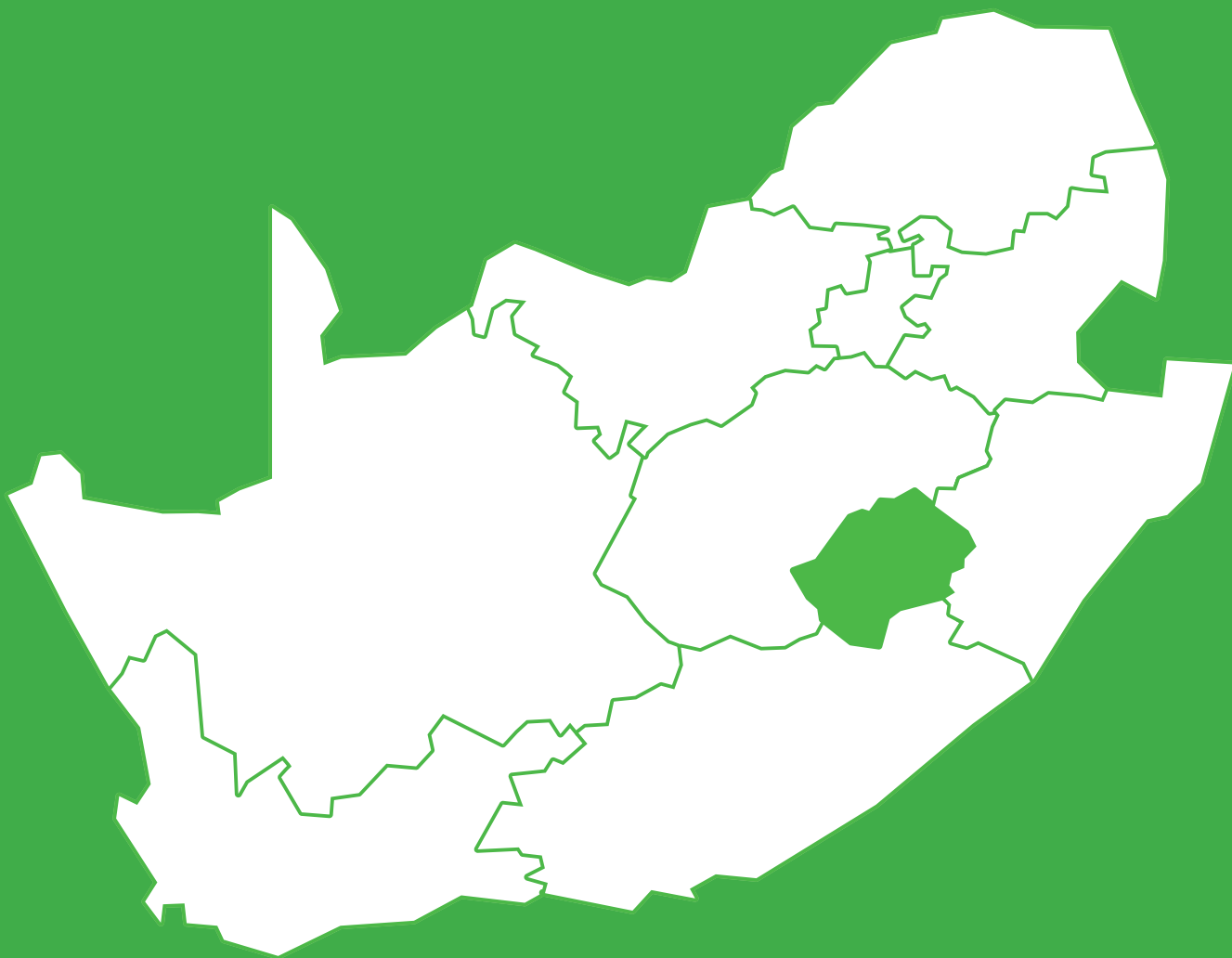# CENSUS 2022

STATISTICAL RELEASE

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Census 2022

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PREFACE

A population and housing census is the foremost exercise in the ten-year cycle of the statistical programme of a country, presenting an opportunity to obtain data on key demographic indicators such as population size and composition; households and their living circumstances, and geographical distribution across the country. It provides the population denominators for basic health and socio-economic indicators, and renews the basis for revising population estimates and projections for another ten years and beyond.

In a departure from previous practice, Census 2022 was the first digital census conducted by South Africa and used three modes of collection: Computer-assisted Personal Interview (CAPI); Computer-assisted Web Interview (CAWI); and Computer-assisted Telephonic Interview (CATI). The results of this massive census exercise and road map on how it was conducted provide invaluable indicators on progress made towards making South Africa a better society through evidence-based decision-making and planning.

Census 2022 was conducted under an unprecedented challenging environment characterised by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as a changing fiscal environment, affecting the planning and rollout of the census exercise. The COVID-19 pandemic led to the postponement of the census that was initially scheduled for October 2021 to February 2022, and disrupted a number of other census activities, including the census pilot. The challenges posed by the pandemic were not unique to South Africa, causing disruption in the United Nations Census Programme of the 2020 round. Despite the disruptions in the census planning and preparations, and implementation, these challenges were overcome and Census 2022 was successfully executed, culminating in this momentous occasion of disseminating the much-anticipated census outcome in this report. A set of selected indicators ranging from population size, composition, and other indicators on persons' characteristics to households' living conditions are profiled. The report sets the tone for subsequent releases by providing disaggregated statistics at lower levels, which will be availed in a phased approach to all the stakeholders in planning and policy making, research and academia, the general public and business spheres.

Risenga Maluleke

Statistician–General

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ACRONYMS / ABBREVIATIONS

ACRONYMS / ABBREVIATIONS	DESCRIPTION
CAPI	Computer-assisted Personal Interview
CAWI	Computer-assisted Web Interview
CATI	Computer-assisted Telephone Interview
DCC	District Census Coordinator
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EC	Eastern Cape
ECD	Early Childhood Development
FS	Free State
GP	Gauteng
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
KZN	KwaZulu-Natal
LP	Limpopo
MP	Mpumalanga
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NC	Northern Cape
NDP	National Development Plan
NSFAS	National Student Financial Aid Scheme
NW	North West
PAPI	Paper and Pen Interview
PCMA	Publicity, Community Mobilisation & Advocacy
PCQA	Provincial Coordination & Quality Assurance
PERSAL	Personnel and Salary System
PES	Post Enumeration Survey
PO	Provincial Office
PSC	Provincial Survey Coordinator
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
QN	Questionnaire
RAM	Radio Audience Measures
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Programmes
SALGA	South African Local Government Association
SAPS	South African Police Services
SAQA	South African Qualification Authority
SCM	Supply Chain Management
SDI	Special Dwelling Institutions
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SOE	State Owned Enterprises
SG	Statistician General
SLA	Service Level Agreement

ACRONYMS / ABBREVIATIONS	DESCRIPTION
SMS	Subject Matter Specialist
STATS ACT	Statistics Act No.6 of 1999
STATS SA	Statistics South Africa
UAT	User Acceptance Testing
UN	United Nations
UNCRPD	Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
WC	Western Cape
WHO	World Health Organisation
VMS	Vehicle Management System

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The South African population and housing census provides a mechanism for the country to take stock of the population and housing numbers every 10 years. The census is a rich source of statistical information and the foundation of statistical sampling within the organisation. It provides information on the demographic, socio-economic and geographic characteristics of the population, as well as household characteristics. In a departure from previous practice, the 2022 census was the first digital census conducted by South Africa and used three modes of collection: Computer-assisted Personal Interview (CAPI); Computer-assisted Web Interview (CAWI); and Computer-assisted Telephonic Interview (CATI).

The population of South Africa increased from 51,7 million in 2011 to more than 62 million in 2022; a growth rate of 1,8% in the intercensal period. Females constituted 51,5% of the total population, while 48,5% were males. Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal had the highest populations at 15 million and 12,4 million respectively, while the Northern Cape had the smallest (1,3 million). Black Africans remain the dominant population group at 81,4%, followed by the coloured population at 8,2%. The white population percentage declined to 7,3% in 2022 from 8,9% observed in 2011, while that for Indians/Asians increased slightly from 2,5% in 2011 to 2,7% in 2022. The median age increased to 28 years from 25 years in 2011, suggesting a consistent increase over time and an overall increase of three years.

More than 55 000 homeless individuals were recorded, with more males (70,1%) than females (29,9%), for both roofless and sheltered. Homelessness was more prevalent in metropolitan areas (74,1%) compared to non-metropolitan areas (25,9%). City of Tshwane recorded the highest proportion of homeless persons (18,1%), followed by City of Johannesburg at 15,6%. Looking at the top five reasons for homelessness, job loss/no income was the most cited for both males and females (41,3%), followed by alcohol and drug abuse (25%).

Internal migration results showed that two provinces still dominate internal migration in South Africa. Gauteng remained the dominant migration stream, receiving more than a third of all internal migrants, followed by Western Cape with 15%. Over the intercensal period, four provinces experienced an outflow of people, namely Limpopo, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Free State.

Census 2022 showed there were more than 2,4 million international migrants, which equates to just above 3% of the total population. Most of these came from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region (86%) and of these, 45,5% came from Zimbabwe, followed by Mozambique with 18,7% and Lesotho with 10,2%. The top five sending countries to South Africa were Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Lesotho and the United Kingdom; these five countries have also maintained their rank since 2011.

More than three million children (0–4 years) participated in Early Childhood Development (ECD). Provincially, children in Northern Cape (57%) and North West (52,4%) were more likely not to participate in ECD, compared to other provinces.

Seven out of ten black African children attended an ECD facility compared to eight out of ten white children. Attendance at an educational institution increased to almost universal level between 1996 and 2022 for children aged 5 years and 6 years, while the attendance rate started to decline by age 15–24 over the period. Attendance increased for black Africans, coloureds and whites over the period while the Indian/Asian population showed little change. For both 2011 and 2022, business, economics and management sciences and education were dominated by females, while males continued to dominate in engineering and electrical infrastructure studies.

The number of households increased from 14,4 million in 2011 to 17,8 million in 2022, an intercensal growth rate of 2%. The household size declined from 3,6 to 3,5 in 2022. KwaZulu-Natal consistently had the highest household size (4,4%), followed by Northern Cape (4,1%). The majority of households resided in formal dwellings (88,5%); Limpopo maintained the highest proportion of formal dwellings as was observed in 2011, increasing from 90% in 2011 to 95% in 2022. The distribution of household headship between females and males is nearly equal, with approximately a 50-50 share for each. KwaZulu-Natal had the highest proportion of female-headed households.

Although there was an increase in the proportion of households with piped water, the rate of increase slowed over time. Almost half of households (48,4%) reported experiencing water interruptions for two or more consecutive days; Northern Cape (65,8%) had the highest proportion reporting water interruptions, followed by North West (65,2%). The least occurrence in water interruptions was recorded in the Western Cape (28%). Households with access to the internet increased to 79% in 2022 from 35% in 2011. Internet access via cellphone was the most common source of internet for most households.

There was a slight decline in the number of households participating in agriculture across six of the nine provinces from 2011 to 2022. The exception was for Limpopo, where the number of agricultural households increased by almost 5%. Slight increases were observed for Gauteng and Mpumalanga as well. In both censuses, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and Eastern Cape had the highest number of households participating in agriculture. Almost 2 million households reported participating in agriculture for household consumption only; of these, and these varied by population group of the household head. 93% were black African-headed households, while only 3% were white-headed households. Of the 17,6 million sheep that were reported nationally as part of livestock ownership, 58% were reported in Eastern Cape and 13% in the Western Cape. Ownership of chickens was more predominant in KwaZulu-Natal (20,3%), followed by Eastern Cape with 16,7%.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1   Overview

Censuses are the principal means of collecting basic population and housing statistics required for planning, decision-making and monitoring of policies in all sectors of the economy in a country. Population and housing censuses provide detailed statistics on population composition, characteristics, and spatial distribution to the lowest geographical area. South Africa has conducted four censuses (1996, 2001, 2011 and 2022). Census 2022 was the first digital census to be conducted in the post-1994 democratic dispensation, driven by the fundamental benefits of a technology-driven census, including real-time data collection, processing and timely, quality data. Census 2022's strategic approach was thus to ensure that most processes such as the geography frame, data collection instruments/tools, and data processing were largely technology driven.

A multi-mode data collection approach was also adopted in census 2022, namely the use of face-to-face interviews (Computer-assisted Personal Interview [CAPI]), telephonic interviews (Computer-assisted Telephone Interview [CATI]), and self-enumeration through the internet (Computer-assisted Web Interview [CAWI]). The multi-mode data collection approach became an advantage in conducting a census in the COVID-19 pandemic environment that affected key census phases, including geography frame finalisation and data collection.

South Africa conducts a de facto census – individuals are counted based on where they were on the census reference night. Census 2022 reference night was the night of 2 February 2022. Based on this approach, four sub-populations were counted: household-based population; population in special dwelling institutions (SDIs); transient population; and homeless population. Counting each sub-population requires different enumeration procedures and data-collection instruments/tools developed for each sub-population. The homeless and transient populations were enumerated on census night while household and SDI enumeration started on 3 February 2022. Census 2022 was affected by unprecedented challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change issues such as flooding in some parts of the country, and these affected the Census 2022 data collection and other enumeration related activities conducted between February and May 2022, with provinces completing enumeration at different times over this period. For a detailed information on how the count was done, refer to Report No. 03-01-45.

2.   DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

2.1   Introduction

This section presents key findings from the demographic characteristics. It covers the total population by province, population composition, which includes age and sex structure, population group and median ages. Recorded marital status, language most spoken in the household and religious affiliation are also profiled.

2.2   Population size

The section on population size provides the results of the population recorded in Census 2022 and changes by province since Census 1996.

Figure 2.1: Total population by census year, Census 1996–2022

	Census 1996	Census 2001	Census 2011	Census 2022
Total population	40,583,573	44,819,778	51,770,560	62,027,503
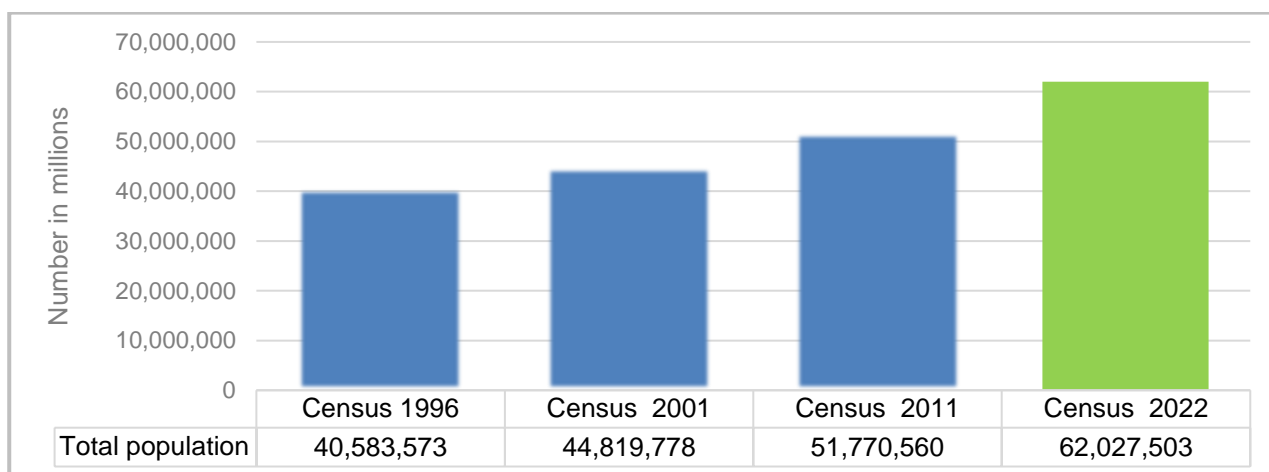
Figure 2.1 shows the total population by census years, 1996–2022. Overall, the results indicate that the population size of the country has been increasing. The population increased from 40 583 573 in 1996 to 62 027 503 in 2022, representing a growth rate of 4,1%. The biggest growth rates were observed between 2011 and 2022 at 1,8%, while the rates between 2001 and 2011 was 1,4%.

Table 2.1: Distribution of population by province and sex, Census 1996–2022

Province	Census year	Sex		
		Male	Female	Total
Western Cape	1996	1 935 494	2 021 381	**3 956 875**
	2001	2 192 321	2 332 014	**4 524 335**
	2011	2 858 506	2 964 228	**5 822 734**
	2022	**3 602 159**	**3 830 860**	7 433 019
Eastern Cape	1996	2 840 235	3 307 009	**6 147 244**
	2001	2 906 521	3 372 130	**6 278 651**
	2011	3 089 701	3 472 353	**6 562 053**
	2022	**3 424 042**	**3 806 162**	7 230 204
Northern Cape	1996	491 601	520 263	**1 011 864**
	2001	479 764	512 112	**991 876**
	2011	564 972	580 889	**1 145 861**
	2022	**653 320**	**702 626**	1 355 946
Free State	1996	1 298 348	1 335 156	**2 633 504**
	2001	1 297 605	1 409 170	**2 706 775**
	2011	1 328 967	1 416 623	**2 745 590**
	2022	**1 407 824**	**1 556 588**	2 964 412
KwaZulu-Natal	1996	4 018 349	4 553 953	**8 572 302**
	2001	4 478 083	5 106 046	**9 584 129**
	2011	4 878 676	5 388 625	**10 267 300**
	2022	**5 919 217**	**6 504 690**	12 423 907
North West	1996	1 347 678	1 379 149	**2 726 828**
	2001	1 484 077	1 497 987	**2 982 064**
	2011	1 779 903	1 730 049	**3 509 953**
	2022	**1 885 033**	**1 919 515**	3 804 548
Gauteng	1996	3 988 348	3 846 272	**7 834 620**
	2001	4 720 283	4 670 245	**9 390 528**
	2011	6 189 875	6 082 388	**12 272 263**
	2022	**7 617 952**	**7 481 470**	15 099 422
Mpumalanga	1996	1 505 594	1 618 610	**3 124 203**
	2001	1 603 578	1 762 379	**3 365 957**
	2011	1 974 055	2 065 883	**4 039 939**
	2022	**2 469 794**	**2 673 530**	5 143 324
Limpopo	1996	2 095 241	2 480 892	**4 576 133**
	2001	2 271 809	2 723 653	**4 995 462**
	2011	2 524 136	2 880 732	**5 404 868**
	2022	**3 099 416**	**3 473 304**	6 572 720
South Africa	**1996**	**19 520 887**	**21 062 685**	40 583 573
	2001	**21 434 040**	**23 385 737**	44 819 778
	2011	**25 188 791**	**26 581 769**	51 770 560
	2022	**30 078 757**	**31 948 745**	62 027 503

Table 2.1 provides the distribution of the population by province and sex, 1996–2022. The results show that the female population was 31 948 745 while the male population was 30 078 757 in 2022. Gauteng recorded the highest population (15 099 422) followed by KwaZulu-Natal (12 423 907) in 2022, while Northern Cape (1 355 946) and Free State (2 964 412) reported the lowest population sizes among the provinces. Gauteng is the only province where the proportion of females has been consistently below 50% since 1996. Limpopo (52,8%) and Eastern Cape (52,6%) had the highest proportion of females, more than the other seven provinces and the national percentage (51,5%).

Figure 2.2: Percentage distribution of the population by province, Census 1996–2022

	Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo
1996	9.7	15.1	2.5	6.5	21.1	6.7	19.3	7.7	11.3
2001	10.1	14	2.2	6	21.4	6.7	21	7.5	11.1
2011	11.3	12.3	2.2	5.3	19.4	7.1	24.6	7.8	10
2022	12.0	11.7	2.2	4.8	20.0	6.1	24.3	8.3	10.6
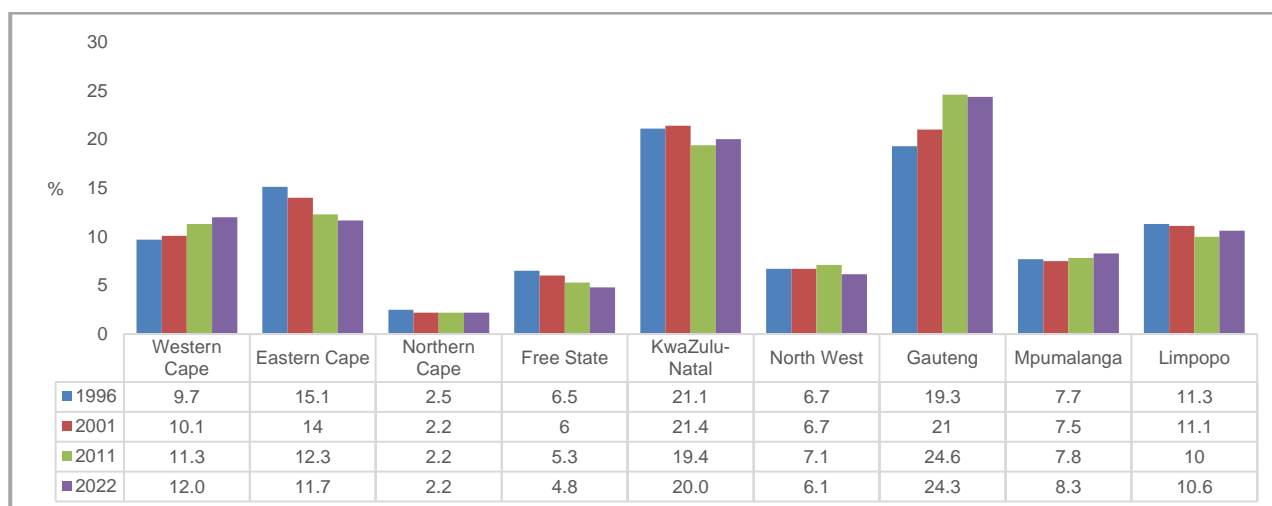
Figure 2.2 provides the percentage distribution of the population by province, 1996–2022. The results indicate that Gauteng (24,3%), KwaZulu-Natal (20%) and Western Cape (12%) recorded the highest percentage distributions of the population, while Northern Cape (2,2%) and Free State (4,8%) reported the lowest. A consistent increase in the proportion of the population was observed for Gauteng and the Western Cape from 19,3% and 9,7% in 1996 to 24,3% and 12% in 2022 respectively. Eastern Cape and the Free State, on the other hand, recorded a consistent decline over time, while it remained constant (2,2%) between 2001 and 2022 in the Northern Cape province. The North West province reported a slight decrease from 7,1% to 6,1% between 2011 and 2022.

Table 2.2: Distribution of the population and percentage change by province, Census 1996–2022

Province	1996	2001	% change (1996-2001)	2011	% change (2001-2011)	2022	% change (2011-2022)
Western Cape	3 956 875	4 524 335	14,3	5 822 734	28,7	7 433 019	27,7
Eastern Cape	6 147 244	6 278 651	2,1	6 562 053	4,5	7 230 204	10,2
Northern Cape	1 011 864	991 876	-2,0	1 145 861	15,5	1 355 946	18,3
Free State	2 633 504	2 706 775	2,8	2 745 590	1,4	2 964 412	8,0
KwaZulu-Natal	8 572 302	9 584 129	11,8	10 267 300	7,1	12 423 907	21,0
North West	2 726 828	2 982 064	9,4	3 509 953	17,7	3 804 548	8,4
Gauteng	7 834 620	9 390 528	19,9	12 272 263	30,7	15 099 422	23,0
Mpumalanga	3 124 203	3 365 957	7,7	4 039 939	20,0	5 143 324	27,3
Limpopo	4 576 133	4 995 462	9,2	5 404 868	8,2	6 572 721	21,6
South Africa	**40 583 573**	**44 819 778**	**10,4**	**51 770 560**	**15,5**	**62 027 503**	**19,8**

Table 2.2 presents changes in the population size (numbers and percentages) between the different censuses, 1996–2022. Nationally, the results showed the largest percentage change occurred between 2011 and 2022 at 19,8%. There was 10,4% percentage change between 1996 and 2001 and 15,5% between and 2001 and 2022. Except for Northern Cape (-2,0%) which recorded a negative change between 1996 and 2001, all other provinces recorded positive change over the years. The Western Cape (27,7%), Mpumalanga (27,3%) and Gauteng (23,0%) provinces recorded the highest percentage changes, while the Free State (8,0%) and North West (8,4%) recorded the lowest change between 2011 and 2022.

2.3   Population composition

This section provides the results on population composition recorded in Census 2022 by population group, sex and province between 1996 and 2022.

Table 2.3: Percentage distribution of the population by sex and province, Census 1996–2022

Province	1996		2001		2011		2022	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Western Cape	48,9	51,1	48,5	51,5	49,1	50,9	**48,5**	**51,5**
Eastern Cape	46,2	53,8	46,3	53,7	47,1	52,9	**47,4**	**52,6**
Northern Cape	48,6	51,4	48,4	51,6	49,3	50,7	**48,2**	**51,8**
Free State	49,3	50,7	47,9	52,1	48,4	51,6	**47,5**	**52,5**
KwaZulu-Natal	46,9	53,1	46,7	53,3	47,5	52,5	**47,6**	**52,4**
North West	49,4	50,6	49,8	50,2	50,7	49,3	**49,5**	**50,5**
Gauteng	50,9	49,1	50,3	49,7	50,4	49,6	**50,5**	**49,5**
Mpumalanga	48,2	51,8	47,6	52,4	48,9	51,1	**48,0**	**52,0**
Limpopo	45,8	54,2	45,5	54,5	46,7	53,3	**47,2**	**52,8**
South Africa	**48,1**	**51,9**	**47,8**	**52,2**	**48,7**	**51,3**	**48,5**	**51,5**

Table 2.3 presents percentage distribution of the population by sex and province, 1996–2022. With the exception of Gauteng, the results show that the female population has remained slightly higher than the male population in all provinces over the years. Females remained above 50% in all provinces except for Gauteng, where the proportion of females has been below 50% since 1996. The lower proportion of the female population reported over the years in Gauteng may be associated with economic and migration-related factors, resulting in more males relocating to the province. Limpopo followed by Eastern Cape have recorded the highest proportion of females since 1996, although there was a consistent decline for both from 54,2% to 52,8% and 53,8% to 52,6% in Limpopo and Eastern Cape respectively in 2022.

Table 2.4: Distribution of the population by population group and province, Census 1996–2022

Province	Census year	Population group					
		Black African	Coloured	Indian/Asian	White	Other	Total
Western Cape	1996	826 691	2 146 109	40 376	821 551	-	**3 834 727**
	2001	1 207 429	2 438 976	45 030	832 901	-	**4 524 335**
	2011	1 912 547	2 840 404	60 761	915 053	93 969	**5 822 734**
	2022	**2 884 511**	**3 124 757**	**84 363**	**1 217 807**	**115 235**	**7 426 673**
Eastern Cape	1996	5 291 423	469 684	19 378	331 478	-	**6 111 963**
	2001	5 473 922	480 408	18 483	305 839	-	**6 278 651**
	2011	5 660 230	541 850	27 929	310 450	21 595	**6 562 053**
	2022	**6 189 075**	**547 741**	**37 568**	**403 061**	**48 339**	**7 225 784**
Northern Cape	1996	448 880	436 319	2 350	111 650	-	**999 200**
	2001	461 262	425 717	2 379	102 518	-	**991 876**
	2011	576 986	461 899	7 827	81 246	17 903	**1 145 861**
	2022	**679 383**	**563 605**	**10 824**	**99 150**	**2 667**	**1 355 629**
Free State	1996	2 223 940	79 038	2 805	316 459	-	**2 622 242**
	2001	2 381 073	83 193	3 719	238 791	-	**2 706 775**
	2011	2 405 533	83 844	10 398	239 026	6 790	**2 745 590**
	2022	**2 630 556**	**78 141**	**12 978**	**235 915**	**4 274**	**2 961 864**
KwaZulu-Natal	1996	7 037 724	116 798	790 791	556 997	-	**8 502 310**
	2001	8 163 564	140 286	798 163	482 115	-	**9 584 129**
	2011	8 912 921	141 376	756 991	428 842	27 170	**10 267 300**
	2022	**10 535 830**	**183 019**	**1 157 542**	**513 377**	**27 442**	**12 417 210**
North West	1996	2 444 648	44 236	9 880	214 284	-	**2 713 048**
	2001	2 684 682	53 710	9 738	233 934	-	**2 982 064**
	2011	3 152 063	71 409	20 652	255 385	10 444	**3 509 953**
	2022	**3 562 524**	**60 720**	**2 654**	**171 887**	**5 894**	**3 803 679**
Gauteng	1996	5 620 774	28 0235	161 429	1 711 015	-	**7 773 453**
	2001	7 064 389	33 9973	218 124	1 768 042	-	**9 390 528**
	2011	9 493 684	42 3594	356 574	1 913 884	84 527	**12 272 263**
	2022	**12 765 312**	**44 3857**	**329 736**	**1 509 800**	**35 890**	**15 084 595**
Mpumalanga	1996	2 827 503	20 394	12 941	245 250	-	**3 106 089**
	2001	3 135 485	22 429	10 964	197 080	-	**3 365 957**
	2011	3 662 219	36 611	27 917	303 595	9 597	**4 039 939**
	2022	**4 898 063**	**32 100**	**25 882**	**185 731**	**440**	**5 142 216**
Limpopo	1996	4 406 046	7 632	5 645	126 012	-	**4 545 335**
	2001	4 844 360	9 814	8 867	132 420	-	**4 995 462**
	2011	5 224 754	14 415	17 881	139 359	8 459	**5 404 868**
	2022	**6 341 601**	**18 409**	**35 958**	**167 524**	**7 172**	**6 570 664**
South Africa	**1996**	**31 127 631**	**3 600 446**	**1 045 596**	**4 434 697**	**-**	**40 208 369**
	2001	**35 416 166**	**3 994 505**	**1 115 467**	**4 293 640**	**-**	**44 819 778**
	2011	**41 000 938**	**4 615 401**	**1 286 930**	**4 586 838**	**280 454**	**51 770 560**
	2022	**50 486 856**	**5 052 349**	**1 697 506**	**4 504 252**	**247 353**	**61 988 314**

Note:

- *Unspecified cases for population group in Censuses 1996 and 2022 are excluded.*

- *Category "Other" population group was not included in the 1996 and 2001*

Table 2.4 shows the population group distribution by province in South Africa, 1996–2022. The results show that the black African population remains the biggest population group across all provinces since 1996. The black African population was highest in Gauteng (12 765 312) and KwaZulu-Natal (10 535 830), and lowest in the Northern Cape province (679 383). The highest number of the coloured population was in the Western Cape over time; proportionally, they also remained the highest in the Western Cape at 42% in 2022, although they declined from 56% in 1996. The largest concentration of the white population group was recorded in Gauteng province (1 509 800) followed by the Western Cape (1 217 807) in 2022. However, the proportion of the white population declined gradually within each province over time; for instance, the white population constituted 22% of the population in Gauteng in 1996, but declined to only 10% in that province in 2022. It was 21,4% of the Western Cape population in 1996 and declined to just above 16% of the total population in that province in 2022. The total number of the Indian/Asian population recorded in 2022 was 1 697 505; provincially, the highest number of the Indian/Asian population remains in KwaZulu-Natal (1 157 542) followed by Gauteng (329 736). This population group remained steady within these two provinces at just below 10% in KwaZulu-Natal and only 2% of the Gauteng population.

Figure 2.3: Percentage distribution by population group, Census 1996–2022

	1996	2001	2011	2022
■ Black African	77.4	79	79.2	81.4
■ Coloured	9.0	8.9	8.9	8.2
■ Indian or Asian	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.7
■ White	11.0	9.6	8.9	7.3
■ Other	-	-	0.5	0.4
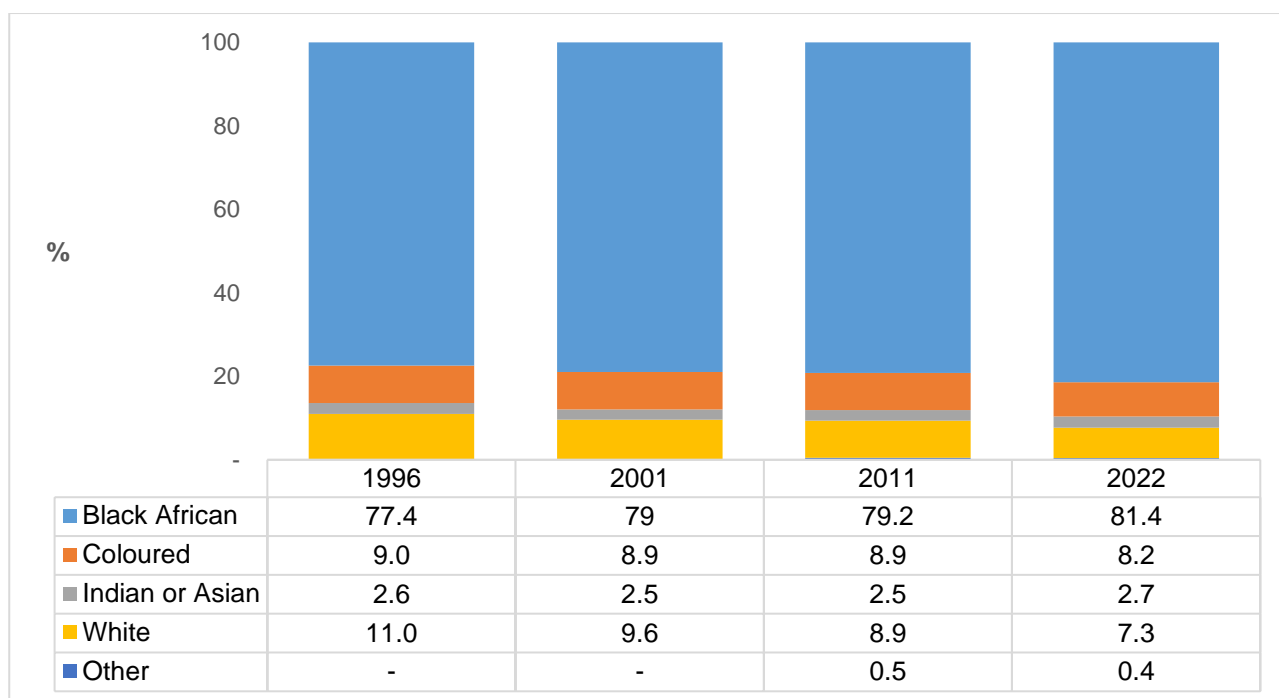
Figure 2.3 presents the percentage distribution of population groups in South Africa for Census 1996 to 2022. The results show that eight in ten South Africans were black African, and less than one in ten were white in 2022. The black Africans remained the highest population group, increasing from 77% recorded in 1996 to 81,4% in 2022. On the other hand, the white population group declined from 11% in 1996 to 7,3% in 2022. The Indian/Asian population group remained below 3% across the four censuses, while the coloured population constituted 8,2% of the population in 2022.

2.4 Age and sex structure

The age and sex subsection deals with distribution of the population over time based on 5-year age groups. It compares the age and sex structures of 1996, 2001, 2011, with that of 2022 to show shifts that occurred over time.

Figure 2.4: Distribution patterns of the population by 5-year age groups, Census 2011 and 2022
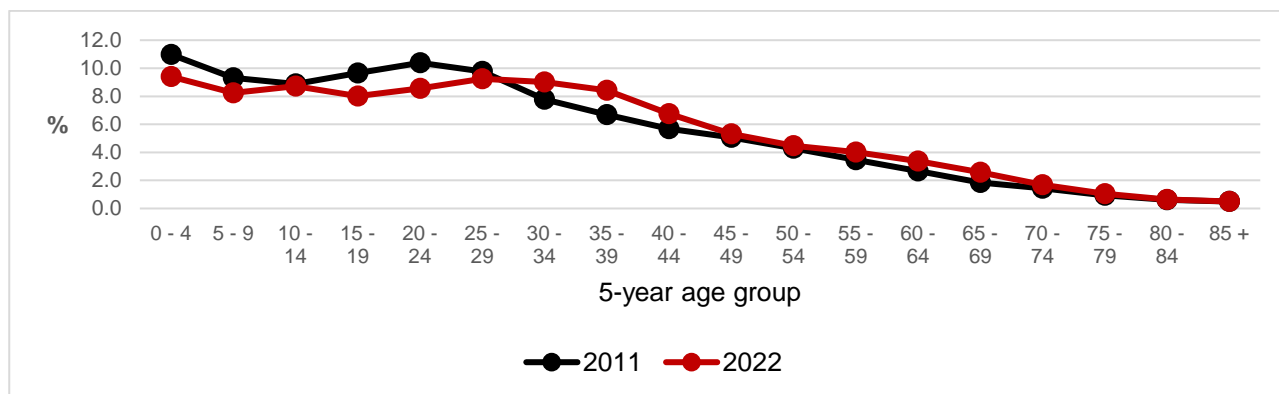
Figure 2.4 shows the distribution of the population by 5-year age groups between Census 2011 and 2022. The results show a dip in the age groups 5–9 and 15–19 years in 2022. The results also show lower proportions of the population among those in the age groups 10–14 and 25–29, and higher proportions for the age groups 30–34 to 45–49 years in 2022 compared to 2011. Additionally, there is a higher proportion of the population among those in the age cohorts 50–54 to 75–79 years in 2022 compared to 2011.

Table 2.5: Distribution of the population by 5-year age groups and sex, Census 2022

Age group	Numbers			%		
	Male	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
0–4	2 918 292	2 915 222	**5 833 515**	50,0	50,0	**100,0**
5–9	2 561 963	2 547 141	**5 109 104**	50,1	49,9	**100,0**
10–14	2 713 448	2 690 676	**5 404 124**	50,2	49,8	**100,0**
15–19	2 504 677	2 470 633	**4 975 309**	50,3	49,7	**100,0**
20–24	2 670 986	2 638 753	**5 309 738**	50,3	49,7	**100,0**
25–29	2 825 292	2 907 947	**5 733 239**	49,3	50,7	**100,0**
30–34	2 776 212	2 816 611	**5 592 823**	49,6	50,4	**100,0**
35–39	2 596 891	2 625 711	**5 222 603**	49,7	50,3	**100,0**
40–44	2 089 077	2 096 144	**4 185 220**	49,9	50,1	**100,0**
45–49	1 586 698	1 706 813	**3 293 511**	48,2	51,8	**100,0**
50–54	1 277 910	1 491 229	**2 769 139**	46,1	53,9	**100,0**
55–59	1 100 778	1 395 674	**2 496 452**	44,1	55,9	**100,0**
60–64	912 280	1 183 387	**2 095 667**	43,5	56,5	**100,0**
65–69	672 433	927 238	**1 599 671**	42,0	58,0	**100,0**
70–74	419 393	626 614	**1 046 006**	40,1	59,9	**100,0**
75–79	238 713	413 321	**652 033**	36,6	63,4	**100,0**
80–84	132 074	262 740	**394 814**	33,5	66,5	**100,0**
85+	81 640	232 892	**314 532**	26,0	74,0	**100,0**
Total	30 078 757	31 948 746	**62 027 503**	48,5	51,5	**100,0**

Census 2022. Overall, the data indicate that in 2022, 48,5% of the population was male while 51,5% was female. The result also shows a higher distribution among the younger and youthful age cohorts compared to the elderly age cohorts. A slightly higher number of males were observed at ages 0–4 years, while the number of females was higher than males at advanced ages, showing a typical declining proportion of males with advancing age compared to that of females.

Table 2.6: Percentage distribution of the population by 5-year age groups and province, Census 2022

Age group	Province									
	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	South Africa
0–4	7,9	10,0	9,5	8,9	9,3	10,3	8,6	10,6	11,5	**9,4**
5–9	7,0	9,2	9,0	8,5	8,6	8,8	6,9	8,8	10,1	**8,2**
10–14	7,5	10,2	9,3	9,3	9,3	9,2	7,1	9,1	10,1	**8,7**
15–19	7,2	9,2	9,2	8,7	8,6	8,4	6,8	8,2	8,6	**8,0**
20–24	8,7	7,8	8,5	8,3	8,5	8,5	9,1	9,0	8,0	**8,6**
25–29	9,4	8,1	8,0	8,4	9,2	8,5	10,5	9,5	8,4	**9,2**
30–34	9,2	7,2	7,6	8,4	9,1	8,4	10,7	9,2	7,6	**9,0**
35–39	9,1	6,8	7,1	8,0	8,5	7,9	9,9	8,3	6,8	**8,4**
40–44	7,5	5,6	6,3	6,5	6,5	6,6	7,9	6,3	5,6	**6,7**
45–49	5,8	4,9	5,5	5,3	5,0	5,3	5,7	5,1	5,0	**5,3**
50–54	5,2	4,4	5,1	4,7	4,1	4,4	4,6	4,2	4,2	**4,5**
55–59	4,5	4,3	4,4	4,4	3,8	4,1	3,8	3,7	4,0	**4,0**
60–64	3,8	4,1	3,7	3,7	3,2	3,5	3,1	2,9	3,3	**3,4**
65–69	2,8	3,2	2,8	2,9	2,6	2,5	2,3	2,2	2,5	**2,6**
70–74	2,0	2,1	1,7	1,8	1,7	1,6	1,4	1,3	1,7	**1,7**
75–79	1,3	1,3	1,1	1,1	1,0	1,0	0,9	0,8	1,1	**1,1**
80–84	0,7	0,9	0,6	0,6	0,6	0,6	0,5	0,5	0,8	**0,6**
85 +	0,5	0,7	0,4	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,4	0,4	0,8	**0,5**
Total	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**

Table 2.6 presents the proportional distribution of the population by 5-year age groups and province for Census 2022. The results indicate that those in the age group 0–4 (9,4%), 25–29 (9,2%) and 30–34 years (9%) had the highest proportions nationally, while those in the age groups 80–84 and 85+ were the lowest. Furthermore, Gauteng, Mpumalanga and Western Cape recorded the highest proportion among those in the youthful ages 25–34 years at almost similar proportions, ranging between 8,7% and 10,5%. The Eastern Cape province (10,2%) reported the highest proportion among those in the age group 10–14 years, while Limpopo (10,1%) reported the same proportion among those in the age group 5–9 and 10–14 years respectively, and 11,5% among the youngest age group. Overall, the results show that the South African population remains relatively young and youthful, with the majority concentrated in the age groups 0–39 years.

Figure 2.5: Percentage distribution of the population by population group and 5-year age groups, Census 2022
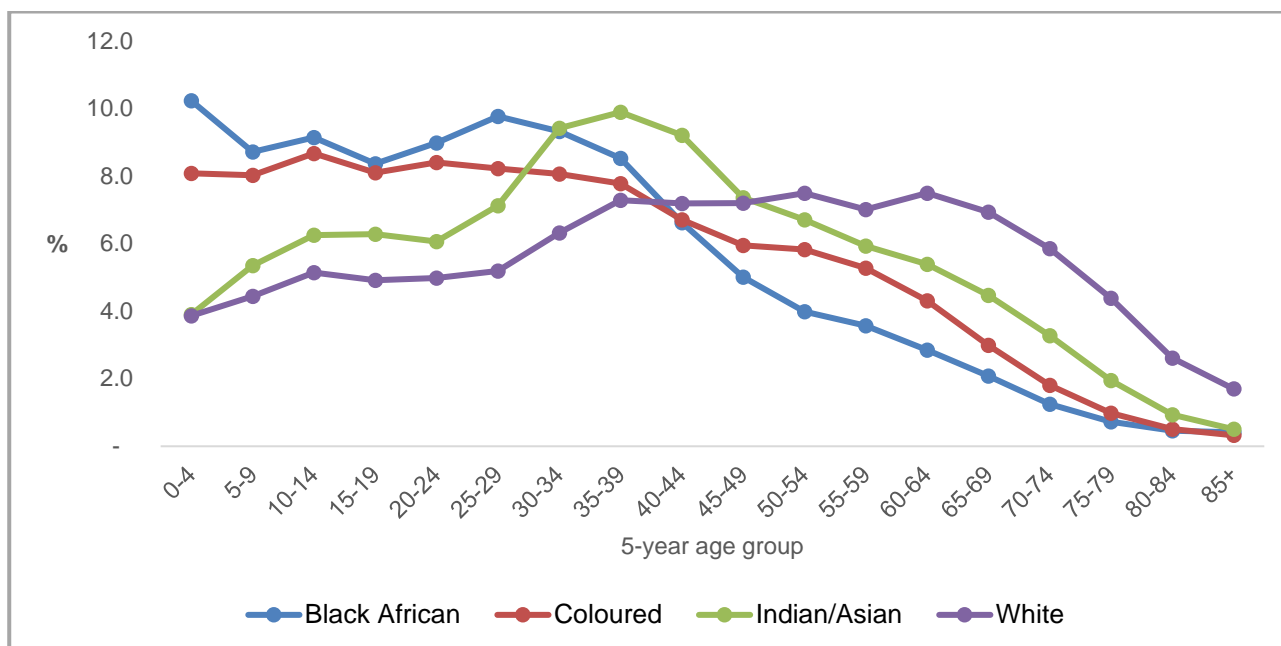
The distribution of the population groups by 5-year age groups is presented in Figure 2.5; it indicates that black Africans have the highest proportion of the population among those aged 0-34 years, while the white population group has the lowest in the same ages. The white population shows the highest proportion of older persons (50–85+) among all the population groups. The Indian/Asian population group had the highest proportion of persons aged between 35 and 44 years.

A population structure or pyramid provides a consolidated picture of the age-sex distribution and composition of a population. Figures 2.6 to 2.7 below demonstrate the comparison of Census 2022 to the three previous censuses (1996, 2001 and 2011).

Figure 2.6: Population structure of South Africa, Census 1996 and 2022

Census 1996 (blue shaded) and Census 2022 (transparent)

Male

Female

Age

□ Female (2022) □ Male (2022) ■ Female (1996) ■ Male (1996)
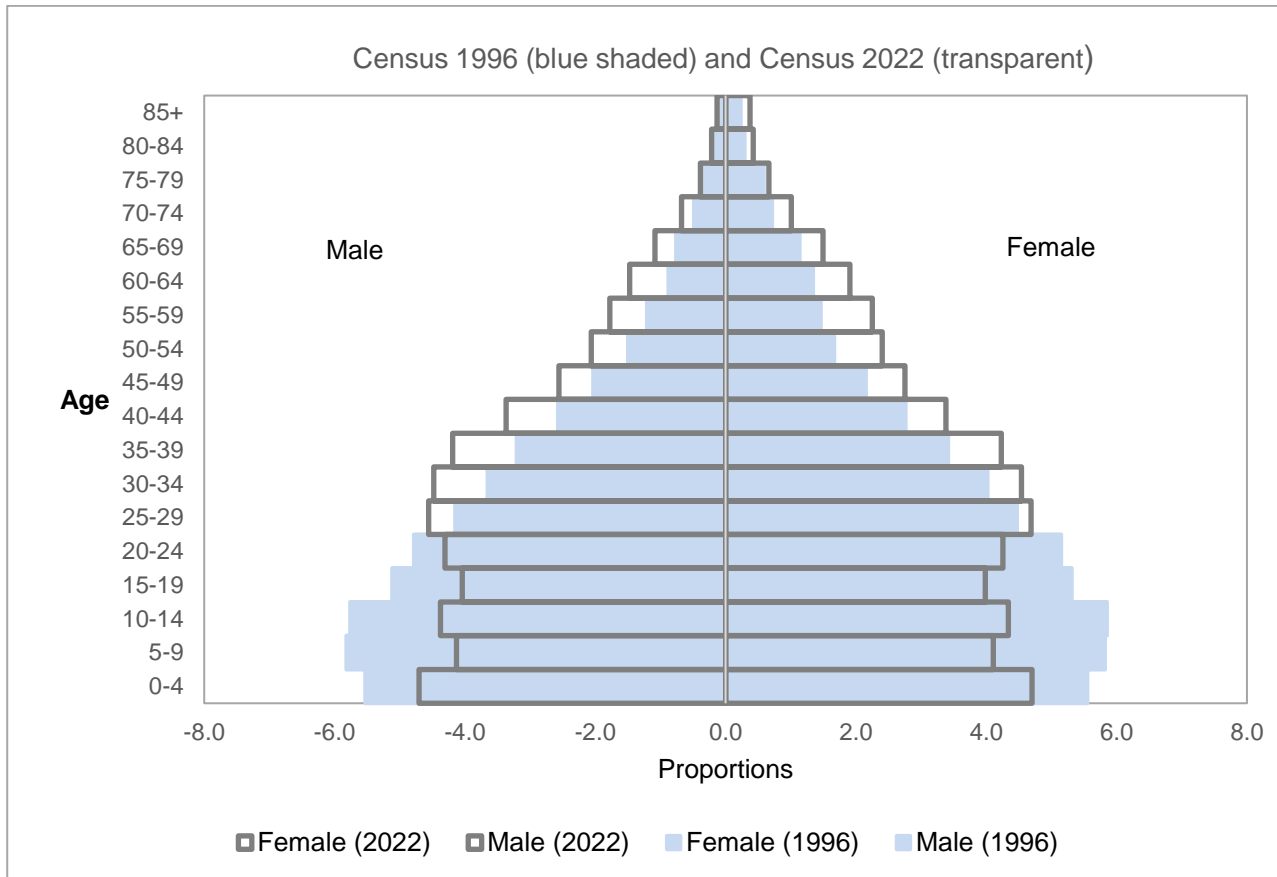
Proportions

Figure 2.6 shows a comparison between the 1996 and 2022 age structure. A fairly large proportion of persons at younger ages (0–24 years) are observed in 1996 compared to 2022. Furthermore, the results indicate a substantial decrease in the proportion of younger persons in 2022, while a steady increase is observed in ages 25 and older compared to the 1996 distribution. This is indicative of a fairly young population in 1996, which started to shift upward in 2022.

Figure 2.7: Population structure of South Africa, Census 2001 and 2022
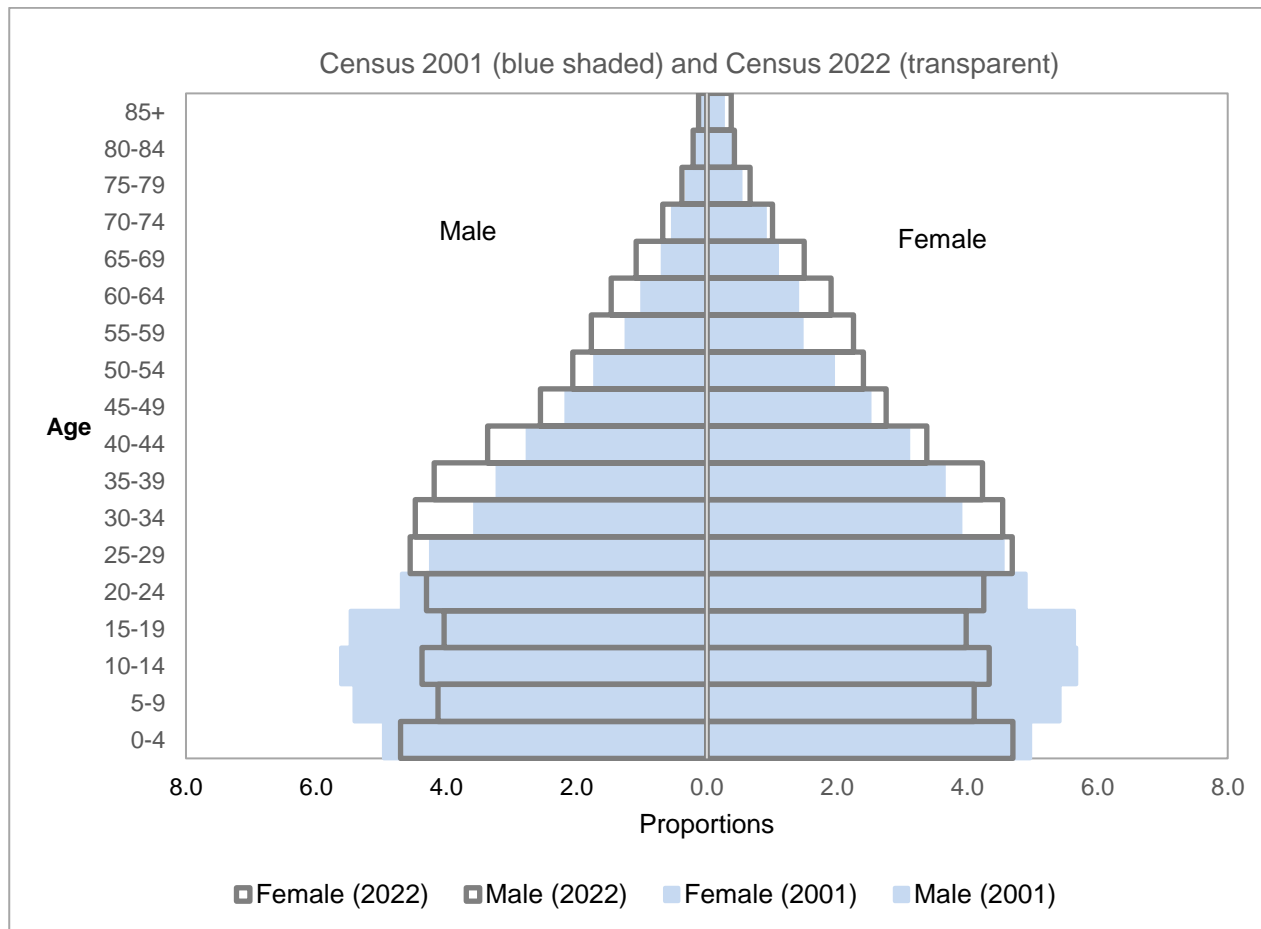
Figure 2.7 shows a comparison between the population structure in 2001 and 2022 censuses. It depicts a picture that is almost similar to the one shown in Figure 2.6 above. However, when comparing Census 2001 and 2022 the proportion of persons aged 5–19 years in 2022 show substantial decreases for both sexes. An upward shift from younger ages in 2001 to older ages (25+) in 2022 is also observed.

Figure 2.8: Population structure of South Africa, Census 2011 and 2022
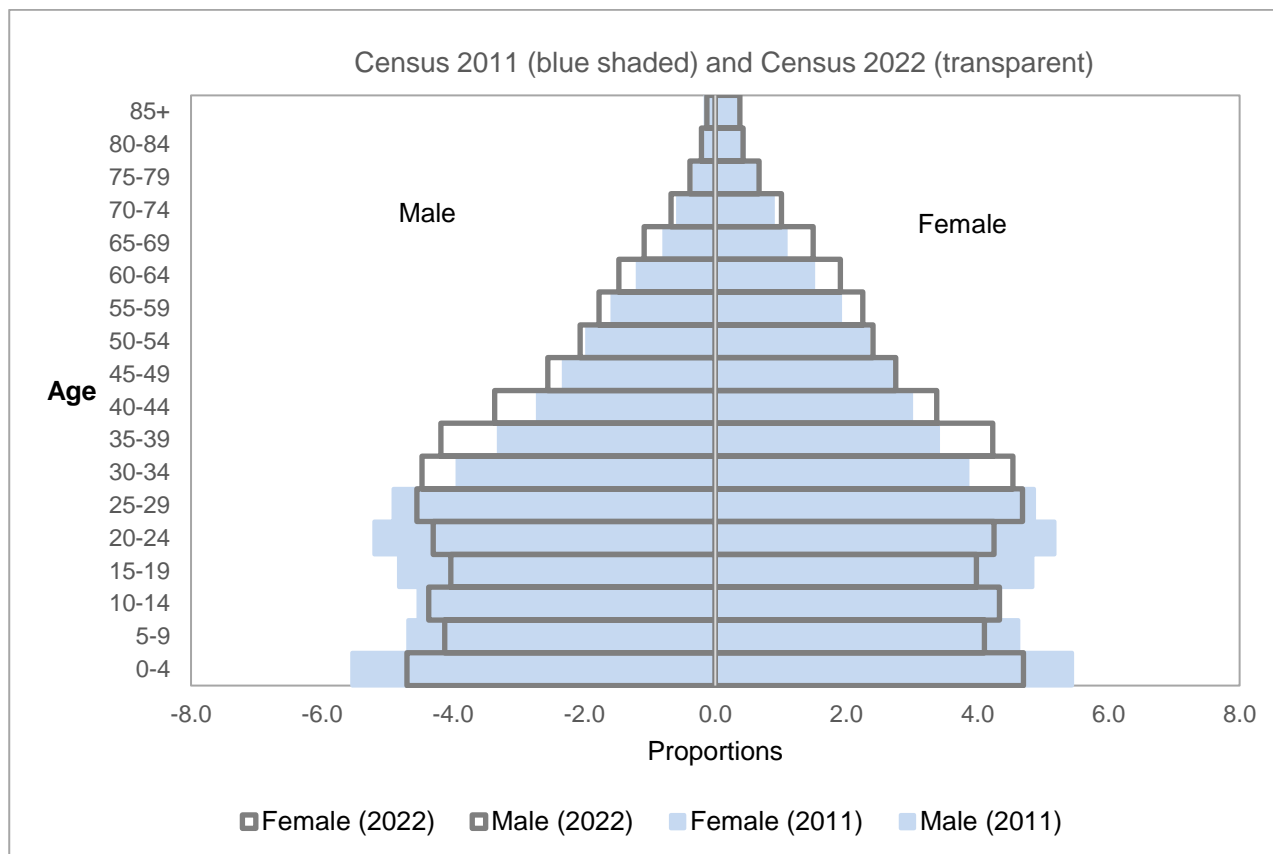
Figure 2.8 shows the comparison of the age-sex structure between 2011 and 2022. The results indicate a larger proportion of children aged 0–4 in 2011 compared to 2022, while the overall shapes of the two structures depict a similar shape; ages between 5–9 and 15–34 remain larger in 2011 than in 2022. The proportion of females aged 10–14 is the same between the two censuses while there is a slight difference in the proportion of males in the same age group, where 2011 remained higher than the 2022 distribution. The 2022 distribution of persons in the ages 30–74 is slightly higher in 2022 compared to 2011.

2.5   Sex ratio

As a key measure of sex composition, the sex ratio gives the number of males for every 100 females in the population. A sex ratio above 100 indicates more males than females in the population, and a sex ratio below 100 indicates the opposite. Generally, the sex ratio at birth is high and declines with increasing age.

Table 2.7: Sex ratio by province, Census 1996–2022

Province	Census year			
	1996	**2001**	**2011**	**2022**
Western Cape	95,8	94,0	96,4	94,0
Eastern Cape	85,9	86,2	89,0	90,0
Northern Cape	94,5	93,7	97,3	93,0
Free State	97,2	92,1	93,8	90,4
KwaZulu-Natal	88,2	87,7	90,5	91,0
North West	97,7	99,1	102,9	98,2
Gauteng	103,7	101,1	101,8	101,8
Mpumalanga	93,0	91,0	95,6	92,4
Limpopo	84,5	83,4	87,6	89,2
South Africa	**92,7**	**91,7**	**94,8**	**94,1**

Table 2.7 presents sex ratios by province, Census 1996–2022. Overall, lower sex ratios were observed across all four South African censuses. The results also show a slight increase in sex ratio from 93 in 1996 to 94 in 2022 nationally. Gauteng was the only province that recorded sex ratios above 100 across the four censuses. North West was the only other one with a sex ratios of above 100 but only (102,9) in 2011. Migration factors may be associated with the provincial sex ratio variation. For examples, the high number of males in the Gauteng province and the lower number in Limpopo and Eastern Cape in particular, the Limpopo province recorded the lowest sex ratio between 1996 and 2022, followed by Eastern Cape province at 85,9 in 1996 and 90,0 in the 2022 census.

Figure 2.9: Sex ratio by population group, Census 1996–2022

	Black African	Coloured	Indian/Asian	White
1996	92	94	96	95
2001	91	93	96	94
2011	94	93	101	95
2022	94	91	102	94
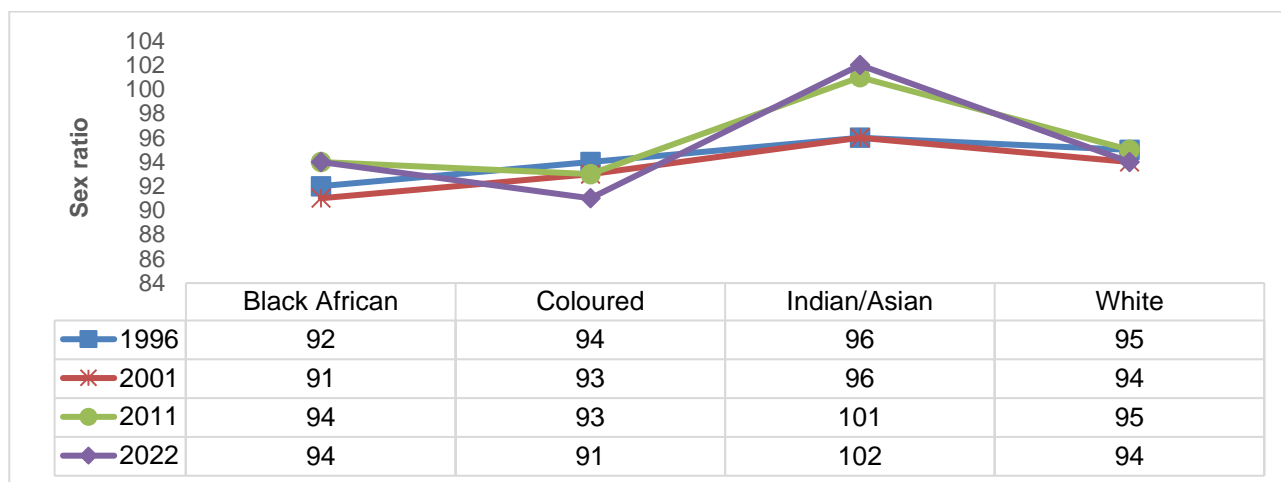
Figure 2.9 shows the sex ratio by population group, Census 1996–2022. The results show consistently more female domination for all population groups, with the exception of the Indian/Asian population in 2011 (101) and 2022 (102). The sex ratio decreased slightly among the coloured population, from 94 in 1996 to 91 in 2022. The white population group shows a slight decrease from 95 to 94, while the black African sex ratio remained consistent at 94 between 2011 and 2022.

Figure 2.10: Sex ratio by 5-year age groups, Census 1996–2022

	0 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 24	25 - 29	30 - 34	35 - 39	40 - 44	45 - 49	50 - 54	55 - 59	60 - 64	65 - 69	70 - 74	75 - 79	80 - 84	85 +
1996	100	100	98	96	93	93	91	94	93	94	90	83	65	67	68	60	53	46
2001	100	100	99	97	96	93	91	88	89	86	89	85	72	63	58	59	50	41
2011	102	101	104	100	101	101	102	97	91	84	84	82	79	72	65	52	45	42
2022	100	101	101	101	101	97	99	99	100	93	86	79	77	73	67	58	50	34
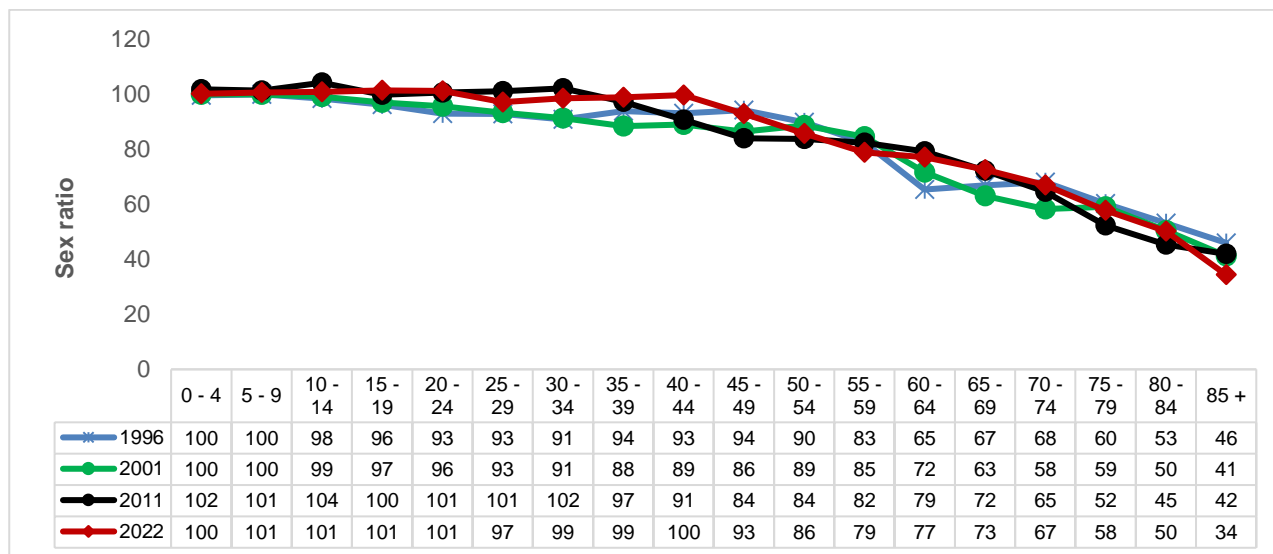
Generally, the sex ratio is expected to decrease as age increases. Figure 2.10 shows sex ratios by 5-year age groups, Census 1996–2022. The expected pattern was observed, with declining sex ratios with increasing age for all four censuses. The results also show that across the four censuses, sex ratios for ages 0 to 9 were 100 and above, and until ages 30–34 in 2011 and for 20–24 years in 2022. The result also suggests that there are more males than females up to the age group 20–24, and with the exception of 40–44 years, more females than males in other age groups, which is consistent with expectations.

2.6   Median age

The median age measures the age above which one-half of the population is located and below which the other half is located. It provides an indication of whether the population is young, intermediate or old.

Figure 2.11: Median age by province, Census 1996–2022

	Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo	SA
■1996	26	19	24	24	21	22	27	20	17	22
■2001	26	20	24	24	21	23	27	21	18	23
■2011	28	22	25	25	22	25	27	23	21	25
■2022	31	27	27	28	28	27	30	27	26	28
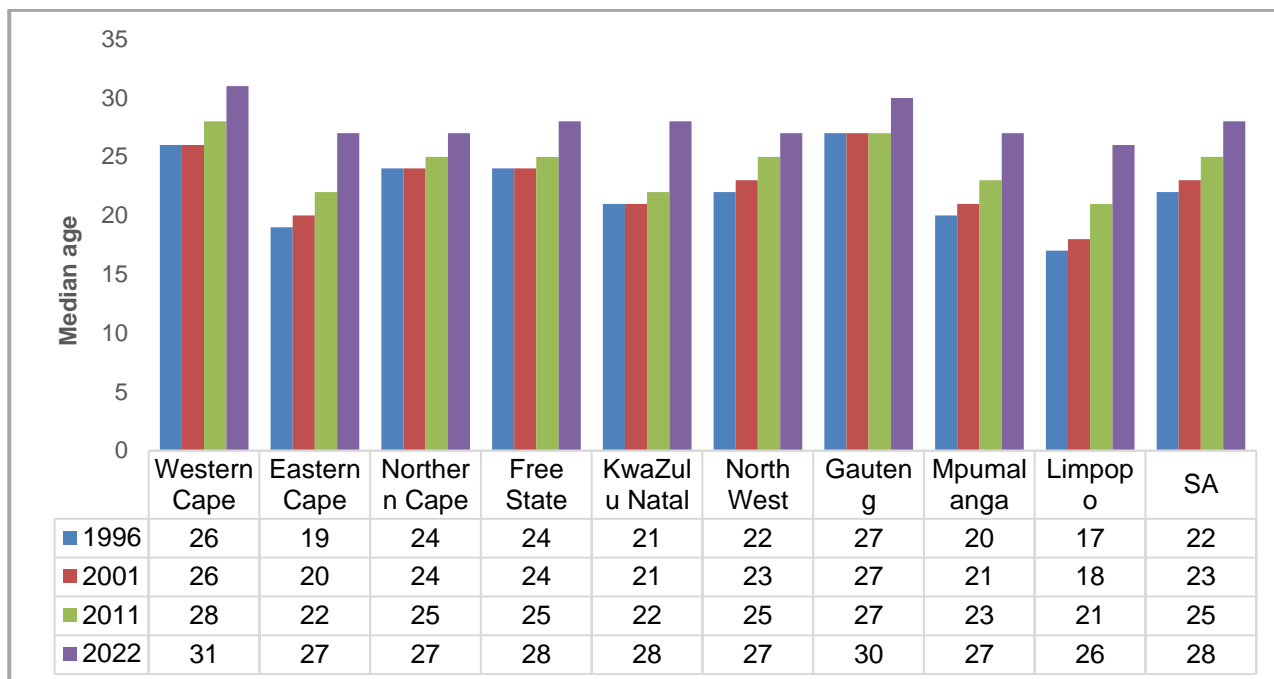
Figure 2.11 shows the median age by province for Census 1996 to 2022. The results indicate that over time the median ages increased consistently, from 22 years in 1996 to 28 years in 2022, an overall increase of six years since 1996. All provinces recorded an increase in median age over the years, especially between 2011 and 2022. The Western Cape (31 years) and Gauteng (30 years) maintained median ages above the national median age across all four censuses, while Limpopo (26 years) recorded the lowest in 2022. Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and Limpopo showed the highest increases between 2011 and 2022 at a range between four and six years.

Figure 2.12: Median age by population group, Census 1996–2022

	Black African	Coloured	Indian/Asian	White
■1996	21	23	26	33
■2001	22	24	29	35
■2011	21	26	32	38
■2022	27	30	37	45
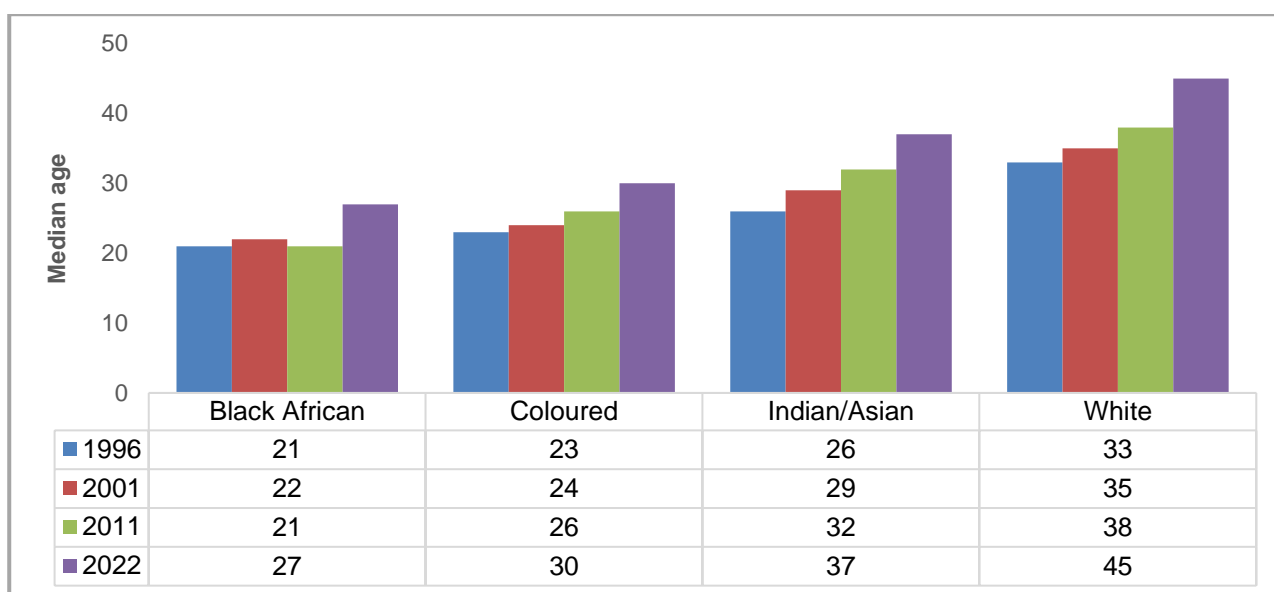
Figure 2.12 presents the median age by population group for Census 1996 to 2022. The results show that median ages gradually increased among all population groups over the years. This shows an increase ranging between four and seven years across the different population groups in this period. The median age of the white population group reflects an ageing population, while black Africans remain relatively younger. The median age increased from 21 to 27 years among black Africans and from 38 to 45 years among the white population between 2011 and 2022, while coloured and Indian/Asian populations increased from 26 to 30 years and 32 to 37 years, respectively over the same period.

2.7   Marital status

The question on marital status is asked from all persons aged 12 years and older at the time of the census. It is an important indicator of the circumstances of individuals in relation to other demographic factors such as fertility and socio-economic variables. Marital status also provides an understanding of marital trends and family formation and dissolution.

Figure 2.13: Percentage distribution of the population aged 12 years and older and marital status, Census 2011 and 2022
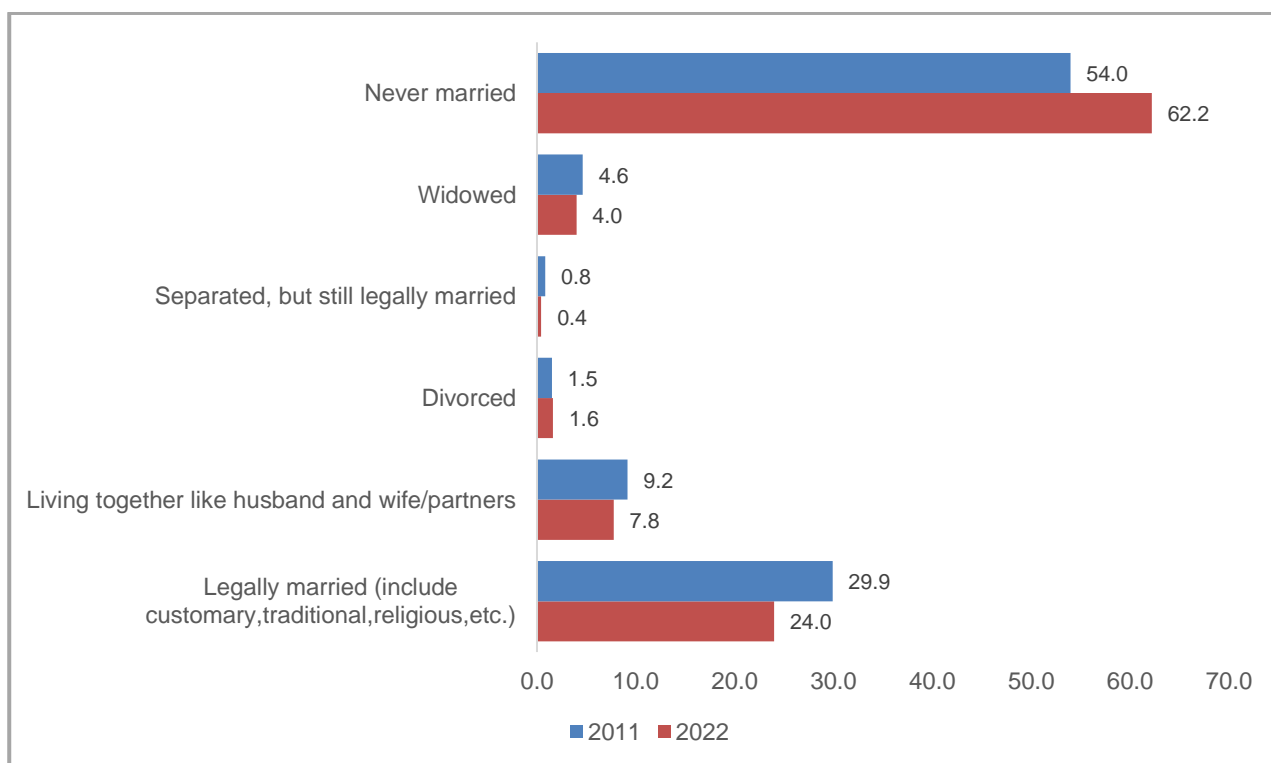
Figure 2.13 shows the distribution of person by marital status for 2011 and 2022. The results indicate an 8,2 percentage point increase among never married persons between 2011 and 2022. On the other hand, there has been a decrease in the proportion of persons who are legally married between 2011 (29,9%) and 2022 (24%). A slight decrease is also seen in the proportion of person who are living together like husband and wife/partners; from 9,2% in 2011 to 7,8% in 2022. The proportion of those who are widowed, separated or separated, but still legally married remained relatively unchanged.

Figure 2.144: Percentage distribution of the population aged 12 years and older by province and marital status, Census 2022

	Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo	South Africa
Never married	50.6	64.2	60.5	57.3	70.9	64.4	58.4	67.9	63.0	62.2
Legally married	33.8	24.0	23.1	24.4	19.8	21.0	25.0	19.3	23.4	24.0
Living together like partners	7.8	4.0	9.0	9.6	4.8	8.7	10.7	8.7	8.3	7.8
Divorced	3.0	1.5	1.8	1.9	1.0	1.5	2.1	0.8	0.8	1.6
Separated, but still legally married	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.4
Widowed	4.3	5.8	5.0	6.1	3.3	4.0	3.3	3.0	4.2	4.0

Note: Excludes population aged younger than 12 years.

Figure 2.14 presents the provincial distribution of persons aged 12 years and older by marital status. Nationally, the results indicate that almost two-thirds of the population have never been married while one in every five persons was legally married. Furthermore, the results show that KwaZulu-Natal has the largest proportion of those who indicated that they have never been married (71%), followed by Mpumalanga at 68%, while the Western Cape has the lowest proportion at 51%. On the other hand, a third of the population in Western Cape was legally married at the time of the census, which is the highest proportion in the country, followed by Gauteng where one in every four persons indicated that they were married. Additionally, the highest proportion of divorcees was recorded in the Western Cape (3%), followed by Gauteng (2,1%), while Limpopo and Mpumalanga had the lowest, both at less than a per cent. The highest proportion of those who are widowed were found in Free State and Eastern Cape at 6,1% and 5,8%, respectively.

Figure 2.155: Percentage distribution of the population aged 12 years and older by marital status and population group, Census 2022
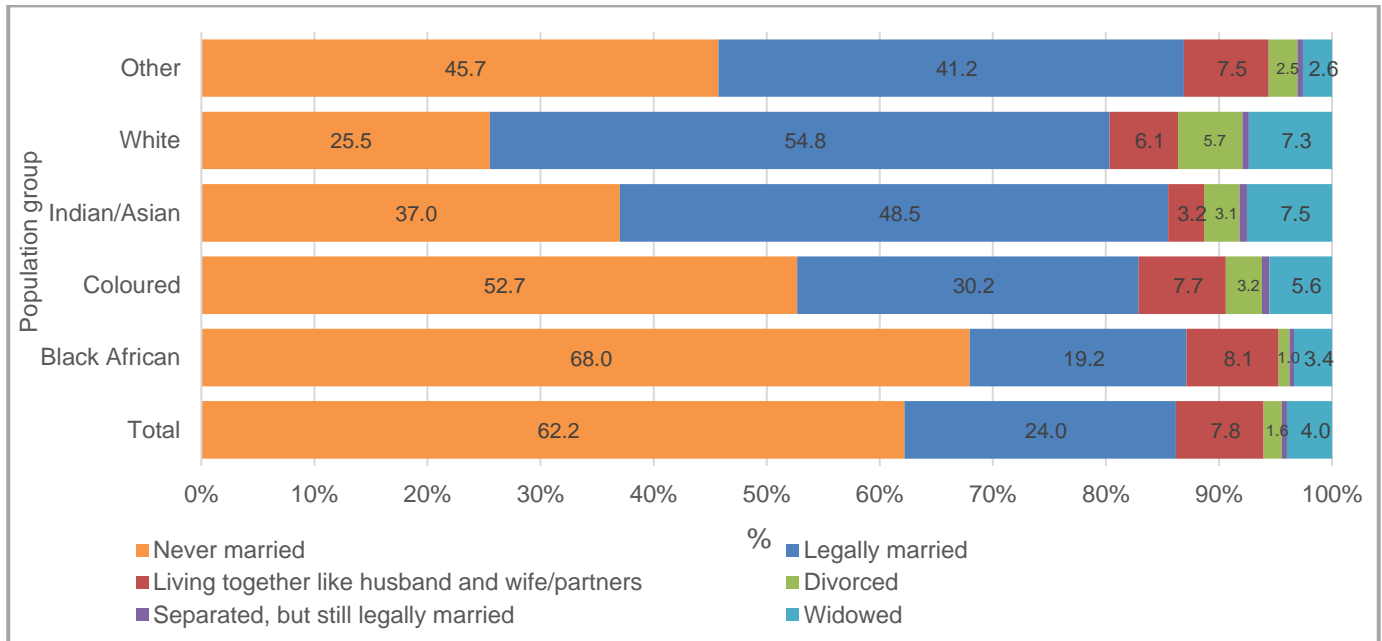
The black African population has the highest proportion of never married persons and the lowest proportion of those who are legally married in the country, as shown in Figure 2.15. On the other hand, the opposite is true among the white population where the highest proportion amongst the married and the lowest never married is observed. Furthermore, the Indian/Asian population has the highest proportion of widowed persons (7,5%) while the white population has the highest proportion of those divorced (5,7%).

Figure 2.166: Percentage distribution of the population by marital status and age group, Census 2022
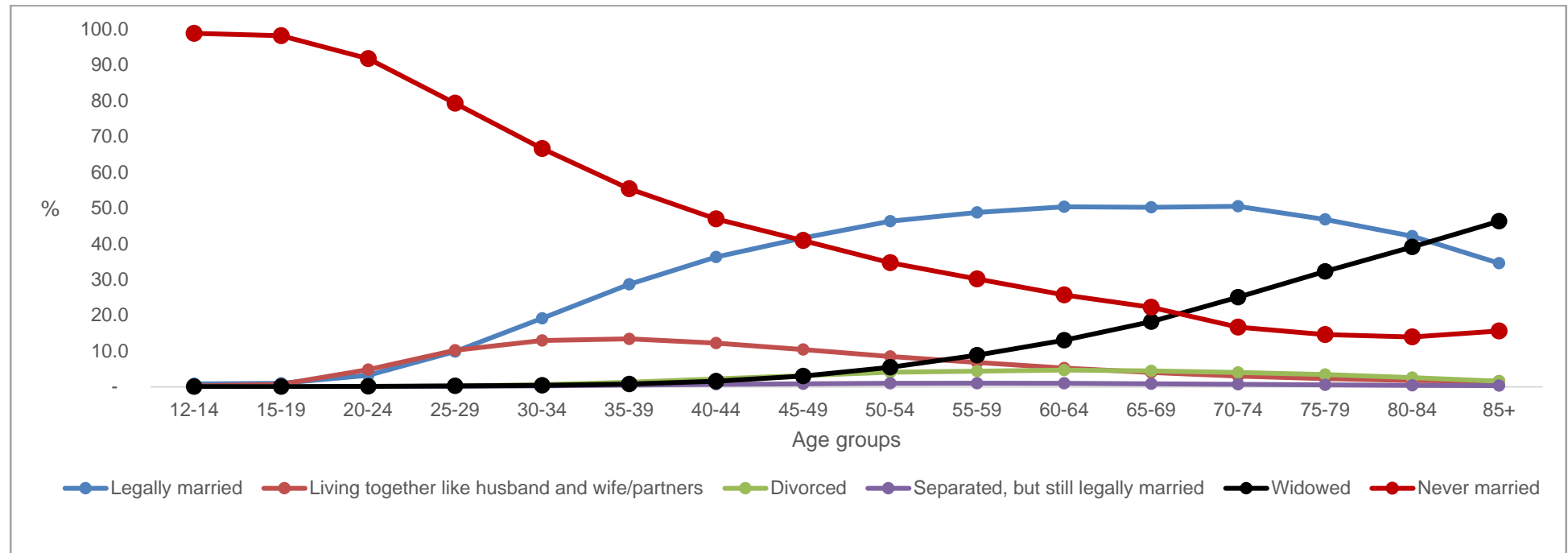
Figure 2.16 presents the percentage distribution of the population by marital status and age group, Census 2022. The results show a decrease in the never married population and an increase among those legally married as age increases. It is observed that more than nine in every ten of those aged 12–14 were never married, while close to half (48,7%) in the age group 55–59 were legally married in 2022. The never married proportion decreased from 98,8% among those aged 12–14 to 40,9% among those aged 45–49. The proportion legally married increases from below one percentage point among those aged 12–14 years to 48,7% among those aged 55–59 and was 50,5% among those aged 70–74 years in 2022.The proportion of those who reported being widowed increased from 0,3% among those aged 25–29 to 46,3% among those aged 85+. Although slightly lower, the results also show that those living together like husband and wife/partners were concentrated in the youthful ages. Overall, the results suggest that the majority of the population are never married across all ages.

2.8   Language most often spoken in the household

Table 2.8 profiles dynamics in language most often spoken by households over the period 1996–2022.

Table 2.8: Population distribution by language spoken most often in the household, Census 2022

Language	Census year			
	1996	**2001**	**2011**	**2022**
Afrikaans	14,5	13,4	13,5	10,6
English	8,7	8,3	9,7	8,7
IsiNdebele	1,5	1,6	2,1	1,7
IsiXhosa	17,9	17,6	16,0	16,3
IsiZulu	22,8	23,8	22,7	24,4
Sepedi	9,2	9,4	9,0	10,0
Sesotho	7,7	7,9	7,6	7,8
Setswana	8,2	8,2	8,0	8,3
Sign language	-	-	0,5	0,02
SiSwati	2,5	2,7	2,5	2,8
Tshivenda	2,2	2,3	2,4	2,5
Xitsonga	4,4	4,4	4,5	4,7
Other	0,6	0,5	1,6	2,1
Total	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**

Note: Excludes population aged younger than 1. Sign language data not available for 1996 and 2001.

Results presented in Table 2.8 show that isiZulu remained the most spoken language in the country, constituting almost a quarter (24,4%), followed by isiXhosa (16,3%) and Afrikaans (10,6%). The findings showed a downward trend in persons who speak Afrikaans (from 14,5% in 1996 to 10,6% in 2022), followed by isiXhosa speakers. The proportion of persons who speak English, Xitsonga and Tshivenda remained relatively stable. The results further showed that less than 1% of the population communicated using sign language in both Censuses 2011 and 2022. Sign language was promulgated as South Africa's 12th official language in July 2023. As such, it is recognised by law as one of the official languages.

Table 2.9: Percentage distribution by language spoken most often in the household and province, Census 2022

Language	Province									
	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	SA
Afrikaans	41,2	9,6	54,6	10,3	1,0	5,2	7,7	3,2	2,3	**10,6**
English	22,0	4,8	2,4	1,5	14,4	1,0	9,2	1,5	1,0	**8,7**
IsiNdebele	0,2	0,1	0,0	0,1	0,0	0,4	3,1	9,9	1,1	**1,7**
IsiXhosa	31,4	81,8	4,5	5,5	3,1	4,8	6,7	1,0	0,2	**16,3**
IsiZulu	0,4	0,3	0,3	3,7	80,0	1,6	23,1	27,8	0,6	**24,4**
Sepedi	0,1	0,0	0,1	0,2	0,1	2,1	12,6	10,3	55,5	**10,0**
Sesotho	1,0	2,4	1,2	72,3	0,6	5,9	13,1	2,3	0,8	**7,8**
Setswana	0,1	0,0	35,7	5,3	0,0	72,8	10,4	1,6	1,4	**8,3**
Sign language	0,01	0,01	0,02	0,01	0,01	0,03	0,02	0,02	0,02	**0,02**
SiSwati	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,0	0,2	0,9	30,5	0,3	**2,8**
Tshivenda	0,1	0,0	0,1	0,1	0,0	0,4	2,4	0,2	17,4	**2,5**
Xitsonga	0,2	0,1	0,1	0,2	0,0	3,1	7,0	10,6	17,3	**4,7**
Khoi, Nama & San languages	0,00	0,01	0,17	0,01	0,00	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	**0,01**
Shona	2,0	0,5	0,4	0,3	0,3	1,6	2,1	0,6	1,6	**1,2**
Chichewa/Chewa, Nyanja/Chinyanja	0,5	0,1	0,1	0,0	0,2	0,2	0,6	0,1	0,0	**0,3**
Portuguese	0,1	0,0	0,1	0,0	0,1	0,2	0,3	0,3	0,0	**0,2**
Other	0,7	0,4	0,3	0,3	0,2	0,3	0,7	0,3	0,4	**0,4**
Total	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**

Note: Excludes population aged younger than 1 year.

Looking at the provinces and given our history of geographical disaggregation by ethnic and tribal backgrounds, it is expected that each province has a dominant spoken language. The results show that in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape, four out of every five persons speak isiZulu and isiXhosa, respectively. Furthermore, more than 70% of the population in Free State and North West speak Sesotho and Setswana, respectively. In the Western Cape, two out of every five persons speak Afrikaans.

Results on other specified languages included in Census 2022 showed that about 1% were Shona speakers. Provincial variations showed that Western Cape, Gauteng and North West provinces recorded proportions above the national average (2% and 1,6% respectively).

2.9   Religious affiliation/belief

Table 2.10 below presents the percentage distribution of the population by religious affiliation/belief, Census 2022. The results show that the majority of the population reported Christianity (85,3%) as their chosen affiliation/belief, followed by Traditional African religion (7,8%). On the other hand, 2,9% of the population reported that they have no religious affiliation/belief. These proportions suggest that more than four in five persons in the population believe in Christianity, while relatively close to one in ten persons practise Traditional African religion. A high proportion of Christianity was also observed in all provinces in the country. The highest proportion was observed in the Northern Cape (97,8%), followed by North West (95,5%) and Free State (92,7%), while KwaZulu-Natal (74,9%) reported the lowest. The highest proportion of Traditional African religion (13,6%), Hinduism (4,2%) and no religious affiliation/belief (3,4%) was reported in KwaZulu-Natal. The Western Cape province reported the highest proportion of the population that are affiliated to Islam (5,2%) in South Africa in 2022.

Table 2.10: Percentage distribution of population by religious affiliation/belief, Census 2022

Religious belief/ affiliation	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	SA
Christianity	85,6	86,1	97,8	92,7	74,9	95,5	86,1	89,1	86,8	**85,3**
Islam	5,2	0,6	0,8	0,5	1,9	0,3	1,6	0,5	0,5	**1,6**
Traditional African	5,3	11,0	0,7	4,9	13,6	2,3	6,0	7,8	6,3	**7,8**
Hinduism	0,2	0,1	0,0	0,0	4,2	0,0	0,7	0,1	0,0	**1,1**
Buddhism	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	**0,0**
Judaism	0,2	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,0	0,0	**0,1**
Atheism	0,3	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,0	**0,1**
Agnosticism	0,3	0,1	0,0	0,1	0,1	0,0	0,1	0,0	0,0	**0,1**
No religious affiliation	2,0	1,3	0,3	1,3	3,4	1,2	4,1	1,8	5,1	**2,9**
Other	0,8	0,6	0,4	0,4	1,8	0,5	1,1	0,6	1,1	**1,0**
Total	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**

Note: Totals may not add up to 100 because of smaller figures that do not appear as a result of the one decimal place.

Figure 2.17 presents the percentage distribution of the population by population group and religious affiliation/belief for Census 2022. The results indicate that more than four out of every five persons in the white, black African and coloured population groups identify as Christian, while only a third of Indians/Asians identified as Christians. Furthermore, the Indian/Asian population has the highest proportion of persons who followed Islam and Hinduism than any other population group in the country.

Figure 2.17: Percentage distribution of the population by population group and religious affiliation/ belief, Census 2022

	Black African	Coloured	Indian/Asian	White
■ Christianity	86.0	91.7	33.6	90.1
■ Islam	0.3	6.9	24.5	0.3
■ Traditional African	9.5	0.3	0.2	0.1
■ Hinduism	0.0	0.1	37.9	0.1
■ Buddhism	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.1
■ Judaism	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.7
■ Atheism	0.1	0.0	0.2	1.0
■ Agnosticism	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.8
■ No religious affiliation/belief	3.0	0.5	0.9	4.9
■ Other	0.9	0.4	1.9	2.0
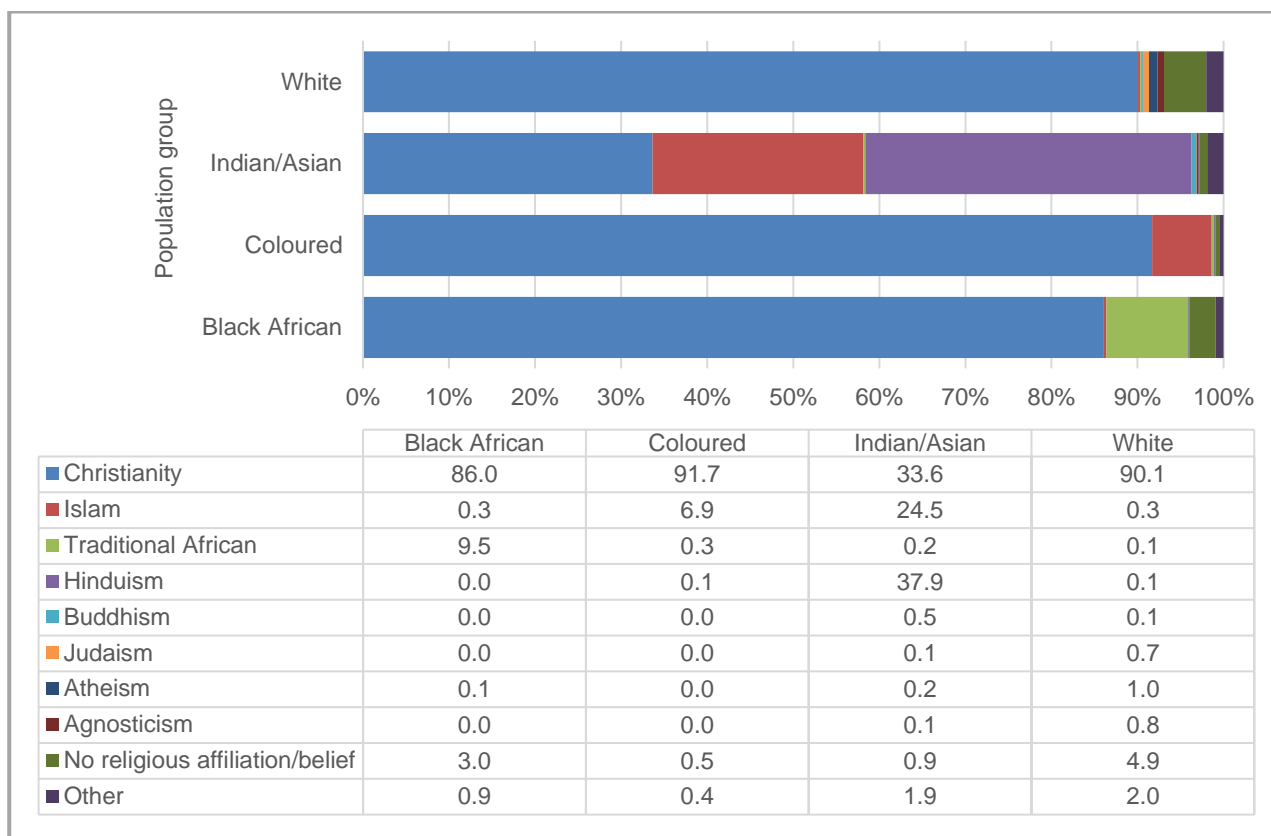
2.10   Conclusion

The population of South Africa increased from 40,5 million in 1996 to just over 62 million in 2022; an increase of over 21,4 million people in 26 years. Black Africans remain consistently the dominant population group at a proportion of more than 80%, followed by the coloured and white populations at 8,2% and 7,3% in 2022, respectively. On the other hand, the Indian/Asian population comprised less than 3% of the population over the years. The age-sex structure indicates some decline in the ages between 0 and 29 years when compared to the 2011 distribution. The sex ratio in the country decreased from 98,8 in 2011 to 94,1 in 2022. Gauteng reported the highest ratio at 101,8 in 2022, suggesting that there are more males than females in the province compared to the other provinces.

Furthermore, the median age in the country was 28 years in 2022, showing an increase of three years from 25 years in 2011. It was highest in the Western Cape and lowest in Limpopo at 31 and 26 years, respectively. The median age of the white population was 45 years while that of the black African population was 27 years in 2022. The majority (62,2%) of the population has never been married, while 24% indicated that they are legally married.

3.   MIGRATION

3.1   Introduction

Migration is the third component of demographic change in addition to fertility and mortality. Objective 1 of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) begins with a commitment to collect and utilise accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies. The importance of collecting migration data is critical for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 17.18 which highlights the need for the availability of timely and reliable data that are disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, and other characteristics of national relevance. Additionally, the National Development Plan 2030 (NDP) further emphasises the importance of developing a progressive migration policy.

Census 2022 defined migration as "a change in a person's permanent or usual place of residence". The migration module includes questions on citizenship, place of birth, country of birth, year moved to South Africa, usual residence, place of usual residence, movement since 2011 and reasons for moving.

3.2   Interprovincial migration, Census 2011 to 2022

Intercensal migration analysis looks at migration flows between censuses (in this case between Censuses 2011 and 2022). Table 3.1 presents an analysis on place of residence in the previous census compared to the current census. It is observed that the Western Cape, Northern Cape, North West, Gauteng and Mpumalanga provinces showed positive net-migration. This means that more people migrated into these provinces than migrated out. Limpopo recorded the largest negative net-migration, followed by Eastern Cape.

Table 3.1: Distribution of population by province of usual residence and province of previous residence, Census 2011 and 2022

Province of previous residence	Province of usual residence									In-migration	Out-migration	Net-migration	Turn over
	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP				
WC	6 706 820	60 082	8 916	3 564	7 615	2 400	25 780	1 825	2 338	406 549	112 520	294 029	519 069
EC	124 225	6 792 242	2 823	8 051	38 941	10 226	54 323	5 153	3 100	184 213	246 842	-62 629	431 055
NC	11 098	2 751	1 272 160	3 738	1 046	5 198	6 576	897	978	44 376	32 282	12 094	76 658
FS	12 823	7 457	5 339	2 778 654	5 200	9 879	36 289	3 940	2 594	73 643	83 521	-9 878	157 164
KZN	25 730	21 091	1 358	6 337	11 793 136	3 835	100 052	17 505	3 342	169 183	179 250	-10 067	348 433
NW	8 344	4 935	9 249	6 478	2 578	3 522 544	56 780	3 184	7 439	146 262	98 987	47 275	245 249
GP	97 972	46 820	8 184	24 183	53 810	58 128	13 734 733	42 394	64 486	795 330	395 977	399 353	1 191 307
MP	8 176	3 922	1 325	3 956	9 154	5 796	70 811	4 852 153	16 669	132 459	119 809	12 650	252 268
LP	7 540	3 457	1 510	2 629	3 495	14 424	161 877	20 342	6 197 192	100 946	215 274	-114 328	316 220
Outside SA	110 641	33 698	5 672	14 707	47 344	36 376	282 842	37 219	50 411				

Note: This table excludes cases where the province was unspecified, not applicable and do not know. Information only obtained from household questionnaire.

3.3   Lifetime migration

The question on "place of usual residence and place of birth" provide valuable insights into lifetime migration. Table 3.2 focuses on lifetime migration. Gauteng (5 188 286) recorded the largest lifetime in-migration, followed by the Western Cape (2 043 626) while the Eastern Cape and Limpopo recorded the largest out-migration. Among persons migrating into Gauteng, a high number of them indicated that they were born in Limpopo (1 378 304) and outside South Africa (1 185 925). A high number of persons migrating from Eastern Cape indicated Western Cape (1 134 674) and Gauteng (495 494) as their destination. Half of all international migrants (50,2%) were residing in Gauteng, followed by about 16% in the Western Cape province.

Table 3.2: Distribution of the population by province of birth and province of usual residence, Census 2022

Province of place of birth	Province of usual residence									In-migration	Out-migration	Net-migration	Turn over
	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP				
WC	5 163 398	115 102	28 411	12 319	25 617	7 634	98 519	9 309	6 326	2 043 626	303 237	1 740 389	2 346 863
EC	1 134 674	6 696 087	15 144	48 160	194 489	74 077	495 494	34 509	13 312	431 883	2 009 859	-1 577 976	2 441 742
NC	76 481	16 285	1 188 256	20 367	9 639	33 074	64 947	6 806	5 050	152 158	232 649	-80 491	384 807
FS	60 247	24 351	21 643	2 626 762	33 047	75 309	349 952	30 991	13 084	278 406	608 624	-330 218	887 030
KZN	89 660	56 258	4 837	24 709	11 626 610	19 457	738 399	86 222	12 509	603 265	1 032 051	-428 786	1 635 316
NW	26 411	8 567	33 906	21 574	12 321	3 086 960	375 556	18 863	24 034	647 671	521 232	126 439	1 168 903
GP	241 313	86 385	19 849	67 767	129 530	187 502	9 513 562	171 217	146 988	5 188 286	1 050 551	4 137 735	6 238 837
MP	24 395	7 635	3 061	10 986	27 604	29 011	501 190	4 434 841	68 381	648 017	672 263	-24 246	1 320 280
LP	21 591	6 489	3 517	8 080	7 722	87 141	1 378 304	149 109	6 046 238	459 831	1 661 953	-1 202 122	2 121 784
Outside SA	**368 854**	**110 811**	**21 790**	**64 444**	**163 296**	**134 466**	**1 185 925**	**140 991**	**170 147**				

Note: This table excludes cases where the province was unspecified, not applicable and do not know. Information only obtained from household questionnaire.

3.4   Patterns of migration between Census 1996, 2001, 2011 and 2022

Migration between countries is driven largely by the quest for economic opportunities, political instability and increasingly, environmental hazards. South Africa is one of the migration destinations on the African continent, with a historically well-established migration stream.

Figure 3.1: Population born outside South Africa, Census 1996–2022

Census year	1996	2001	2011	2022
■ Frequency	835,216	1,025,076	2,184,408	2,418,197
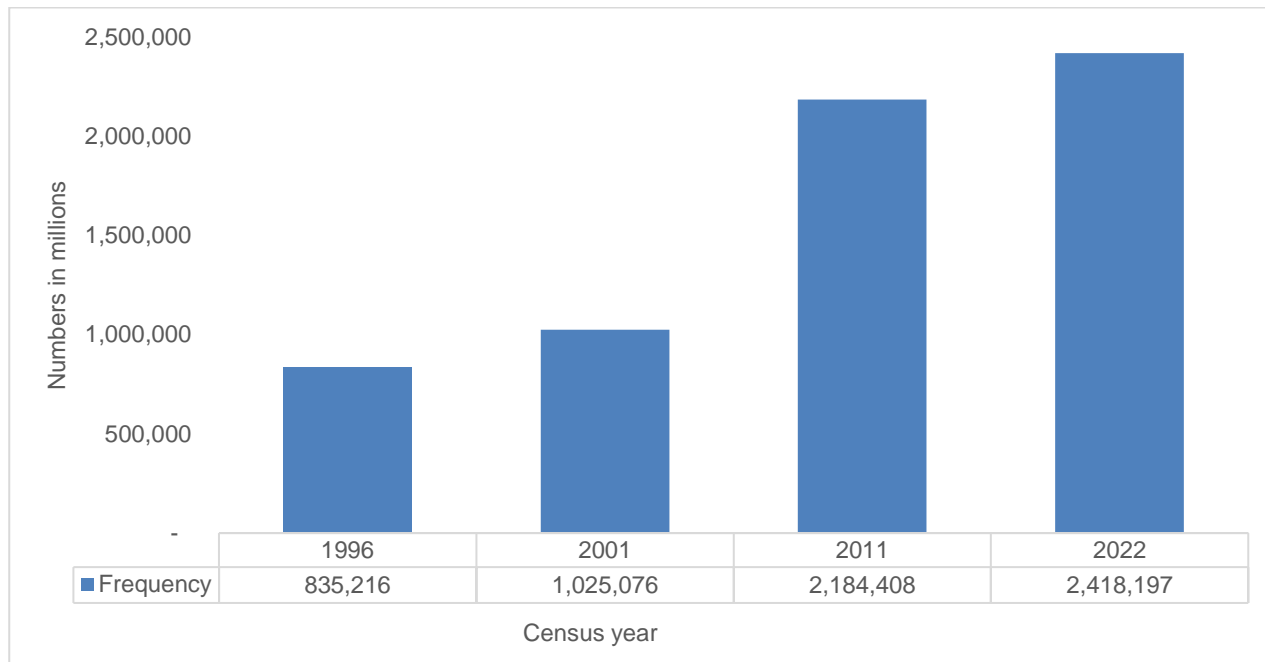
Figure 3.1 illustrates the distribution of the population born outside South Africa for Censuses 1996 to 2022. The results over time show that there has been an increase in the number of the population born outside South Africa.

Figure 3.2: Distribution of population born outside South Africa by age and sex, Census 2011 and 2022
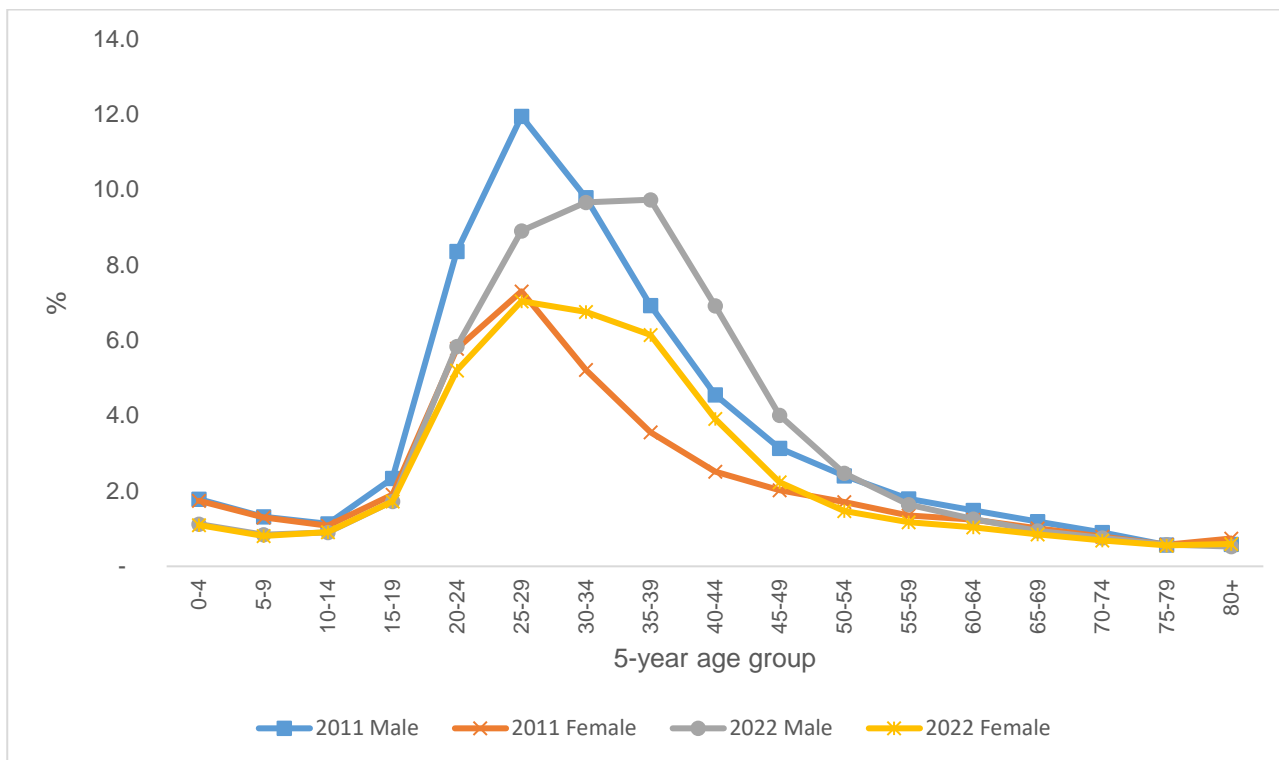
Figure 3.2 presents the age and sex distribution of population born outside South Africa for Census 2011 and 2022. The results indicate that there were more male immigrants compared to females. Furthermore, the prevalent ages of migrants were between ages 20 and 44 years, suggesting that young adults are more likely to migrate than children and the elderly. In Census 2011, males aged 25–29 reported the highest number of immigrants with 260 885, whilst in 2022 male immigrants aged 30–34 (235 297) numbered the highest.

3.5   Sending countries

Southern Africa has a long history of intra-regional migration, dating back to the mid-nineteenth century. Migration was probably the single most important factor tying together all of the various regional labour markets during the twentieth century (Crush et al, 2005). In the post-apartheid era, these entrenched patterns of migration have undergone major restructuring, bringing a new migration stream into South Africa (Crush et al, 2005).

Figure 3.3: Top 20 sending countries to South Africa, Census 2011 and 2022

2011		2022	
Zimbabwe	672,308	Zimbabwe	1,012,059
Mozambique	393,231	Mozambique	416,564
Lesotho	160,806	Lesotho	227,770
Malawi	86,606	Malawi	198,807
UK	81,720	UK	61,282
Namibia	40,575	Ethiopia	58,131
Swaziland	36,377	Namibia	36,140
India	31,165	India	27,350
Zambia	30,054	Nigeria	24,718
Ethiopia	28,230	Zambia	24,625
Nigeria	26,341	Congo	23,328
Somalia	26,116	Bangladesh	20,894
Congo	26,061	DRC	17,635
DRC	25,630	Somalia	15,838
Germany	20,494	Pakistan	15,006
Bangladesh	19,696	Eswatini	14,624
Pakistan	17,241	Germany	12,139
Portugal	15,626	Botswana	8,976
China	15,071	Ghana	8,038
Botswana	12,316	Portugal	7,615

Census 2022

Figure 3.3 presents the distribution of the top 20 sending countries to South Africa, Census 2011 and 2022. The top five sending countries remained the same between the two censuses (Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Lesotho, Malawi, and the United Kingdom). India also maintained the 2011 rank in 2022. Namibia, Eswatini, Somalia, Portugal and Germany went down the rank in 2022. Countries that moved up the rank were: Ethiopia, Nigeria, Congo, DRC, Bangladesh, Botswana, and Pakistan. China is the only country that moved out of the top 20 sending countries in 2022. Whereas Ghana is the new entry into the top 20 sending countries in 2022.

3.6   Conclusion

There has been a slight increase in the population born outside South Africa when comparing Census 2011 to Census 2022. The majority of immigrants are male and young adults aged 20–44. The results indicated that a significant number of respondents reported their province of birth as their province of usual residence (non-migration). Both international migrants and internal migrants indicated Gauteng as their preferred province of usual residence. A high number of out-migration is reported in Eastern Cape, Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal. The top five sending countries to South Africa were Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Lesotho, Malawi, and the United Kingdom; these five countries also maintained their rank since 2011.

4.   EDUCATION

4.1   Introduction

The Freedom Charter in 1955 and the Bill of Rights in 1996 introduced education as a human right in South Africa. Post-apartheid South Africa was challenged with the difficulty of integrating the previously marginalised and oppressed majority of the population into a new education system. These required extensive reforms through the Reconstruction and Development Programmes (RDP), especially targeting the education sector. The country needed to develop an integrated system of education and training that provides equal opportunities to all irrespective of race, sex, class, language, age, religion, geographical location, political or other affiliations. In the long run, the system was expected to provide qualitative and quantitative improvements in the outputs of the educational system following the extensive reforms that were made in school curricula, education policies, norms and standards. Some of the policies introduced over time that have had impact on enrolments and improvements in the outputs of the educational system especially for previously disadvantaged population groups include; introduction of no-fee schools, school nutrition programmes, access to scholar transport and the Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy. Through the early childhood care and education sector laws, policies and programmes, government made a commitment to the universalisation of the Reception Year (Grade R) and made it part of the foundation phase of primary education. Government also moved the responsibility of the provision of the ECD programme from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Basic Education in 2022.

The results track the progress in education to date including indicators on school attendance, education attainment and field of education. Where possible, comparison is made across censuses 1996–2022.

4.2   Attendance at an educational institution

Access to educational institutions is an important step to universal education, but the ultimate goal would be to keep children at school until completion of their education. Considering the relatively high children and youth population due to the demographic dividends of the country, concerted efforts have been made to expand the education system through establishing more institutions, especially in the ECD sector, giving much-required attention to remote and rural areas, introducing new and skill-based programmes in institutions and providing funding such as the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) for disadvantaged learners planning to undertake higher education. This section presents attendance and gender parity in education across provinces and educational phases, which include ECD, primary, secondary and tertiary education.

4.2.1 Education profile of learners aged 0–4 years

Table 4.1: Distribution of the population aged 0–4 years attending an ECD programme by province, Census 2022

Province	Number/ %	Crèche/ educare centre	Pre-school/ nursery school/ Grade 00/ Grade 000/ Grade R	Day mother/ gogo/ childminder	Home/ community play group	Other	None	Total
Western Cape	N	250 555	34 163	56 797	49 892	3 969	172 803	**568 179**
	%	44,1	6,0	10,0	8,8	0,7	30,4	**100,0**
Eastern Cape	N	241 868	64 024	58 035	30 176	4 384	312 246	**710 732**
	%	34,0	9,0	8,2	4,3	0,6	43,9	**100,0**
Northern Cape	N	34 924	4 937	7 020	7 691	586	72 313	**127 472**
	%	27,4	3,9	5,5	6,0	0,5	56,7	**100,0**
Free State	N	114 149	15 068	23 882	15 336	1 510	88 830	**258 774**
	%	44,1	5,8	9,2	5,9	0,6	34,3	**100,0**
KwaZulu-Natal	N	344 121	87 001	130 335	66 595	8 718	485 703	**1 122 472**
	%	30,7	7,8	11,6	5,9	0,8	43,3	**100,0**
North West	N	107 895	23 874	29 981	19 575	1 946	201 963	**385 234**
	%	28,0	6,2	7,8	5,1	0,5	52,4	**100,0**
Gauteng	N	506 114	88 190	136 427	82 706	9 574	417 276	**1 240 286**
	%	40,8	7,1	11,0	6,7	0,8	33,6	**100,0**
Mpumalanga	N	168 658	36 657	58 224	38 871	3 609	227 387	**533 407**
	%	31,6	6,9	10,9	7,3	0,7	42,6	**100,0**
Limpopo	N	279 581	63 683	69 322	35 881	5 658	286 477	**740 602**
	%	37,8	8,6	9,4	4,8	0,8	38,7	**100,0**
South Africa	**N**	**2 047 865**	**417 598**	**570 023**	**346 722**	**39 954**	**2 264 998**	**5 687 159**
	%	**36,0**	**7,3**	**10,0**	**6,1**	**0,7**	**39,8**	**100,0**

Table 4.1 shows the distribution of children aged 0–4 years who were attending different types of Early Childhood Development (ECD) programmes in Census 2022. Roughly two-fifths (39,8%) of South African children aged 0–4 years were not attending any ECD programmes. More than half of children in Northern Cape and North West were not attending any ECD facilities (56,7% and 52,4% respectively). Furthermore, non-attendance of ECD programmes is also significant in Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga as nearly two out of five children residing in these provinces did not attend any such programmes. The lowest non-attendance of ECD programmes were observed in Western Cape and Gauteng as three out of ten (30,4%) children in Western Cape and almost one-third (33,6%) of children in Gauteng did not attend any ECD programmes.

Overall in 2022, children aged 0–4 years mostly attended a crèche/educare centre (36%). The largest percentage of children attending these facilities were residents of Western Cape, Free State and Gauteng (44,1%, 44,1% and 40,8% respectively). Children in North West were less likely to attend crèche/educare centres (28%). Attendance of pre-school/nursery school/Grade 00/Grade 000/Grade R among 0–4-year-olds was 7,3% nationally. Limpopo and Eastern Cape showed the highest percentage of attendance of these facilities (8,6% and 9% respectively). Approximately one out of ten (10%) children spent the day with a day mother/gogo/childminder while around 6% were cared for at a home/community playgroup. Close to 12% of children in KwaZulu-Natal were cared for by day mothers/gogos/childminders. Conversely, close to 9% of children in Western Cape were participating in home/community playgrounds.

Table 4.2: Distribution of the population attending an ECD programme by population group and sex, Census 2022

Attendance at ECD institution/sex	Black/African		Coloured		Indian/Asian		White		Other		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Crèche/educare centre	1 837 394	60,7	126 997	55,2	15 366	44,6	61 957	50,9	6 151	54	**2 047 865**	**59,8**
Pre-school/nursery school/ Grade 00/Grade 000/ Grade R	350 340	11,6	18 750	8,2	7 065	20,5	39 610	32,5	1 834	16,1	**417 598**	**12,2**
Day mother/gogo/childminder	512 614	16,9	38 506	16,7	6 767	19,6	10 277	8,4	1 858	16,3	**570 022**	**16,7**
Home/community playgroup	289 944	9,6	42 599	18,5	4 458	12,9	8 314	6,8	1 407	12,3	**346 722**	**10,1**
Other	34 302	1,1	3 071	1,3	804	2,3	1 624	1,3	152	1,3	**39 954**	**1,2**
Total	**3 024 593**	**100**	**229 924**	**100**	**34 460**	**100**	**121 782**	**100**	**11 401**	**100**	**3 422 160**	**100**
Male	1 503 732	49,7	115 507	50,2	17 218	50	63 054	51,8	5 743	50,4	**1 705 254**	**49,8**
Female	1 520 861	50,3	114 417	49,8	17 242	50	58 728	48,2	5 658	49,6	**1 716 906**	**50,2**
Total	**3 024 593**	**100,0**	**229 924**	**100,0**	**34 460**	**100,0**	**121 782**	**100,0**	**11 401**	**100,0**	**3 422 160**	**100,0**

Table 4.2 presents the percentage of children aged 0–4 years attending ECD programmes by population group and sex. In South Africa, 3,4 million children aged 0–4 years attended ECD programmes in 2022, of which 2,5 million attended a crèche/educare centre or pre-school/nursery school/Grade 00/Grade 000/Grade R. About 570 000 children had parents who preferred that they stay with day mothers/gogos/childminders. The majority of children attending ECD programmes were attending a crèche/educare centre (59,8%) while 12,2% attended pre-school/nursery school/Grade 00/Grade 000/Grade R. Close to 27,0% of children stayed either with day mothers/gogos/childminders or participated in home/community playgroups. While more than 3 million black African children attended ECD programmes, seven out of ten (72,3%) attended ECD facilities, with 60,7% attending a crèche/educare centre and 11,6% attending pre-school/nursery school/Grade 00/Grade 000/Grade R. By contrast, among white children 83,4% attended ECD facilities with one-third (32,5%) attending pre-school/nursery school/Grade 00/Grade 000/Grade R and the rest attending a crèche/educare centre (50,9%). Close to 17,0% of black African children stayed with day mothers/gogos/childminders. The use of day mothers/gogos/childminders for childcare was also high among Indians/Asians (19,6%). Among coloured children, close to 19,0% participated in home/community playgroups. Results showed that there were slight differences between sexes.

4.2.2   General attendance of educational institutions by individuals aged 5–24

Table 4.3: Distribution of population aged 5–24 by school attendance, age and sex, Census 2022

Age	Attendance of educational institutions and sex						Attendance of educational institutions and sex					
	N						%					
	Attending			Not attending			Attending			Not attending		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
5	436 009	432 742	**868 752**	37 240	34 596	**71 836**	50,2	49,8	**100,0**	51,8	48,2	**100,0**
6	475 030	473 196	**948 226**	26 006	24 357	**50 363**	50,1	49,9	**100,0**	51,6	48,4	**100,0**
7	496 350	494 014	**990 365**	22 849	21 926	**44 775**	50,1	49,9	**100,0**	51,0	49,0	**100,0**
8	491 349	491 232	**982 581**	21 533	20 589	**42 122**	50,0	50,0	**100,0**	51,1	48,9	**100,0**
9	499 293	501 083	**1 000 376**	21 837	20 270	**42 106**	49,9	50,1	**100,0**	51,9	48,1	**100,0**
10	500 330	496 051	**996 380**	22 803	21 196	**43 998**	50,2	49,8	**100,0**	51,8	48,2	**100,0**
11	520 457	513 921	**1 034 378**	24 684	22 616	**47 300**	50,3	49,7	**100,0**	52,2	47,8	**100,0**
12	506 064	506 736	**1 012 801**	25 615	23 184	**48 799**	50,0	50,0	**100,0**	52,5	47,5	**100,0**
13	513 491	517 765	**1 031 256**	28 328	25 856	**54 184**	49,8	50,2	**100,0**	52,3	47,7	**100,0**
14	496 287	493 788	**990 075**	30 207	27 721	**57 928**	50,1	49,9	**100,0**	52,1	47,9	**100,0**
15	490 764	492 805	**983 569**	37 217	33 824	**71 041**	49,9	50,1	**100,0**	52,4	47,6	**100,0**
16	462 940	453 697	**916 637**	50 184	45 272	**95 456**	50,5	49,5	**100,0**	52,6	47,4	**100,0**
17	377 358	335 323	**712 680**	81 573	89 472	**171 045**	52,9	47,1	**100,0**	47,7	52,3	**100,0**
18	264 933	220 984	**485 917**	151 171	174 797	**325 968**	54,5	45,5	**100,0**	46,4	53,6	**100,0**
19	191 865	171 760	**363 625**	205 829	217 260	**423 089**	52,8	47,2	**100,0**	48,6	51,4	**100,0**
20	171 858	167 029	**338 887**	294 288	281 656	**575 944**	50,7	49,3	**100,0**	51,1	48,9	**100,0**
21	147 651	157 942	**305 593**	367 600	341 118	**708 718**	48,3	51,7	**100,0**	51,9	48,1	**100,0**
22	106 558	122 774	**229 333**	390 869	367 894	**758 763**	46,5	53,5	**100,0**	51,5	48,5	**100,0**
23	83 009	97 587	**180 596**	402 937	388 369	**791 306**	46,0	54,0	**100,0**	50,9	49,1	**100,0**
24	71 152	85 389	**156 540**	424 036	416 548	**840 584**	45,5	54,5	**100,0**	50,4	49,6	**100,0**
Total	**7 302 748**	**7 225 818**	**14 528 566**	**2 666 806**	**2 598 518**	**5 265 324**	**50,3**	**49,7**	**100,0**	**50,6**	**49,4**	**100,0**

Note: Only includes population aged 5–24.

Table 4.3 presents school attendance by age and sex of the population aged 5–24 years. Approximately 14,5 million individuals aged 5–24 years attended school in 2022; 50,3% were males and 49,7% females. The table shows a rising number in school attendance among children, with attendance peaking among 11–13-year-olds. Furthermore, attendance was almost consistently evenly distributed by gender except among 17–20-year-olds, where fewer females were likely to attend. However, more females compared to males attended school among the 21–24-year-olds.

Figure 4.1: Percentage distribution of population aged 5–24 years attending an educational institution, Census 1996–2022

	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1996	22.5	49.1	73.1	81.8	87.9	91.3	93.6	94.4	94.8	94.4	92.7	89.3	84.1	75.7	65.3	54.6	45.8	37.0	28.8	23.1
2001	45.6	70.3	88.4	93.4	94.6	94.4	94.8	95.7	95.1	94.0	91.3	87.4	81.5	70.7	57.9	46.2	35.7	25.5	18.8	14.0
2011	81.1	92.6	96.0	96.7	97.0	96.7	96.8	96.1	95.8	95.4	93.8	90.8	85.5	74.2	58.8	45.7	34.8	25.3	19.1	14.9
2022	92.4	95.0	95.7	95.9	96.0	95.8	95.6	95.4	95.0	94.5	93.3	90.6	80.6	59.9	46.2	37.0	30.1	23.2	18.6	15.7
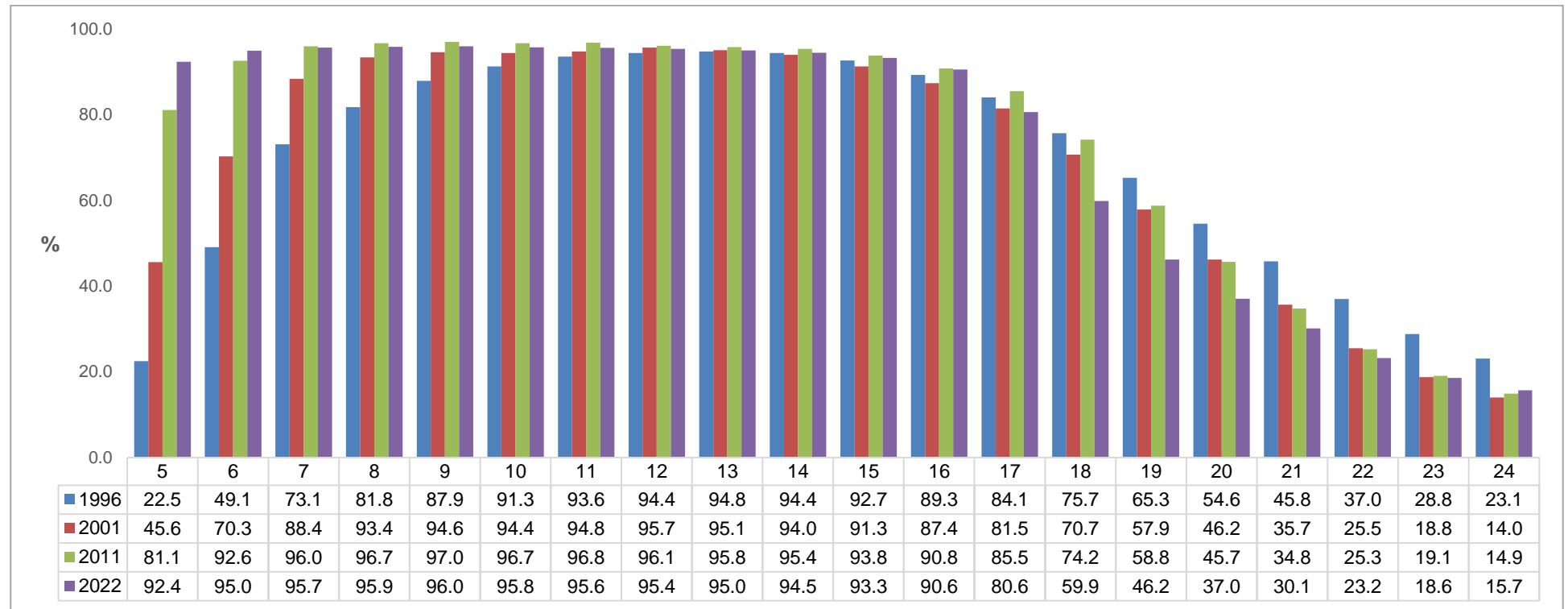
The period between 1996 to 2001 showed a large increase in the percentage of young children under the age of compulsory education participating in education (23,1 percentage points among 5-year-olds and 21,2 percentage points among 6-year-olds). However, it is the decade between 2001 and 2011 that showed an unprecedented increase in participation among 5-year-olds with a rise of 35,5 percentage points in participation from 45,6% to 81,1%. Furthermore, nearly nine out of ten (92,4%) children of this age were attending educational institutions in 2022, which is a nearly 70 percentage points increase from 1996. Among 6-year-olds, less than half (49,1%) were attending educational institutions in 1996 but subsequently increased by 21,2 percentage points in 2001. The data also show high attendance rates among 6–7-year-olds in 2022, who would most likely be attending Grade R. However, the attendance rate starts to decline by age 15, with only six out of ten (59,9%) 18-year-olds attending educational institutions in 2022; a reduction from 75,7% in 1996. In 1996 more than half (54,6%) of the 20-year-olds were in education, which reduced to 37,0% in 2022.

Table 4.4: Distribution of population aged 5–24 years by attendance at an educational institution and population group, Census 1996–2022

Population group	Attending/Not attending	Census year N				Census year %			
		1996	2001	2011	2022	1996	2001	2011	2022
Black African	Attending	9 679 923	11 493 118	11 666 898	12 540 302	70,7	72,1	73,9	74,1
	Not attending	4 017 558	4 451 494	4 129 937	4 374 885	29,3	27,9	26,1	25,9
	Total	**13 697 481**	**15 944 612**	**15 796 835**	**16 915 187**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**
Coloured	Attending	917 523	1 026 442	1 073 612	1 050 345	64,0	63,6	67,2	65,1
	Not attending	516 631	586 216	524 387	564 272	36,0	36,4	32,8	34,9
	Total	**1 434 154**	**1 612 658**	**1 597 999**	**1 614 617**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**
Indian/Asian	Attending	275 498	277 404	258 186	267 096	70,1	69,3	71,8	69,6
	Not attending	117 421	122 958	101 246	116 416	29,9	30,7	28,2	30,4
	Total	**392 919**	**400 362**	**359 433**	**383 513**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**
White	Attending	883 107	930 929	798 894	639 551	70,6	75,4	77,7	77,4
	Not attending	367 775	303 155	228 994	186 767	29,4	24,6	22,3	22,6
	Total	**1 250 882**	**1 234 084**	**1 027 888**	**826 319**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**
Other	Attending	-	-	40 371	31 271	-	-	51,2	57,6
	Not attending	-	-	38 547	22 984	-	-	48,8	42,4
	Total	**-**	**-**	**78 917**	**54 255**	**-**	**-**	**100,0**	**100,0**
Total	**Attending**	**11 756 051**	**13 727 893**	**13 837 961**	**14 528 566**	**70,1**	**71,5**	**73,4**	**73,4**
	Not attending	**5 019 385**	**5 463 823**	**5 023 110**	**5 265 324**	**29,9**	**28,5**	**26,6**	**26,6**
	Total	**16 775 436**	**19 191 716**	**18 861 072**	**19 793 891**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**

Note: Only includes population aged 5–24. "Other" population group data not available for 1996 and 2001.

Table 4.4 shows the percentage of individuals aged 5–24 years who attended school by population group comparing Census 1996–2022. Overall, the percentage of individuals attending school increased from 70,1% in 1996 to 73,4% in 2022. However, not much change was observed between 2011 and 2022. The percentage of black Africans who attended school increased by 3,4 percentage points from 1996 to 2022, coloureds by 1,1 percentage points and whites by 6,8 percentage points. The number of individuals who were not attending school declined across all population groups from 1996 to 2022. Moreover, the white population group experienced a substantial decline from 29,4% in 1996 to 22,6% in 2022, and black Africans from 29,3% in 1996 to 25,9% in 2022.

Table 4.5: Distribution of population aged 5–24 years by attendance at an educational institution and province, Census 1996–2022

Province	Census year and attendance at an educational institution						Census year and attendance at an educational institution					
	1996			2001			2011			2022		
	Attending	Not attending	Total	Attending	Not attending	Total	Attending	Not attending	Total	Attending	Not attending	Total
WC	929 981	503 245	**1 433 226**	1 115 946	592 291	**1 708 237**	1 221 232	601 519	**1822751**	1 430 441	704 974	**2 135 414**
EC	2 056 957	780 187	**2 837 144**	2 269 246	709 976	**2 979 222**	2 040 311	588 802	**2629113**	1 957 613	574 760	**2 532 372**
NC	265 470	147 850	**413 320**	268 582	138 750	**407 332**	289 812	128 332	**418144**	333 658	140 876	**474 534**
FS	789 642	275 917	**1 065 559**	827 408	311 266	**1 138 674**	736 002	270 629	**1006631**	759 488	229 442	**988 930**
KZN	2 592 990	1 165 482	**3 758 472**	3 105 095	1 271 135	**4 376 230**	3 020 720	1 060 805	**4081525**	3 055 052	1 059 518	**4 114 569**
NW	774 687	362 713	**1 137 399**	840 496	387 494	**1 227 990**	880 621	369 806	**1250427**	929 726	347 049	**1 276 775**
GP	1 769 485	877 249	**2 646 734**	2 211 107	1 101 145	**3 312 251**	2 616 530	1 170 802	**3787332**	2 951 490	1 306 694	**4 258 185**
MP	1 013 257	390 967	**1 404 223**	1 140 023	411 596	**1 551 619**	1 195 535	403 321	**1598856**	1 261 063	456 992	**1 718 055**
LP	1 662 673	559 011	**2 221 684**	1 949 991	540 170	**2 490 161**	1 837 198	429 095	**2266292**	1 850 035	445 021	**2 295 056**
SA	**11 855 142**	**5 062 620**	**16 917 762**	**13 727 893**	**5 463 823**	**19 191 716**	**13 837 961**	**5 023 110**	**18 861 072**	**14 528 566**	**5 265 324**	**19 793 891**

Note: Only includes population aged 5–24.

Figure 4.2: Percentage distribution of population aged 5–24 years by attendance at an educational institution and province, Census 1996–2022

	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	SA
1996	64.9	72.5	64.2	74.1	69.0	68.1	66.9	72.2	74.8	70.1
2001	65.3	76.2	65.9	72.7	71.0	68.4	66.8	73.5	78.3	71.5
2011	67.0	77.6	69.3	73.1	74.0	70.4	69.1	74.8	81.1	73.4
2022	67.0	77.3	70.3	76.8	74.3	72.8	69.3	73.4	80.6	73.4
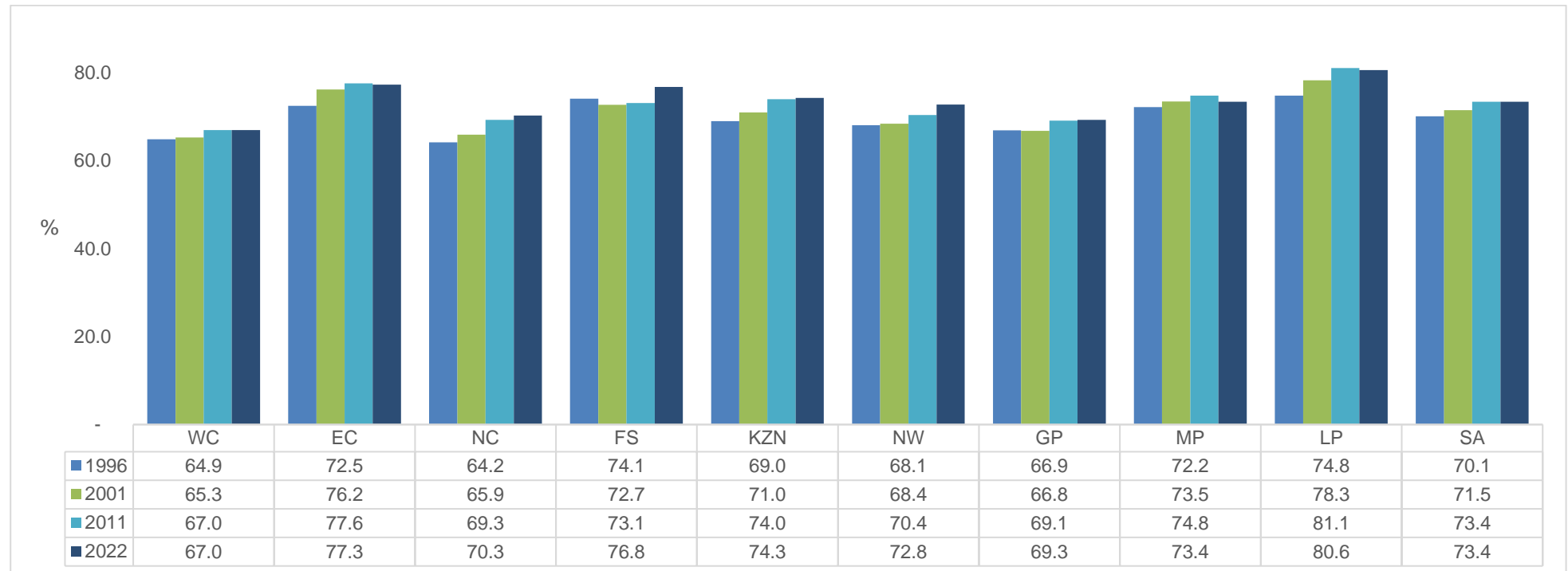
Figure 4.2 depicts individuals aged 5–24 years attending educational institutions by province, 1996–2022. Overall, the percentage of individuals attending educational institutions increased from 70,1% in 1996 to 71,5% in 2001, but remained steady at 73,4% across both 2011 and 2022. During the past 26 years, the overall growth in attendance was 3,3 percentage points. In the 5-year period from 1996 to 2001, Limpopo and Eastern Cape accounted for the highest increase in the percentage of attendance (3,5 and 3,7 percentage points respectively). In Limpopo, the percentage of individuals aged 5–24 years attending educational institutions increased to 78,3% in 2001 from 74,8% in 1996. In Eastern Cape, the percentage of individuals aged 5–24 years attending educational institutions increased to 76,2% in 2001 from 72,5% in 1996. The percentage in attendance remained unchanged for Western Cape, Gauteng and North West during the same period. Furthermore, in the quarter of the century between 1996 and 2022, the largest growth in attendance was observed in Northern Cape, Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal (6,1, 5,8 and 5,3 percentage points respectively). In Free State, the largest rise in attendance was observed during 2011–2022 with the percentage of individuals aged 5–24 years attending educational institutions increasing by nearly four percentage points, from 73,1% to 76,8%. Across all the census years, Eastern Cape, Free State, Mpumalanga and Limpopo consistently displayed attendance levels above the national average.

Census 2022

Educational attainment for persons aged 20 years and older

South Africa has geared up to intensify its measures through policy reforms to tackle school dropouts and increase completion of secondary schooling. Post-apartheid South Africa has experienced an expansion in the completion of secondary schooling for previously disadvantaged population groups. However, race disparity in educational attainment intersects with other forms of disadvantage, including poverty and the urban-rural divide. This section presents progress in educational attainment in the past three decades and equity by gender and population group.

Figure 4.3: Percentage distribution for persons aged 20 years and older by educational attainment and province, Census 2022

	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA
No schooling	2.3	7.2	6.6	5.0	8.3	7.9	3.9	11.7	14.1	6.9
Some primary	6.1	12.2	11.0	9.7	7.9	10.2	4.3	7.4	7.3	7.4
Completed primary	3.8	5.2	5.5	4.1	3.2	4.4	2.5	3.4	3.3	3.5
Some secondary	33.8	37.5	38.5	33.8	28.4	34.0	29.2	29.4	33.1	31.6
Completed secondary	35.4	27.2	30.7	36.5	41.2	35.2	42.9	40.2	31.5	37.6
Post school	17.6	10.0	7.1	10.2	10.4	7.5	16.2	7.3	9.9	12.2
Other	1.1	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.9	0.8
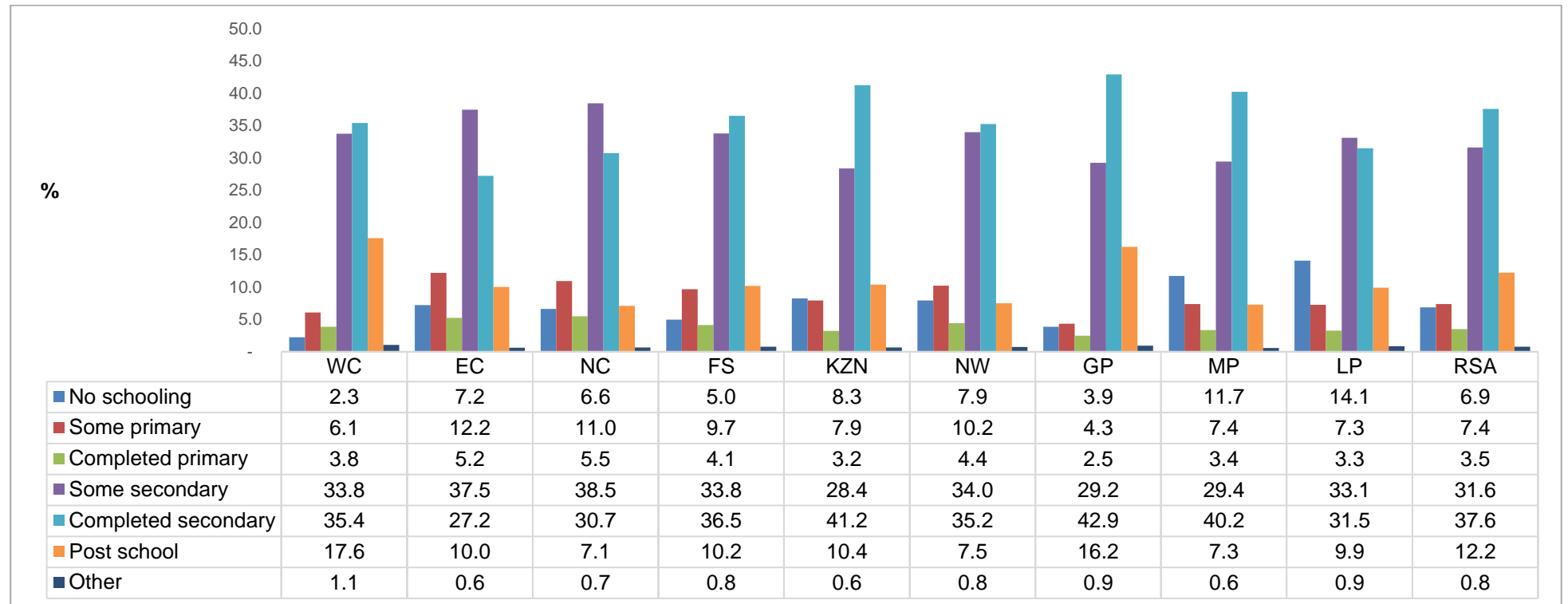
Figure 4.3 presents the provincial distribution of persons aged 20 years and older by educational attainment. Mpumalanga and Limpopo had the highest percentage of persons with no schooling, which was above the national average of 6,9% (11,7% and 14,1% respectively). The lowest percentage of individuals with no schooling was found in Western Cape (2,3%), followed by Gauteng (3,9%). The majority of individuals aged 20 years and older in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga had completed secondary education, which is also above the national average (42,9%, 41,2% and 40,2% respectively). The lowest percentage of individuals who completed secondary education was found in Eastern Cape (27,2%). In Western Cape, close to 18% of individuals aged 20 years and older had achieved post-school education, followed by Gauteng (16,2%).

Table 4.6: Distribution of population aged 20 years and older by educational attainment and province, Census 2022

Educational attainment	Province									
	Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo	South Africa
No schooling	107 254	300 119	52 588	87 798	607 121	176 650	384 007	355 682	504 793	**2 576 011**
Some primary	290 290	506 297	86 758	170 657	582 283	227 774	429 101	224 213	260 924	**2 778 297**
Completed primary	183 423	217 628	43 460	72 939	236 381	98 718	245 695	101 948	117 534	**1 317 726**
Some secondary	1 608 270	1 555 626	304 635	595 729	2 085 563	757 218	2 893 113	893 250	1 186 898	**11 880 302**
Completed secondary	1 687 258	1 129 546	243 395	643 397	3 034 421	785 636	4 248 386	1 221 825	1 128 816	**14 122 681**
Post-school	837 320	416 388	56 208	179 313	763 354	166 980	1 606 149	222 321	354 732	**4 602 765**
Other	50 750	25 559	5 228	13 510	47 205	16 884	92 130	17 698	31 243	**300 207**
Total	**4 764 565**	**4 151 162**	**792 272**	**1 763 343**	**7 356 329**	**2 229 861**	**9 898 581**	**3 036 936**	**3 584 940**	**37 577 988**

Note: Only includes population aged 20 and older.

Table 4.6 shows the population distribution for persons aged 20 years and older by highest level of education and province. More than 14,1 million persons aged 20 years and older completed secondary education in 2022, followed by 11,9 million who achieved some secondary education and 4,6 million who attained post-school education. Close to 2,6 million persons aged 20 years and older had no schooling and 1,3 million had completed primary education.

Figure 4.4: Percentage distribution of population aged 20 years and older by educational attainment, population group and sex, Census 2022

	Black/African		Coloured		Indian/Asian		White		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
■ Other	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6	1.2	1.0	2.1	1.8	0.8	0.8
■ Post school	8.2	9.9	8.3	9.5	20.5	21.5	40.1	38.5	11.6	12.8
■ Completed secondary	38.1	36.5	34.2	33.5	48.0	44.7	40.4	41.8	38.3	36.9
■ Some secondary	34.3	32.2	39.7	38.5	21.3	20.9	14.8	15.4	32.5	30.8
■ Completed primary	3.8	3.6	5.5	5.8	1.9	2.6	0.4	0.4	3.6	3.5
■ Some primary	8.1	8.2	8.5	8.9	3.4	5.7	0.6	0.6	7.2	7.5
■ No schooling	6.9	9.0	3.0	3.1	3.6	3.8	1.5	1.4	6.0	7.6
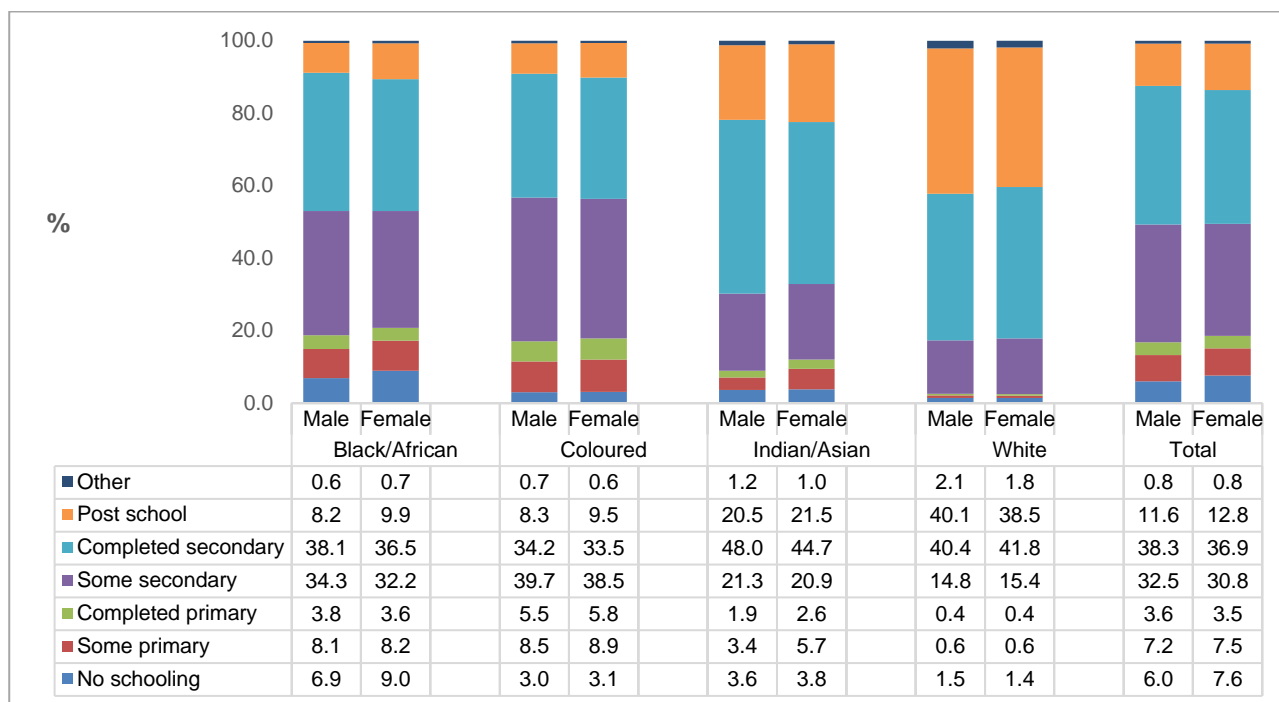
Figure 4.4 presents the percentage distribution of the population aged 20 years and older by educational attainment, population group and sex. In terms of post-school education, the stark results are that disparities primarily exist among different population groups. For instance, regardless of sex, the White population group reported the highest percentage of post-school education attainment, followed by Indian/Asian population with half as much as that for the White population group. However, the notable sex differences appear primarily within the black African and coloured population groups. Both groups show lower levels of post-school education, and these levels are nearly comparable between the two population groups.

Also important to note is that the black African and coloured populations tend to be concentrated in some secondary education level, which may suggest higher dropout rates and limited progression to tertiary education. Conversely, the White and Indian/Asian population groups are more likely to be concentrated in the completed secondary school and post-secondary education levels.

Figure 4.5: Percentage distribution of population aged 20 years and older by educational attainment, Census 1996–2022

	1996	2001	2011	2022
No schooling	19.1	17.9	8.6	6.9
Some primary	16.6	16.0	12.2	7.4
Completed primary	7.4	6.4	4.6	3.5
Some secondary	33.6	30.8	33.8	31.6
Completed secondary	16.3	20.4	28.7	37.6
Post school	7.1	8.4	11.7	12.2
Other	-	-	0.4	0.8
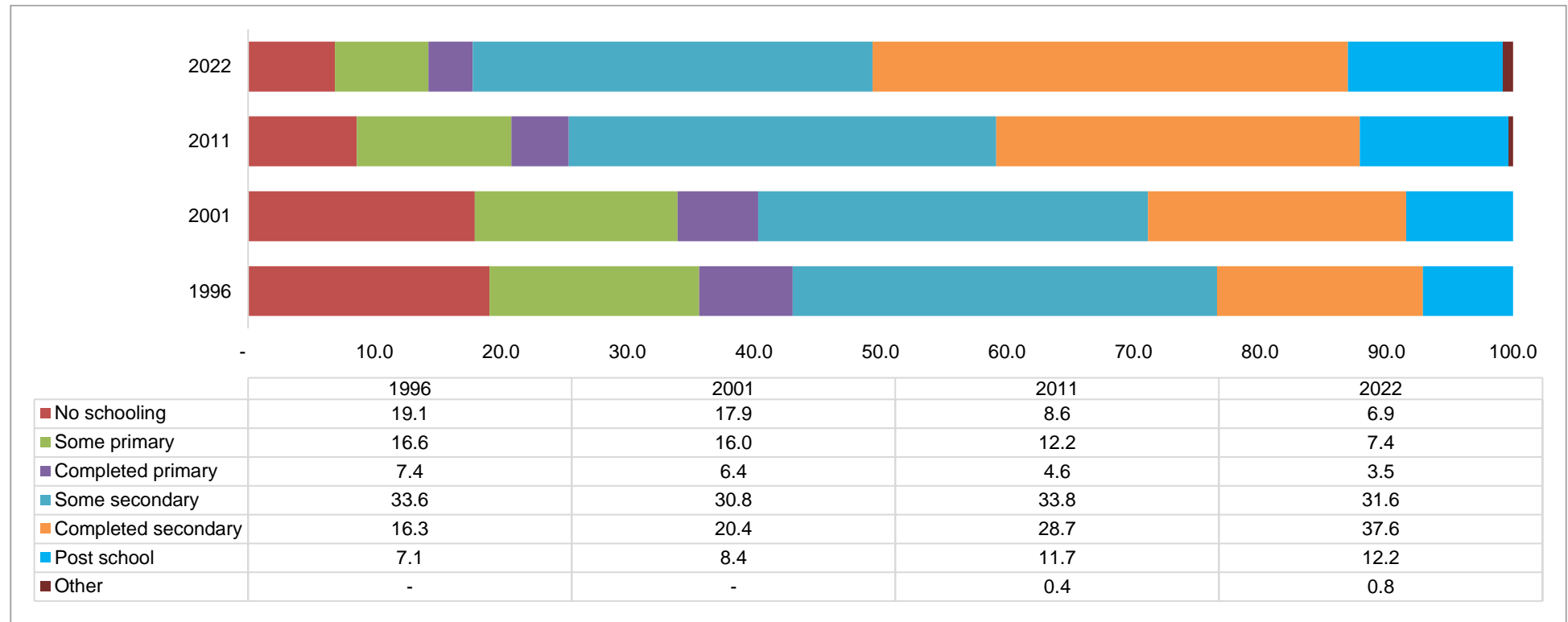
Figure 4.5 presents the progression in educational attainment of the population aged 20 years and older across the years 1996 to 2022. The percentage of individuals with no schooling has reduced almost threefold (19,1% in 1996 and 6,9% in 2022). The percentage of individuals with some primary education has reduced by half. Similarly, completion of primary schooling has decreased by half. Completion of secondary education more than doubled from 16,3% in 1996 to 37,6% in 2022. However, achievement of post-school education increased by only 5,1 percentage points. In 1996, one-third (33,6%) of the population aged 20 years and older had only some secondary education and only 16,3% had completed secondary education. However, in 2022 more than one-third (37,6%) had completed secondary education.

Census 2022

Furthermore, in 2022 functional literacy of the population aged 20 years and older was 85%, up from a low base of 64,3% in 1996. The largest expansion in functional literacy was observed between 2001 and 2011 (66% and 78,8% respectively).

Table 4.7: Distribution of population aged 20 years and older by educational attainment and province, Census 2022

	Census year			
Educational attainment	**1996**	**2001**	**2011**	**2022**
No schooling	4 055 646	4 567 497	2 665 874	2 576 011
Some primary	3 522 956	4 083 742	3 790 134	2 778 297
Completed primary	1 571 774	1 623 467	1 413 895	1 317 726
Some secondary	7 130 121	7 846 125	10 481 577	11 880 302
Completed secondary	3 458 434	5 200 602	8 919 608	14 122 681
Post-school	1 512 602	2 151 336	3 644 617	4 602 765
Other	-	-	113 586	300 207
Total	**21 251 533**	**25 472 769**	**31 029 291**	**37 578 088**

Note: Only includes population aged 20 and older. Data for category "other" not available for 1996 and 2001.

Table 4.7 shows the distribution of the population aged 20 years and older by educational attainment for 1996, 2001, 2011 and 2022. The number of individuals aged 20 years and older with no schooling reduced from 4,0 million in 1996, to 2,6 million in 2022.

4.3   Field of education for persons aged 20 years and older

Access to certain fields of study in post-secondary education remains segregated by sex as females are more likely to earn qualifications in education, while males would most likely qualify in the science, engineering and technology fields. This section presents progress in fields of education in the past decade.

Table 4.8: Distribution of population aged 20 years and older by field of education and sex, Census 2011 and 2022

	Census year and sex											
	Census 2011			Census 2022			Census 2011			Census 2022		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Field of education	Number						%					
Agriculture, Agricultural Operations & Related Sciences	43 968	20 311	**64 279**	61 403	37 484	**98 888**	68,4	31,6	**100,0**	62,1	37,9	**100,0**
Architecture and the Built Environment	19 994	11 766	**31 760**	43 439	19 176	**62 615**	63	37	**100,0**	69,4	30,6	**100,0**
Arts (Visual and Performing Arts)	25 655	38 332	**63 987**	40 467	54 985	**95 453**	40,1	59,9	**100,0**	42,4	57,6	**100,0**
Finance and Accounting				184 865	230 337	**415 202**				44,5	55,5	**100,0**
Business, Economics and Management Sciences	365 117	392 518	**757 635**	271 611	336 407	**608 018**	48,2	51,8	**100,0**	44,7	55,3	**100,0**
Communication, Journalism and Related Studies	18 144	27 904	**46 048**	34 320	58 819	**93 140**	39,4	60,6	**100,0**	36,8	63,2	**100,0**
Computer and Information Sciences	123 822	92 629	**216 452**	155 436	97 296	**252 732**	57,2	42,8	**100,0**	61,5	38,5	**100,0**
Education	152 763	350 130	**502 893**	221 070	577 341	**798 411**	30,4	69,6	**100,0**	27,7	72,3	**100,0**
Engineering	353 645	62 752	**416 397**	494 401	138 943	**633 345**	84,9	15,1	**100,0**	78,1	21,9	**100,0**
Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences	66 235	205 545	**271 780**	102 605	319 326	**421 931**	24,4	75,6	**100,0**	24,3	75,7	**100,0**
Industrial Arts, Traders or Technology	13 450	6 217	**19 667**				68,4	31,6	**100,0**			
Family Ecology and Consumer Sciences	2 838	9 974	**12 812**	3 900	8 230	**12 129**	22,2	77,8	**100,0**	32,2	67,9	**100,0**
Languages, Linguistics or Literature	6 503	15 085	**21 588**	8 019	19 176	**27 195**	30,1	69,9	**100,0**	29,5	70,5	**100,0**
Law	60 876	42 583	**103 459**	85 534	80 413	**165 946**	58,8	41,2	**100,0**	51,5	48,5	**100,0**
Life Sciences or Physical Sciences	21 239	23 022	**44 261**				48	52	**100,0**			
Life Sciences				13 510	22 308	**35 818**				37,7	62,3	**100,0**
Physical Sciences				20 077	16 889	**36 966**				54,3	45,7	**100,0**
Mathematics and Statistics	10 713	7 354	**18 067**	12 004	8 453	**20 456**	59,3	40,7	**100,0**	58,7	41,3	**100,0**
Military Sciences	5 124	1 615	**6 739**	5 261	1 808	**7 070**	76	24	**100,0**	74,4	25,6	**100,0**
Philosophy, Religion and Theology	15 305	5 905	**21 210**	21 931	11 992	**33 923**	72,2	27,8	**100,0**	64,6	35,4	**100,0**
Physical Education or Leisure	3 838	4 762	**8 599**				44,6	55,4	**100,0**			
Psychology	12 561	33 165	**45 726**	15 989	49 951	**65 940**	27,5	72,5	**100,0**	24,2	75,8	**100,0**
Public Management and Services	23 287	34 492	**57 779**	52 858	85 896	**138 753**	40,3	59,7	**100,0**	38,1	61,9	**100,0**
Office Administration	14 806	71 786	**86 591**	26 512	102 648	**129 160**	17,1	82,9	**100,0**	20,5	79,5	**100,0**
Social Sciences	22 544	49 480	**72 024**	22 124	52 315	**74 439**	31,3	68,7	**100,0**	29,7	70,3	**100,0**
Hospitality, including Tourism	24 276	53 548	**77 823**	36 367	81 790	**118 158**	31,2	68,8	**100,0**	30,8	69,2	**100,0**
Security & Intelligence Services	19 647	8 870	**28 517**	28 573	13 851	**42 425**	68,9	31,1	**100,0**	67,3	32,6	**100,0**
Electrical Infrastructure	46 600	9 156	**55 756**	53 131	13 791	**66 922**	83,6	16,4	**100,0**	79,4	20,6	**100,0**
Other	185 795	200 970	**386 765**	358 695	397 171	**755 866**	48	52	**100,0**	47,5	52,5	**100,0**
Total	**1 658 743**	**1 779 870**	**3 438 614**	**2 374 102**	**2 836 796**	**5 210 901**	**48,2**	**51,8**	**100,0**	**45,6**	**54,4**	**100,0**

Note: Only includes population aged 20 and older. Category "Finance, Economics and Accounting" in 2011 are combined with the category "Business, economics and management science. Life Sciences and Physical Sciences were one category in 2011.

Data for 2022 exclude "Do not know" cases (111 638). Data for "Industrial arts, traders or technology" not available in 2022.

Table 4.8 shows the distribution of the population aged 20 years and older by field of education and sex for 2011 and 2022. More than three million individuals aged 20 years and older reported a field of education in 2011; this has increased to 5,2 million in 2022. The two principal fields of study for both 2011 and 2022 were business, economics and management sciences, and education. Both fields of study were dominated by females, with wider gender gaps observed in the education field. The percentage of females with qualifications in education was 69,6% in 2011 and increased to 72,3% in 2022. Males dominated in engineering with 84,9% in 2011 and 78,1% in 2022, as well as electrical infrastructure (83,6% in 2011 and 79,4% in 2022). For both periods, females were more likely to obtain a qualification in health professions and related clinical sciences (75,6% in 2011 and 75,7% in 2022). The percentage of males who studied computer and information sciences increased from 57,2% in 2011 to 61,5% in 2022 while the percentage of females declined from 42,8% in 2011 to 38,5% in 2022. Furthermore, the number of individuals with qualifications in communication, journalism and related studies more than doubled within the decade, from 46 048 in 2011 to 93 140 in 2022. This field of study had more females in both years (60,6% in 2011 and 63,2% in 2022).

4.4 Conclusion

More than three million children aged 0–4 years participated in ECD programmes. Crèche/educare centre and pre-school/nursery school/Grade 00/Grade 000/Grade R were the most accessed ECD facilities. Provincial analysis revealed that children in Northern Cape and North West were more likely not to participate in ECD programmes compared to other provinces. In addition, differentials in population group show that seven out of ten black African children attended an ECD programme compared to eight out of ten white children. The use of day mothers/gogos/childminders for childcare was high among the Indian/Asian population compared to other population groups. Participation in home/community playgroups was highest amongst coloured children.

Furthermore, an analysis of persons aged 5–24 shows that overall, the percentage of individuals attending an educational institution increased by three percentage points between 1996 and 2022. Attendance increased to almost universal level between 1996 and 2022 for children aged 5 years and 6 years, while the attendance rate starts to decline by age 15–24 over the same period. Attendance also increased for black Africans, coloureds and whites over the period, while Indians/Asians showed little change.

An analysis of persons aged 20 years and older showed that the number of people with no formal education reduced from 19,1% in 1996 to 6,9% in 2022. Furthermore, persons aged 20 years and older with some primary education decreased from 16,6% in 1996 to 7,4% in 2022. Over the period, there has been a noteworthy increase in the number of persons completing secondary education (16,3% in 1996 to 37,6% in 2022) and post-school education (7,1% in 1996 to 12,2% in 2022). In 2011 and 2022, business, economics and management sciences and education were dominated by females, while males continue to dominate in engineering as well as electrical infrastructure studies.

5. GENERAL HEALTH AND FUNCTIONING

5.1   Introduction

The purpose of this section is to profile the general health and functioning of the population for persons aged five years and older based on six Washington Group (WG) short set of functional questions/domains; namely seeing, hearing, communicating, walking or climbing stairs, remembering or concentrating, as well as self-care. These short set of questions were recommended by WG on disability statistics to be used in both censuses and surveys, particularly on measuring disability status of populations across countries. The computation of disability status using these questions provides good disability estimates as they are based on the World Health Organisation's (WHO) International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) as the conceptual framework focusing on the component of activity limitations. Therefore, a person is considered to have a disability as and when he/she reported to have some difficulty in at least two of the domains. In addition, he/she must have reported to be having "a lot of difficulty" or "cannot do at all" in any of the six domains.

The information on disability is crucial for planning purposes, particularly for policy makers across the world in both developing and developed countries. Furthermore, such information is important for non-government organisations (NGOs) and academics in developing their programmes and for coming up with interventions that seek to empower and uplift persons with disabilities, as this group of people is known to be vulnerable. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) emphasises the need to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons living with disabilities, including the right to respect their dignity. Lastly, the results will display various assistive devices and the magnitude at which they are used in the country by persons aged 5 years and older, regardless of their disability status.

5.2   General health and functioning domains

Table 5.1: Distribution of the population aged 5 years and older by type of functional domain and degree of difficulty, Census 2011 and 2022

Functional domain	Degree of difficulty	2011		2022	
		N	%	N	%
Seeing (even with glasses/contact lenses)	No difficulty	39 064 837	89,0	49 521 888	90,0
	Some difficulty	4 085 901	9,3	4 540 254	8,3
	A lot of difficulty	660 874	1,5	842 470	1,5
	Cannot do at all	77 205	0,2	56 376	0,1
	Do not know	23 372	0,1	52 077	0,1
	Total	**43 912 188**	**100,0**	**55 013 065**	**100,0**
Hearing (even with a hearing aid)	No difficulty	42 257 810	96,4	53 190 465	96,7
	Some difficulty	1 251 909	2,9	1 461 745	2,7
	A lot of difficulty	229 919	0,5	271 523	0,5
	Cannot do at all	58 451	0,1	38 724	0,1
	Do not know	20 791	0,0	50 259	0,1
	Total	**43 818 881**	**100,0**	**55 012 716**	**100,0**
Communicating in his/her usual language	No difficulty	43 014 947	98,4	54 074 972	98,3
	Some difficulty	473 453	1,1	717 376	1,3
	A lot of difficulty	115 700	0,3	123 682	0,2
	Cannot do at all	75 583	0,2	55 094	0,1
	Do not know	21 864	0,1	41 383	0,1
	Total	**43 701 548**	**100,0**	**55 012 507**	**100,0**
Walking or climbing stairs	No difficulty	42 318 506	96,5	52 955 758	96,3
	Some difficulty	1 100 136	2,5	1 443 307	2,6
	A lot of difficulty	317 216	0,7	457 911	0,8
	Cannot do at all	105 964	0,2	113 826	0,2
	Do not know	16 340	0,0	41 541	0,1
	Total	**43 858 161**	**100,0**	**55 012 343**	**100,0**
Remembering or concentrating	No difficulty	41 866 602	95,7	53 253 438	96,8
	Some difficulty	1 405 102	3,2	1 366 797	2,5
	A lot of difficulty	365 019	0,8	302 895	0,6
	Cannot do at all	91 163	0,2	40 549	0,1
	Do not know	35 694	0,1	48 404	0,1
	Total	**43 763 580**	**100,0**	**55 012 083**	**100,0**
Self-care	No difficulty	41 204 360	96,5	53 987 236	98,1
	Some difficulty	837 368	2,0	674 390	1,2
	A lot of difficulty	266 762	0,6	183 757	0,3
	Cannot do at all	322 104	0,8	122 673	0,2
	Do not know	63 164	0,1	43 747	0,1
	Total	**42 693 758**	**100,0**	**55 011 803**	**100,0**

Note: Unspecified excluded.

Table 5.1 shows the population aged 5 years and older by degree of difficulty in any of six functional domains for 2011 and 2022. The results showed that the majority (over 90%) of persons had no difficulty in functioning in all six domains measured. On the contrary, there was a decrease in the percentage of those who experienced some difficulty and those with a lot of difficulty in the ten-year period.

5.3   Disability status

This section looks at prevalence of disability generated from the six functional domains for both Censuses 2011 and 2022. The disability status indicator is computed as prescribed by the United Nations (UN) disability index computation guidelines. A person is regarded as having a disability if they reported any of the following degrees of difficulty in the six functional domains of seeing, hearing, communicating, walking/climbing stairs, remembering or concentrating and self-care:

- A person who reported 'some difficulty' in at least two domains of functioning.
- A person who reported 'a lot of difficulty' in any of the six domains of functioning.
- A person who reported 'unable to do' in any of the six domains of functioning.

Figure 5.1: Disability prevalence, Census 2011 and 2022
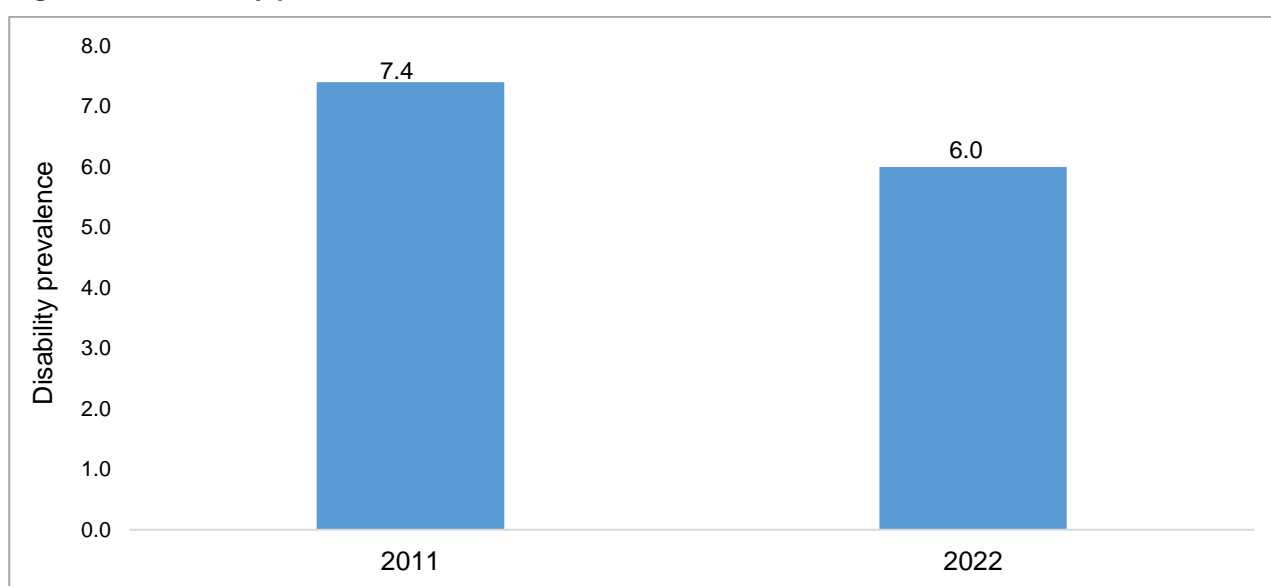
Figure 5.1 showed that disability prevalence among persons aged 5 years and older was 6,0% in 2022, a slight decrease of about 1% when compared with Census 2011. The slight decrease in disability prevalence may be attributed to improved understanding of the Washington set of questions.

Figure 5.2: Disability prevalence by age group, Census 2011 and 2022

Age group	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+	Total
Census 2011	10.6	4.1	2.6	2.4	2.5	3.0	3.8	5.4	8.7	12.1	15.6	18.7	22.8	29.3	36.3	44.3	53.1	7.4
Census 2022	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.7	3.1	4.1	6.2	9.0	12.2	15.5	20.2	27.9	35.4	45.5	56.6	6.0
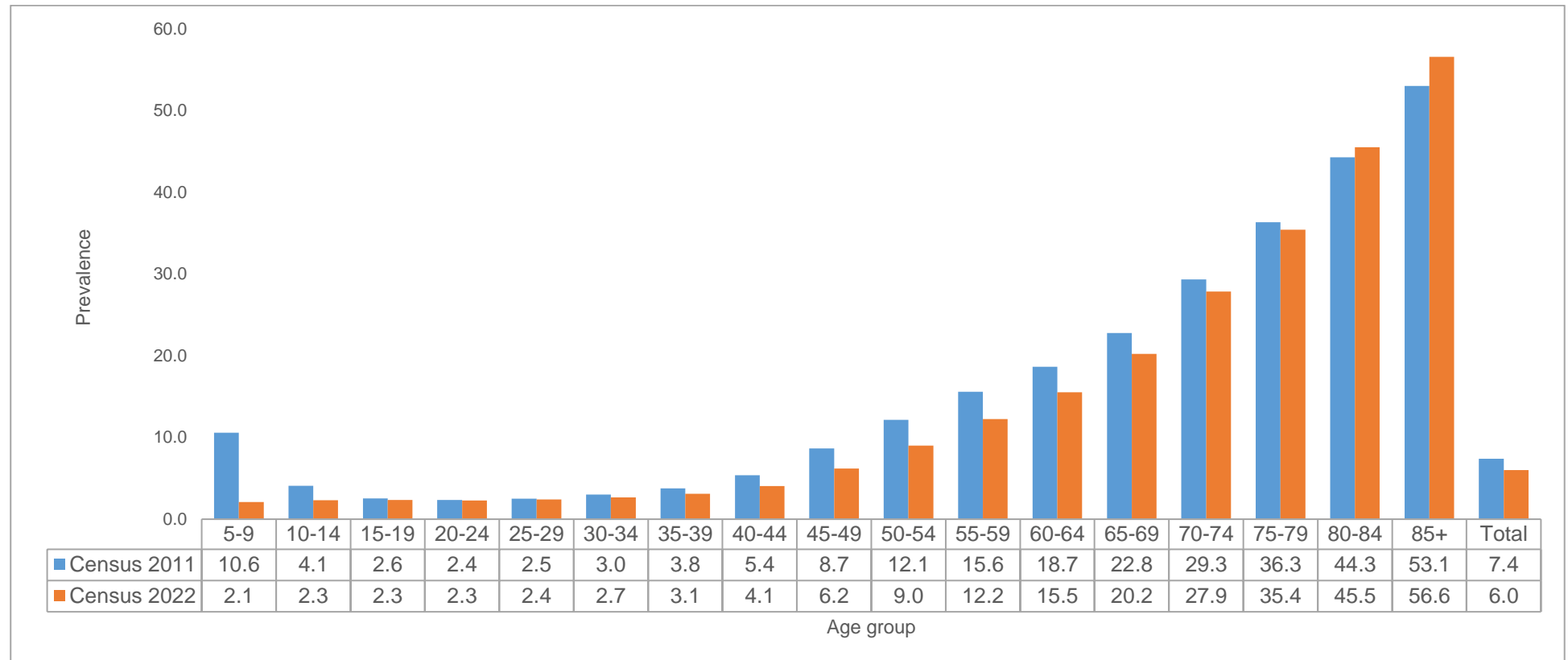
Figure 5.2 showed that disability prevalence varies by age, older persons being the most affected. The observed pattern is consistent with Census 2011 and other countries that have adopted the six Washington Group questions in their censuses and surveys. The pattern depicts that there is a positive correlation between age and disability. That is, as people become older, some degree of difficulty emerges in certain areas including but not limited to the six functional domains outlined in this report. The proportion of persons with the highest prevalence of disability was reported among older persons, as they are more likely to experience difficulty in functioning. Looking at trends in disability prevalence by age, the highest decrease of 8,5 percentage points was recorded among persons aged 5–9. This is possibly attributed to better reporting on these set of questions on disability when compared to Census 2011.

Census 2022

Figure 5.3: Disability prevalence by sex, Census 2011 and 2022
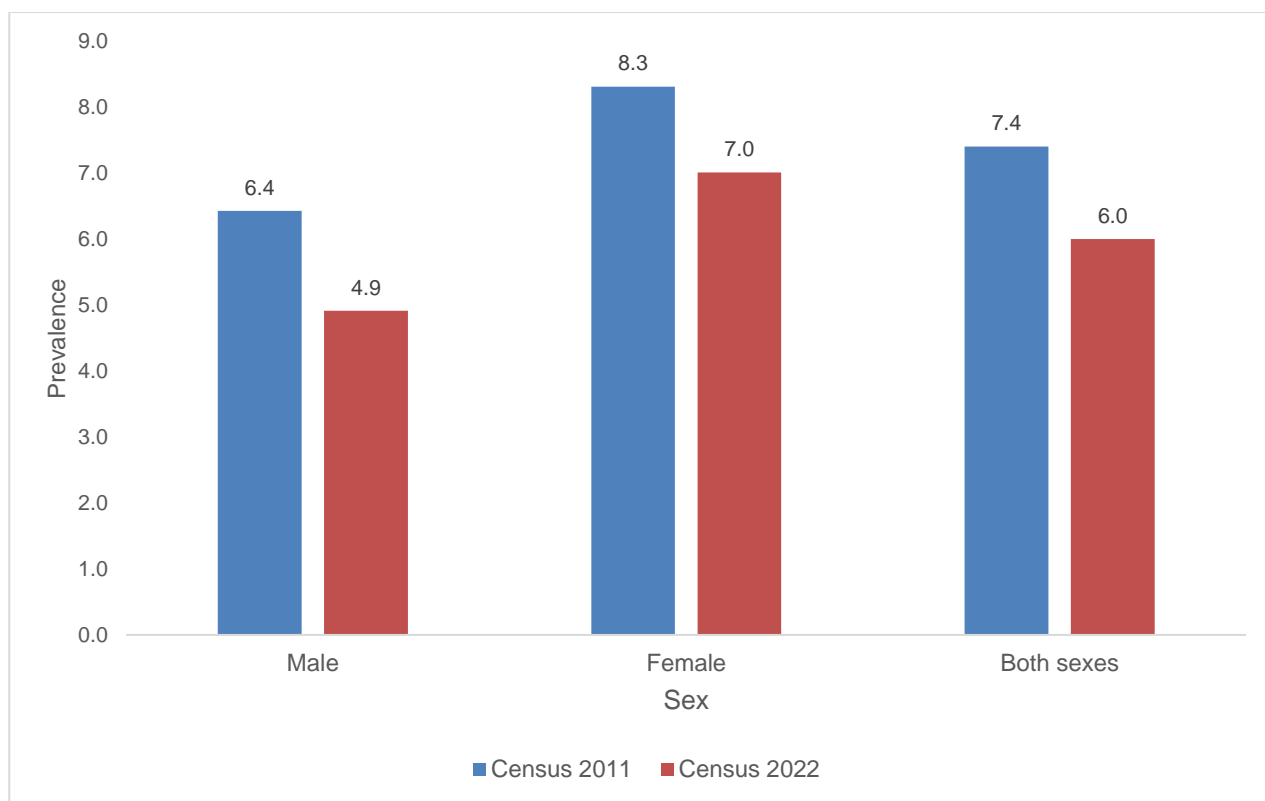
Figure 5.3 looks at disability prevalence by sex. In both census years, disability prevalence was higher for females compared to males. The Census 2022 results showed that both males and females recorded lower prevalence compared to Census 2011. The profile for males showed a decrease from 6,4% in 2011 to 4,9% in 2022 while females with disability decreased from 8,3% to 7,0%.

Figure 5.4: Disability prevalence by population group, Census 2011 and 2022

	Black African	Coloured	Indian/Asian	White	Other	Total
Census 2011	7.7	6.2	6.2	6.5	5.6	7.4
Census 2022	5.7	5.6	6.5	9.5	5.8	6.0
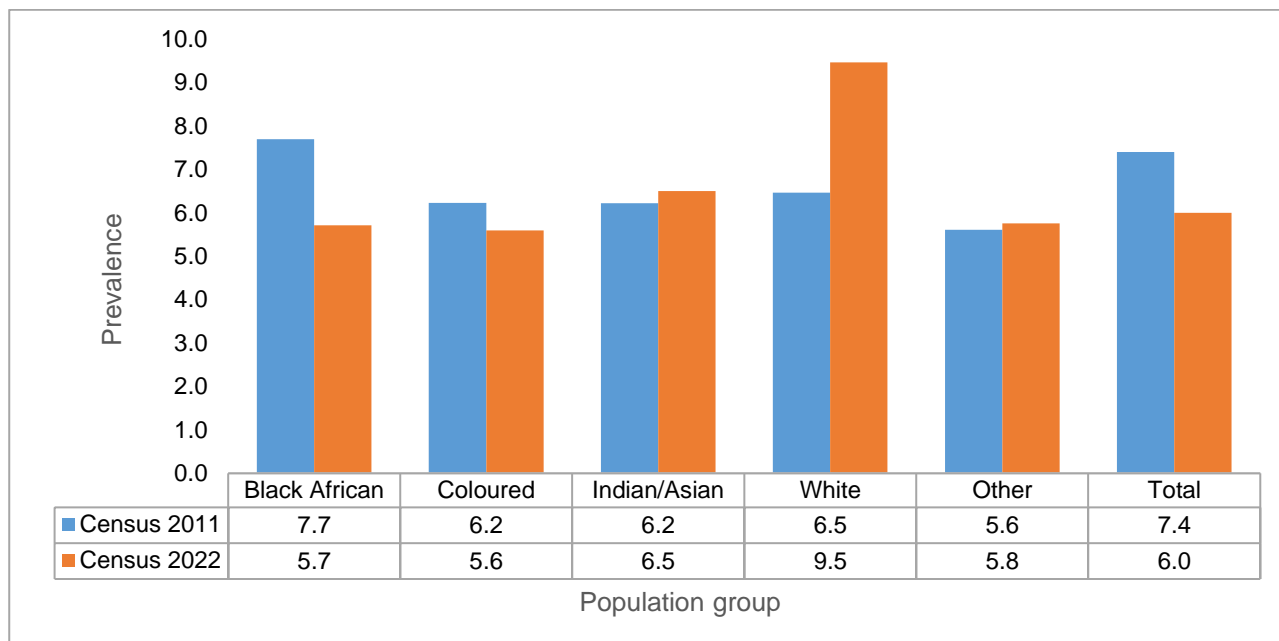
Population group variations in disability prevalence are presented in Figure 5.4. Results showed that in Census 2022, disability was more prevalent among white and Indian/Asian populations; these figures were above the national average (9,5% and 6,5% respectively). Trends show some shifts in disability status. While disability was more prevalent among black Africans in 2011, Census 2022 results showed that disability was more prevalent among the white population.

Figure 5.5: Disability prevalence by province, Census 2011 and 2022

	Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo	South Africa
■ Census 2011	5.3	9.5	11.0	10.9	8.3	9.8	5.2	7.0	6.7	7.4
■ Census 2022	5.4	8.5	7.6	8.4	6.1	7.0	4.9	5.1	5.0	6.0
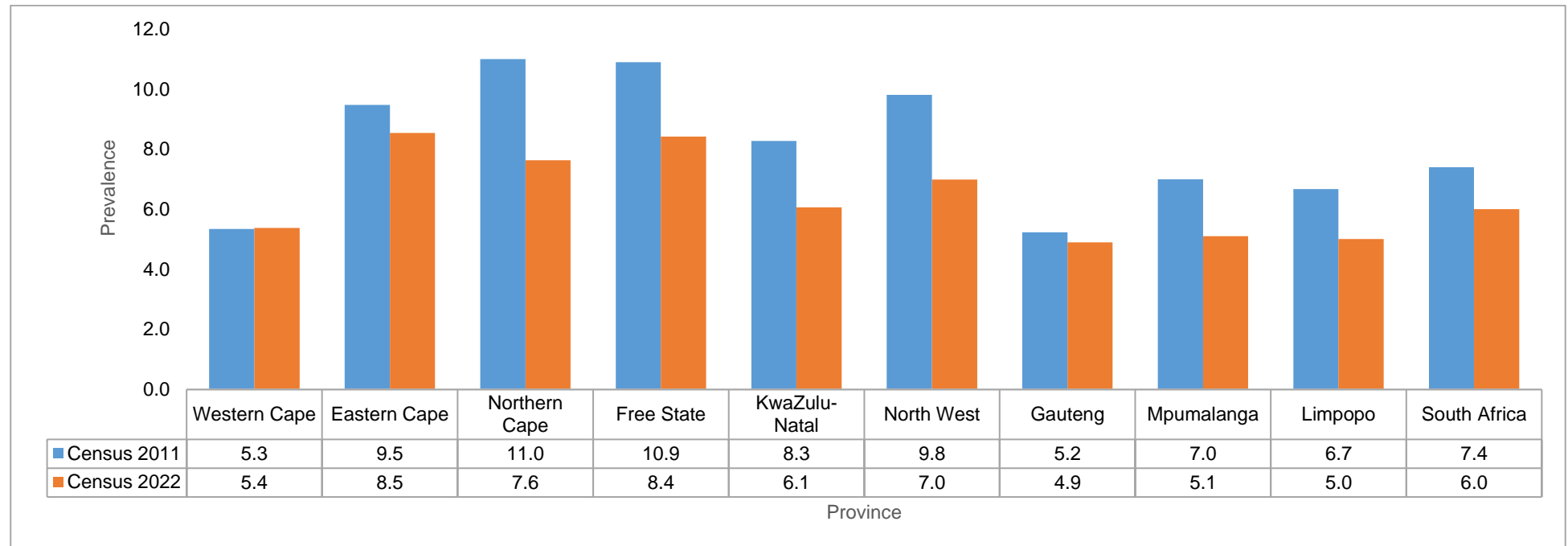
Figure 5.5 looks at provincial variations in disability prevalence among persons aged 5 years and older. In 2011, Northern Cape and Free State recorded the highest disability prevalence, and in Census 2022, Eastern Cape and Free State recorded the highest prevalence compared to other provinces. Results showed that Northern Cape recorded the highest decrease of 3,4 percentage points from 11,0% in 2011 to 7,6% in 2022. Western Cape, Gauteng, Limpopo and Mpumalanga recorded the lowest percentages of disability prevalence for both Census 2011 and Census 2022

5.4   Assistive devices

Table 5.2: Distribution of population aged 5 years and older by type of assistive device, Census 2011 and 2022

Assistive device	Usage of assistive device	2011		2022	
		Number	%	Number	%
Eye glasses/spectacles/ contact lenses	Yes	6 142 804	14,0	6 386 536	11,6
	No	37 606 365	85,8	48 496 463	88,2
	Do not know	98 223	0,2	126 642	0,2
	Total	**43 847 391**	**100,0**	**55 009 641**	**100,0**
Hearing aid	Yes	1 243 275	2,8	631 914	1,1
	No	42 382 644	96,9	54 225 820	98,6
	Do not know	105 159	0,2	147 853	0,3
	Total	**43 731 078**	**100,0**	**55 005 587**	**100,0**
Walking stick/walking frame/crutches	Yes	1 397 314	3,2	1 047 754	1,9
	No	42 261 918	96,6	53 814 484	97,8
	Do not know	76 301	0,2	143 282	0,3
	Total	**43 735 532**	**100,0**	**55 005 520**	**100,0**
Prosthesis/artificial limb	Yes	-	-	427 840	0,8
	No	-	-	52 341 834	98,9
	Do not know	-	-	132 879	0,3
	Total	**-**	**-**	**52 902 553**	**100,0**
Wheelchair	Yes	1 012 706	2,3	450 308	0,9
	No	42 574 017	97,5	52 330 210	98,9
	Do not know	84 159	0,2	124 912	0,2
	Total	**43 670 882**	**100,0**	**52 905 430**	**100,0**

Note: Unspecified records excluded from table.

Table 5.2 shows the distribution of the population aged 5 years and older by type of assistive device in Census 2011 and 2022. The results show that in 2022, 11,6% of persons aged 5 years and older use eye glasses/spectacles/contact lenses, while other devices like a hearing aid (631 914), walking stick (1 047 754), prosthesis (427 840) or wheelchair (450 308) were used by less than 2,0% of the population aged 5 years and older.

5.5   Conclusion

The findings on degree of difficulty in functioning showed that there was an increase in persons reporting no difficulty and conversely, there was a decrease in persons that reported some and a lot of difficulty in functioning, as well as those unable to function in a specific domain.

The results further showed that over the period 2011–2022, there was a decrease of approximately one percentage point (from 7,4% in 2011 to 6% in 2022).

Disability varies by sex, population group and geographical area. Sex variations showed that disability was more prevalent among females compared to males, a pattern consistent in both Censuses 2011 and 2022. Population group dynamics showed that disability was more prevalent among the white population, followed by the Indian/Asian population. Over the period 2011–2022, the black African and coloured populations recorded a decline in disability prevalence. Western Cape is the only province that experienced a slight increase in 2022 in terms of disability prevalence compared to all other provinces, from 5,3% in 2011 to 5,4% in 2022. Finally, the 2022 results indicated a decrease in the use of all assistive devices compared to 2011, with the exception of prosthesis/artificial limb which was not one of the assistive devices measured in Census 2011.

6. PARENTAL SURVIVAL

6.1   Introduction

Information on parental survival is collected in order to determine maternal or paternal orphanhood, and estimation of adult mortality. In censuses, everyone in the household is asked if their own biological mother and biological father is still alive. From these questions, orphanhood can be determined. Orphanhood can further be used to ascertain the level and patterns of mortality in the population through indirect estimation (United Nations, 2017).

6.2   Census 2022 Orphanhood methodology

The methodology adopted to tabulate the distribution of orphans for census years 2011 and 2022 is consistent with that used by the General Household Survey. The core to this methodology is that there is no double counting of orphans.

Non orphans are children 0-17 aged years whose both biological mother and father were still alive.

Paternal orphans are children 0-17 aged years whose biological fathers were no longer alive but their mothers were still alive.

Maternal orphans are children aged 0-17 years whose biological mothers were no longer alive but their fathers were still alive.

Double orphans are children aged 0-17 years who reported that both mother and father have died.

Findings

Comparison of Census 2011 and census 2022 presented in Table 6.1 showed that in both censuses, paternal orphanhood was more prevalent compared to maternal and double orphanhood. Trends show that there has been a decrease in orphanhood and this is the case for all the three types.

Table 6.1: Percentage distribution of children aged 0–17 years by orphan type, Census, 2022

Type of orphan	2011	2022
Non orphans	81,0	86,2
Paternal orphans	12,1	8,9
Maternal orphans	3,0	2,3
Double orphans	3,9	2,5
Total	100,0	100,0

Note: *Analysis excludes do not know and Unspecified cases.*

Table 6.2: Percentage distribution of children aged 0–17 years by orphan type and province, Census 2011 and 2022

Type of orphan	Census year	Non Orphan	Paternal orphan	Maternal orphan	Double orphan	Total
WC	2011	91,1	6,2	1,6	1,1	**100,0**
	2022	90,7	6,1	1,6	1,5	**100,0**
EC	2011	75,9	15,8	3,4	4,9	**100,0**
	2022	82,4	11,5	2,8	3,4	**100,0**
NC	2011	84,4	8,9	3,6	3,1	**100,0**
	2022	86,7	7,8	3,1	2,4	**100,0**
FS	2011	77,4	13,1	3,8	5,7	**100,0**
	2022	83,7	10,3	2,8	3,1	**100,0**
KZN	2011	74,9	15,5	3,8	5,9	**100,0**
	2022	84,3	10,4	2,5	2,8	**100,0**
NW	2011	81,5	11,1	3,3	4,1	**100,0**
	2022	85,8	8,7	2,6	2,9	**100,0**
GP	2011	86,2	8,9	2,3	2,6	**100,0**
	2022	88,6	7,4	1,9	2,1	**100,0**
MP	2011	80,3	12,1	3,6	4	**100,0**
	2022	86,3	8,6	2,5	2,6	**100,0**
LP	2011	82,5	12,5	2,2	2,9	**100,0**
	2022	87,1	8,6	1,8	2,4	**100,0**
SA	**2011**	**81**	**12,1**	**3**	**3,9**	**100,0**
	2022	**86,2**	**8,9**	**2,3**	**2,5**	**100,0**

Provincial variations in orphanhood showed that Eastern Cape (15,8%) and KwaZulu-Natal (15,5%) had the highest percentage of paternal orphans in both Censuses 2011 and 2022. In census 2022, EC (3,4%), FS (3,1%), NW (2,9% and MP (2,6%) provinces had percentage of double orphans above the national average (2,5%). With the exception of double orphans in the Western Cape, all provinces reflect a decrease in all types of orphanhood from 2011 to 2022. KwaZulu-Natal reflects the highest decrease in all types of orphanhood.

Summary of findings

The percentage of children aged 0-17 who are orphans is decreasing in South Africa. KwaZulu-Natal observed the highest decrease in all orphan hood types from 2011 to 2022. Paternal orphans are highest in all censuses and provinces.

7.   HOMELESSNESS

7.1   Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), stipulates that no one should be left behind. Equally, South Africa's national agenda – the National Development Plan (NDP) – also stipulates that South Africa is committed to providing a better life for all South Africans. Monitoring progress towards achieving both development agendas and linked targets require reliable and timely statistics. It is for this committed effort of ensuring a better life for all populations, including homeless persons, that homelessness is relevant to three Sustainable Development Goals. In most instances, people experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness are among the most socially and economically disadvantaged. However, there is a challenge of inadequate statistics on homelessness at a national and global level, rendering programs aimed at addressing poverty, substance abuse and ill health ineffective.

In South Africa, information on homelessness is collected as part of the population census. Censuses remain one of the primary sources of data on homelessness and are considered critical vehicles in harmonising measurement and collection of data on homelessness to inform national and global agenda (Casey & Stazen, 2021).

The definition of homelessness varies from country to country. However, Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses outlines two categories of homelessness:
- Primary homelessness (or roofless), which includes persons living on the street or without shelter; and
- Secondary homelessness, which includes the following groups:
  - Persons with no place of usual residence who move frequently between various types of accommodation (including dwellings, shelters or other living quarters); and
  - Persons usually resident in long-term (also called "transitional") shelters or similar arrangements for the homeless.

As recommended, Census 2022 collected data on both primary and secondary homelessness. Homeless persons living on the streets or without a shelter were counted using the questionnaire for the homeless, whilst homeless persons in shelters were counted using the questionnaire for special dwelling institutions (SDIs). Enumeration procedures for counting homeless persons without a shelter stipulated that this population was to be counted on Census night (02–03 February 2022). During Census night, however, system challenges were experienced and this made it impossible to cover all homeless persons on the reference night. In consultation with methodologists, a re-count of homeless persons was arranged during the course of the enumeration period for the household-based population and persons in institutions.

The questionnaire for counting the homeless without a shelter was an individual questionnaire, meant to capture each person regardless of whether they were found as a group or family. Fieldworkers/enumerators were to ensure all possible hotspots for homeless persons were covered, such as: streets/doorways/in front of shops/pavements; under bridges; parks; river banks; dumping sites; veld/bush; abandoned buildings/vehicles; encampments; and other places that are not meant for human habitation.

This section profiles both homeless persons with and without a shelter, and highlights the top five reasons for homelessness. Data for Census 2022 is not compared with previous censuses due to differences in data collection tools

Table 7.1: Number and percentage of the homeless population by sex, Census 2022

Type of homelessness	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	Number			**Percent**		
Roofless	31 506	13 006	44 512	70,8	29,2	**100,0**
In shelter	7 546	3 661	11 207	67,3	32,7	**100,0**
Total	**39 052**	**16 667**	**55 719**	**70,1**	**29,9**	**100,0**

The results in Table 7.1 show that there were 55 719 homeless persons recorded in Census 2022. The majority were roofless compared to those in shelter (79,9% and 20,1% respectively). Results also showed that males are predominantly homeless compared to their female counterparts; this pattern is consistent among roofless and in shelter homeless persons.

Table 7.2: Number and percentage of homeless persons by province and type of homelessness, Census 2022

Province	Number			Percent		
	Roofless	**In shelter**	**Total**	**Roofless**	**In shelter**	**Total**
Western Cape	6 433	3 310	**9 743**	14,5	29,5	**17,5**
Eastern Cape	3 452	541	**3 993**	7,8	4,8	**7,2**
Northern Cape	386	202	**588**	0,9	1,8	**1,1**
Free State	2 122	1 217	**3 339**	4,8	10,9	**6,0**
KwaZulu-Natal	6 404	1 364	**7 768**	14,4	12,2	**13,9**
North West	918	802	**1 720**	2,1	7,2	**3,1**
Gauteng	23 455	1 929	**25 384**	52,7	17,2	**45,6**
Mpumalanga	869	437	**1 306**	2,0	3,9	**2,3**
Limpopo	473	1 405	**1 878**	1,1	12,5	**3,4**
South Africa	**44 512**	**11 207**	**55 719**	**100,0**	**100,0**	**100,0**

Table 7.2 shows provincial variations in homelessness. Gauteng recorded the biggest share of homeless persons at 45,6%, followed by Western Cape at 17,5%. On the contrary, Northern Cape and Mpumalanga recorded the lowest proportions of homeless persons (1,1% and 2,3% respectively). The profile of homeless persons in shelters showed that Western Cape had the biggest share (29,5%), followed by Gauteng (17,2%).

Figure 7.1: Percentage distribution of homeless persons by location; metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas, Census 2022
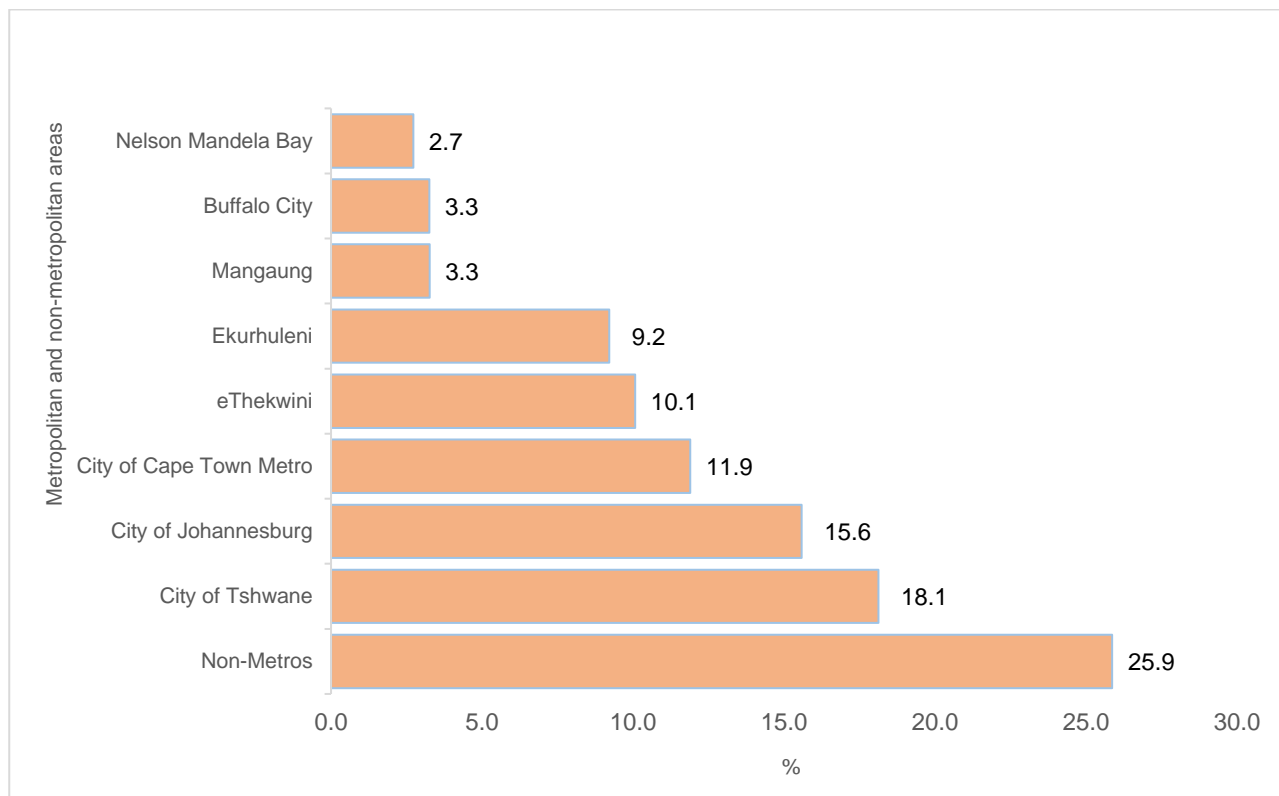
Figure 7.1 shows a comparison of homelessness in metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. Results showed that homelessness was more prevalent in metropolitan areas (74,1%), with City of Tshwane recording the highest proportion of homeless persons (18,1%), followed by City of Johannesburg (15,6%). Nelson Mandela Bay metropolitan area recorded the lowest proportion of homeless persons (2,7%).

Figure 7.2: Distribution of homeless persons by type of homelessness in 5-year age groups, Census 2022
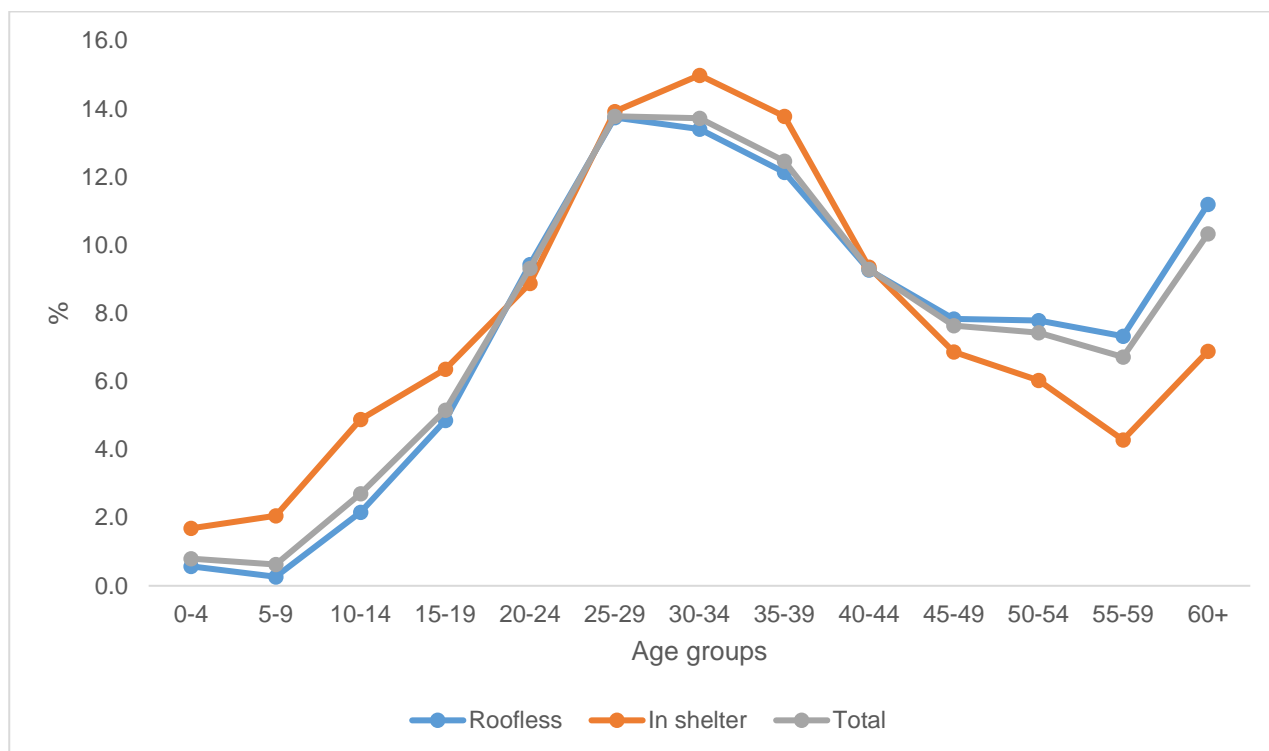
The results presented in Figure 7.2 show the distribution of homeless persons (roofless and in shelter) by age. It is noticed that irrespective of type of homelessness, homeless persons were predominantly the youth aged 20–34 years and adults aged 35–44 years. Looking at differences in age structure for both primary homelessness (roofless) and secondary homelessness, there were more homeless children aged 0–17 years residing in shelters compared to those that were roofless.

Reasons for homelessness

In the Census 2022 questionnaire for the homeless population (primary homelessness), a question on reasons for homelessness was included. In this report, only the top five reasons reported are profiled. Roofless homeless persons were asked about the main reason they were homeless.

Figure 7.3: Distribution of homeless persons by top five main reason for homelessness and sex, Census 2022

	Lost job/No job/No Income	Drug/Alcohol use	Arguments with family/friends	Parent(s) died	Cannot afford accommodation
■ Male	41.3	26.0	16.5	8.8	7.4
■ Female	41.6	18.9	20.3	8.3	10.9
■ Total	41.3	25.0	17.0	8.8	7.9
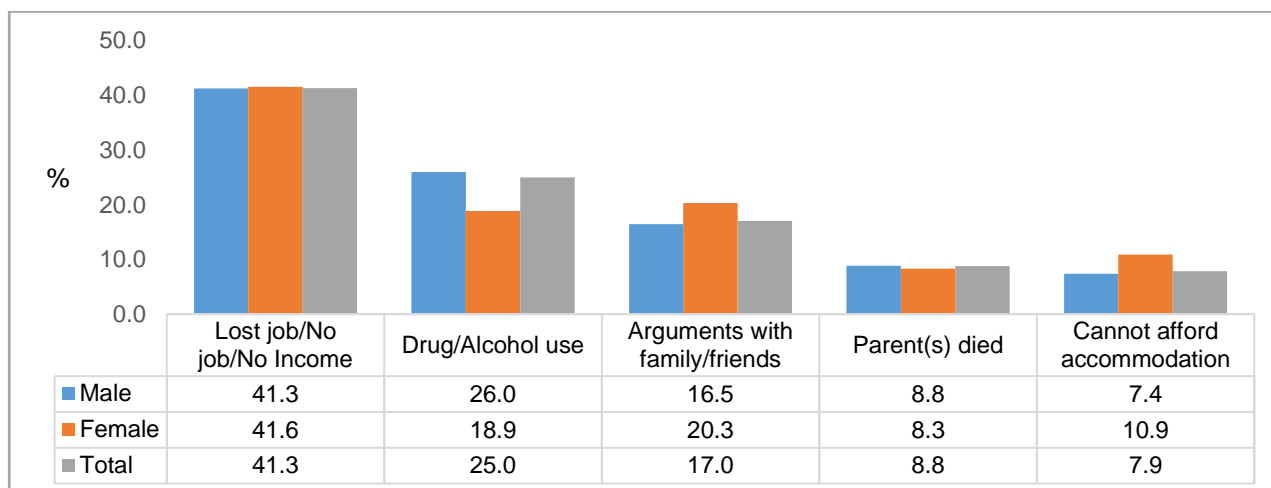
The results in Figure 7.3 present the percentage distribution of roofless persons by main reason for homelessness and sex. The main reason for homelessness for both males and females was lost job/no job/no income (41,3%), followed by drug/alcohol abuse (25%). "Cannot afford accommodation" ranked the lowest of the top five reasons provided by homeless persons, at 7,9%.

Results showed slight variations between males and females' reasons for homelessness. The main reasons for homelessness among males were job loss or no income (41,3%), drug or alcohol abuse (26%) and arguments with family or friends (16,5%). Females indicated that their main reason for homelessness was job loss or no income (41,6%), followed by arguments with family or friends (20,3%).

The striking difference between the male and female homeless population is that more males (26%) than females (18,9%) were homeless as a result of alcohol and drug abuse. Another difference is that when it comes to arguments with family or friends, females (20,3%) were more likely to be homeless than males (16,5%). Another difference between the two sexes was a higher percentage of females (10,9%) reported inability to afford accommodation compared to their male counterparts (7,4%).

7.2   Conclusion

Both the global and national development agendas pertaining to vulnerable groups require reliable statistics in order to address the challenges these sub-populations face. With regard to the homeless population, Census 2022 results have provided critical indicators on the characteristics of homeless persons, among which are reasons for homelessness asked for the first time in a South African census. Interesting to note is the striking difference between homeless persons in shelter and those that were roofless, provincial and sex variations, and – above all – main reasons for homelessness. The profiled statistics will contribute greatly towards addressing challenges faced by this vulnerable group relating to socio-economic, health, development and human rights.

8. HOUSING AND BASIC SERVICES

8.1 Introduction

It is critical for any government to ensure that its citizens have access to basic services, including housing, clean water, sanitation, electricity and refuse removal. Government efforts to track progress require setting of targets and monitoring progress. A number of questions were thus included in the census to enable the provision of statistics that are critical for monitoring progress in households' access to basic services. This section also profiles household composition and headship, as well as major factors that contribute to household welfare.

8.2 Households

8.2.1 Number of households

Table 8.1: Distribution of households by province, Census 1996–2022

	Census year							
	1996		**2001**		**2011**		**2022**	
Province	**Number**	**%**	**Number**	**%**	**Number**	**%**	**Number**	**%**
Western Cape	983 015	10,9	1 173 304	10,5	1 633 925	11,3	2 264 032	12,7
Eastern Cape	1 303 287	14,4	1 481 640	13,2	1 687 343	11,7	1 838 960	10,3
Northern Cape	218 339	2,4	245 066	2,2	301 400	2,1	333 553	1,9
Free State	625 011	6,9	733 302	6,5	823 285	5,6	845 250	4,7
KwaZulu-Natal	1 689 995	18,7	2 117 274	18,9	2 539 337	17,5	2 853 741	16,0
North West	591 145	6,5	759 997	6,8	1 061 998	7,3	1 141 291	6,4
Gauteng	2 069 629	22,8	2 791 835	24,9	3 908 826	27,6	5 318 665	29,8
Mpumalanga	669 844	7,4	785 470	7,0	1 075 466	7,3	1 421 721	8,0
Limpopo	909 306	10,0	1 117 818	10,0	1 418 085	9,6	1 811 565	10,2
South Africa	**9 059 571**	**100,0**	**11 205 705**	**100,0**	**14 449 664**	**100,0**	**17 828 778**	**100,0**

The results in Table 8.1 show an upward trend in the number of households over the period 1996–2022. The increase depicts an increase in household formation. Census 2022 recorded a total of 17 828 778 households nationally, with Gauteng (5,3 million) and KwaZulu-Natal (2,9 million) accounting for just below half of all households in the country. Northern Cape, the least populous province, recorded 333 553 households. There was a steady increase in the number of households between 1996 and 2022, from approximately 9,1 million in 1996 to 17,8 million in 2022.

8.2.2   Average household size

Figure 8.1: Average household size by province, Census 1996–2022

	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	SA
Census 1996	4.0	4.7	4.6	4.2	5.1	4.6	3.8	4.7	5.0	4.5
Census 2001	3.9	4.2	4.0	3.7	4.5	3.9	3.4	4.3	4.5	4.0
Census 2011	3.6	3.9	3.8	3.3	4.0	3.3	3.1	3.8	3.8	3.6
Census 2022	3.3	3.9	4.1	3.5	4.4	3.3	2.8	3.6	3.6	3.5
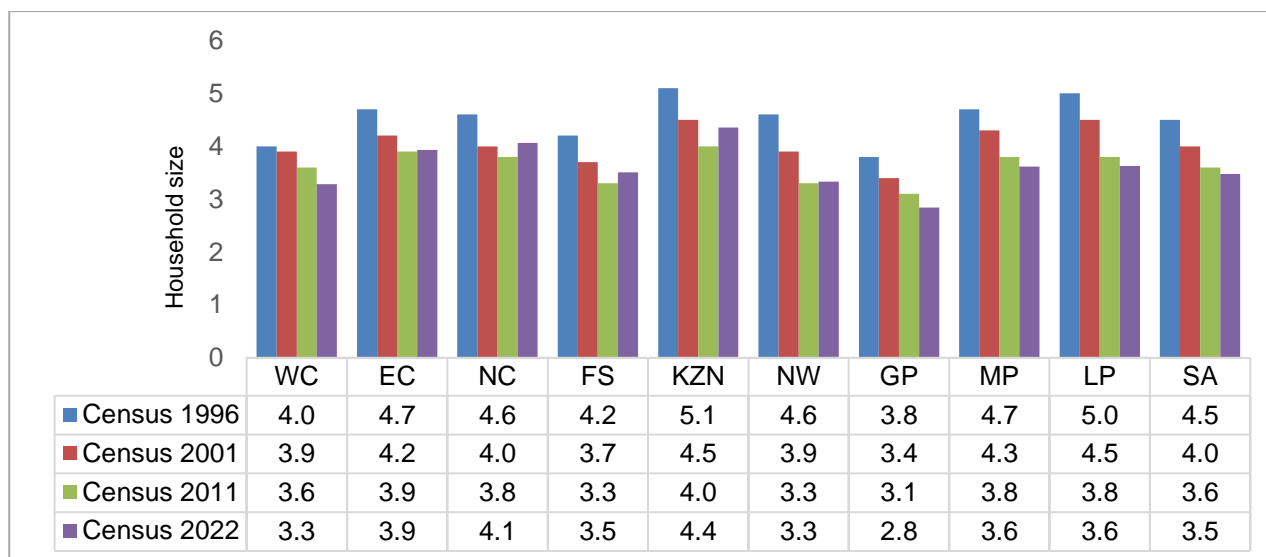
Results presented in Figure 8.1 show a downward trend in household size over the period 1996–2022. The average household size decreased from 4,5 in 1996 to 3,5 in 2022. Provincial variations showed that provinces such as Gauteng (2,8) and the Western Cape (3,3) recorded the lowest average household sizes and KwaZulu-Natal, the second most populous province, recorded the highest household size of 4,4.

8.2.3   Female-headed households

Figure 8.2: Percentage distribution of female-headed households by province, Census 2022
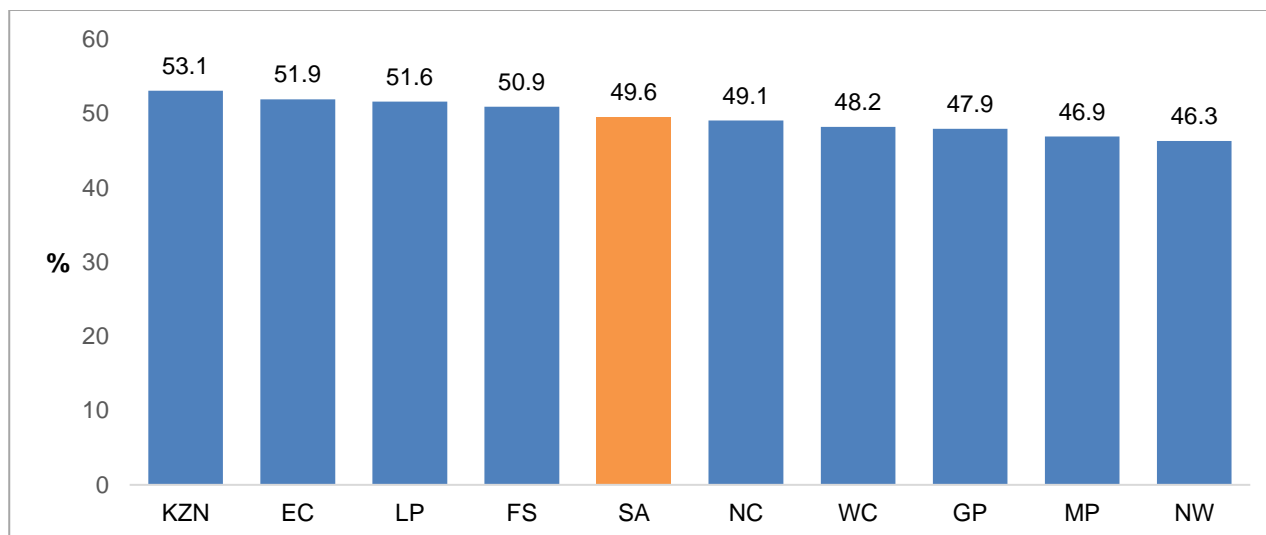
Findings on household headship are presented in Figure 8.2. Almost half (49,6%) of the households in South Africa were headed by females. Female-headed households were most common in KwaZulu-Natal (53,1%) and Eastern Cape (51,9%), and least common in North West (46,3%) and Mpumalanga (46,9%).

8.3   Housing

According to section 26 of the South African Constitution, everyone has the right to access adequate housing. Therefore, the Census 2022 questionnaire consisted of three questions on the type of housing occupied by households: the type of dwelling; the tenure status; and whether the dwelling was an RDP or government-subsidised dwelling. The questions were aimed at profiling the living conditions of South African households.

8.3.1   Dwelling type

Figure 8.3: Percentage distribution of households by type of main dwelling, Census 1996–2022

	Census 1996	Census 2001	Census 2011	Census 2022
■ Other dwelling	0.4	0.0	0.9	0.3
■ Informal dwelling	16.2	16.4	13.6	8.1
■ Traditional dwelling	18.3	14.8	7.9	3.1
■ Formal dwelling	65.1	68.8	77.6	88.5
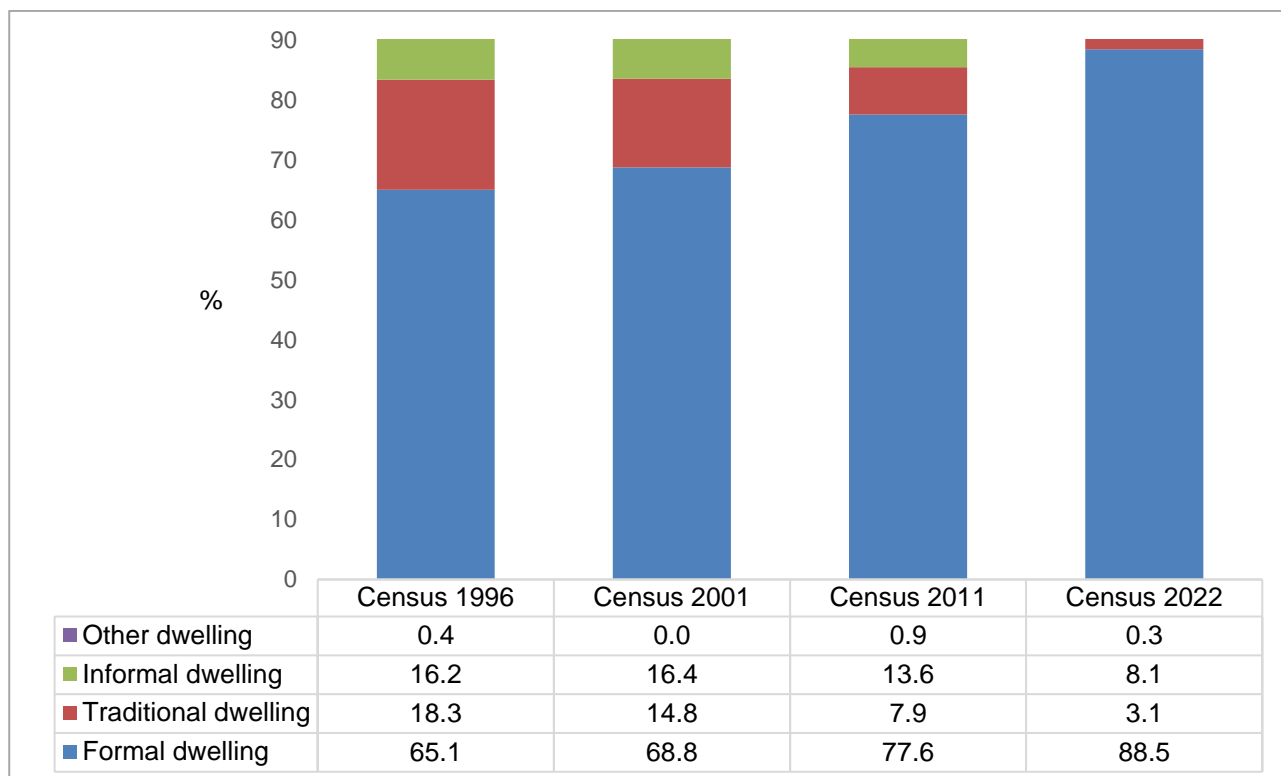
Note: Percentages for 1996 exclude unspecified cases.

Results presented in Figure 8.3 compare the type of main dwelling for Census 1996–2022. It is noted that there has been an upward trend in households residing in formal dwellings, an increase of almost 24 percentage points (from 65,1% in 1996 to 88,5% in Census 2022). Formal dwellings include formal houses with a brick/concrete structure, flats and apartments, cluster houses, townhouses, semi-detached houses or any formal dwelling situated in a backyard, such as a room or garden cottage where a household or single person resides. The proportion of households that resided in informal dwellings halved (from 16,2% in 1996 to 8,1% in 2022).

Figure 8.4: Percentage distribution of households by type of main dwelling and province, Census 2022

	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	SA
■ Other	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.3
■ Informal	11.1	4.4	12.1	9.7	5.0	10.8	11.0	5.8	2.7	8.1
■ Traditional	0.7	11.7	1.4	1.2	8.0	0.7	0.3	1.8	2.2	3.1
■ Formal	88.0	83.6	85.9	88.5	86.8	88.0	88.5	92.2	94.7	88.5
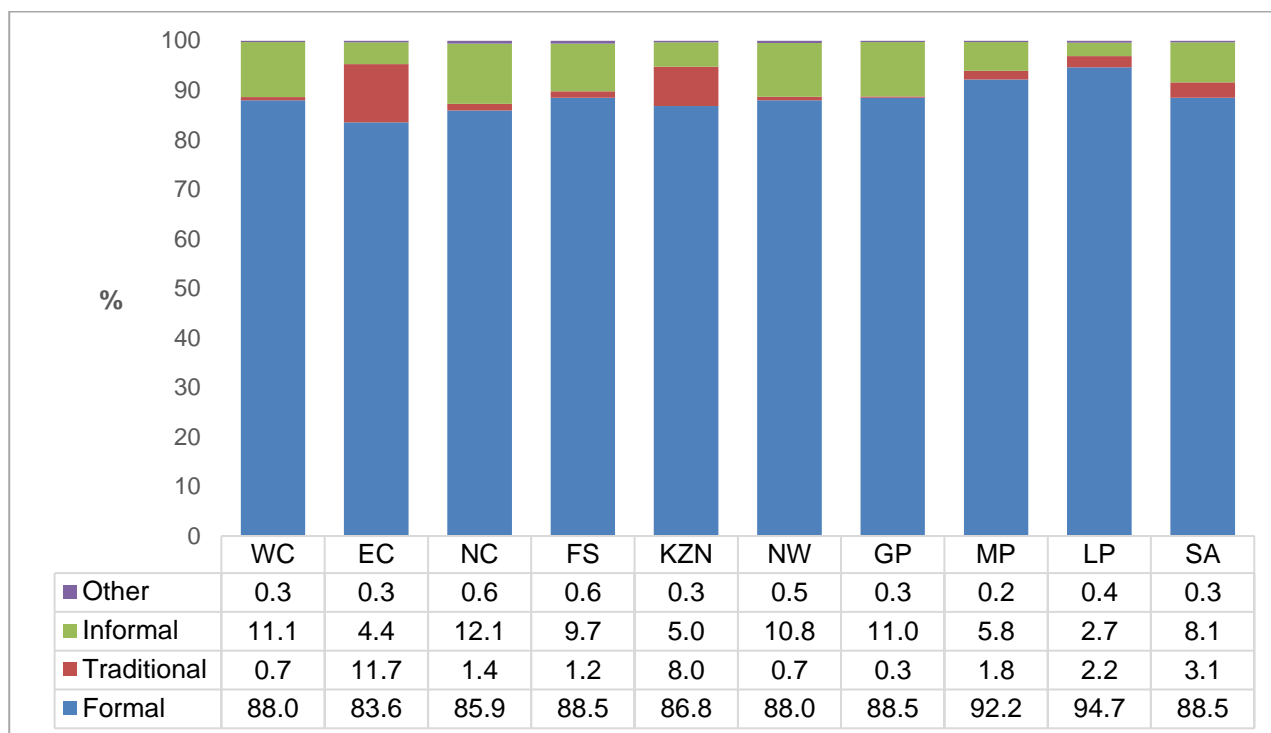
Figure 8.4 shows the variations across provinces. Results shows that almost all households in Limpopo (94,7%) and Mpumalanga (92,2%) resided in formal dwellings. As expected, the provinces with larger rural areas – KwaZulu-Natal (8%) and Eastern Cape (11,7%) – recorded the highest proportion of traditional dwellings. Northern Cape (12,1%) had the highest proportion of households residing in informal dwellings, with Gauteng and the Western Cape (both at approximately 11%) following closely.

8.3.2 Tenure status

Figure 8.5: Percentage distribution of households by tenure status, Census 2001–2022
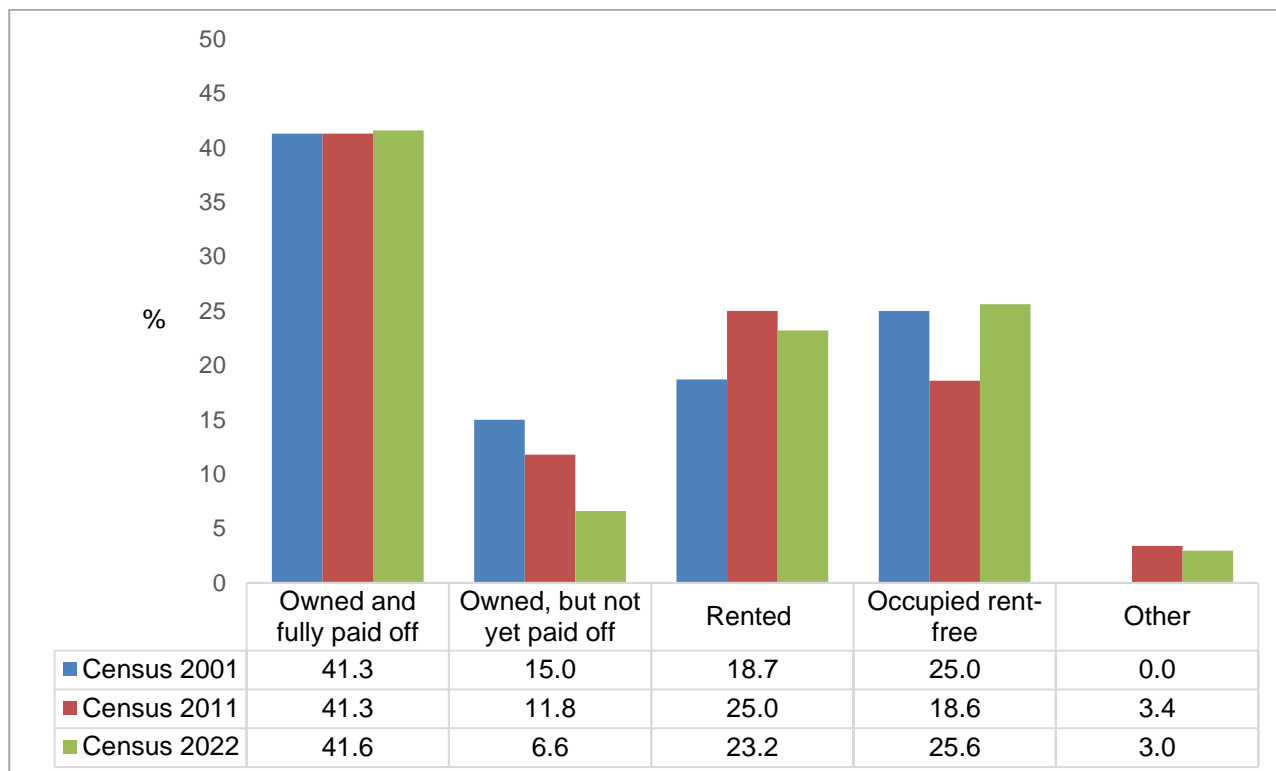
	Owned and fully paid off	Owned, but not yet paid off	Rented	Occupied rent-free	Other
■ Census 2001	41.3	15.0	18.7	25.0	0.0
■ Census 2011	41.3	11.8	25.0	18.6	3.4
■ Census 2022	41.6	6.6	23.2	25.6	3.0

Note:

- *Percentages for 2022 exclude unspecified cases.*

- *Rented for 2022 included Rented from private individual and Rented from other (incl. municipality and social housing institutions).*

In 2022, just over two-fifths (41,6%) of the dwellings that households resided in were owned and fully paid off, with similar proportions recorded in 2001 and 2011. The proportion of households that occupied their dwellings rent-free increased from 18,6% in 2011 to 25,6% in 2022, while rented dwellings decreased slightly from 25% in 2011 to 23,2% in 2022. Only 6,6% of households resided in dwellings that were owned but not fully paid off (for example, those still repaying a bond to the bank), declining from 11,8% in 2011.

Figure 8.6: Percentage distribution of households by tenure status and province, Census 2022
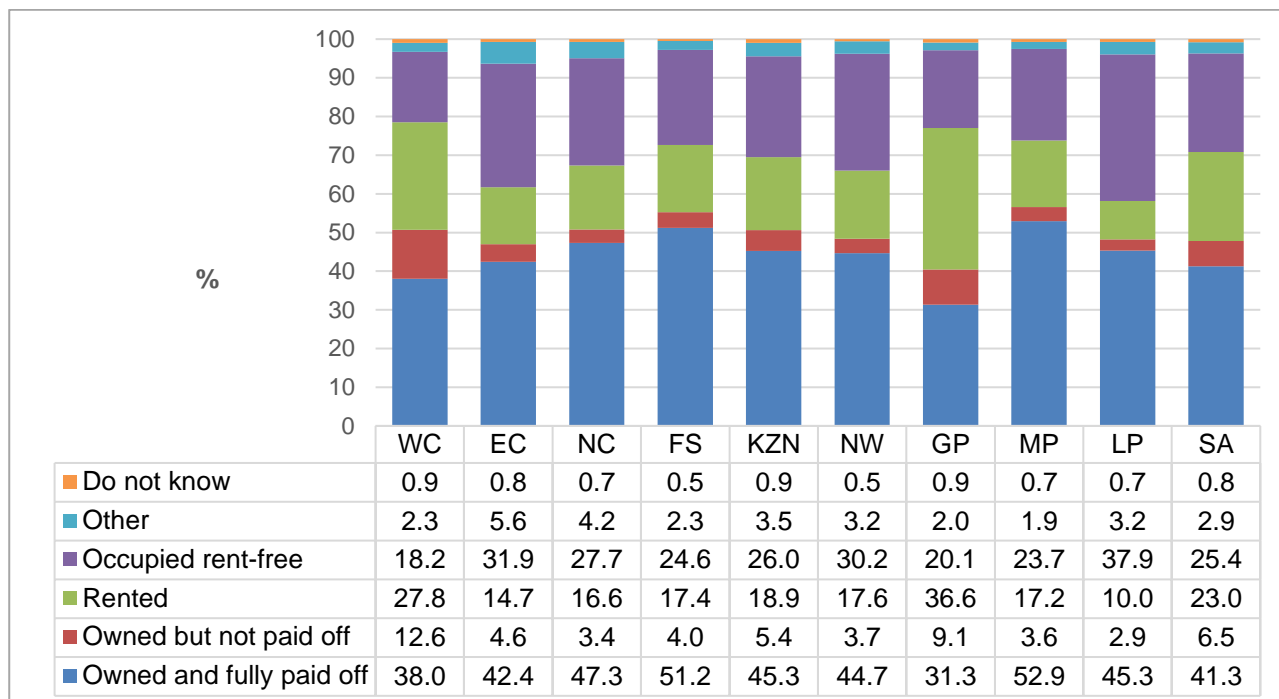
%	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	SA
■ Do not know	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.8
■ Other	2.3	5.6	4.2	2.3	3.5	3.2	2.0	1.9	3.2	2.9
■ Occupied rent-free	18.2	31.9	27.7	24.6	26.0	30.2	20.1	23.7	37.9	25.4
■ Rented	27.8	14.7	16.6	17.4	18.9	17.6	36.6	17.2	10.0	23.0
■ Owned but not paid off	12.6	4.6	3.4	4.0	5.4	3.7	9.1	3.6	2.9	6.5
■ Owned and fully paid off	38.0	42.4	47.3	51.2	45.3	44.7	31.3	52.9	45.3	41.3

Note:

- *Percentages for 2022 exclude unspecified cases.*

- *Rented for 2022 included Rented from private individual and Rented from other (incl. municipality and social housing institutions).*

Households that resided in rented dwellings were more common in the Western Cape (27,8%) and Gauteng (36,6%) than in Limpopo, where just one-tenth (10%) of households lived in rented dwellings. Slightly less than two-fifths (37,9%) of households in Limpopo occupied their dwellings rent free, close to double the proportion reported in the Western Cape (18,2%) and Gauteng (20,1%). More than half of the households in Mpumalanga (52,9%) and the Free State (51,2%) lived in dwellings that were owned and fully paid off. All provinces, with the exception of the Western Cape (12,6%), reported proportions lower than 10% for dwellings that were owned but not yet paid off.

8.3.3   RDP/government-subsidized dwelling

Figure 8.7: Percentage distribution of RDP/government-subsidised dwellings by province, Census 2022
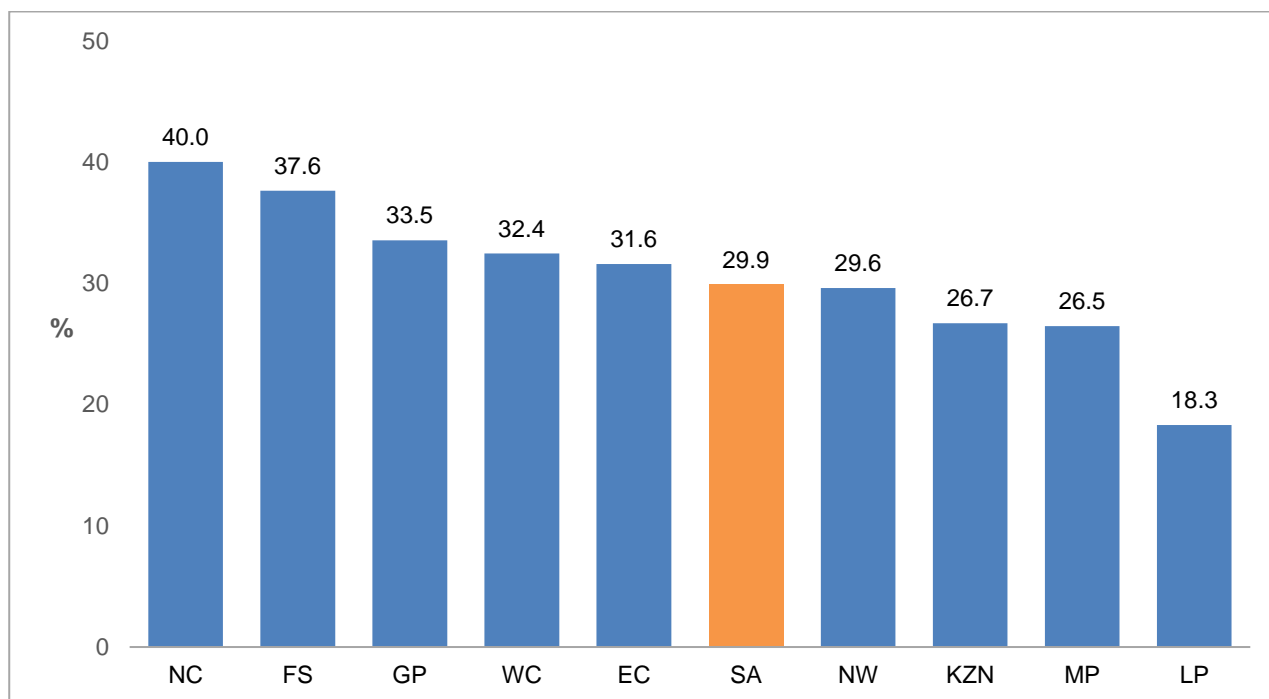
Note: Percentages for 2022 exclude 'Unspecified' cases.

Households were asked whether the dwelling they resided in was a government-subsidised dwelling or RDP. Two-fifths (40%) of households in the Northern Cape reported that they resided in government subsidised dwelling/RDP housing, only slightly higher than the proportion of households in the Free State (37,6%). Households in Limpopo recorded the lowest proportion of government subsidised dwelling/RDP housing (18,3%), well below the national average of 29,9%.

8.4   Access to basic services

Households' access to clean water, electricity, sanitation and refuse removal provides key information needed to measure and plan access to and progress regarding basic service delivery. Access to these services also affects households' health, the environment and level of poverty in the country.

8.4.1   Water and sanitation

Figure 8.8: Percentage distribution of households by access to piped water, Census 1996–2022
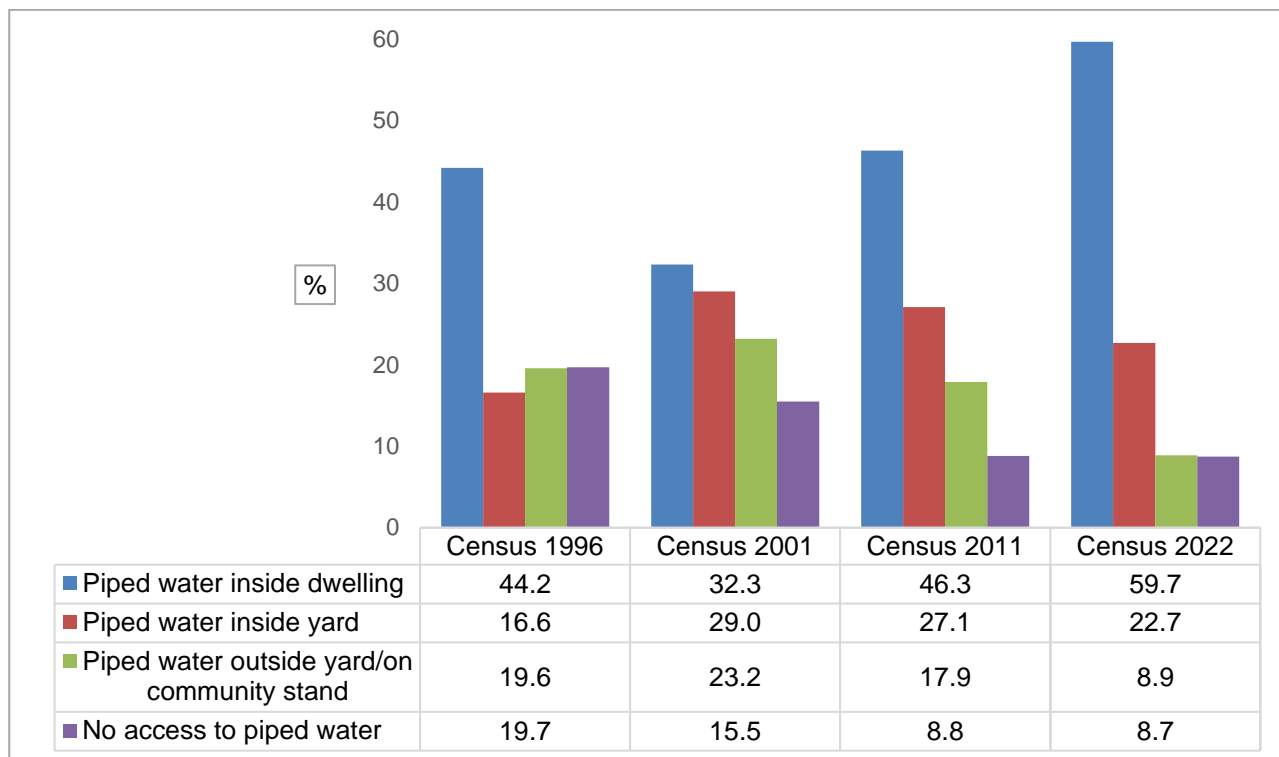
	Census 1996	Census 2001	Census 2011	Census 2022
Piped water inside dwelling	44.2	32.3	46.3	59.7
Piped water inside yard	16.6	29.0	27.1	22.7
Piped water outside yard/on community stand	19.6	23.2	17.9	8.9
No access to piped water	19.7	15.5	8.8	8.7

Note:

- *Piped water outside yard/community stand for 2011 and 2022 includes Piped water on community stand distance less than 200 m from dwelling, piped water on community stand distance between 200 and 500 m, piped water on community stand distance between 500 m and 1 000 m, and Piped water on community stand distance greater than 1 000 m.*

- *Piped water outside yard/community stand for 2001 includes Piped water on community stand distance less than 200 m from dwelling, and Piped water on community stand distance greater than 200 m.*

- *Piped water outside yard/community stand for 1996 includes Public tap.*

In 2022, over four-fifths (82,4%) of households in the country had access to piped water either inside their dwelling or inside their yard. Figure 8.8 shows an increase in the proportion of households that had access to piped water inside their dwelling, from 32,3% in 2001 to 46,3% in 2011 and to 59,7% in 2022. The proportion of households that accessed piped water off-site (from a water source outside the yard such as a neighbour or from a community stand) halved from 17,9% in 2011 to 8,9% in 2022.

Figure 8.9: Percentage distribution of households by access to piped water and province, Census 2022

	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	SA
■ No access to piped water	0.9	19.5	4.2	3.0	12.4	10.2	2.1	13.1	20.5	8.7
■ Piped water on community stand	6.0	13.4	13.9	4.8	10.6	15.3	3.7	7.8	18.3	8.9
■ Piped water inside the yard	7.6	17.6	27.4	43.2	25.3	31.2	19.2	32.1	29.8	22.7
■ Piped water inside the dwelling	85.5	49.5	54.5	49.0	51.8	43.3	75.0	47.0	31.4	59.7

Note:

- *Piped water outside yard/community stand for 2011 and 2022 includes Piped water on community stand distance less than 200 m from dwelling, piped water on community stand distance between 200 m and 500 m, piped water on community stand distance between 500 m and 1 000 m, and Piped water on community stand distance greater than 1 000 m*

- *Piped water outside yard/community stand for 2001 includes Piped water on community stand distance less than 200 m from dwelling, and Piped water on community stand distance greater than 200 m. Piped water outside yard/community stand for 1996 includes Public tap.*

Figure 8.9 shows that households in the Western Cape were more likely to have piped water inside their dwelling (85,5%) compared to Limpopo, where less than one-third (31,4%) accessed piped water inside their dwelling. Although the national picture regarding access to piped water shows improvement over the years (refer to Figure 8.8), there is a sizeable proportion of households in Limpopo (20,5%) and Eastern Cape (19,5%) with no access to piped water.

Table 8.2: Distribution of households by main source of water, Census 2001–2022

	Census year					
	2001		**2011**		**2022**	
Source of water	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**	**N**	**%**
Regional/local water scheme	8 366 653	74,7	11 518 880	79,7	14 738 578	82,7
Borehole	929 483	8,3	881 468	6,1	817 648	4,6
Spring	282 816	2,5	178 799	1,2	98 961	0,6
Rain-water tank	144 682	1,3	141 472	1,0	351 781	2,0
Dam/pool/stagnant water	300 580	2,7	225 178	1,6	160 021	0,9
Flowing water/river/stream	884 151	7,9	651 231	4,5	337 093	1,9
Water vendor/water tanker	214 866	1,9	552 839	3,8	1 028 786	5,8
Other	82 474	0,7	299 797	2,1	295 912	1,7
Total	**11 205 705**	**100,0**	**14 449 664**	**100,0**	**17 828 778**	**100,0**

Table 8.2 presents the main source of water used by households over time. The majority of households across the three censuses made use of a regional/local water scheme as their main source of water. This proportion increased steadily from 74,7% in 2001 to 79,7% in 2011, and to 82,7% in 2022.

Figure 8.10: Percentage distribution of households that reported water interruptions by province, Census 2022
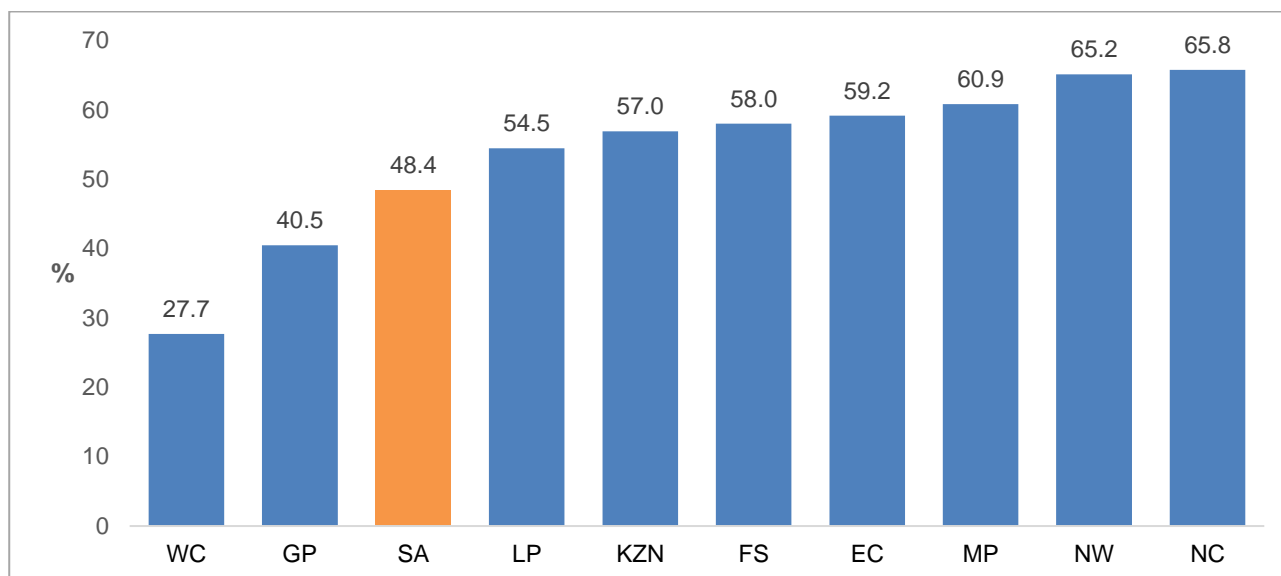
Note-

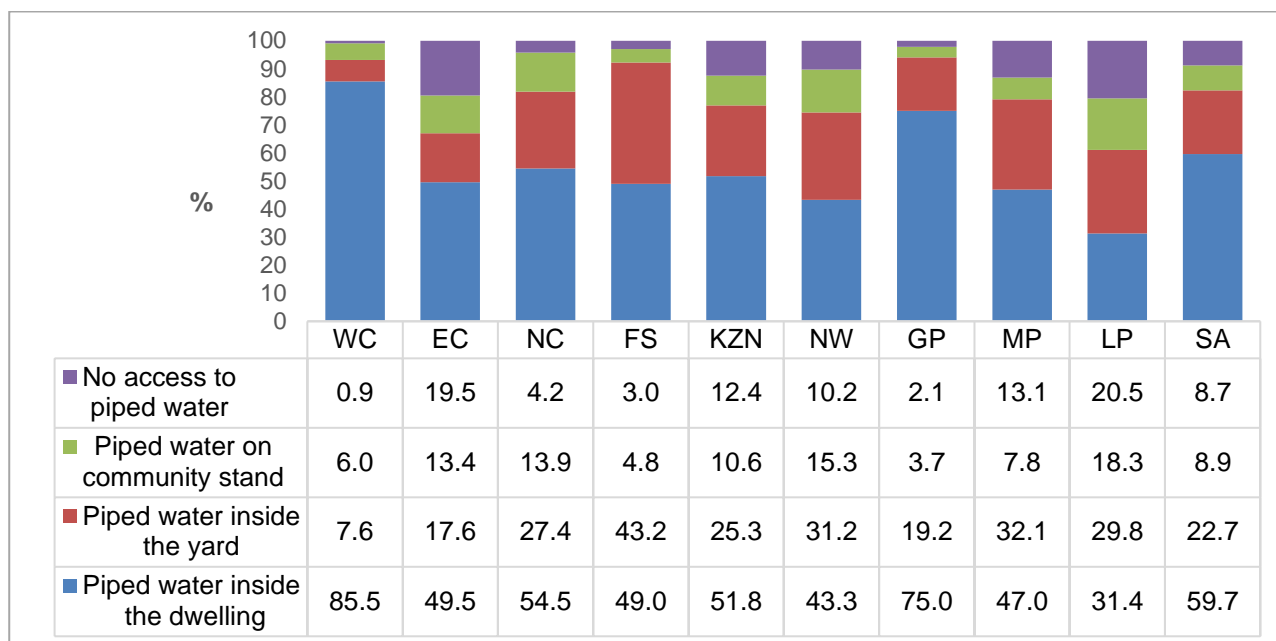- *Percentages for 2022 exclude unspecified cases from totals.*

- *The percentages above reflect the households that responded Yes to the question on interruptions and are calculated using the responses Yes, No and Do not know.*

- *Interruptions due to unpaid bills or insufficient pre-paid units were excluded.*

Those households who made use of a regional/local water scheme were asked if they experienced any interruptions in their piped water supply in the last 12 months. Households in the Western Cape (27,7%) and Gauteng (40,5%) reported the lowest proportions of water interruptions, below the national average of 48,4%. In contrast, a significantly larger proportion of households in Mpumalanga (60,9%), North West (65,2%) and the Northern Cape (65,8%) reported experiences of interruptions.

Figure 8.11: Percentage distribution of households by main type of toilet facility, Census 2001–2022
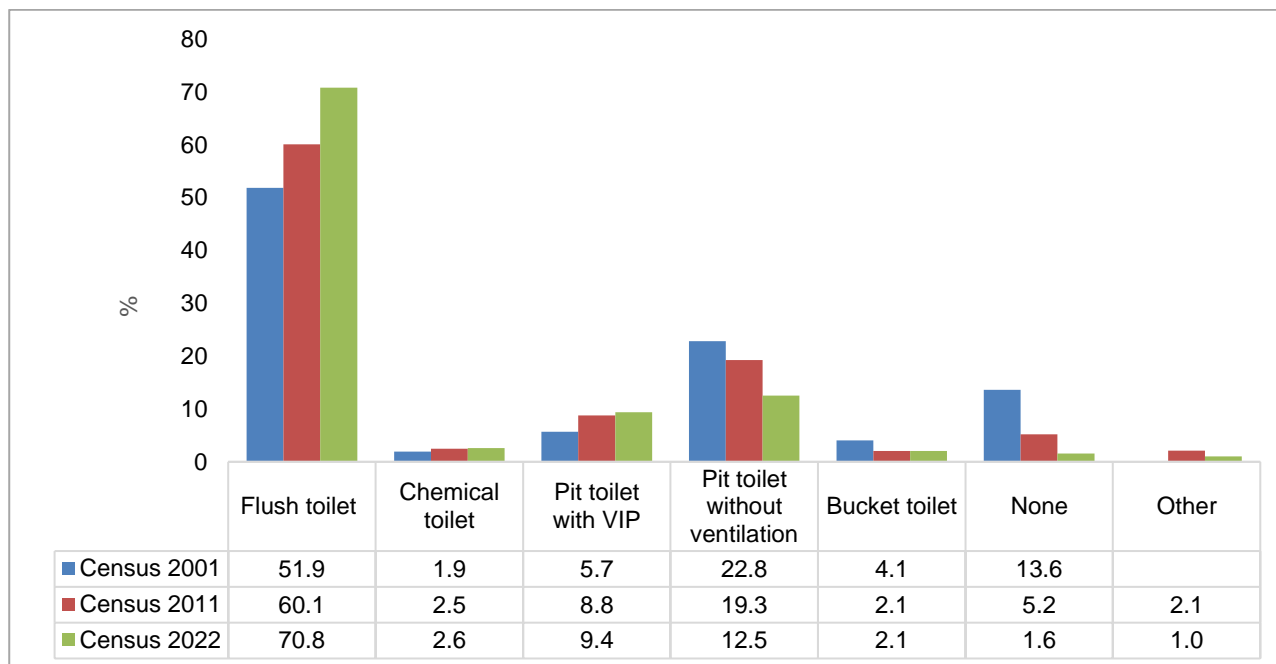
	Flush toilet	Chemical toilet	Pit toilet with VIP	Pit toilet without ventilation	Bucket toilet	None	Other
■ Census 2001	51.9	1.9	5.7	22.8	4.1	13.6	
■ Census 2011	60.1	2.5	8.8	19.3	2.1	5.2	2.1
■ Census 2022	70.8	2.6	9.4	12.5	2.1	1.6	1.0

Note:

- *Flush toilet for 2001, 2011 and 2022 includes Flush toilet connected to a public sewerage system and Flush toilet connected to a septic tank/conservancy tank.*

- *Bucket toilet for 2022 includes Bucket toilet collected by municipality and Bucket toilet emptied by household.*

- *Other for 2022 includes Ecological toilet.*

Figure 8.11 show the percentage distribution of households by main type of toilet facility they used for the period between 2001–2022. There has been an increase in the percentage of households that used a flush toilet as their main type of toilet facility during this period (+18,9 percentage points). However, the percentage of households that used a pit toilet without ventilation and households with no form of toilet facility declined during the same period, from 22,8% to 12,5% and from 13,6% to 1,6% respectively.

Figure 8.12: Percentage distribution of households by main type of toilet facility and province, Census 2022

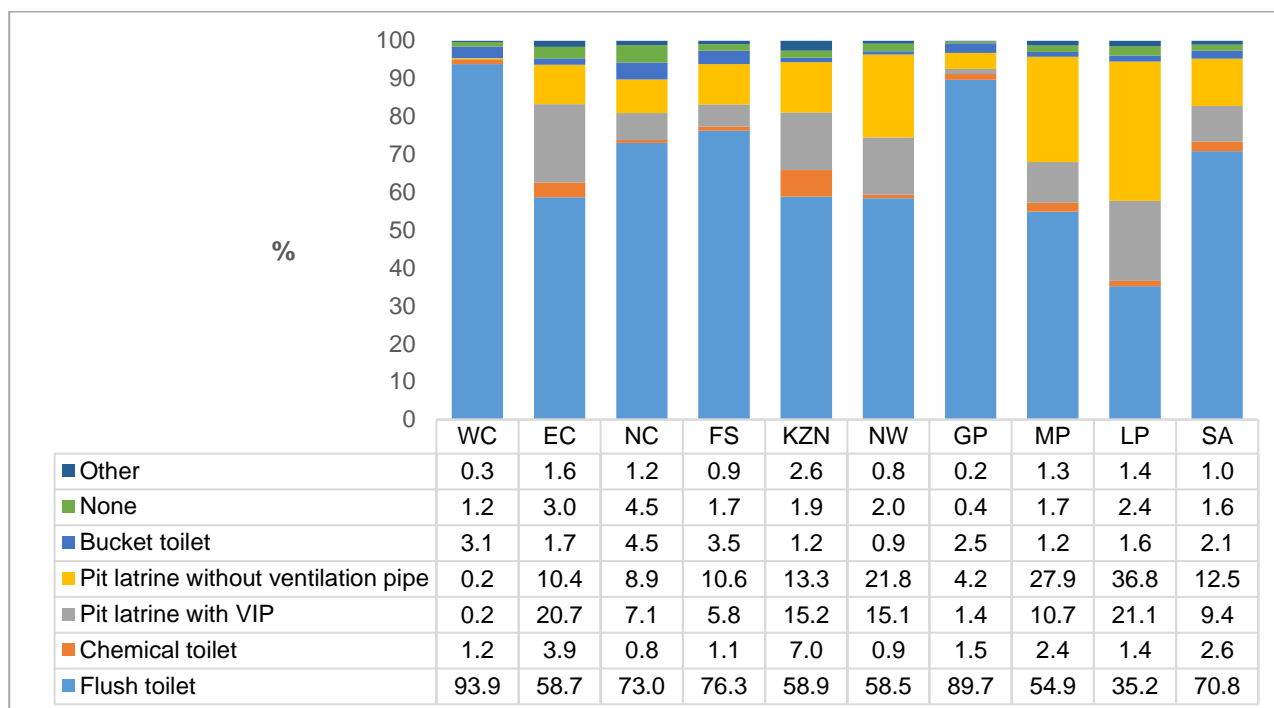|	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	SA
■ Other	0.3	1.6	1.2	0.9	2.6	0.8	0.2	1.3	1.4	1.0
■ None	1.2	3.0	4.5	1.7	1.9	2.0	0.4	1.7	2.4	1.6
■ Bucket toilet	3.1	1.7	4.5	3.5	1.2	0.9	2.5	1.2	1.6	2.1
■ Pit latrine without ventilation pipe	0.2	10.4	8.9	10.6	13.3	21.8	4.2	27.9	36.8	12.5
■ Pit latrine with VIP	0.2	20.7	7.1	5.8	15.2	15.1	1.4	10.7	21.1	9.4
■ Chemical toilet	1.2	3.9	0.8	1.1	7.0	0.9	1.5	2.4	1.4	2.6
■ Flush toilet	93.9	58.7	73.0	76.3	58.9	58.5	89.7	54.9	35.2	70.8

Note

- *Flush toilet for 2001, 2011 and 2022 includes Flush toilet connected to a public sewerage system and Flush toilet connected to a septic tank/conservancy tank. Bucket toilet for 2022 includes*
- *Bucket toilet collected by municipality and Bucket toilet emptied by household.*
- *Other for 2022 includes Ecological toilet.*

Figure 8.12 shows the percentage distribution of households by type of toilet facility and province for households in 2022. Households that resided in more urban provinces such as Western Cape (93,9%) and Gauteng (89,7%) had access to flush toilets. Northern Cape still had 4,5% of households that used bucket toilets. The majority of the households in Limpopo, i.e. more than half (57,9%), used a pit latrine with/without ventilation pipe as their main type of toilet facility. Although 58,9% of the households in KwaZulu-Natal used flush toilets, 28,5% used pit latrines with/without ventilation pipe and 7% used chemical toilets. Some households in the Northern Cape and Eastern Cape reported no type of toilet facility, at 4,5% and 3% respectively.

8.4.2   Energy/fuel used for lighting and cooking.

Figure 8.13: Percentage distribution of households by main source of energy used for lighting, Census 1996–2022
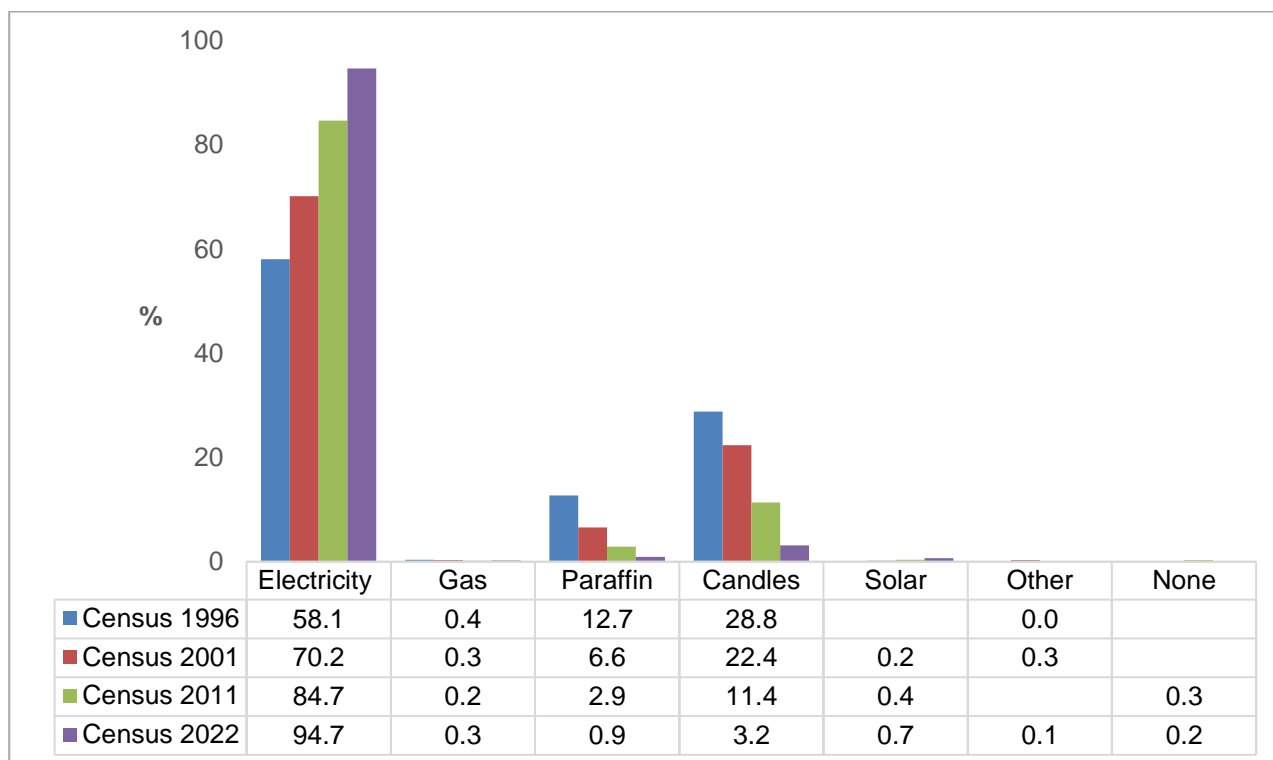
	Electricity	Gas	Paraffin	Candles	Solar	Other	None
■ Census 1996	58.1	0.4	12.7	28.8		0.0	
■ Census 2001	70.2	0.3	6.6	22.4	0.2	0.3	
■ Census 2011	84.7	0.2	2.9	11.4	0.4		0.3
■ Census 2022	94.7	0.3	0.9	3.2	0.7	0.1	0.2

Note:

- *Electricity for 1996 includes Electricity direct from municipality/local authority/Eskom and Electricity from other source (e.g. generator, solar cell).*

- *Electricity for 2022 includes Electricity from mains and Other source of electricity (e.g. generator).*

The proportion of households using electricity as the main source of energy for lighting increased significantly from 58,1% in 1996 to 94,7% in 2022; conversely, the use of paraffin and candles as the main source of energy for lighting decreased. In 1996, 28,8% of households utilised candles for lighting compared to the 3,2% in 2022. The use of paraffin declined, with only 0,9% of households using it for lighting compared to the 12,7% in 1996.

Figure 8.14: Percentage distribution of households using electricity as the main source of energy used for lighting by province, Census 2011 and 2022

	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	SA
Census 2011	93.4	75.0	85.4	89.9	77.9	84.0	87.4	86.4	87.3	84.7
Census 2022	96.5	94.5	92.5	94.6	96.7	93.9	93.2	93.7	95.5	94.7

Note: Electricity for 2022 includes Electricity from mains and Other source of electricity (e.g. generator).

Electricity was the main source of energy for lighting across all provinces. Figure 8.14 shows that the use of electricity was highest in Western Cape (96,5%) and KwaZulu-Natal (96,7%) and lowest in Northern Cape (92,5%) and Gauteng (93,2%). The use of electricity as the main source of energy for lighting increased across all provinces between 2011 and 2022. Nationally, the use of electricity increased by ten percentage points (from 84,7% in 2011 to 94,7% in 2022).

Figure 8.15: Percentage distribution of households by main source of energy used for cooking, Census 1996–2022

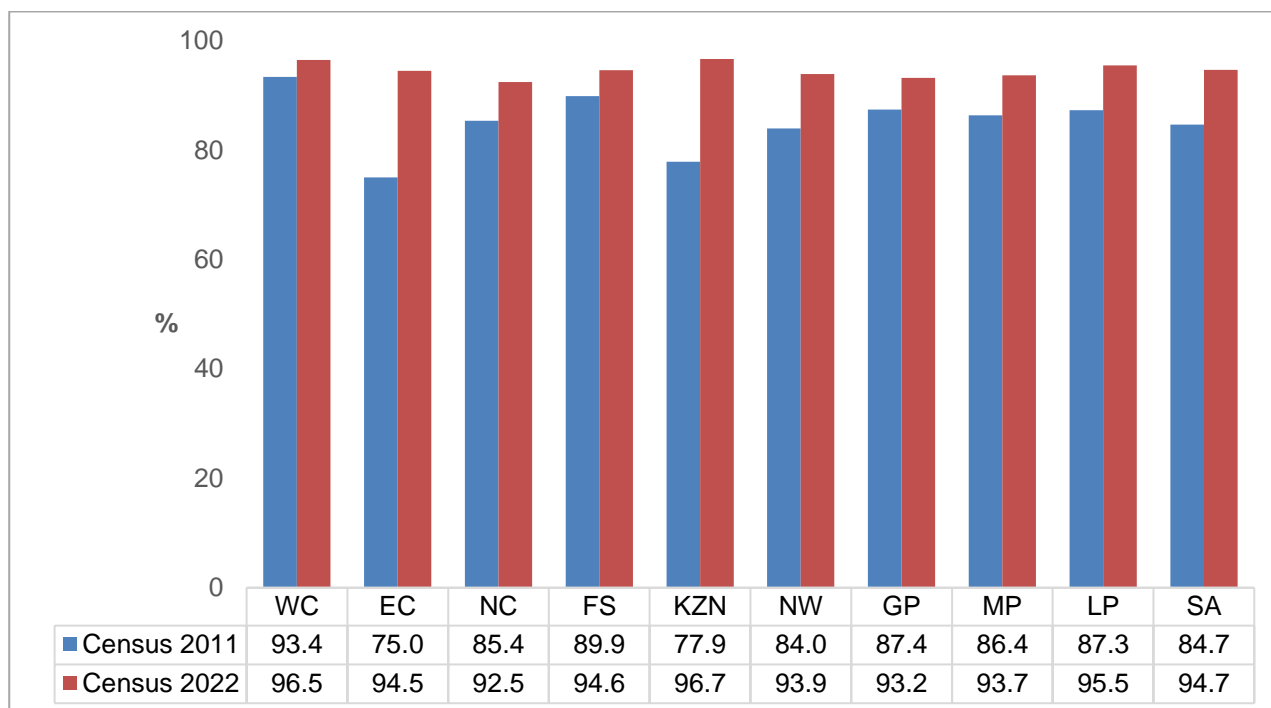|	Electricity	Gas	Paraffin	Wood	Coal	Animal dung	Solar	Other	None
Census 1996	47.4	3.2	21.6	23.0	3.6	1.2		0.0	
Census 2001	51.4	2.5	21.4	20.5	2.8	1.0	0.2	0.2	
Census 2011	73.9	3.5	8.5	12.5	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Census 2022	64.9	25.7	2.7	6.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2

Note:

- *Electricity for 1996 includes Electricity direct from municipality/local authority/Eskom and Electricity from other source (e.g. generator, solar cell)*

- *Electricity for 2022 includes Electricity from mains and Other source of electricity (e.g. generator).*

The main sources of energy used for cooking from Census 1996 to 2022 are presented in Figure 8.15. The percentage of households using electricity for cooking increased from 47,4% in 1996 to 64,9% in 2022. The use of wood, coal, paraffin and animal dung for cooking decreased, with a significant decrease in the use of paraffin from 21,6% in 1996 to 2,7% in 2022. A much smaller proportion of households used wood for cooking in 2022 (6,1%) compared to 23% in 1996. The use of gas for cooking increased sharply between the last two censuses, with just over one-quarter (25,7%) of the country using gas for cooking compared to the 3,5% in 2011. The upward trend in households using gas is noticeable. The magnitude of the percentage increase may be attributed to load shedding challenges the country has been facing during the intercensal census period 2011–2022.
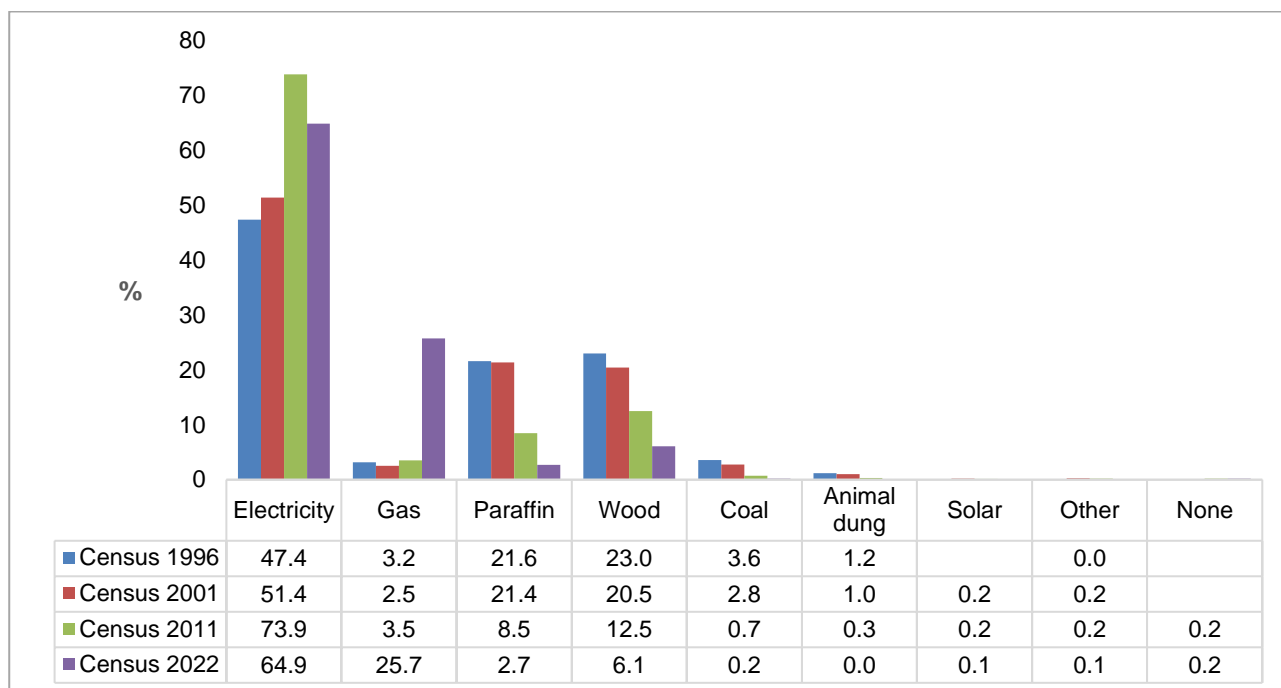
Figure 8.16: Percentage distribution of households using electricity as the main source of energy used for cooking by province, Census 2011 and 2022
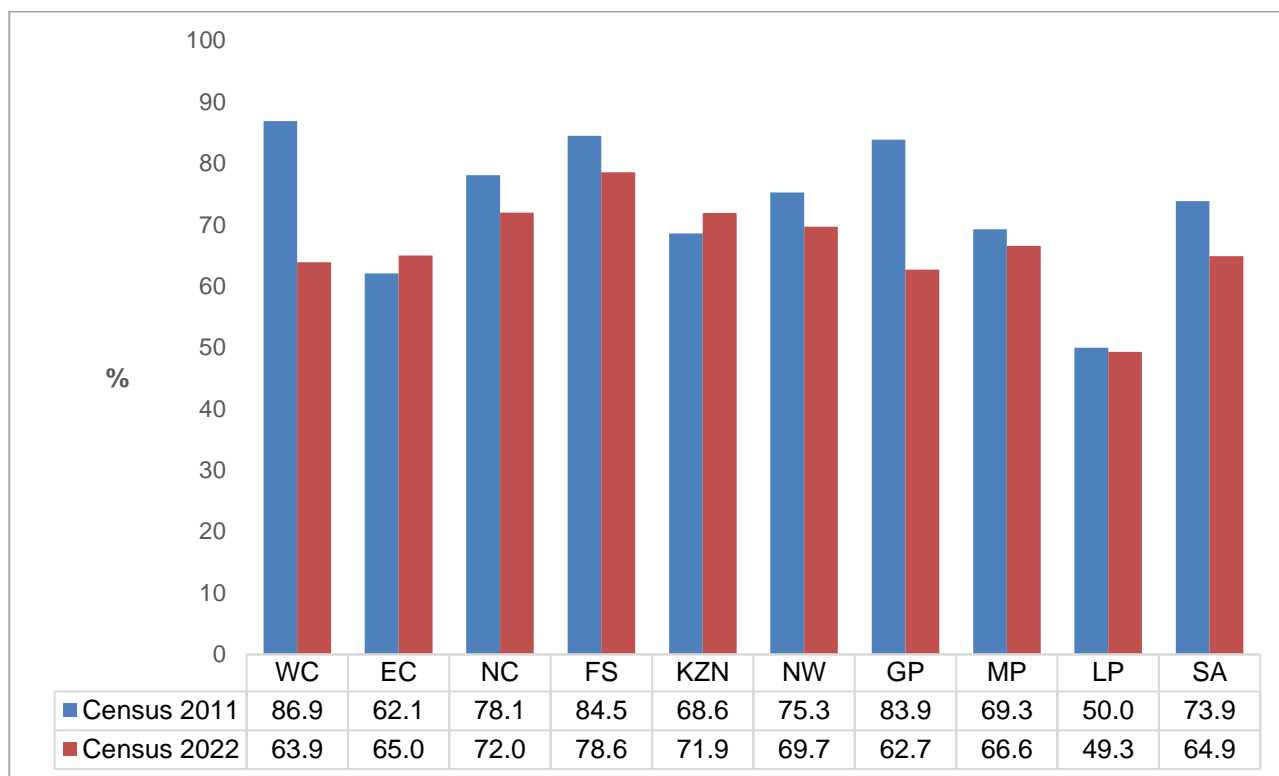
	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	SA
■ Census 2011	86.9	62.1	78.1	84.5	68.6	75.3	83.9	69.3	50.0	73.9
■ Census 2022	63.9	65.0	72.0	78.6	71.9	69.7	62.7	66.6	49.3	64.9

Note: Electricity for 2022 includes Electricity from mains and Other source of electricity (e.g. generator).

Provincial variations in the use of electricity as the main source of energy for cooking can be seen in Figure 8.16. Whilst almost three-fifths (78,6%) of households in the Free State utilised electricity for cooking, less than half in Limpopo did (49,3%). The use of electricity for cooking decreased in most provinces between 2011 and 2022, with the exception of Eastern Cape (increased from 62,1% in 2011 to 65% in 2022) and KwaZulu-Natal (from 68,6% to 71,9%).

Figure 8.17: Percentage distribution of households by type of refuse disposal mainly utilised, Census 1996–2022

	Removed by local authority at least once a week	Removed by local authority less often	Communal refuse dump	Communal container/central collection point	Own refuse dump	Dump or leave rubbish anywhere	Other
Census 1996	52.1	2.2	3.2		32.6	9.7	0.2
Census 2001	55.4	1.8	1.8		32.5	8.5	
Census 2011	62.1	1.5	1.9		28.2	5.4	0.9
Census 2022	66.3	1.3	1.6	3.3	22.3	4.5	0.7
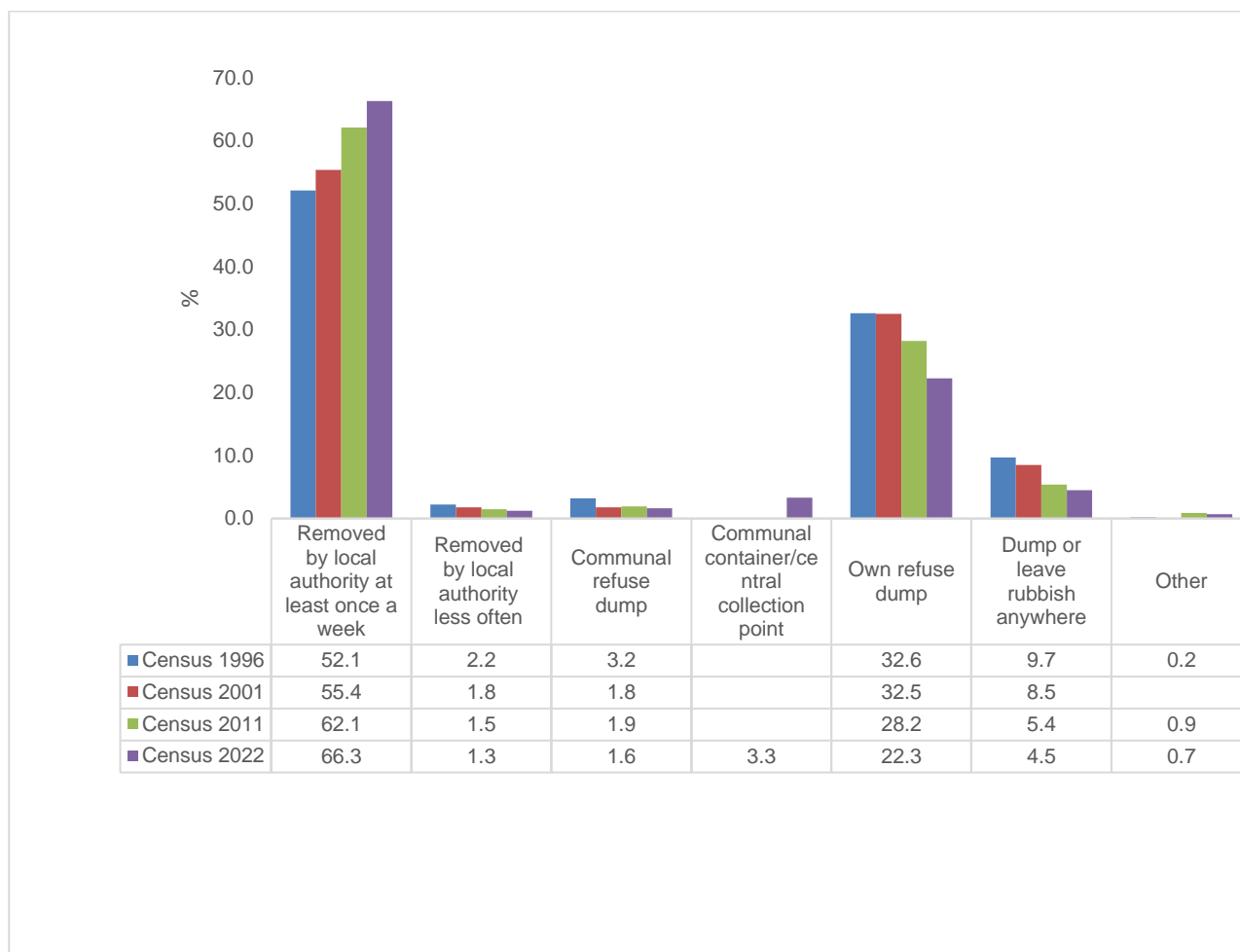
Note: Communal container/central collection point includes "Communal container/central collection point" and "Removed regularly by municipality/local authority/private company (communal container/central collection point)".

The results on refuse removal services over the period 1996–2022 are presented in Figure 8.17. It is noted that the country recorded an upward trend in refuse removed by a local authority regularly, an increase from 52% in 1996 to 66% in 2022. Approximately two-thirds (66,3%) of households in the country had their refuse removed by a local authority once a week whilst one in four households used their own refuse dump (22,3%). The percentage of households with no refuse removal or using their own refuse dump both decreased over the same period. In 1996, 32,6% of households used their own refuse dump and 9,7% did not have any refuse removal. In 2022, households using their own refuse dump decreased to 22,3% and those with no refuse removal halved to 4,5%.

Figure 8.18: Distribution of households whose refuse is removed by local authority/private company/community members at least once a week by province, Census 2022
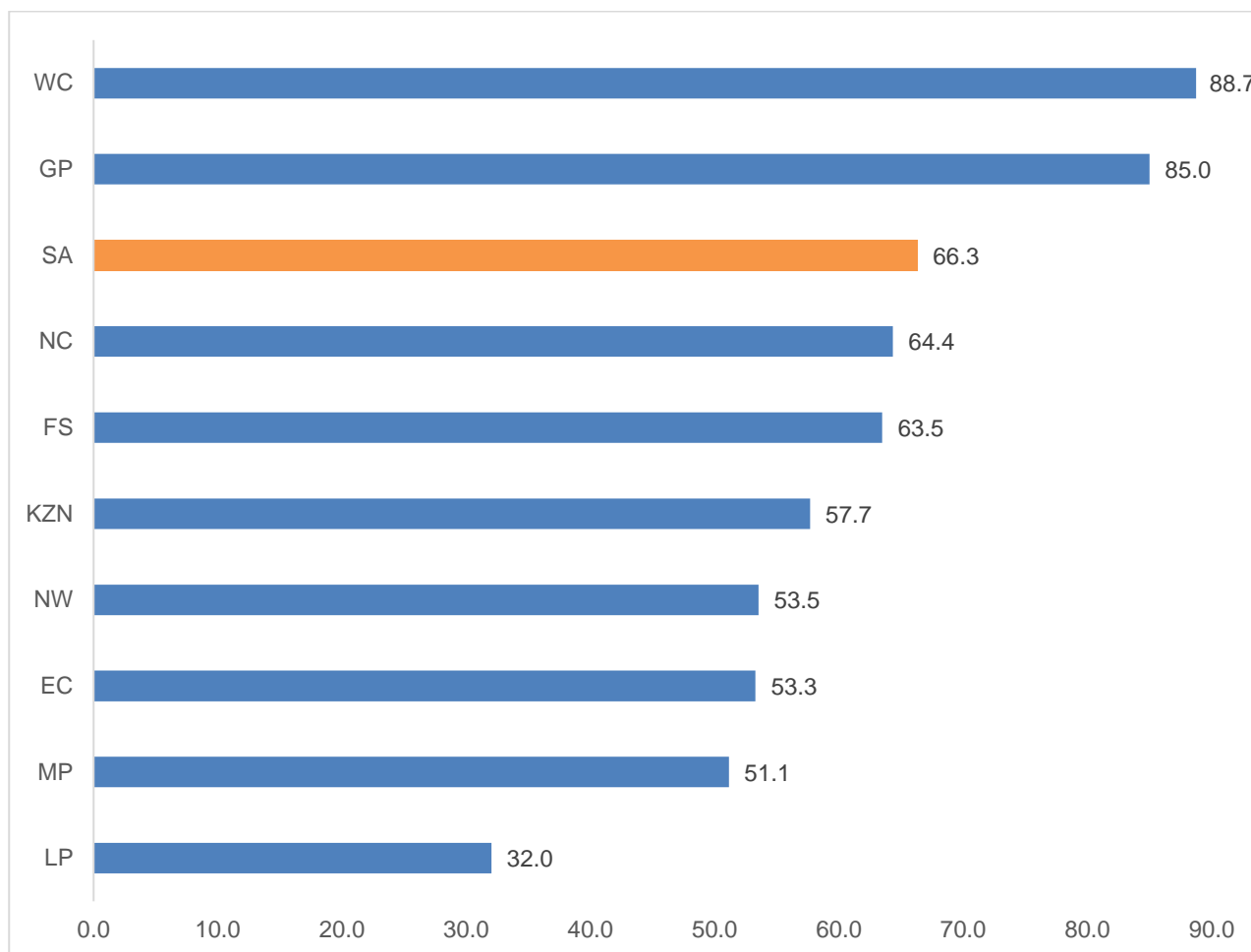
Provincial variations in access to refuse removal services are presented in Figure 8.18. It is noted that wide gaps exist between the nine provinces. Whilst provinces that are predominantly urban recorded regular refuse removal service, those that are largely rural were using alternative methods to dispose of household refuse. Households in the Western Cape (88,7%) and Gauteng (85,0%) were more likely to have their refuse removed regularly (at least once a week) compared to households in Limpopo (32,0%).

8.4.3   Household goods/assets

Figure 8.19: Percentage distribution of households by ownership of household goods, Census 2001–2022

	Refrigerator /freezer	Television	Radio	Landline /telephone	Cellphone
Census 2001	53.8	52.6	73.0	24.4	32.3
Census 2011	68.4	74.5	67.5	14.4	88.9
Census 2022	83.2	79.0	50.3	5.8	92.1
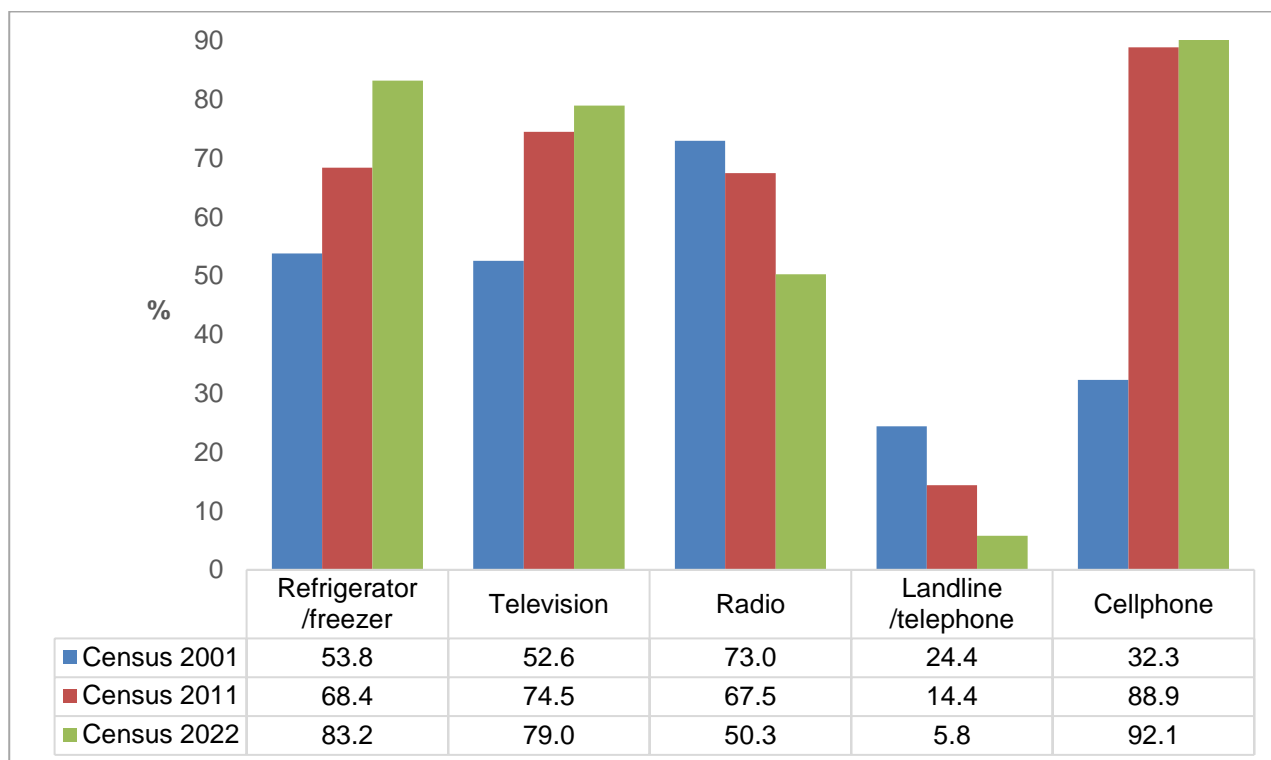
Note:

- Percentages for 2022 exclude 'unspecified' cases for refrigerator/freezer, landline, cellphone, television and radio from totals.

- All assets reported in working order.

The results presented in Figure 8.19 showed an upward trend in ownership of refrigerators, televisions and cellphones. The overwhelming majority (92,1%) of households in the country owned a cellphone in working order, a notable increase from the 32,3% in 2001. Just under four-fifths (79%) of households owned televisions compared to the 52,6% in 2001. The ownership of a refrigerator/freezer increased from 53,8% in 2001 to 83,2% in 2022. In contrast, households owning a radio decreased significantly from 73% in 2001 to 50,3% in 2022. In addition, there is a downward trend in households that owned a landline telephone over the period 2001–2022.

Figure 8.20: Percentage distribution of households by ownership of household goods, Census 2022
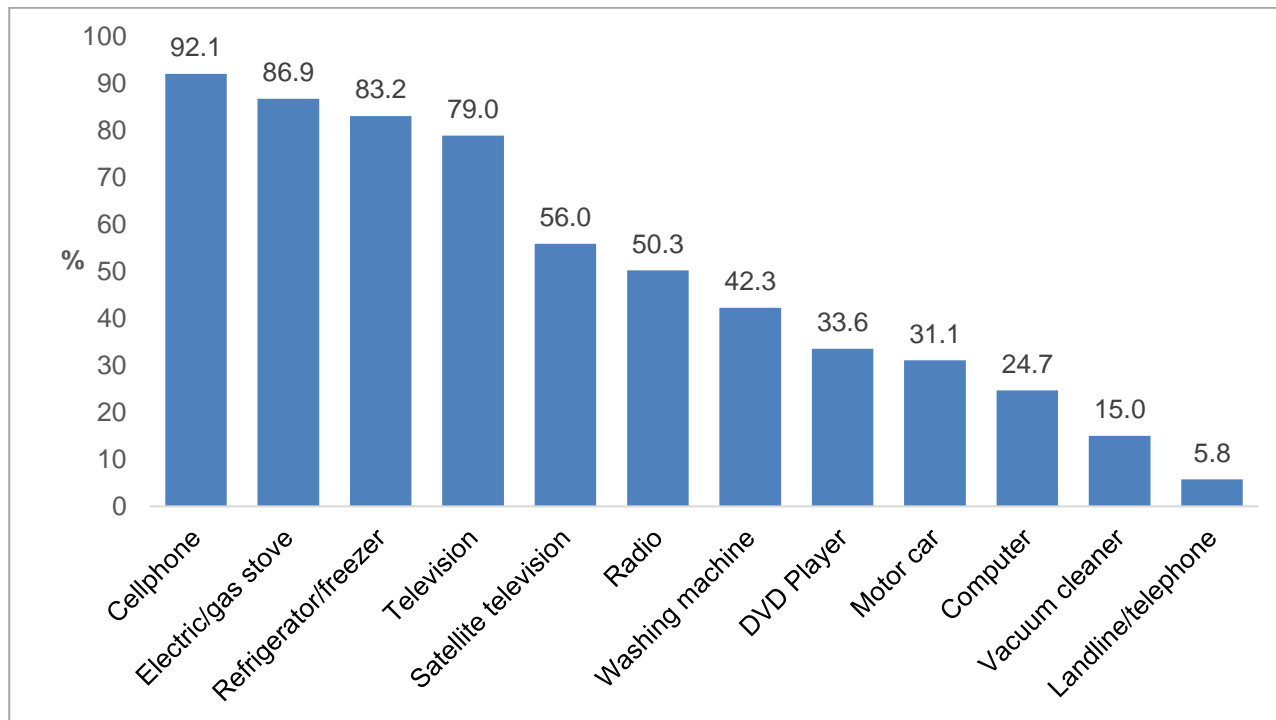
Note: Percentages for 2022 exclude 'Unspecified' for household goods from totals.

The results presented in Figure 8.20 showed that ownership of cellphones at household level is universal. Conversely, a landline telephone has become the least owned good. Ownership of electric/gas stoves (86,9%), refrigerators/freezers (83,2%) and televisions (79%) were more common than the ownership of landlines (5,8%), vacuum cleaners (15%) and computers (24,7%).

Figure 8.21: Percentage distribution of households by ownership of selected household goods and province, Census 2022

	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	SA
■ Computer	39.8	13.3	18.2	21.7	19.3	16.6	32.8	20.9	17.6	24.7
■ Television	83.8	72.2	30.2	81.0	77.6	76.9	81.1	79.9	77.7	79.0
■ Cellphone	92.1	87.9	85.4	91.1	92.3	90.8	93.9	93.3	93.1	92.1
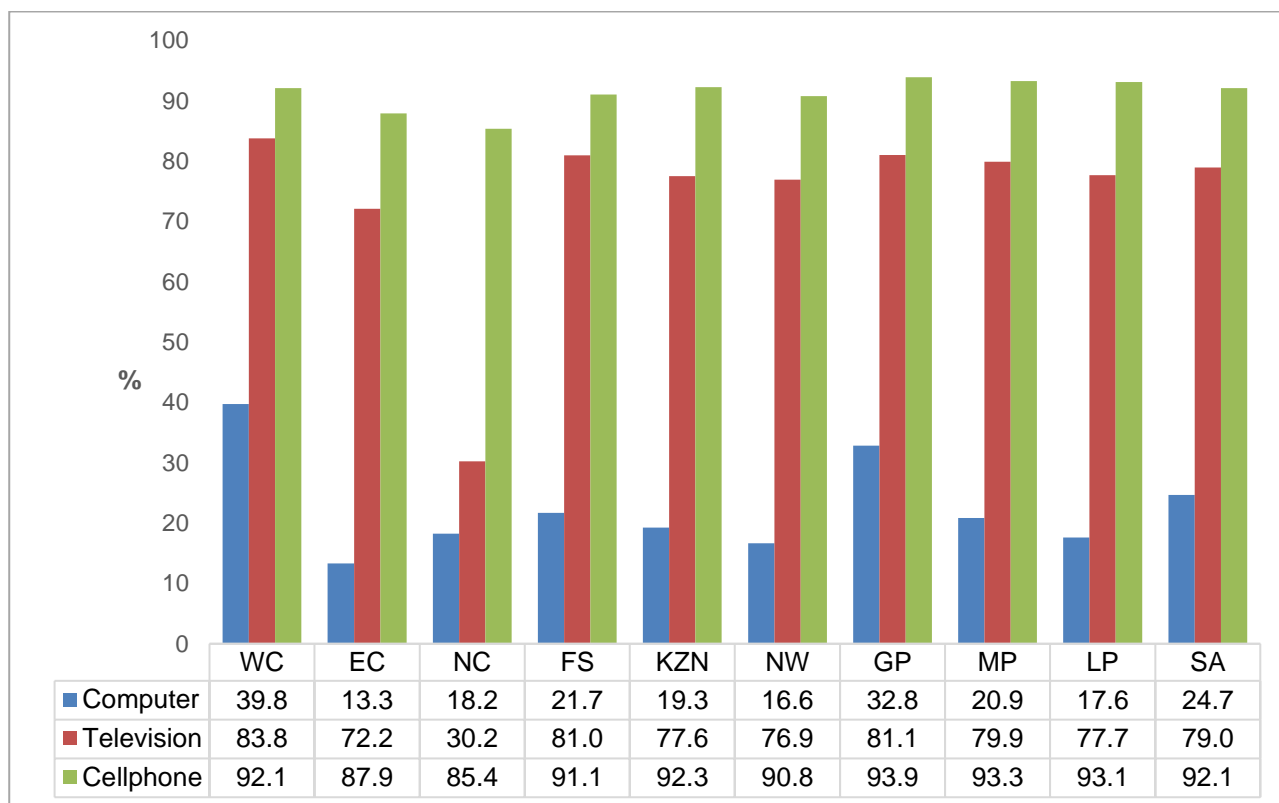
Note: Percentages for 2022 exclude 'Unspecified' for computer, television and cellphone from totals.

Results on ownership of a computer, television and cellphone across provinces are presented in Figure 8.21. It is noted that households in the Western Cape (39,8%) are three times more likely to own a computer compared to households in the Eastern Cape (13,3%). Similarly, over four-fifths of households in the Western Cape (83,8%), Gauteng (81,1%) and the Free State (81%) owned a television compared to 30,2% in the Northern Cape. The ownership of cellphones was universal in most provinces, with the exception of Eastern Cape (87,9%) and Northern Cape (85,4%).

8.4.4 Access to internet

Figure 8.22: Percentage distribution of households by main access to internet, Census 2011 and 2022

	Home with an internet connection in the dwelling	Use cellphone or any other mobile device	From place of work	From elsewhere	No access to internet services
■ Census 2011	8.6	16.3	4.7	5.6	64.8
■ Census 2022	13.3	60.5	0.3	4.7	21.1
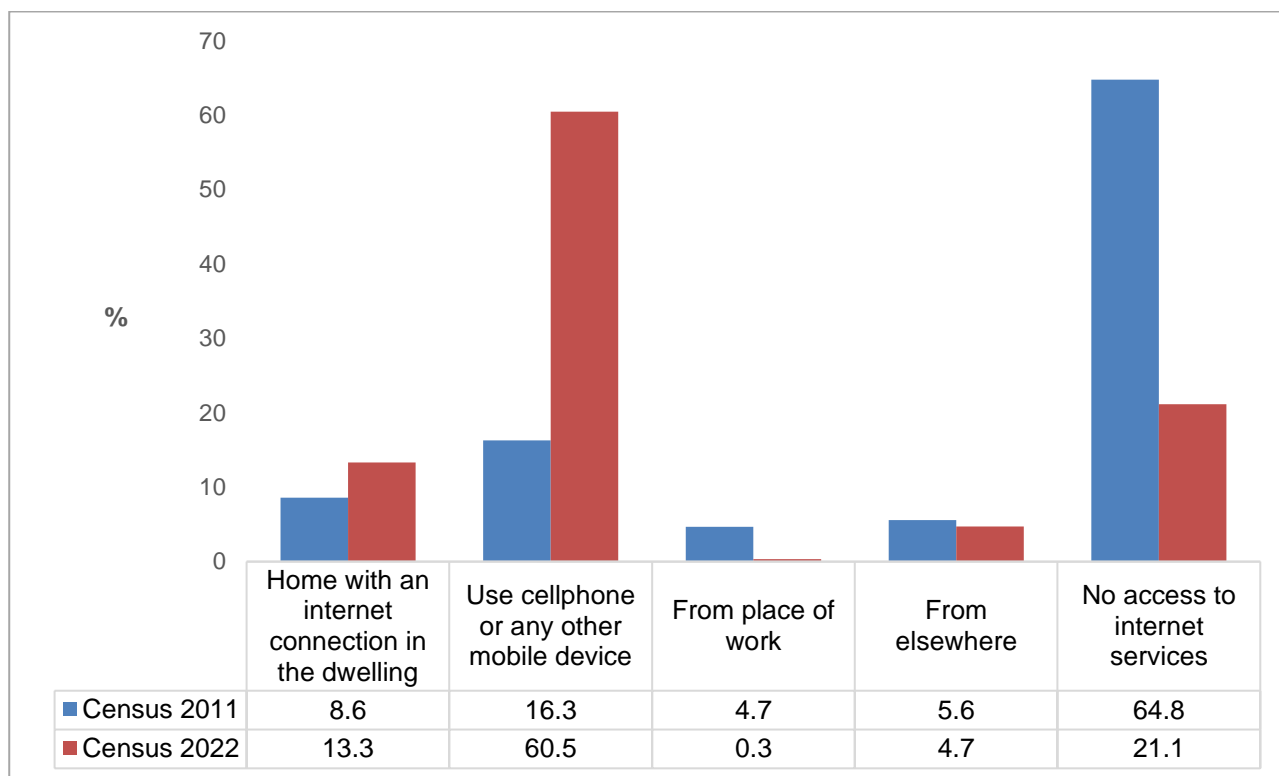
Generally, there has been upward trend in access to internet services over the period 2011–2022. This is attributed to rapid advancement in communication services, such as cellphone ownership. Overall, households with no access to internet decreased threefold (from 64,8% in 2011 to 21,1% in 2022). A substantial percentage of households reported accessing internet mainly through a cellphone or other mobile device (60,5%) compared to 16,3% recorded in 2011. There was an increase in the percentage of households accessing internet mainly at home, from 8,6% in 2011 to 13,3% in 2022. It is also noted that households accessing internet mainly using other methods decreased significantly. Households accessing internet mainly at work decreased by four percentage points (from 4,7% in 2011 to 0,3% in 2022).

Figure 8.23: Percentage distribution of households with no access to internet by province, Census 2011 and 2022

	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	SA
2011	56.3	75.9	74.1	68.8	66.4	73.7	53.6	68.6	75.7	64.8
2022	16.1	34.3	28.8	20.8	18.0	27.6	13.6	22.0	31.9	21.1
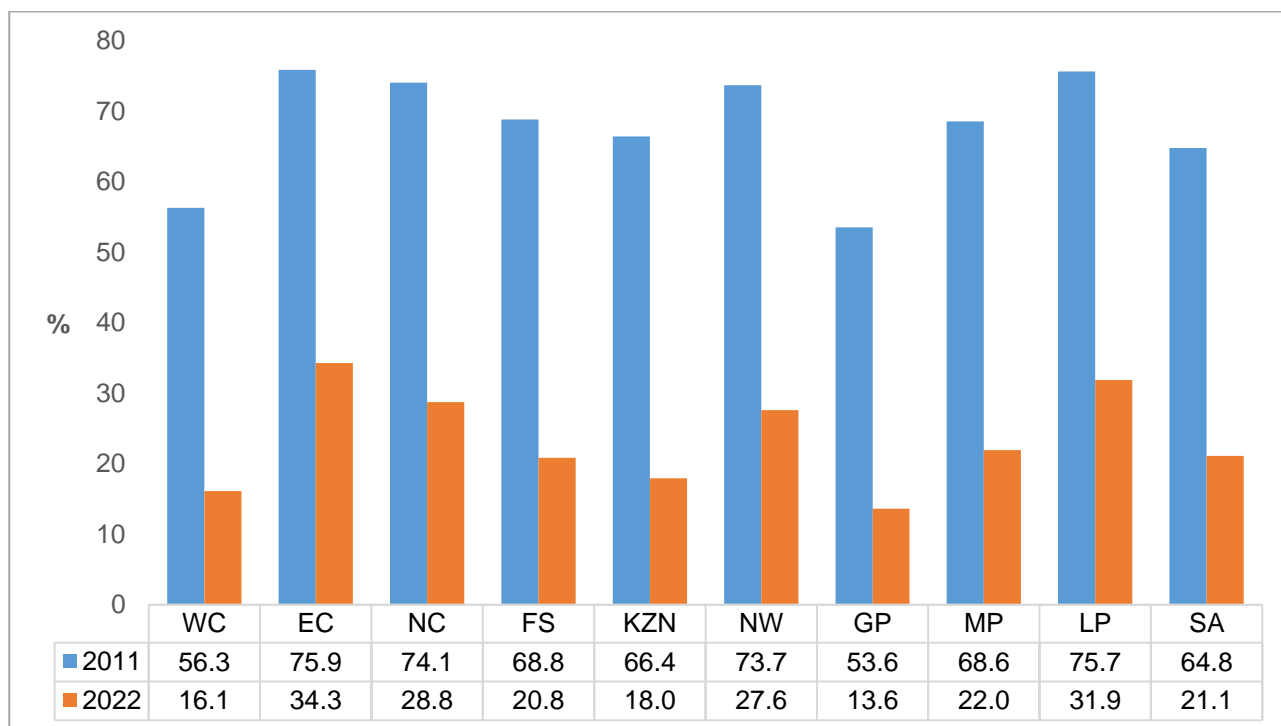
Figure 8.23 showed provincial variations in households with no access to internet. About one-third (34,3%) of households in the Eastern Cape and 31,9% in Limpopo reported to have no access to the internet in 2022 compared to Gauteng, where only 13,6% had no internet access. Households that did not have access to the internet decreased significantly between 2011 and 2022 in all provinces, with only 21,1% of households reporting that they had no access to the internet compared to 64,8% in 2011.

9.   AGRICULTURAL HOUSEHOLDS

9.1   Background

This section profiles Census 2022 results on households' involvement in agriculture and provides useful insights on agricultural activity at household level. The statistics will equip policy makers to optimise agriculture as a driver of food security, job creation and rural development, as envisaged in the National Development Plan. The information collected on households' involvement in agriculture also to identify all households involved in agriculture in the country in order to develop a frame for smallholder and subsistence agriculture. The Census 2022 main questionnaire was used as a tool to identify households involved in agricultural activity. The questions were structured as follows:

- Main agricultural activity;
- Quantity of livestock/poultry the household owned as on census night;
- Main purpose of involvement in agricultural activities; and
- Place and size of agricultural activities.

9.2   Number of agricultural households

Census 2022 shows that 13,8% (2 463 429) of all households are agricultural households compared to 19,9% in 2011 (2 879 590). The major provinces contributing to the decrease are KwaZulu-Natal (-167 726 agricultural households), Eastern Cape (-114 846 agricultural households) and Free State (-65 522 agricultural households).

Most of the agricultural households were in KwaZulu-Natal (24,9%), Eastern Cape (20,7%) and Limpopo (16,3%) in 2011. In 2022, KwaZulu-Natal (22,3%) still reported the highest percentage of agricultural households. However, Limpopo (21,1%) overtook Eastern Cape (19,6%). Northern Cape and Western Cape reported the lowest percentage of agricultural households in both 2011 and 2022.

Table 9.1: Number of agricultural households by province, Census 2011 and 2022

	Agricultural households				Non-agricultural households			
	2011		2022		2011		2022	
Province	**Number**	**%**	**Number**	**%**	**Number**	**%**	**Number**	**%**
Western Cape	84 567	2,9	54 644	2,2	1 549 357	13,4	2 209 388	14,4
Eastern Cape	596 570	20,7	481 724	19,6	1 090 774	9,4	1 357 236	8,8
Northern Cape	55 151	1,9	33 650	1,4	246 249	2,1	299 904	2,0
Free State	201 284	7,0	135 762	5,5	622 001	5,4	709 488	4,6
KwaZulu-Natal	716 994	24,9	549 268	22,3	1 822 343	15,8	2 304 472	15,0
North West	214 045	7,4	167 578	6,8	847 953	7,3	973 714	6,3
Gauteng	279 095	9,7	264 554	10,7	3 629 731	31,4	5 054 111	32,9
Mpumalanga	263 389	9,1	256 117	10,4	812 076	7,0	1 165 604	7,6
Limpopo	468 494	16,3	520 133	21,1	949 591	8,2	1 291 432	8,4
South Africa	**2 879 590**	**100,0**	**2 463 429**	**100,0**	**11 570 074**	**100,0**	**15 365 349**	**100,0**

The trends in percentage contribution by various population groups to total agricultural households remained largely the same in the two years. Black African households (91,4% in 2011 and 90,8% in 2022) constituted the largest percentage of agricultural households, followed by white households (5,2% in both 2011 and 2022) in both years.

Table 9.2: Number of agricultural households by population group, Census 2011 and 2022

	Agricultural households				Non-agricultural households			
	2011		2022		2011		2022	
Population group	**Number**	**%**	**Number**	**%**	**Number**	**%**	**Number**	**%**
Black African	2 625 793	91,4	2 234 045	90,8	8 734 527	76,0	11 329 339	74,0
Coloured	77 079	2,7	80 211	3,3	978 969	8,5	1 508 492	9,8
Indian/Asian	20 204	0,7	19 047	0,8	326 995	2,8	546 170	3,6
White	150 865	5,2	127 025	5,2	1 455 563	12,7	1 931 225	12,6
Total	**2 873 941**	**100,0**	**2 460 328**	**100,0**	**11 496 054**	**100,0**	**15 315 227**	**100,0**

Note: Figures exclude 'other' population group.

Livestock and poultry production was the leading agricultural activity, reported in 959 365 (38,9%) households, followed by fruit or vegetable production (661 613 or 26,9%) and grains, food crops and industrial crops (650 096 or 26,4%). Eastern Cape (247 902 or 25,8%) and KwaZulu-Natal (247 043 or 25,8%) reported the highest number of households involved in livestock and poultry production. The leading provinces in the production of grains, food crops and industrial crops were Limpopo (250 463 or 38,5%) and KwaZulu-Natal (126 727 or 19,5%).

Table 9.3: Number of agricultural households by type of activity and province, Census 2022

Province	Livestock and poultry production	Grains, food crops and industrial crops	Fruit or vegetable production	Growing of crops combined with farming of animals	Other
Western Cape	15 313	5 194	30 137	2 093	1 907
Eastern Cape	247 902	89 962	72 569	70 417	873
Northern Cape	24 607	1 877	6 250	689	227
Free State	37 939	20 942	72 803	3 699	380
KwaZulu-Natal	247 043	126 727	117 789	55 514	2 195
North West	106 649	17 325	38 613	4 575	416
Gauteng	27 207	51 187	180 233	3 464	2 463
Mpumalanga	87 732	86 419	66 296	14 734	936
Limpopo	164 976	250 463	76 924	26 483	1 287
South Africa	**959 368**	**650 096**	**661 613**	**181 668**	**10 685**

Table 9.4 shows that black African households were the leading population group in all agricultural activities in 2022.

Table 9.4: Number of agricultural households by type of activity and population group, Census 2022

Population group	Livestock and poultry production	Grains, food crops and industrial crops	Fruit or vegetable production	Growing of crops combined with farming of animals
Black African	875 618	615 674	566 650	170 972
Coloured	30 824	13 112	31 928	3 141
Indian/Asian	3 629	4 025	10 409	456
White	48 529	16 595	51 150	6 988
Total	**958 601**	**649 406**	**660 137**	**181 557**

Note: Figures exclude 'other' population group.

The main place used for household agricultural activity in 2022 was backyard (2 196 736 or 89,2%), followed by farm land (131 105 or 5,3%) as shown in Table 9.5 below. 'Other', which includes schools and other public spaces, was reported by 51 007 households, and constituted the least reported place of agricultural activity.

Table 9.5: Number of agricultural households by place of agricultural activity and province, Census 2022

Province	Backyard	Farm land	Communal land	Other	Total
Western Cape	34 880	14 579	1 528	3 637	**54 624**
Eastern Cape	422 542	20 603	26 328	12 085	**481 558**
Northern Cape	25 657	4 910	2 296	770	**33 633**
Free State	119 389	10 070	4 228	2 061	**135 748**
KwaZulu-Natal	493 402	21 195	21 181	13 370	**549 148**
North West	145 700	11 984	5 610	4 239	**167 533**
Gauteng	238 999	16 364	4 432	4 686	**264 481**
Mpumalanga	235 486	11 498	5 502	3 593	**256 079**
Limpopo	480 680	19 902	12 907	6 567	**520 056**
South Africa	**2 196 736**	**131 105**	**84 013**	**51 007**	**2 462 861**

Note: Figures exclude 'unspecified' place of agricultural activity.

The distribution of households according to population group and place of agricultural activity displayed similar patterns to those displayed in the distribution of agricultural activity by population group in Table 9.6. Black Africans dominated all types of places of agricultural activities.

Table 9.6: Number of agricultural households by place of agricultural activity and population group, Census 2022

Population group	Backyard	Farm land	Communal land	Other	Total
Black African	2 043 627	72 079	76 114	41 739	**2 233 559**
Coloured	68 372	6 324	3 019	2 464	**80 179**
Indian or Asian	16 162	1 655	524	701	**19 043**
White	66 241	50 534	4 252	5 953	**126 979**
Total	**2 194 402**	**130 592**	**83 910**	**50 857**	**2 459 761**

Note: Figures exclude 'other' population group and 'unspecified' place of agricultural activity.

Most of the households were involved in agriculture to produce 'only for own consumption' (1 988 825 or 80,7%) and 'mainly for own consumption with some sale' (189 371 or 7,7%). Approximately 4,3% or 107 112 of agricultural households were producing 'only for sale'.

Table 9.7: Number of agricultural households by main purpose of involvement in agricultural activities and province, Census 2022

Province	Producing only for sale	Producing mainly for sale with some own consumption	Producing mainly for own consumption with some sales	Producing only for own consumption	Total
Western Cape	11 972	7 432	3 884	31 352	**54 640**
Eastern Cape	17 067	37 574	49 785	377 247	**481 673**
Northern Cape	2 886	5 101	4 131	21 521	**33 639**
Free State	7 817	10 509	8 387	109 035	**135 748**
KwaZulu-Natal	17 171	32 485	45 053	454 524	**549 233**
North West	8 725	16 687	16 742	125 412	**167 566**
Gauteng	11 391	19 278	13 641	220 210	**264 520**
Mpumalanga	9 637	16 015	15 552	214 901	**256 105**
Limpopo	20 446	32 828	32 196	434 623	**520 093**
South Africa	**107 112**	**177 907**	**189 371**	**1 988 825**	**2 463 215**

Most black African agricultural households were involved to produce 'only for own consumption' (1 854 308 or 83,0%) compared with 55 787 or 43,9% of white agricultural households.

Table 9.8: Number of agricultural households by main purpose of involvement in agricultural activities and population group, Census 2022

Population group	Producing only for sale	Producing mainly for sale with some own consumption	Producing mainly for own consumption with some sales	Producing only for own consumption	Total
Black African	64 231	143 974	171 354	1 854 308	**2 233 867**
Coloured	4 839	7 286	6 082	61 990	**80 197**
Indian or Asian	1 452	1 620	1 370	14 606	**19 047**
White	36 230	24 651	10 335	55 787	**127 002**
Total	**106 753**	**177 530**	**189 141**	**1 986 691**	**2 460 114**

Note: Figures exclude 'other' population group and 'unspecified' main purpose of involvement in agricultural activities.

With the exception of chickens, Eastern Cape reported the highest numbers in all types of livestock ownership. Nationally, chickens (38,2 million) were the most numerous type of livestock kept at household level, followed by sheep (17,7 million) and cattle (12,3 million).

Table 9.9: Number of livestock by type and province, Census 2022

Province	Cattle	Sheep	Goats	Pigs	Chickens
Western Cape	672 257	2 311 221	213 404	203 457	2 988 688
Eastern Cape	3 913 602	10 237 266	2 415 292	484 368	6 401 159
Northern Cape	241 906	1 222 727	287 359	31 924	488 011
Free State	1 011 757	1 440 964	348 912	179 827	1 888 054
KwaZulu-Natal	2 604 077	577 895	1 881 318	209 657	7 767 408
North West	1 141 010	550 344	451 707	141 949	5 591 672
Gauteng	483 591	291 271	171 027	296 701	5 211 709
Mpumalanga	1 105 270	436 112	308 045	182 726	3 142 860
Limpopo	1 158 976	592 758	862 580	262 530	4 752 754
South Africa	**12 332 446**	**17 660 558**	**6 939 644**	**1 993 139**	**38 232 314**

The black African and white population groups were the most dominant in livestock and chicken farming. The highest number of cattle (7,7 million) and sheep (12,5 million) were reported in white-headed households, whereas most chickens (19,0 million), goats (4,9 million) and pigs (1,1 million) were reported in black African households.

Table 9.10: Number of livestock by type and population group, Census 2022

Population group	Cattle	Sheep	Goats	Pigs	Chickens
Black African	4 361 129	4 482 096	4 897 656	1 052 055	18 950 901
Coloured	170 420	458 024	190 534	66 421	1 208 204
Indian or Asian	72 865	174 860	39 915	13 783	160 005
White	7 700 506	12 472 228	1 789 748	855 312	17 588 245
Total	**12 304 919**	**17 587 208**	**6 917 854**	**1 987 571**	**37 907 355**

Note: Figures exclude 'other' population group.

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CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

Concept	Definition
Acting head of household	Person recognised or nominated by the household as assuming the role of the household head in the absence of the usual household head
Acting head of household	Person recognised or nominated by the household as assuming the role of the household head in the absence of the usual household head
Adopted child	Child who is raised by another person/individual other than their biological parents
Adult basic education and training (ABET)	Adult-focused qualification that is registered at level 1 of the National Qualification Framework (NQF), known as the General Education and Training Certificate (GETC): ABET Level 4
Age in completed years	Person's age at their last birthday
Age-specific enrolment ratio	Proportion of the population in specific age group attending school to the total population in that age group
Attend (educational institution)	Enrolled at and going regularly to any accredited educational institution (public or private) for organised learning at any level of education
Basic education	Years of schooling from grade R to grade 12
Biological father	Father who brought the child into the world; this means they biologically created the child
Bucket sanitation system	Toilet system with a pail or other removable receptacle placed directly under the toilet seat, and where no water or chemical is used
Bucket toilet (collected by municipality)	Bucket provided by the municipality, and which is collected, usually once per week, by the municipality Context: Used buckets are replaced with clean buckets
Census day	Day of the population census date
Census night	Night before the census day
Child	Person below the age of 18 years
Cluster house	Freestanding property/house in a complex with a common boundary wall, but not sharing dwelling walls
Compulsory education	Number of years or the age-span during which children and youth are legally obliged to attend school
Converted hostel	Hostel where the accommodation has been converted into self-contained units for households
COVID	Acute respiratory illness in humans caused by a coronavirus, capable of producing severe symptoms and in some cases death, especially in older people and those with underlying health conditions
Crude enrolment ratio	Percentage of the total enrolment at all levels to the total population
Data editing	Activity aimed at detecting and correcting errors (logical inconsistencies) in data set Context: Editing techniques refers to a range of procedures and processes used for detecting and handling errors in data. Examples of different techniques include the different approaches to editing such as micro-editing/ macro-editing, input/output editing, or to the various tools available for editing such as graphical editing, interactive editing, etc.
De facto census	Census in which population units are enumerated according to where they were on census night
De facto household member	Household members including visitors that are present in the dwelling unit during the reference night
Denomination	Branch of religion or faith group

Concept	Definition
Diploma	Qualification that has National Qualification Framework (NQF) exit level 6 and with the total minimum credits of 240 for vocational diploma or 360 for professional diploma
Distance learning	Learning where interaction between the lecturer/supervisor and the student is not on the premises of the institution (DHET)
Drop-out rate	Percentage of learners who withdraw from an education and training programme before completion
Dwelling, house	Freestanding, complete structure on a separate stand or a self-contained dwelling unit, granny flat, outbuildings and garages, on the same premises as an existing residence
Education institution	Any registered institution providing education
Education level	Highest level of educational programme the person has successfully completed
Educational attainment/educational achievement	Highest grade completed at school or the highest post-school qualification obtained
Educator	Person who teaches, educates or trains other person or provides professional educational services
Enrolled learner	Person who is registered as a learner
Enrolment	Act of being registered at an educational institution for a specific learning programme
Enrolment ratio	Proportion of the population registered with an educational institution to the total population in that age group
Field of study	Area of specialisation or organising field in which a student intends to specialise in his/her programme of studies for a particular qualification (Adapted DHET: area of study)
Flat	Dwelling, usually on one floor, with at least one wall shared with another such dwelling, within a block of flats Context: Synonym is apartment
Formal dwelling	Structure built according to an approved plan i.e. house, flat, apartment, townhouse, flat let, duplex, second dwelling, etc.
Formal education	Education that is institutionalised, intentional and planned through public organisations and recognised private bodies
Geo-point	Spatial point geometry that represents a structure on the ground using x y coordinates as reference
Grade	Part of an educational programme which a learner may complete in one school year, or any other education programme which the members of the Executive Council may deem equivalent thereto
Grade-specific enrolment ratio	Ratio of the enrolment in a specific grade to the total enrolment at all levels
Graduate	Student who has satisfied all requirements of the full qualification for which he/she was registered for DHET
Gross Enrolment Rate (GER)	Total enrolment in a specific level of education, regardless of age, expressed as percentage of the eligibly aged population corresponding to the same level of education in a given academic year
Head of household	Member of the household identified by the household as their head
Higher education	All learning programmes which must be registered in accordance with the provisions of the NQF Act 67 of 2008 (DHET)
Higher education institution	Institution that provides learning programmes on a full-time, part-time or distance basis, and which is established, deemed to be established or declared as a public higher education institution or registered or

Concept	Definition
	conditionally registered as a private higher education institution under the Higher Education Act, No.101 of 1997 (DHET)
Highest level of education	Highest grade completed at school or highest post-school qualification obtained
Home education	Programme of education that a parent of a learner may provide to his/her own child at their own home. Note: A parent may, if necessary, enlist the services of a tutor for specific areas of the curriculum; or a legal independent form of education, alternative to attendance at a public or an independent school
Home language	Language most often used by the individual at home, whether or not they consider it their mother tongue
Hostel	Collective form of accommodation for workers or students, but not including boarding school hostels
Household	Group of people who live together at least four nights a week, eat together and share resources, or a single person who lives alone
Household member	Person that resides with the household for an average of four nights a week for the past four weeks
Informal dwelling	Makeshift structure built but not approved by a local authority and not intended as a permanent dwelling
Informal learning	Forms of learning that are intentional and deliberate but are not institutionalised (DHET adapted)
Informal settlement	Areas that have not been planned, surveyed or proclaimed, which develop in absence of government planning processes
Intake rate (Basic education)	Proportion of children of children of admission age, who are admitted to school for the first time
Late starters rate (Grade 1)	Proportion of all admissions to Grade 1 that are over the official admission age
Learner	Any person receiving basic education
Learner-educator ratio	Average number of learners per educator at a specific level of education in a given school year
Learning area	Field of knowledge, skills and values which has unique features as well as connections with other fields of knowledge and learning areas. Source: DBE
Literacy	Ability to read and write with understanding in any language. Note: A person, who can with understanding, both read and write a short simple statement on his everyday life is considered literate
Literacy rate	Proportion of literate persons in a given age group to the total population in that age group
Literacy ratio	Proportion of the population above 15 years of age who can write and read with understanding, expressed as a percentage of the total population of the same age
Living together as a couple	Couples living together as though they are married who are not married
Map Reference Number (MRN)	Unique identifier of a geo-point within an EA
Median age	Age at which exactly half the population is older and half is younger
Multiple household	Two or more households living in the same dwelling unit
Natural gas	Consists mainly of methane occurring naturally in underground deposits Context: It may be associated with free gas
Non-contact	Situation where an enumerator fails to make contact with a household at an address, an individual in a collective living quarters
Non-formal education	Additional, alternative and/or a complement to formal education within the process of the lifelong learning of individuals

Concept	Definition
Part-time student	Student enrolled in an education programme whose study load is less than 75 per cent of the normal full-time study load
Piped water in dwelling or on site	Piped water inside the household's own dwelling or in their yard. It excludes water from a neighbour's tap or a public tap that is not on site.
Piped water in dwelling or on site	Piped water inside the households own dwelling or in their yard. It excludes water from a neighbours tap or a public tap that is not on site
Place of enumeration	Place where the person was on census night (in a de facto census), whether or not this is his/her usual place of residence
Population census	Total process of collecting, compiling, evaluating, analysing and publishing or otherwise disseminating demographic, economic and social data pertaining, at a specified time, to all persons in a country or in a well delimited part of a country
Population group	Classification of "people" by race
Post enumeration survey (PES)	Sample survey conducted immediately after the census to evaluate the census and to inform adjustments for undercount/overcount
Post-enumeration	Stage of the census after all questionnaires have been administered and collected
Promotion rate	Proportion of learners from a cohort enrolled in a given grade at a given school year who proceed to the next grade in the following year
Proxy	Person who answers questions on behalf of another person
Publicity	Type of public relations in the form of a news item or story which conveys information about a product, service, or idea in the media
Pupil-teacher ratio	Average number of pupil per teacher at a given level of education, based on the head counts of both pupil and teachers in a given school year
Qualification	Formal recognition of the achievement of the required number and range of credits and such other requirements at specific levels of the National Qualifications Framework as may be determined by the relevant bodies registered for such purpose by the South African Qualification Authority
Religion	Religious or spiritual belief or preference, or an affiliation with an organised group having specific religious or spiritual tenets
Remembering	Use of memory to recall incidents or events Context: It means the individual can bring to mind or think again about something that has taken place in the past (either the recent past or further back). With younger people, remembering is often associated with storing facts learned in school and being able to retrieve them when needed
Sanitation	Principles and practices relating to the collection, removal or disposal of human excreta, household waste water and refuse, as they impact upon people and the environment
Seeing	Individual using his/her eyes and visual capacity in order to perceive or observe what is happening around them
Segmentation	Division of congested EAs of informal areas into manageable working areas
Self-enumeration	Completion of survey questionnaires by the respondents themselves
Self-unpacking	Process whereby the respondent records all structures that are located within his/her yard/stand attached to a geo-point
Sex	Biological distinction between males and females
Sex ratio	Ratio of males to females in a given population, usually expressed as the number of males for every 100 females
Single	Marital status of a person, who is never married

Concept	Definition
Small Area layer (output area)	Combination of contiguous EAs within a sub-place having similar geography types and a combined dwelling unit count of 500 or more
Spouse	Currently married to an individual
Tenure status	Determines the terms under which the household occupies the dwelling that they are living in, i.e. the financial arrangements under which someone has the right to live in a dwelling Context: This refers to the main dwelling structure only and NOT to the land that it is situated on
Toilet	Installation for the disposal of human excreta
Undercount	Number of people or households that were not counted in the census
Widowed	Marital status of a person whose spouse has died and who has not married again
Youth	Person aged 15 – 34 years

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