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Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS)

Victims of Crime 2022/23

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About the GPSJS and its objectives

- 1** The Victims of Crime Survey (VOCS) was conducted by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) in 1998. The Institute for Security Studies (ISS) conducted the 2003 and 2007 versions of the VOCS.
- 2** Stats SA resumed the survey from 2011 – 2017/18, based on a total sample size of approximately 30 000 households across 9 provinces of SA.
- 3** In 2017 VOCS was redesigned to make room for new information demands on governance. The redesigned survey is called **Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS)**. GPSJS retains most of the VOCS content.
- 4** Provide an overview of the level and trend of crime experienced by households and individuals in SA and explore public perceptions on issues of safety and general perceptions of individuals on gender norms and societal issues
- 5** Complement SAPS crime statistics by providing estimates for quantities that cannot be measured at police stations

Household experience of crime



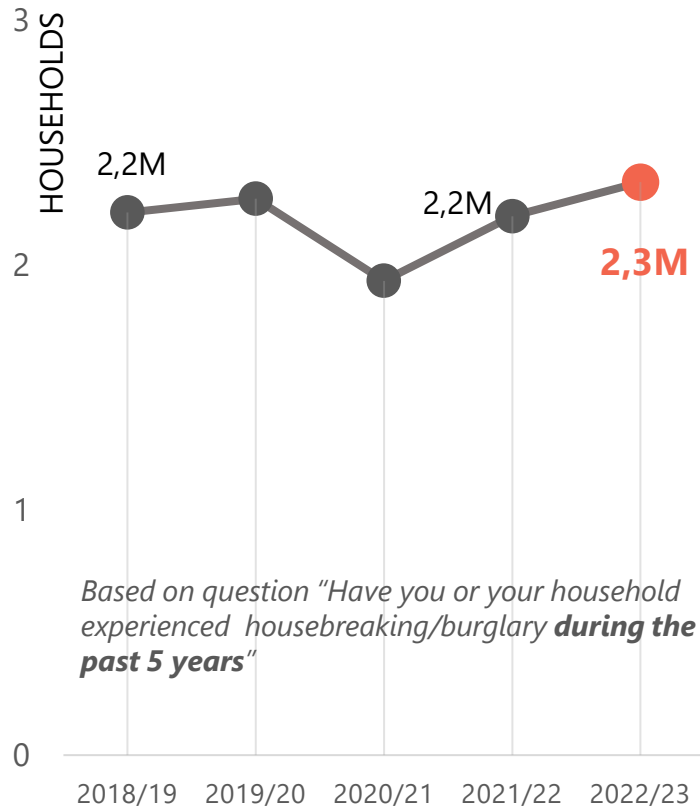
The Victim of Crime modules in GPSJS consists of **7 types of household crimes** :
Housebreaking, home robbery, theft of motor vehicles, murder, assault, sexual
offence and deliberate damaging of dwellings



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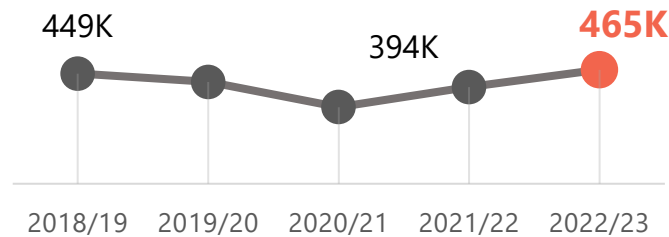
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Around **2,3M** households experienced **housebreaking/burglary** during the **past 5 years**. The experience of housebreaking has increased by 6% from the previous year.



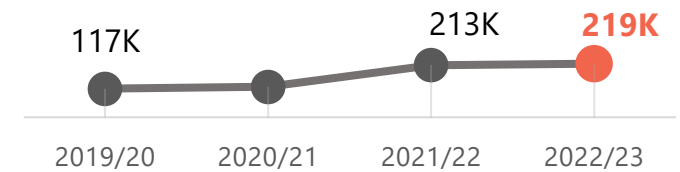
Around **465 000** households experienced **Home robbery** during the **past 5 years**. The experience of Home Robbery increased by 18% from the previous year.

Based on question "Have you or your household experienced Home robbery **during the past 5 years**"



Around **219 000** households experienced **Assault** during the **past 5 years**. The experience of assault has increased by 3% from the previous year.

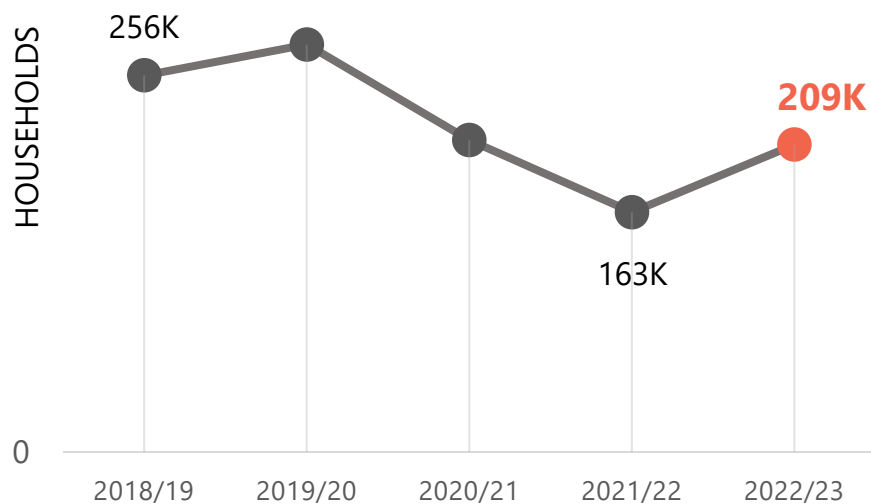
Based on question "Have you or your household experienced assault **during the past 5 years**"



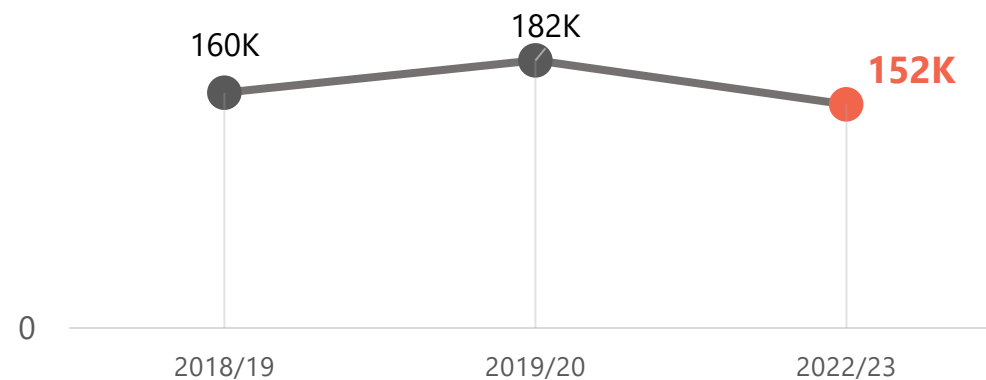
Around **209 000 households** experienced **Theft of Motor Vehicle** during the **past 5 years**. The experience of theft of motor vehicle has increased by 28% from the previous year.

Around **152 000 households** experienced **Deliberate damaging of dwellings** during the **past 5 years**. The experience of Deliberate damaging of dwellings has decreased by 16% from the previous reporting period.

Based on question "Have you or your household experienced car theft **during the past 5 years**"



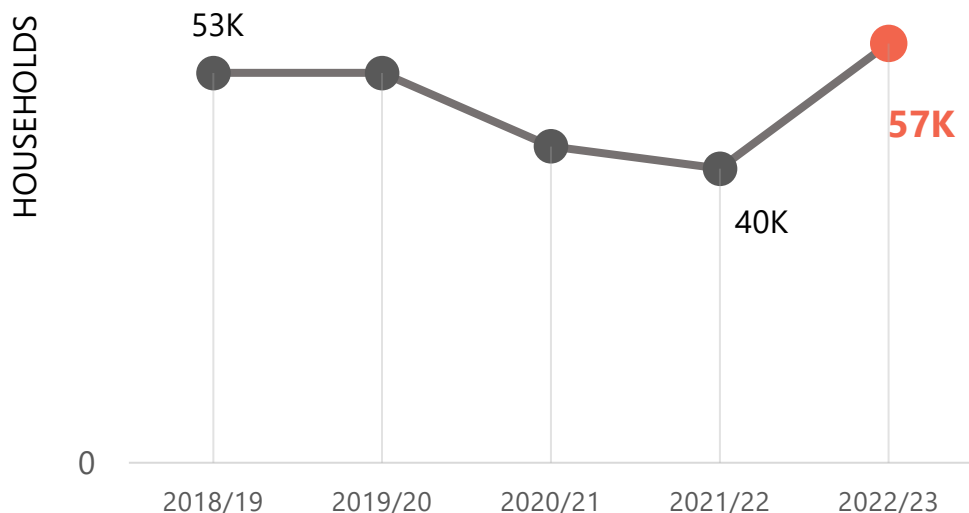
Based on question "Have you or your household experienced Deliberate damaging of dwellings **during the past 5 years**"



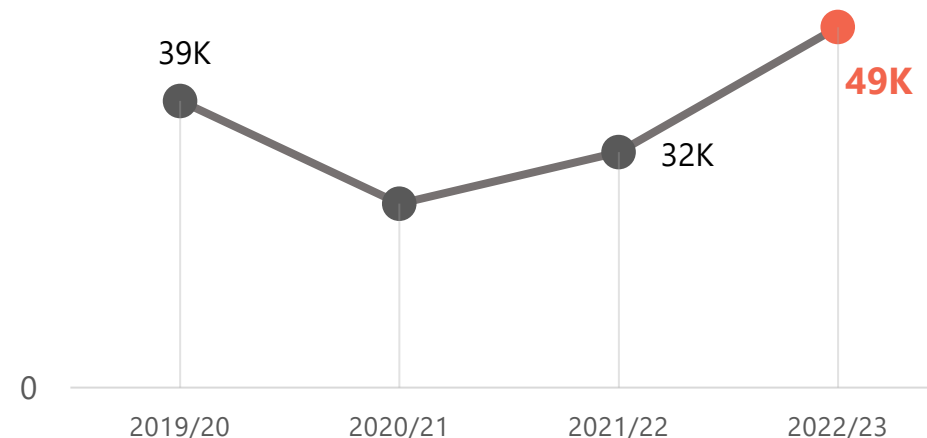
Around **57 000** households experienced **Murder** during the **past 5 years**. The experience of murder has increased by 43% from the previous year.

Around **49 000** households experienced **Sexual Offence** during the **past 5 years**. The experience of sexual offence has increased by 53% from the previous year.

Based on question "Have you or your household experienced murder **during the past 5 years**"



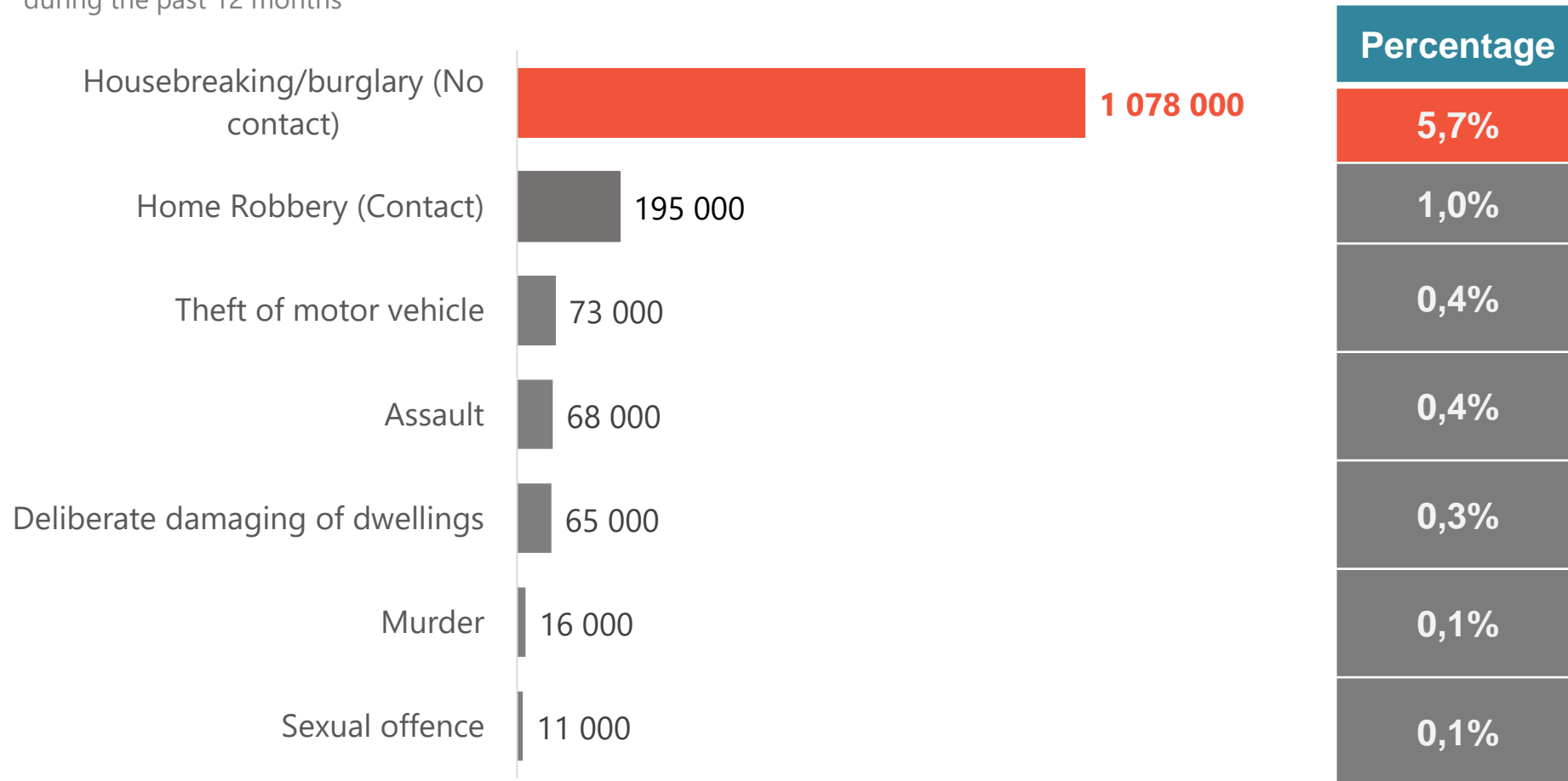
Based on question "Have you or your household experienced sexual offence **during the past 5 years**"



About **1,1M households** experienced Housebreaking/burglary in 2022/23. This was **5,7% of the households** in South Africa.

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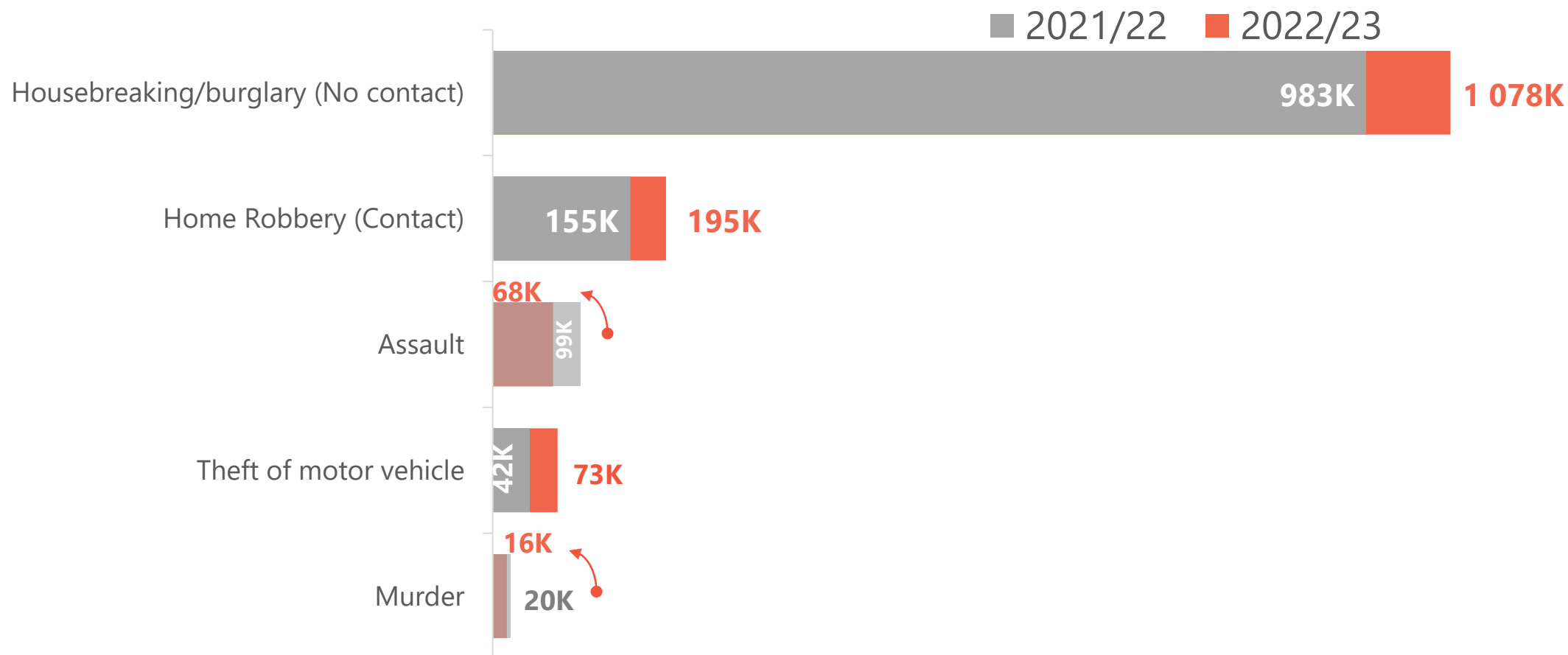
Number and percentage of households that experienced specified types of crime during the past 12 months



Households that experienced Housebreaking **increased** by **10%** in 2022/23 period

Number of households that experienced specified types of crime between 2021/22 and 2022/23

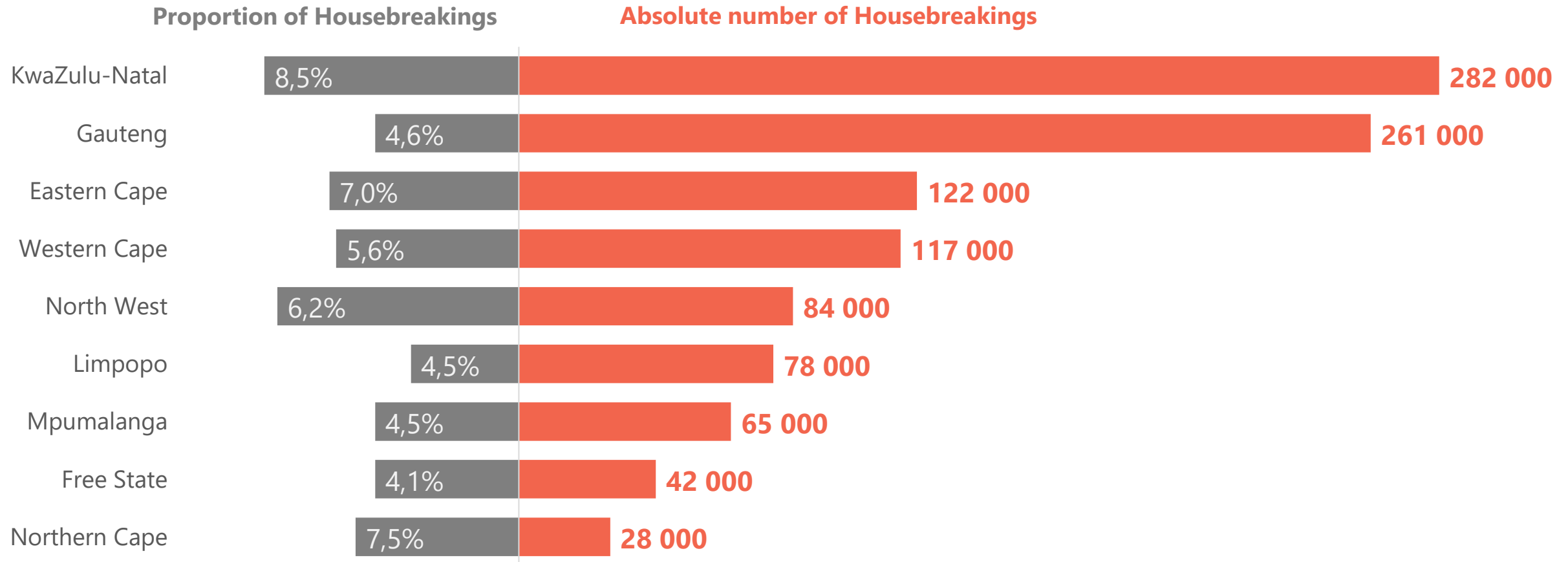
PAST **12 M**



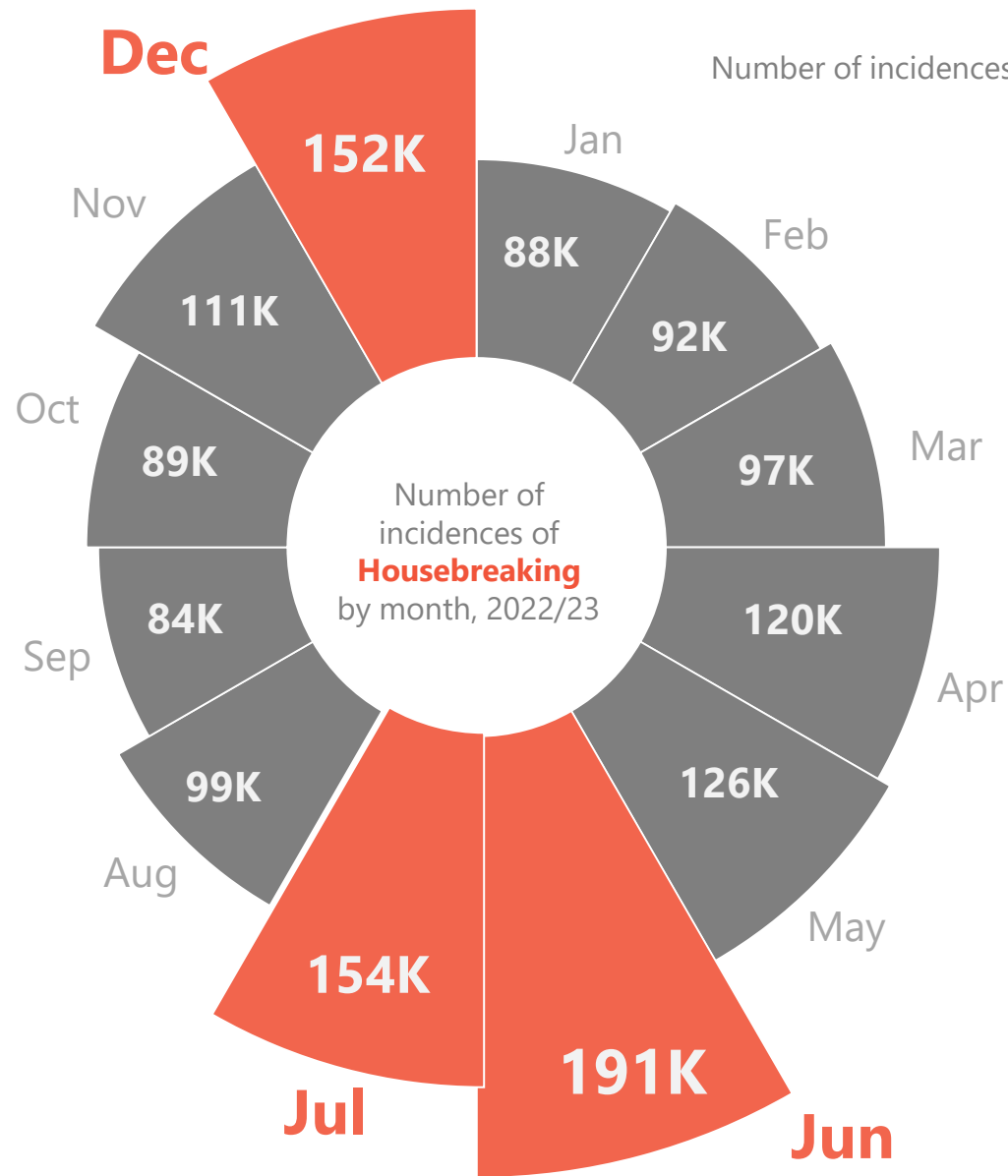
The highest proportion (**8,5%**) of households that experienced housebreaking was in KwaZulu-Natal. *Free State province had the lowest proportion (4,1%) of households that experienced housebreaking.*



Number and percentage of households that experienced housebreaking by province (proportion & absolute) 2022/23



Incidences of housebreaking peaked in **June (191 000)**, **July (154 000)** and **Dec (152 000)**

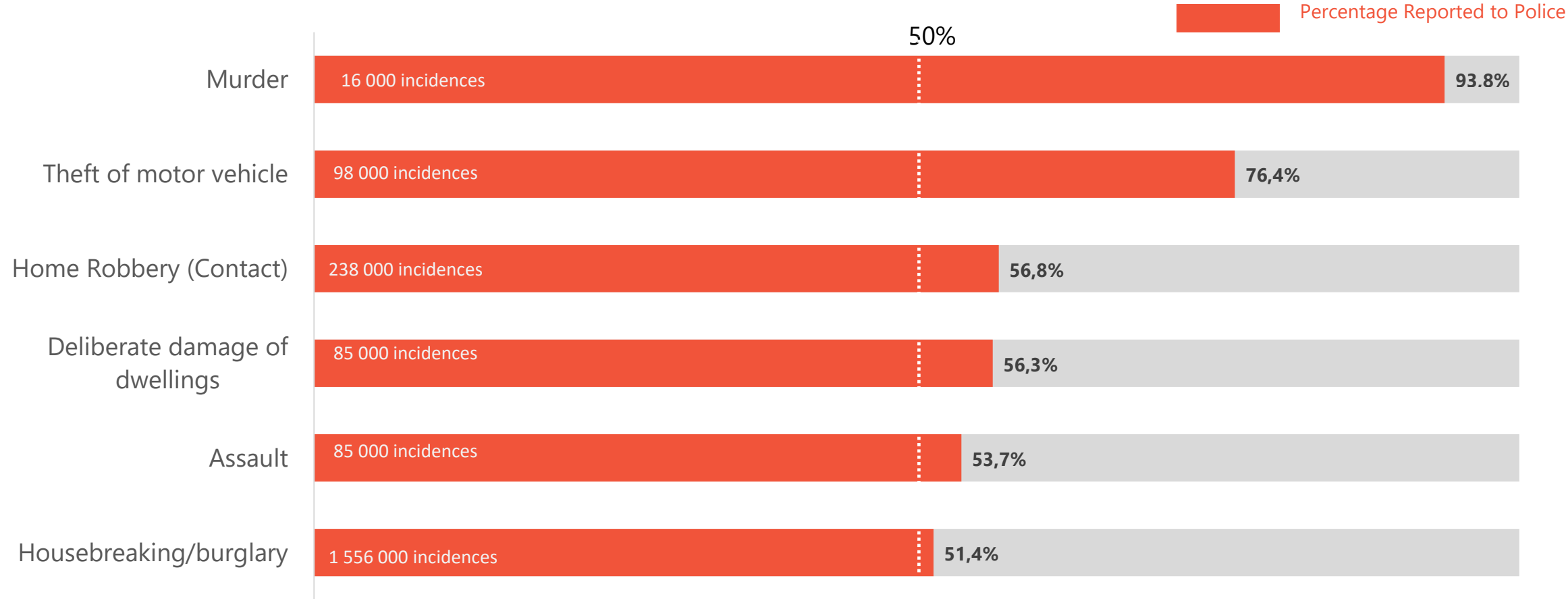


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About **94% of households** that experienced **Murder** reported some or all incidences to the police.

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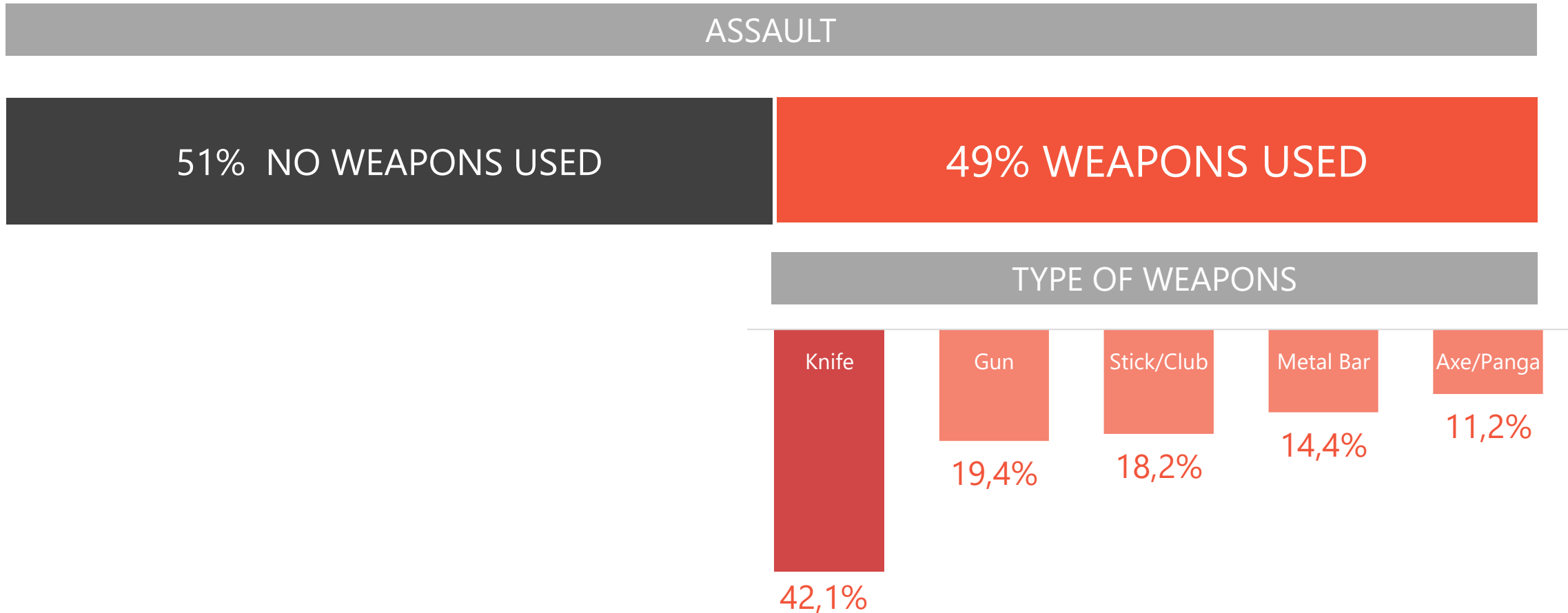
Percentage of households that reported incidences of specified type of crime to the police in the **12 months preceding the survey**



Of the 49% that indicated weapons were used during an incident of assault, **42,1% reported that a knife** was used.



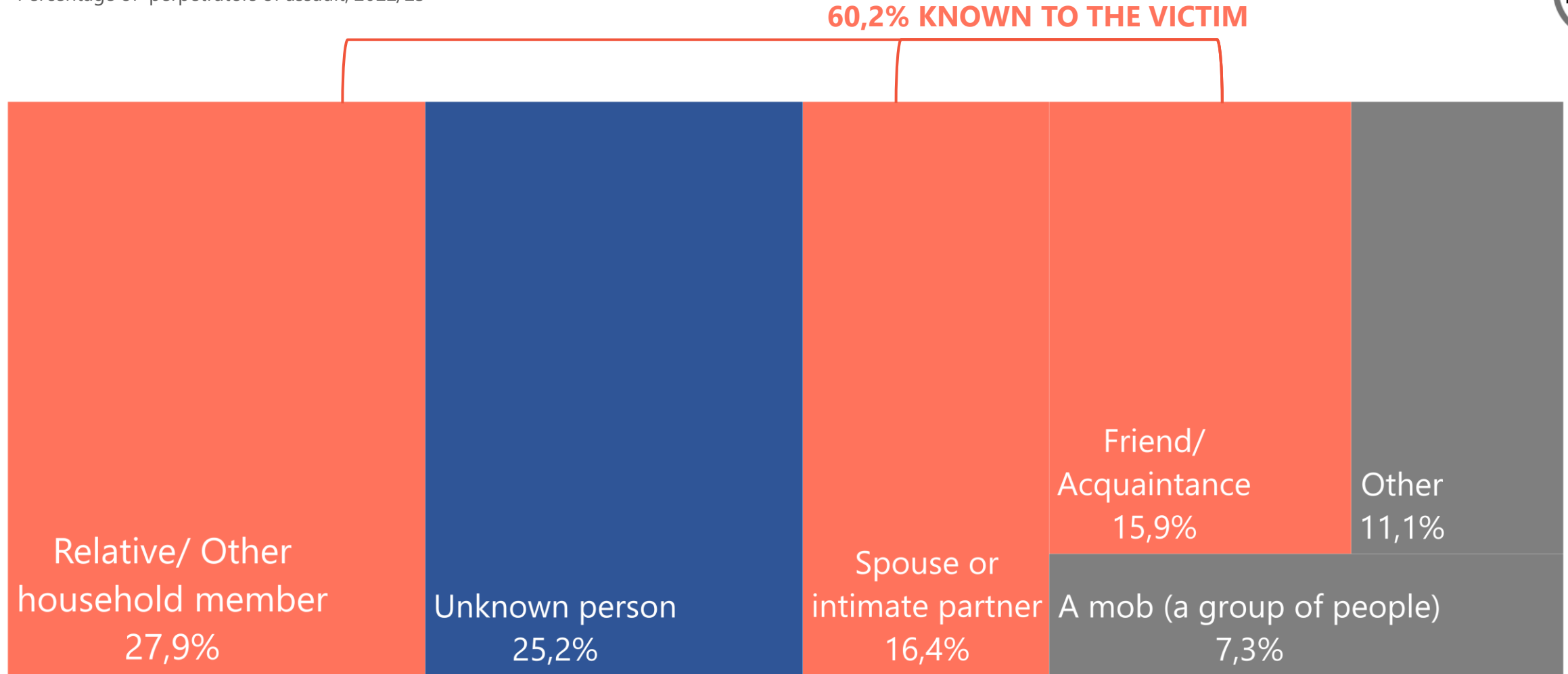
Percentage of households that indicated a weapon was used during an incident of assault 2022/23



Almost 28% of households reported that a **relative/other household member** was the perpetrator of assault.

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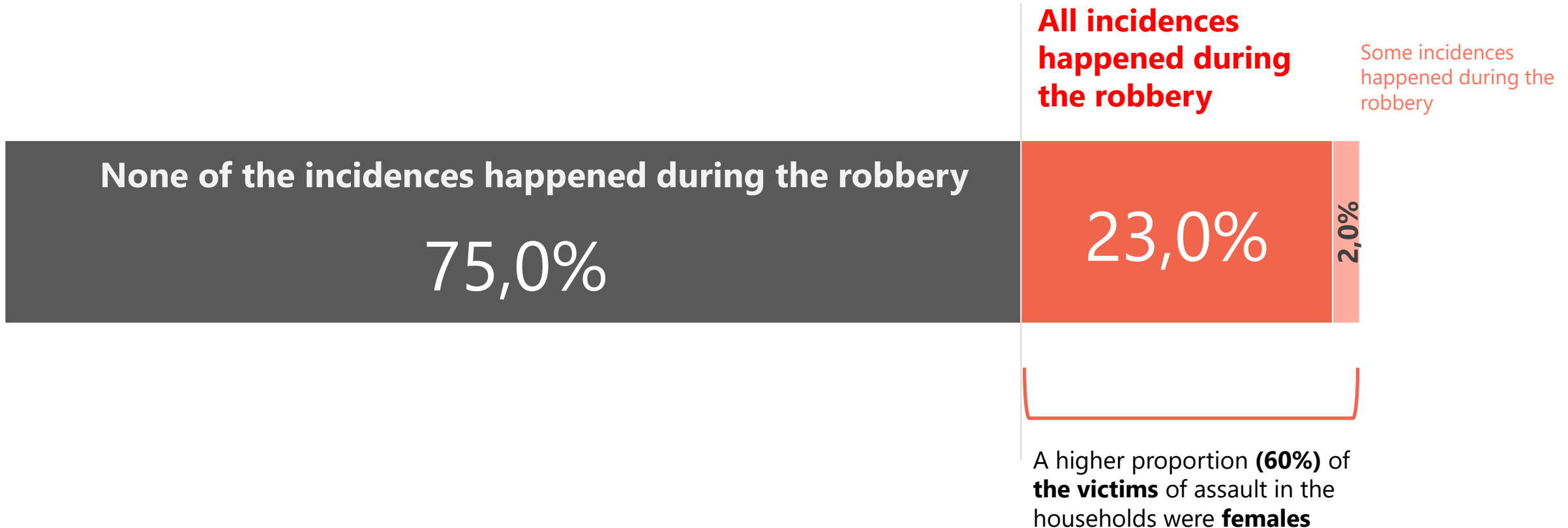
Percentage of perpetrators of assault, 2022/23



Only 25% of households reported that all or some of the incidents of assault happened during a home robbery.



Percentage of households that reported that the incidents of assault happened during a home robbery, 2022/23



Individual Experience of Crime



The Victim of Crime modules in GPSJS consists of 6 types of individual crime: Theft of personal property, street robbery, hijacking, sexual offence, assault and consumer fraud.

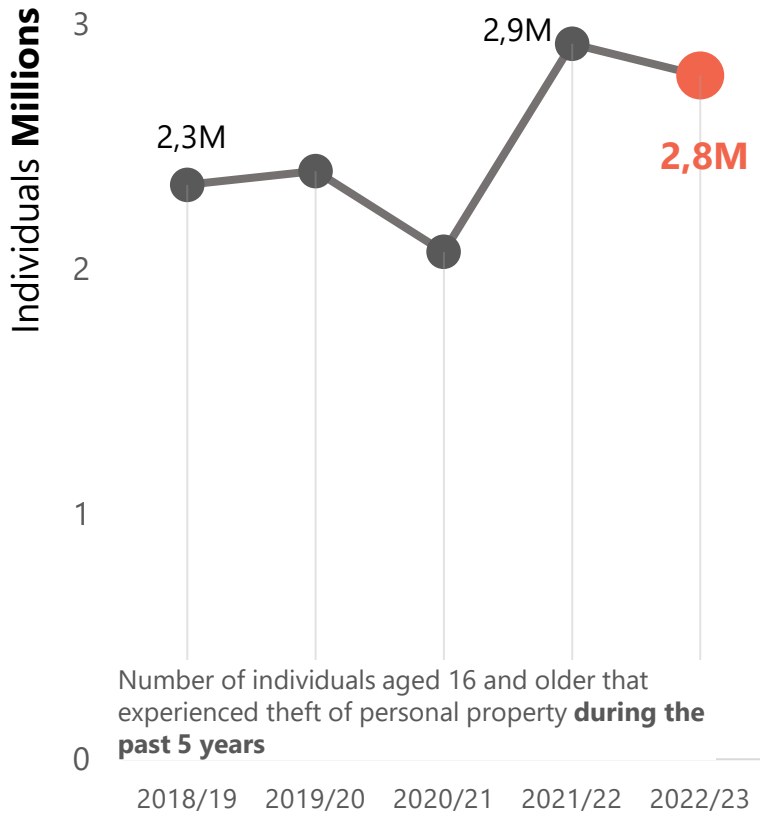


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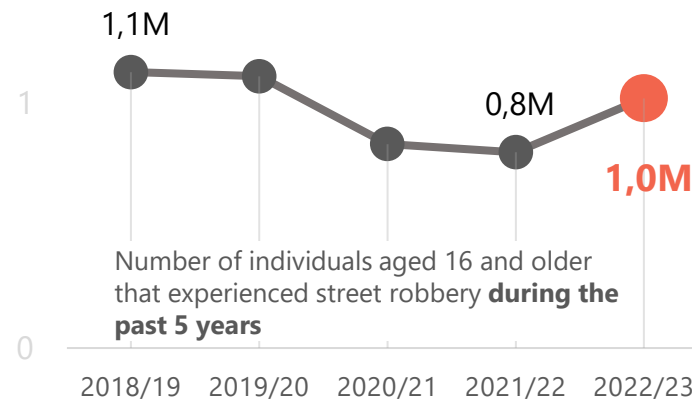
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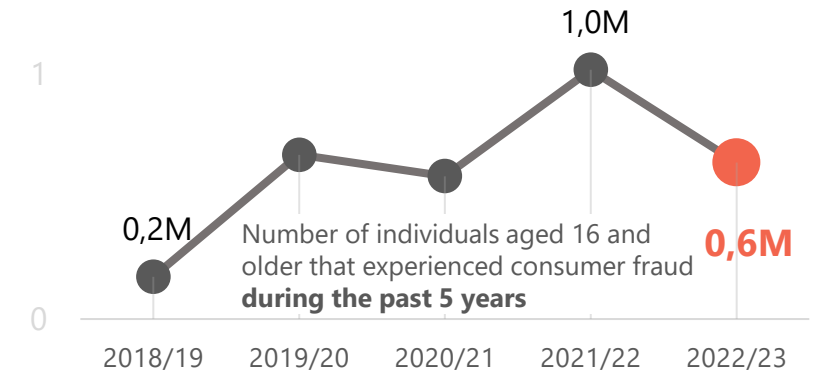
2,8 Million individuals experienced **theft of personal property** during the past 5 years. The experience of theft of personal property has **decreased by 4% from the previous year.**



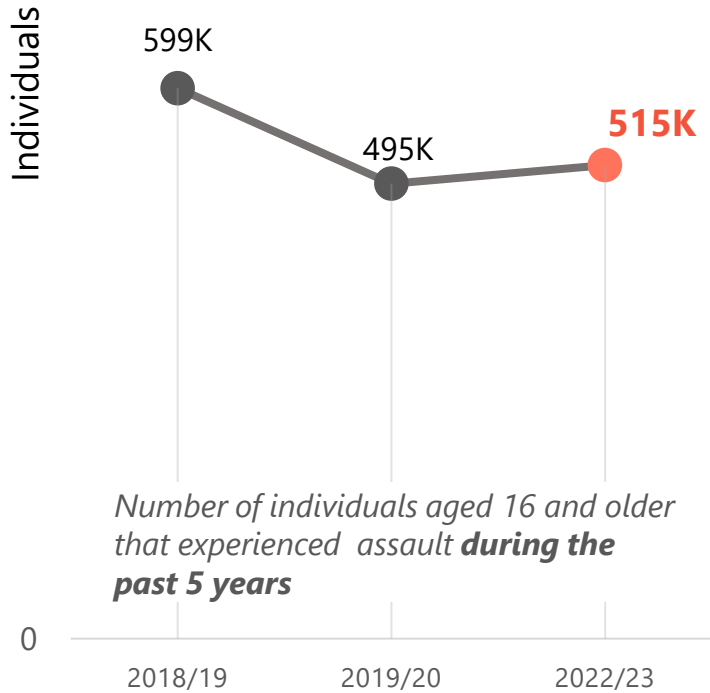
1,0M individuals experienced **street robbery** during the past 5 years. The experience of street robbery has **increased by 28% from the previous reporting period.**



0,6M individuals experienced **consumer fraud** during the past 5 years. Consumer fraud **decreased by 37% from the previous period.**

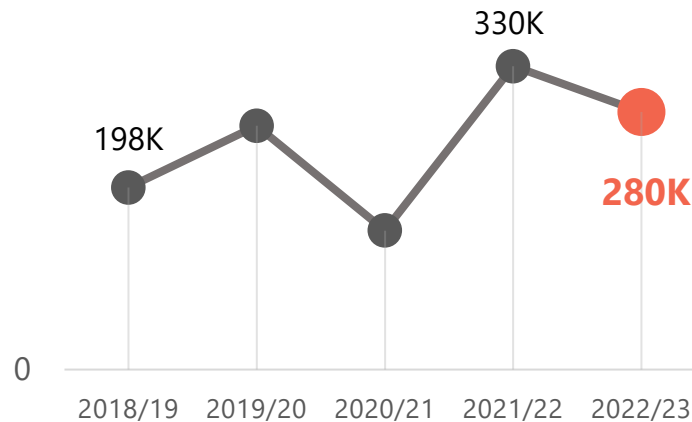


515 000 individuals experienced **assault** during the past 5 years. The experience of assault has increased by 4% from the previous reporting period in 2019/20.



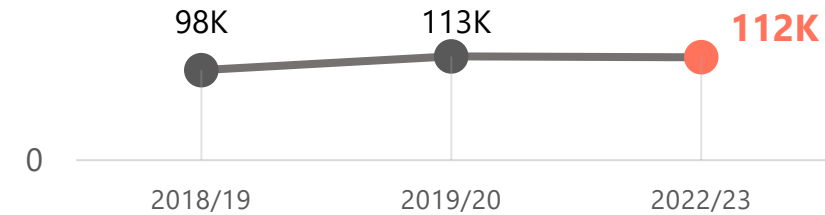
280 000 individuals experienced **hijacking during the past 5 years**. The experience of hijacking has decreased by 15% from the previous year.

Number of individuals aged 16 and older that experienced hijacking during the past 5 years



112 000 individuals experienced **sexual offence** during the past 5 years. The experience of sexual offence has decreased by 0,9% from the previous reporting period in 2019/20.

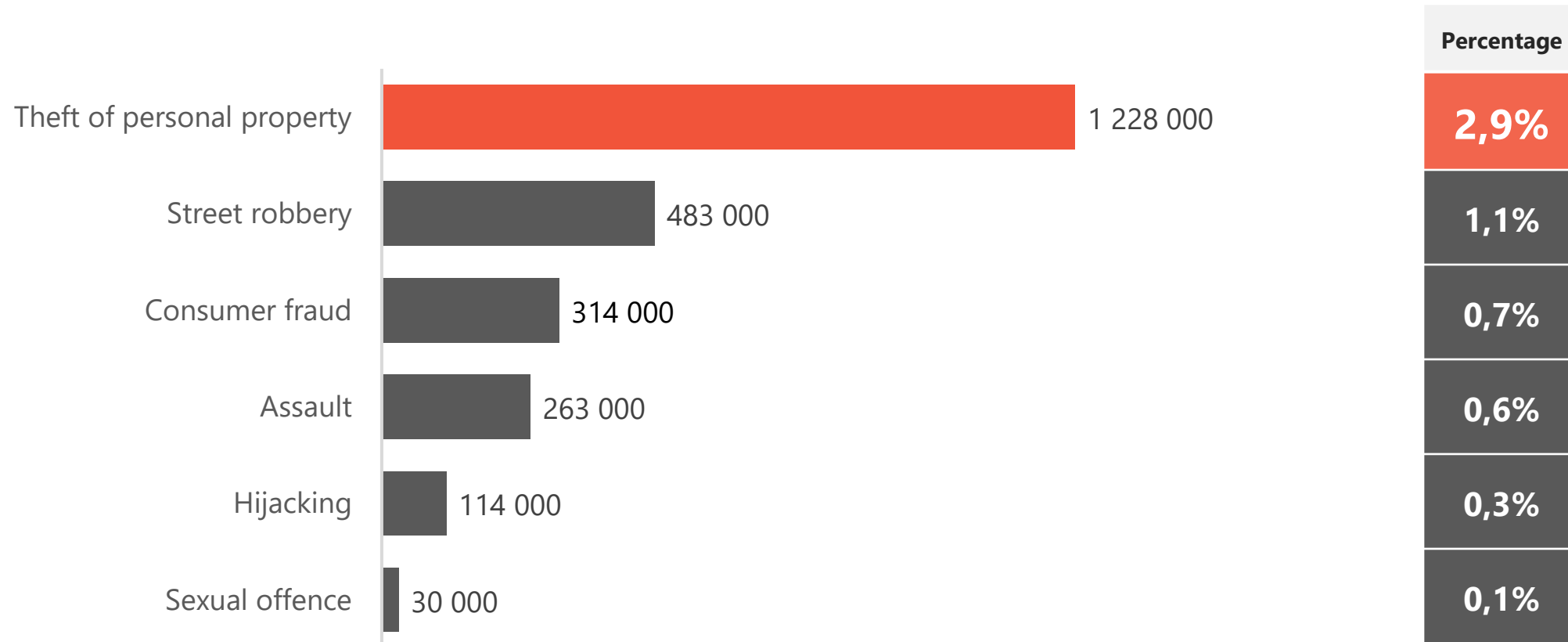
Number of individuals aged 16 and older that experienced Sexual offence during the past 5 years



About **1,2M** persons aged 16 and older experienced theft of personal property in 2022/23. This was **2,9%** of the population of persons aged 16 and older.

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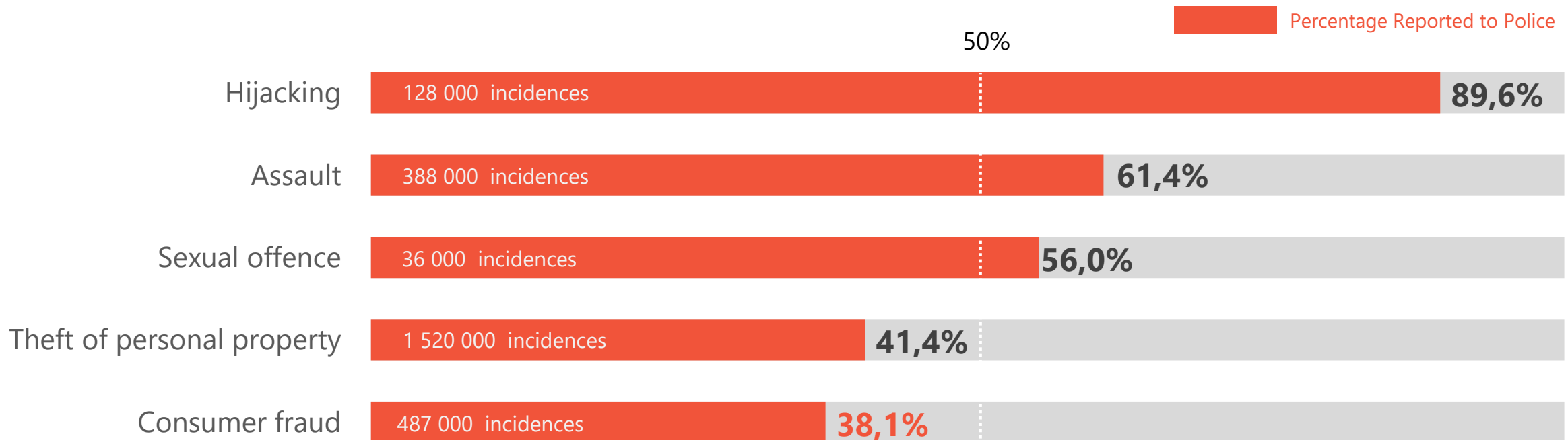
Number and percentage of individuals aged 16 and older who experienced specified types of crime during the **past 12 months**



Only **38,1% of individuals** that experienced **Consumer Fraud** reported some or all incidences to the police. A total of 1,5M incidences of theft of personal property occurred in 2022/23.

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Percentage of individuals aged 16 years and older that reported incidences of specified type of crime to the police in the **12 months preceding the survey**



Individuals that experienced **Theft of Personal Property** increased by 11% in 2022/23 period.

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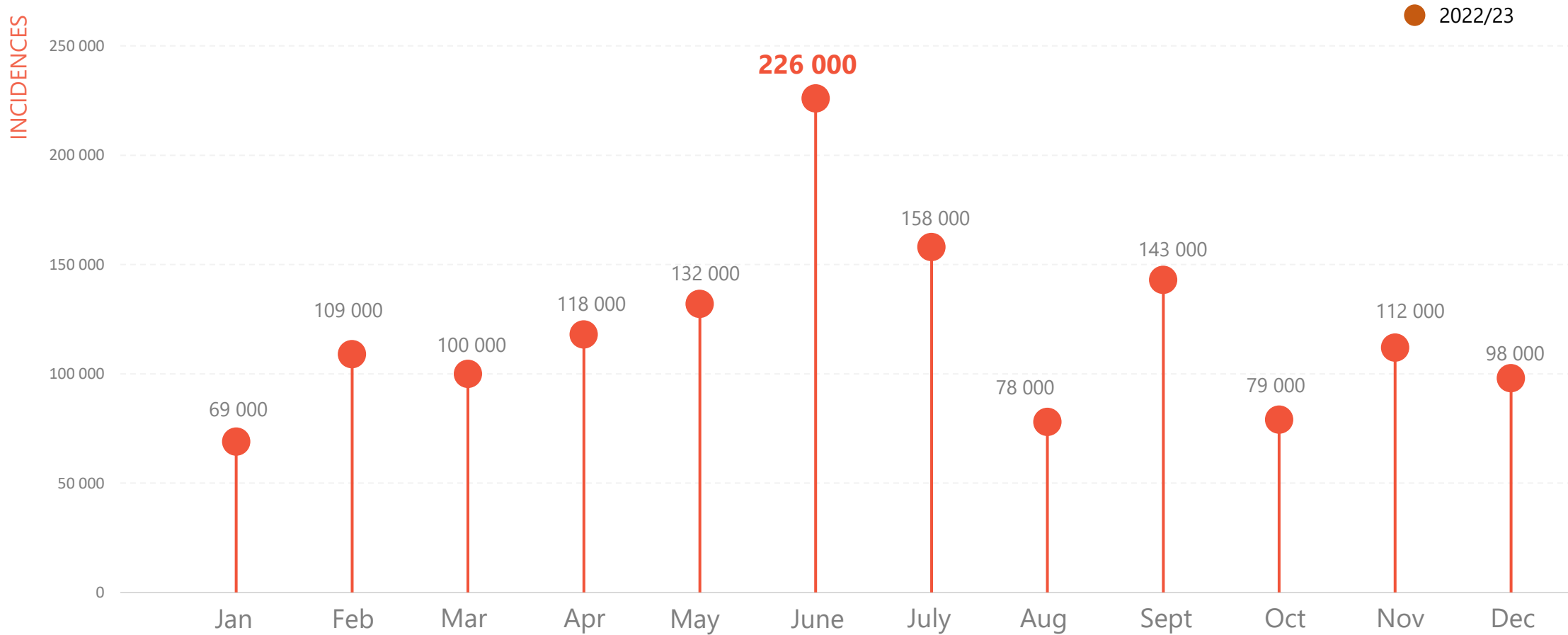
Comparison of Number of individuals that experienced crime 2021/22 and 2022/23



Incidences of theft of personal property **peaked in June** with **226 000** incidences

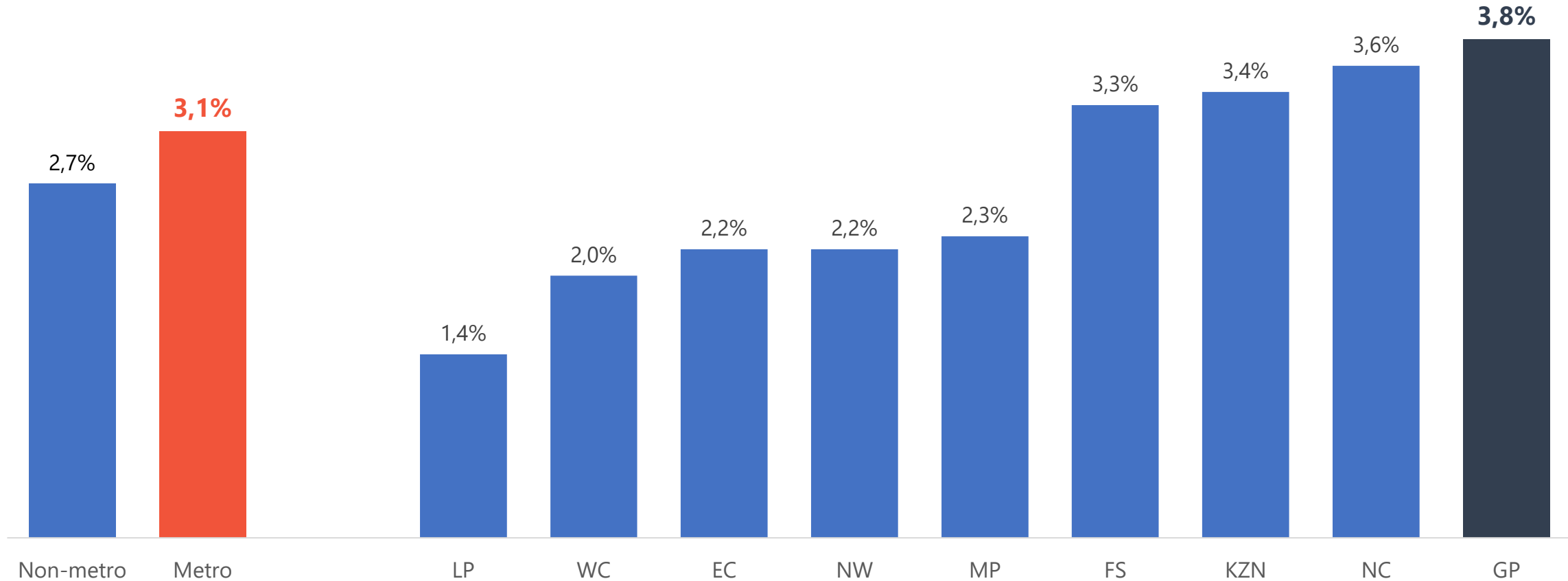
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Number of incidences of **Theft of Personal Property** by month, 2022/23



3,1% of the those residing in metro areas experienced theft of personal property. *Gauteng* has the highest proportion of individuals that experienced theft of personal property.

Percentage of victims of theft of personal property in different geography locations, 2022/23



Individual perceptions of their safety



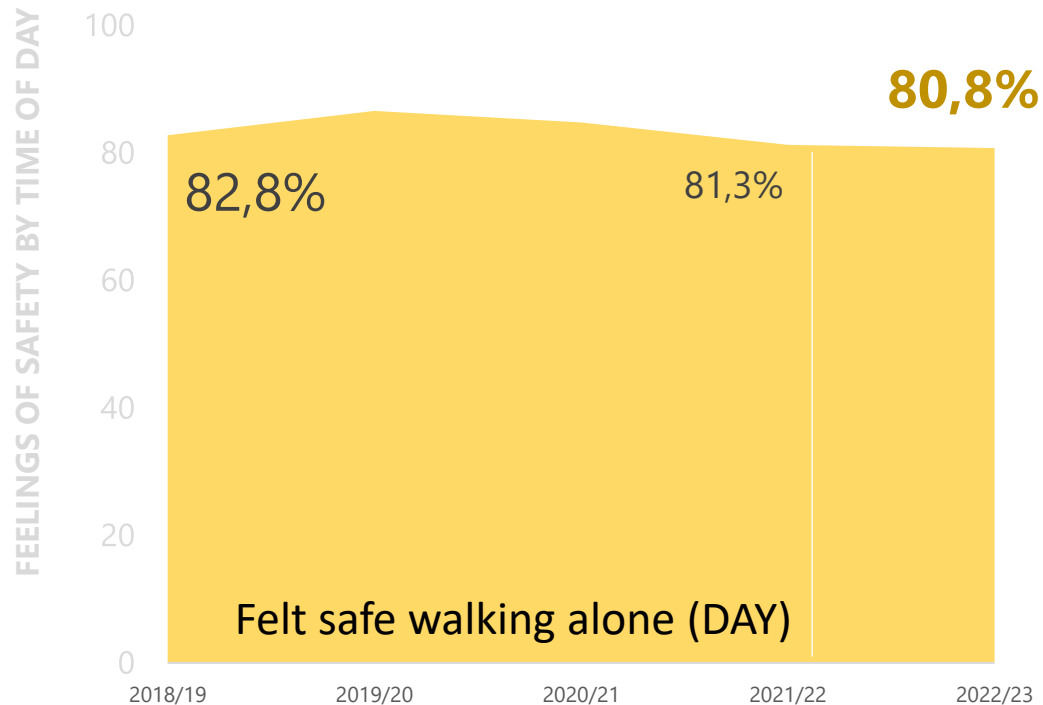
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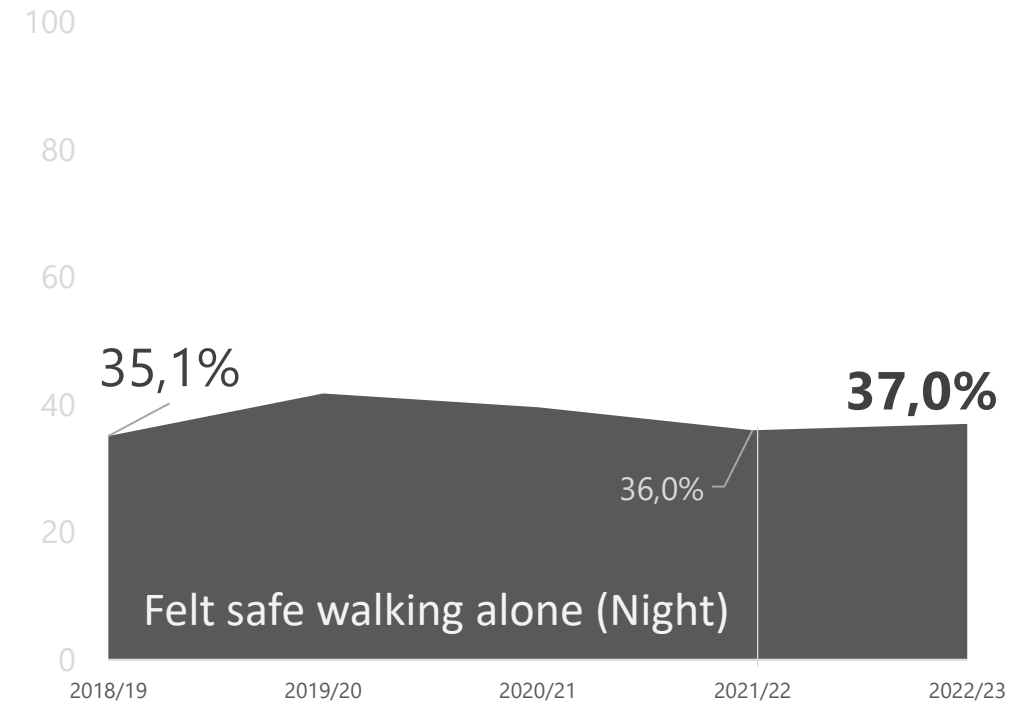


Individuals who **felt safe walking alone** in their neighbourhoods during the **day** decreased from **81,3% in 2021/22 to 80,8% in 2022/23**.

Percentage of individuals who felt safe ("Very safe" and "Fairly safe") walking alone in their neighbourhood during **daytime** vs during **the night**.

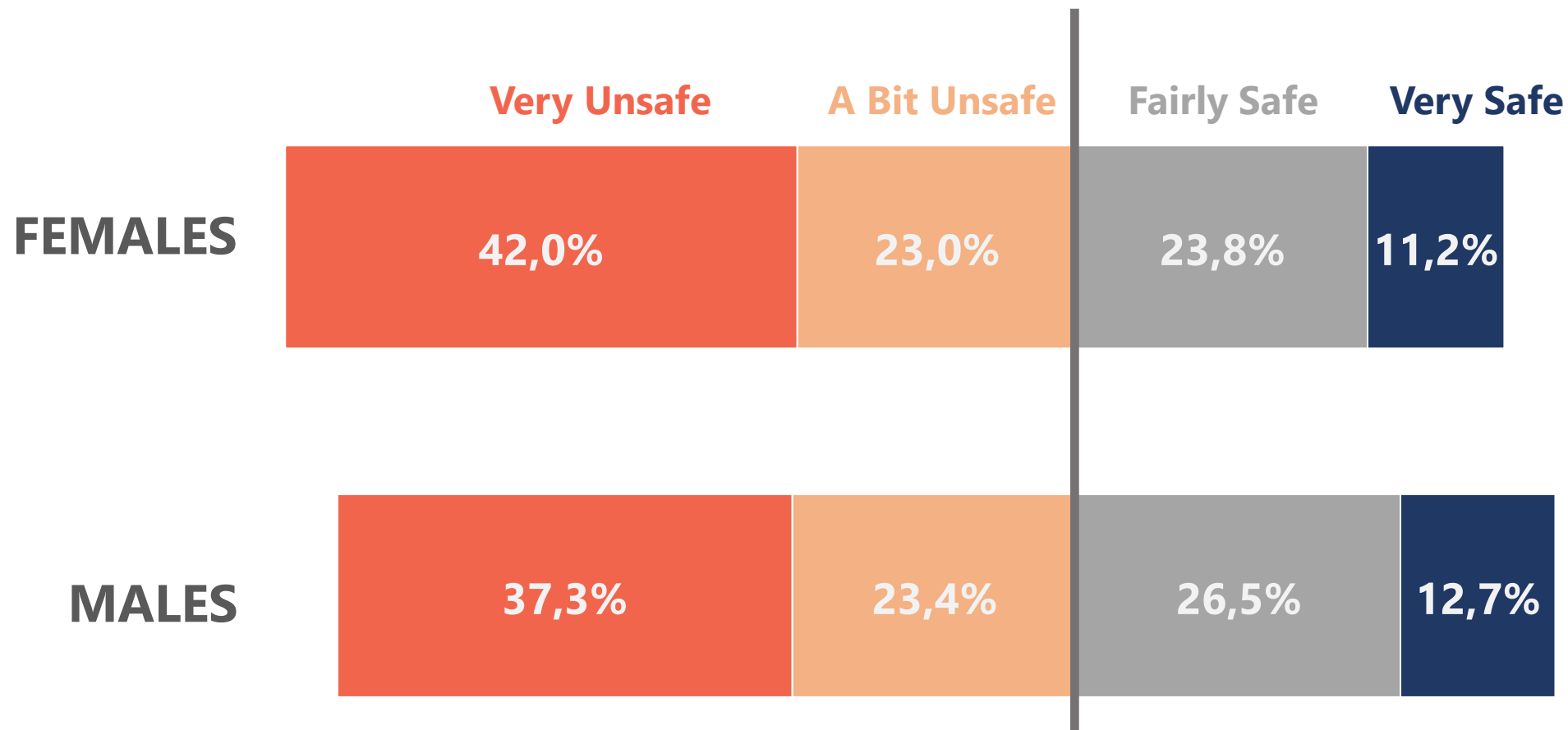


Those who felt safe walking alone **at night** increased from **36,0% in 2021/22 to 37,0% in 2022/23**.



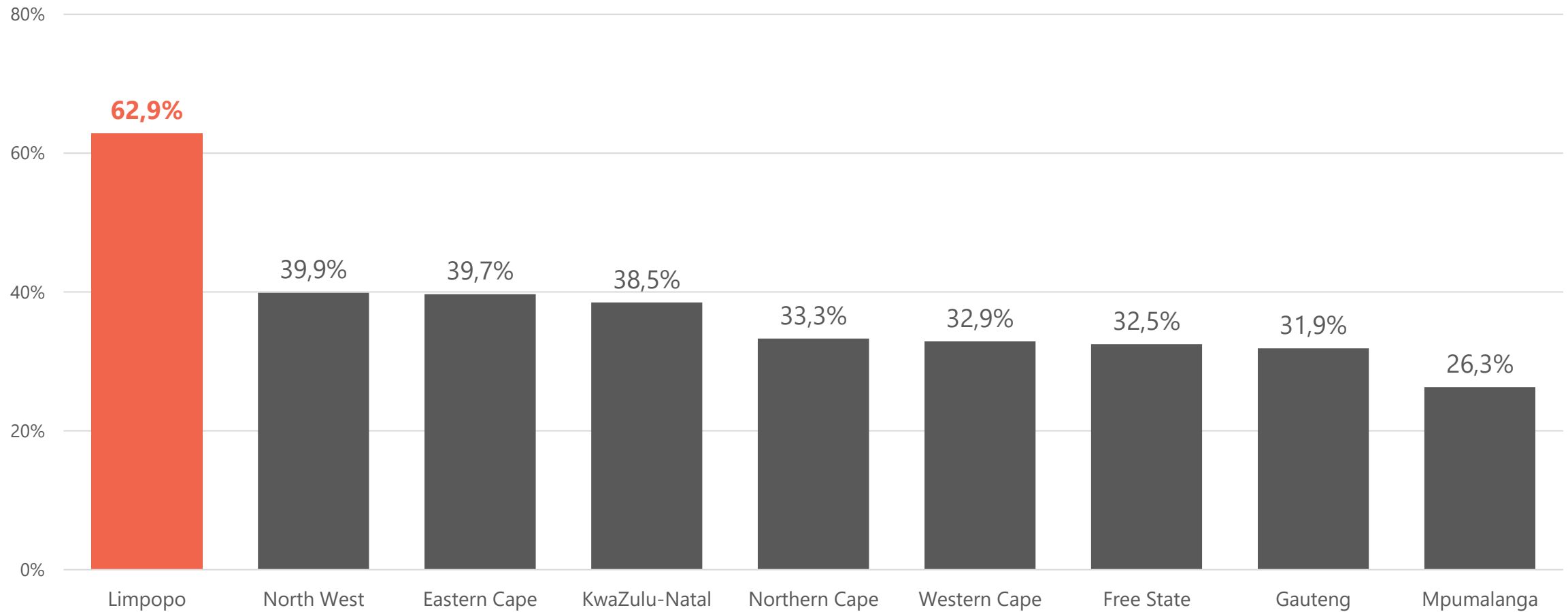
The majority of individuals, regardless of their sex, **felt unsafe walking alone** at night in their neighbourhoods.

Percentage of persons aged 16 years and above: Feelings of safety when walking alone in their areas of residence when it is dark by sex, 2022/23



A larger proportion of **persons in Limpopo province felt safe** walking alone at night in their neighbourhoods compared to people in other provinces

Percentage of persons aged 16 years and above: Feelings of safety when walking alone in their areas of residence when it is dark by geographical location, 2022/23



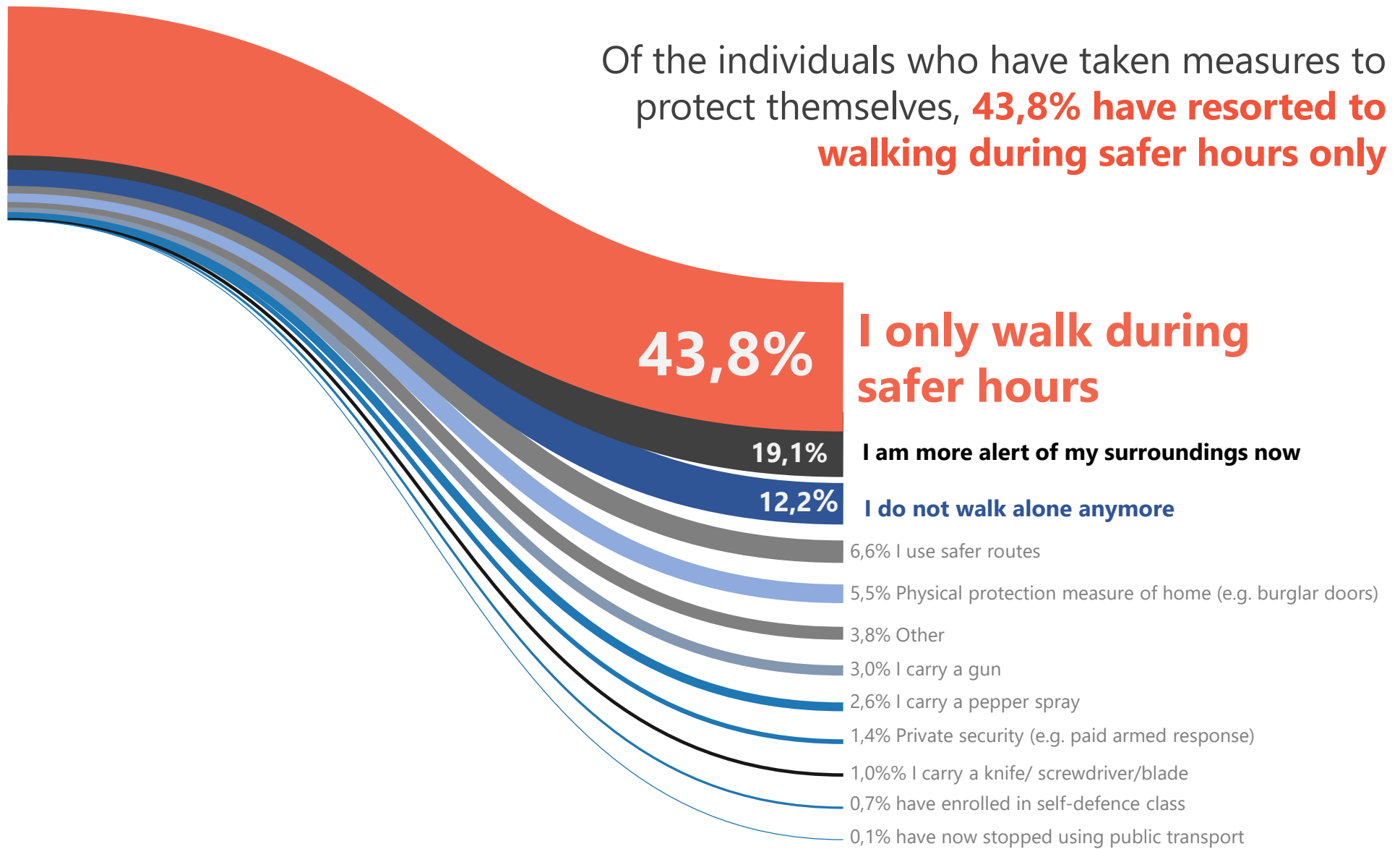
Fewer individuals **(29,7%)** are now doing something to protect themselves against crime

Percentage of persons aged 16 years and above by whether they have done something to protect themselves against crime, 2022/23



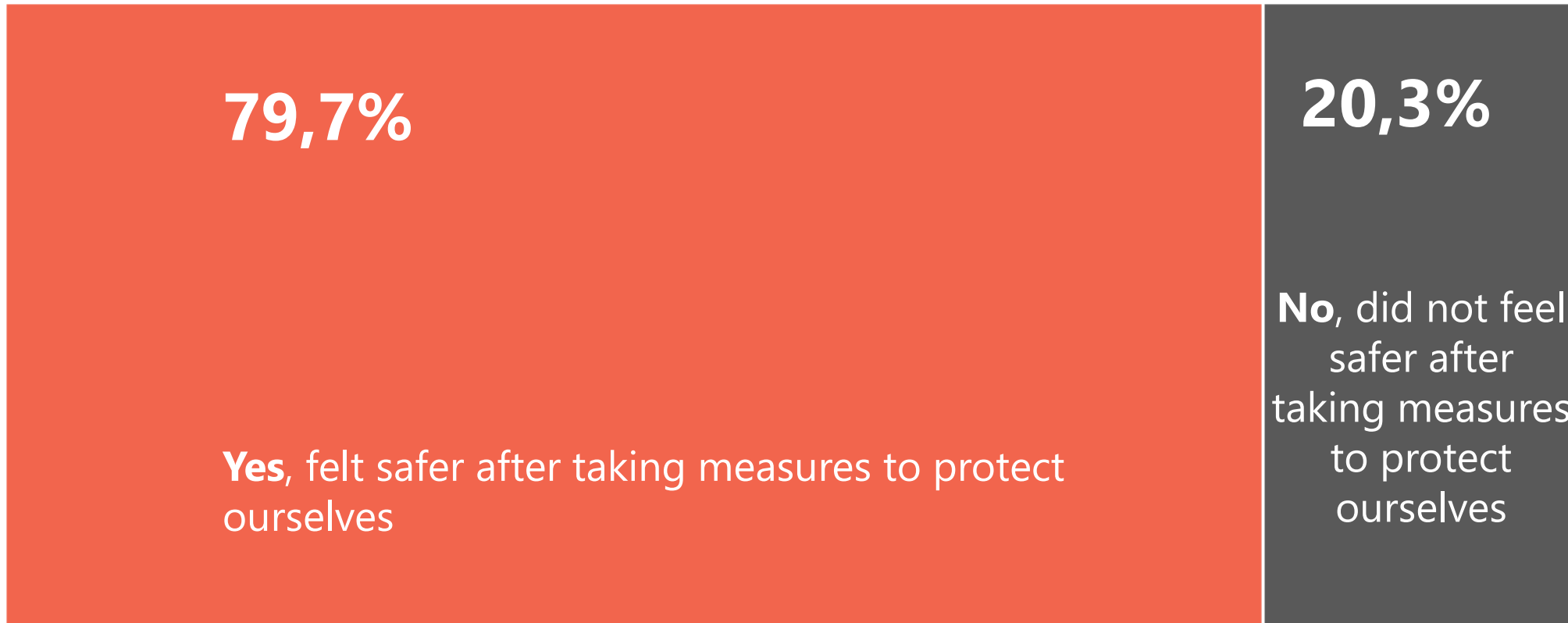
29,7% are **doing something** to protect themselves against crime

Of the individuals who have taken measures to protect themselves, **43,8% have resorted to walking during safer hours only**



79,7% of individuals felt safer after taking measures to protect themselves from crime.

Percentage distribution of those who felt safer after taking measures to protect themselves against crime, 2022/23



Citizen interaction and community cohesion

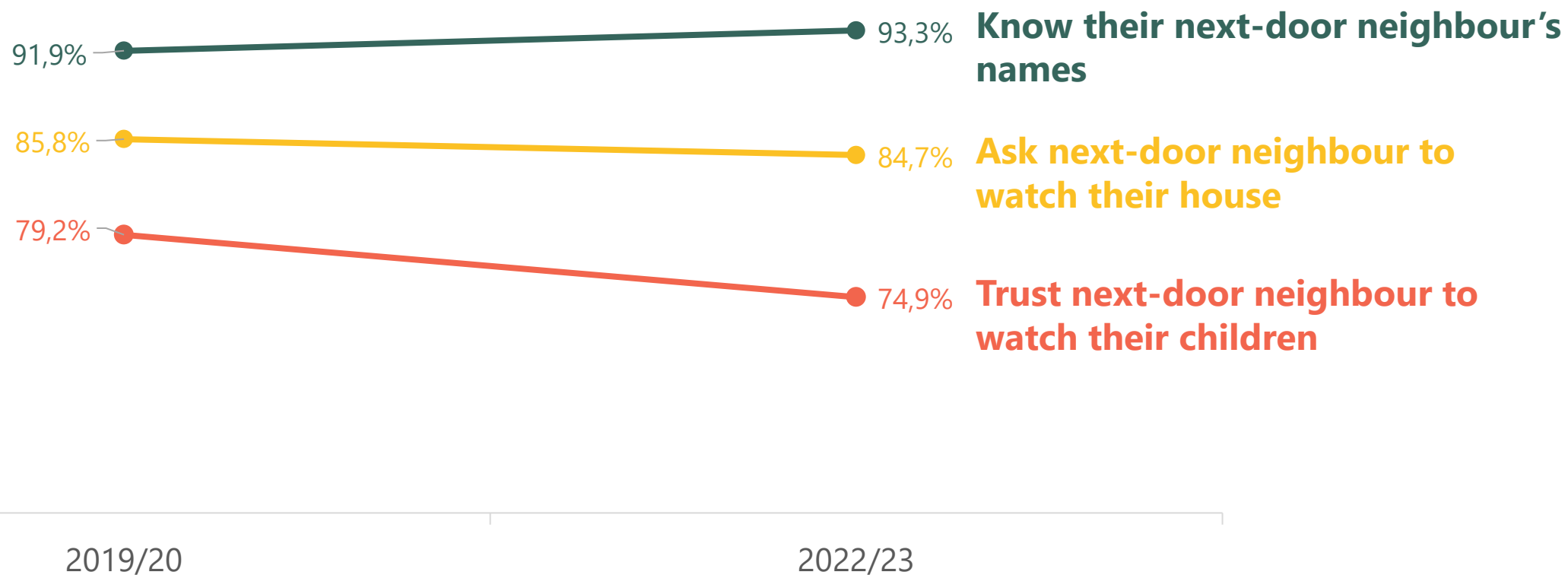
This module measured the level of interaction among community members at household level:

- ❖ Knowledge of next-door neighbour's name
- ❖ Ask next door neighbour to watch your house for you if you were going away
- ❖ Trust next door neighbour enough that you would let them look after your children
- ❖ Active forum in your area that discusses or deals with community related issues, such as crime or service delivery
- ❖ Participation in the forums



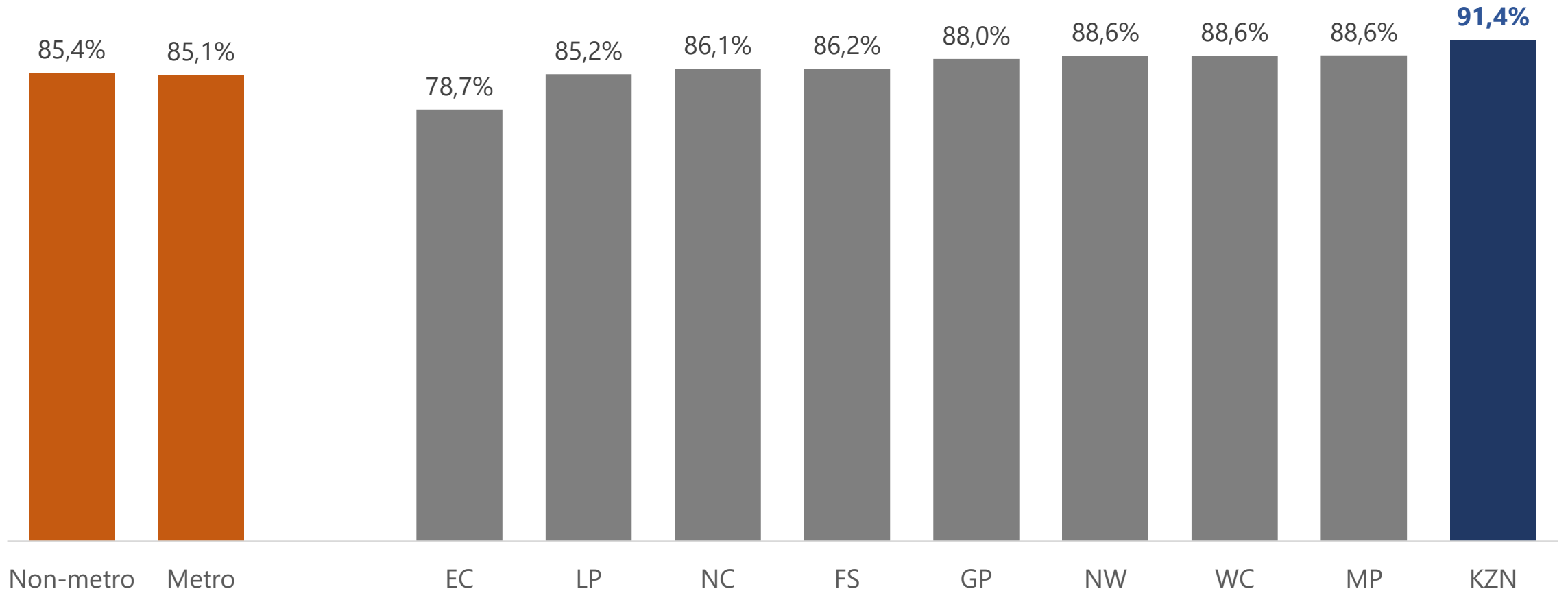
An increase of 1,4 percentage points is observed between 2019/20 and 2022/23 in those who **know their next-door neighbour's names**.

Percentage distribution of the households who know their neighbour's name between 2019/20 and 2022/23



KwaZulu-Natal province has the highest proportion of households who would ask their next-door neighbour to watch their house if they were going away.

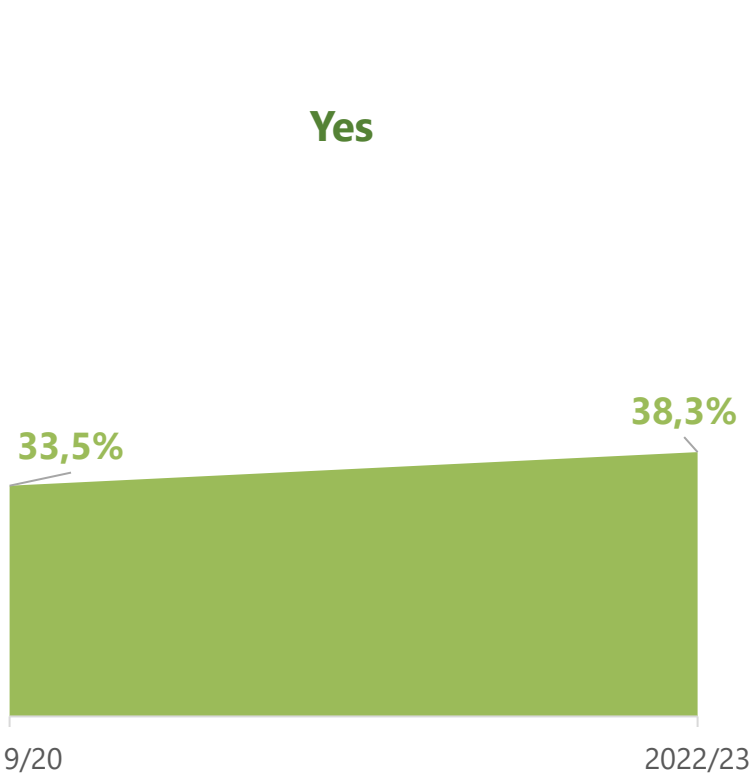
Percentage distribution of the households who would ask their next-door neighbour to watch their house if they were going away by province and metro status in 2022/23.



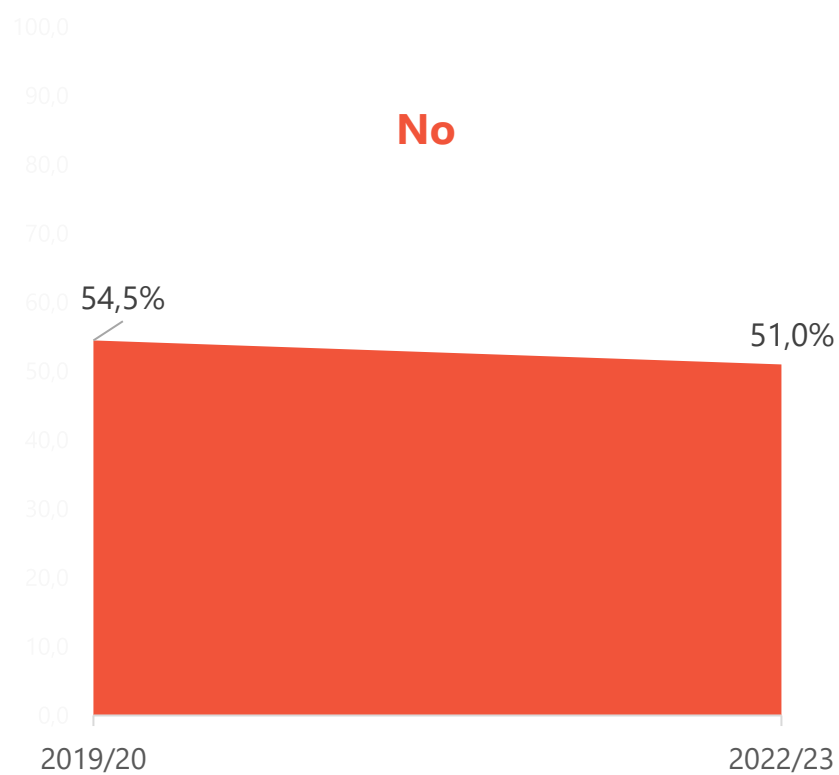
Knowledge of an active forum that discusses or deals with community related issues has increased by 4,8 percentage points between the periods 2019/20 and 2022/23

Percentage distribution of the households who know of an active forum in their area, 2019/20 and 2022/23

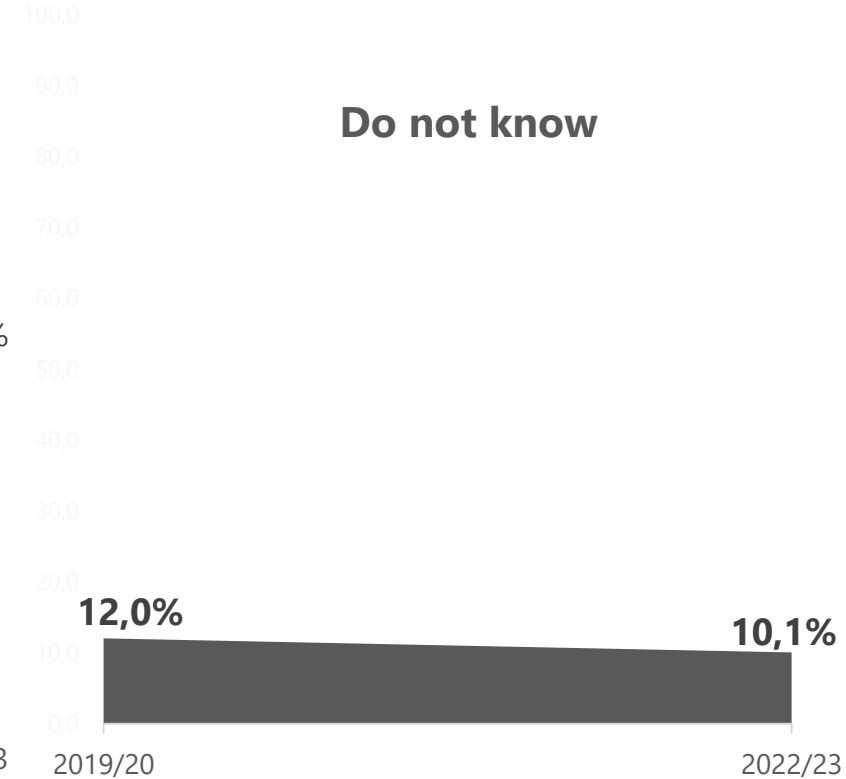
Yes



No

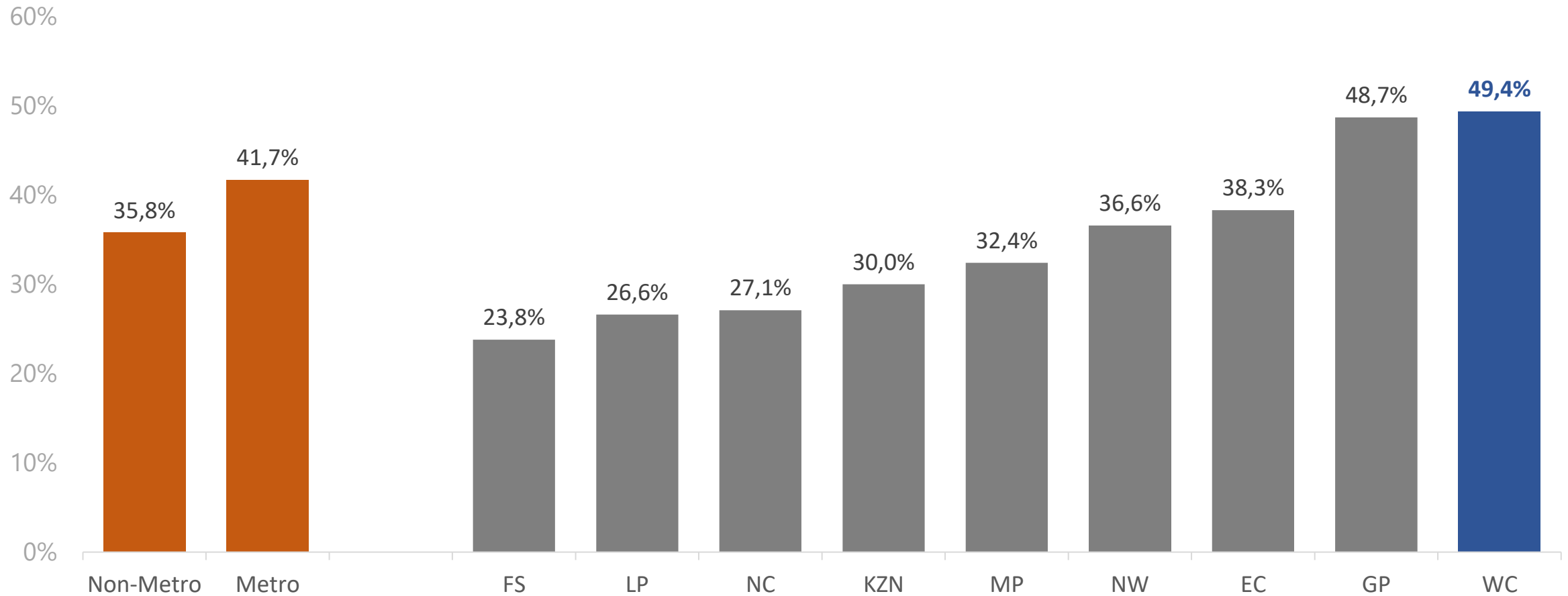


Do not know



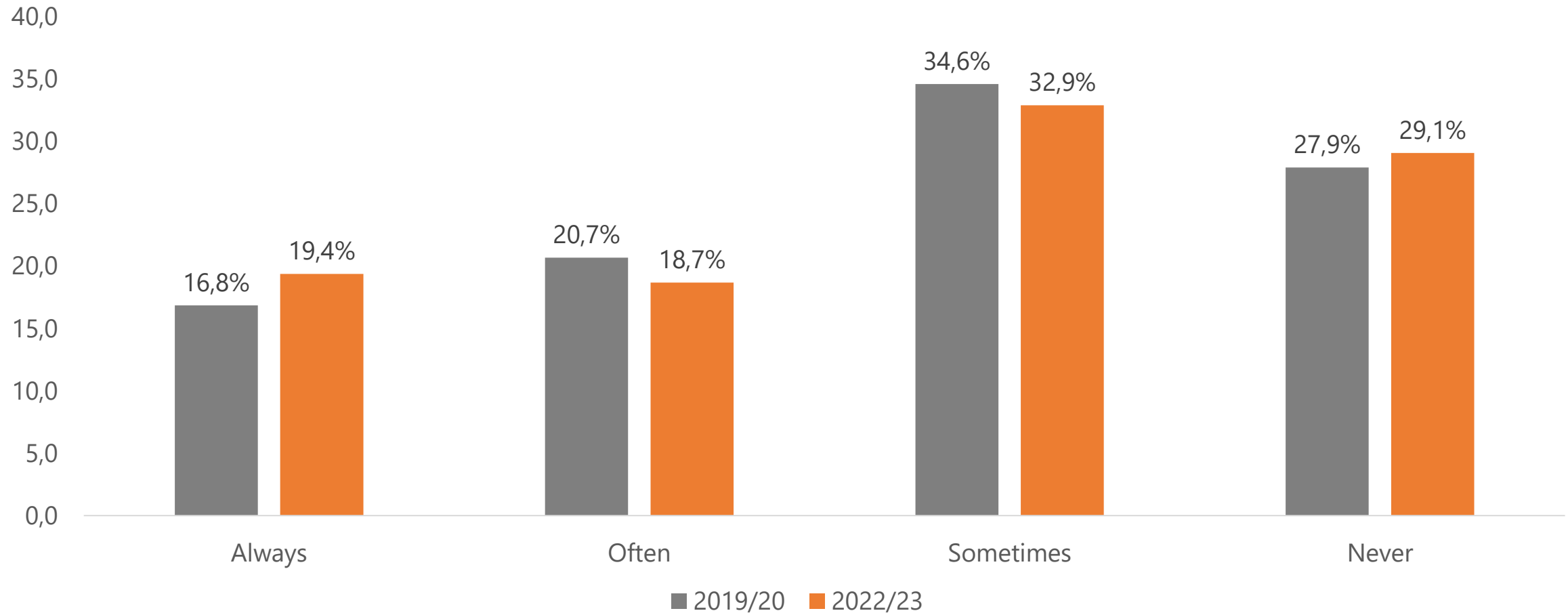
Western Cape province has the highest proportion of households who have knowledge of an active forum that discusses or deals with community related issues.

Percentage distribution of the households who who has knowledge of an active forum that discuses or deals with community related issues by province and metro status in 2022/23.



Those who always participate in forums that discuss or deal with community related issues has increased by 2,6 percentage points between the periods 2019/20 and 2022/23

Levels of participation in active forums in their area, 2019/20 and 2022/23



Recap: GPSJS 2022/23

Household level crime

- ❖ An estimated 1,6 million incidences of housebreaking occurred in 2022/23, affecting 1,1 million households in South Africa.

Individual level crime

- ❖ An estimated 1,5 million incidences of theft of personal property occurred in 2022/23, affecting 1,2 million individuals aged 16 years and older. The number of affected individuals represents 2,9% of the population.

Feelings of safety

- ❖ About 81% of the population felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood during the day while 37,0% felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood at night.

Citizen interaction and community cohesion

- ❖ The proportion of households who know their neighbours' names increased from 91,9% in 2019/20 to 93,3% in 2022/23. A slight decrease is observed in the number of households who would ask any of their next-door neighbours to watch their house when they were going away.



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CENSUS 2022



- Geospatial Information Frame
- Quarterly Labour Force Survey (Collected quarterly)
- General Household Survey (January – December)
- Domestic Tourism Survey (January – December)
- Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (April 2023 - March 2024)
- Consumer Price Index
- Income and Expenditure Survey for 12 months (November 2022 –November 2023)**
- Survey of Employers and the Self-Employed (SESE) (July – September 2023)**



GPSJS

2022/2023

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