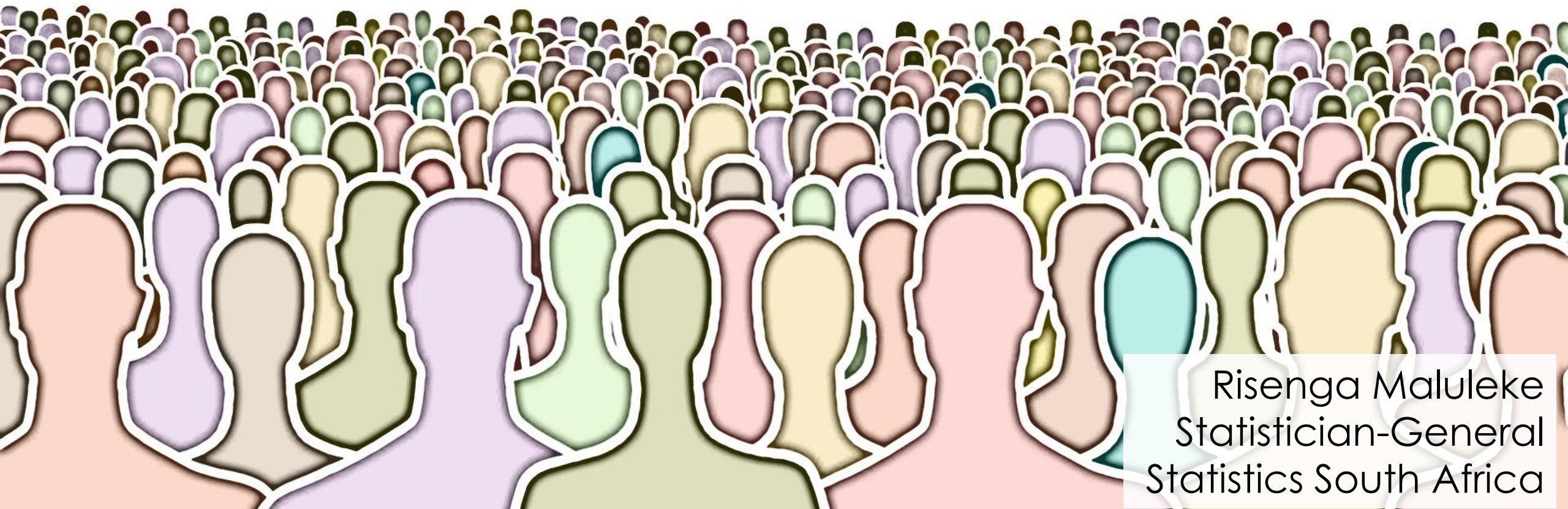


# Mid-year population estimates 2021



Risenga Maluleke  
Statistician-General  
Statistics South Africa

# COVID19 impact on the three major drivers of population movements

## COVID-19 IMPACT

The ultimate purpose of the mid-year population estimates is to provide population estimates for policy making & planning. However, this objective cannot be addressed without taking into account the COVID-19 pandemic that has greatly affected the nation over the past sixteen months.

### Fertility

The impact of COVID-19 on conception and subsequent fertility will only be reflected in the reported births of 2021.

### Mortality

There has been approximately 62 000 COVID-related deaths reported by NDOH (DATCOV), whilst the MRC weekly deaths have reported more than 180 000 excess deaths since March 2020.

### Migration

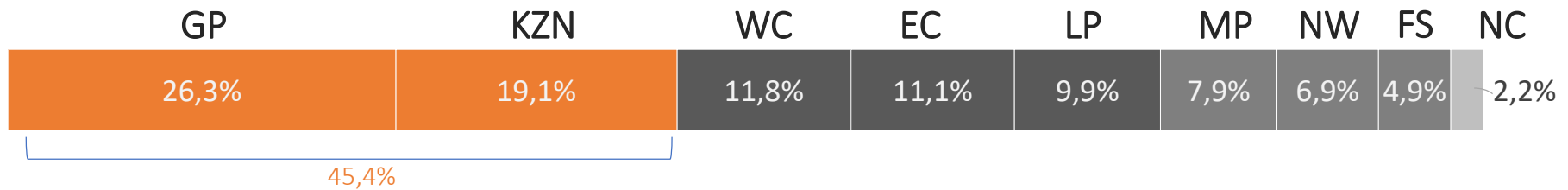
There is a marked reduction in international migration, which is indicative of the COVID-19 travel restrictions globally over the past 16 months. Internal mobility in this period has mostly been temporary whilst the MYPE requires a more permanent act of migration.

# The South African population in 2021 is estimated at

# 60,1 Million



up by **604 281 (1,01% change)**  
from 2020 estimates

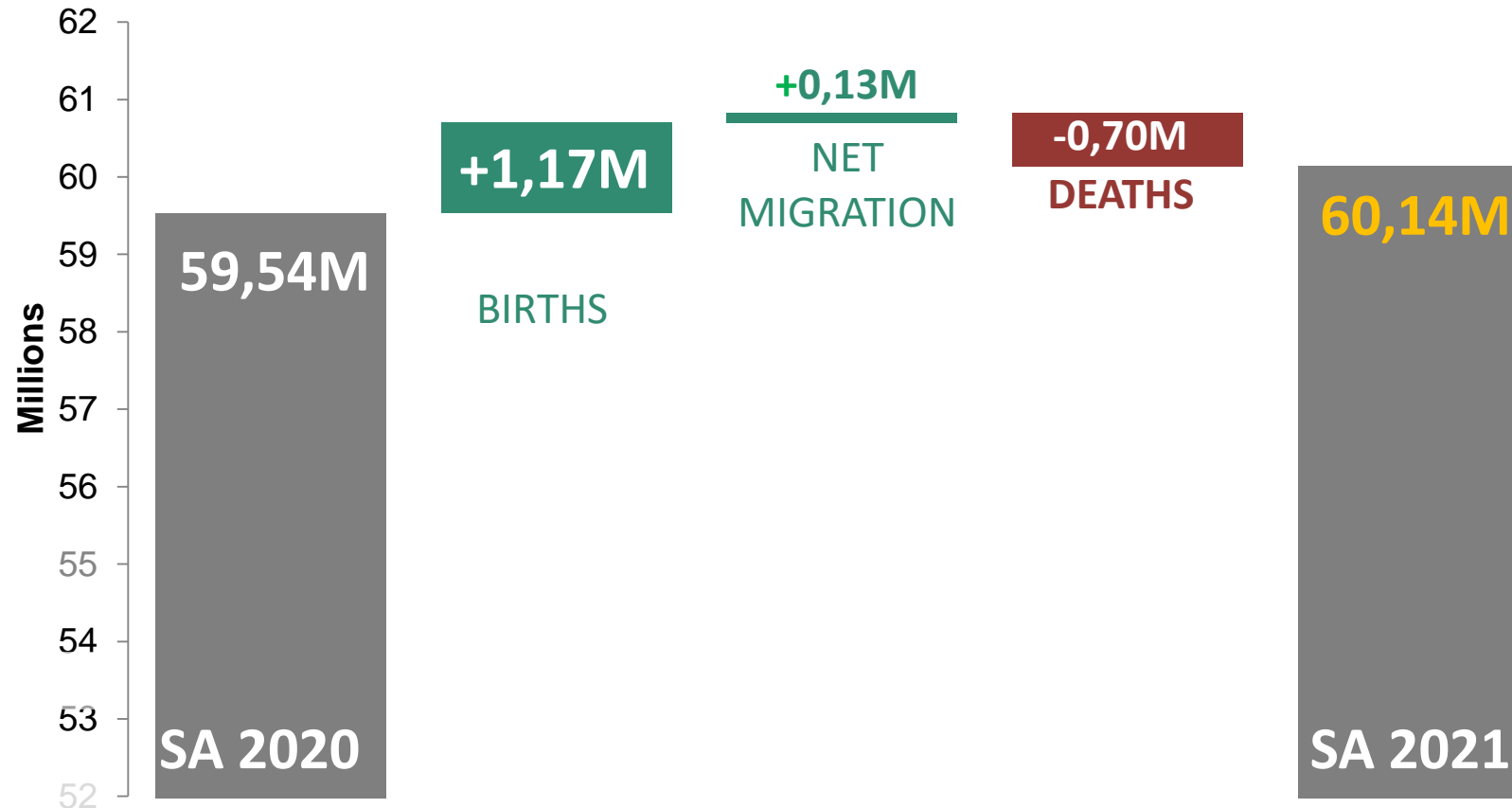


# Births are the main driver of population growth in South Africa.

COVID-19  
IMPACT

Compared to previous years, deaths in 2021 are significantly higher as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak

Impact of births, deaths and migration on population, 2021

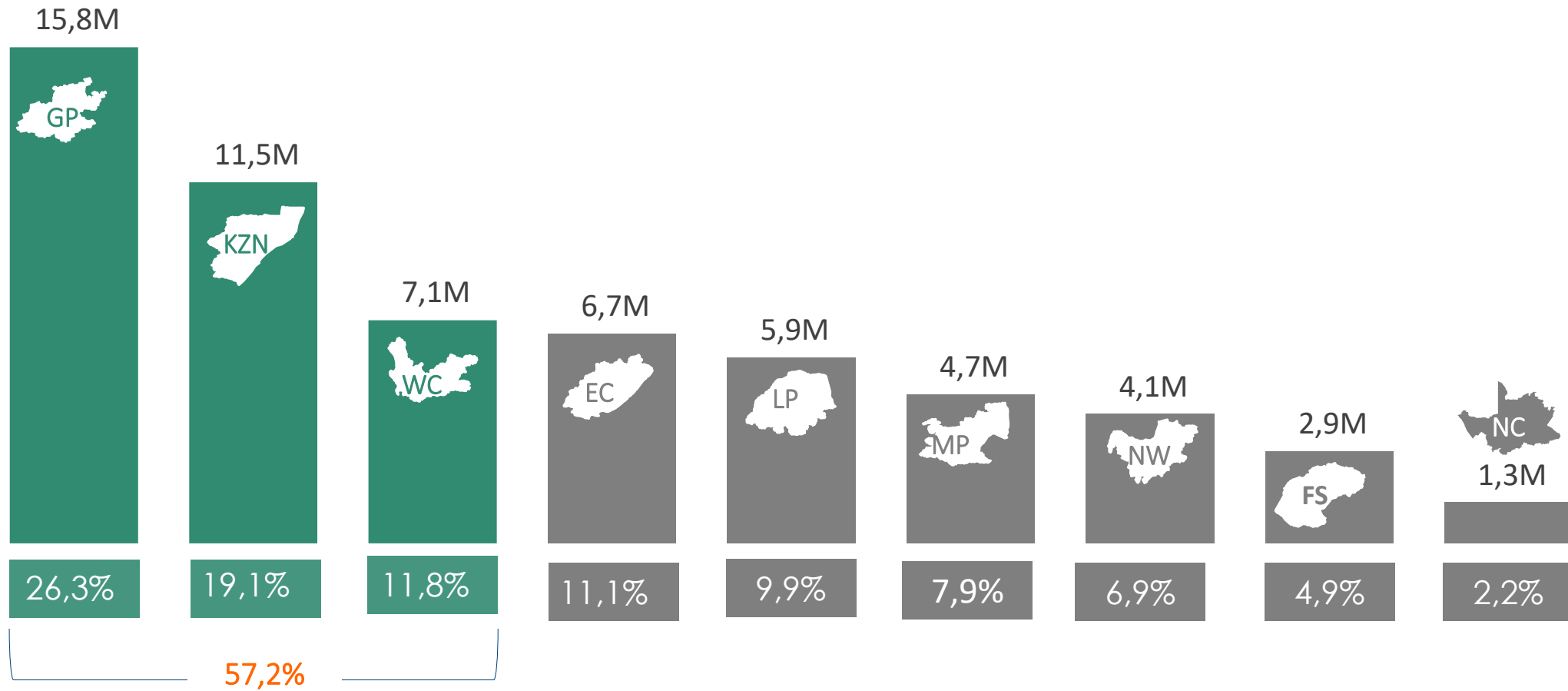


\*data based 2021 series

# More than half of the population live in 3 provinces (GP, KZN and WC)

GP remains SA's most populated province with approximately 15,8 million people (26,3%) living in this province.

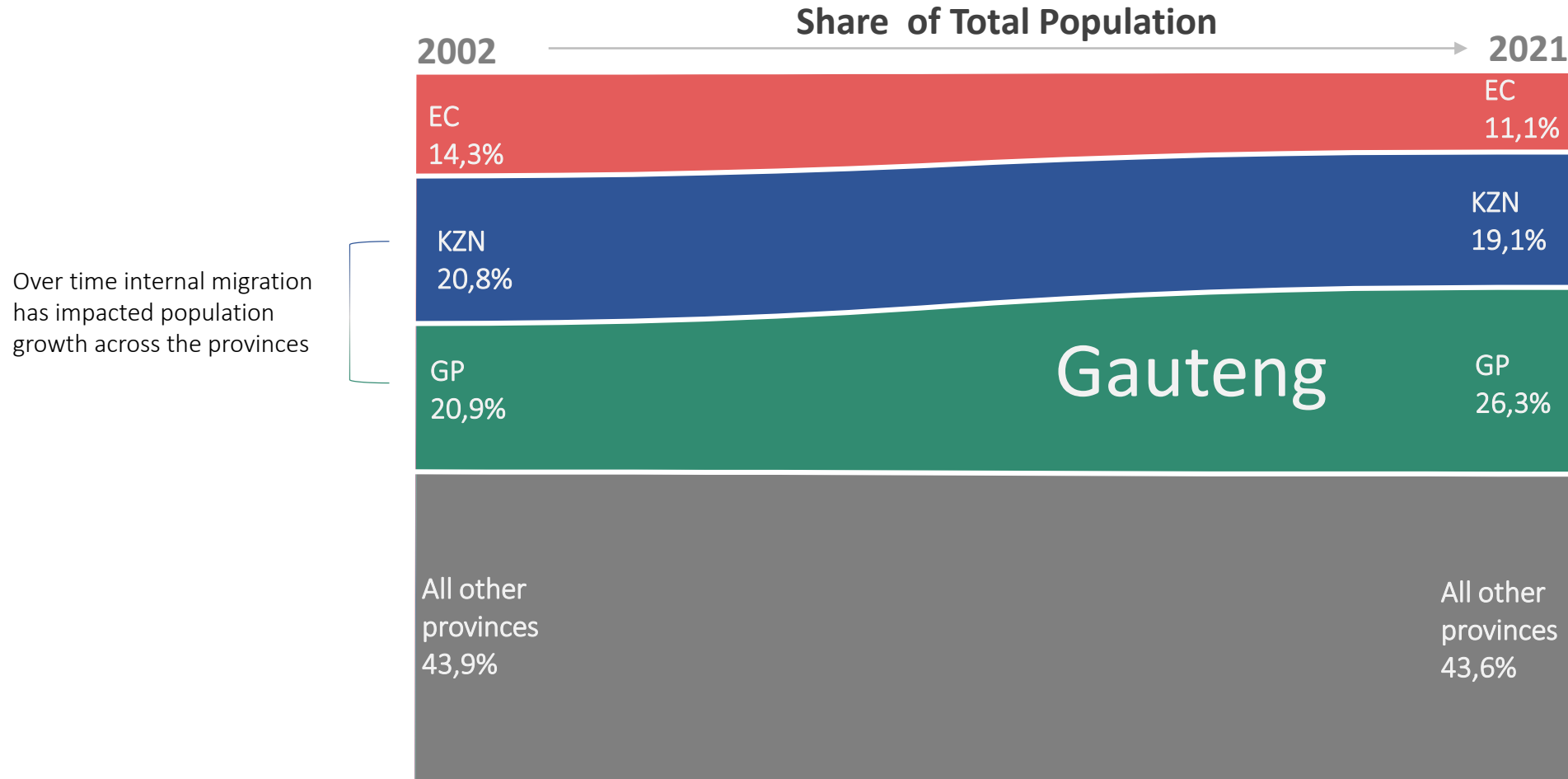
Mid-year population estimates for South Africa by province, 2021



# GP has increased its share of the total population by 5,4% points between 2002 and 2021

EC saw the largest drop in its proportion of the total population from 14% in 2002 to 11% in 2021

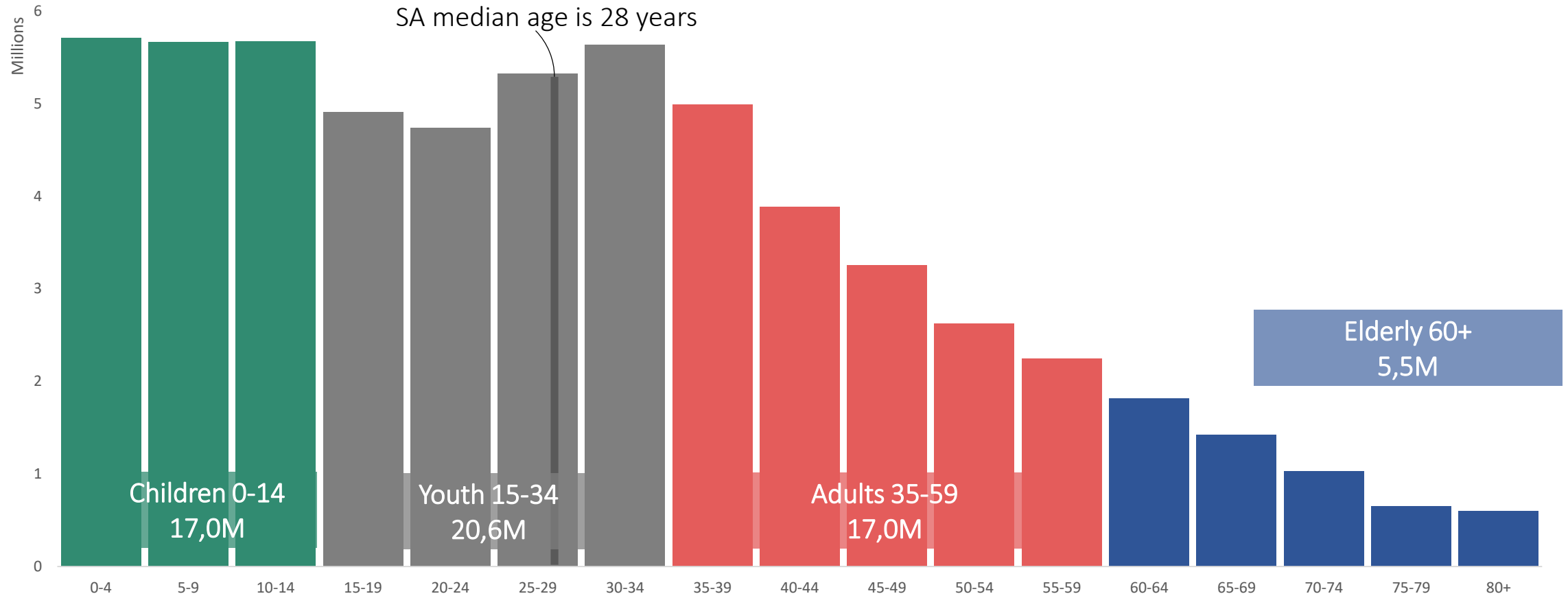
Change in provincial population proportions 2002-2021



# Children and youth amount to nearly 38 million in SA

South Africa is a demographically youthful population with a median age of 28

Population age structure 5 year groupings, 2021



Approximately 51,1% (30,8 million) of the population is female.



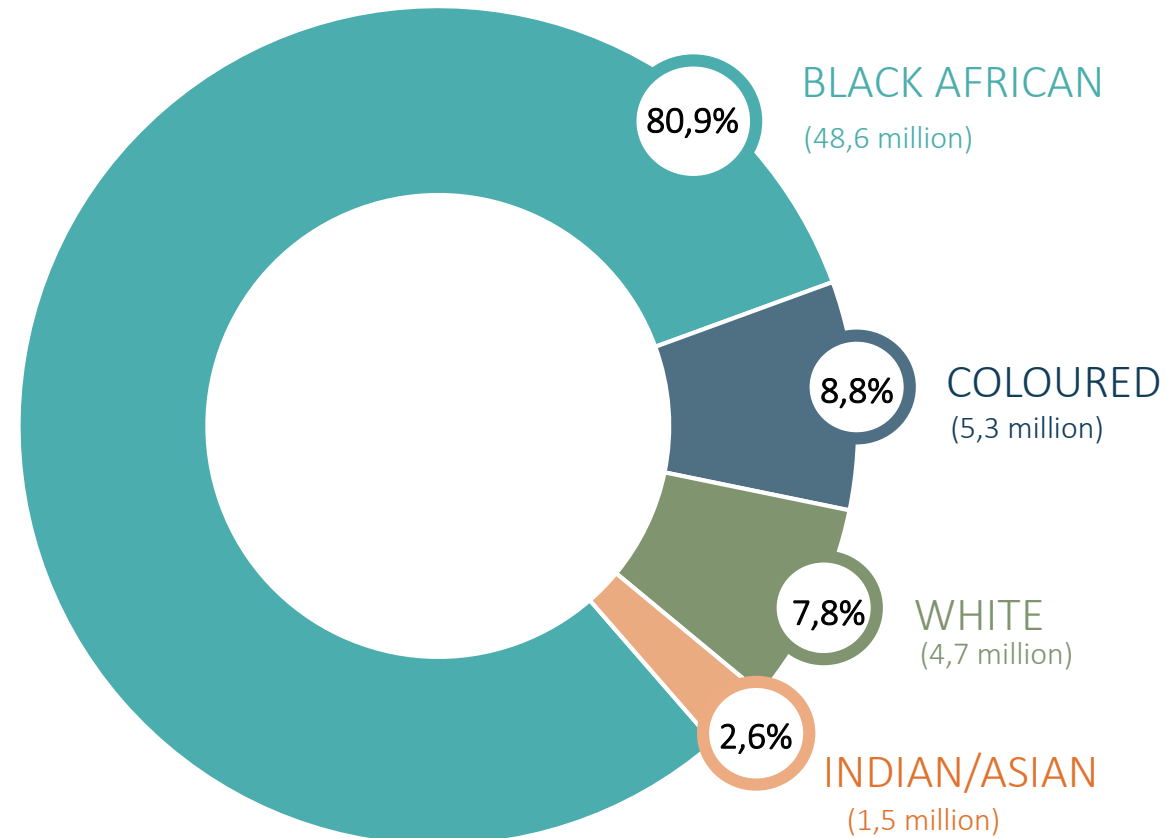
South Africa's population by gender, mid-2021






# The black African population constitutes approximately 81% of the total SA population

SA by population group, 2021



*\*Due to rounding totals may not add up to 100%*



# Population Structure

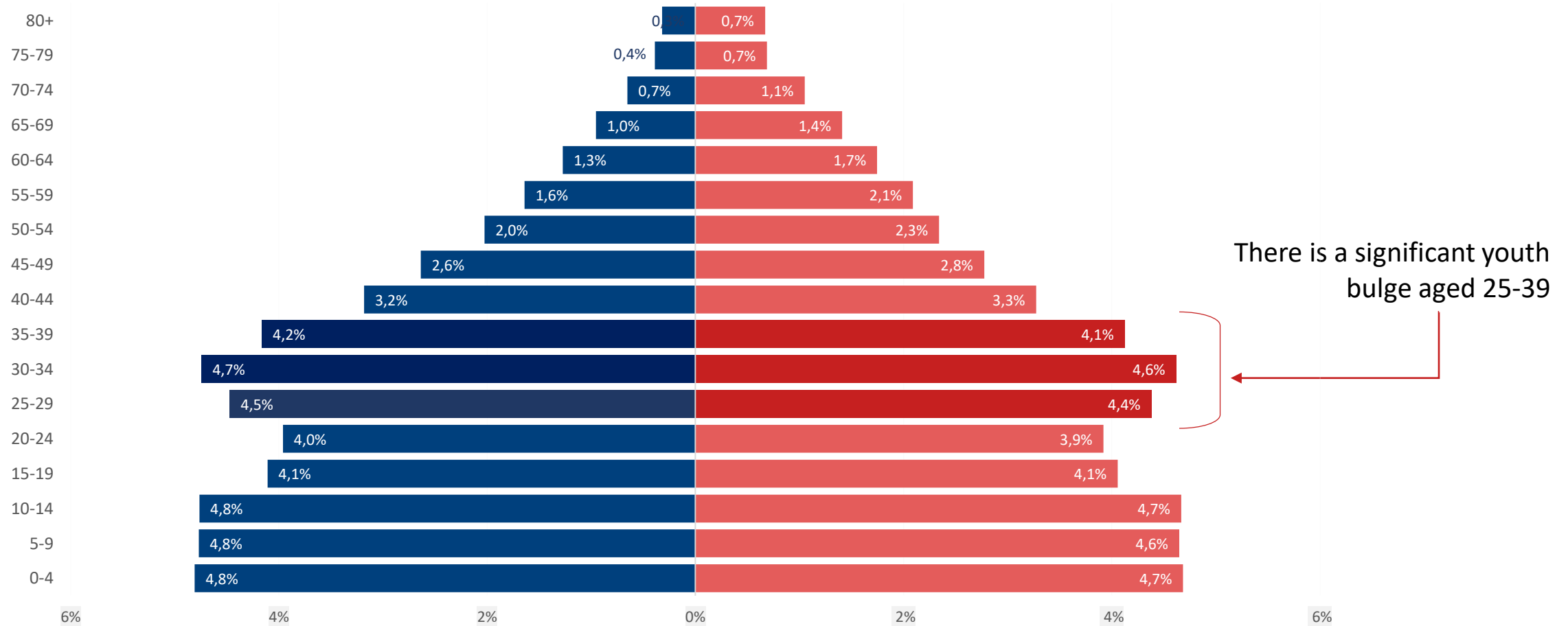


# The Population Pyramid is reflective of a youthful population.

## COVID-19 IMPACT

Whilst COVID-19 has had a devastating social and economic impact, the change in population structure is minimal. However the indicators of mortality, though not reflected here, are impacted.

SA age structure by 5 year groups, 2021



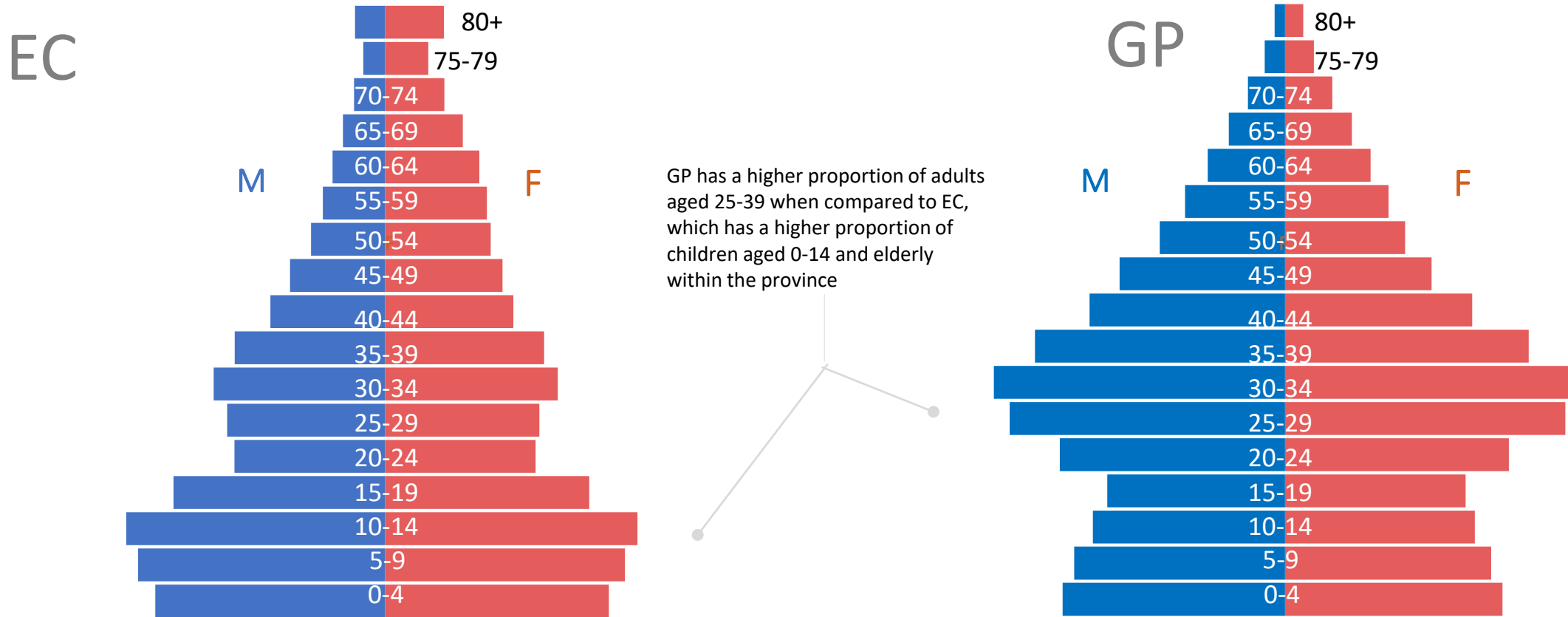
There is a significant youth bulge aged 25-39

# The population profile differs significantly by province.

## COVID-19 IMPACT

Whilst COVID has had a devastating social and economic impact, the change in population structure is minimal. However the indicators of mortality, though not reflected here, are impacted.

SA age structure by 5 year groups, 2020 for selected provinces

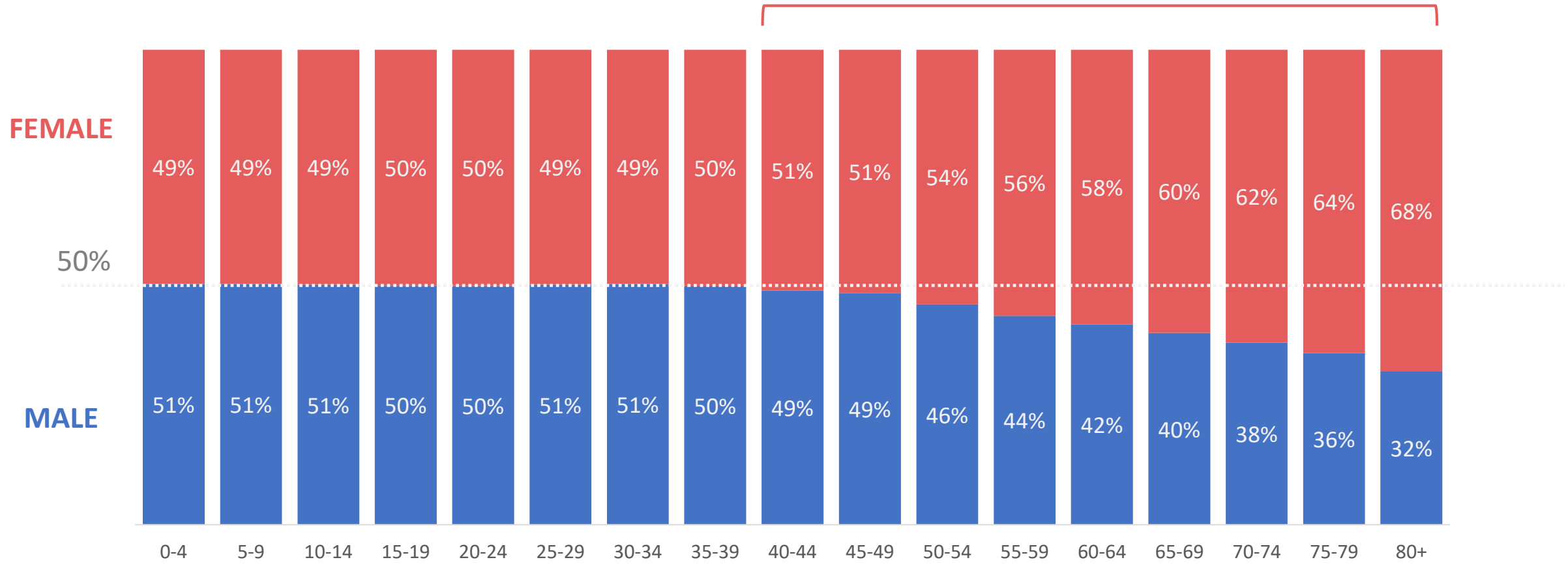


# From ages 40+, **women** have a greater proportion of the age group

## COVID-19 IMPACT

Whilst COVID has had a devastating social and economic impact, the change in population structure is minimal. However the indicators of mortality, though not reflected here, are impacted.

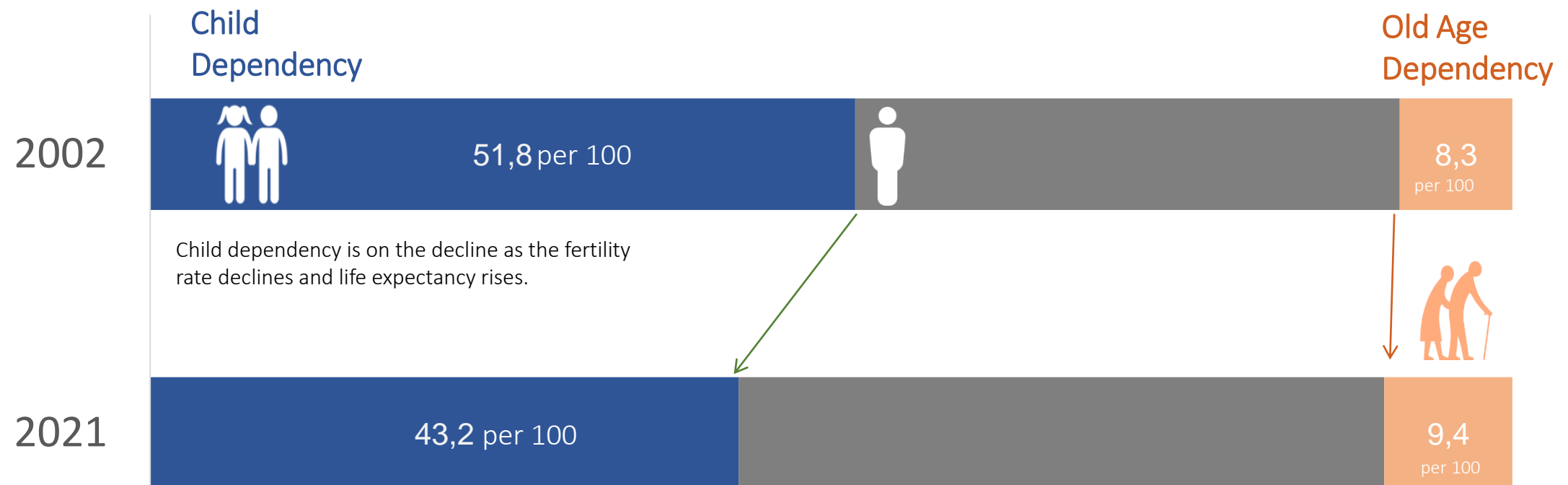
SA age structure by 5 year groups and sex 2021



# Child dependency is on the decline as the fertility rate declines and life expectancy rises. Old age dependency increased when compared to 2002 due to increase in life expectancy post 2006.

Improved access and uptake of ARVs in SA has enabled HIV positive people to live longer and healthier lives leading to an increase in the HIV population over time.

Old Age and Child Dependency Ratio's 2002 - 2021

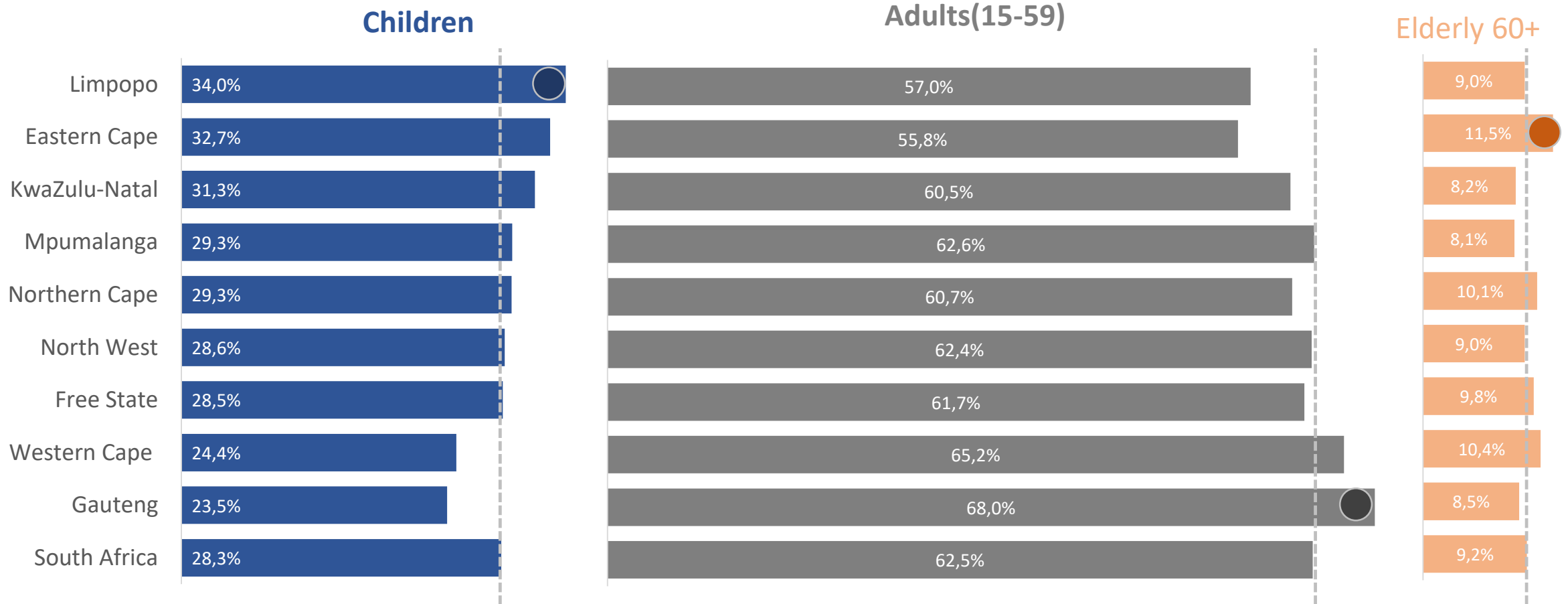


Child dependency is on the decline as the fertility rate declines and life expectancy rises.

\*The dependency ratio is an indicator of the potential dependency burden of children (0-14) and the elderly (65+) on those who are of economically productive ages (15-64)

# LP has the highest proportion of children under 15 whilst Gauteng has the highest proportion of Youth and Adults

Impact of births, deaths and migration on population, 2021





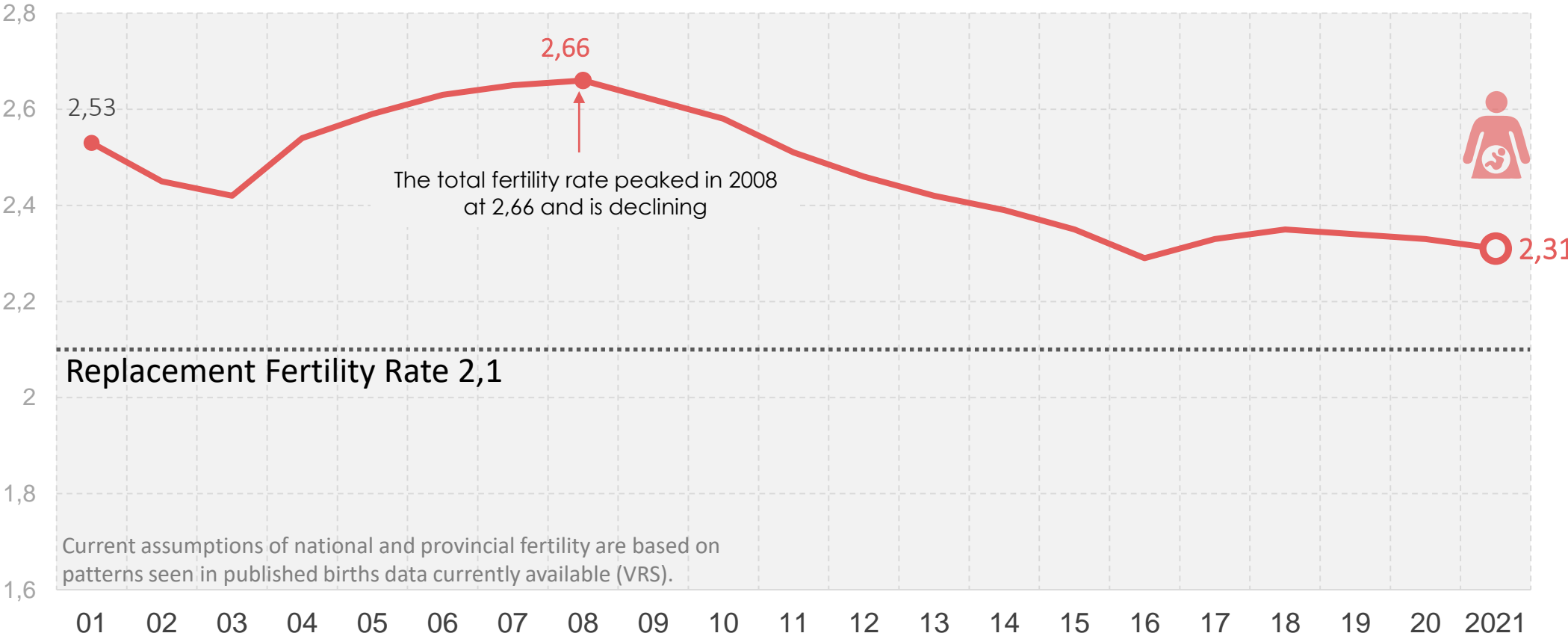
# Fertility

(Births)



# On average, a woman will give birth to 2,31 children in her lifetime.

Total Fertility Rate, 2002-2021



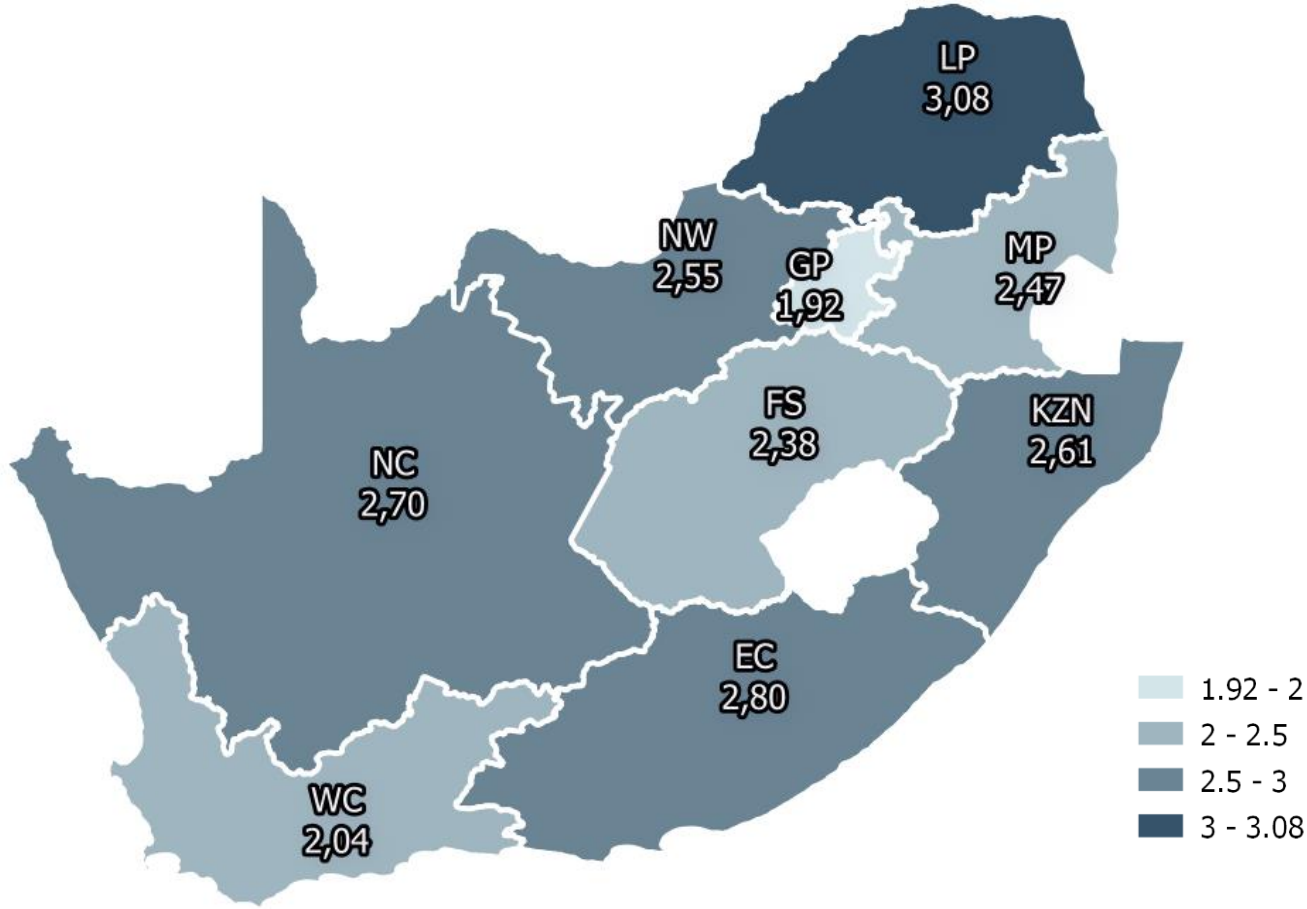
\*data based 2021 series

Current assumptions of national and provincial fertility are based on patterns seen in published births data currently available (VRS).

# Demographic drivers of fertility, mortality and migration over time determines provincial population age and sex profiles

Less urbanised provinces of LP and EC indicate higher fertility rate

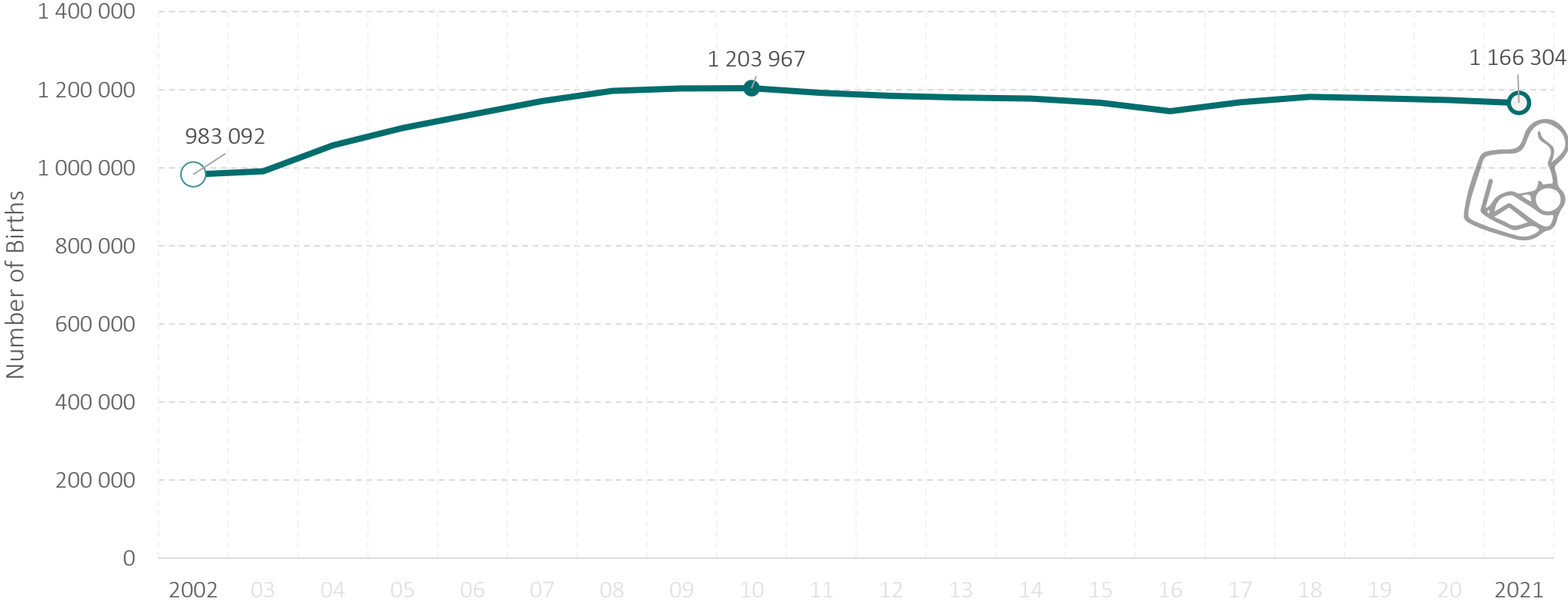
Fertility rate by province 2016-2021



# Births are the main driver of population growth in South Africa.



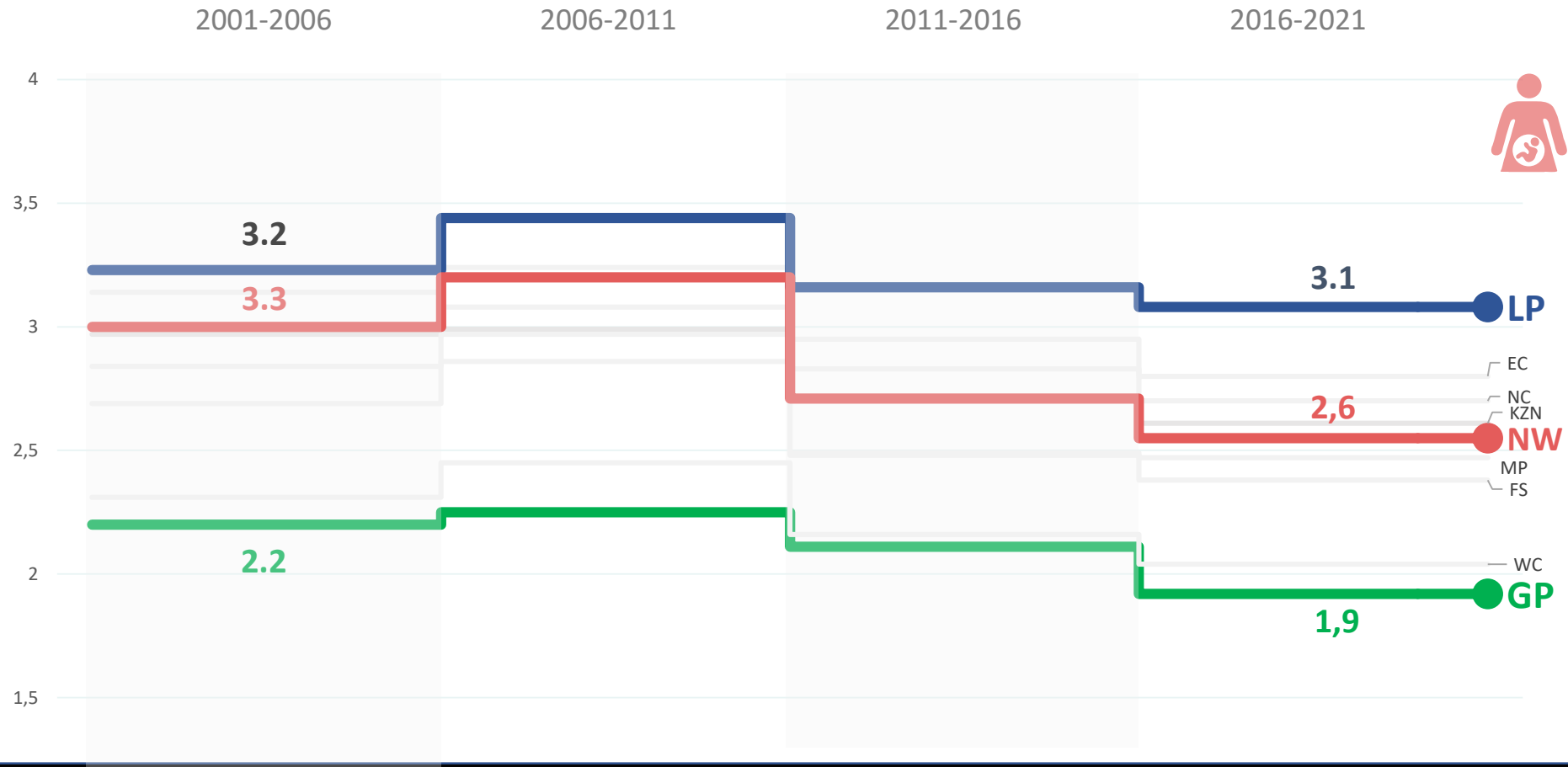
Total Births for the period 2002–2021



# The **NW** has shown larger drops in fertility relative to other provinces

Less urbanised provinces of LP and EC indicate higher fertility rate

Fertility Rate by Province, 2001 -2021



Current assumptions of national and provincial fertility are based on patterns seen in published births data currently available (Vital Records System).

# Mortality

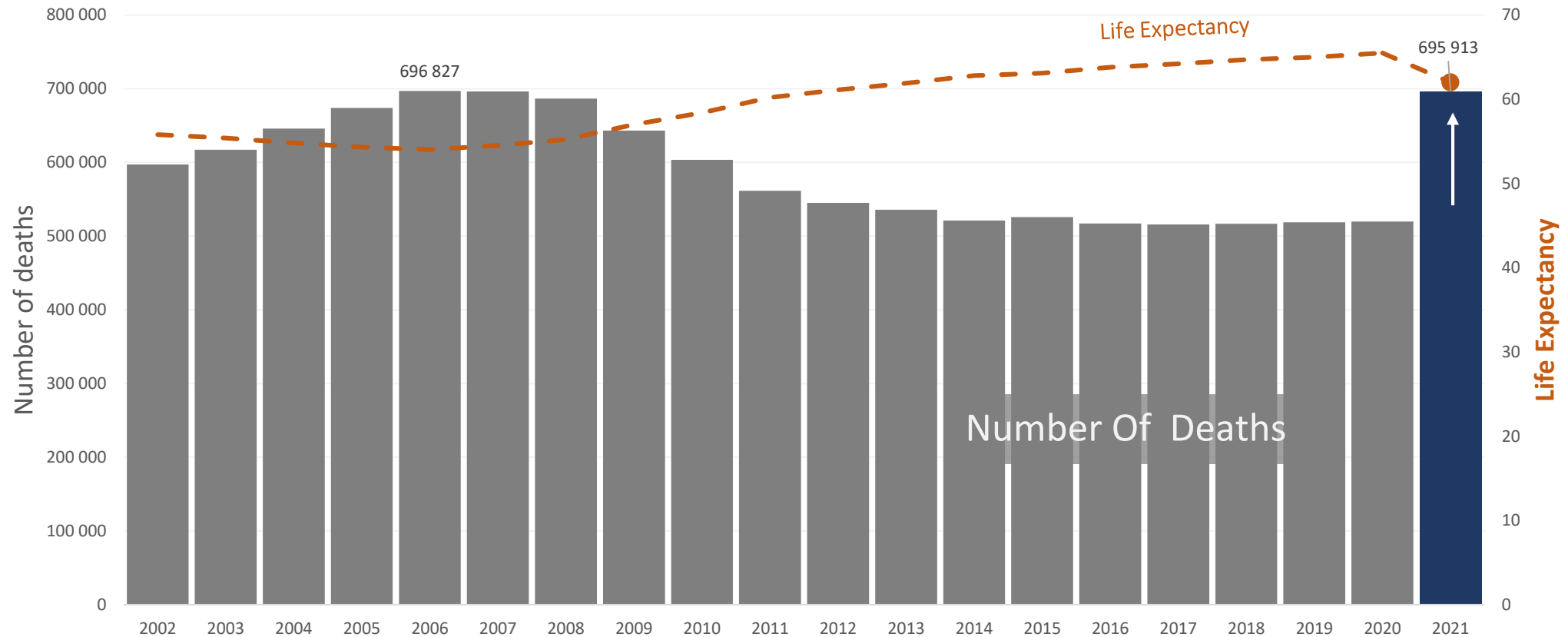
## (Deaths)



# There was a significant rise in deaths in 2021, approximately 34%.

**COVID-19 IMPACT** South Africa experienced both the 1st and 2nd wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in the year 2020/21 as well as the beginnings of the 3rd wave in June 2021. This resulted in a significant increase in the crude death rate (CDR) within a year from 8,7 deaths per 1 000 people in 2020 to 11,6 deaths per 1 000 people in 2021.

Estimated deaths and total life expectancy at birth over time, 2002–2021

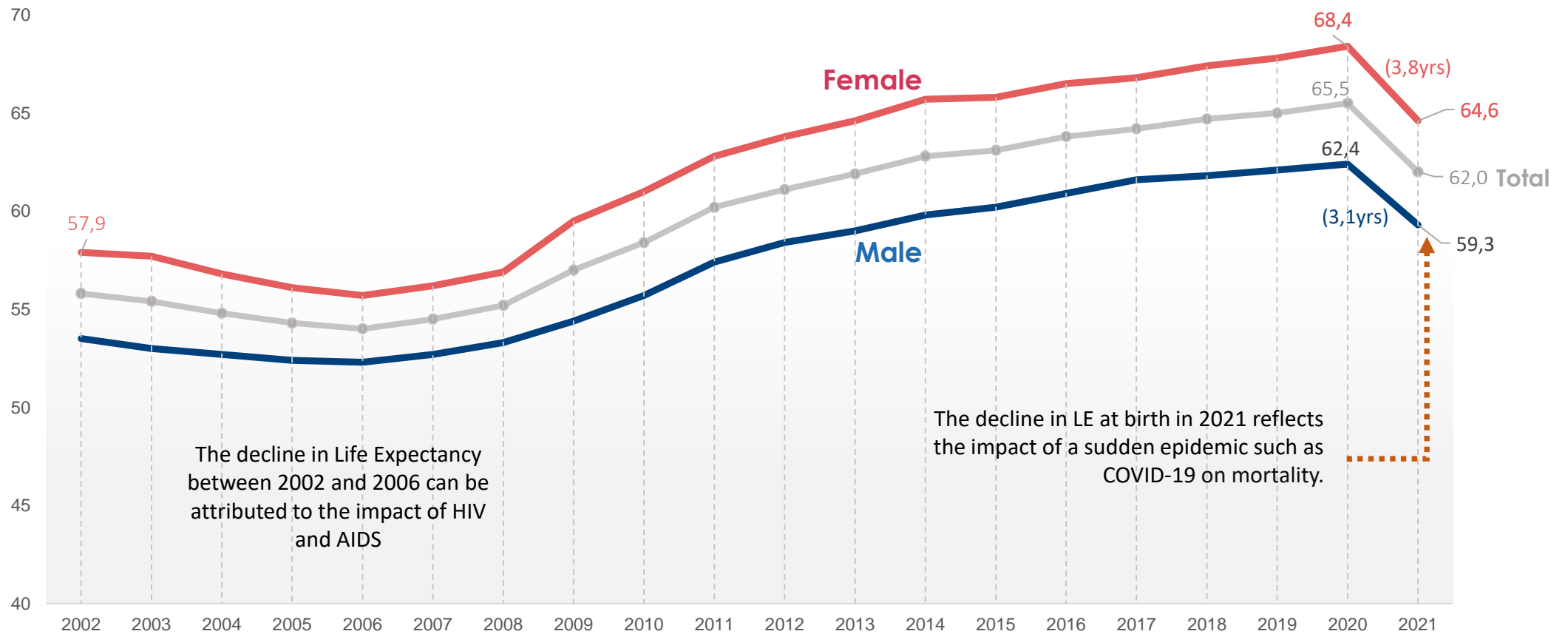


# Total Life Expectancy (LE) at birth declined from 65.5 to 62 years (3,5 yrs)

COVID-19  
IMPACT

Decline in Life expectancy is due to the rise in excessive deaths during COVID-19 pandemic

Total life expectancy at birth by sex over time, 2002-2021

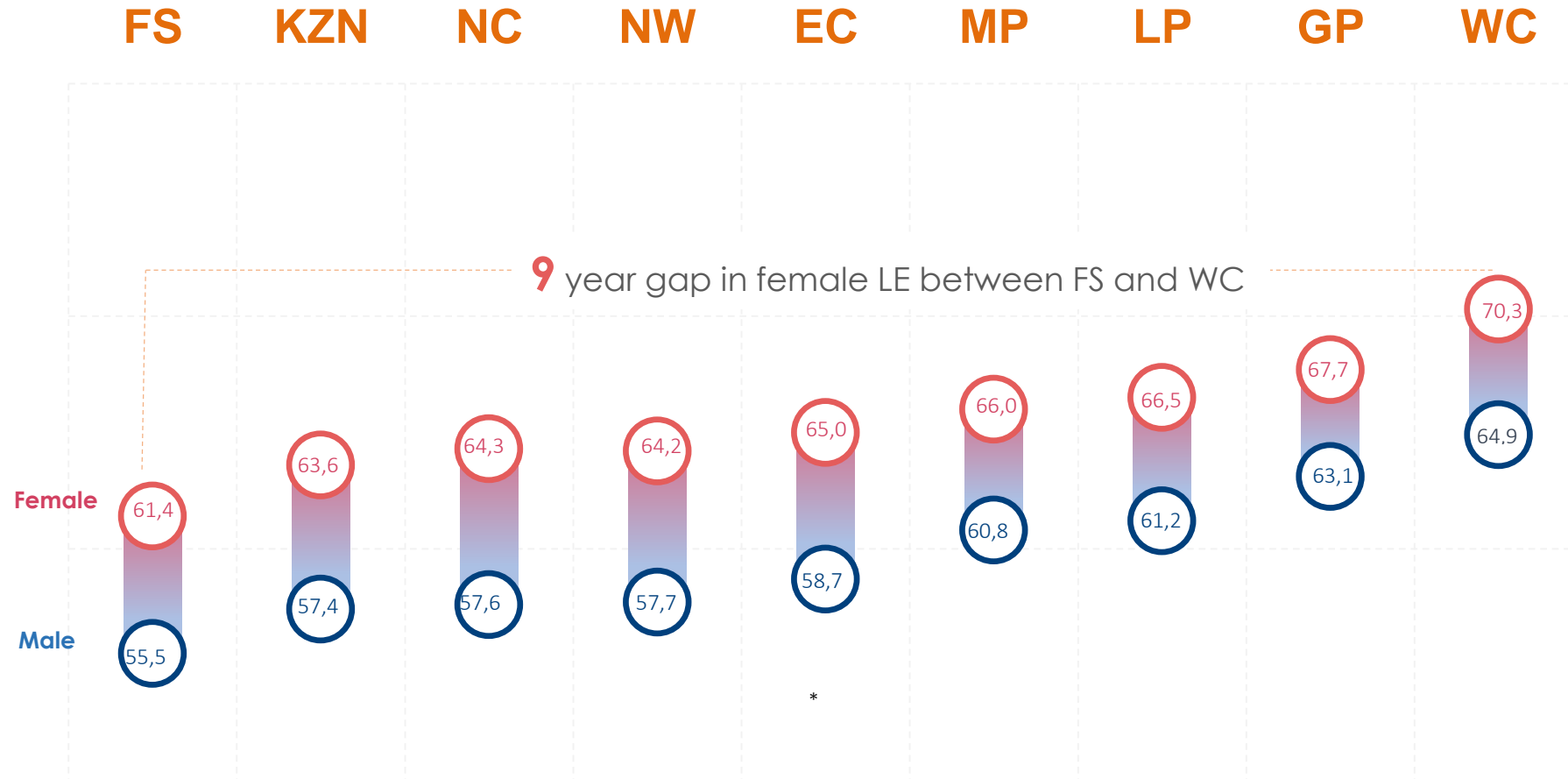


# Free State has a significantly lower life expectancy than the SA average

## COVID-19 IMPACT

The impact of COVID-19 deaths occurring since March 2020 have been incorporated into the provincial estimation and slowed down the improvement in LE over the 5-year period

Life Expectancy by province 2016 -2021



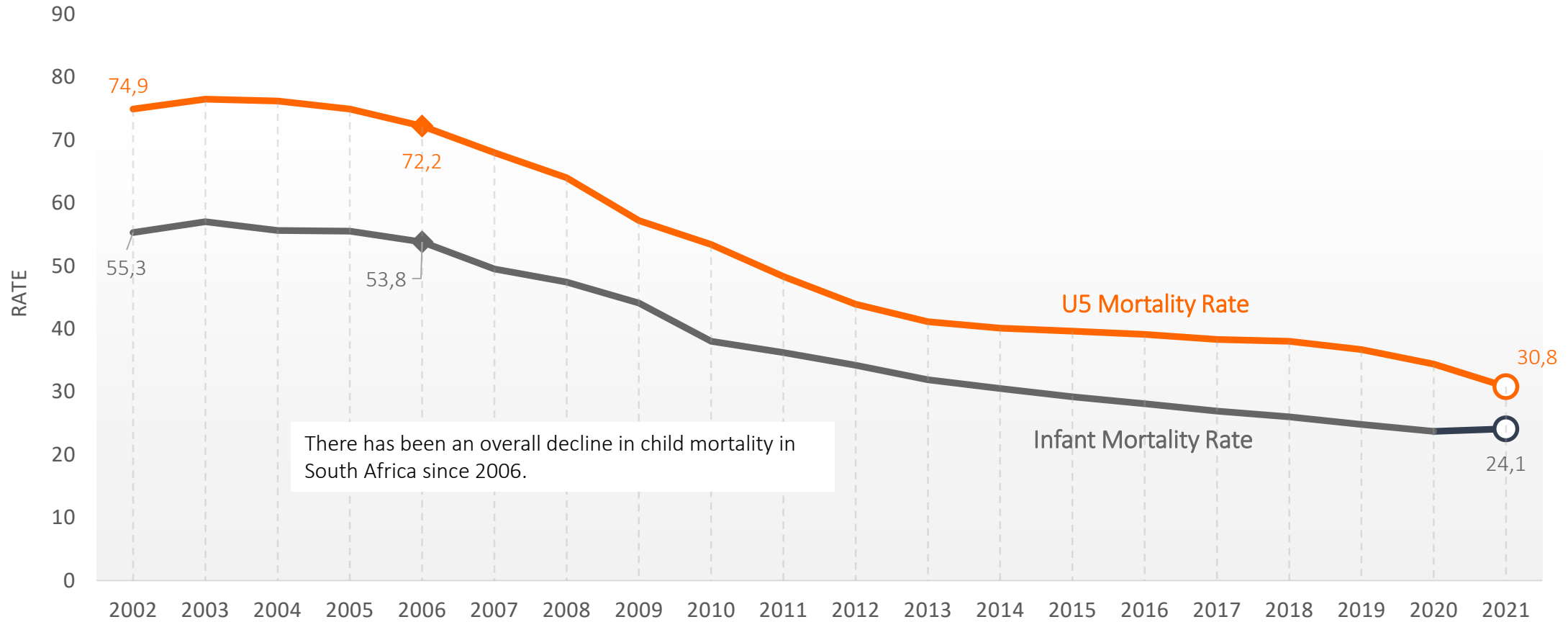


# Infant mortality rate has declined over time to 24.1 in 2021.

## COVID-19 IMPACT

The child sparing pattern of COVID-19, has thus far made no significant impact on child mortality levels in the country

IMR and U5MR per 1000 live births over time, 2002-2021



There has been an overall decline in child mortality in South Africa since 2006.

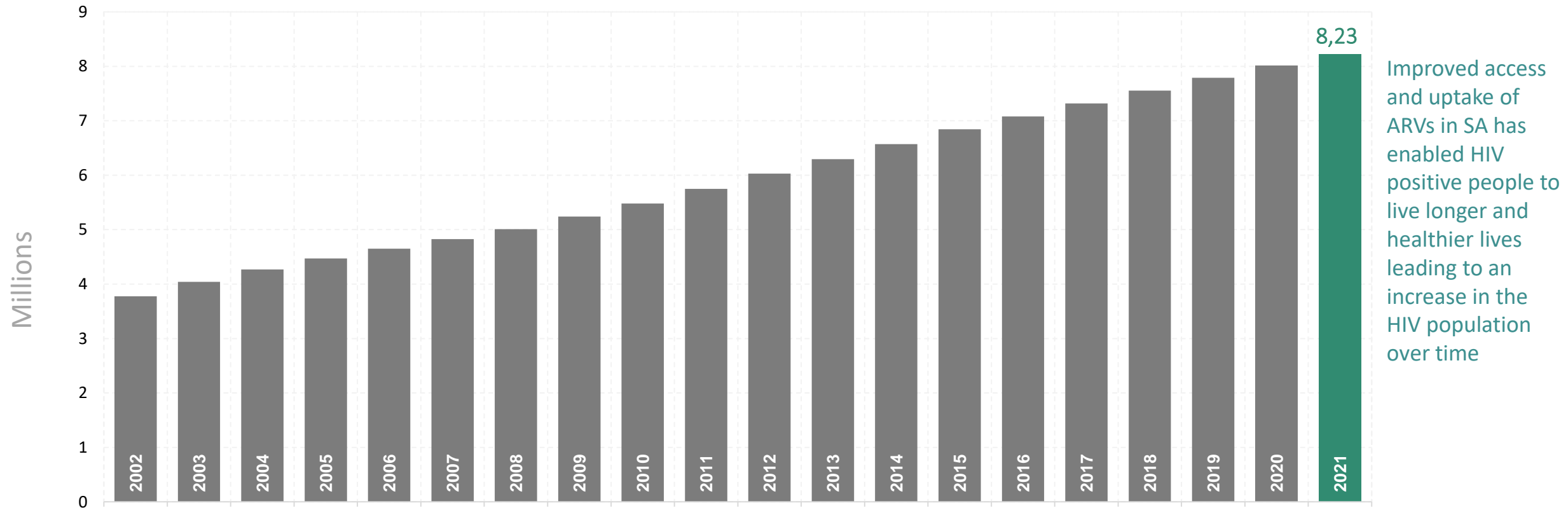
U5 Mortality Rate

Infant Mortality Rate

# 8,23 million people are living with HIV in 2021

**COVID-19 IMPACT** The presence of a competing pandemic such as COVID-19 in South Africa does present challenges likely to hamper progress in the eradication of HIV and AIDS

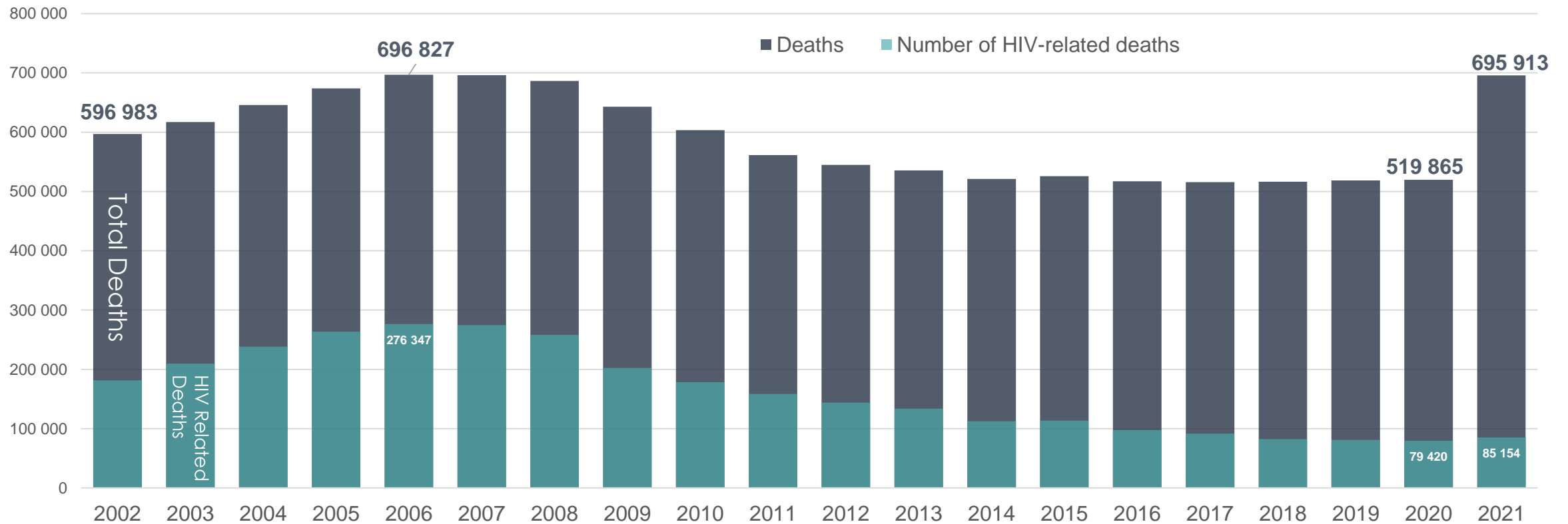
Number of people living with HIV, 2002-2021(millions)



# Post 2006 HIV-related deaths declined, however there is a slight increase in 2021

**COVID-19 IMPACT** The presence of the COVID-19 pandemic has hampered the ability of the health sector to ensure continuity of care and use of ART during the pandemic

Total number of deaths estimated over time vs HIV-related deaths in thousands, 2002-2021





# Migration

# The period 2016 -2021 saw a reversal of the earlier growth in net international migration

**COVID-19 IMPACT** Net international migration rate can be volatile, impacted significantly by economic and policy changes, as encountered in the recent outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020. Due to the international travel ban, travel was brought to an abrupt halt. The pandemic affected 16 of the 60-month period

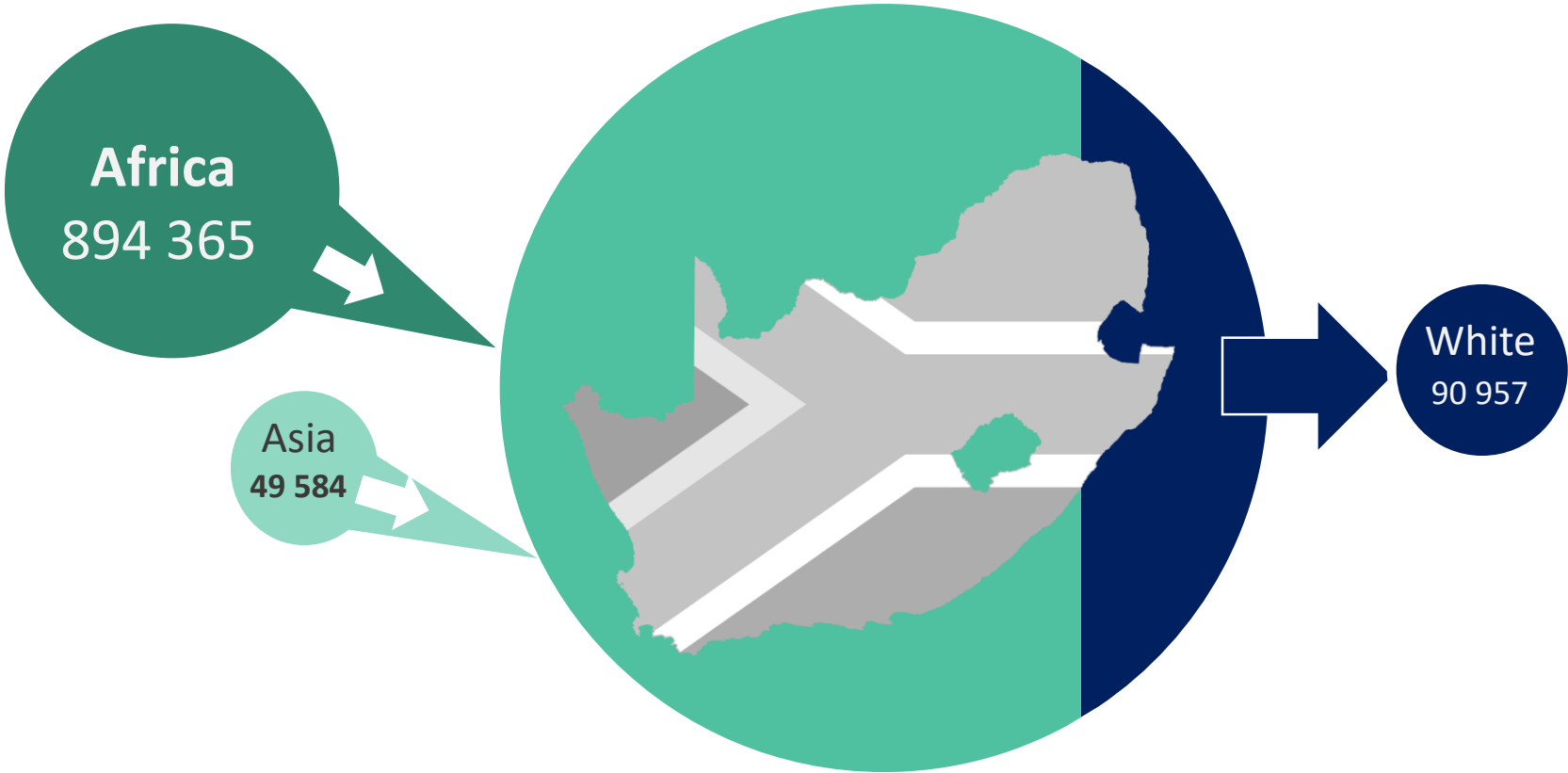
Net International migration 2001 - 2021



# For the period 2016 -2021, Net migration is expected to be 852 992

**COVID-19 IMPACT** Net migration rate can be volatile, impacted significantly by economic and policy changes, as encountered in the recent outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020. Due to the international travel ban, travel was brought to an abrupt halt. The pandemic affected 16 of the 60-month period (2016-2021)

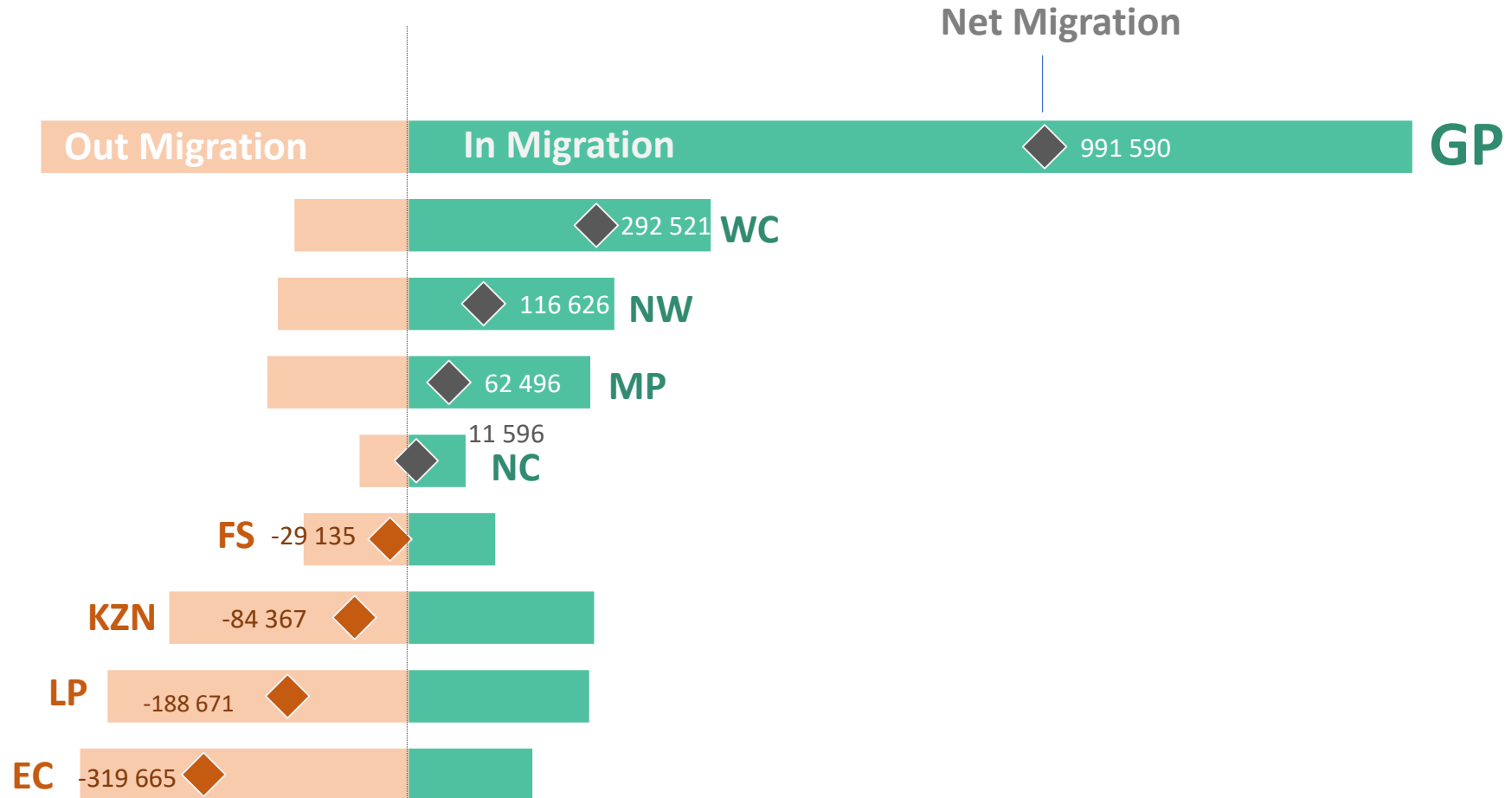
International migration by population group 2016-2021



# Over the period 2016 to 2021 five provinces had net inflows of people. GP attracted the most migrants.

**COVID-19 IMPACT** Movement made during lockdown often constitutes a temporary one, whilst interprovincial migration in the MYPE constitutes movements that are consistent with a more formal definition of migration

Net migration 2016-2021 by province



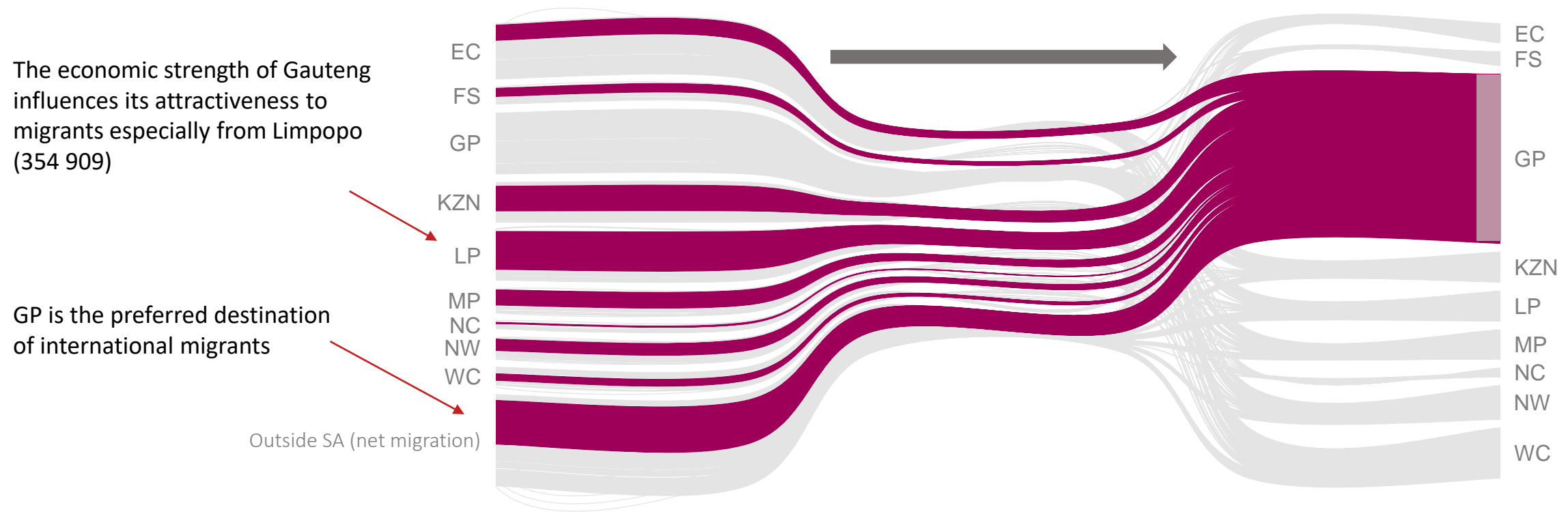
# GP is estimated to experience the largest net inflow of migrants of approx. 991 590 net migrants

COVID-19  
IMPACT

The reduction in international migration to receiving provinces is indicative of the post COVID-19 travel restrictions

Net migration 2016-2021 GP as a destination province

GP as a destination province





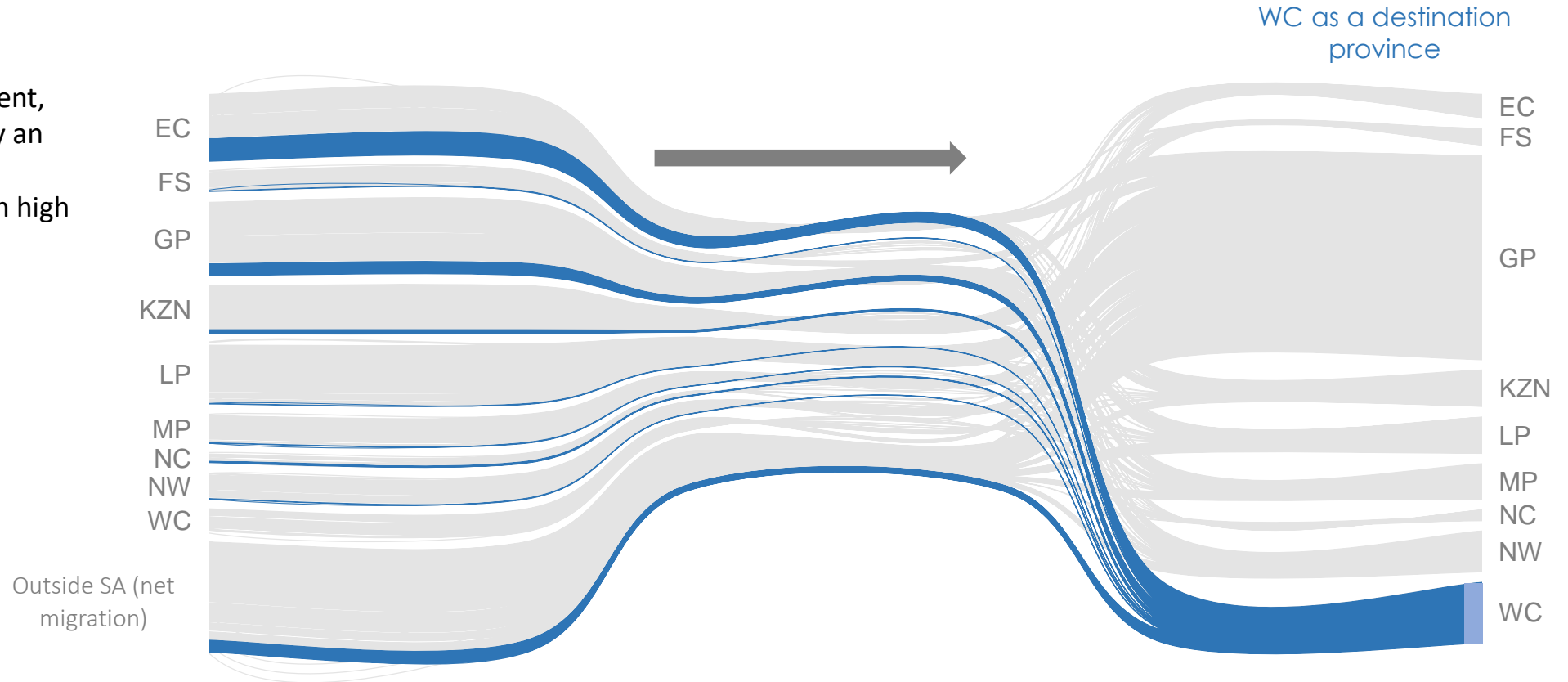
# WC is estimated to experience the second highest net inflow of migrants for the period 2016 to 2021 of approx. 470 657

COVID-19  
IMPACT

The reduction in international migration to receiving provinces is indicative of the post COVID-19 travel restrictions

Net migration 2016-2021: WC as a destination province

Opportunities for employment, study and quality of life play an important role amongst the push-pull factors resulting in high flow of migrants to WC.



# RECAP

## Mid-Year Population 2021

For 2021, Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) estimates the mid-year population at **60,14 million**. GP is the most populous province in the country (15,8mil)

## Impact of COVID-19

Life expectancy has declined due to excess deaths. These effects may be temporal as we advance to containing the virus through the roll out of vaccines. It remains to be seen what the impact will be on fertility

## Life Expectancy

Life expectancy at birth for 2021 is estimated at 59,3 years for males and 64,6 years for females, which is a drop from 2020 where life expectancy at birth was 62,4 and 68,4 for males and females respectively.

## People estimated to be living with HIV

The estimated overall HIV prevalence rate is approximately 13,7% among the South African population.

Mid-Year Population  
Estimates  
2021

Ndzi hela kwala!



**stats sa**

Department:  
Statistics South Africa  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

