. But tentatively, they could be attributed to cultural disparities regarding the handling of infants in the two groups.