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Department:  
Statistics South Africa  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# General Household Survey 2021

*Measuring the progress of development in the country*

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# COVID-19 Impact on Data Collection



- ❖ Stats SA **suspended face-to-face data collection** for all its surveys on 19 March 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and restricted movement.
- ❖ Mode of data collection **changed from face-to-face CAPI** (Computer Assisted Personal Interviews) **to CATI** (Computer Assisted Telephonic Interviews) to facilitate data collection during successive phases of COVID.
- ❖ Households that provided **usable telephone numbers** in 2019 were called. The sample, therefore, **excluded** households that were **out-of-scope**, or who could not participate in 2019, as well as those where telephone numbers were incorrect or had changed, or where households had moved.
- ❖ Telephonic interviews were continued in 2021. A slight respite allowed Stats SA to conduct short visits to households without telephone numbers to gather usable contact details.
- ❖ Conducted **Bias-Adjustment to adjust for possible differences** in the characteristics of households that provided contact details, and those that did not.
- ❖ GHS 2021 calibrated to the **2017 series Mid-Year Population Estimates** for 2021.

# Evaluation of reliability of estimates

- ❖ Stats SA is guided by **international best practice** in the production of its official statistics.
- ❖ In order to provide the public with quality statistics, the GHS data are subjected to **numerous quality checks** at different stages of the production process.





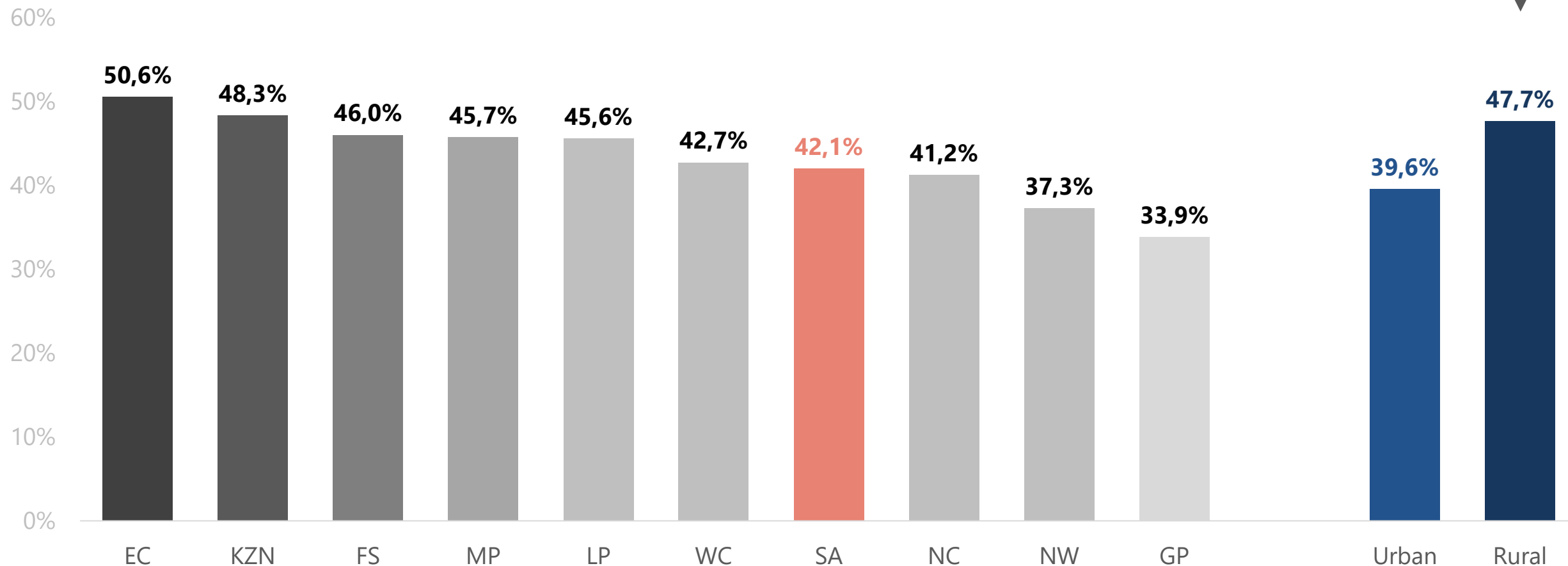
# Household Characteristics

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GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY 2021

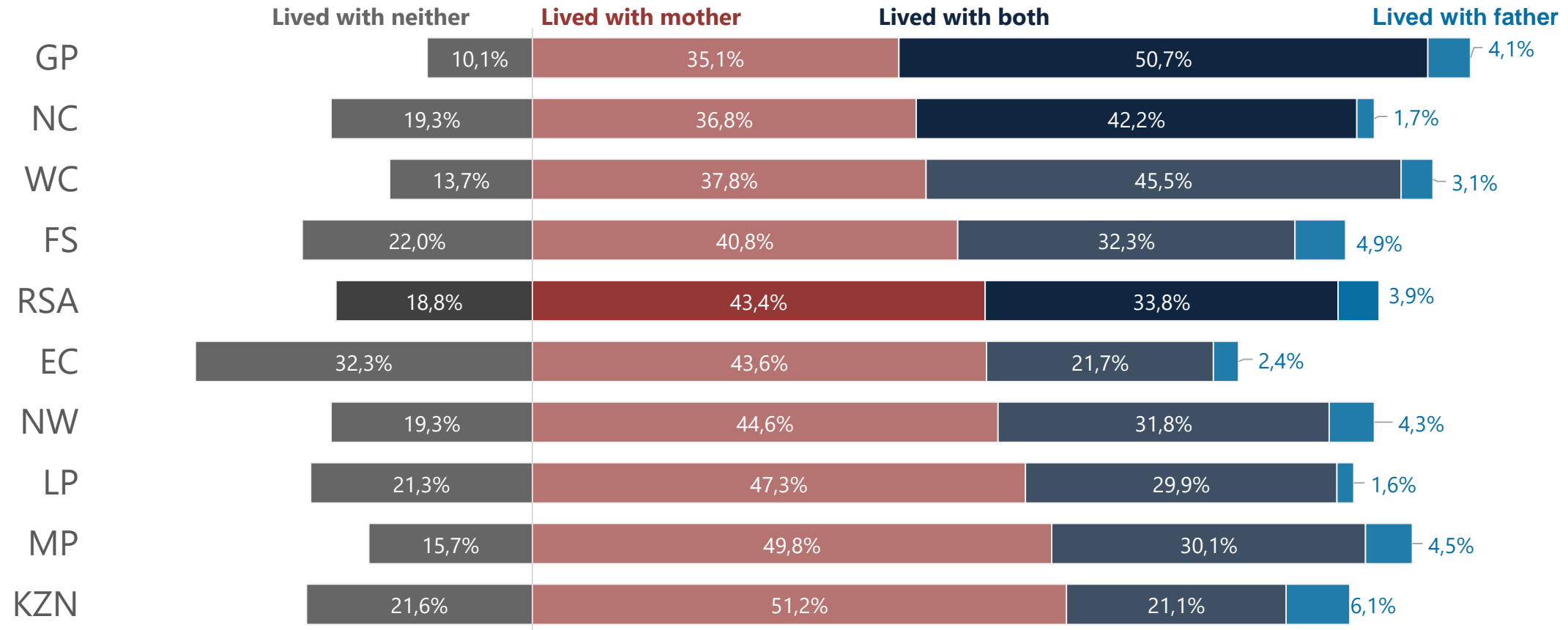
# Female headed households are significantly more prevalent in rural areas.....

Percentage of female-headed households by province, 2021



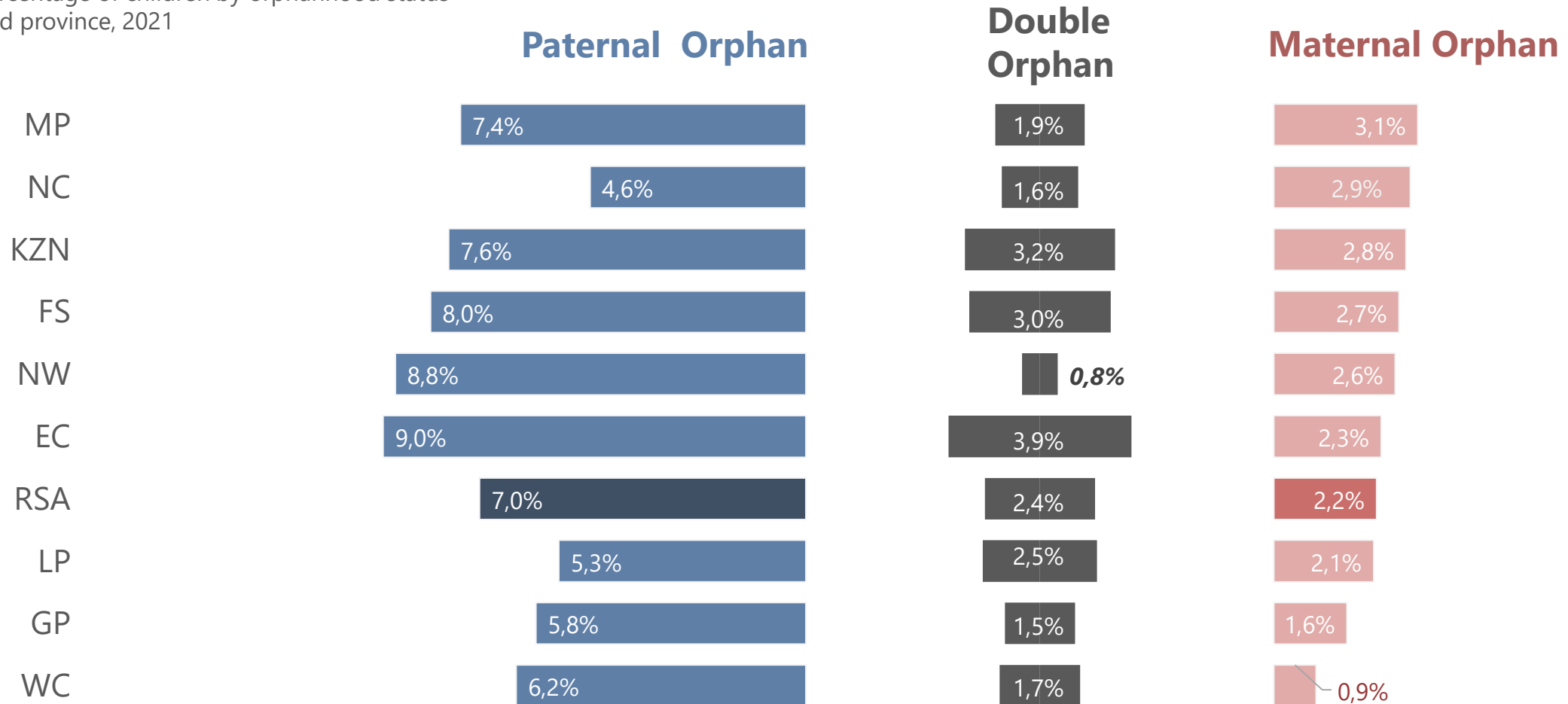
Nationally, one-third of children lived with both parents whilst **43,4% lived with mothers only**. Children in affluent provinces (WC and GP) were most likely to live with both parents.

Percentage of children living arrangements by province, 2021



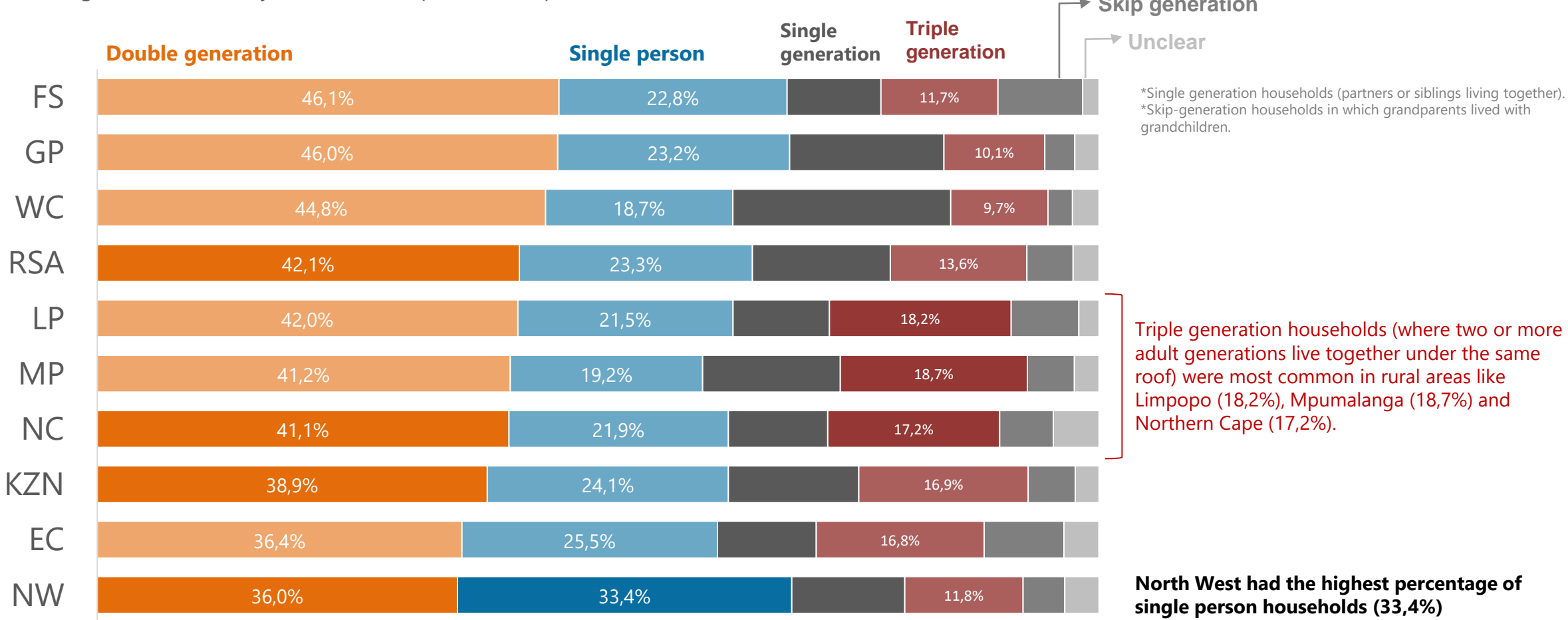
In 2021, EC had the highest percentage of **double orphans** (3,9%) and the highest percentage of **paternal orphans** (9,0%).

Percentage of children by orphanhood status and province, 2021



# Nationally, 42,1% of households were classified as **double generation households** (comprising parents and children). **FS, GP and WC** were higher than the national average.

Percentage of households by household composition and province, 2021







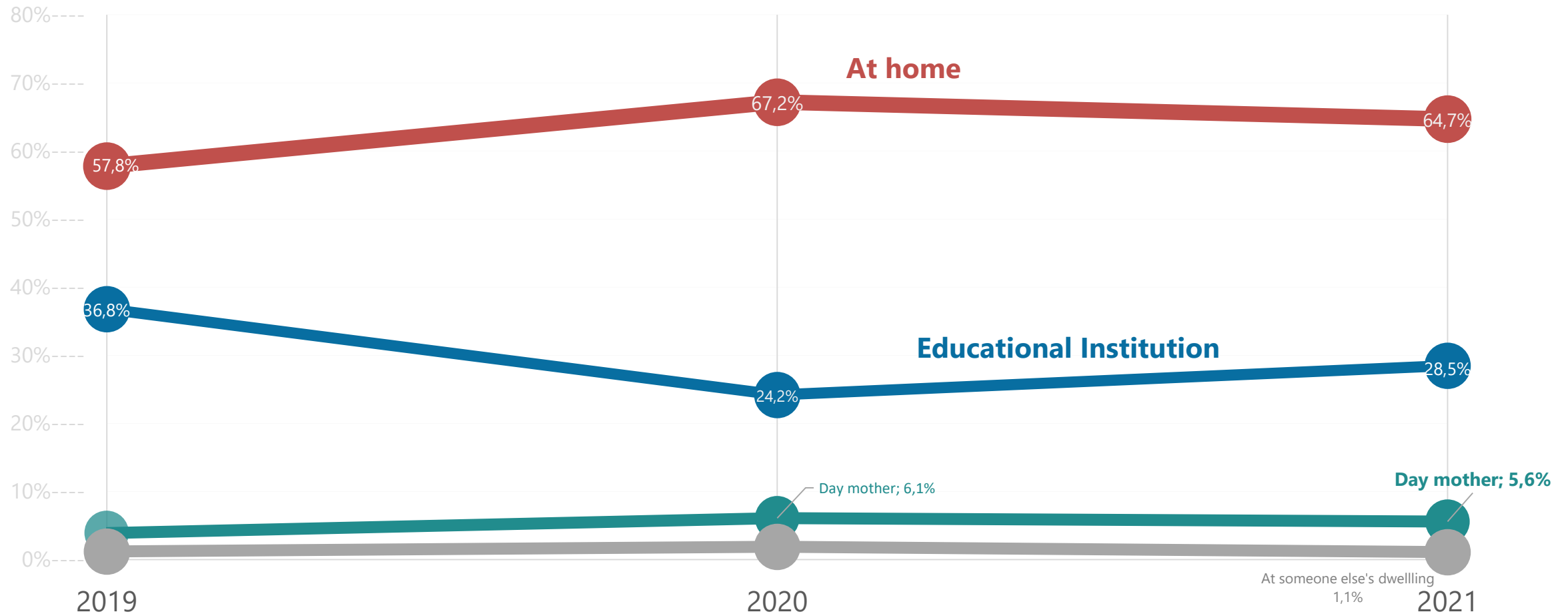
# Education

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GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY 2021

# In comparison to 2019 children aged 0–4 were far less likely to be attending a educational institution in 2021 (28,5%)

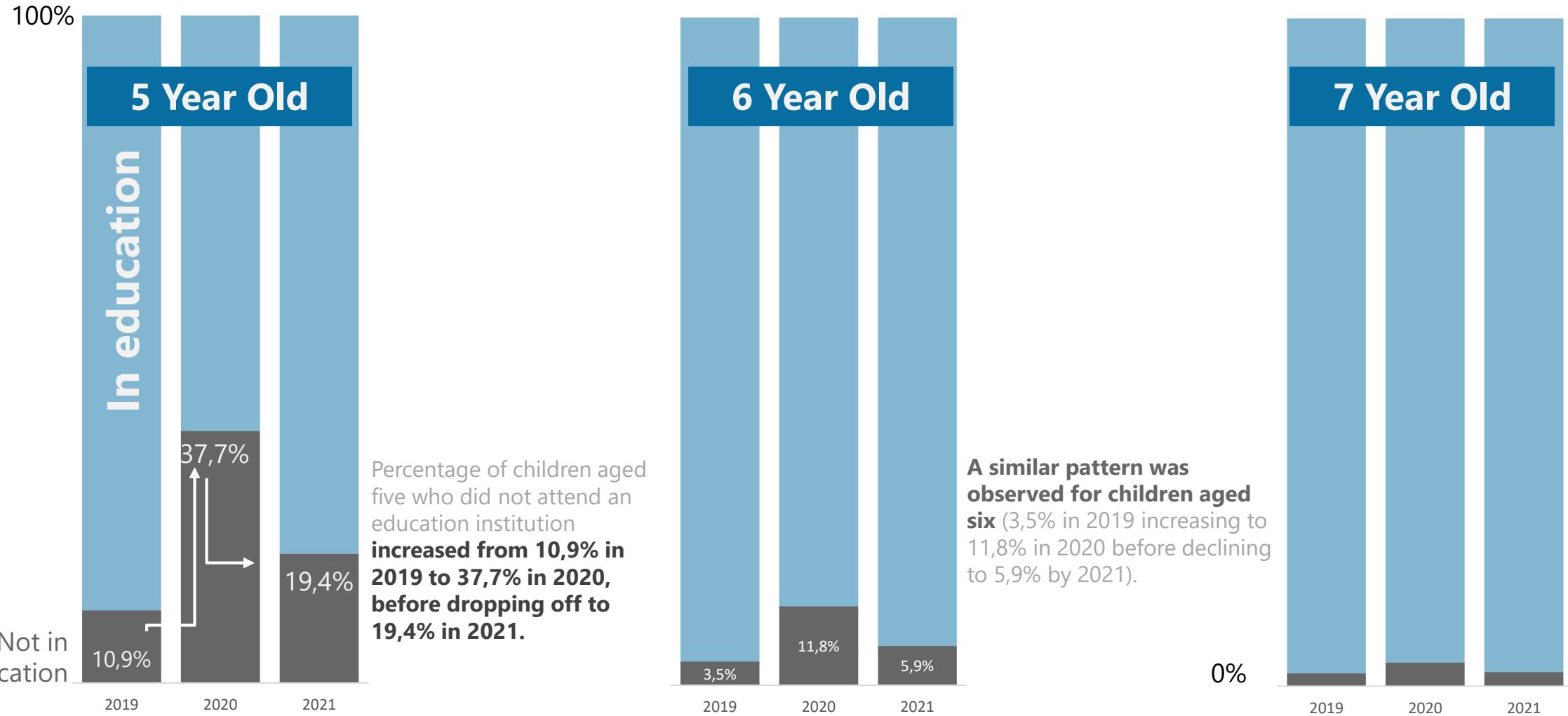
Children aged 0–4 years using different child care arrangements by province, 2021 (top 4)



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Compared to 2019, a higher percentage of **children aged five and six years** were generally not attending educational institutions in 2021.

\* Percentage of individuals aged 5,6 and 7 years who did not attend educational institutions, 2019–2021

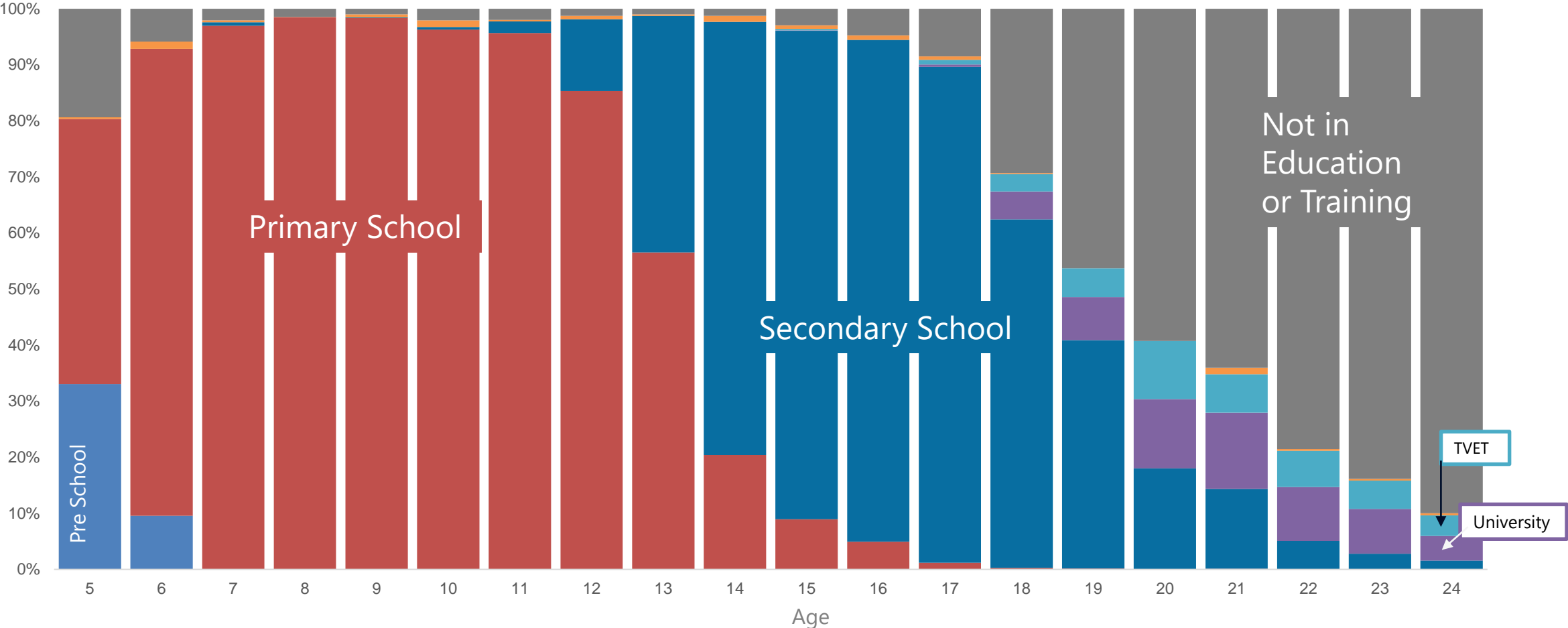


Percentage of children aged five who did not attend an education institution **increased from 10,9% in 2019 to 37,7% in 2020, before dropping off to 19,4% in 2021.**

**A similar pattern was observed for children aged six** (3,5% in 2019 increasing to 11,8% in 2020 before declining to 5,9% by 2021).

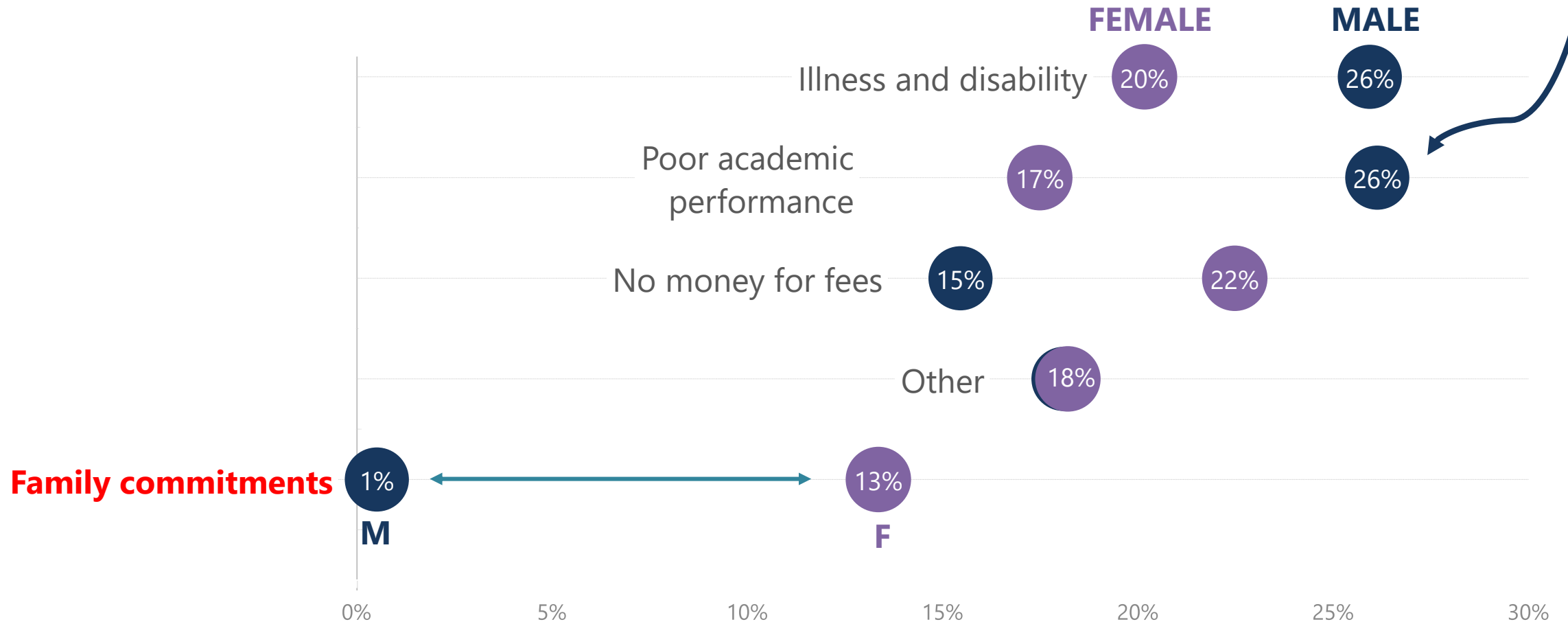
Despite near universal attendance of educational institutions during the compulsory phase (until age 15), many learners take additional time to transition to secondary school or tertiary education.

Type of educational institution attended by individuals aged 5–24 years, 2021



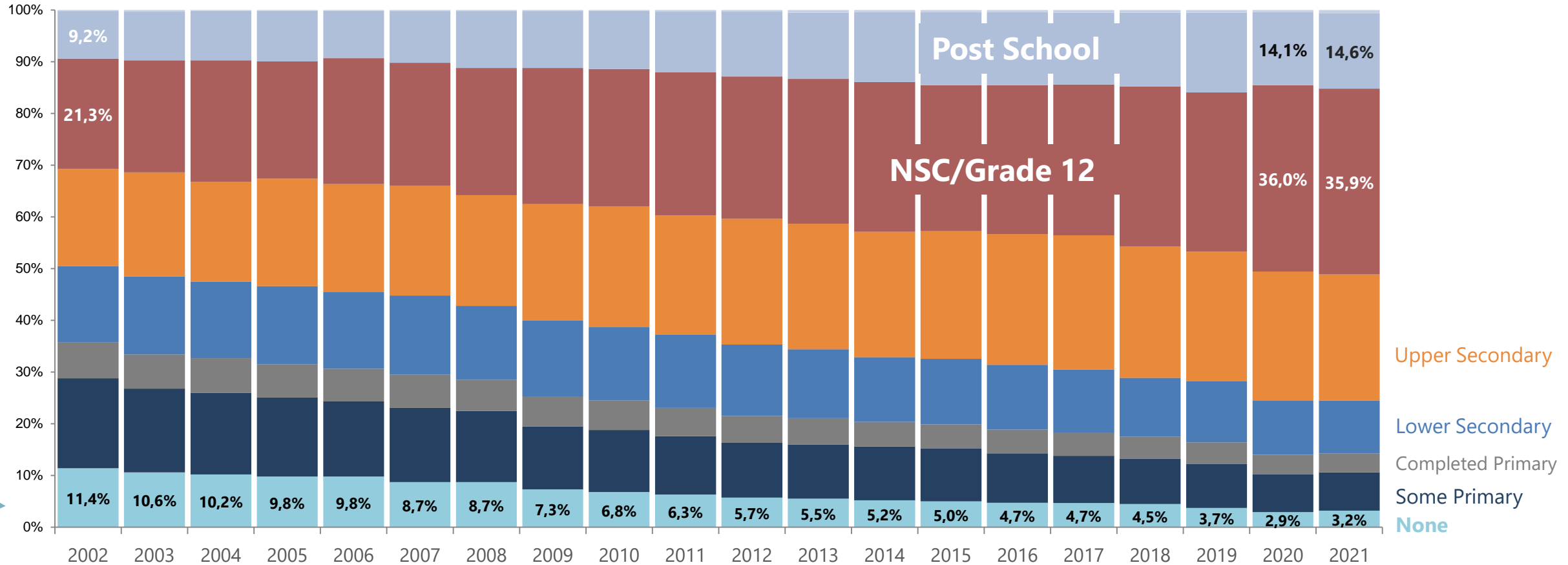
# Top male reasons for not attending school was **poor academic performance**, with large gender disparity in **family commitment** as a reason for not attending school

Percentage distribution of selected reasons given by individuals aged 7 to 18 years for not attending an educational institution, by sex, 2021



The percentage of individuals aged 20 years and older who **did not have any education** decreased from 11,4% in 2002 to 3,2% in 2021. *Those with at least a grade 12 qualification increased from 30,5% to 50,5% over the same period.*

Educational attainment for persons aged 20 years and older, 2002-2021

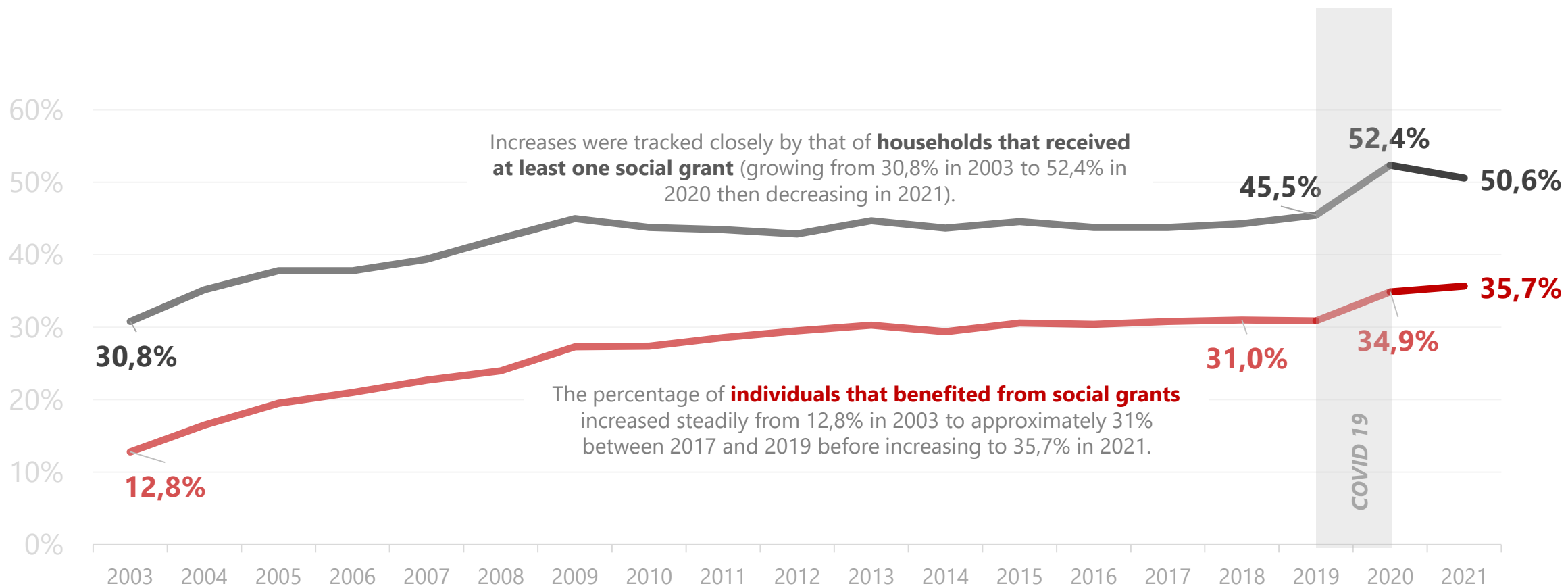




# GRANTS AND SOURCES OF INCOME

# An increase in the percentage of persons and individuals who accessed social grants in 2021 was mainly due to the large uptake of COVID-19 **Social Relief of Distress grants**.

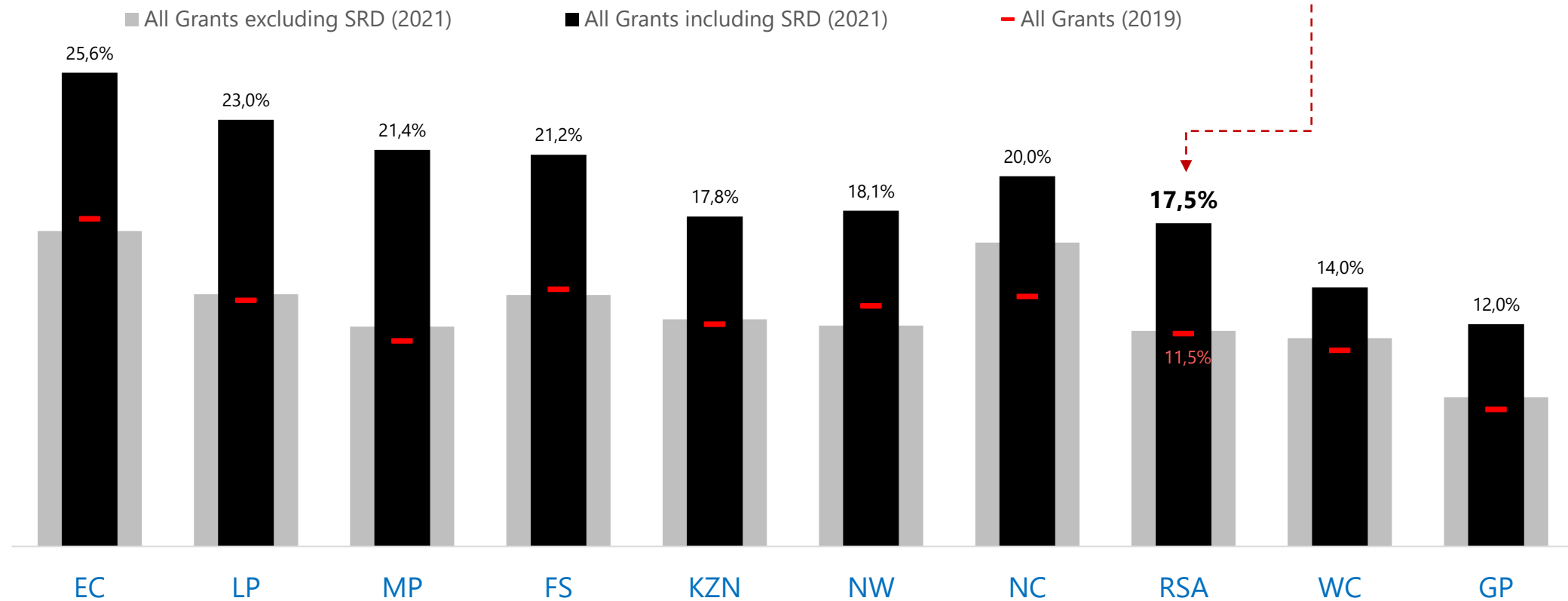
Percentage of households and individuals who have benefited from social grants, 2003–2021





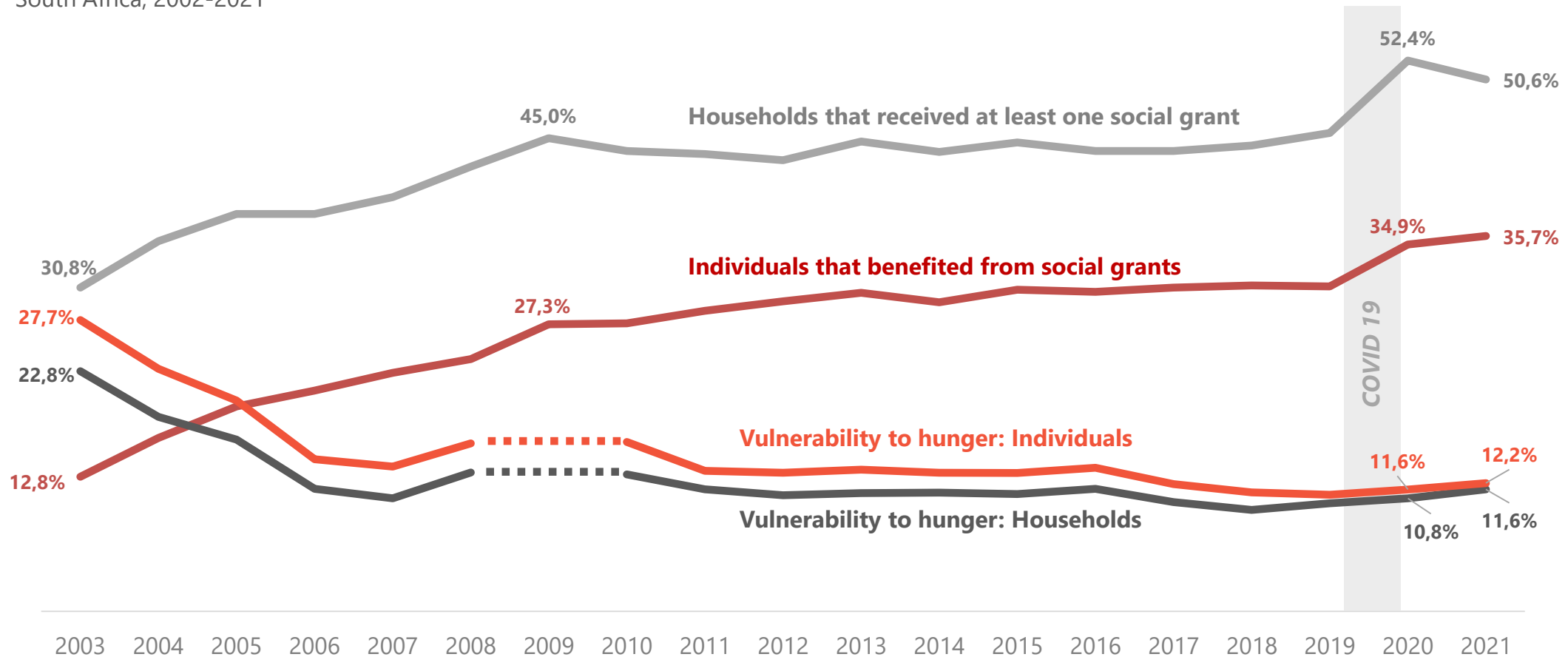
Nationally, although **17,5%** of **individuals aged 18 years and older** accessed grants if **Social Relief of Distress grants** are included, the figures falls to 11,6% if SRDs are excluded, very similar to the estimate reported in 2019 (11,5%). *Similar observations can be made across all provinces.*

Percentage of individuals that benefitted from social grants per province in 2021 by access to Social Relief Grant, compared to individual beneficiaries in 2019.



# As access to grants increased, vulnerability to hunger at an individual and household level **has declined** until 2019. Since 2020, vulnerability to hunger has increased slightly.

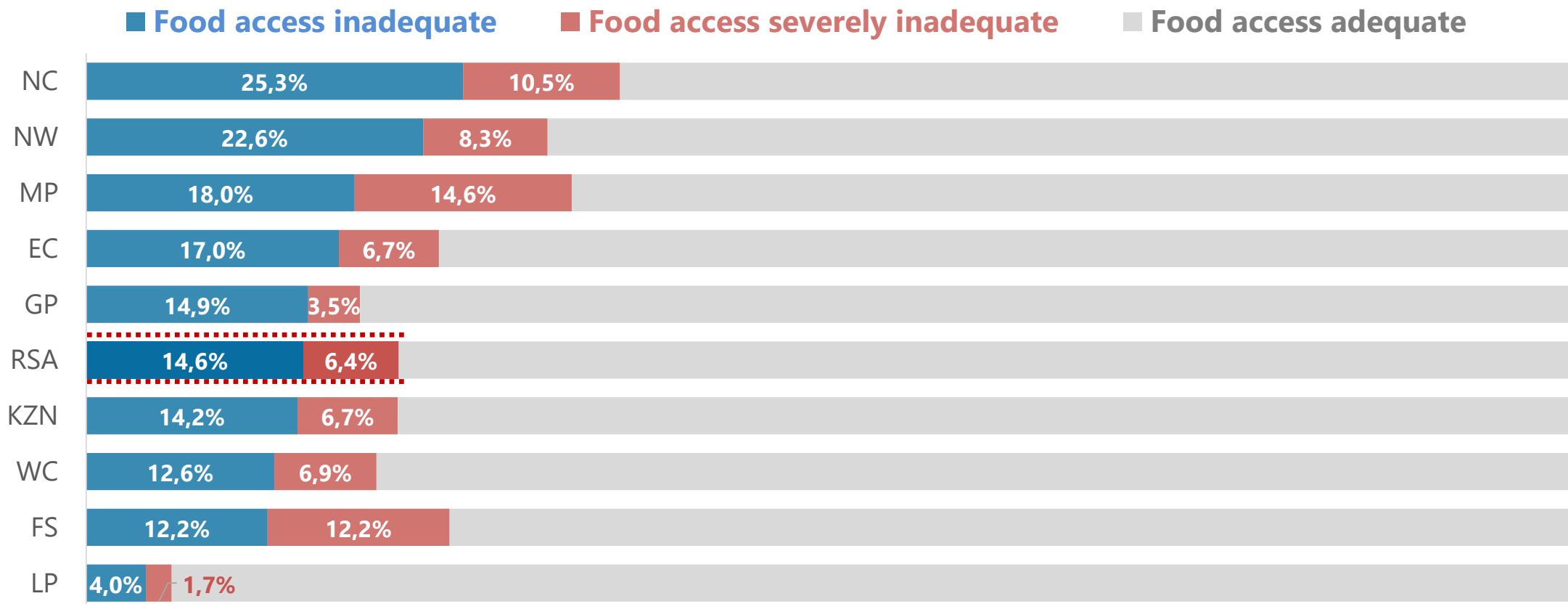
Access to grants vs estimated percentage of households and persons vulnerable to hunger in South Africa, 2002-2021



Break in series

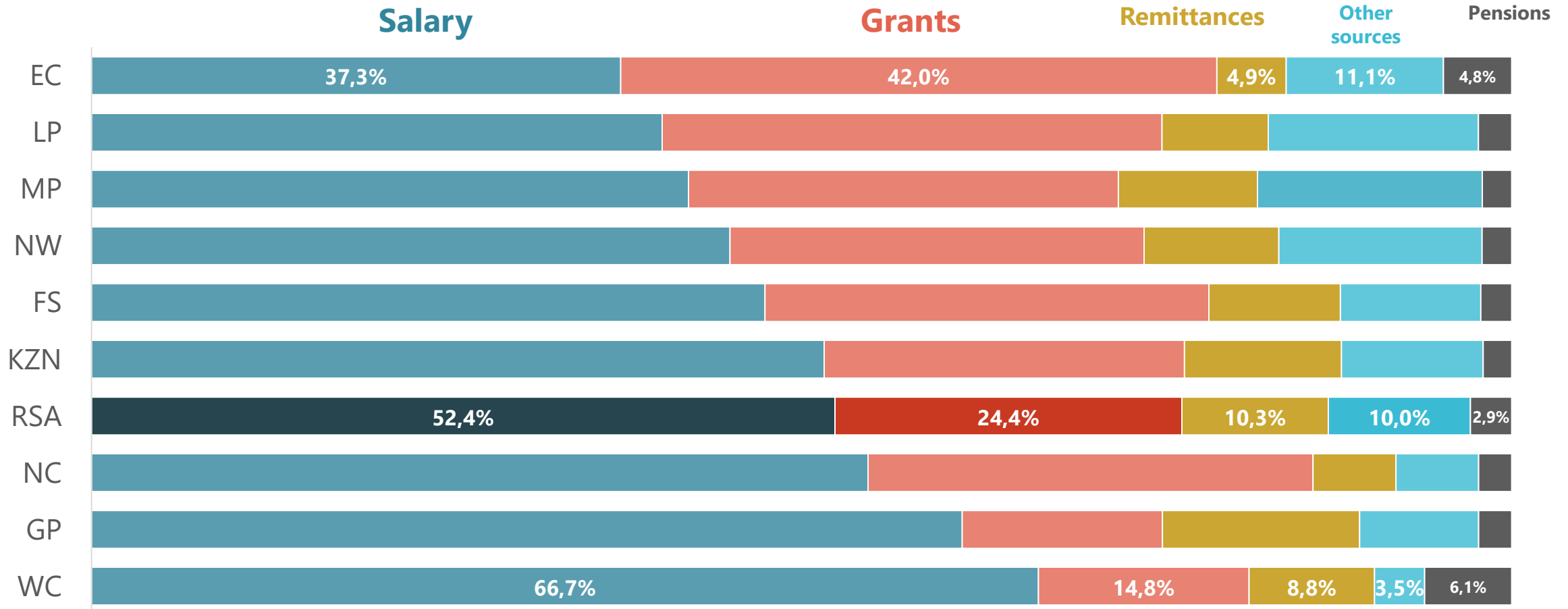
**Nationally, 21%** of households considered their access to food as **inadequate** or **severely inadequate**. Food access problems were the most common in North West (30,9%), Mpumalanga (32,6%), Free State (24,4%) and Northern Cape (35,8%).

Percentage of households experiencing food adequacy or inadequacy by province, 2021

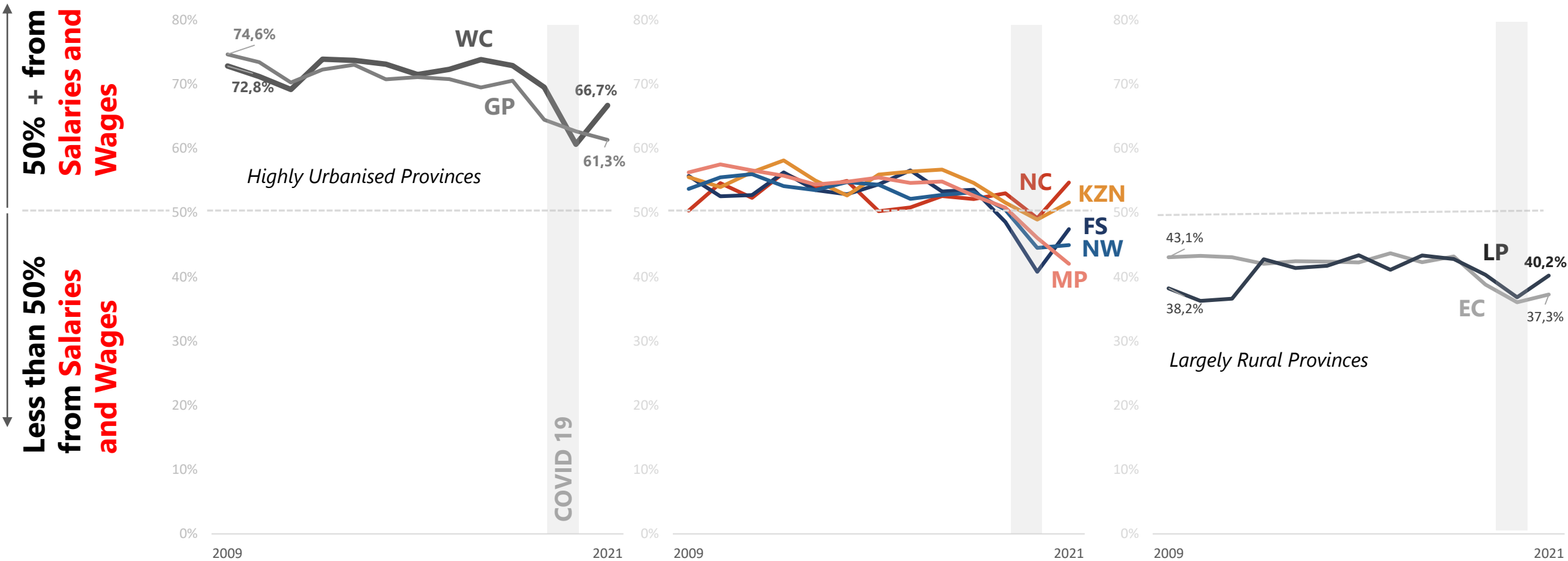


# Grants are the main source of income for almost one-quarter (24,4%) of households nationally.

Percentage distribution of main sources of household income by province, 2021

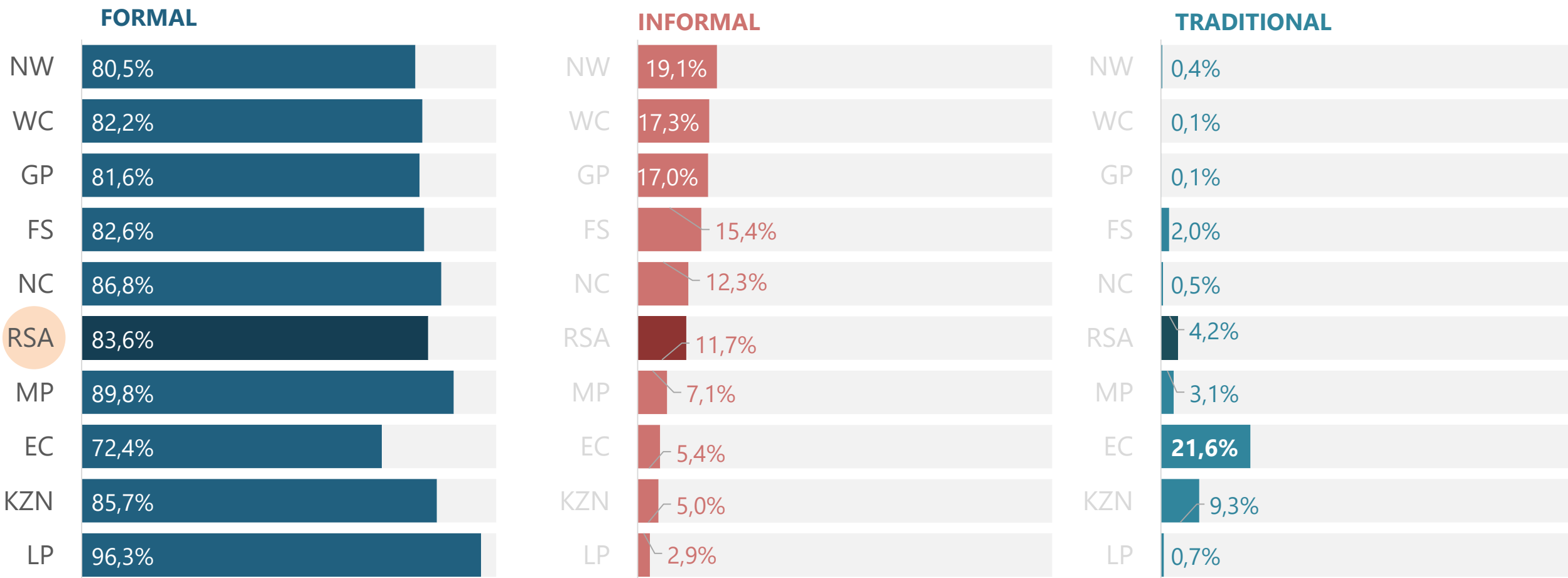


Salaries and wages as a as main source of income has shown long term declines and were strongly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.



# Slightly more than four-fifths (83,6%) of South African households lived **in formal dwellings in 2021**. *Approximately one in five households in NW (19,1%) lived in informal dwellings*

Percentage of households that lived in formal, informal and traditional dwellings by province, 2021



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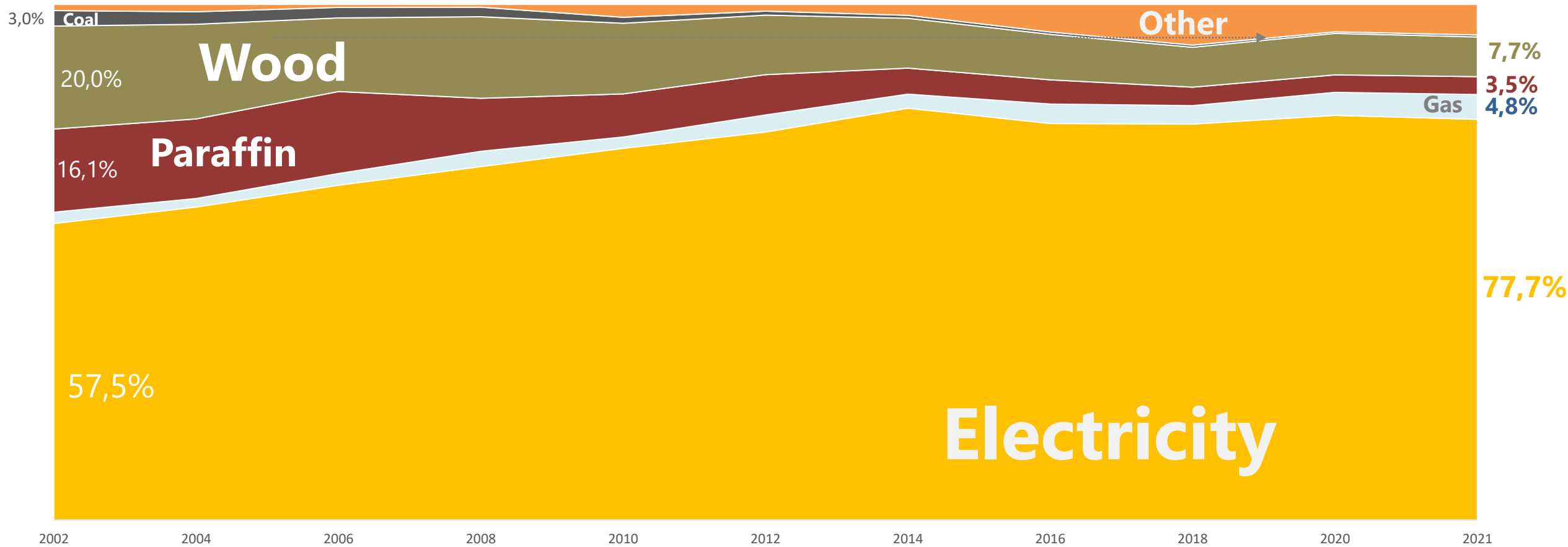


# Energy Sources

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Paraffin and wood as a source of **energy for cooking** continues to decline as electricity becomes more accessible. *Gas usage has more than doubled over the last 10 years from 2,2% to 4,8%*

Energy used for cooking, 2002-2021

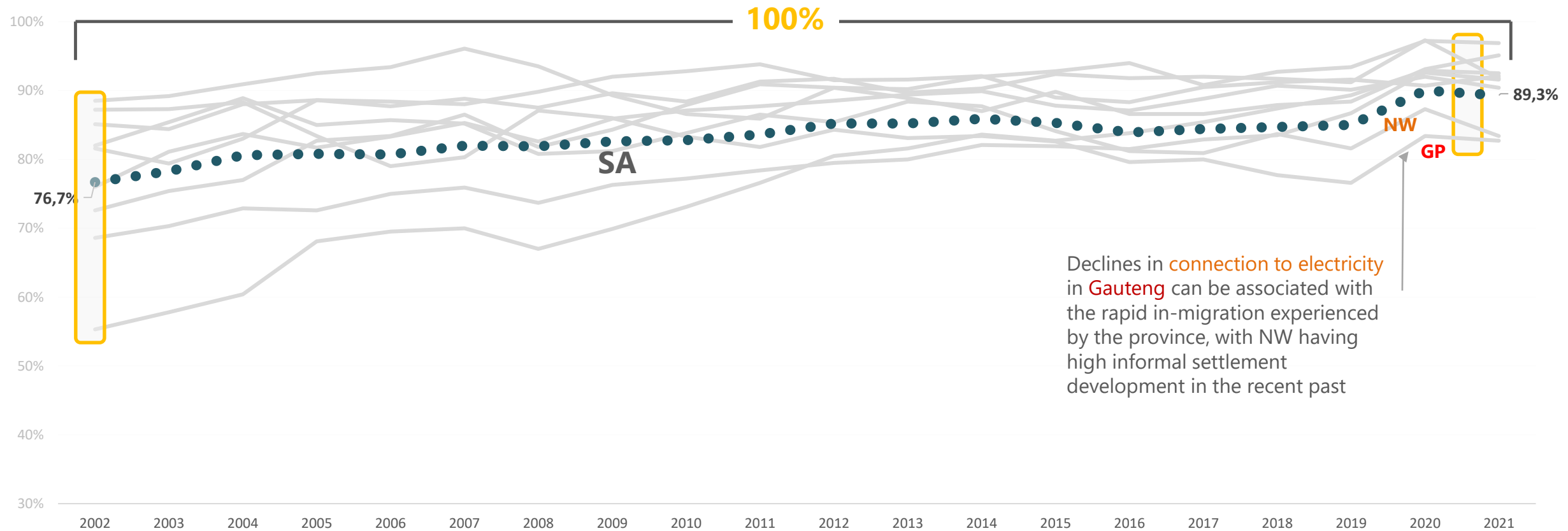


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# All provinces with the exception of NW and GP have 90%+ mains electricity connection

Percentage of households connected to the mains electricity supply by province, 2002–2021



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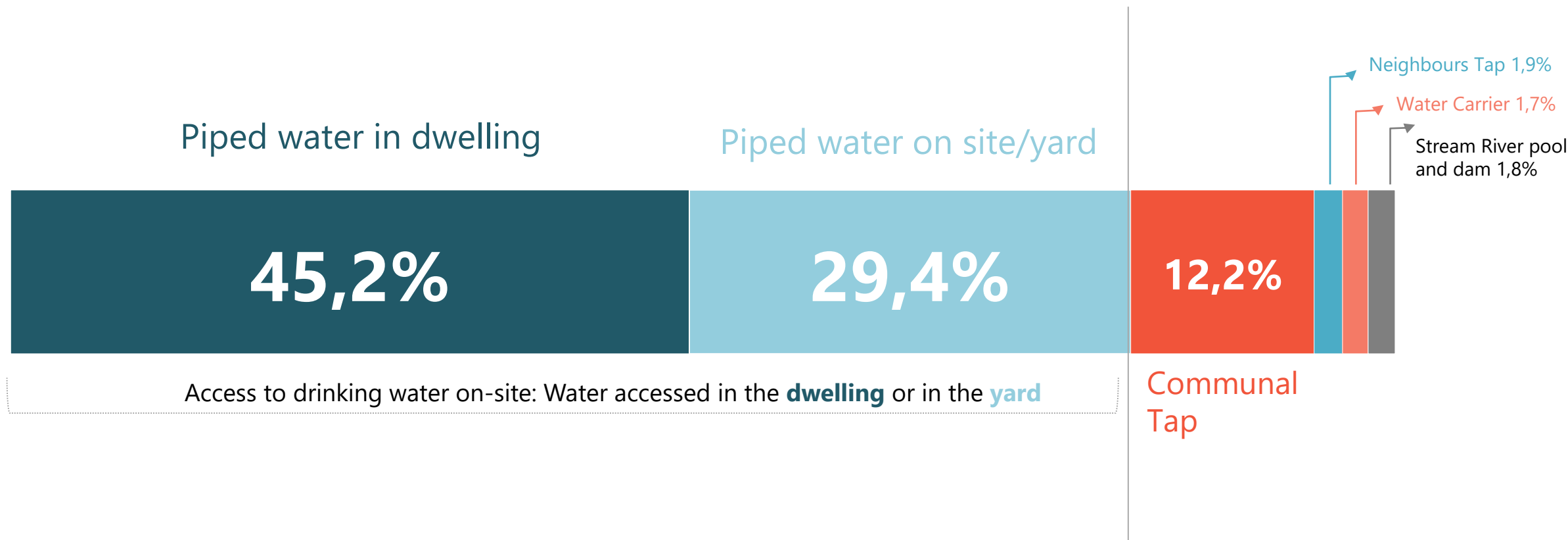
# Water and Sanitation

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GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY 2021

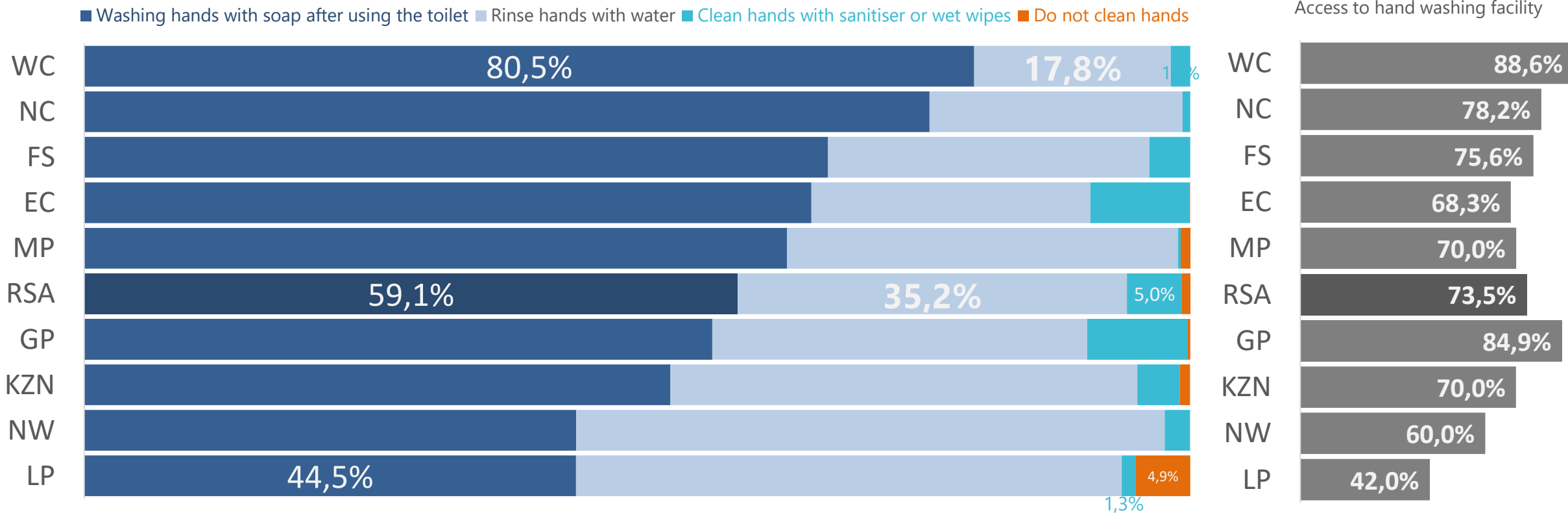
Around 14% of households relied on a communal or neighbour's tap as a main source of drinking water. 88,7% of SA households have access to improved water sources

Percentage of households by selected main water source (top 6 sources shown), 2021



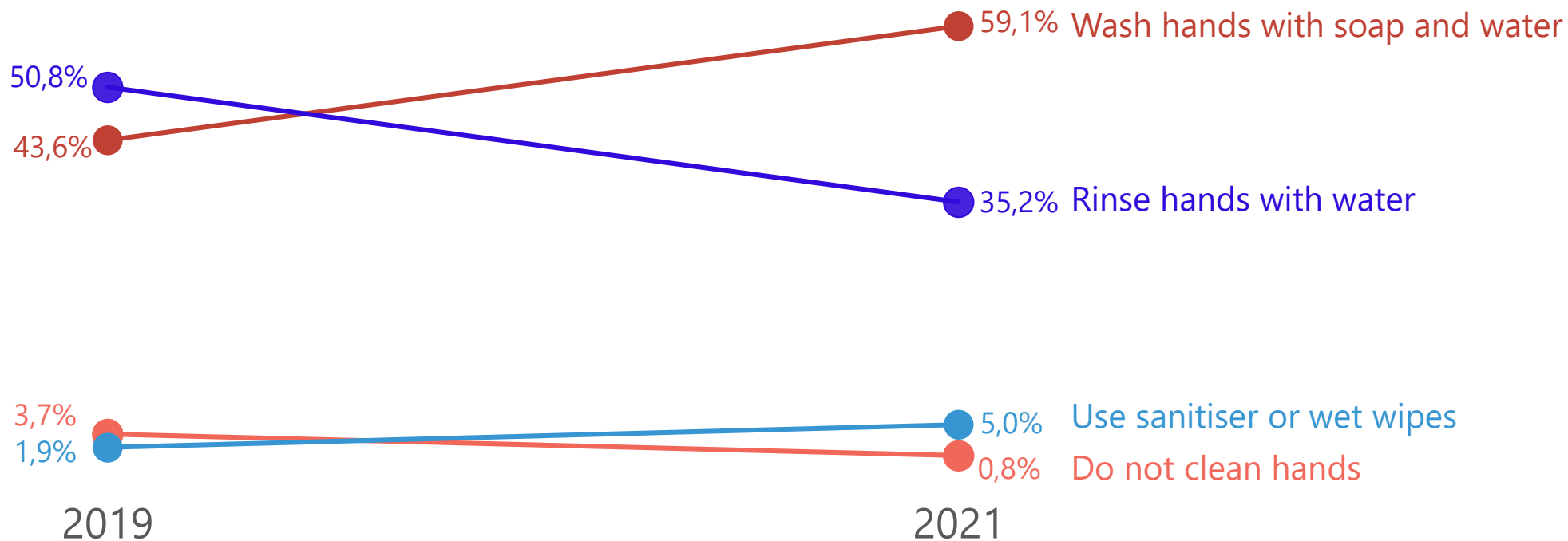
**Three-fifths (59,1%) of households indicated that their members washed hands with soap after using the toilet**, while one-third only rinsed their hands with water.

Percentage of households by access to hand washing facility, 2021



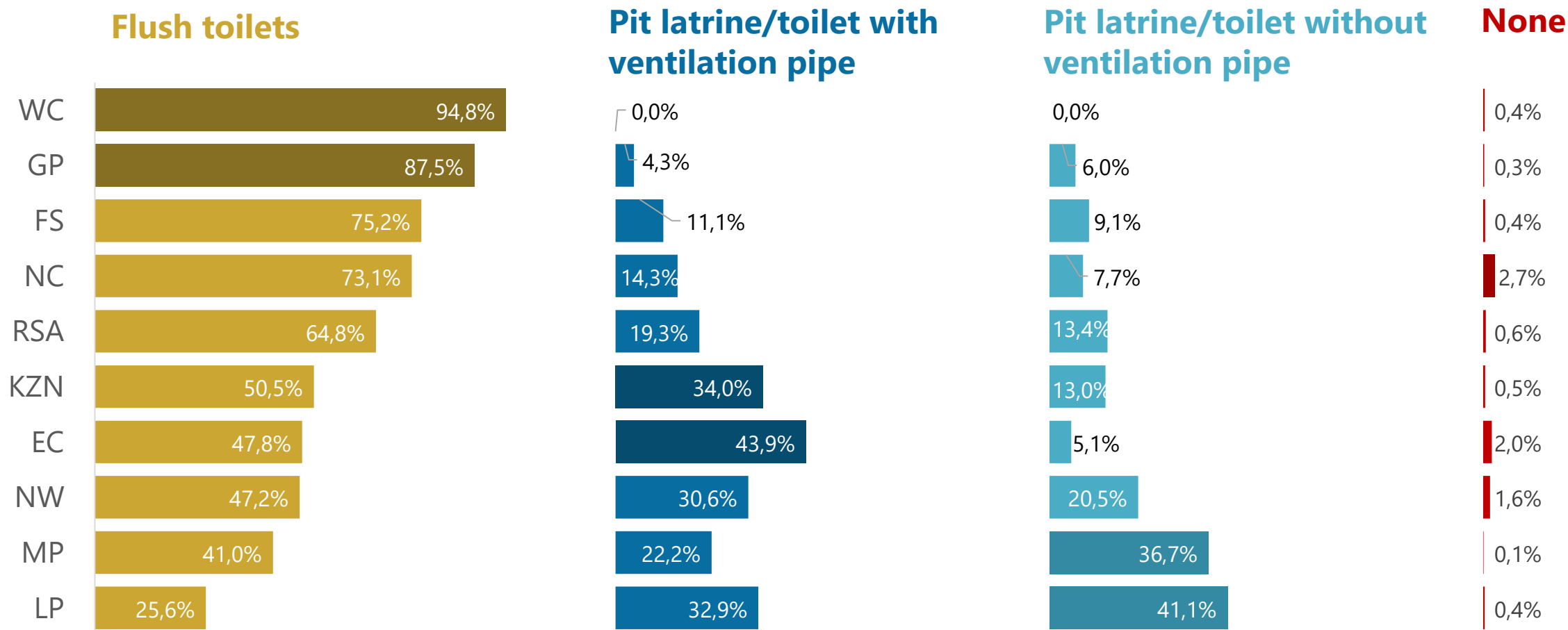
The percentage of households whose members usually **wash hands with soap and water** increased notably, while the percentage of households whose members only **rinsed their hands with water** decreased between 2019 and 2021.

Percentage of households by the methods usually used by household members to clean their hands after using the toilet by province, 2019 - 2021



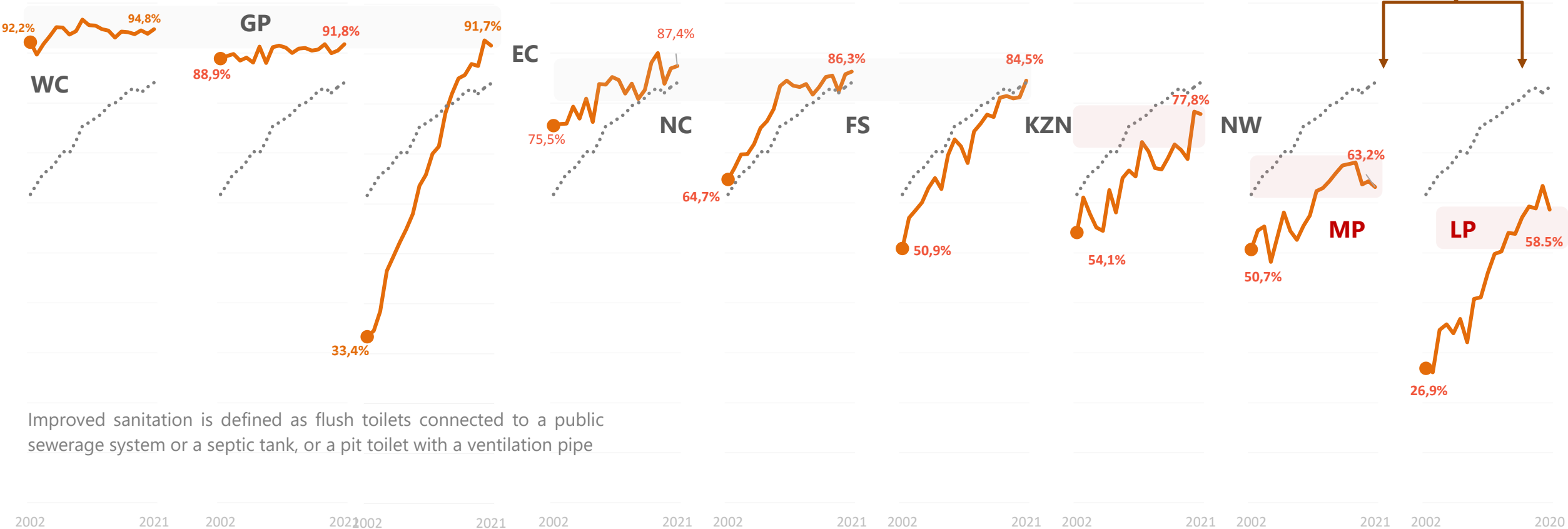
Almost two-thirds of South African households have **access to flush toilets** while 84,1% had access to improved sanitation. *Less than 1% no access to sanitation facilities.*

Percentage of households by type of toilet facility and province, 2021



# Majority of households in WC (94,8%) and GP (91,8%) had access to improved sanitation; access was most limited in Limpopo and Mpumalanga. 2021 SA average is 84,1%

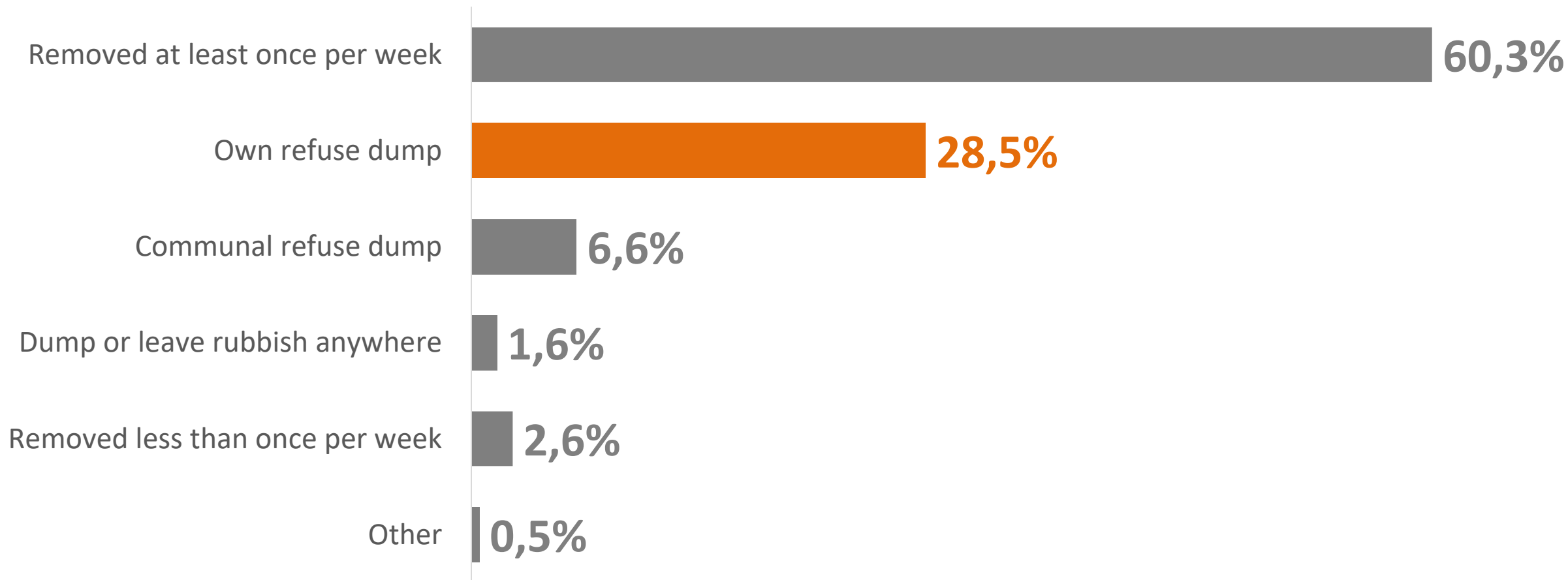
Percentage of households that have access to improved sanitation per province, 2002–2021



Improved sanitation is defined as flush toilets connected to a public sewerage system or a septic tank, or a pit toilet with a ventilation pipe

Almost one-third (28,5%) of households used their **own refuse dumps** in the absence of services. Regular refuse removal services existed for almost 60,3% of households.

Percentage of households by type of refuse removal services, 2021





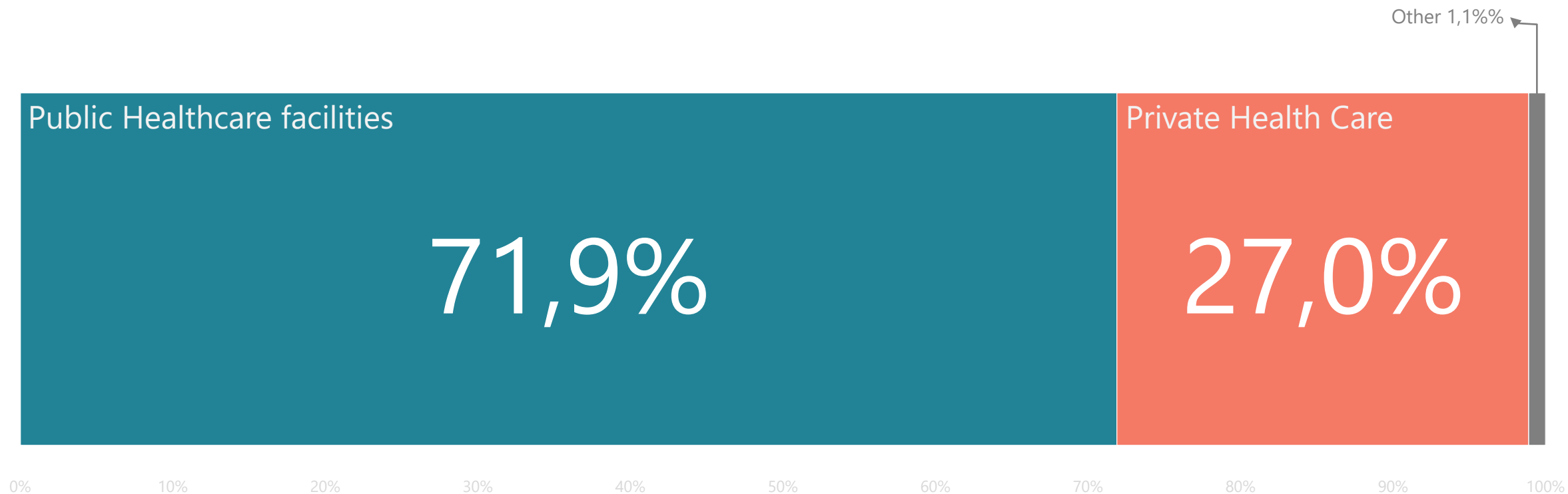


# Health

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# 7 out of 10 households first call on **Public Healthcare facilities** when someone is ill

Healthcare facility normally consulted by household when someone is ill, 2021

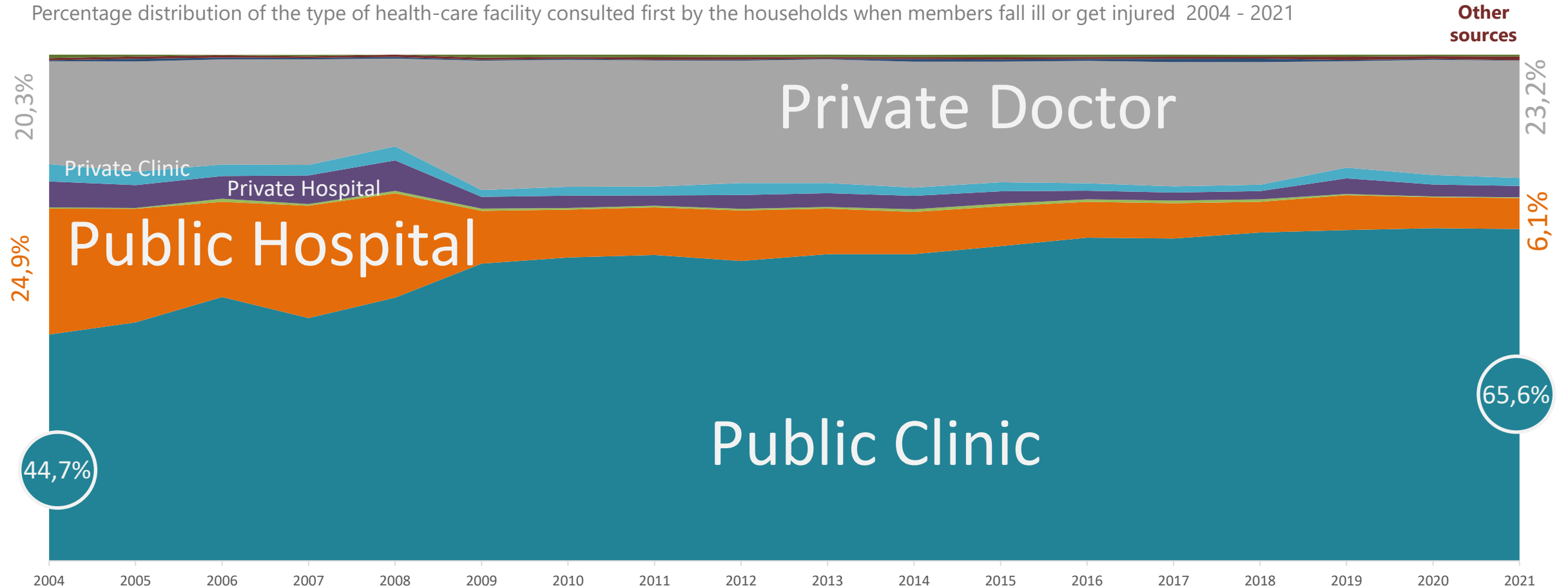


*Due to rounding numbers may not add up to 100%*

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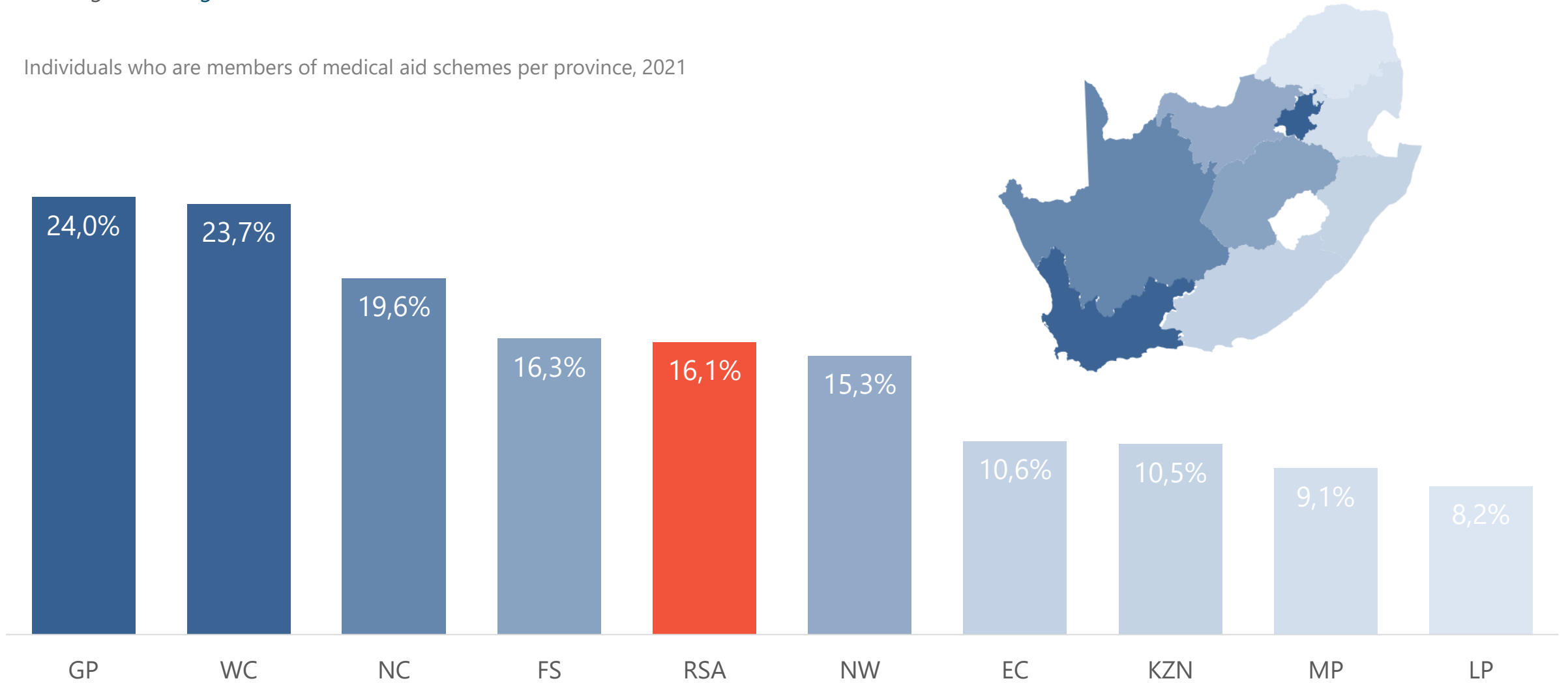
In 2021, **65,6%** of household members first consulted a **Public Clinic health care facility**.

Percentage distribution of the type of health-care facility consulted first by the households when members fall ill or get injured 2004 - 2021



Approximately 16,1 % of individuals had medical aid coverage in 2021. Only WC and GP have coverage rates higher than 20%

Individuals who are members of medical aid schemes per province, 2021



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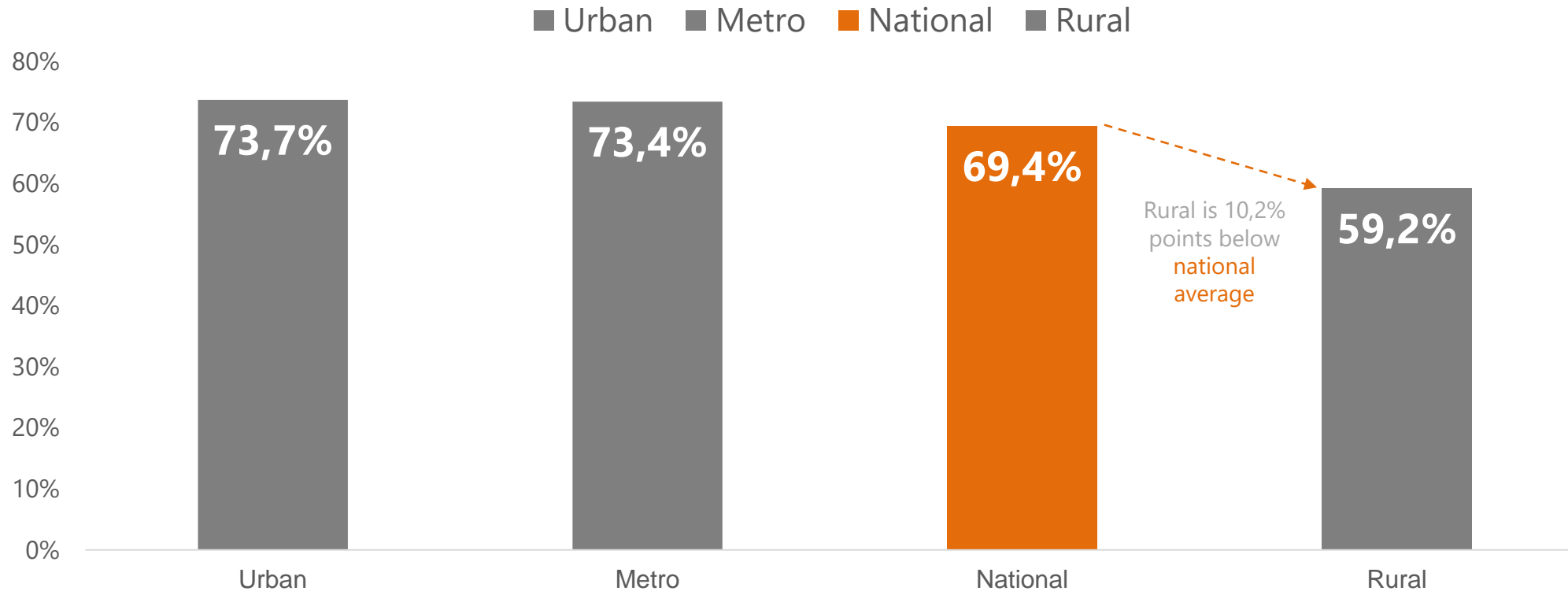


# Telecommunications

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**Nationally**, internet access using mobile devices (69,4%) was the most common form of access to the internet. Although the use of mobile internet access devices in rural areas (59,2%) still lags behind its use in urban and metro areas, it is much more common in rural areas than any of the alternative methods.

Access to the Internet using mobile devices, 2021



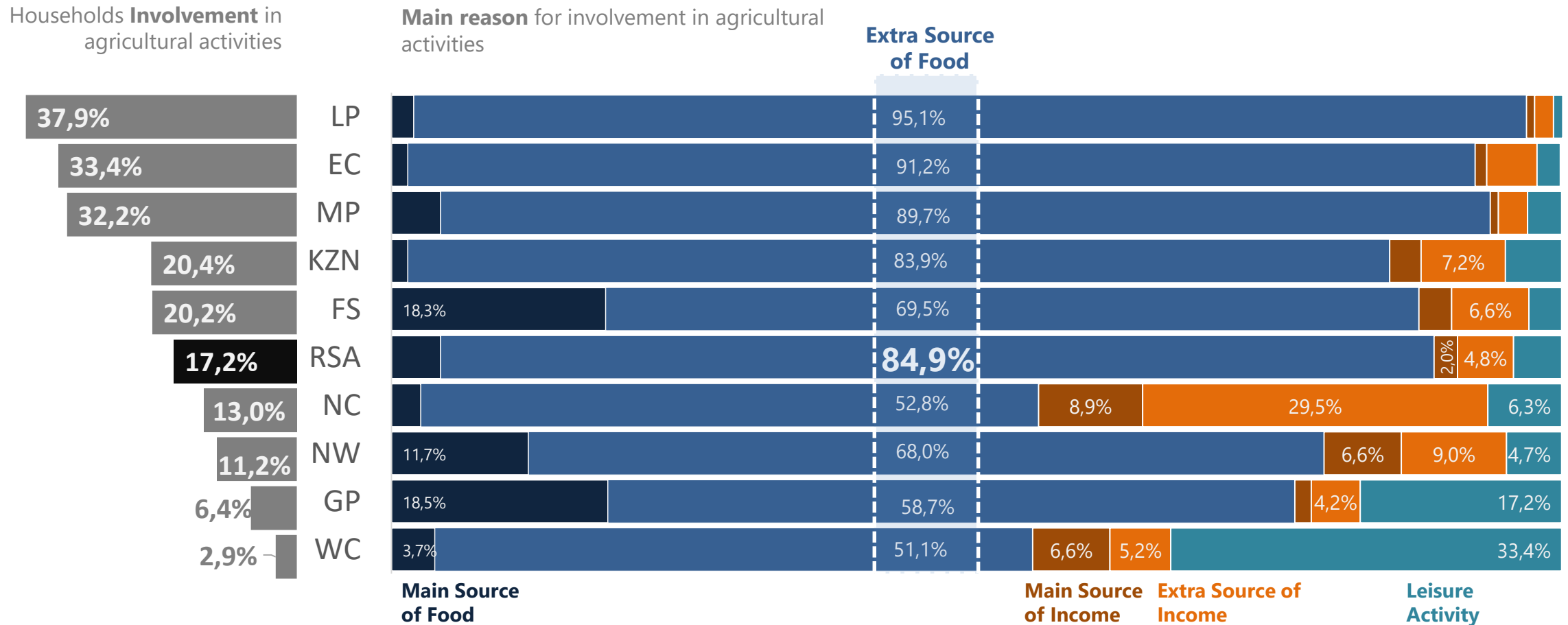


# Agriculture

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85% of households involved in agriculture did so to produce extra food. Only 2% of households had agriculture as their main source of income. 18,5% of the 6,4% of GP households involved in agriculture used it as their main source of food.

Proportion of Agricultural households & main reason for involvement





# Recap GHS 2021

- ❖ Almost one-fifth of children did not live with either of their biological parents, while 33,8% lived with both parents, and 43,4% lived with their mothers.
- ❖ Approximately one in five households (23,3%) consisted of a single person, while 59,2% of households contained three or less members.

- ❖ Although salaries remain the main source of income for most households (52,4%), grants were the main source of income for 24,4% of households. Dependency on grants is particularly high in EC (42,0%) and LP (35,2%).
- ❖ A comparison with 2019 estimates shows that a larger percentage of children in the age group 0–4 years remained at home with a parent, guardian in 2021 (57,3% compared to 50,2% two years earlier), while a smaller percentage attended grade R, pre-school, nursery school, crèche, and edu-care centres (28,5% compared to 36,8%).
- ❖ School Attendance was almost universal at ages 7-15 years. 23,7% of persons aged 7–24 were **not** attending educational institutions. Participation rates were also very low for 5/6 year olds during COVID.



GHS 2021

# Ndzi hela kwala!



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