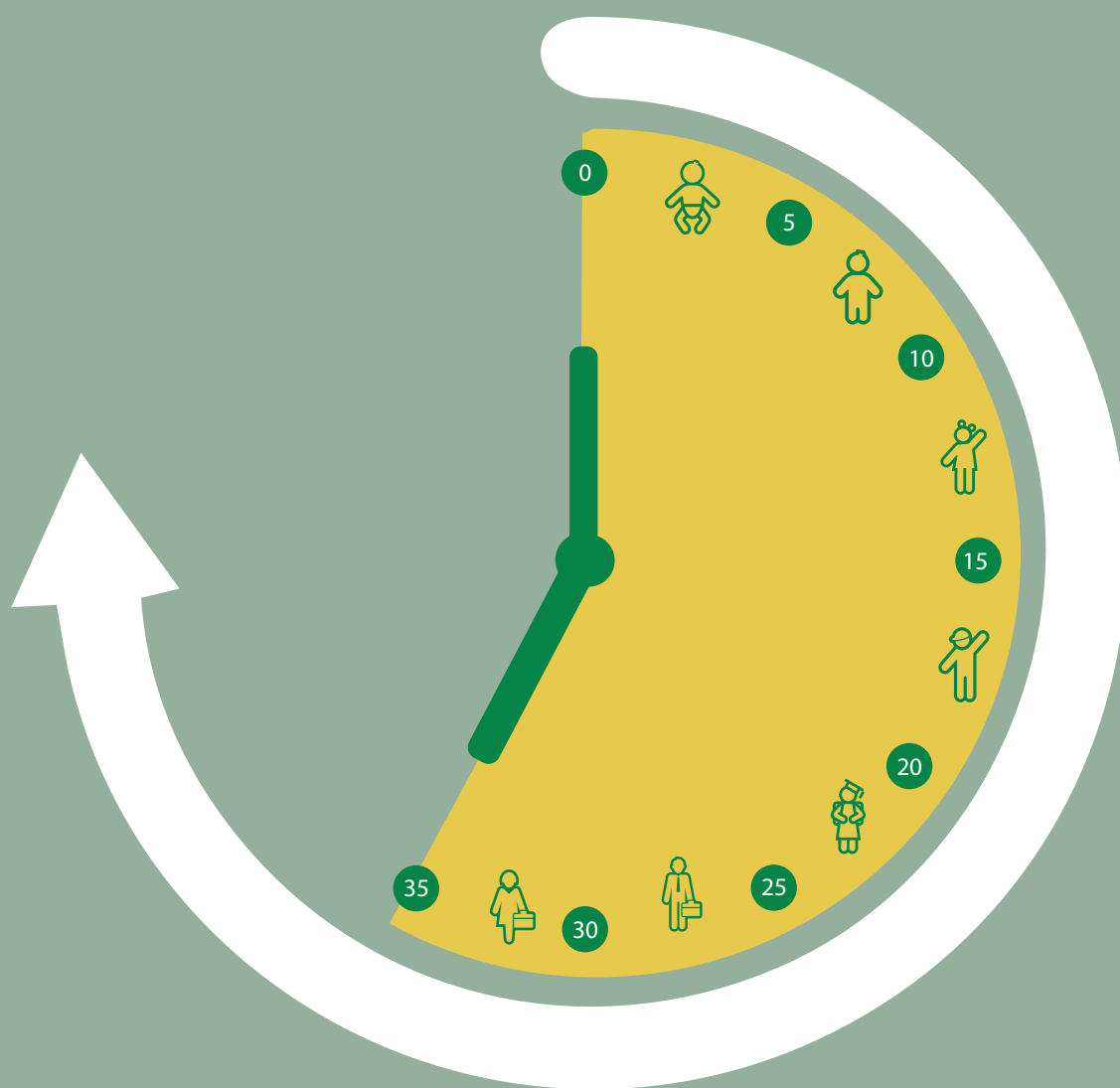


Marginalised Groups Series VII:

The Social Profile of the Youth 2014–2024



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**Marginalised Groups Series VII:
The Social Profile of the Youth, 2014-2024**

Statistics South Africa

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Statistician-General**

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Contents

Foreword	ix
Abbreviations	x
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	1
1.0 Background.....	1
1.1 Legislation and policy frameworks	2
1.1.1 International Context.....	2
1.1.2 Regional Context	2
1.1.3 National Context	2
1.2 Objective of the report.....	3
1.3 Data sources.....	3
1.4 Limitations of the study	3
1.5 Definitions	4
1.6 Layout of the report.....	4
CHAPTER 2: DEMOGRAPHY OF YOUTH	6
2.0 Background	6
2.1 Youth population.....	6
2.2 Marital status of youth	9
2.3 Conclusion.....	11
CHAPTER 3: HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS	12
3.0 Background	12
3.1 Youth headed households.....	12
3.2 Households Composition.....	15
3.3 Intergenerational household types.....	17
3.4 Conclusion.....	21
CHAPTER 4: YOUTH MIGRATION	22
4.0 Background	22
4.1 Immigration.....	22
4.2 Internal migration.....	24
4.3 Conclusion.....	26
CHAPTER 5: YOUTH LABOUR MARKET PARTICIPATION	27
5.0 Background	27
5.1 Labour market indicators	27
5.2 Youth Employment	33
5.3 Conclusion.....	48

CHAPTER 6: YOUTH AND CRIME	49
6.0 Background	49
6.1 Experiences of crimes	49
6.2 Feelings of safety	49
6.3 Incidence of individual crimes	52
6.4 Conclusion	60
CHAPTER 7: MORTALITY	61
7.0 Background	61
7.1 Death occurrence	61
7.2 Causes of death of youth (15 to 34 years)	64
7.3 Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	67
7.4 Diseases of the respiratory system	68
7.5 External causes of morbidity and mortality	68
7.6 Main causes of death by province where death occurred	69
7.7 Conclusion	71
CHAPTER 8: YOUTH AND DISABILITY	72
8.0 Background	72
8.1 Disability prevalence of youth	72
8.2 Disability status of youth by education attendance	75
8.3 Disability status of youth by educational attainment	77
8.4 Usage of assistive devices by youth	81
8.5 Conclusion	82
CHAPTER 9: YOUTH- LIVING CONDITIONS AND POVERTY	83
9.0 Background	83
9.1 Housing	83
9.2 Household income sources	85
9.3 Household Income quintiles	89
9.4 Households without an employed adult	92
9.5 Hunger and poverty	93
9.6 Conclusion	94
CHAPTER 10: YOUTH AND EDUCATION	95
10.0 Background	95
10.1 Educational Attendance	95
10.2 Educational Attainment	97
10.3 Conclusion	100
CHAPTER 11: CONCLUSION	101
11.1 Conclusion	101
ADDENDUM	103

List of tables

Table 2.1 - Distribution of SA and youth population (15–34 years) and population growth by province, 2014 and 2024	6
Table 2.2 - Distribution of young people by age group and sex, 2014 and 2024	9
Table 3.1 - Proportion of youth-headed households by province and age groups, 2014 and 2023	12
Table 3.2 - Share of youth living with their parents by province and age group, 2014 and 2023.....	20
Table 3.3 - Share of youth living with their parents by sex and age group, 2014 and 2023.....	20
Table 4.1 - Percentage distribution of youth migrants (from province of birth) by province of enumeration and age group, 2022	26
Table 5.1 - Working-age population by age group and province, 2014 and 2024	28
Table 5.2 - Working-age population by age group and sex, 2014 and 2024	29
Table 5.3 - Working-age population by geographical location and age group, 2014 and 2024	30
Table 5.4 - Youth employment rates in relation to employment levels, 2014 and 2024.....	34
Table 5.5 - Youth (15–34 years) employment by status in employment, 2014 and 2024	35
Table 5.6 - Youth unemployment rates in relation to employment levels by age group, 2014 and 2024	36
Table 5.7 - Percentage share of discouraged youth work-seekers by sex and province, 2014 and 2024	40
Table 5.8 - Main source of income for youth by sex of the household head, 2014 and 2023	45
Table 5.9 - Monthly median earnings by age group, 2014–2022.....	47
Table 6.1 - Percentage of youth who felt safe or unsafe walking alone in their area during the day and at night by sex, 2018/19 and 2023/24	52
Table 6.2 - Victims of assault crimes by age, 2018/19 and 2023/24	52
Table 6.3 - Victims of robbery by age and sex, 2018/19 and 2023/24.....	55
Table 6.4 - Victims of theft of personal property by age and sex, 2018/19 and 2023/24	58
Table 7.1 - Number of deaths by sex and age groups, 2014 and 2020	62
Table 7.2 - Main underlying causes of death for the youth by sex, 2014 and 2020	66
Table 7.3 - Certain infectious and parasitic diseases (youth 15–34) by sex, 2014 and 2020	67
Table 7.4 - Diseases of the respiratory systems for youth (15–34) by sex, 2014 and 2020	68
Table 7.5 - External causes of morbidity and mortality for youth by sex, 2014 and 2020	69
Table 7.6a - Top 4 causes of youth deaths by province of occurrence and sex, 2014	70
Table 7.6b - Top 4 causes of youth deaths by province of occurrence and sex, 2020	70
Table 8.1 - Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by type of domain and degree of difficulty in functioning, 2011 and 2022	72
Table 8.2 - Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by use of assistive devices, 2022	81
Table 9.1 - Distribution of households with youth by province and type of main dwelling, 2014 and 2023.....	84
Table 9.2 - Percentage of households with youth aged 15–34 by income source and province, 2014 and 2023	86
Table 10.1 - Percentage of youth attending educational institution by population group, 2023	96
Table 10.2 - Percentage of youth attending educational institution by geo type, 2023.....	97
Table 10.3 - Number of students enrolled from public HEIs by age group and sex, 2022	98
Table 10.4 - Number of graduates from public HEIs by age group and sex, 2022	99

List of figures

Figure 2.1a - Percentage share of youth by province, 2014	7
Figure 2.1b - Percentage share of youth by province, 2024	7
Figure 2.2 - Percentage distribution of youth (15–34) by population group and sex, 2014 and 2024	8
Figure 2.3 - Percentage share of youth to the overall population, 2014–2024	8
Figure 2.4 - Marital status of youth, 2014 and 2023	10
Figure 2.5 - Percentage of youth who are legally married by sex, 2014 and 2023	10
Figure 2.6a - Percentage of youth who were ever married by population group, 2014	11
Figure 2.6b - Percentage of youth who were ever married by population group, 2023	11
Figure 3.1a - Percentage distribution of youth-headed households by age group, 2014	13
Figure 3.1b - Percentage distribution of youth-headed households by age group, 2023	14
Figure 3.2 - Percentage distribution of youth-headed households by sex and geographic location, 2014 and 2023	15
Figure 3.3 - Percentage distribution of youth by household composition and population group, 2014 and 2023	16
Figure 3.4 - Percentage distribution of youth by household composition by sex, 2014 and 2023	17
Figure 3.5 - Percentage distribution of youth across intergenerational households by population group, 2014 and 2023	18
Figure 3.6 - Percentage distribution of youth across intergenerational households by age group, 2014 and 2023	19
Figure 4.1 - Percentage distribution of youth by age group and migratory status, 2022	22
Figure 4.2 - Percentage distribution of youth immigrants by province of enumeration, 2022	23
Figure 4.3 - Top ten sending countries of immigrant youth, 2022	24
Figure 4.4 - Youth in, out and net migration rates by province, 2022	25
Figure 5.1a - Youth (15–34 years) labour market indicators, 2014–2024	30
Figure 5.1b - Adult (35–64 years) labour market indicators, 2014–2024	31
Figure 5.2 - Youth labour force participation rate by province, 2014 and 2024	32
Figure 5.3 - Labour force participation rate by age group, 2014 & 2024	32
Figure 5.4 - Youth labour force participation rate by geographical location, 2014 and 2024	33
Figure 5.5 - Youth labour force participation and absorption rate, 2014–2024	33
Figure 5.6 - Share of youth amongst the employed by age group, 2014 and 2024	34
Figure 5.7 - Share of youth (15–34 years) entrepreneurs amongst total entrepreneurs by age group and sex, 2014 and 2024	35
Figure 5.8 - Youth unemployment rate by province, 2014 and 2024	36
Figure 5.9 - Share of youth amongst the unemployed by age group, 2014 and 2024	37
Figure 5.10 - Share of youth (15–34) amongst the unemployed by population group, 2014 and 2024	37
Figure 5.11a - Percentage of unemployed youth (15–34 years) by the highest level of education, 2014	38
Figure 5.11b - Percentage of unemployed youth (15–34 years) by the highest level of education, 2024	38
Figure 5.12 - Percentage of unemployed youth by educational attainment and sex, 2014 and 2024	39
Figure 5.13 - Share of the youth amongst the unemployed by education attainment, 2014 and 2024	39
Figure 5.14a - Share of discouraged work seekers (15–34 years), 2014	40
Figure 5.14b - Share of discouraged work seekers (15–34 years), 2024	40
Figure 5.15 - Inactivity rate for youth by sex, 2014 and 2024	41
Figure 5.16 - Inactivity rate for youth by sex and province, 2014 and 2024	41

Figure 5.17 - Percentage distribution of youth with reasons for economic inactivity by sex, 2014 and 2024	42
Figure 5.18 - Share of youth aged 15–34, not in employment, education, or training (NEET) by age group, 2014 and 2024	43
Figure 5.19 - Means of survival for the unemployed youth by sex, 2014 and 2024	44
Figure 5.20a - Main source of youth income by sex of the household head and geo-type, 2014	46
Figure 5.20b - Main source of youth income by sex of the household head and geo-type, 2023	46
Figure 5.21 - Percentage of youth grant recipients aged 15–34 years by sex and province, 2023	47
Figure 6.1 - Percentage of youth who felt safe walking alone in the area where they live during the day by province, 2018/19 and 2023/24	49
Figure 6.2 - Percentage of youth who felt safe walking alone in the area where they live at night by province, 2018/19 and 2023/24	50
Figure 6.3 - Percentage of youth who felt safe walking alone in the area where they live during the day and at night by population group, 2018/19 and 2023/24	51
Figure 6.4 - Percentage of youth who experienced assault crimes by age, 2018/19 and 2023/24	53
Figure 6.5 - Percentage of youth who experienced assault crimes by age and province, 2023/24	53
Figure 6.6 - Percentage of persons aged 16 years and older who experienced assault crimes by age, 2018/19 and 2023/24	54
Figure 6.7 - Percentage of victims of assault crimes by age and province, 2023/24	54
Figure 6.8 - Percentage of youth who experienced robbery crimes by age, 2018/19 and 2023/24	56
Figure 6.9 - Percentage of youth who experienced robbery crimes by age and province, 2023/24	56
Figure 6.10 - Percentage of persons aged 16 years and older who experienced robbery crimes by age, 2018/19 and 2023/24	57
Figure 6.11 - Percentage of victims of robbery crimes by age and province, 2023/24	57
Figure 6.12 - Percentage of youth who experienced theft of personal property by age, 2018/19 and 2023/24	58
Figure 6.13 - Percentage of youth who experienced theft of personal property by age and province, 2023/24	59
Figure 6.14 - Percentage of persons aged 16 years and older who experienced theft of personal property crimes by age, 2018/19 and 2023/24	59
Figure 6.15 - Percentage of victims of theft of personal property crimes by age and province, 2023/24	60
Figure 7.1 - Number of registered deaths (15–34 years) by year of death, 2014–2020	61
Figure 7.2 - Total number of deaths by age groups, 2014 and 2020	62
Figure 7.3a - Percentage of youth deaths by age and sex, 2014	63
Figure 7.3b - Percentage of youth deaths by age and sex, 2020	63
Figure 7.4a - Most common broad underlying causes of male deaths, 2014 and 2020	64
Figure 7.4b - Most common broad underlying causes of female deaths, 2014 and 2020	65
Figure 7.5 - Actual number of deaths for youth from external causes of morbidity and mortality by age, 2014 and 2020	68
Figure 8.1 - Disability prevalence by age group, 2011 and 2022	73
Figure 8.2 - Distribution of persons aged 15–34 years old by sex and disability status, 2011 and 2022	74
Figure 8.3 - Distribution of persons aged 15–34 years old by population group and disability status, 2011 and 2022	74
Figure 8.4 - Distribution of persons aged 15–34 by province and disability status, 2011 and 2022	75
Figure 8.5 - Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by disability status and educational attendance, 2011 and 2022	76

Figure 8.6 - Percentage of persons aged 15–34 years with disabilities not attending an educational institution by sex, 2011 and 2022	76
Figure 8.7 - Percentage of persons aged 15–34 years with disabilities not attending an educational institution by population group, 2011 and 2022	77
Figure 8.8 - Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by disability status and highest level of education completed, 2011 and 2022	77
Figure 8.9a - Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by disability status, sex and highest level of education completed, 2011	78
Figure 8.9b - Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by disability status, sex and highest level of education completed, 2022	78
Figure 8.10a - Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by disability status, age group and highest level of education completed, 2011	79
Figure 8.10b - Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by disability status, age group and highest level of education completed, 2022	79
Figure 8.11a - Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by disability status, population group and highest level of education completed, 2011	80
Figure 8.11b - Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by disability status, population group and highest level of education completed, 2022	80
Figure 8.12 - Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by use of assistive devices and sex, 2011 and 2022	82
Figure 9.1 - Distribution of households with youth by type of main dwelling, 2014 and 2023	83
Figure 9.2 - Households with youth by main type of dwelling and geographical type, 2014 and 2023	84
Figure 9.3a - Percentage of households with youth aged 15–34 years by income source and geographical type, 2014	87
Figure 9.3b - Percentage of households with youth aged 15–34 years by income source and geographical type, 2023	87
Figure 9.4a - Percentage of male grant recipients aged 15–34 years by province, 2014 and 2023	88
Figure 9.4b - Percentage of female grant recipients aged 15–34 years by province, 2014 and 2023	88
Figure 9.5 - Distribution of income quintile for households with youth, 2014 and 2023	89
Figure 9.6a - Distribution of income quintile for households with youth by geo-type, 2014	90
Figure 9.6b - Distribution of income quintile for households with youth by geo-type, 2023	90
Figure 9.7a - Distribution of income quintile for households with youth by province, 2014	91
Figure 9.7b - Distribution of income quintile for households with youth by province, 2023	91
Figure 9.8a - Percentage of males aged 15–34 years living in households without an employed adult, 2014 and 2023	92
Figure 9.8b - Percentage of females aged 15–34 years living in households without an employed adult, 2014 and 2023	92
Figure 9.9 - Youth in households that experience hunger by province, 2014 and 2023	93
Figure 9.10 - Youth in households that experience hunger by geographical type and sex, 2014 and 2023	94
Figure 10.1 - Percentage of youth attending educational institutions, 2014 and 2023	95
Figure 10.2 - Percentage of youth attending educational institutions by sex, 2023	96
Figure 10.3 - Percentage of youth by educational attainment and population group, 2023	97
Figure 10.4 - Percentage distribution of youth by educational attainment and province, 2023	98
Figure 10.5 - Percentage of youth students in public HEIs by population group and sex, 2022	99
Figure 10.6 - Percentage of youth graduates from public HEIs by population group and sex, 2022	100

Foreword

South Africa commemorated three decades of democracy in 2024, which brought economic growth, the expansion of social services, including healthcare and education, and thus has improved the lives of many. However, South Africa continues to grapple with issues such as unemployment, poverty, and inequality, which impact the well-being of its citizens, including the youth.

South Africa's population has been steadily increasing over the years. The present report reveals that the youth population steadily grew from 20,4 million to 20,9 million between 2014 and 2024, which contributes around 33,1% to the total population. As a youthful population, South Africa has the potential to fully engage the number of persons who are of working age in productive activities. A well-educated and healthy youth population could potentially propel the economy and the country onto a new growth trajectory. When young people cannot find employment and improve their living conditions, this youth bulge becomes a demographic time bomb, as large masses of frustrated youth become a product of social and economic uncertainty.

But the question needs to be asked; where are we now? The purpose of this report is to provide a general picture of a wide spectrum of demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the youth. As you will see, the analyses in this report highlight areas of success, as well as challenges that perhaps require different and/or more effective interventions.

Of particular interest in the report are issues relating to employment, crime, health and living conditions. In terms of the participation of youth in the labour market, the high rates of youth unemployment and its challenges, which are largely structural by nature, are causes of concern in relation to the well-being of youth and the general economic growth in the country. Efforts to tackle the scourge of youth unemployment therefore have to address structural factors relating to education and skills development.

For example, Chapter 5 of this report will show that the labour participation rate of youth increased from 48,2% to 50,8% between 2014 and 2024 respectively. The unemployment rate of the youth in South Africa increased by 8,7 percentage points from 36,8% in 2014 to 45,5% in 2024. In 2024, 43,2% of the youth were not in employment, education or training (NEET), 5,0 percentage points higher than in 2014.

An analysis of the living conditions highlights the disparities between rural and urban households with regard to the sources of income for households with young people. The report indicates that the percentage of youth living in households without an employed adult increased and thus rural households with youth relied mostly on grants as their primary source of income.

The causes of death pertaining to youth demonstrate that during 2014 and 2020, a high percentage of young people died from 'certain infectious and parasitic diseases' (mostly females), symptoms and signs not elsewhere classified (mostly females) as well as 'external causes of morbidity and mortality' (mostly males).

Mr Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

Abbreviations

ABET:	Adult Basic Education and Training
AET:	Adult Education and Training
AIDS:	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AR:	Absorption Rate
AU:	African Union
DHET:	Department of Higher Education and Technology
ECD:	Early Childhood Development
GBV:	Gender Based Violence
GHS:	General Household Survey
GPSJS:	Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey
HEI:	Higher Education Institutions
HIV:	Human Immune Deficiency Virus
ICESR:	International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
IYDS:	The Integrated Youth Development Strategy
LFPR:	Labour Force Participation Rate
MACOD:	Mortality and Causes of Deaths
MTSF:	Medium Term Strategic Framework
MYPE:	Mid-Year Population Estimates
NDP:	National Development Plan
NEET:	Not in Employment, Education or Training
NYP:	National Youth Policy
QLFS:	Quarterly Labour Force Survey
RDP:	Reconstruction and Development Programme
SDG:	Sustainable Development Goals
SMME:	Small, Micro and Medium Enterprises
STATS SA:	Statistics South Africa
TB:	Tuberculosis
TVET:	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UR:	Unemployment Rate
UNDESA:	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
VOCS:	Victims of Crime Survey

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background

South Africa's youth make up roughly 33,1 per cent of the entire population. The United Nations defines the youth as those aged between 15 and 24 years¹, however, it recognises that each region may have its specific definition of youth. In South Africa, youth is defined as those aged 15 to 34 years.

The National Development Plan (NDP) identifies that youth in South Africa have unequal and racialised access to opportunities including poor schooling quality and outcomes for the black African youth. Limited economic participation is also an important area identified in the NDP. According to research, youth make up a large share of the labour force, however, often lack the skills and abilities needed and relevant to employers during a certain period or era, resulting in high levels of unemployment and discouragement among youth. South Africa, like many countries globally, grapples with the challenge of youth unemployment with statistics indicating a 45,5% unemployment rate among youth aged 15–34 years, in contrast to the national unemployment rate average of 32,1% in the third quarter of 2024.

These challenges facing the South African youth as mentioned above could lead to far-reaching, over-arching socio-economic consequences for young people, with detrimental impacts on the general economic, social and physiological well-being if not addressed through effective policy implementation (Barron, 2003; Hammarstrom, 1994)².

Notwithstanding the challenges facing today's young people, notable progress in access to education and skills development has been achieved. Successes around making education and training accessible are largely due to policies around the introduction of free basic education and with the establishment of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges, which has seen an overwhelming increase of young people in tertiary education. Access to free primary health care is another success story, with more young people accessing free primary health care services. However, much remains to be done to reduce the number of youth dying from infectious and parasitic diseases such as tuberculosis (TB), influenza and pneumonia. The number of youth dying from external causes of morbidity and mortality is also of concern.

Access to employment opportunities is dependent upon geographical location, with urban areas generally offering better employment prospects than rural areas. For instance, the Western Cape exhibits higher absorption rates and lower levels of unemployment as compared to KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape.

This report updates the **Marginalised Groups Series VI: The Social Profile of the Youth, 2014–2020** and focuses on the socio-economic and demographic profile of the youth over a period of ten years (2014–2024). It offers a broad understanding of the situation of young people in South Africa by analysing data that highlights some of the concerns, challenges and successes experienced by the youth.

¹ <http://social.un.org/youthyear/docs/UNPY-presentation.pdf>

² Barron, S. W. 2003. Self-control, social consequences and criminal behaviour: Street youth and the general theory of crime *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 40 (4), pp 403-425

Hammarstrom, A. 1994. Health consequences of youth unemployment, *Public health*, 108 (6), pp 403–412

1.1 Legislation and policy frameworks

The situation of youth in this country exists against a backdrop of a strong legal framework in terms of policies and legislation to improve the circumstances for youth in the country. This section describes the legislative framework, policies, and measures implemented in South Africa and around the world to ensure youth development.

1.1.1 International Context

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 recognises the need for inclusion of youth and aims to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, as well as equal pay for work of equal value by 2030. The SDGs also calls for substantially reducing the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training by 2030.

1.1.2 Regional Context

African Youth Charter, 2006:

In 2009, South Africa endorsed the African Youth Charter, which was adopted by the African Union (AU) in 2006. The Charter was informed by the expressed intention of the African Union's Constitutive Act and the African Union Commission strategic plan 2004–2007 to put African youth at the centre of development. The charter prescribes that nations should develop comprehensive and coherent national youth policies and provide resources for the youth policies to be implemented. In addition, the African Union has endorsed youth development through encouraging investment in the youth to harness demographic dividend as a key to Agenda 2063 for the benefit of the continent.

1.1.3 National Context

Nationally, various policies, legislations, and programmes are in place for youth development. These include:

- **The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996:** This is the supreme law of the country entrenching specific rights, responsibilities and principles that everybody must uphold. It lays the foundation for youth economic empowerment.
- **National Youth Commission Act, 1996:** Provides for the establishment, constitution objects and functions of a National Youth Commission; and provides for matters connected therewith.
- **National Development Plan:** Youth development is one of the priorities in the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030, which is the government's vision of advanced economic development, job creation, growth, and equitable access to opportunities and services for all, while fostering an inclusive society and economy. Using the 'youth lens', the NDP emphasizes amongst others, the improvement of the following (which inform the five pillars of youth development:
 - i. Economic growth (including building the capacity of the state to play a developmental role).
 - ii. Improve access to health care (including nutrition for pregnant women and young children).
 - iii. Quality of education and skills development (including universal access to Early Childhood education (ECD).
 - iv. Economic opportunities for youth and women (including creation of employment and support for entrepreneurship)
 - v. Active citizenship and social cohesion (including dealing with inequalities).
- **National Youth Development Policy Framework, 2000–2007:** was designed to accelerate the mainstreaming of youth development as an integral part of the transformation agenda of the democratically elected Government of South Africa.

- **The National Youth Policy (NYP 2020-2030)**

The National Youth Policy (NYP 2020-2030) was adopted by Cabinet in October 2020 and identifies five policy Strategic Focus Areas:

- Education, skills and second chances – covers basic education, higher education and training, and skills development, and the links between education, skills, and economic opportunities.
- Economic transformation, entrepreneurship, and job creation – covers youth participation in the labour market and youth entrepreneurship.
- Physical and mental health promotion including pandemics – covers mortality and morbidity, health behaviour and practice, HIV prevalence, pregnancy, nutrition, obesity, and other primary healthcare issues. In addition, it covers substance abuse.
- Social cohesion and nation building – covers youth participation in social development and related activities in communities, including participation in political processes, sports, youth leadership, and youths in conflict with the law.
- Effective and responsive youth development machinery – provides an overview of institutions that play an important role in youth development.

- **The Integrated Youth Development Strategy (IYDS)**

The Integrated Youth Development Strategy (IYDS) for the period 2022 to 2025 sets out the actual programmes, targets as well as the resources required for driving identified interventions in order to implement the **NYP 2020–2030**.

1.2 Objective of the report

This report aims to provide analysis relating to the socio-economic and demographic profile of the youth in South Africa using data from Stats SA and other administrative sources. The general analysis in the report covers socio-economic and demographic trends of the youth over ten years (i.e. covering the period 2014–2024).

1.3 Data sources

The current report focuses mainly on presenting data comparing the years 2014 and 2024. However, where data representing the years 2014 and 2024 were not available, the most recent survey data available were used.

The main sources of data used in this study were the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS), the General Household Survey (GHS), and the Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS) to obtain household, demographic, labour, crime and safety statistics. Youth Mortality data was sourced from mortality and causes of death. The migration and disability data were sourced from Census data while the administrative data on education was sourced from DHET.

1.4 Limitations of the study

Since the report relies on sample surveys that depend on population estimates and a weighting process to extrapolate sample estimates to population estimates, the absolute number of cases will not always correspond with census or administrative data sources. In addition, due to the sample sizes of the surveys, disaggregation of indicators by some of the variables may not be possible.

1.5 Definitions

- **Youth:** Generally, the youth in this report are defined as persons between the ages 15–34 years. This age group is sometimes disaggregated further to distinguish between younger (15–24) or older (25–34 years) youth.
- **Adults:** Persons aged 35–64 years.
- **Geo-type:** Census 2011 definitions for urban and rural geographical areas have been applied. According to Stats SA, an urban area is defined as a continuously built-up area with characteristics such as type of economic activity and land use. Cities, towns, townships, suburbs, etc. are typical urban areas.
 - An **urban area** is one which was proclaimed or classified as such (i.e. in an urban municipality under the old demarcation), or classified as such during census demarcation by Stats SA, based on its observation of aerial photographs or on other information.
 - A **rural area** is defined as any area that is not classified as urban. Rural areas may comprise one or more of the following: tribal areas, commercial farms and rural formal areas.
- **Household:** A household is a group of persons who live together and provide for themselves jointly with food and other essentials for living, or a person who lives alone.
- **Household head:** A person recognised as such by the household and in most cases is the key decision-maker, or the person who owns or rents the dwelling, or the person who is the main breadwinner.
- **Informal housing:** Refers to shacks or shanties in informal settlements or in backyards.
- **Labour market:** Economic activities are those that contribute to the production of goods and services in the country. There are two types of economic activities, namely:
 - 1) Market production activities (work done for others and usually associated with pay or profit); and
 - 2) Non-market production activities (work done for the benefit of the household, e.g. subsistence farming).
- The **labour force:** Comprises all persons who are employed plus all persons who are unemployed.
- **Labour force participation rate:** The proportion of the working-age population that is either employed or unemployed.
- **Employed persons:** Those aged 15–64 years who, during the reference week, did any work for at least one hour, or had a job or business but were not at work (temporarily absent).
- **Not economically active:** Persons aged 15–64 years who are neither employed nor unemployed in the reference week.
- **Unemployment rate:** The proportion of the labour force that is unemployed.
- **Discouraged job-seeker:** A person who was not employed during the reference period, wanted to work, was available to work/start a business but did not take active steps to find work during the last four weeks, provided that the main reason given for not seeking work was any of the following: No jobs available in the area; unable to find work requiring his/her skills; lost hope of finding any kind of work.
- **Morbidity:** The prevalence of a certain disease within a certain geographical location.
- **Mortality:** The state of being susceptible to death.
- **Poverty line:** This is a monetary threshold that allows for reporting on the levels of poverty. A person falling below the poverty line is said to be living in poverty.
- **The youth dependency ratio** is the number of the youth population (ages 15–34) per 100 people of working age (ages 15–64).

1.6 Layout of the report

- **Chapter 1** is the introduction and briefly provides context to the socio-economic profile of the youth. Moreover, this chapter seeks to establish the rationale for producing the report by providing a background to the policy framework for the report. The rest of the report focuses on covering various socio-economic and demographic profiling of the youth through different chapters.
- **Chapter 2** contextualises figures reported in the rest of the publication by detailing the country's demographic profile and changes over the period 2014 to 2024, with a focus on the youth.

- **Chapter 3** deals with household characteristics. This chapter provides information about the number of youth-headed households, characteristics of the household heads, household composition as well as generational household types.
- **Chapter 4** of this report explores youth and migration.
- **Chapter 5** of this report explores the participation of youth in the labour market and the analysis of trends of the labour market indicators.
- **Chapter 6** examines youth perceptions about crime; trust in public institutions, and the various types of crimes that are perceived to affect young people. The types of crimes analysed in this part of the report include assault, street robbery and property theft.
- **Chapter 7** looks at trends in causes of death amongst youth between the years 2014 and 2020. Data sources used in this chapter include Causes of deaths data.
- **Chapter 8** examines general health and functionalities and the prevalence of disabilities.
- **Chapter 9** analyses the living conditions and hunger experiences of young people in the country.
- **Chapter 10** looks at the attendance at educational institutions and educational attainment.
- **Chapter 11** concludes the report by summarising some of the main highlight discussions from the publication.

CHAPTER 2: DEMOGRAPHY OF YOUTH

2.0 Background

Demographic trends provide invaluable information that describes changes in a population over time. Youth in developing countries find themselves in the midst of rapid social and economic changes. To understand the circumstances of youth in developing countries, it is critical to have an understanding of their demographic changes over time. These demographic changes affect their access to services, access to resources, labour market participation etc. According to Mid-Year Population Estimates (MYPE, 2024), South Africa's population has steadily increased over the years. The population was 63,0 million in 2024, with the youth population (15–34 years) numbered around 20,9 million (33,1%). The youth population is regarded as the marginalised group and efforts need to be made to ensure that they are not left behind. It requires a concerted effort in human capital investment to ensure the attainment of quality education and relevant skills to compete in the labour market. The size of a country's youth population determines its ability and potential for growth particularly when critical investments are made; for example, a large youth population usually denotes an increase in the labour force supply. When given the knowledge and opportunities necessary to thrive, youth can be a positive force for development³ and therefore it is necessary to equip them with necessary skills. This chapter focuses on the population dynamics of young people aged 15–34, which includes population changes in size and marital status between 2014 and 2024. The analysis is done using Mid-year population estimates 2024 and the General Household Survey 2014 and 2023.

2.1 Youth population

Table 2.1 - Distribution of SA and youth population and population growth by province, 2014 and 2024

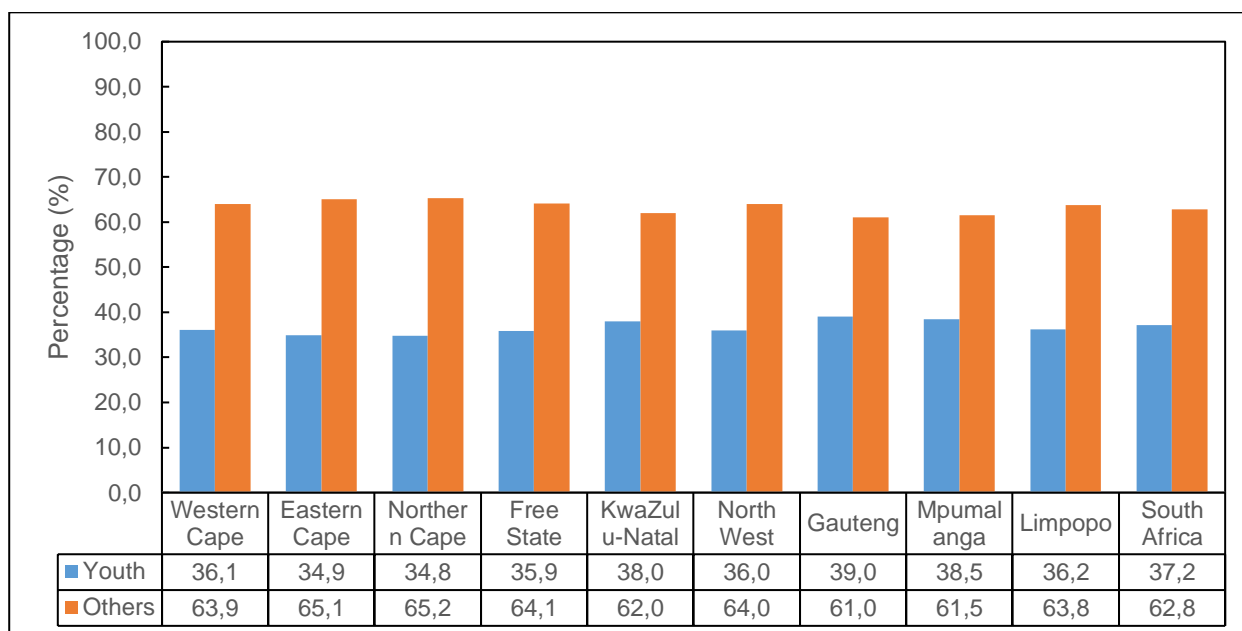
Province	2014		2024		Population growth	
	SA Population	Youth Population	SA Population	Youth Population	SA Population	Youth Population
	N ('000)	N ('000)	N ('000)	N ('000)	Per cent	Per cent
Western Cape	6 322	2 279	7 563	2 427	17,9	6,3
Eastern Cape	6 942	2 426	7 176	2 260	3,3	-7,1
Northern Cape	1 218	423	1 373	447	12,0	5,5
Free State	2 854	1 024	3 044	1 015	6,4	-0,9
KwaZulu-Natal	10 975	4 167	12 313	4 263	11,5	2,3
North West	3 546	1 275	4 155	1 379	15,9	7,8
Gauteng	12 876	5 021	15 932	5 244	21,3	4,3
Mpumalanga	4 348	1 672	5 058	1 725	15,1	3,1
Limpopo	5 749	2 081	6 403	2 093	10,8	0,6
South Africa	54 830	20 369	63 016	20 854	13,9	2,3

Source: MYPE 2024

Table 2.1 above shows the percentage growth of the youth population between 2014 and 2024 in relation to the general population. Population growth was calculated using linear growth. Generally, all provinces experienced positive growth for the general population, while the youth population showed negative growth in two provinces (Eastern Cape and Free State). As a result, the youth population increased at a lower rate of 2,3% compared to the general population, which grew by 13,9%, a difference of 11,6 percentage points. For the general population, the largest growth was recorded in Gauteng (21,3%), while the youth recorded the largest growth in North West (7,8%).

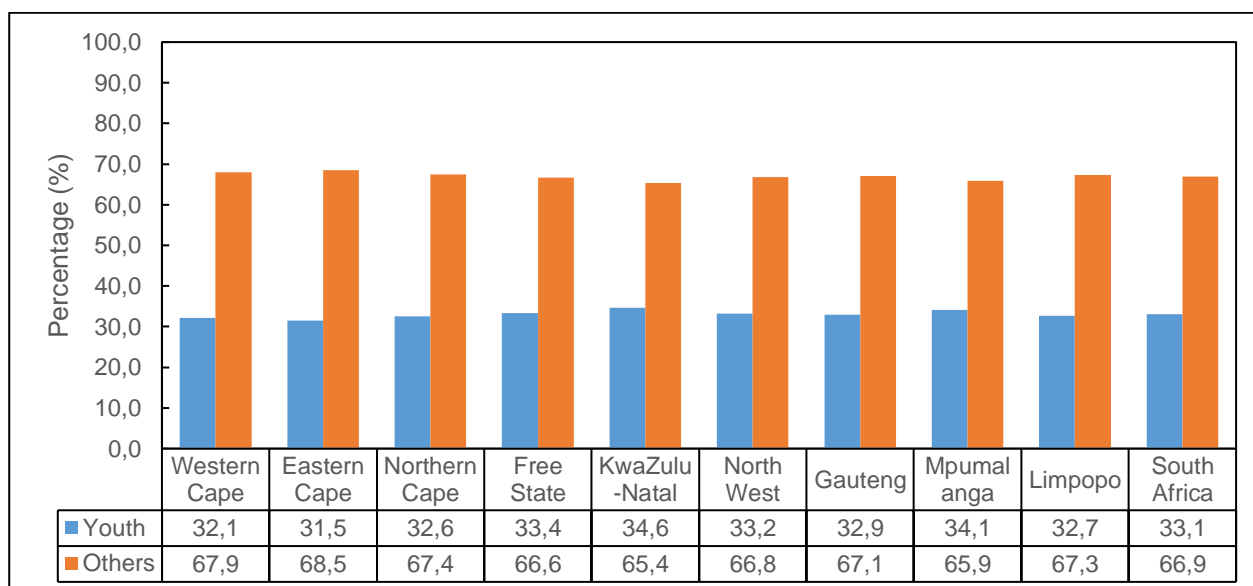
³ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). 2015. Population Facts No.2015/1

Figure 2.1a - Percentage share of youth by province, 2014



Source: MYPE 2014

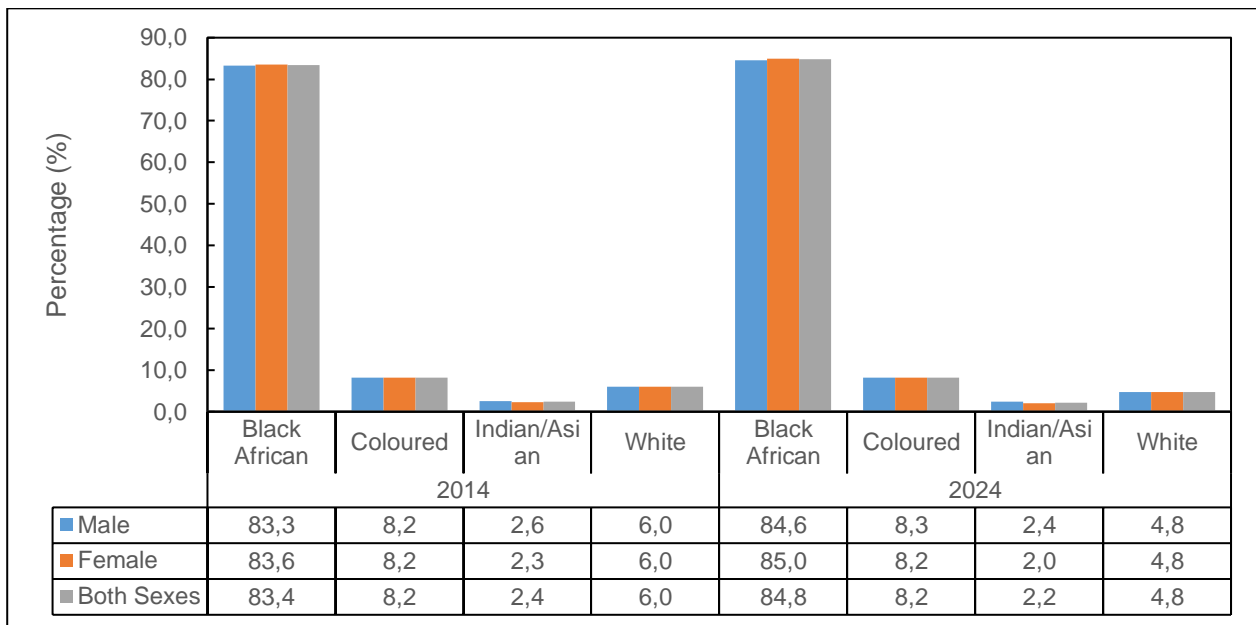
Figure 2.1b - Percentage share of youth by province, 2024



Source: MYPE 2024

Figures 2.1a and 2.1b above show the percentage share of youth within each province in 2014 and 2024. Between 2014 and 2024, the South African youth population decreased from 37,2% to 33,1%. The drop in the youth population was mostly driven by decreases observed amongst the share of youth in all nine provinces. Although Gauteng recorded the highest proportion of youth in 2014, it recorded the largest decrease at 6,1 percentage points (from 39,0% in 2014 to 32,9% in 2024). In 2024, KwaZulu-Natal (34,6%) accounted for the highest percentage of the youth, followed by Mpumalanga (34,1%), and Eastern Cape recorded the least (31,5%).

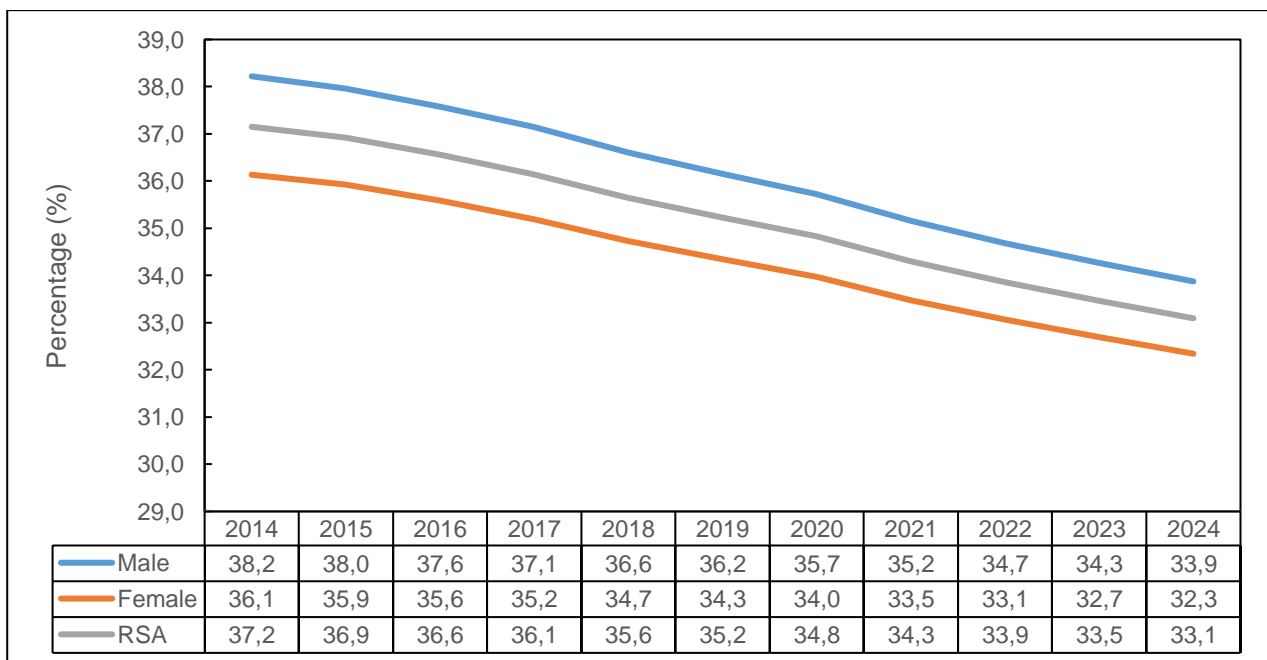
Figure 2.2 - Percentage distribution of youth (15–34) by population group and sex, 2014 and 2024



Source: MYPE 2024

Figure 2.2 depicts the distribution of youth by different population categories in 2014 and 2024. In 2024, the youth population accounted for 20,9 million individuals, with black Africans accounting for 84,8% of the youth population, up from 83,4% in 2014. For the reference period, the black African population groups recorded an increase in the percentage of young people while the young coloured population group remained constant. There were slightly more females among the black African youth than their male counterparts. During this period, a slight increase in youth population among males was observed for both black African and coloured population groups. The whites and Indian/Asian youth population showed a decrease for both males and females (1,2 and 0,2 percentage points).

Figure 2.3 - Percentage share of youth to the overall population, 2014–2024



Source: MYPE 2024

Figure 2.3 shows the percentage share of youth to the overall population by sex over a period of 10 years. Nationally, the percentage share of youth declined from 37,2% in 2014 to 33,1% in 2024. The time series analysis shows a steady decline in the share of the youth to the overall population for both sexes during the reporting period. The males reported the highest percentage share of youth to the overall population compared to their female counterparts.

Table 2.2 - Distribution of young people by age group and sex, 2014 and 2024

Population group	2014					
	Male		Female		Total	
	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent
15–24 yrs	5 094	49,9	5 086	50,1	10 181	50,0
25–34 yrs	5 118	50,1	5 071	49,9	10 189	50,0
15–34 yrs	10 212	100,0	10 157	100,0	20 369	100,0
	2024					
	Male		Female		Total	
	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent
15–24 yrs	5 127	49,0	5 076	48,9	10 203	48,9
25–34 yrs	5 336	51,0	5 315	51,1	10 650	51,1
15–34 yrs	10 462	100,0	10 391	100,0	20 854	100,0

Source: MYPE 2024

Table 2.2 above shows the distribution of young people by age group and sex in 2014 and 2024. In 2014, there were 20,4 million young people in South Africa, and they increased by 48 000 to 20,9 million in 2024. In 2014, there were equal proportions (50,0%) of young people recorded for both age groups, while the majority of the youth were those in the 25–34 age category in 2024. Females aged 15–24 showed a decrease of 1,2 percentage points in population (from 50,1% in 2014 to 48,9% in 2024). Conversely, both the males and females aged 25–34 recorded an increase in population from 2014 to 2024.

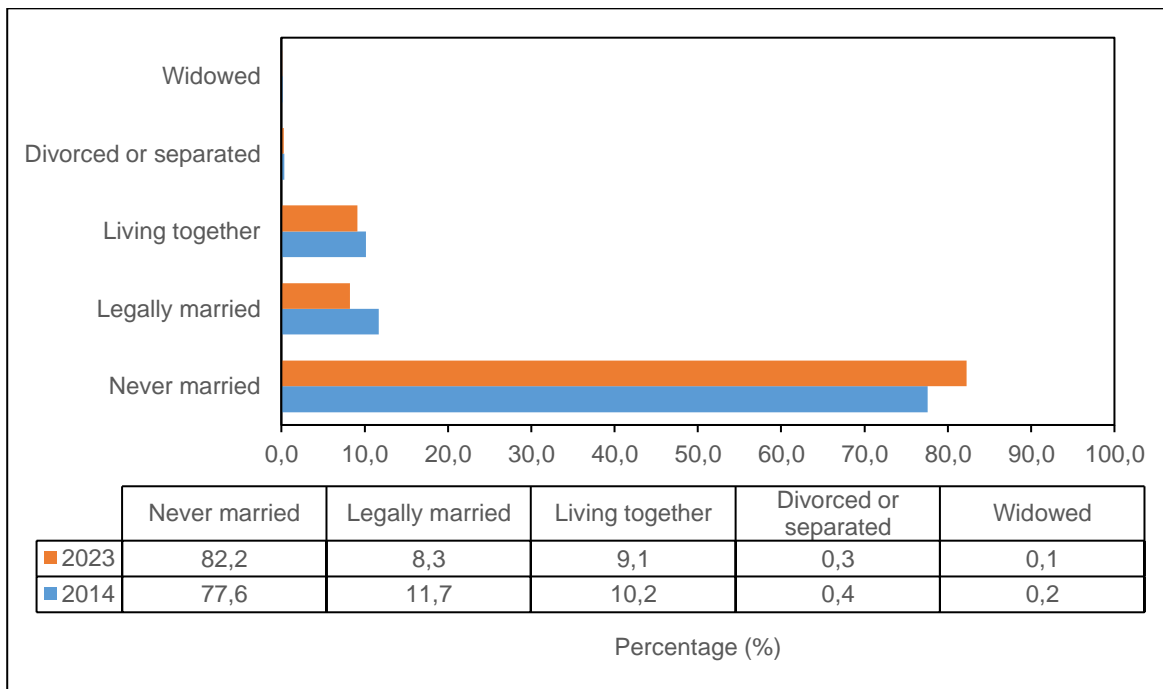
2.2 Marital status of youth

According to various research, children are better off when both of their parents raise them in a stable home, where parents have a happy and healthy relationship. Therefore, it is imperative to support marriage and lifelong committed relationships as they positively impact the upbringing of children⁴. However, according to the literature, the percentage of adults who have never married has been steadily increasing since around the year 2000, and people are getting married and becoming parents later in life⁵. Furthermore, additional educational opportunities afforded to modern women compared to their older counterparts have changed the way they perceive marriage.

⁴ <https://www.deseret.com/2021/10/12/22696492/young-adults-attitude-toward-marriage-is-changing-why-thats-important-american-family-survey>

⁵ <https://www.lets mend.com/posts/why-single-young-adults-aren-t-getting-married/>

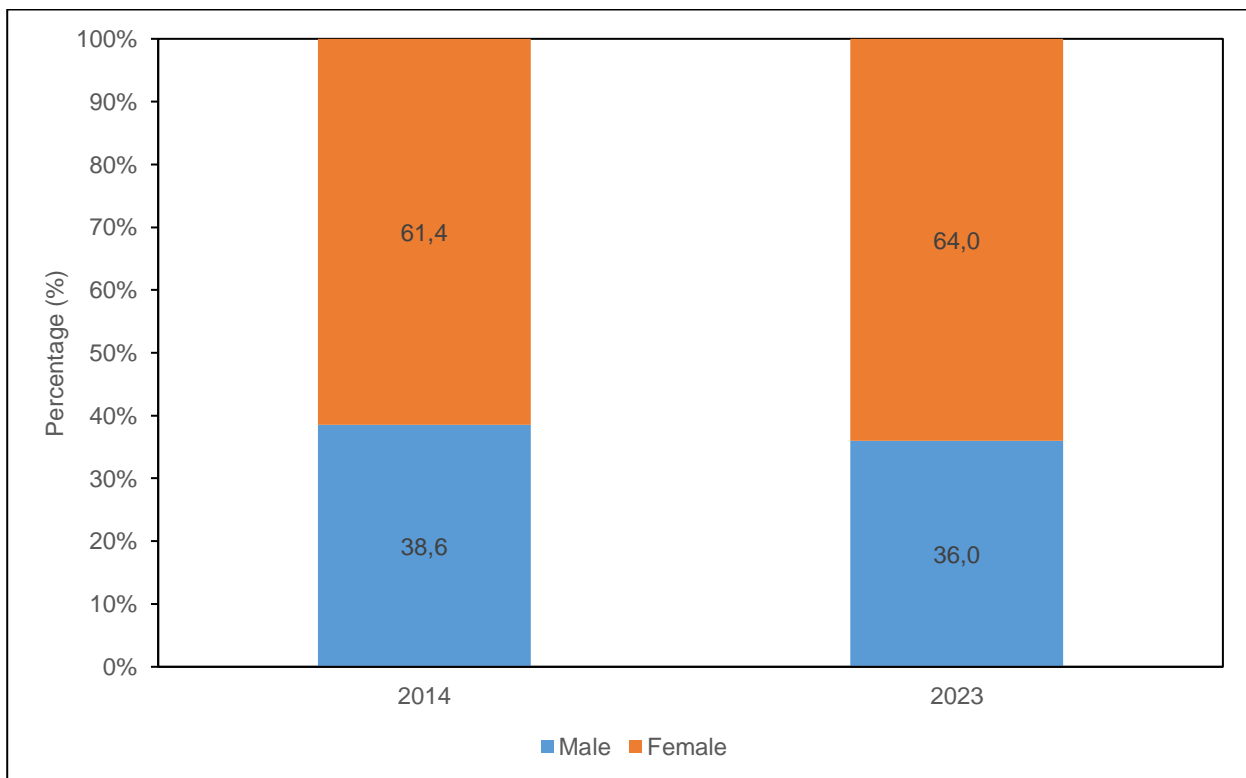
Figure 2.4 - Marital status of youth, 2014 and 2023



Source: GHS 2014 & 2023

Figure 2.4 above shows the marital status of youth in 2014 and 2023. In 2023, there were less young people married than in 2014. Between 2014 and 2023, the youth who were never married increased by 4,6 percentage points (from 77,6% in 2014 to 82,2% in 2023). Conversely, those who were legally married and living together decreased by 3,4 and 1,1 percentage points respectively.

Figure 2.5 - Percentage of youth who are legally married by sex, 2014 and 2023



Source: GHS 2014 & 2023

Figure 2.5 above shows the percentage of youth who were ever married by sex in 2014 and 2023. A higher percentage of young females recorded that they were married compared to young males in both years. Between 2014 and 2023, young males recorded a decrease of 2,6 percentage points (from 38,6% in 2014 to 36,0% in 2023) among those who were ever married while young females observed an increase of the same percentage points.

Figure 2.6a - Percentage of youth who were ever married by population group, 2014

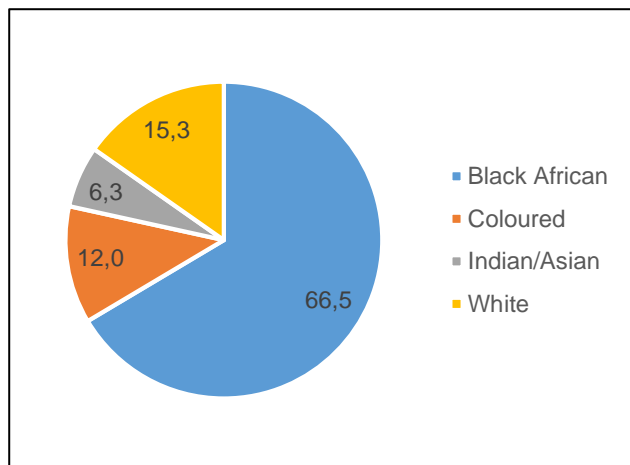
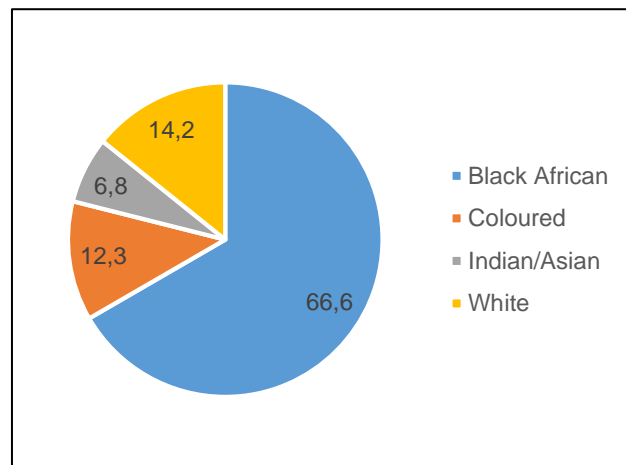


Figure 2.6b - Percentage of youth who were ever married by population group, 2023



Source: GHS 2014 & 2023

The above figures 2.6a and 2.6b depict the percentage of youth who were ever married by population group. Approximately, two-thirds of the black African youth reported to have been married in both years (66,5% and 66,6% respectively). Between 2014 and 2023, the black African youth recorded a slight increase of 0,1 percentage point (from 66,5% in 2014 to 66,6% in 2023), coloured youth reported an increase of 0,3 percentage points (from 12,0% in 2014 to 12,3% in 2023), and Indian/Asian an increase of 0,5 percentage points (from 6,3% in 2014 to 6,8% in 2023) while the white youth that were married reported a decrease of 1,1 percentage points (from 15,3% in 2014 to 14,2% in 2023).

2.3 Conclusion

Over the past ten years, the share of youth in the overall population declined. Generally, all South African provinces experienced positive growth for the general population while the youth population showed negative growth in Eastern Cape and Free State. In 2023, young people were less likely to be married than they were in 2014. A higher percentage of young females recorded that they were married compared to young males in both years. The majority of the black African youth reported that they were ever married in both years.

CHAPTER 3: HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

3.0 Background

Households are the building blocks of society and household characteristics affect the social and economic wellbeing of the members of the households. Any analysis of the socio-economic characteristics of youth cannot look at youth in isolation but needs to consider the broader context of the state of the households in general. A household is defined as all individuals who live together under the same roof or in the same yard, and who share resources such as food or money to keep the household functioning. Although household members are usually related, blood relations are not a prerequisite for the formation of a household.

Over the years, there have been changes in the characteristics of the households in South Africa. These changes range from the increasing youth headed households, the changes in the household composition from nuclear households to single, multiple and extended households. The living arrangements of these households therefore would have implications in the resources that are required to sustain the members of the households. The household characteristics section provides information about the number of youth-headed households; characteristics of the household heads; household composition as well as the generational household types.

3.1 Youth headed households

Table 3.1 - Proportion of youth-headed households by province and age groups, 2014 and 2023

2014								
Province	RSA Households		15–24 yrs		25–34 yrs		15–34 yrs	
	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent
Western Cape	1 670	72,7	52	3,1	404	24,2	456	27,3
Eastern Cape	1 624	75,2	109	6,7	294	18,1	403	24,8
Northern Cape	311	74,5	19	6,0	61	19,5	79	25,5
Free State	830	71,8	58	7,0	176	21,2	234	28,2
KwaZulu-Natal	2 619	71,1	170	6,5	587	22,4	757	28,9
North West	1 067	72,2	57	5,3	240	22,5	296	27,8
Gauteng	4 220	67,9	250	5,9	1 105	26,2	1 355	32,1
Mpumalanga	1 138	70,0	79	7,0	262	23,1	342	30,0
Limpopo	1 424	69,3	132	9,3	306	21,5	438	30,8
RSA	14 904	70,8	926	6,2	3 434	23,0	4 360	29,3
2023								
Western Cape	2 136	77,8	62	2,9	413	19,3	475	22,2
Eastern Cape	1 761	80,3	84	4,8	263	14,9	347	19,7
Northern Cape	380	79,2	9	2,3	70	18,6	79	20,8
Free State	999	77,1	44	4,4	185	18,5	229	22,9
KwaZulu-Natal	3 292	75,8	128	3,9	668	20,3	796	24,2
North West	1 390	76,4	73	5,3	255	18,3	328	23,6
Gauteng	5 779	71,7	283	4,9	1 350	23,4	1 633	28,3
Mpumalanga	1 493	76,7	66	4,4	282	18,9	348	23,3
Limpopo	1 775	75,9	134	7,6	294	16,5	428	24,1
RSA	19 005	75,5	882	4,6	3 780	19,9	4 662	24,5

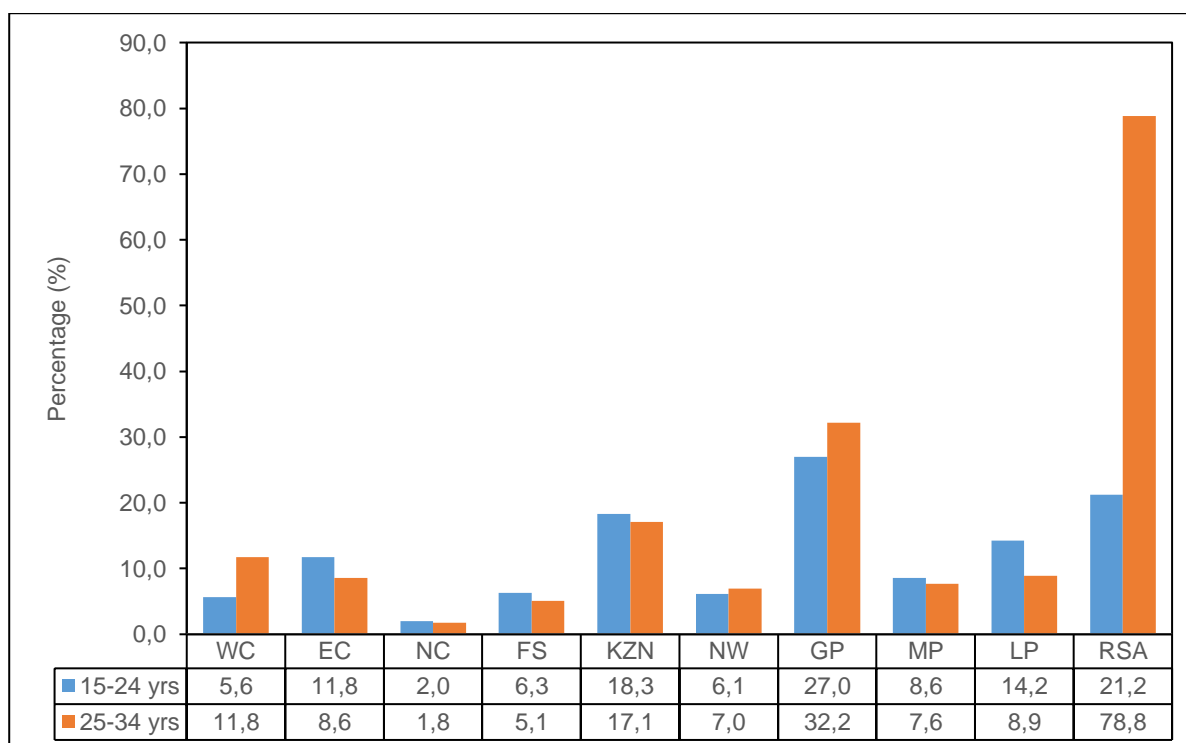
Source: GHS 2014 & 2023

Table 3.1 shows the proportion of youth-headed households by province and age groups in 2014 and 2023. Nationally, households in South Africa increased from 70,8% in 2014 to 75,5% in 2023. Mpumalanga and Limpopo recorded the highest increase of 6,7 (from 70,0% in 2014 to 76,7% 2024) and 6,6 percentage points (from 69,3% in 2014 to 75,9% in 2024) respectively, while Gauteng province experienced the lowest increase of 3,8 percentage points (from 67,9% in 2014 to 71,7% in 2023).

The youth-headed households decreased by 4,8 percentage points (from 29,3% in 2014 to 24,5% in 2023), while the youth aged 15–24 recorded a slight decrease of 1,6 percentage points (from 6,2% in 2014 to 4,6% in 2023). Provincial variations revealed a decrease in the percentage of youth-headed households in all provinces for the reporting period. For youth aged 15–34, Mpumalanga and Limpopo showed highest decrease of 6,7 and 6,6 percentage points respectively, while for youth aged 15–24 years, Northern Cape showed the highest decrease of 3,7 percentage point whereas North West province remained constant.

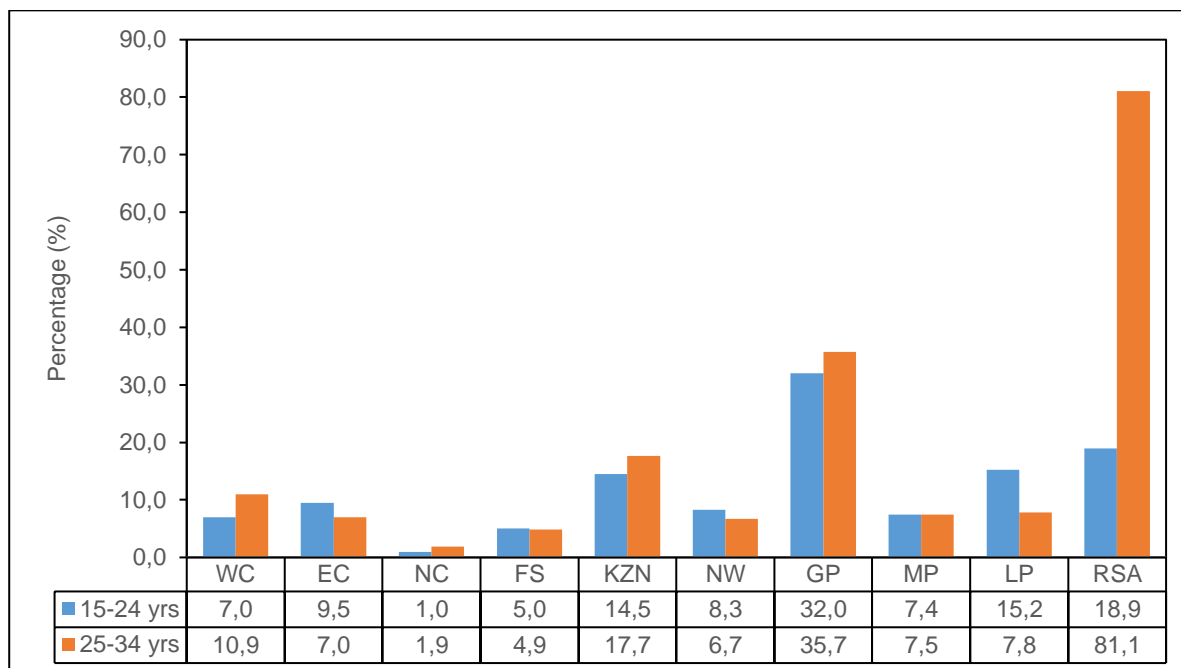
The households headed by youth aged 25 to 34 years decreased by 3,1 percentage points (from 23,0% in 2014 to 19,9% in 2023). The decrease in the youth-headed households was observed in all provinces, and Limpopo showed the highest decrease of 5,0 percentage points (from 21,5% in 2014 to 16,5% in 2023), followed by Western Cape with decrease of 4,9 percentage points (from 24,2 in 2014 to 19,3% in 2023). Older youth (25 to 34 years) were more likely to head households compared to the younger youth (15–24 years) within each province. The data above show that in 2023, households headed by youth aged 15 to 24 accounted for 4,6% of the total households in South Africa, while those headed by their older counterparts accounted for 19,9%.

Figure 3.1a - Percentage distribution of youth-headed households by province and age group, 2014



Source: GHS 2014

Figure 3.1b - Percentage distribution of youth-headed households by province and age group, 2023

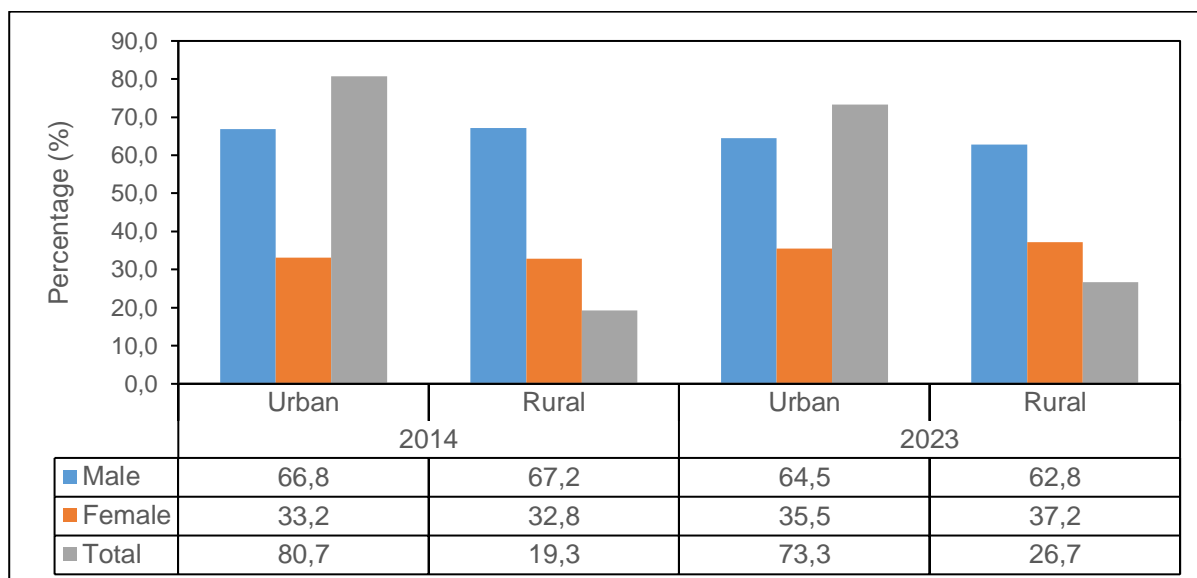


Source: GHS 2023

Figure 3.1a and 3.1b shows the percentage distribution of youth-headed households by province and age categories in 2014 and 2023. During the year 2014, 21,2% of the households were headed by youth aged 15–24, while 78,8% of households were headed by youth aged 25–34, whereas in 2023, 18,9% of households were headed by youth aged 15–24 and 81,1% of households were headed by youth aged 25–34. Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo provinces had the highest percentage shares of youth-headed households for both years. Over 30% of households in Gauteng province were headed by youth aged 25–34 in the two reporting periods.

Among the 15–24 age group, four provinces recorded increases between 2014 and 2023. The increases were observed in Western Cape (1,4 percentage points), North West (2,2 percentage points), Gauteng (5,0 percentage points) and Limpopo (1,0 percentage points). On the other hand, among those aged 25–34, increases in the percentage share of youth-headed households were observed in three provinces, namely Northern Cape (0,1 percentage points), Kwazulu-Natal (0,6 percentage points) and Gauteng (3,5 percentage points).

Figure 3.2 - Percentage distribution of youth-headed households by sex and geographic location, 2014 and 2023



Source: GHS 2014 & 2023

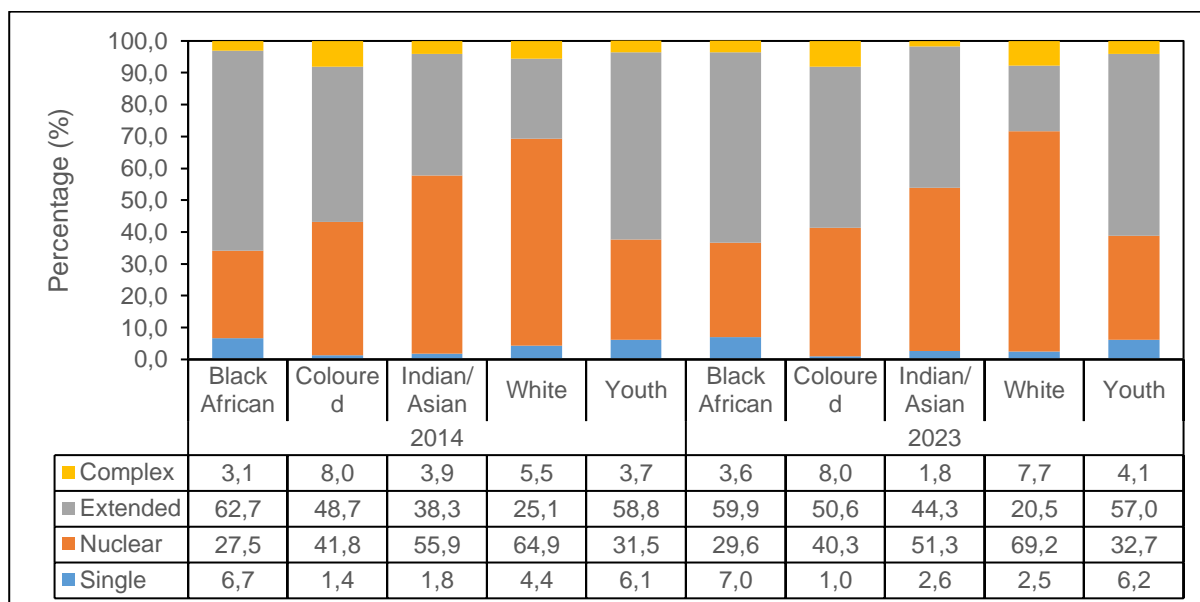
Figure 3.2 shows the percentage distribution of youth-headed households by sex and geographic location for 2014 and 2023. Nationally, youth-headed households in urban areas declined by 7,4 percentage points (from 80,7% in 2014 to 73,3% in 2023) while those households headed by youth in rural areas increased by the same percentage points (from 19,3% in 2014 to 26,7% in 2023). Looking at the sex disparities, male-headed households for youth were more than the female-headed households irrespective, in both urban and rural areas. For the reference period, female-headed households in urban areas increased by 2,3 percentage points (from 33,2% in 2014 to 35,5% in 2023) and rural areas by 4,4 percentage points (from 32,8% in 2014 to 37,2% in 2023). In contrast, male-headed households observed a decline of the same percentage points.

3.2 Households Composition

Household composition is derived from information about the relationship of each household member to the household head. Households are classified into four broad household types: single, nuclear, extended and complex. A single household is a one-person household. Nuclear households are defined as ‘households consisting of household heads, their spouses and offspring’, while the extended household would include other relatives in addition to the nucleus. Complex households are households with members not related to the household head.¹⁶

⁶ United Nations Statistics Division – Demographic and Social Statistics: <http://unstats.un.org>

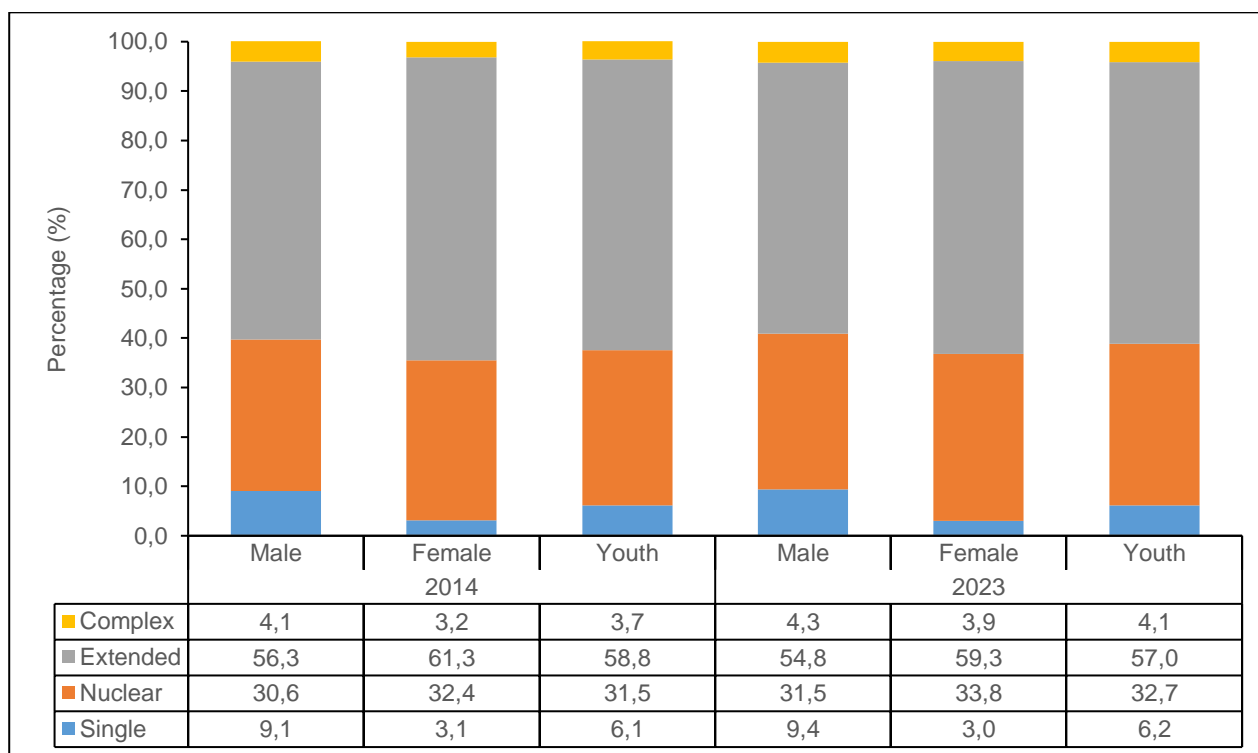
Figure 3.3 - Percentage distribution of youth by household composition and population group, 2014 and 2023



Source: GHS 2014 & 2023

Figure 3.3 shows the percentage distribution of youth by household composition and population group in 2014 and 2023. Nationally, the percentage of youth living in extended households declined by 1,8 percentage points (from 58,8% in 2014 to 57,0% in 2023), while those in nuclear households increased by 1,2 percentage points (from 31,5% in 2014 to 32,7% in 2023). The disparities amongst the population groups shows that black African and coloured youth were more likely to live in extended households, while Indian/Asian and white youth were more prevalent in nuclear households for both periods. In 2023, black African youth recorded the highest percentage of youth in extended households (59,9%), followed by coloured (50,6%), whereas Indian/Asian and white youth reported 51,3% and 69,2% in nuclear households.

Figure 3.4 - Percentage distribution of youth by household composition by sex, 2014 and 2023



Source: GHS 2014 & 2023

Figure 3.4 demonstrates the percentage distribution of youth by household composition and sex in 2014 and 2023. The results show that single-person households were more prevalent amongst male youth than their female counterparts. Generally, male youth in single households increased by 0,3 percentage points (from 9,1% in 2014 to 9,4% in 2023) while female youth declined by 0,1 percentage point (from 3,1% in 2014 to 3,0% in 2023) between 2014 and 2023.

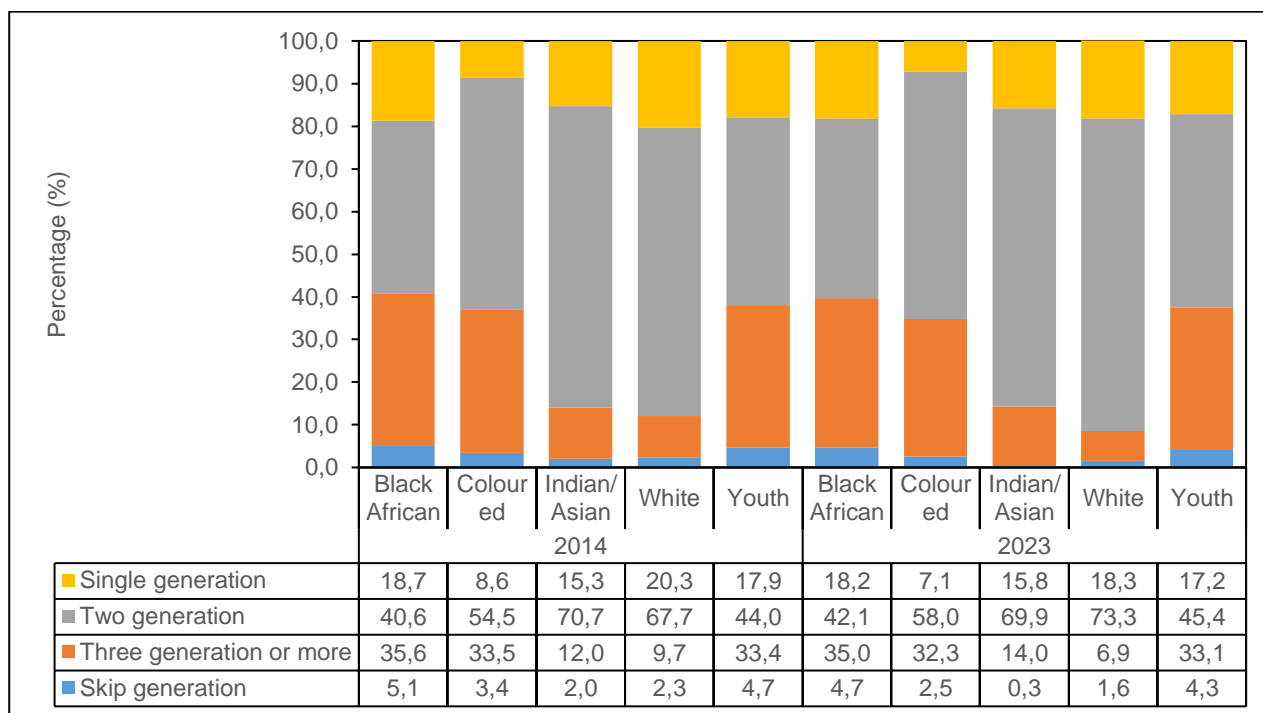
Between 2014 and 2023, higher proportions of young females were more likely to live in extended and nuclear households than their male counterparts, however extended households were the most common among both sexes. The proportion of male youth living in extended households decreased by 1,5 percentage points (from 56,3% in 2014 to 54,8% in 2023) compared to a decrease of 2,0 percentage points (from 61,3% in 2014 to 59,3% in 2023) of female youth.

3.3 Intergenerational household types

Intergenerational households in this report are classified into four main groups, i.e. one (single) generation, two generations, two or more generations and skip generations⁷. A one (single) generation household consists of people of the same age group: a married or cohabiting couple, a single person, siblings, or roommates. A two-generation family household includes a parent or parents and their child or children under the age of 25. In more than two generations households, the ages in the household can range from infancy to extreme old age. Lastly skipped-generation households include grandchildren living with one or more grandparents in the absence of any biological parents.

⁷ Wolf, D. & Folbre, N. 2012. *Universal Coverage of Long Term care in the United States*, Russel Sage Foundation: ISBN-13 / ISBN-10 978-1-61044-799-7

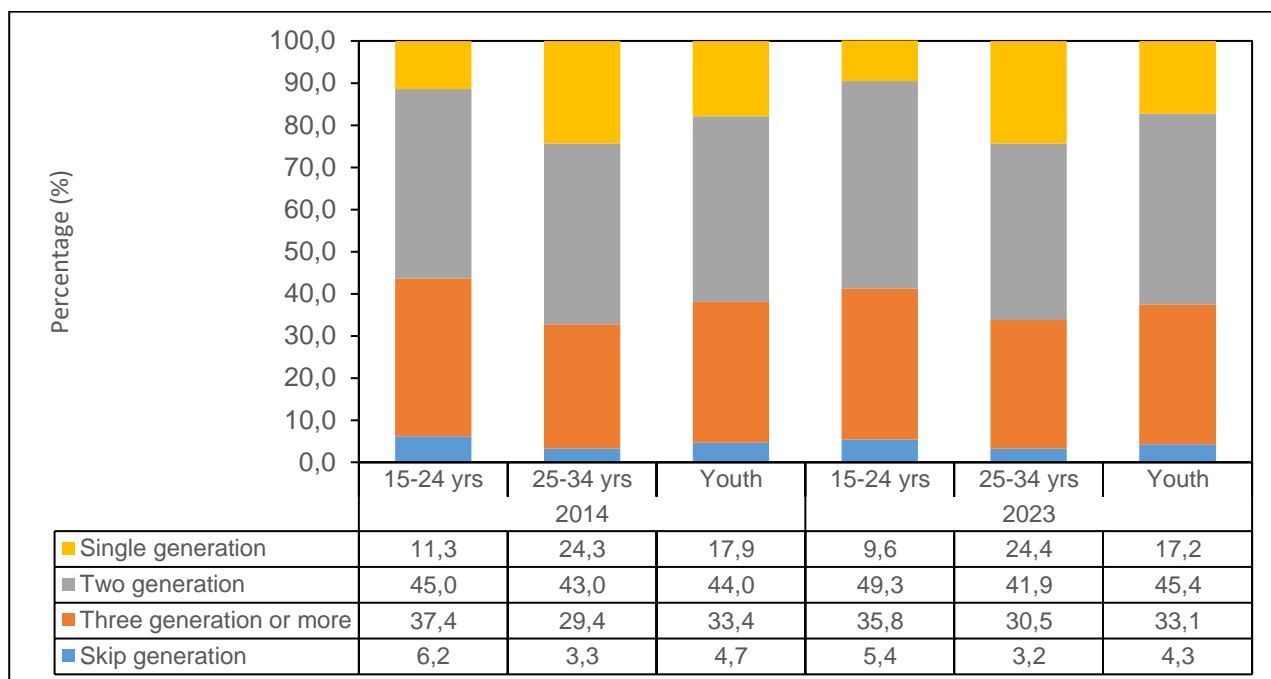
Figure 3.5 - Percentage distribution of youth across intergenerational households by population group, 2014 and 2023



Source: GHS 2014 & 2023

Figure 3.5 shows the percentage distribution of youth across intergenerational households by population group in 2014 and 2023. The analysis revealed significant disparities in intergenerational households between population groups in 2014 and 2023. In 2014, the black African youth were more likely to live in households with three or more generations than the youth from other population groups. While young people from the white population group were more likely to live in two generation households, those from the black African population group were more likely to live in households with three or more generations and skip generations in 2023. For the reference period, there was a decrease in the proportion of youth living in two generational households among the Indian/Asian and white population groups while the contrary was observed for black/African and coloureds.

Figure 3.6 - Percentage distribution of youth across intergenerational households by age group, 2014 and 2023



Source: GHS 2014 & 2023

Figure 3.6 shows the distribution of youth across intergenerational household types by age group. During the reporting period, the proportion of youth aged 15–24 living in single-generation households declined by 1,7 percentage points (from 11,3% in 2014 to 9,6% in 2023) while those aged 25–34 declined by 0,1 percentage point (from 24,3% in 2014 to 24,4% in 2023). Two-generation households were the most prevalent amongst youth for both age cohorts and observed a general increase of 1,4 percentage points (from 44,0% in 2014 to 45,4% in 2023). Although the youth in single generation declined by 0,7 percentage points (from 17,9% in 2014 to 17,2% in 2023), the youth aged 25–34 experienced a slight increase of 0,1 percentage point (from 24,3% in 2014 to 24,4% in 2023). Skip-generation households declined by 0,8 percentage points (from 6,2% in 2014 to 5,4% in 2023) for youth aged 15–24, while for those aged 25–34, a slight decline of 0,1 percentage point (from 3,3% in 2014 to 3,2% in 2023) was observed.

Table 3.2 - Share of youth living with their parents by province and age group, 2014 and 2023

Province	2014					
	15–24 yrs		25–34 yrs		Total	
	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent
Western Cape	731	60,8	472	39,2	1 202	100,0
Eastern Cape	733	63,2	428	36,8	1 161	100,0
Northern Cape	140	65,3	74	34,7	214	100,0
Free State	307	65,7	160	34,3	468	100,0
KwaZulu-Natal	1 374	59,2	945	40,8	2 319	100,0
North West	408	62,3	247	37,7	655	100,0
Gauteng	1 584	59,8	1 064	40,2	2 648	100,0
Mpumalanga	541	59,5	368	40,5	909	100,0
Limpopo	742	62,1	453	37,9	1 195	100,0
RSA	6 560	60,9	4 212	39,1	10 772	100,0
2023						
Western Cape	840	58,0	608	42,0	1 447	100,0
Eastern Cape	621	56,2	483	43,8	1 104	100,0
Northern Cape	142	64,5	78	35,5	220	100,0
Free State	300	58,1	216	41,9	516	100,0
KwaZulu-Natal	1 383	53,4	1 204	46,6	2 587	100,0
North West	456	61,6	285	38,4	740	100,0
Gauteng	1 844	61,0	1 180	39,0	3 025	100,0
Mpumalanga	579	58,9	404	41,1	983	100,0
Limpopo	711	61,8	440	38,2	1 151	100,0
RSA	6 875	58,4	4 898	41,6	11 773	100,0

Source: GHS 2014 & 2023

There are many reasons why people live in shared households, including the need for caregiving, the advantages of pooling money, or the need for temporary social and financial support during times of extreme adversity. The analysis in Table 3.2 shows that between 2014 and 2023, the share of youth aged 15–24 living with parents decreased by 2,5 percentage points (from 60,9% in 2014 to 58,4% in 2023), while those aged 25–34 increased by the same percentage points. All the provinces observed an increase in the share of the youth aged 25–34, and a decrease of those aged 15–24 living with parents, except for Gauteng province where the opposite was observed for both age groups.

Table 3.3 - Share of youth living with their parents by sex and age group, 2014 and 2023

Sex	2014					
	15–24 yrs		25–34 yrs		Total	
	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent
Male	3 264	60,4	2 144	39,6	5 408	100,0
Female	3 296	61,4	2 068	38,6	5 364	100,0
Both sexes	6 560	60,9	4 212	39,1	10 772	100,0
2023						
Male	3 425	58,7	2 412	41,3	5 837	100,0
Female	3 450	58,1	2 486	41,9	5 936	100,0
Both sexes	6 875	58,4	4 898	41,6	11 773	100,0

Source: GHS 2014 & 2023

Table 3.3 shows the share of youth living with their parents by sex and age group in 2014 and 2023. The analysis revealed that the younger youth were more likely to live with their parents irrespective of the sex for both years. Sex disparities show that young female lived with their parents more frequently than male youth in the 15–24 age group, while in 2023, the same was true for female youth in the 25–34 age group. In 2023, more young men (aged 15–24) than young women continued to live with their parents.

3.4 Conclusion

South Africa recorded a decline in youth-headed households between 2014 and 2023. The breakdown of households by household composition revealed that extended households were the most common among South African youth, followed by nuclear households and single-person households. During the reference period, the proportion of youth living in two-generation households increased while there was a decrease in the youth living in other intergenerational households. Youth aged 15-24 were more likely to live with their parents than those aged 25-34.

CHAPTER 4: YOUTH MIGRATION

4.0 Background

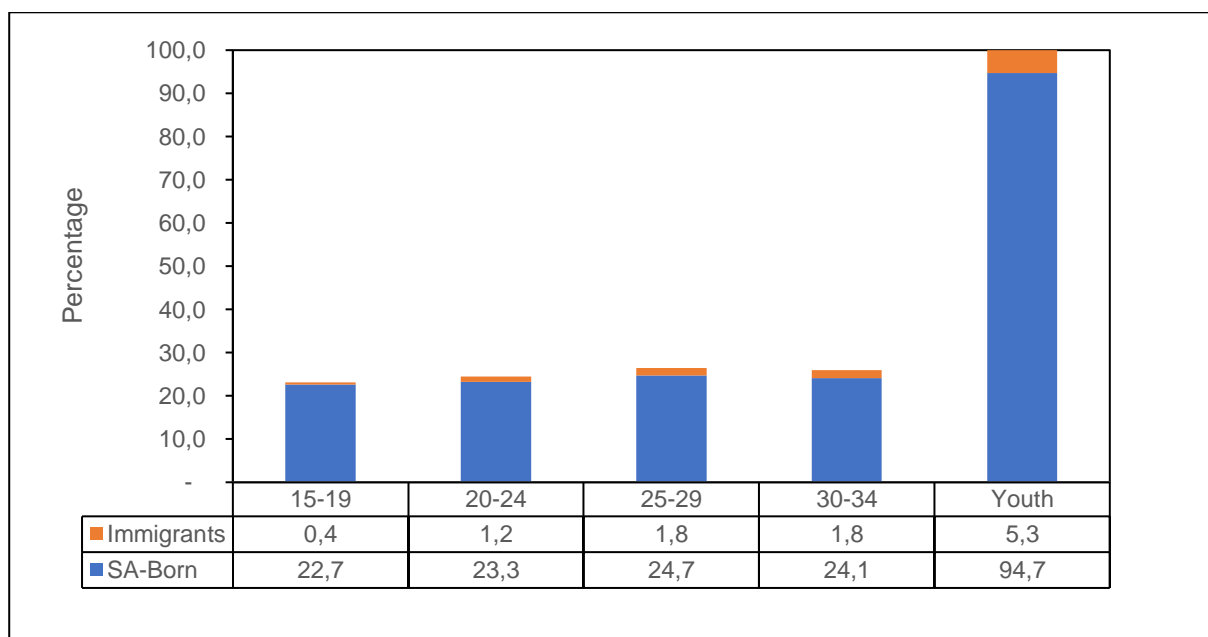
Migration involves the movement of individuals over space and the change of an individual's place of residence. Migration may be involuntary, where individuals or households are forced to move (for example, in response to forced removals or evictions) or it may be voluntary, where people "choose" to move. Migration may be internal, where people move within the country, or it may be international with people changing their country of residence. Migration may also be permanent because it implies a permanent change of residency, or it may be temporary in that migrants retain membership in their household (or country) of origin, to which they expect to return at some point in the future⁸.

The economic conditions of the countries are one of the main reasons behind youth migration to other countries. The youth are forced to emigrate to seek employment opportunities to earn a living wage and be able to support their families. Other reasons are related to important life transitions, such as furthering studies at higher institutions or getting married. Internal or international migration can have a positive impact on young people by opening up new opportunities, a path to participate in higher education, a better and decent job, a chance to gain professional experience or to pursue personal development. By building self-confidence and allowing themselves to acquire skills and competencies, they benefit themselves and their countries and communities of origin, as well as destination⁹. This section explores different types of migration rates amongst the youth population.

4.1 Immigration

An immigrant from the perspective of the country of arrival, is a person who moves into a country other than that of his or her nationality or usual residence, for a period of at least six continuous months with the intention of staying in that country. The country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence¹⁰.

Figure 4.1 - Percentage distribution of youth by age group and migratory status, 2022



⁸ Posel, D. and Casale, D., 2006. Internal Labour Migration and Household 10 Poverty in Post-Apartheid South Africa (p. 351).

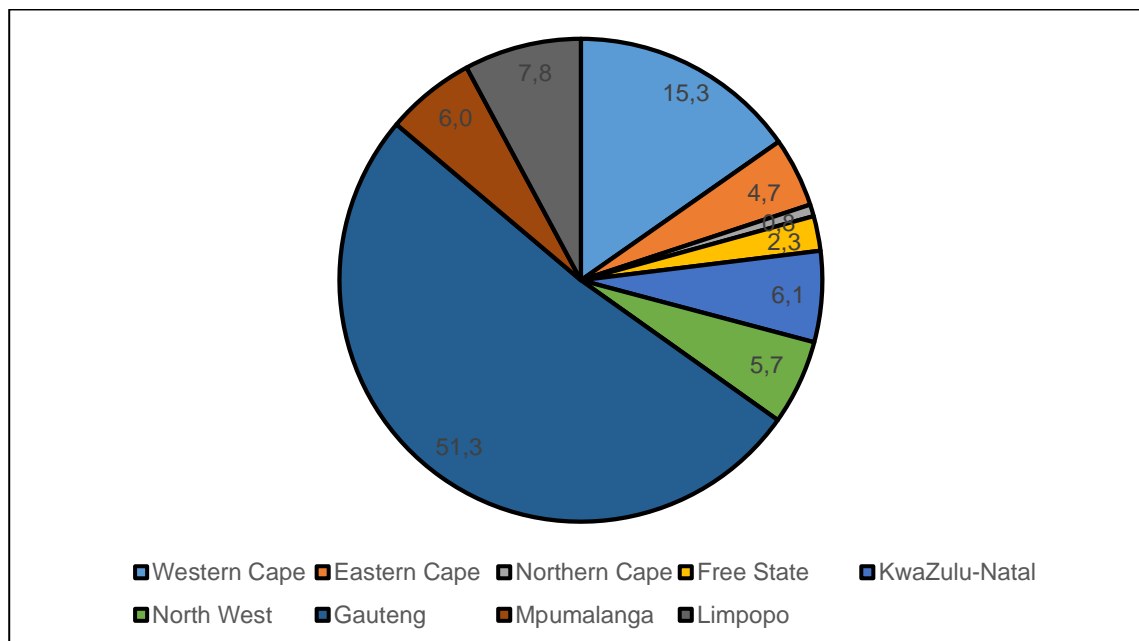
⁹Youth-migration: <http://www.un.org>

¹⁰Report on migration statistics based on various data sources including Census 2022 / Statistics South Africa. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa, 2025

Source: Census 2022

Figure 4.1 above presents the percentage distribution of the youth by age group and migratory status in 2022. The results indicate that 5,3% of the youth population in South Africa were immigrants. The analysis in terms of age group shows that the majority of immigrants are those aged 25–29 and 30–34, with an equal share of 1,8% of the youth. Whilst, similarly most SA-born youth are aged 25–29 at 24,7% followed by 30–34 at 24,1%.

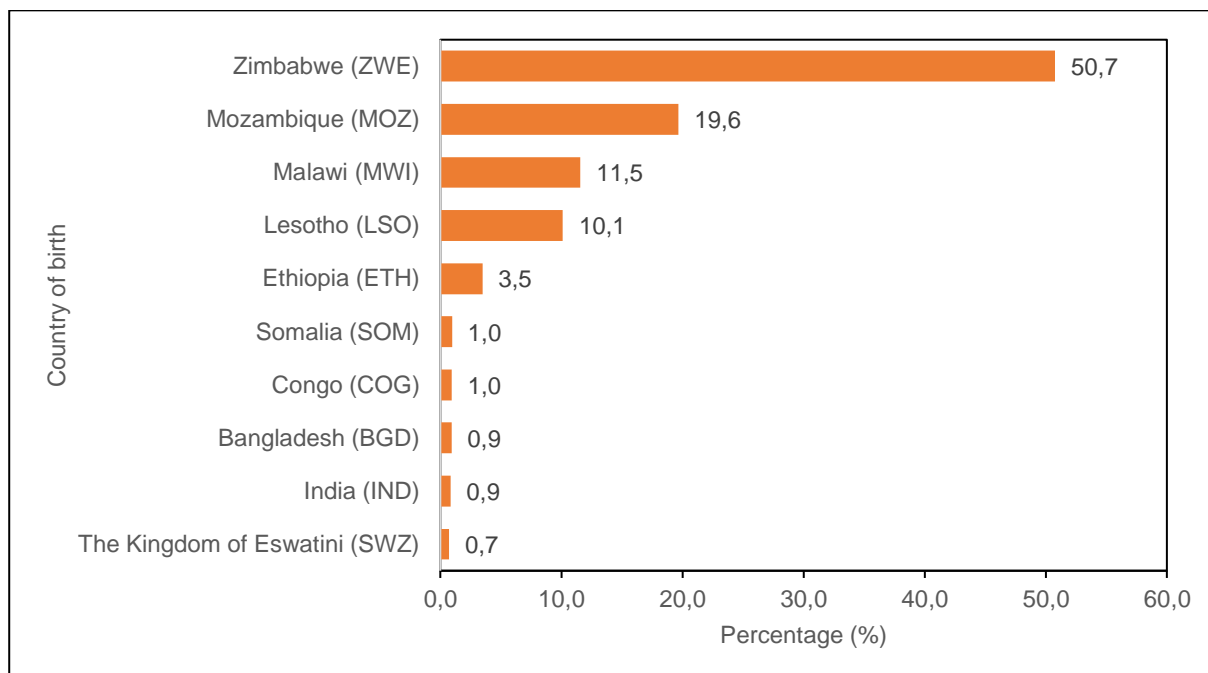
Figure 4.2 - Percentage distribution of youth immigrants by province of enumeration, 2022



Source: Census 2022

Figure 4.2 above illustrates the percentage distribution of youth immigrants by province of enumeration. The results indicate that most young immigrants were enumerated in Gauteng (51,3%) and Western Cape (15,3%). The provinces with the least proportions of immigrants were Northern Cape and Free State.

Figure 4.3 - Top ten sending countries of immigrant youth, 2022



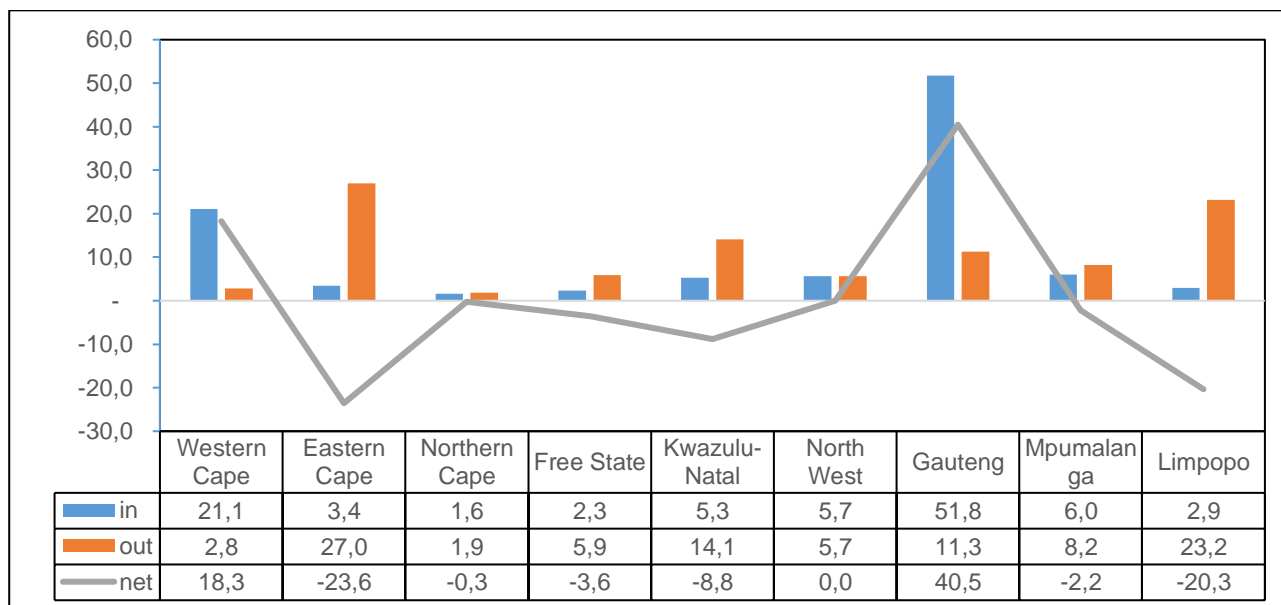
Source: Census 2022

Figure 4.3 presents the top ten countries of birth of immigrant youth in 2022. The analysis herein is done for youth aged 15–34 regardless of the year in which they arrived. The results indicate that the majority of the youth migrated from Zimbabwe (50,7%), followed by Mozambique at 19,6%, Malawi (11,5%) and Lesotho (10,1%). The countries with the lowest percentage of youth that migrated within the top ten countries of birth are Somalia (1,0%), Congo (1,0%), Bangladesh (0,9%), India (0,9%), and the Kingdom of Eswatini (0,7%)

4.2 Internal migration

The analysis looks at out-migration, in-migration and net migration rates. The out-migration rate is defined as the number of out-migrants per province of birth divided by the youth population per province and multiplied by 1 000. The in-migration rate is defined as the number of in-migrants per province of birth divided by the youth population per province and multiplied by 1 000. Lastly, the net-migration rate is defined as the number of in-migrants minus out-migrants per province of birth divided by the youth population per province multiplied by 1 000.

Figure 4.4 - Youth in, out and net migration rates by province, 2022



Source: Census 2022

Figure 4.4 shows in-out migration and migration rates by province. The net migration rate reflects the effect of migration on the total population of an area. A positive net migration rate means that the number of people moving into an area exceeds the number of those moving out. Similarly, a negative net migration rate means that an area has lost more residents than it has gained through migration.

The analysis showed that Eastern Cape (23,6%) had the biggest net losses, followed by Limpopo (20,3%). This could be an indication of youth leaving their home provinces in search of better socio-economic conditions. Gauteng and Western Cape provinces experienced the highest in-migration levels (51,8% and 21,1%) compared to other provinces as well as the largest positive net migration rates (40,5% and 18,3% respectively). North West recorded a net migration of 0,0.

Table 4.1 - Percentage distribution of youth migrants (from province of birth) by province of enumeration and age group, 2022

Province of enumeration	15–24yrs		25–34yrs		15–34yrs	
	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent
Western Cape	1 156	12,3	1 356	12,4	2 513	12,4
Eastern Cape	1 220	13,0	1 101	10,0	2 321	11,4
Northern Cape	127	1,4	212	1,9	339	1,7
Free State	496	5,3	270	2,5	766	3,8
KwaZulu-Natal	2 088	22,3	2 248	20,5	4 337	21,3
North West	347	3,7	636	5,8	983	4,8
Gauteng	2 349	25,1	3 131	28,6	5 480	27,0
Mpumalanga	502	5,4	957	8,7	1 459	7,2
Limpopo	1 077	11,5	1 041	9,5	2 118	10,4
South Africa	9 363	100,0	10 952	100,0	20 314	100,0

Source: Census 2022

Table 4.1 illustrates the flow of youth migrants to their current province of residence by age groups in 2022. The youth aged 25 to 34 years showed high migration levels in six provinces as shown in the table above. Gauteng (25,1%), KwaZulu-Natal (22,3%) and Eastern Cape (13,0%) observed the largest percentage share of migrants aged 15 to 24. However, Gauteng (28,6%) observed the largest percentage share of youth migrants aged 25 to 34. The high levels of migration amongst older youth in Gauteng could be attributed to the fact that the province is known to be the country's economic hub and the majority of individuals from this age group are expected to have completed school and are therefore working or seeking employment. Overall, the findings revealed that internal migration levels are higher amongst youth aged 25 to 34 than for youth aged 15 to 24.

4.3 Conclusion

The results indicate that 5,3% of the youth population in South Africa were immigrants. The majority of immigrants are those aged 25–29 and 30–34 with an equal share of 1,8% of the youth. Similarly, most SA-born youth are aged 25–29 at 24,7% followed by 30–34 at 24,1%. The young immigrants were found mainly in Gauteng (51,3%) and Western Cape (15,3%).

The majority of the youth migrated from Zimbabwe (50,7%), followed by Mozambique at 19,6%. Gauteng and Western Cape provinces experienced the highest in-migration levels of youth compared to other provinces as well as the largest positive net migration rates (40,5% and 18,3% respectively) while Eastern Cape and Limpopo had the biggest net losses.

CHAPTER 5: YOUTH LABOUR MARKET PARTICIPATION

5.0 Background

Youth labour market participation is a key indicator in determining young people's engagement in the labour force. Young people are increasingly experiencing different challenges and influenced by factors such as changing job markets, economic instability, and other personal circumstances. This section highlights the evolving nature of young people's transition from education into the workforce, including periods of unemployment, education or training. Low levels of education and social and economic deprivation contribute the most to the high levels of unemployment, the NEET rate and the absence or lack of access to opportunities available in the country for the youth. Unemployment has been persistent in the country, especially amongst the youth. The NDP emphasizes the promotion of an inclusive economy, where youth participation is encouraged and investment into rural economy and SMMEs' is redirected. This chapter will examine the extent to which youths participate in the labour market by analysing labour market participation rates, employment rate, unemployment rate and those not economically active. The data source used is the Quarterly Labour Force Survey Q3:2014 and Q3:2024.

5.1 Labour market indicators

Working age

The working-age population comprises all persons aged 15 and above. For reporting purposes, the working age population will be those persons aged 15–64. This indicator is used to measure the share of the working age population in the total population.

Table 5.1 - Working-age population by age group and province, 2014 and 2024

Province	Adult		Youth		Total		Adult		Youth		Total	
	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent
	2014						2024					
Western Cape	2 118	13,3	2 082	10,6	4 200	11,8	2 733	13,3	2 340	11,2	5 073	12,2
Eastern Cape	1 603	10,1	2 479	12,6	4 081	11,5	2 047	10,0	2 520	12,1	4 566	11,0
Northern Cape	347	2,2	412	2,1	759	2,1	413	2,0	429	2,1	841	2,0
Free State	828	5,2	1 030	5,3	1 858	5,2	956	4,7	984	4,7	1 940	4,7
KwaZulu-Natal	2 702	17,0	3 918	20,0	6 619	18,7	3 467	16,9	4 191	20,1	7 658	18,5
North West	1 085	6,8	1 305	6,7	2 389	6,7	1 396	6,8	1 411	6,8	2 808	6,8
Gauteng	4 765	30,0	4 595	23,4	9 359	26,4	6 136	29,9	5 180	24,8	11 317	27,3
Mpumalanga	1 109	7,0	1 601	8,2	2 710	7,6	1 507	7,3	1 671	8,0	3 178	7,7
Limpopo	1 322	8,3	2 190	11,2	3 513	9,9	1 893	9,2	2 156	10,3	4 049	9,8
RSA	15 878	100,0	19 610	100,0	35 489	100,0	20 549	100,0	20 882	100,0	41 431	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3: 2014 & 2024

Table 5.1 shows the working age population by age group and province, between 2014 and 2024. Nationally, the working age population increased by almost 6 million (from 35 million 2014 to 41 million in 2024), with youth and adults increasing by 1,3 million and 4,7 million; respectively. Over 50% of the working age youth were found in Gauteng (24,8%), KwaZulu-Natal (20,1%) and Eastern Cape (12,1%) in 2024. Limpopo, Free State, Mpumalanga and Eastern Cape recorded a decline in the proportion of youth of working age and Northern Cape remained constant at 2,1%.

Table 5.2 - Working-age population by age group and sex, 2014 and 2024

Age group	Male		Female		Both sexes		Male		Female		Both sexes	
	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent
	2014						2024					
15–24 yrs	5 155	29,5	5 109	28,3	10 264	28,9	5 149	25,0	5 124	24,6	10 273	24,8
25–34 yrs	4 735	27,1	4 611	25,6	9 346	26,3	5 373	26,1	5 235	25,1	10 609	25,6
35–44 yrs	3 690	21,1	3 764	20,9	7 454	21,0	4 670	22,7	4 510	21,6	9 180	22,2
45–54 yrs	2 355	13,5	2 682	14,9	5 037	14,2	3 388	16,5	3 543	17,0	6 931	16,7
55–64 yrs	1 532	8,8	1 855	10,3	3 387	9,5	1 992	9,7	2 447	11,7	4 439	10,7
Total	17 467	100,0	18 022	100,0	35 489	100,0	20 572	100,0	20 859	100,0	41 431	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3: 2014 & 2024

Table 5.2 shows the working age population by age group and sex in 2014 and 2024. Results show that 25,6% of the working age population was aged between 25–34 and 24,8% was aged between 15–24 in 2024. The youth age groups declined in the reported period, irrespective of sex; with the 15–24 age group decreasing by 4,1 percentage points (from 28,9% in 2014 to 24,8% in 2024) and the 25–34 age group decreasing by 0,7 percentage points (from 26,3% in 2014 to 25,6% in 2024). In contrast, those aged 35 and above reported an increase.

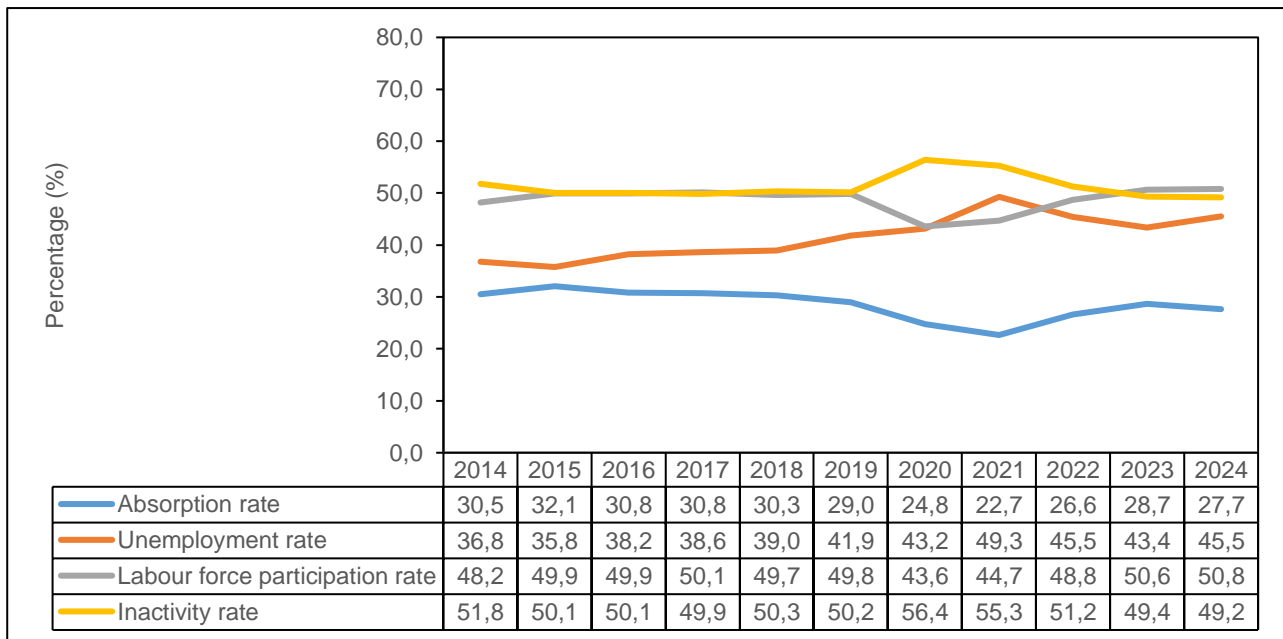
Table 5.3 - Working-age population by geographical location and age group, 2014 and 2024

Geo-type	Adult		Youth		RSA	
	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent
2014						
Non-urban	4 441	28,0	6 986	35,6	11 427	32,2
Urban	11 437	72,0	12 624	64,4	24 061	67,8
Total	15 878	100,0	19 610	100,0	35 489	100,0
2024						
Non-urban	5 932	28,9	7 279	34,9	13 210	31,9
Urban	14 617	71,1	13 603	65,1	28 220	68,1
Total	20 549	100,0	20 882	100,0	41 431	100,0

Source: QLFS Q3: 2014 & 2024

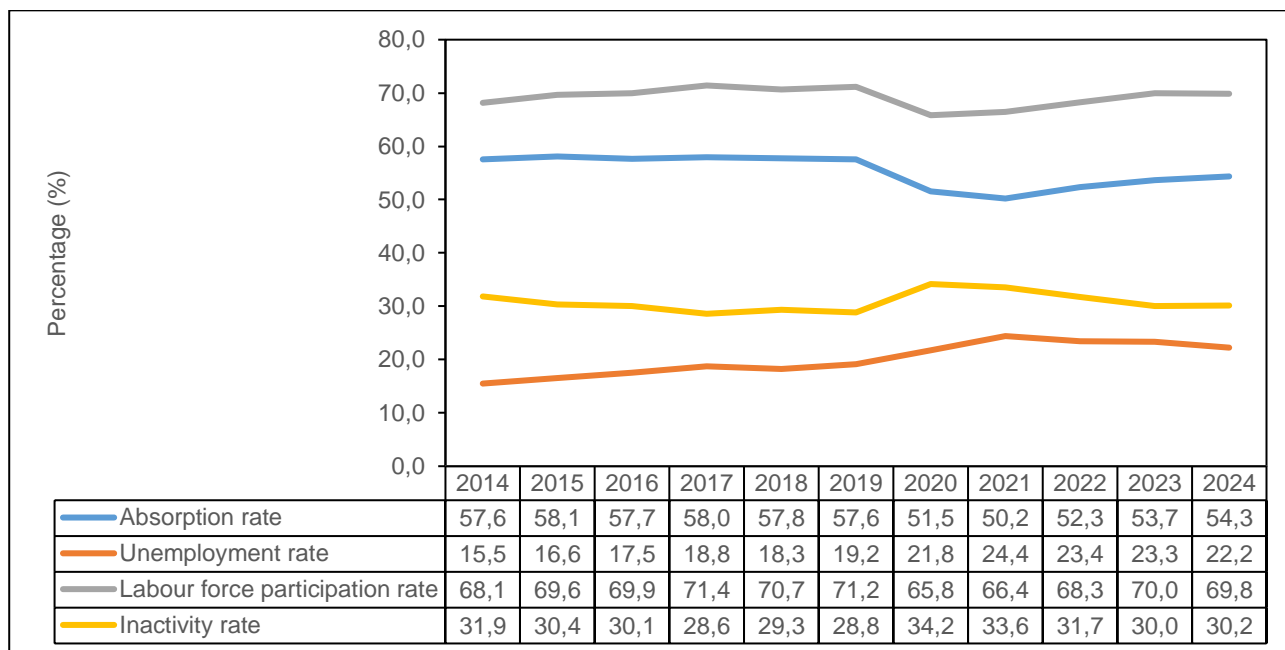
Table 5.3 shows the working age population between youth and adults by geographical location in 2014 and 2024. Overall, the majority of the working-age population resided in urban areas in the reported period, increasing from 67,8% in 2014 to 68,1% in 2024. The proportion of youth residing in urban areas increased from 64,4% in 2014 to 65,1% in 2024 while the proportion of adults decreased from 72,0% to 71,1% in the same period.

Figure 5.1a - Youth (15–34 years) labour market indicators, 2014–2024



Source: QLFS Q3: 2014 – 2024

Figure 5.1b - Adult (35–64 years) labour market indicators, 2014–2024



Source: QLFS Q3: 2014 - 2024

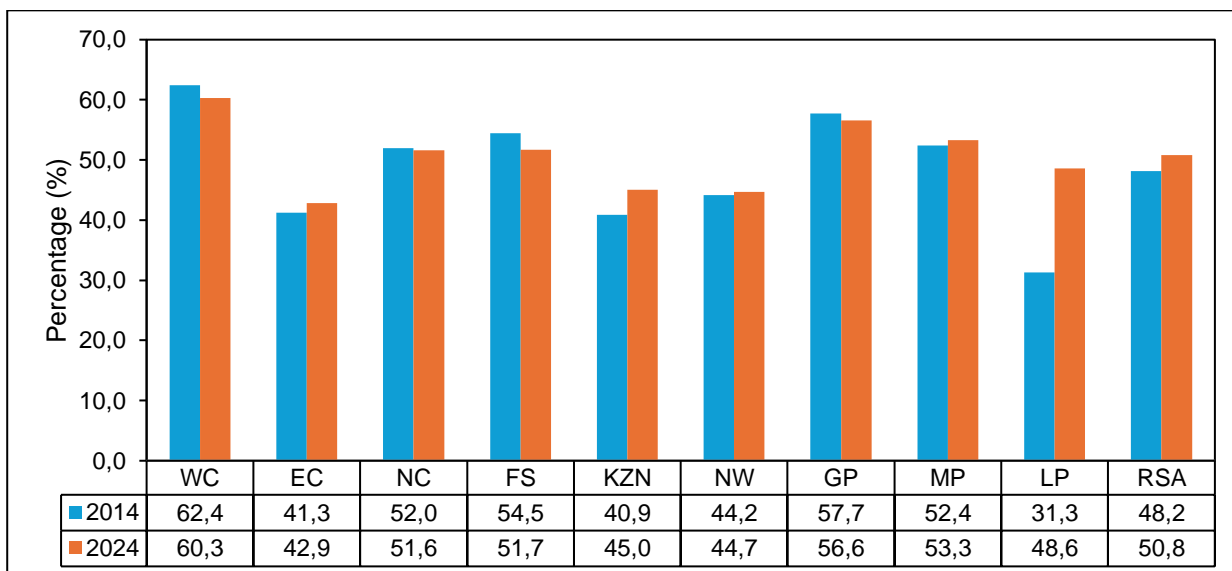
The figures above show the time series of youth (figure 5.1a) and adult (figure 5.1b) labour market indicators from 2014 to 2024. The labour force participation rate is a measure of the proportion of a country’s working-age population that engages actively in the labour market, either by working or looking for work. The labour force participation rates of both youth and adults fluctuated in the reported period. The labour force participation rates for youth and adults increased by 2,6 percentage points (from 48,2% in 2014 to 50,8% in 2024) and 1,7 percentage points (from 68,1% in 2014 to 69,8% in 2024), respectively.

Adults had higher absorption rates than youth in the 10 years. Between 2017 and 2021, the youth absorption rate was on a downward trend. The absorption rate for adults fluctuated and a steady decline was noted from 2018 to 2021 then later increased from 52,3% in 2022 to 54,3% in 2024. Overall, the absorption rate for youth and adults in the past 10 years decreased by 2,8 percentage points (from 30,5% in 2014 to 27,7% in 2024) and 3,3 percentage points (from 57,6% in 2014 to 54,3% in 2024), respectively.

Analysis shows that youth unemployment rates were higher than adults in the reported period, by almost 50% in 2024. The youth unemployment rate increased from 36,8% in 2014 to 45,5% in 2024 while the adult unemployment rate increased from 15,5% in 2014 to 22,2% in 2024.

The inactivity rate for both youth and adults fluctuated over the 10 years, reaching its highest in Q3 of 2020. Overall, the inactivity rates for youth decreased by 2,6 (from 51,8% in 2014 to 49,2% in 2024) while the rate for adults decreased by 1,7 percentage points (from 31,9% in 2014 to 30,2% in 2024).

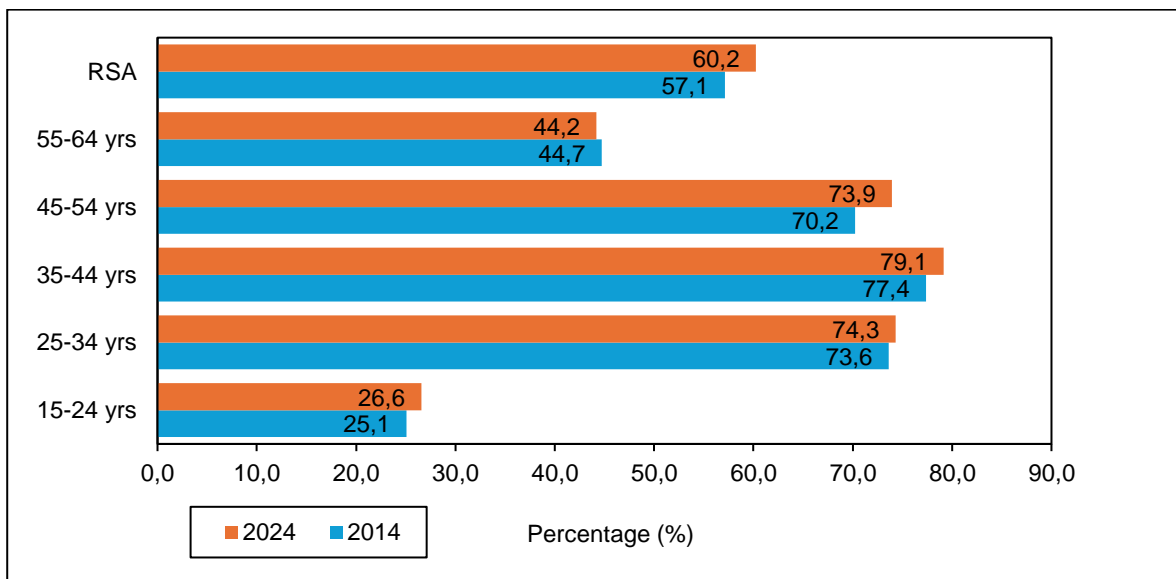
Figure 5.2 - Youth labour force participation rate by province, 2014 and 2024



Source: QLFS Q3: 2014 & 2024

Figure 5.2 shows the youth labour force participation rate by province, in 2014 and 2024. Nationally, the youth labour force participation rate increased from 48,2% in 2014 to 50,8% in 2024. Provincial variation shows that in 2024, Western Cape, Gauteng and Mpumalanga reported the highest LFPR, while Eastern Cape, North West and KwaZulu-Natal reported the lowest LFPR. The largest increase in youth participation rate was reported in Limpopo (17,3 percentage points), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (4,1 percentage points) in the 10 years reported.

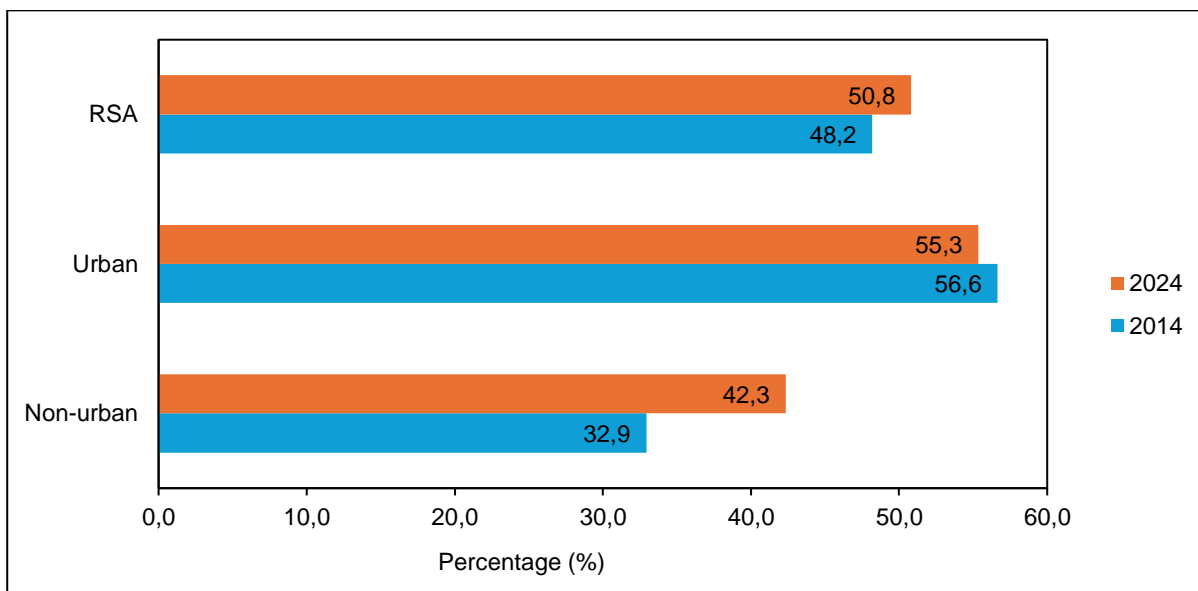
Figure 5.3 - Labour force participation rate by age group, 2014 and 2024



Source: QLFS Q3: 2014 & 2024

Figure 5.3 shows the labour force participation rate by age groups between 2014 and 2024. Nationally, the LFPR increased by 3,1 percentage points (from 57,1% in 2014 to 60,2% in 2024). Between 2014 and 2024, the labour force participation rate of those aged 15–24 increased from 25,1% in 2014 to 26,6% in 2024 and those aged 25–34 increased from 73,6% in 2014 to 74,3% in 2024. Persons aged 45–54 reported the highest increase in the LFPR of 3,7 percentage points (from 70,2% in 2014 to 73,9% in 2024) and the 55–64 age group reported the lowest participation rate increase of 0,5 percentage points (from 44,7% in 2014 to 44,2% in 2024).

Figure 5.4 - Youth labour force participation rate by geographical location, 2014 and 2024

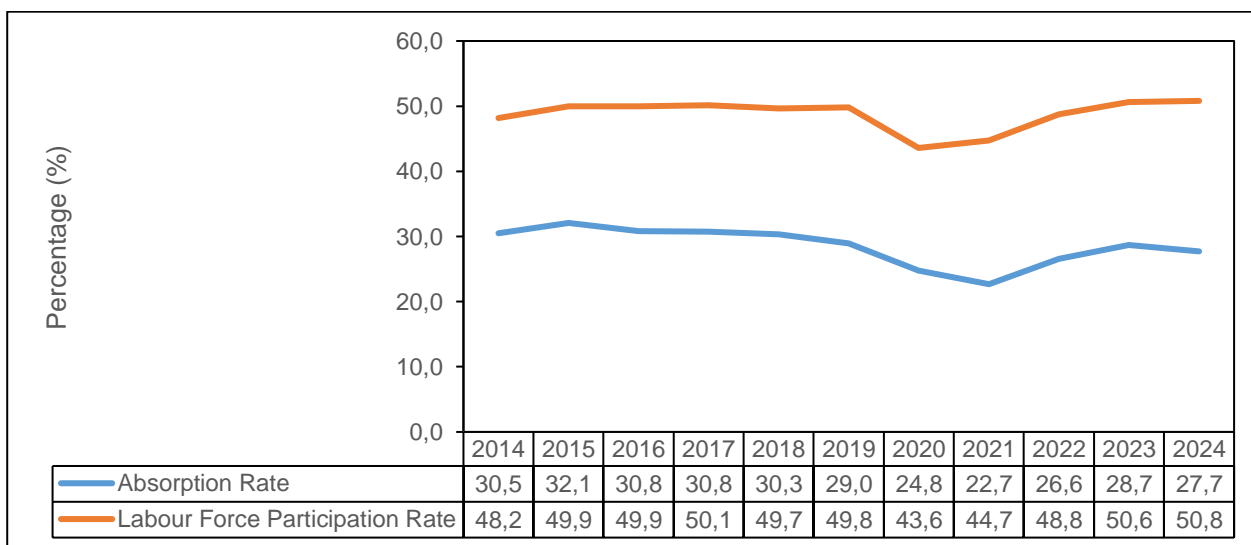


Source: QLFS Q3: 2014 & 2024

Another reason that many youths do not actively search for work is the inability to access areas that could potentially provide employment. Figure 5.4 shows that youth residing in urban areas reported higher labour force participation rates in 2014 and 2024, compared to youth living in non-urban areas. The labour force participation rate for youth residing in non-urban areas increased by almost 9,4 percentage points (from 32,9% in 2014 to 42,3% in 2024). In contrast, the labour force participation rate of youth residing in urban areas decreased by 1,3 percentage points (from 56,6% in 2014 to 55,3% in 2024).

5.2 Youth Employment

Figure 5.5 - Youth labour force participation and absorption rate, 2014–2024



Source: QLFS Q3: 2014 & 2024

Figure 5.5 shows the absorption and labour force participation rate for youth between 2014 and 2024. The absorption rate increased from 2014 to 2015, showing a declining trend until 2022 where an increase was observed. The labour force participation rate increased by 1,9 percentage points (from 48,2% in 2014 to 50,1% in 2017) and there was a decline between 2018 and 2020.

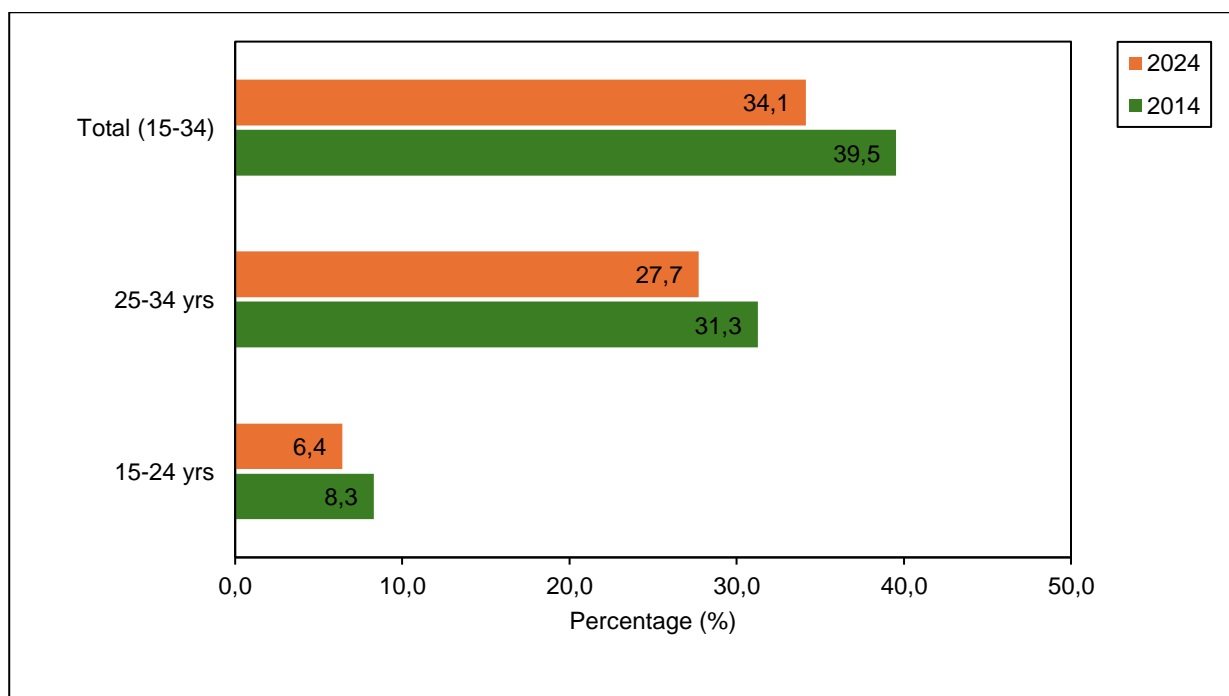
Table 5.4 - Youth employment rates in relation to employment levels, 2014 and 2024

Age group	2014			2024		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
	N ('000)			N ('000)		
15–24 yrs	756	496	1 252	621	464	1 086
25–34 yrs	2 752	1 973	4 725	2 685	2 014	4 699
Youth (15–34)	3 508	2 469	5 977	3 306	2 478	5 784
	Employment rate (%)					
15–24 yrs	14,7	9,7	12,2	12,1	9,1	10,6
25–34 yrs	58,1	42,8	50,6	50,0	38,5	44,3
Youth (15–34)	35,5	25,4	30,5	31,4	23,9	27,7

Source: QLFS Q3: 2014 & 2024

Table 5.4 shows the youth employment levels and employment rate by sex and age, in 2014 and 2024. The number of young people employed decreased by 193 000, with males declining by 202 000 and females increasing by 9 000. The age group 15–24 showed the highest decline in those employed compared to the 25–34 age group. The employment rate for the 15–24 age group declined by 1,6 percentage points (from 12,2% in 2014 to 10,6% in 2024), with males reporting higher employment rate compared to females. The youth aged 25–34 reported a 6,3 percentage point decline in the reported period, with males in this age group declining by 8,1 percentage points and their female counterparts declining by 4,3 percentage points.

Figure 5.6 - Share of youth amongst the employed by age group, 2014 and 2024



Source: QLFS Q3: 2014 & 2024

Figure 5.6 above shows the share of youth amongst the employed between 2014 and 2024. Between 2014 and 2024, the share of the youth (15–34 years) amongst the employed declined by 5,4 percentage points (from 39,5% in 2014 to 34,1% in 2024). The share of youth aged 25–34 declined by 3,6 percentage points (from 31,3% in 2014 to 27,7% in 2024), while those between those aged 15–24 declined by 1,9 percentage points (from 8,3% in 2014 to 6,4% in 2024).

5.2.1 Employment by status in employment

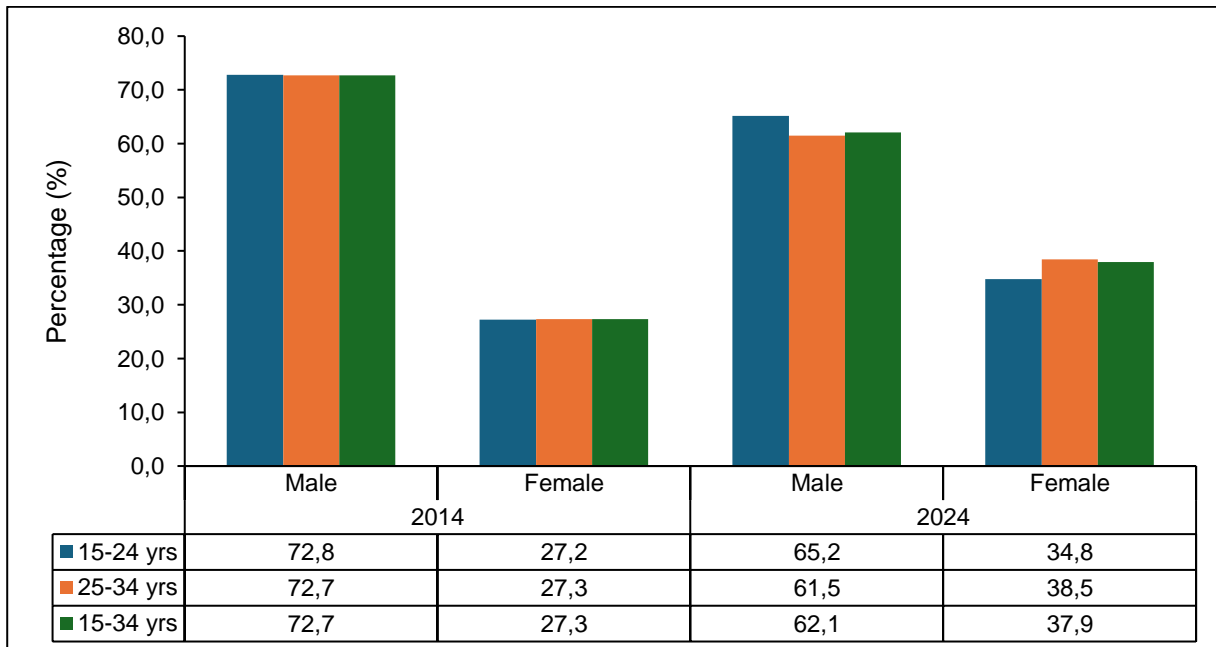
Table 5.5 - Youth (15–34 years) employment by status in employment, 2014 and 2024

Type of employment	2014		2024	
	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent
Employee	5 354	89,6	4 974	86,0
Employer	191	3,2	214	3,7
Own-account worker	375	6,3	538	9,3
Unpaid household member	57	1,0	58	1,0
Total	5 977	100,0	5 784	100,0
Youth (15–34 yrs) Entrepreneurs	566	9,5	753	13,0

Source: QLFS Q3: 2014 & 2024

Table 5.5 shows the youth (15–34 years) employment by status in employment in 2014 and 2024. Entrepreneurs in this context are defined as employers or those who are self-employed (own-account worker). The proportion of youth classified as employees declined by 3,6 percentage points (from 89,6% in 2014 to 86,0% in 2024), while youth entrepreneurs increased by 3,5 percentage points (from 9,5% in 2014 to 13,0% in 2024). The proportion of youth that were unpaid household members remained at 1,0% between 2014 and 2024.

Figure 5.7 - Share of youth (15–34 years) entrepreneurs amongst total entrepreneurs by age group and sex, 2014 and 2024

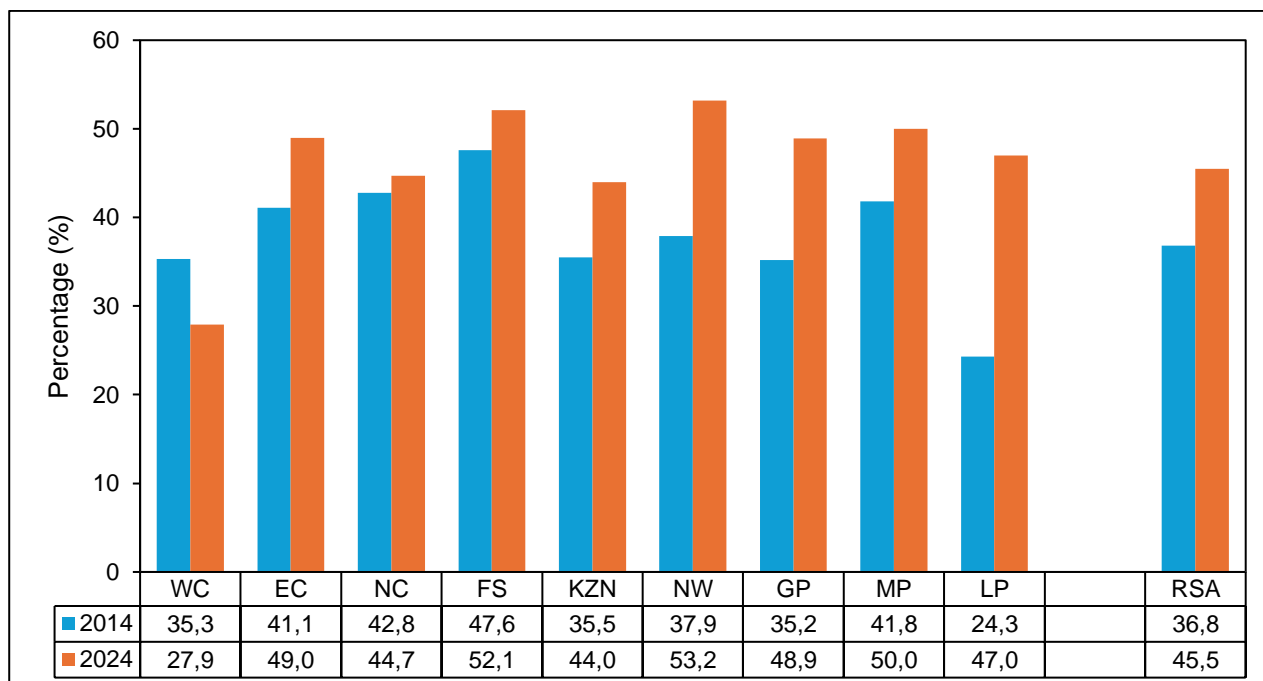


Source: QLFS Q3: 2014 & 2024

Figure 5.7 shows the total share of young entrepreneurs by age group and sex, in 2014 and 2024. Young males accounted for a larger portion of those who were entrepreneurs as compared to their female counterparts for both 2014 and 2024. The younger males aged 15–24 years accounted for a slightly higher percentage compared to those aged (25–34 years) with a 3,7 percentage point difference in 2024. In contrast, females aged 25–34 accounted for 38,5% compared to the 15–24 age group accounting for 34,8% in 2024. The proportion of male entrepreneurs declined, irrespective of age group. The proportion of male entrepreneurs aged 15–24 declined by 7,6 percentage points (from 72,8% in 2014 to 65,2% in 2024) and those aged 25–34 declined by 11,2 percentage points (from 72,7% in 2014 to 61,5% in 2024), their female counterparts experienced an increase in both age groups.

5.2.2 Unemployment

Figure 5.8 - Youth unemployment rate by province, 2014 and 2024



Source: QLFS Q3: 2014 & 2024

Figure 5.8 shows the youth unemployment rate by province in 2014 and 2024. Nationally, unemployment rate for the youth increased from 36,8% in 2014 to 45,5% in 2024. Provincial variations show that Western Cape, Northern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal are the only provinces that reported lower unemployment rate of the youth compared to the national unemployment rate, whilst most of the provinces reported higher percentages. From 2014 to 2024, almost all the provinces' youth unemployment rate increased except Western Cape that reported a decrease. The youth unemployment rate in Limpopo almost doubled in the reported period, increasing from 24,3% to 47,0%. In contrast, the youth unemployment rate in Western Cape declined from 35,3% in 2014 to 27,9% in 2024.

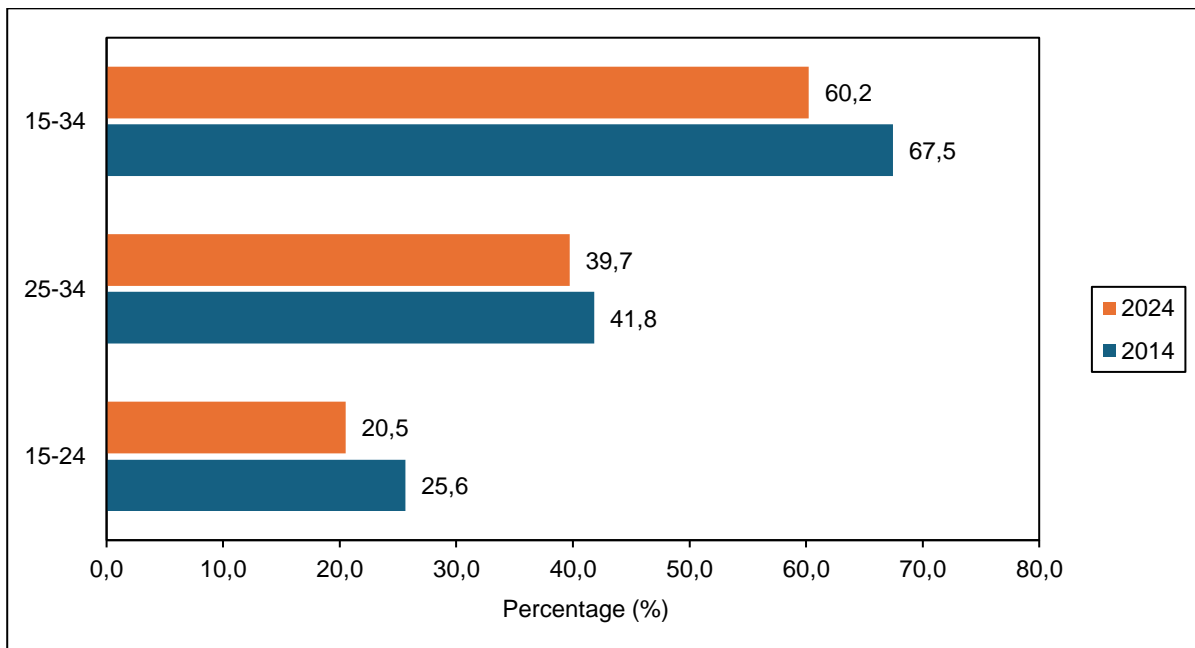
Table 5.6 - Youth unemployment rates in relation to employment levels by age group, 2014 and 2024

Age group	2014		2024	
	N ('000)	Unemployment rate	N ('000)	Unemployment rate
15–24 yrs	1 320	51,3	1 643	60,2
25–34 yrs	2 154	31,3	3 182	40,4
35–44 yrs	1 090	18,9	1 960	27,0
45–54 yrs	467	13,2	1 018	19,9
55–64 yrs	120	7,9	207	10,5
RSA	5 151	25,4	8 010	32,1

Source: QLFS Q3: 2014 & 2024

Table 5.6 above shows that the number of unemployed persons increased by 2,9 million and the majority of the unemployed were aged between 25 and 34 in both 2014 and 2024. Analysis shows that the unemployment rate decreased with age, with the same trend evident in both periods. The unemployment rate for youth aged 15–24 increased by 8,9 percentage points (from 51,3% in 2014 to 60,2% in 2024) and those aged 25–34 increased by 9,1 percentage points (from 31,3% in 2014 to 40,4% in 2024).

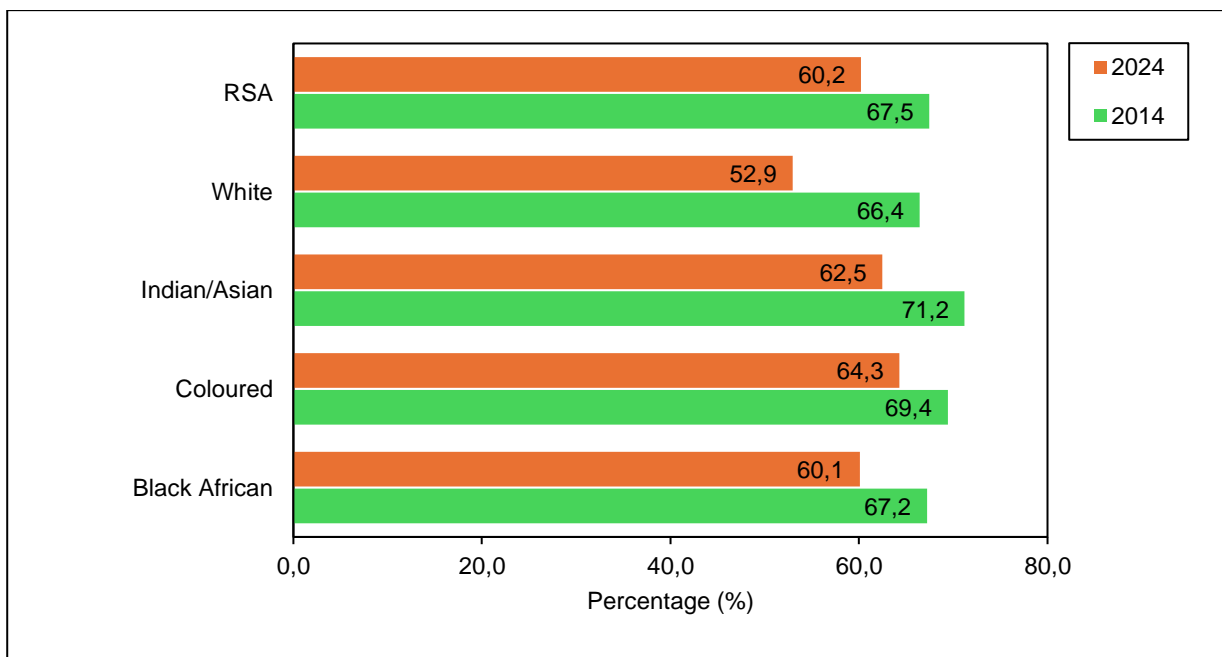
Figure 5.9 - Share of youth amongst the unemployed by age group, 2014 and 2024



Source: QLFS Q3: 2014 & 2024

Figure 5.9 above shows the share of youth amongst the unemployed in 2014 and 2024. Young people aged 15–34 years made up approximately 60 percent of the unemployed in 2024. Furthermore, the share of unemployed youth decreased by 7,3 percentage points (from 67,5% in 2014 to 60,2% in 2024). Although the unemployed youth aged between 25–34 years contributed the biggest share of unemployed youth, the decline in the total share of youth unemployment was driven by younger persons between the ages of 15–24 years. The share of unemployed persons aged 15–24 declined by 5,1 percentage points (from 25,6% in 2014 to 20,5% in 2024), which was more than double of the 2,1 percentage points (from 41,8% in 2014 to 39,7% in 2024), decline recorded for their older counterparts (25–34 years).

Figure 5.10 - Share of youth (15–34) amongst the unemployed by population group, 2014 and 2024



Source: QLFS Q3: 2014 & 2024

Figure 5.10 above illustrates the share of unemployed youth within each population group in 2014 and 2024. A decline in the share of unemployed youth was recorded in all population groups between 2014 and 2024. The white population group recorded the largest decline of 13,5 percentage points (from 66,4% in 2014 to 52,9% in 2024), followed by Indian/Asian with 8,7 percentage points (from 71,2% in 2014 to 62,5% in 2024). The black African and coloureds recorded a respective decline of 7,1 percentage points (from 67,2% in 2014 to 60,1% in 2024) and 5,1 percentage points (69,4% in 2014 to 64,3% in 2024) in the share in the unemployed youth.

5.2.3 Youth unemployment and educational attainment

Figure 5.11a - Percentage of unemployed youth (15–34 years) by the highest level of education, 2014

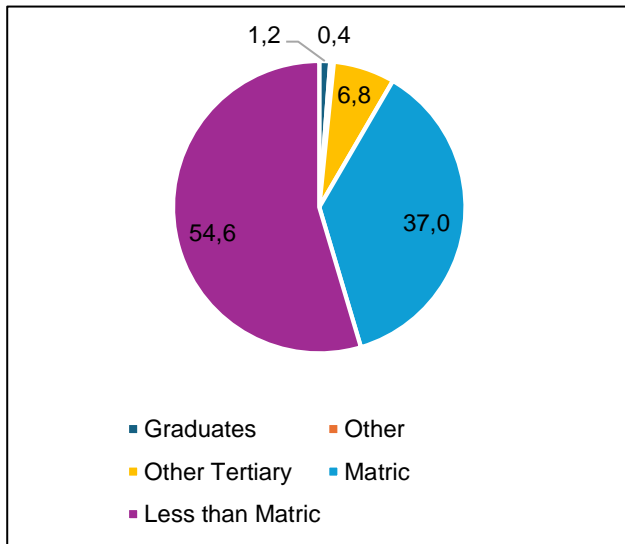
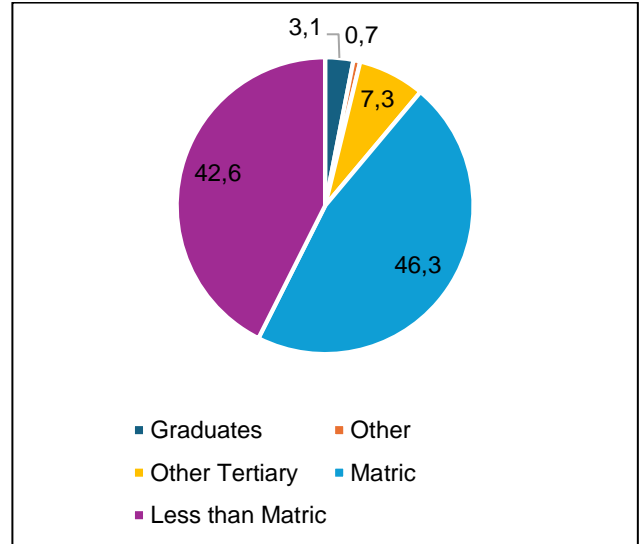


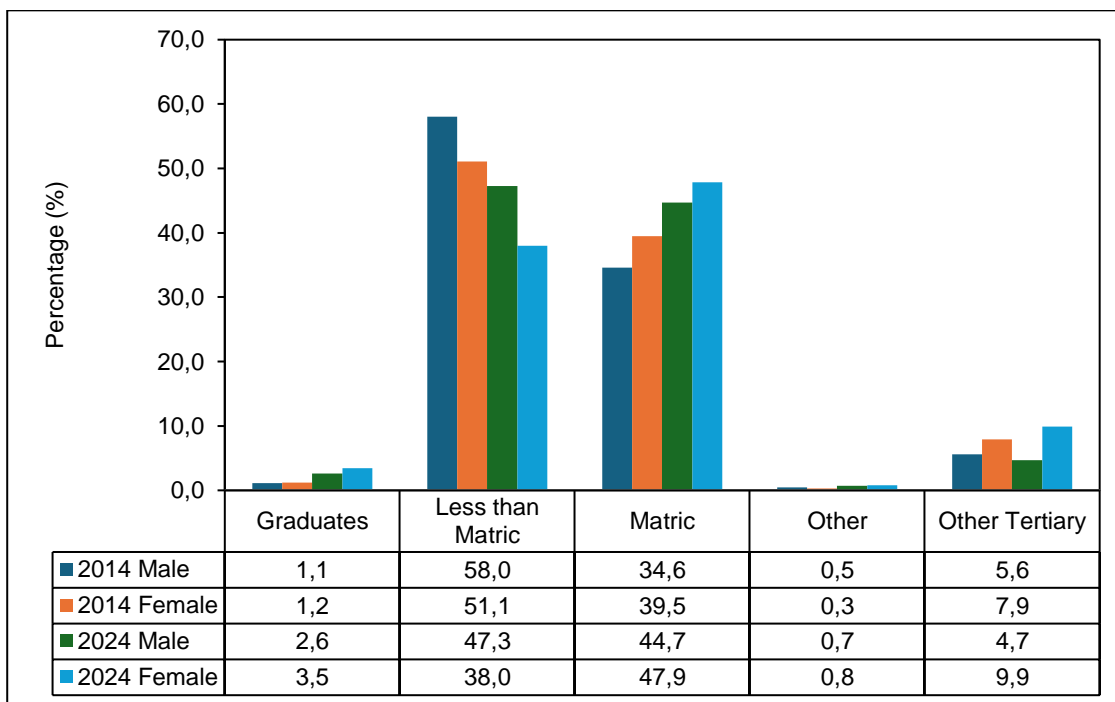
Figure 5.11b - Percentage of unemployed youth (15–34 years) by the highest level of education, 2024



Source: QLFS Q3: 2014 & 2024

Figures 5.11a and 5.11b illustrate youth with less than matric were most likely to be unemployed followed by those with matric. The share of unemployed young people with less than matric decreased by 12,0 percentage points (from 54,6% in 2014 to 42,6% in 2024) and those with matric recorded an increase of 9,3 percentage points (from 37,0% in 2014 to 46,3% in 2024). Young graduates (those who qualified with a degree or equivalent qualification) and other tertiary qualification were least likely to be unemployed in the reported period, even though their share increased by 1,9 (from 1,2% in 2014 to 3,1% in 2024) and 0,5 percentage points (from 6,8% in 2014 to 7,3% in 2024) respectively.

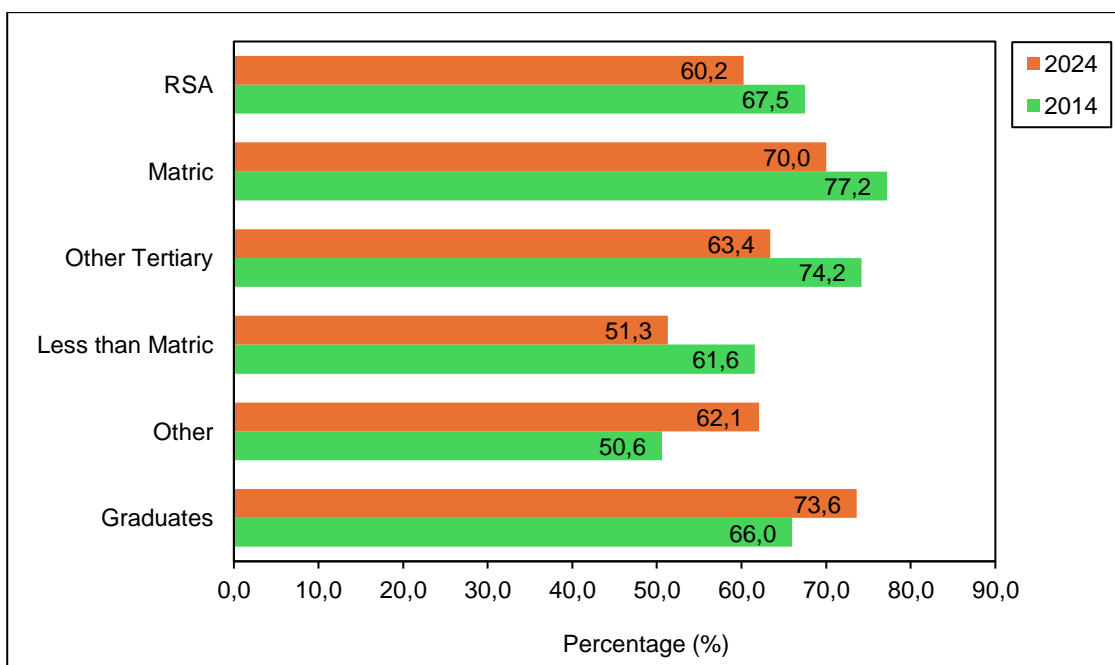
Figure 5.12 - Percentage of unemployed youth by educational attainment and sex, 2014 and 2024



Source: QLFS Q3: 2014 & 2024

Figure 5.12 shows the percentage of unemployed youth by educational attainment and sex in 2014 and 2024. In both 2014 and 2024, gender differences were observed in youth unemployment when educational attainment was considered. In 2014, youth with less than matric were more likely to be unemployed irrespective of their sex. Over 50,0% of young males and females who were unemployed reported to have less than matric (58,0% and 51,1% respectively); this declined by 10,7 and 13,1 percentage points in 2024, respectively. In addition, young males with less than matric who were unemployed reported higher proportions compared to their female counterparts in both 2014 and 2024. However, young females with matric, other tertiary and graduates were more likely to be unemployed than their male counterparts.

Figure 5.13 - Share of the youth amongst the unemployed by education attainment, 2014 and 2024



Source: QLFS Q3: 2014 & 2024

Figure 5.13 shows the share of the youth amongst the unemployed by education attainment in 2014 and 2024. In 2014, youth with less than matric, matric and other tertiary were most likely to be unemployed with a decrease of 10,3; 7,2 and 10,8 percentage points respectively in 2024. In contrast, youth graduates reported an increase of 7,6 percentage points (from 66,0% in 2014 to 73,6% in 2024) and those with other qualifications increased by 11,5 percentage points (from 50,6% in 2014 to 62,1% in 2024).

5.2.4 Youth and discouragement

Table 5.7 - Percentage share of discouraged youth work-seekers by sex and province, 2014 and 2024

Province	2014		2024	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
	Per cent			
Western Cape	10,4	10,7	11,9	11,7
Eastern Cape	12,8	12,4	12,3	5,9
Northern Cape	2,0	2,2	2,1	2,1
Free State	5,5	5,0	4,6	4,8
KwaZulu-Natal	20,0	19,9	19,7	20,5
North West	6,6	12,4	7,0	6,5
Gauteng	23,4	23,4	24,6	25,0
Mpumalanga	8,1	8,2	8,1	7,9
Limpopo	11,1	11,3	10,4	10,3
South Africa	11,1	11,7	11,2	10,5

Source: QLFS Q3: 2014 &2024

According to Table 5.7, female youth were more likely to be discouraged than male youth in 2014 (11,7% for females and 11,1 for males). On the contrary, male youth were more discouraged in 2024 than female youth. The provincial discrepancies showed that Gauteng and Kwazulu-Natal were the top two provinces with higher proportions of discouraged youth who seek job opportunity. In 2014, Gauteng represented 23,4% of both male and female youth who were discouraged work-seekers, whilst Kwazulu-Natal denoted about 20%. During the year 2024, Gauteng accounted for 24,6% of the young male population and 25,0% of the young female population identified as discouraged job seekers. The Northern Cape and Free State showed the lowest figures for both 2014 and 2024.

Figure 5.14a - Share of discouraged work seekers (15–34 years), 2014

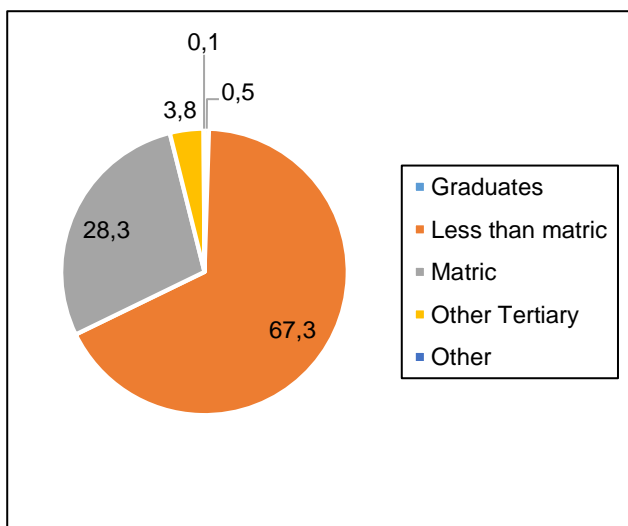
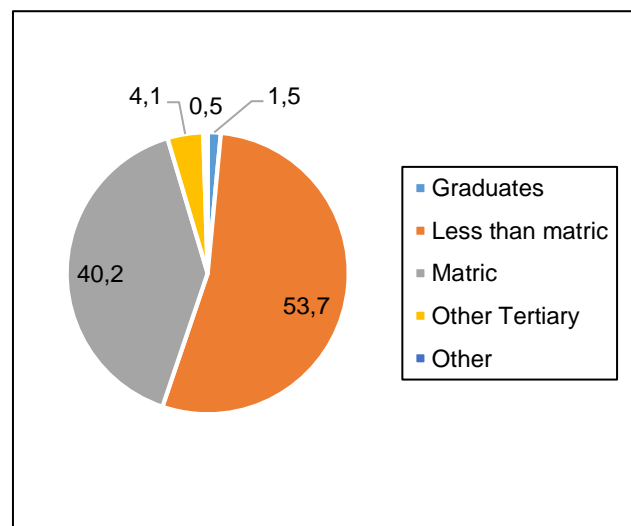


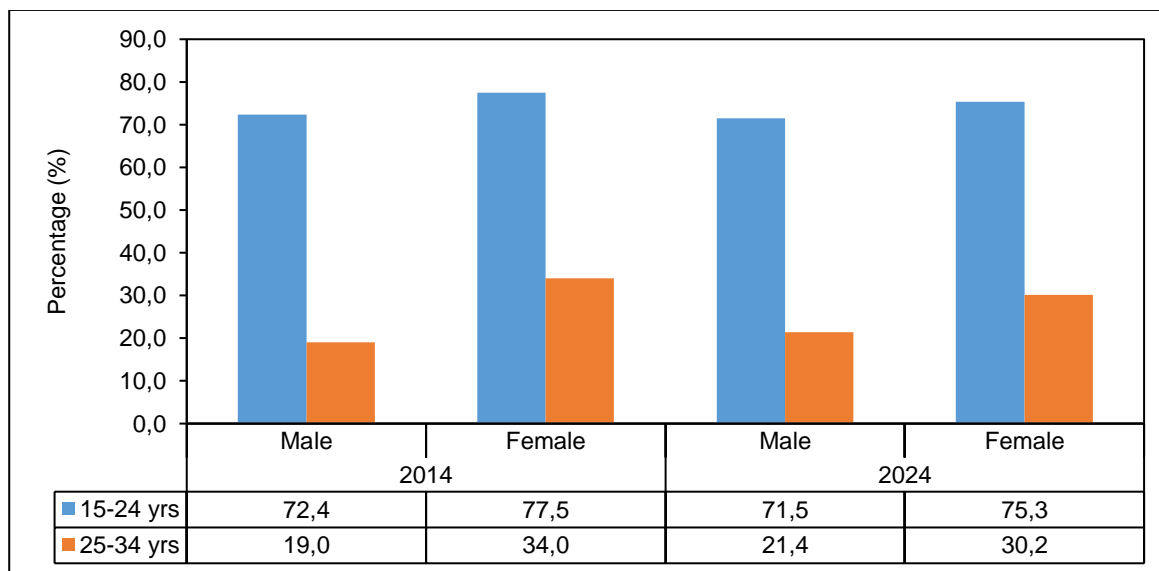
Figure 5.14b - Share of discouraged work seekers (15–34 years), 2024



Source: QLFS Q3: 2014 & 2024

As shown in Figures 5.14a and 5.14b, generally, there was a decrease in the share of young people aged 15–34 years among the discouraged work-seekers with less than matric and other while those with matric and postgraduate showed an increase. The discouraged youth that had less than matric decreased by 13,6 percentage points (from 67,3% in 2014 to 53,7% in 2024). For those discouraged work-seekers youth with matric, graduates and other tertiary, an increase of (11,9, 1,0 and 0,3 percentage points) were observed respectively between the two-reference periods.

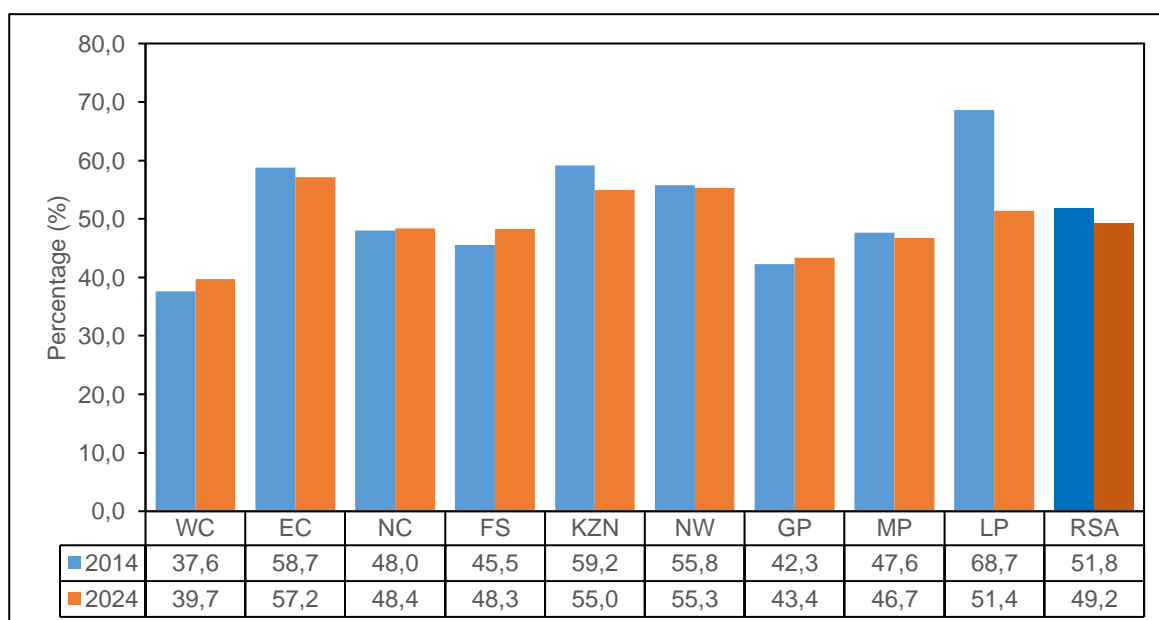
Figure 5.15 - Inactivity rate for youth by sex, 2014 and 2024



Source: QLFS Q3: 2014 & 2024

Figure 5.15 shows the inactivity rate of youth by sex in 2014 and 2024. Between 2014 and 2024, the inactivity rate decreased for younger youth aged 15–24 years, with males by 0,9 percentage point (from 72,4% in 2014 to 71,5% in 2024), whereas female youth declined by 2,2 percentage points (from 77,5% in 2014 to 75,3% in 2024). For the youth aged 25–34 years of age, the opposite was observed for males with an increase of 2,4 percentage points from (19,0% in 2014 to 21,4% in 2024), while female youth indicated a decline by 3,8 percentage points (from 34,0% in 2014 to 30,2% in 2024).

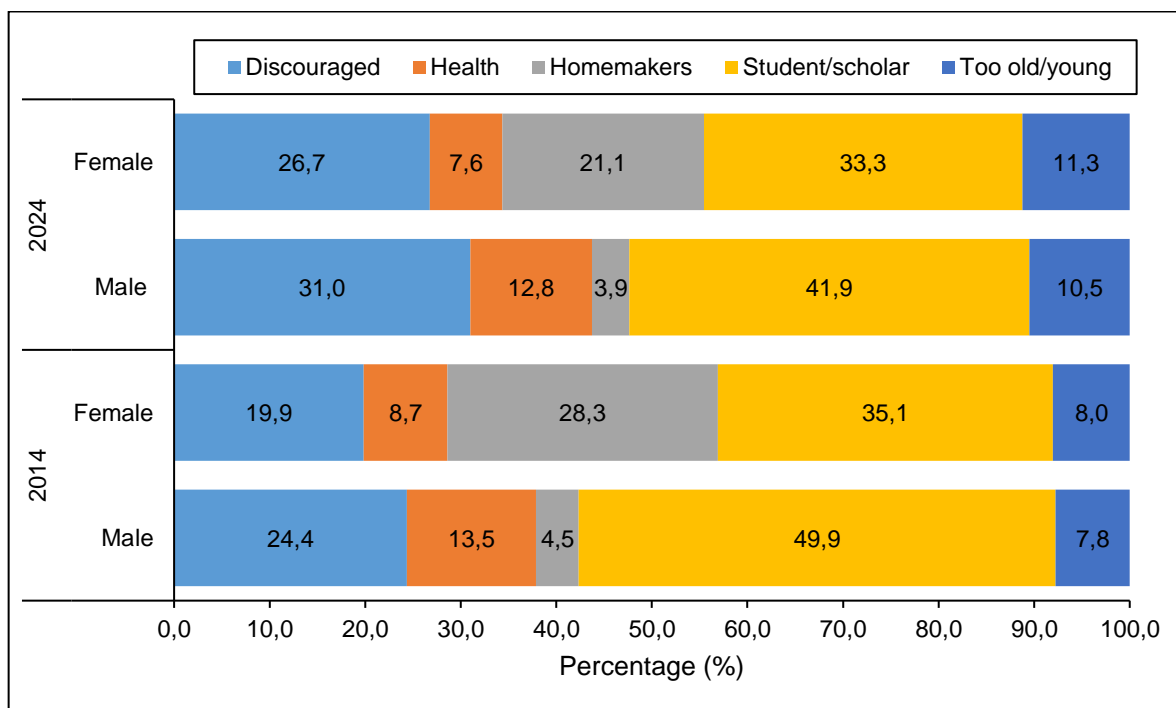
Figure 5.16 - Inactivity rate for youth by province, 2014 and 2024



Source: QLFS Q3: 2014 & 2024

Figure 5.16 shows the inactivity rate of youth in the nine provinces in 2014 and 2024. Nationally, the youth inactivity rate decreased by 2,6 percentage points (from 51,8% in 2014 to 49,2% in 2024). The decline was caused by the fact six out of nine provinces showed a decline, with top three provinces being Limpopo, Kwazulu-Natal and Eastern Cape (17,3, 4,2 and 1,5 percentage points respectively). The provinces which showed an increase of economically inactive youth were Western Cape, Free State and Gauteng with (2,1, 2,8 and 1,1 percentage points respectively).

Figure 5.17 - Percentage distribution of youth with reasons for economic inactivity by sex, 2014 and 2024



Source: QLFS Q3: 2014 & 2024

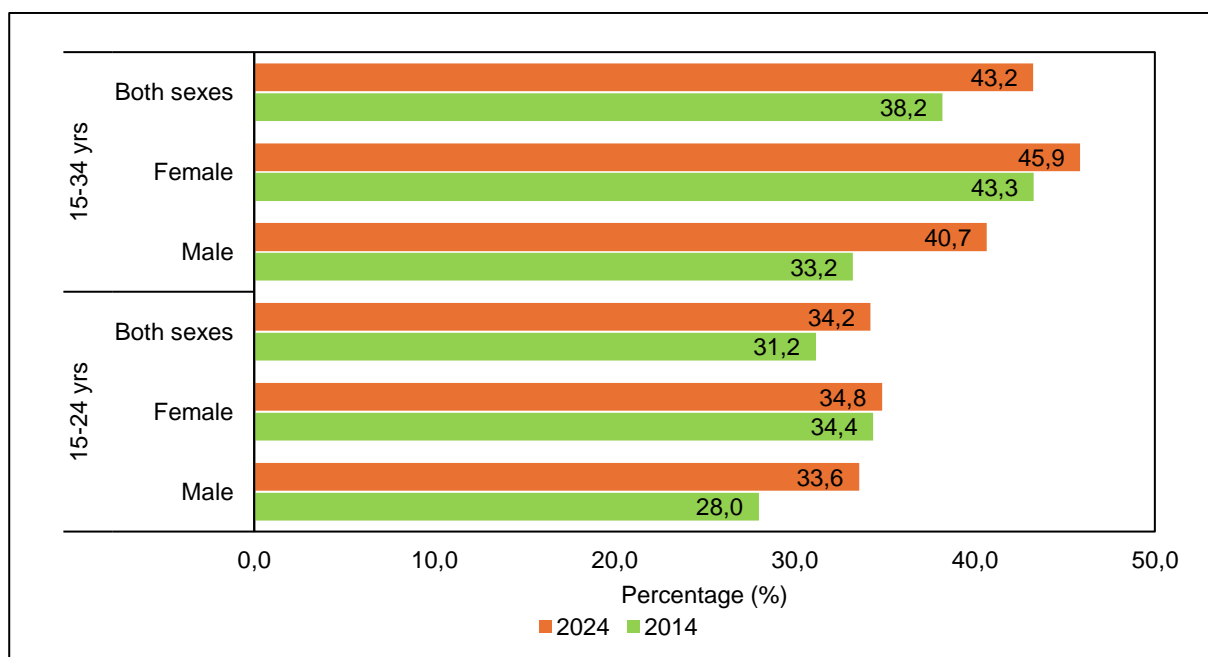
Educational attendance was among the main reasons for not participating in the labour market, hence a sizable proportion of persons who cited being a student/scholar as the reason for economic inactivity between 2014 and 2024. According to figure 5.17, the proportion of young males who reported studying as the reason for economic inactivity was higher than that of their female youth counterparts for both years. The second main reason for young males is being discouraged from seeking work/ a job. In 2014, being a homemaker was cited as the second reason for young females, however discouragement from seeking work/job was the reason for young female economic inactivity in 2024.

The percentage of male youth indicating that they were discouraged in looking for work increased from 24,4% in 2014 to 31,0% in 2024 whilst the proportion of female youth who cited being discouraged as a reason for inactivity increased from 19,9% in 2014 to 26,7% in 2024. Among female youth, more than 20,0% (28,3% in 2014 and 21,1% in 2024) were homemakers. Female youth were more likely to cite being homemakers as the reason for inactivity than male youth for both years.

5.2.5 Youth not in employment, education, or training (NEET)

Some young people have been discouraged with the labour market and they are also not building on their skills base through education and training – they are not in employment, education, or training (NEET).

Figure 5.18 - Share of youth not in employment, education, or training (NEET) by age group, 2014 and 2024

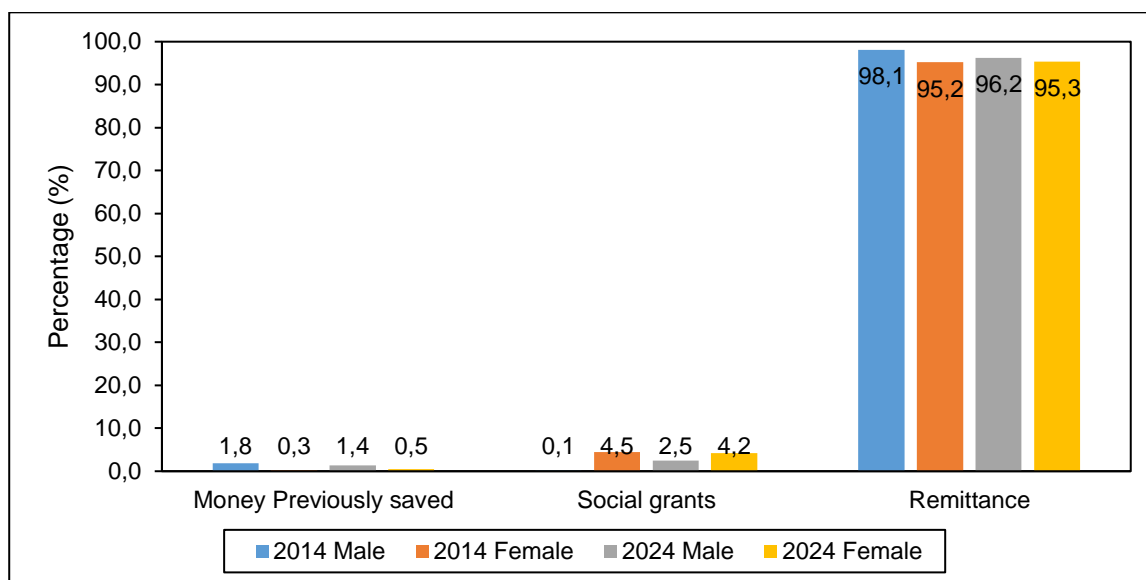


Source: QLFS Q3: 2014 & 2024

Figure 5.18 above shows the share of youth not in employment, education or training in 2014 and 2024. Results show that in 2024, 43,2% of youth aged 15–34 were not in employment, education, or training (NEET) – 5,0 percentage points higher than in 2014. In this age group, the NEET rate for males and females increased by 7,5 percentage points (from 33,2% in 2014 to 40,7% in 2024) and 2,6 percentage points (from 43,3% in 2014 to 45,9% in 2024), respectively. The NEET rate for females was higher than that of their male counterparts in both years.

The percentage of youth aged 15–24 who were not in employment, education, or training (NEET) increased by 3,0 percentage points (from 31,2% in 2014 to 34,2% in 2024). Between 2014 and 2024, the NEET rate for males and females increased by 5,6 percentage points (from 28,0% in 2014 to 33,6% in 2024) and by 0,4 percentage points (from 34,4% in 2014 to 34,8% in 2024) respectively.

Figure 5.19 - Means of survival for the unemployed youth by sex, 2014 and 2024



Source: QLFS Q3: 2014 & 2024

An examination of unemployed persons’ means of survival by sex is shown in Figure 5.19 above. This analysis focuses on three options commonly used as sources of income for the unemployed:

- (i) remittances – includes financial support from other persons either within or outside the household, by a church or a charity organisation;
- (ii) money previously earned – includes money from sources such as the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) and money from savings or previous earnings; and
- (iii) social grants – money received through government social welfare systems such as old-age, disability, child support and foster care grants as well as any other social grants.

Remittances were the primary source of survival for over 90% of unemployed persons between 2014 and 2024; this applied to both males and females. During the reporting period, the proportion of female youth who were dependent on remittances for survival increased from 95,2% in 2014 to 95,3% in 2024, whilst the proportion of male youth declined from 98,1% in 2014 to 96,2% in 2024. Social grants were the second source of survival for female youth, (4,5% in 2014 and 4,2% in 2024), whilst money previously saved was the second means of survival for male youth (1,8% in 2014 and 1,4% in 2024). There was a decline of 0,3 percentage points (from 4,5% in 2014 to 4,2% in 2024) for female youth on social grants, with an uptake of 2,4 percentage points for male youth.

Table 5.8 - Main source of income for youth by sex of the household head, 2014 and 2023

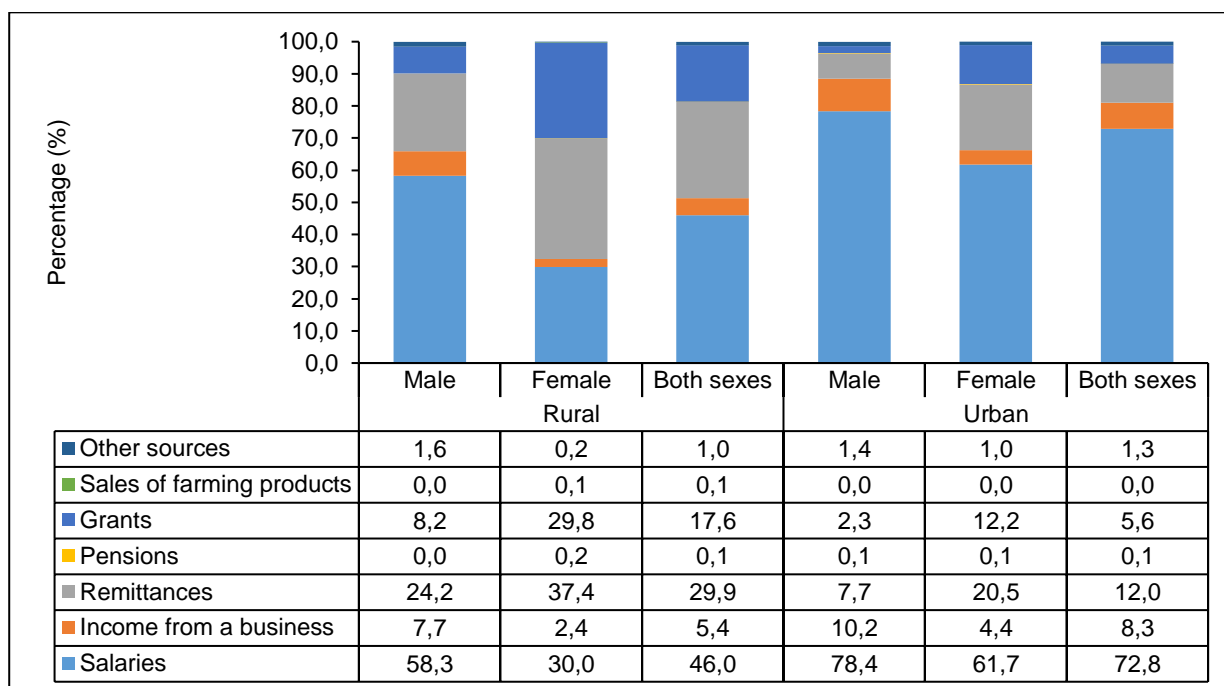
Source of income	2014			2023		
	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
	N ('000)					
Salaries	3 887	1 533	5 420	3 863	1 605	5 469
Income from a business	506	112	619	582	151	733
Remittances	631	791	1 422	799	836	1 635
Pensions	4	4	8	9	6	15
Grants	199	548	748	451	601	1 052
Sales of farming products	0	1	1	0	2	2
Other sources	76	22	98	70	80	150
Total	5 304	3 011	8 315	5 775	3 281	9 056
	Per cent					
Salaries	71,7	28,3	100,0	70,7	29,4	100,0
Income from a business	81,8	18,2	100,0	79,4	20,6	100,0
Remittances	44,4	55,6	100,0	48,9	51,1	100,0
Pensions	52,8	47,2	100,0	61,4	38,6	100,0
Grants	26,6	73,4	100,0	42,9	57,2	100,0
Sales of farming products	0,0	100,0	100,0	0,0	100,0	100,0
Other sources	77,5	22,5	100,0	46,6	53,4	100,0
Total	63,8	36,2	100,0	63,8	36,2	100,0

Source: GHS 2014 & 2023

Table 5.8 illustrates the main source of income of youth by sex of household head in 2014 and 2023. The majority of households reported salaries as their main source of income during the reported period, followed by those receiving remittances. Youth male-headed households that reported salaries as their main source decreased from 71,7% in 2014 to 70,7% in 2023, while those receiving remittance increased from 44,4% to 48,9% in the same period. For the youth female-headed households, an increase of 1,1% on salaries was observed from 28,3% in 2014 to 29,4% in 2023, whilst a decline of 4,5% was observed from 55,6% in 2014 to 51,1% in 2023 on remittances.

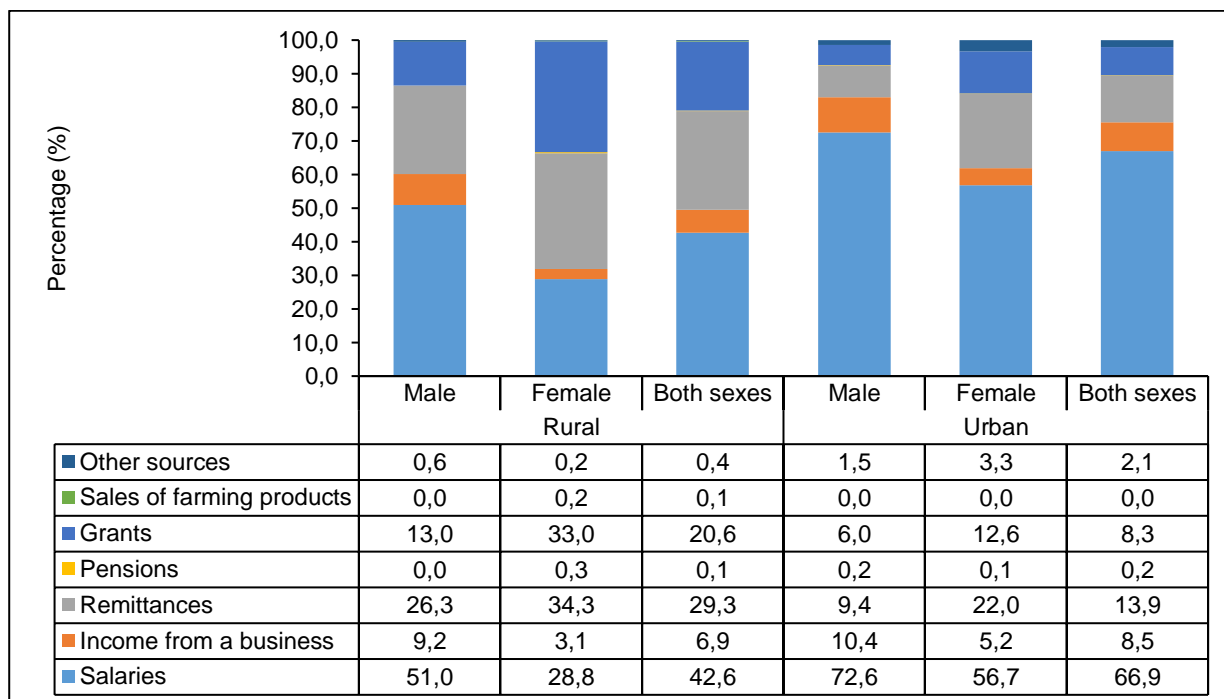
From 2014 to 2023, youth female-headed households that reported income from a business increased from 18,2% to 20,6%, while those with grants declined from 73,4% to 57,2%. The youth male-headed households receiving grants as a main source of income increased by 16,3 percentage points (from 26,6% in 2014 to 42,9% in 2023).

Figure 5.20a - Main source of youth income by sex of the household head and geo-type, 2014



Source: GHS 2014

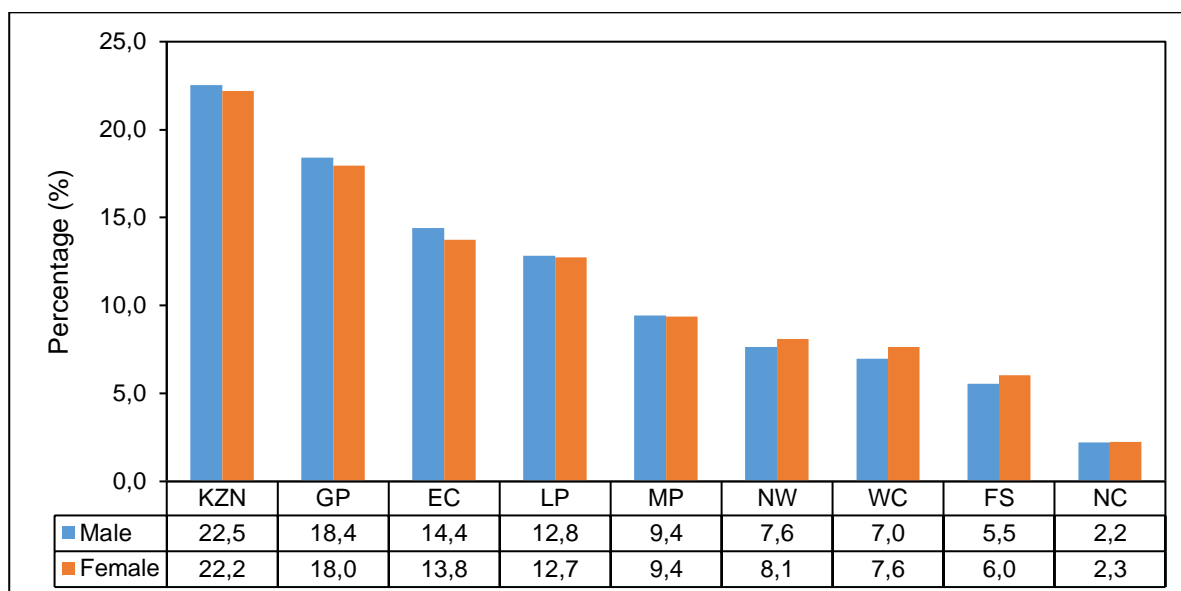
Figure 5.20b - Main source of youth income by sex of the household head and geo-type, 2023



Source: GHS 2023

Figures 5.20a and 5.20b show the main source of income by the sex of the household head and geo-type in 2014 and 2023. Analysis reveals that the proportion of individuals residing in urban areas receiving salaries as a main source of income has declined; with male-headed households declining by 5,8 percentage points (from 78,4% in 2014 to 72,6% in 2023). In 2023, 10,4% of male youth in urban areas depended on income from a business compared to 5,2% of their female youth counterparts, whereas in rural areas 9,2% of male youth were likely to be in business than 3,1% of female youth. Female youth were more likely to receive grants and remittance than their male youth counterparts irrespective of where they reside.

Figure 5.21 - Percentage of youth grant recipients aged 15–34 years by sex and province, 2023



Source: GHS 2023

The above figure 5.21 displays the youth who receive social grants by sex and province in 2023. Provincial variations revealed that the four provinces which had a high percentage of social grants recipients were led by male youth over their female youth counterparts, namely Kwazulu-Natal, Gauteng, Eastern Cape and Limpopo. The opposite was observed for those provinces showing the least percentage of social grants recipients led by female youth. Mpumalanga province was the only province which showed parity with 9,4% for both sexes. Kwazulu-Natal was the leading province of social grants recipients in 2023 with male and female youth by 22,5% and 22,2% respectively, followed by Gauteng by 18,4% and 18,0% respectively. Northern Cape province reported the lowest number of male and female youth receiving social grants at 2,2% and 2,3% respectively.

Table 5.9 - Monthly median earnings by age group, 2014–2022

Age group	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	Rand								
15–24 yrs	2 800	2 817	3 000	3 250	3 381	3 600	3 813	3 900	4 300
25–34 yrs	3 662	3 500	3 900	4 000	4 100	4 333	4 800	4 800	5 000
35–44 yrs	4 333	4 200	4 500	5 000	4 900	5 200	5 500	5 417	5 670
45–54 yrs	4 500	4 800	5 000	5 300	5 200	5 500	6 500	6 000	6 067
55–64 yrs	5 200	5 000	6 180	6 000	6 000	6 000	6 717	7 000	7 500
RSA	4 000	4 000	4 200	4 500	4 500	4 800	5 200	5 000	5 417

Source: Monthly earnings in South Africa, 2022

Table 5.9 shows the monthly median earnings by age group between 2014 and 2022. The average monthly median earnings increased from R4 000 in 2014 to R5 417 in 2022. The median earnings appear to increase with age, with the youngest earning less than the older age group. Monthly median earnings of persons aged 15–24 increased by R1 500 while earnings of those aged 25–34 increased by R1 338 in the reported period. The highest increase in the monthly median earnings was observed in the 55–64 age group, increasing by R2 300 in the same period.

5.3 Conclusion

The labour force participation rates of both youth and adults fluctuated in the reported period. The labour force participation rates for youth and adults increased by 2,6 and 1,7 percentage points, respectively.

Adults had higher absorption rates than youth in the 10 years. Between 2015 and 2021, the youth absorption rate was on a downward trend (decreasing by 9,4 percentage points) later increasing from 22,7% in 2021 to 27,7% in 2024. The absorption rate for adults fluctuated and a steady decline was noted from 2018 to 2021, then later increased to from 52,3% in 2022 to 54,3% in 2024. Overall, the absorption rate for youth and adults in the past 10 years decreased by 2,8 and 3,3 percentage points, respectively.

Analysis shows that youth unemployment rates were higher than adults in the reported period, by almost 50% in 2024. The youth unemployment rate increased from 36,8% in 2014 to 45,5% in 2024. The inactivity rate for both youth and adults fluctuated over the 10 years, reaching its highest in Q3 of 2020. Overall, the inactivity rates for youth decreased by 2,6 percentage points while the rate for adults decreased by 1,7 percentage points in the reported period. The inactivity rate for youth decreased in all nine provinces.

The share of unemployed young people with less than matric decreased by 12,0 percentage points and those with matric recorded an increase of 9,3 percentage points between 2014 and 2024. Young graduates (those who qualified with a degree tertiary qualification) and other tertiary qualification were least likely to be unemployed in the reported period. In 2024, 43,2% of youth aged 15–34 were not in employment, education, or training (NEET) – 5,0 percentage points higher than in 2014.

CHAPTER 6: YOUTH AND CRIME

6.0 Background

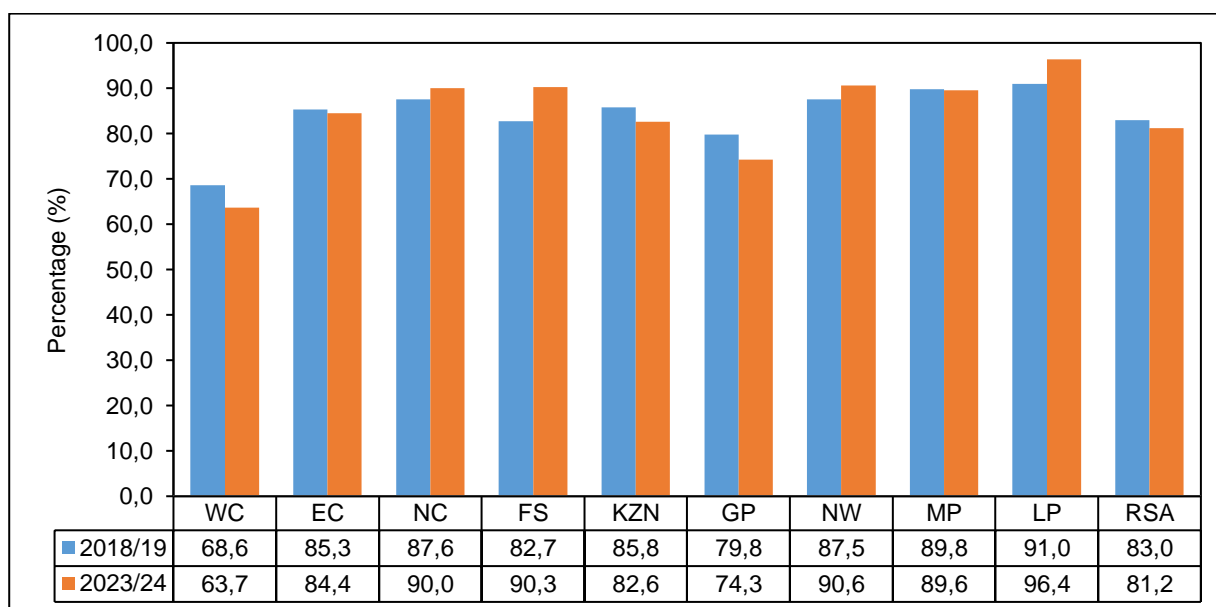
In this chapter, all questions were administered to persons aged 16 years and older, providing insight into youths’ experiences as victims of crime, with a focus on assault, robbery (excluding the residential robbery and car/truck hijackings), and theft of personal property (excluding pick pocketing and bag snatching). The primary data source for this chapter is the Governance, Public Safety, and Justice Survey (GPSJS) 2018/19 and 2023/24. Analysis is based on experiences from the past 5 years.

6.1 Experiences of crimes

Chapter 12 of the National Development Plan lists crime reduction as one of its strategic priorities and envisions that people living in South Africa should have no fear of crime. In line with this, priority 6 of the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) (2019–2024) advocates for: “Social Cohesion and Safer Communities”. One of the broad strategic outcomes of this priority is: “Increased feelings of safety in communities”.

6.2 Feelings of safety

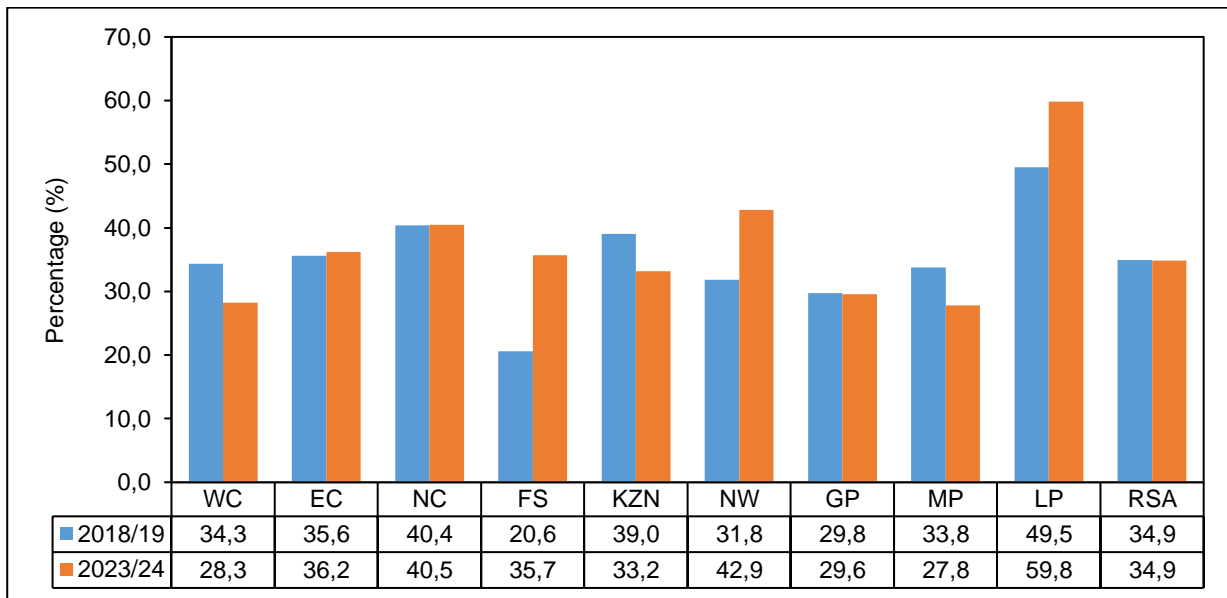
Figure 6.1 - Percentage of youth who felt safe walking alone in the area where they live during the day by province, 2018/19 and 2023/24



Source: GPSJS 2018/19 & 2023/24

Figure 6.1 shows the percentage of youth who felt safe walking alone in the area where they live during the day in 2018/19 and 2023/24. Nationally, the findings show that the percentage of young people who felt safe during the day decreased by 1,8 percentage points (from 83,0% in 2018/19 to 81,2% in 2023/24). Provincial variations show that Limpopo (96,4%) recorded the highest proportion of youth who felt safe walking alone during the day, followed by North West (90,6%) and Free State (90,3%) in 2023/24. The proportion of youth who felt safe walking alone during the day increased in four provinces; with Free State (7,6), Limpopo (5,4), Northern Cape (2,4) and North West (3,1) percentage points increasing.

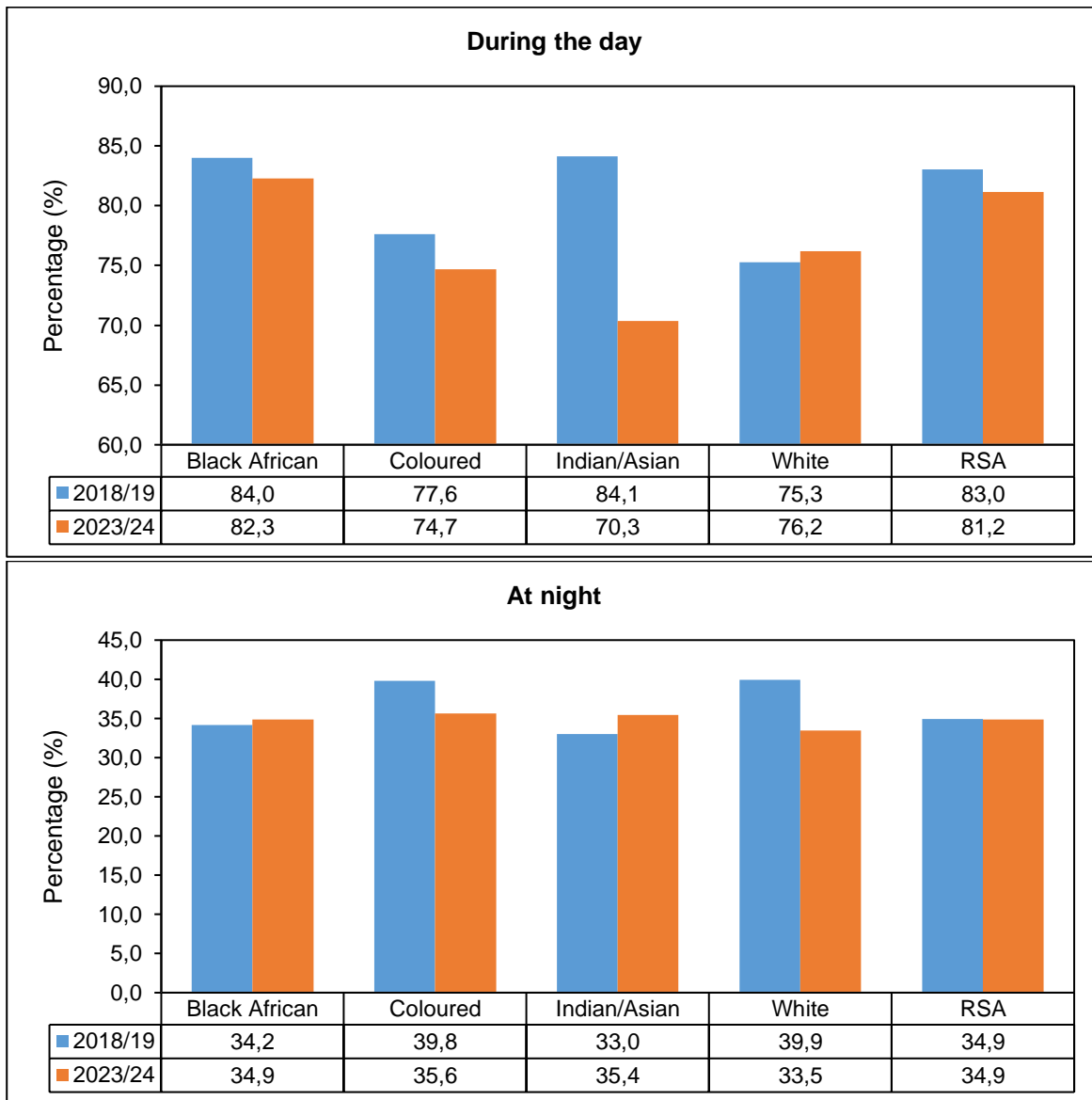
Figure 6.2 - Percentage of youth who felt safe walking alone in the area where they live at night by province, 2018/19 and 2023/24



Source: GPSJS 2018/19 & 2023/24

Figure 6.2 shows the percentage of youth who felt safe walking alone in the area where they live at night in 2018/19 and 2023/24. Nationally, 34,9% of youth reportedly felt safe walking alone in their area at night, for both 2018/19 and 2023/24. In 2023/24, Limpopo (59,8%) had the highest proportion of youth who felt safe, followed by North West (42,9%) and Eastern Cape (36,2%), while the lowest proportions were reported in Mpumalanga (27,8%) Western Cape (28,3%) and Gauteng (29,6%). The proportion of youth who felt safe walking alone at night increased in five provinces; with Free State (15,1), North West (11,1), Limpopo (10,3), Eastern Cape (0,6) and Northern Cape (0,1) percentage points increasing. The largest decrease in proportion of youth who felt safe walking at night was observed in Western Cape, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal at 6,5 (from 34,3% in 2018/19 to 28,3% in 2023/24), 6,0 (from 33,8% in 2018/19 to 27,8% in 2023/24) and 5,8 percentage points (from 39,0% in 2018/19 to 33,2% in 2023/24), respectively while Gauteng declined marginally by 0,2 percentage points (from 29,8% in 2018/19 to 29,6% in 2023/24).

Figure 6.3 - Percentage of youth who felt safe walking alone in the area where they live during the day and at night by population group, 2018/19 and 2023/24



Source: GPSJS 2018/19 & 2023/24

Figure 6.3 shows the percentage of youth that reportedly felt safe walking during the day and at night in their area of residence in 2018/19 and 2023/24. The feelings of safety during the day declined across all population groups except for the white youth. Black African youth declined by 2,3 percentage points, coloured youth (2,9) and Indian/Asian youth (13,8) while the white youth increased by 0,9 percentage points between 2018/19 and 2023/24. On the contrary, the feelings of safety at night have improved for the Indian/Asian and black African youth, increasing by 2,4 and 0,7 percentage points between 2018/19 and 2023/24, respectively. The feeling of safety among whites and coloureds youth experienced a decrease of 6,4 and 4,2 percentage points, respectively.

Table 6.1 - Percentage of youth who felt safe or unsafe walking alone in their area during the day and at night by sex, 2018/19 and 2023/24

Time	Year	Feeling of safety	Male	Female	RSA
During the day	2018/19	Safe	84,0	82,1	83,0
		Unsafe	16,0	17,9	17,0
	2023/24	Safe	83,0	79,2	81,2
		Unsafe	17,0	20,8	18,9
At night	2018/19	Safe	37,3	32,5	34,9
		Unsafe	62,7	67,5	65,1
	2023/24	Safe	37,7	32,1	34,9
		Unsafe	62,3	67,9	65,1

Source: GPSJS 2018/19 & 2023/24

Table 6.1 above shows that, young males were more likely than young females to feel safe when walking alone in their areas regardless of time between 2018/19 and 2023/24. Feeling of safety during the day among the youth decreased from 83,0% in 2018/19 to 81,2% in 2023/24. Gender disparities showed that, while young women were less likely to feel safe than their male counterparts, the percentage of young women who felt safe walking alone during the day decreased by 2,9 percentage points (from 82,1% in 2018/19 to 79,2% in 2023/24), while their male counterparts reported a 1,0 percentage points decrease (from 84,0% in 2018/19 to 83,0% in 2023/24).

Nationally, feelings of safety at night among the youth stayed constant at 34,9% in the reported period. The percentage of young males who felt safe walking alone at night increased by 0,4 percentage points (from 37,3% in 2018/19 to 37,7% in 2023/24). On the contrary, young females reported a decrease of 0,4 percentage points (from 32,5% in 2018/19 to 32,1% in 2023/24).

6.3 Incidence of individual crimes

Assault

The following analysis focuses on assault-related crimes. Respondents in this section were therefore asked if they had been the victim of an assault crime in the 12 months preceding the date of the interview. The analysis focuses on changes that occurred between 2018/19 and 2023/24.

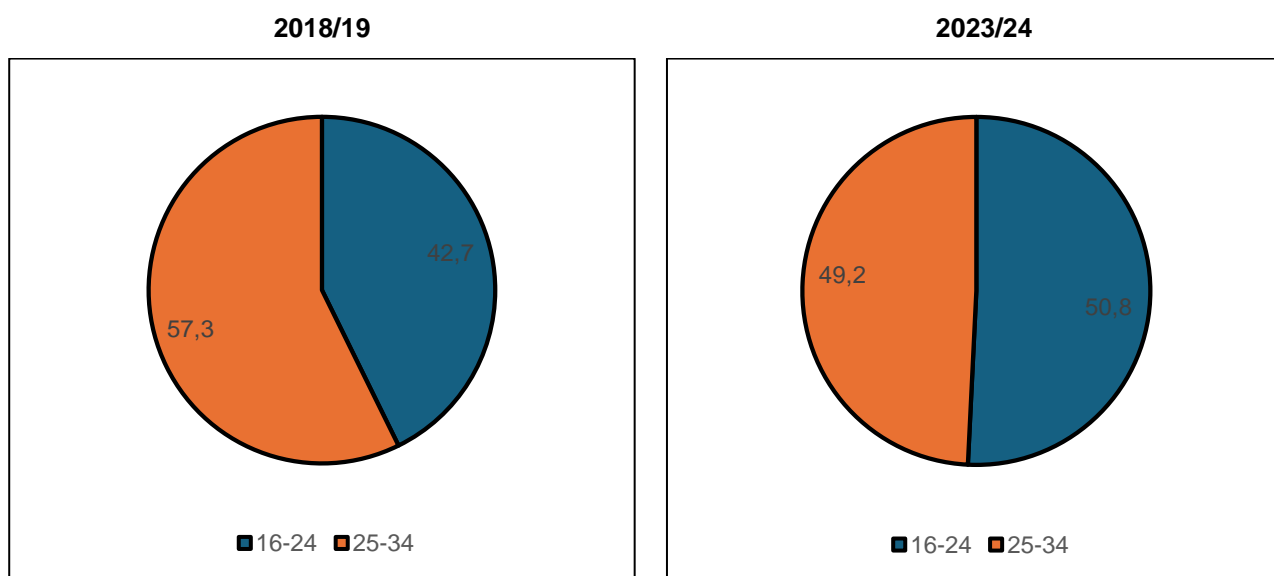
Table 6.2 - Victims of assault crimes by age, 2018/19 and 2023/24

Victims of assault	Male		Female		Total		Total
	16–34 yrs	35+ yrs	16–34 yrs	35+ yrs	16–34 yrs	35+ yrs	
	N ('000)						
2018/19							
Yes	123	43	81	34	204	77	281
No	9 715	9 707	9 362	10 811	19 077	20 517	39 594
Total	9 838	9 749	9 443	10 845	19 281	20 594	39 875
Yes (%)	1,2	0,4	0,9	0,3	72,7	27,3	100,0
2023/24							
Yes	124	71	61	40	184	111	295
No	9 838	9 888	11 027	12 490	20 865	22 378	43 243
Total	9 962	9 959	11 088	12 530	21 049	22 489	43 538
Yes (%)	1,2	0,7	0,5	0,3	62,5	37,5	100,0

Source: GPSJS 2018/19 & 2023/24

Table 6.2 shows the proportion of people who reported being victims of assault crimes in 2018/19 and 2023/24. Nationally, the proportion of youth that experienced assault decreased by 10,2 percentage points (from 72,7% in 2018/19 to 62,5% in 2023/24), while people aged 35 and above increased in the reported period. Further analysis show that between the reported period, a higher proportion of youth aged 16–34 was more likely to be victims of assault than adults (those aged 35 years and above). Gender disparities show that young males were nearly twice as likely as their female counterparts to be victims of assault crimes. Between 2018/19 and 2023/24, the percentage of young males who reported being victims of assault remained constant at 1,2% for both years, while their female counterparts decreased by 0,4 percentage points (from 0,9% in 2018/19 to 0,5% in 2023/24). The percentage of adult males who were reported to be victims of assault crimes increased by 0,3 percentage points (from 0,4% in 2018/19 to 0,7% in 2023/24) and their female counterparts remained at 0,3% in the reported period.

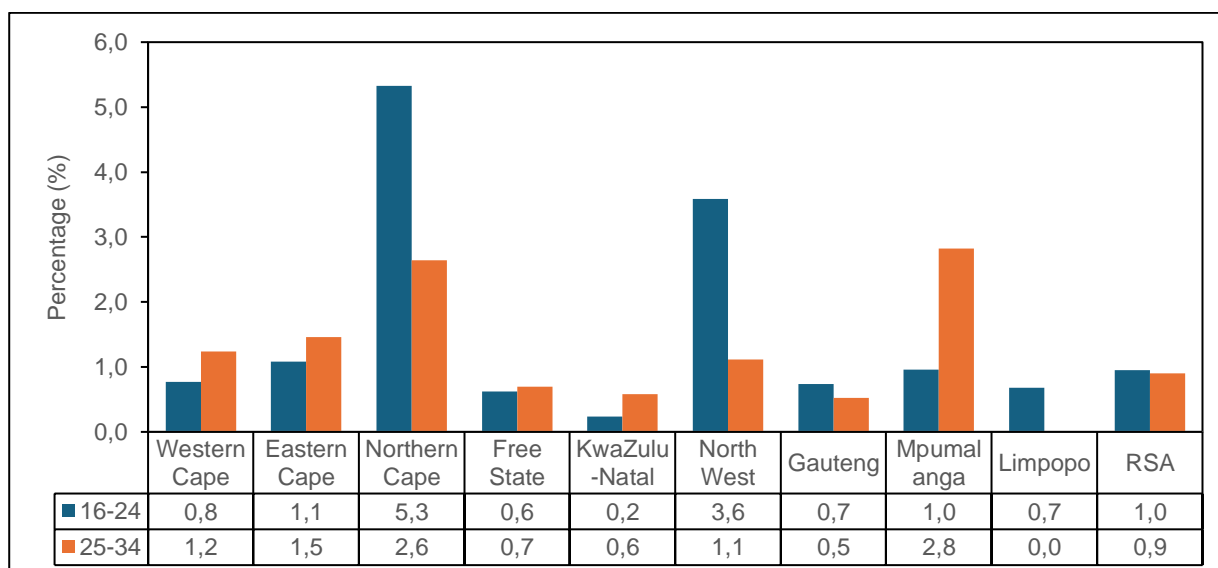
Figure 6.4 - Percentage of youth who experienced assault crimes by age, 2018/19 and 2023/24



Source: GPSJS 2018/19 & 2023/24

Figure 6.4 shows the age group of youth who were victims of assault crimes in 2018/19 and 2023/24. Results shows that a higher percentage of assault victims were between the ages of 25–34 years in 2018/19, but this declined by 8,1 percentage points (from 57,3% in 2018/19 to 49,2% in 2023/24).

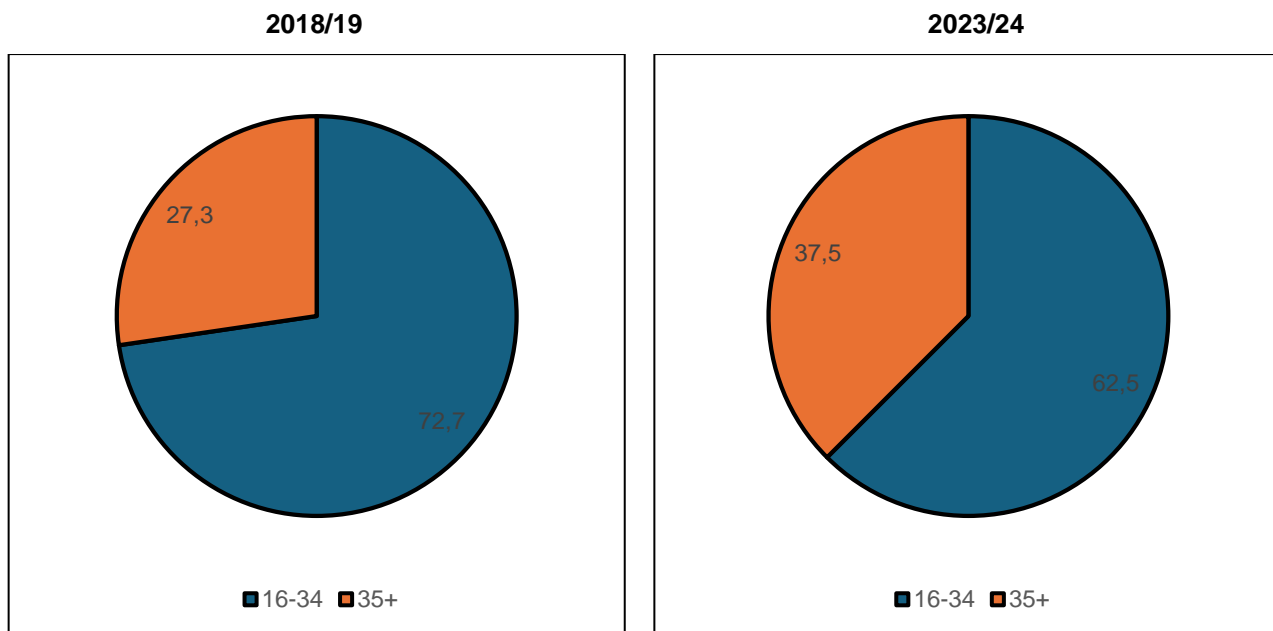
Figure 6.5 - Percentage of youth who experienced assault crimes by age and province, 2023/24



Source: GPSJS 2023/24

Figure 6.5 shows the percentages of young victims of assault by province and age in 2023/24. Nationally, the findings show that younger youth (16–24 years) were more likely to be victims of assault than older youth (25–34 years). Provincial differences revealed that the younger youth reported higher proportions of being victims of assault in Northern Cape (5,3%), North West (3,6%) and Eastern Cape (1,1%), while those aged between 25–34 reported higher proportions in Mpumalanga (2,8%), Northern Cape (2,6%) and Eastern Cape (1,5%).

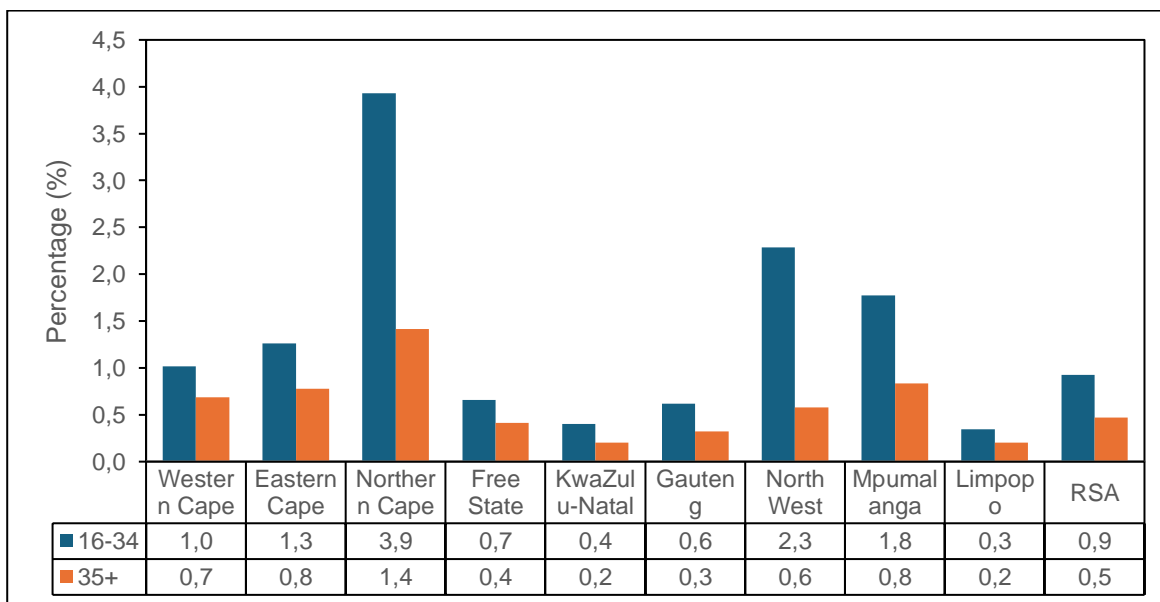
Figure 6.6 - Percentage of persons aged 16 years and older who experienced assault crimes by age, 2018/19 and 2023/24



Source: GPSJS 2018/19 & 2023/24

Figure 6.6 shows the percentage of victims of assault aged 16 years and older in 2018/19 and 2023/24. According to the findings, youth (16–34 years) accounted for 72,7% of all assault victims aged 16–34 years in 2018/19 and later declined to 62,5% in 2023/24.

Figure 6.7 - Percentage of victims of assault crimes by age and province, 2023/24



Source: GPSJS 2023/24

Figure 6.7 illustrates the percentage of victims of assault crimes by province and age. In 2023/24, young people (16–34 years) constituted a higher percentage of victims of assault, compared to those aged 35 and above. Youth reported higher percentages in almost all the provinces. The highest percentage of youth victims were reported in Limpopo (3,9%), North West (2,3%) and Mpumalanga (1,8%) while the lowest percentages was reported in Limpopo (0,3%).

Street Robbery

The section examines data relating to victims of street robbery crimes between 2018/19 and 2023/24.

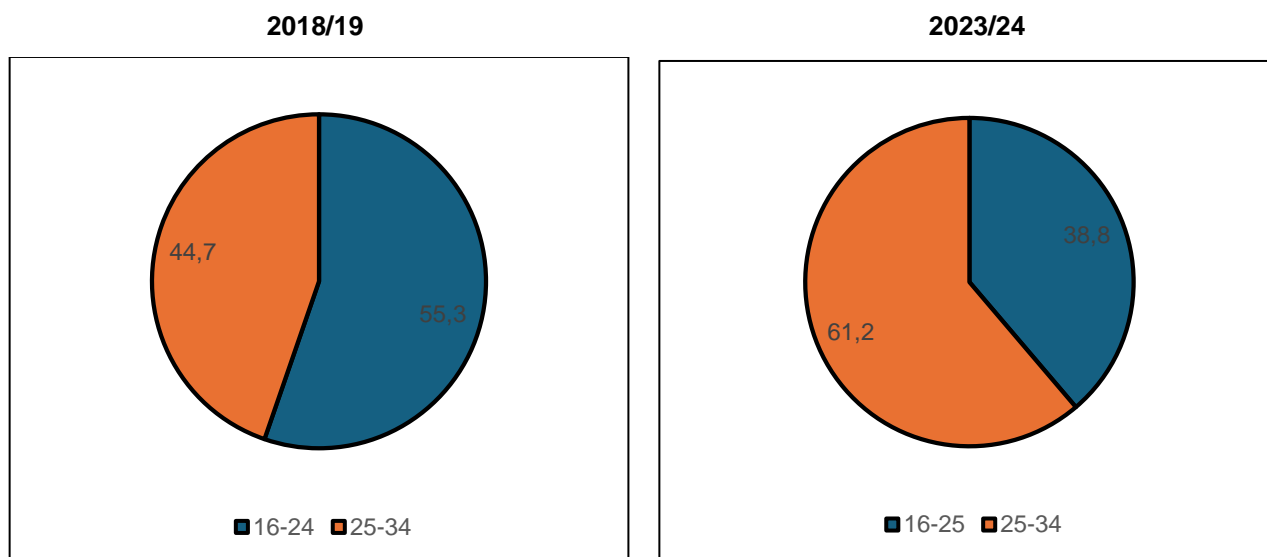
Table 6.3 - Victims of street robbery by age and sex, 2018/19 and 2023/24

Victims of street robbery	Male		Female		Total		Total
	16–34 yrs	35+ yrs	16–34 yrs	35+ yrs	16–34 yrs	35+ yrs	
	N ('000)						
	2018/19						
Yes	192	111	106	43	297	154	452
No	9 646	9 293	9 682	10 798	19 328	20 091	39 420
Total	9 838	9 404	9 788	10 841	19 626	20 246	39 871
Yes (%)	1,9	1,2	1,1	0,4	65,9	34,1	100,0
	2023/24						
Yes	166	105	99	72	266	178	443
No	9 795	9 850	10 987	12 461	20 783	22 310	43 093
Total	9 962	9 955	11 087	12 533	21 049	22 488	43 537
Yes (%)	1,7	1,1	0,9	0,6	59,9	40,1	100,0

Source: GPSJS 2018/19 & 2023/24

Table 6.3 shows the proportion of people who reported being victims of street robbery in 2018/19 and 2023/24. Nationally, the proportion of youth that experienced street robbery decreased by 6,0 percentage points (from 65,9% in 2018/19 to 59,9% in 2023/24) in the reported period. Further analysis shows that between the reported period, a higher proportion of youth aged 16–34 were more likely to be victims of street robbery than adults (those aged 35 years and above), irrespective of sex. Gender disparities show that young males were more likely to be victims of street robbery than their female counterparts. Between 2018/19 and 2023/24, the percentage of young males reporting being victims of street robbery decreased by 0,2 percentage points (from 1,9% in 2018/19 to 1,7% in 2023/24), while their female counterparts decreased by 0,2 percentage points (from 1,1% in 2018/19 to 0,9% in 2023/24). The percentage of adult males who reported to be victims of street robbery decreased by a slight 0,1 percentage points (from 1,2% in 2018/19 to 1,1% in 2023/24) and their female counterparts increased by a slight 0,2 percentage points (from 0,4% in 2018/19 to 0,6% in 2023/24).

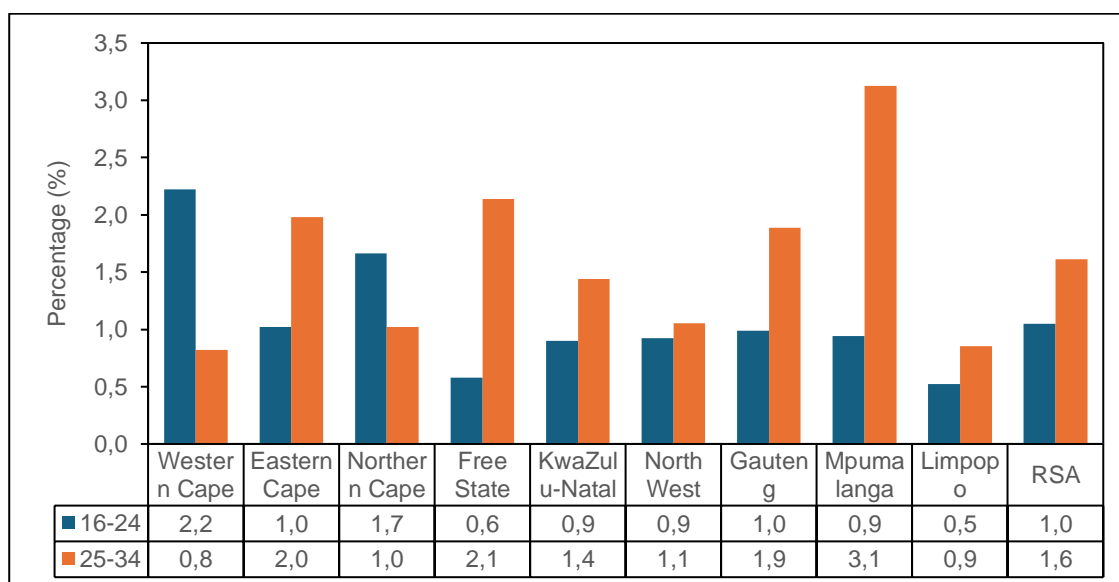
Figure 6.8 - Percentage of youth who experienced street robbery crimes by age, 2018/19 and 2023/24



Source: GPSJS 2018/19 & 2023/24

Figure 6.8 shows the age group of youth who were victims of street robbery crimes in 2018/19 and 2023/24. Results shows that a higher percentage of victims of street robbery were between the ages of 25–34 in 2018/19, decreasing by 16,5 percentage points (from 55,3% in 2018/19 to 38,8% in 2023/24) while the opposite was observed for youth aged 16–24.

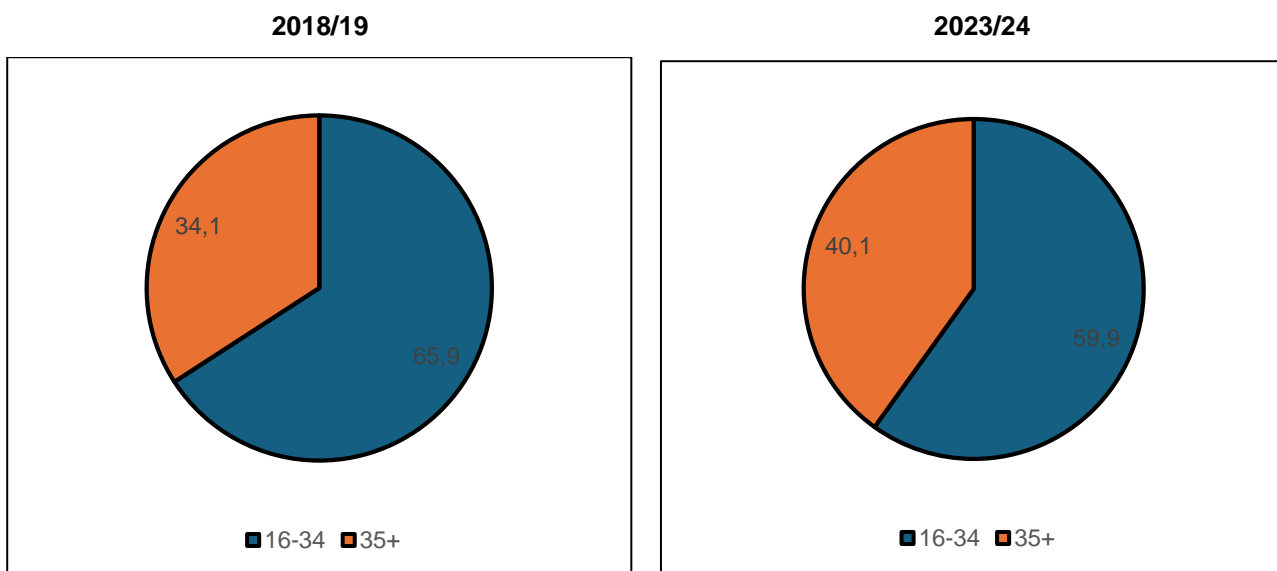
Figure 6.9 - Percentage of youth who experienced street robbery crimes by age and province, 2023/24



Source: GPSJS 2023/24

Figure 6.9 illustrates the percentage of victims of street robbery by province and age. In 2023/24, youth aged between 25–34 constituted a higher percentage of victims of street robbery, compared to those aged between 16–24. Youth aged 25–34 reported higher percentages compared to youth aged 16–24 in almost all the provinces, except in Western Cape and Northern Cape. The highest percentage of older youth victims of street robbery were reported in Mpumalanga (3,1%) followed by Free State (2,1%) and Eastern Cape (2,0%) while the lowest percentages were reported in Western Cape and Limpopo (0,8% and 0,9% respectively). The highest percentage of younger youth who were victims of street robbery were reported in Western Cape (2,2%) and Northern Cape (1,7%), both above the 1,0% reported nationally.

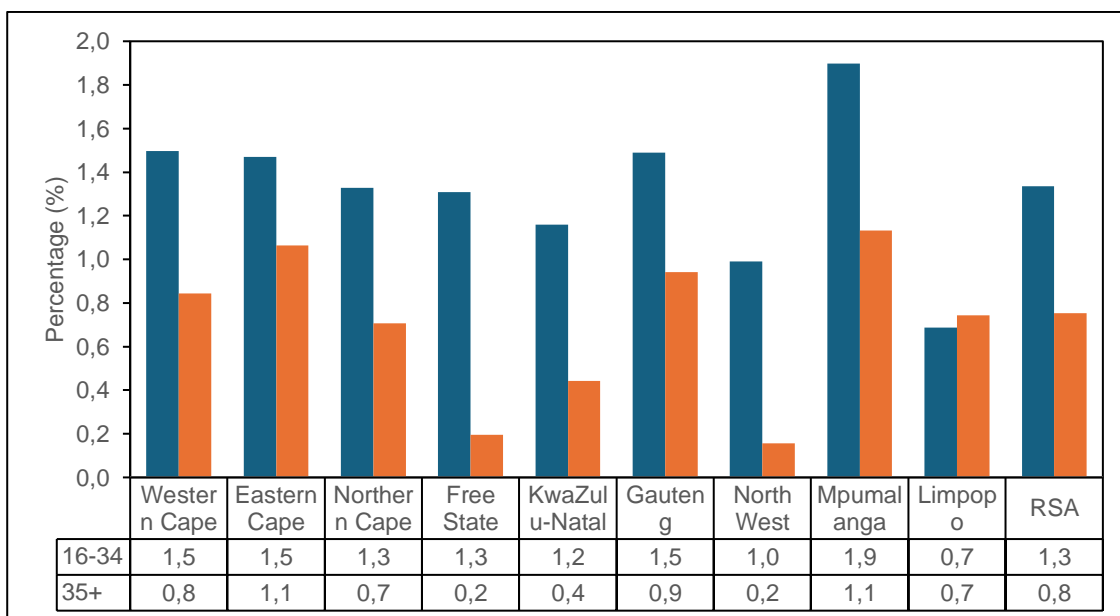
Figure 6.10 - Percentage of persons aged 16 years and older who experienced street robbery crimes by age, 2018/19 and 2023/24



Source: GPSJS 2018/19 & 2023/24

Figure 6.10 shows the proportions of victims of street robbery aged 16 years and older in 2018/19 and 2023/24. Results shows that a higher percentage of street robbery victims were between the ages of 16–34 in both 2018/19 and 2023/24 compared to those aged 35 and above, but this declined by 6,0 percentage points (from 65,9% in 2018/19 to 59,9% in 2023/24).

Figure 6.11 - Percentage of victims of street robbery crimes by age and province, 2023/24



Source: GPSJS 2023/24

Figure 6.11 illustrates the percentage of victims of street robbery by province and age. In 2023/24, youth constituted a slightly higher percentage of victims of street robbery, compared to adults (1,3% and 0,8% respectively). Provincial disparities show that the highest percentage of youth victims of street robbery were reported in Mpumalanga (1,9%), while the lowest percentage was reported in Limpopo (0,7%). The highest percentage of adults who were victims of street robbery were reported in Mpumalanga and Eastern Cape (1,1% respectively) and the lowest percentages were reported in Free State and North West at 0,2% respectively.

Theft of personal property

The analysis below focuses on crimes relating to theft of personal property. Respondents in this section were asked to indicate if they had experienced personal property theft crime in the 12 months preceding the date of the interview.

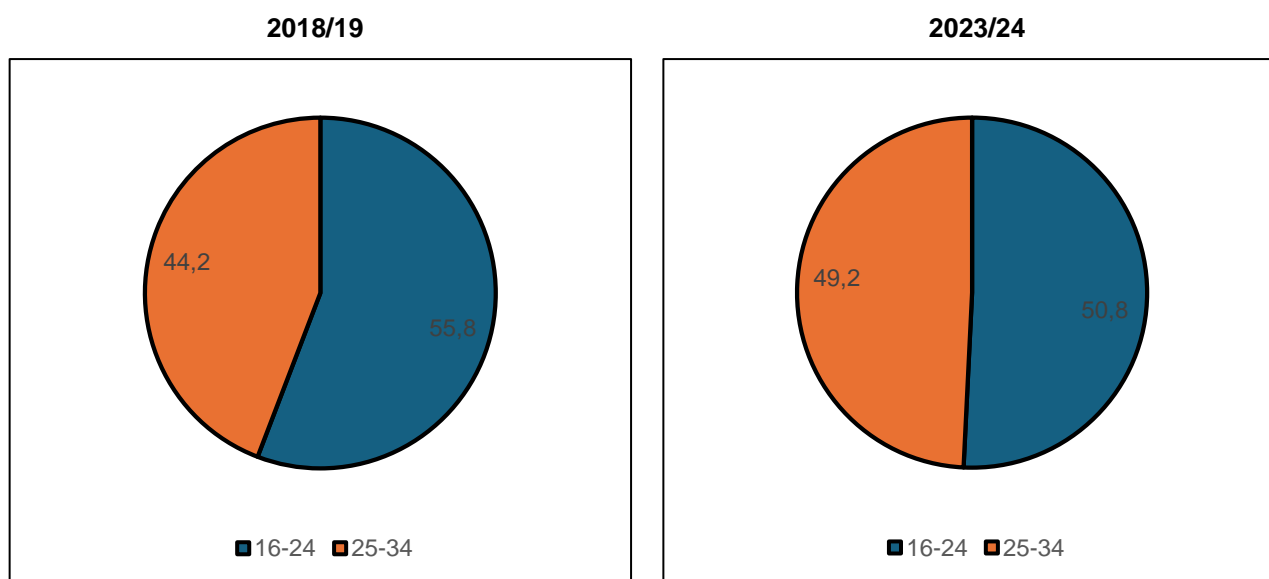
Table 6.4 - Victims of theft of personal property by age and sex, 2018/19 and 2023/24

Victims of theft of personal property	Male		Female		Total		Total
	16–34 yrs	35+ yrs	16–34 yrs	35+ yrs	16–34 yrs	35+ yrs	
	N ('000)						
2018/19							
Yes	320	200	306	188	626	389	1 015
No	9 517	9 204	9 482	10 662	19 000	19 866	38 866
Total	9 838	9 404	9 788	10 851	19 626	20 255	39 881
Yes (%)	3,3	2,1	3,1	1,7	61,7	38,3	100,0
2023/24							
Yes	401	314	304	305	705	619	1 324
No	9 561	10 779	9 645	12 225	19 206	23 004	42 210
Total	9 962	11 093	9 949	12 530	19 911	23 623	43 534
Yes (%)	4,0	2,8	3,1	2,4	53,2	46,8	100,0

Source: GPSJS 2018/19 & 2023/24

Table 6.4 shows the proportion of victims of theft of personal property in 2018/19 and 2023/24. Nationally, the proportion of youth that experienced robbery increased from 38,3% in 2018/19 to 46,8% in 2023/24. Gender disparities show that males were more likely to be victims of theft of personal property crimes, irrespective of age. Between 2018/19 and 2023/24, the percentage of young males who reported being victims of personal property theft increased by 0,7 percentage points (from 3,3% in 2018/19 to 4,0% in 2023/24), while their female counterparts remained constant at 3,1%. The percentage of both adult males and females who reported to be victims of theft of personal property crimes increased by 0,7 percentage points in the reported period.

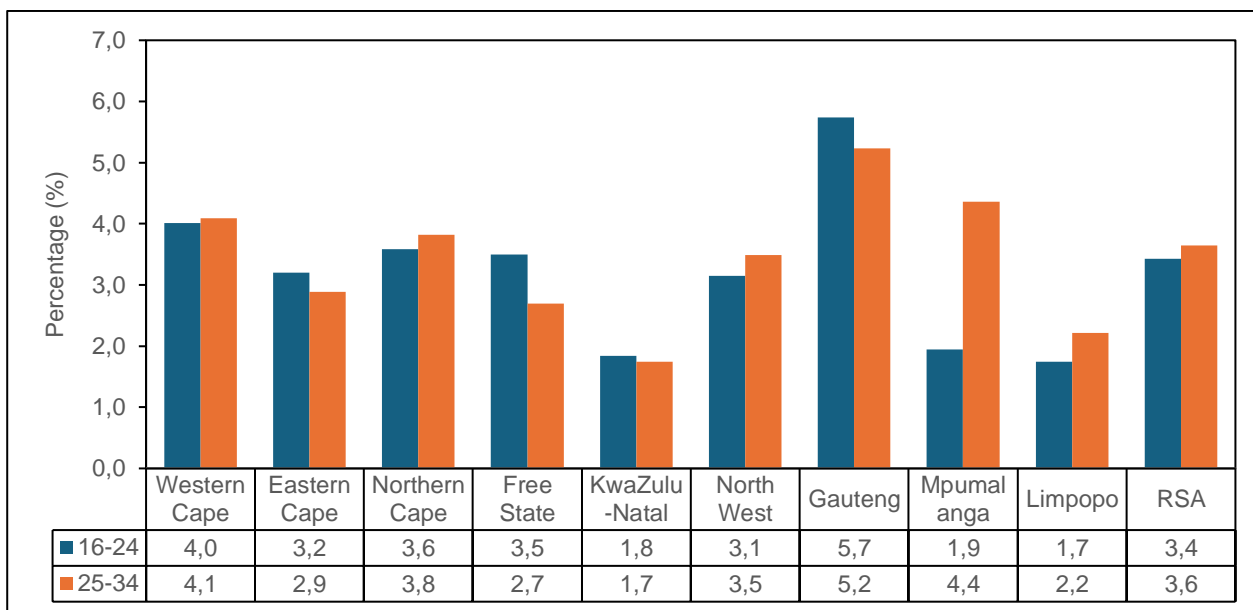
Figure 6.12 - Percentage of youth who experienced theft of personal property by age, 2018/19 and 2023/24



Source: GPSJS 2018/19 & 2023/24

Figure 6.12 shows the percentage of youth who were victims of personal property theft in 2018/19 and 2023/24, by age. Results show that those aged between 16–24 were more likely to be victims of theft of personal property crimes in 2018/19 and the inverse was reported in 2023/24 where those aged 25–34 reported higher proportion.

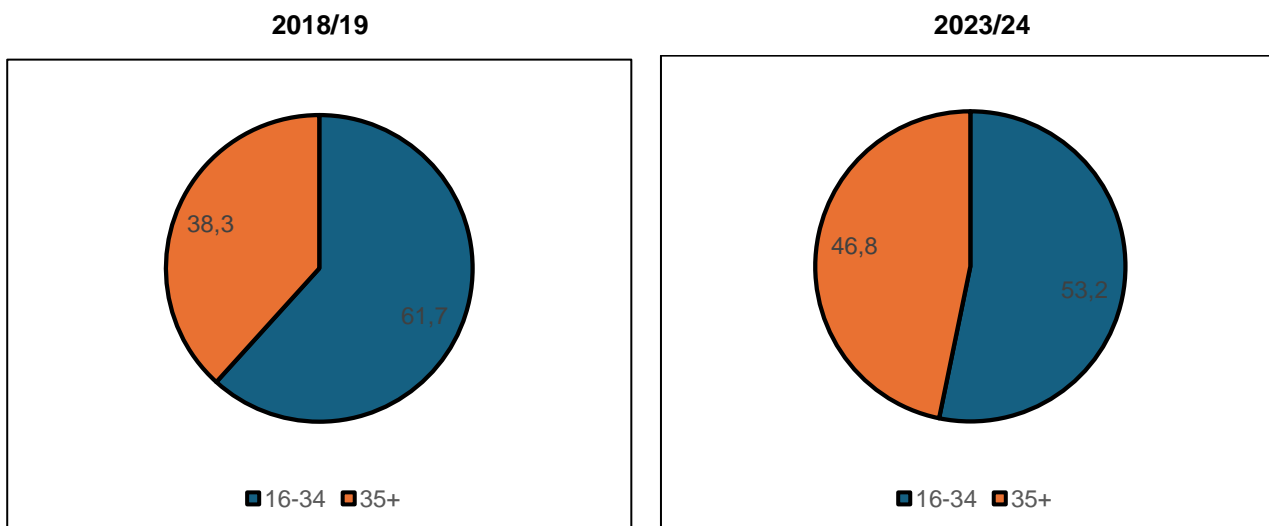
Figure 6.13 - Percentage of youth who experienced theft of personal property by age and province, 2023/24



Source: GPSJS 2023/24

Figure 6.13 illustrates the percentage of victims of theft of personal property by province and age in 2023/24. Nationally, the percentage of victims of personal property theft aged 16–24 was 3,4% and older youth was reported at 3,6%. Provincial disparities show that youth aged 25–34 reported higher percentages of being victims of theft of personal property compared to youth aged 16–24 in five provinces. The highest percentage of younger youth victims were reported in Gauteng (5,7%) and Western Cape (4,0%), while the lowest percentages was reported in Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal (1,7% and 1,8 respectively). The highest percentage of older youth who were victims of personal property theft were reported in Gauteng (5,2%) followed by Mpumalanga (4,4%).

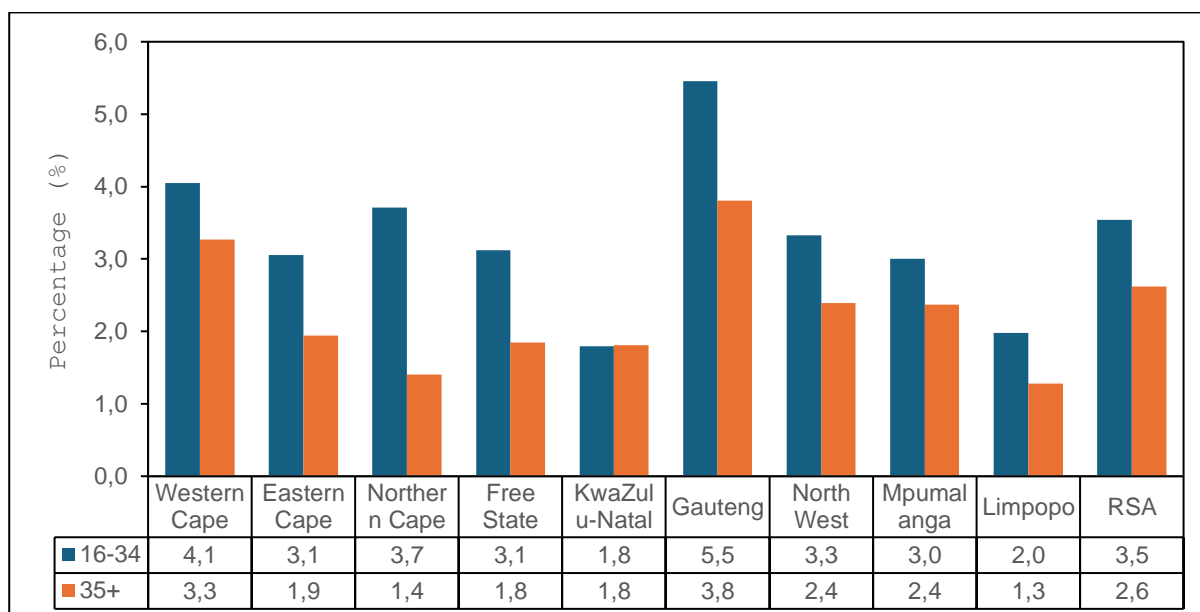
Figure 6.14 - Percentage of persons aged 16 years and older who experienced theft of personal property crimes by age, 2018/19 and 2023/24



Source: GPSJS 2018/19 & 2023/24

Figure 6.14 shows the proportion of victims of theft of personal property aged 16 years and older, by age in 2018/19 and 2023/24. According to the findings, youth were more likely to be victims of personal property crimes in the reported period, reporting 61,7% in 2018/19 then decreasing to 53,2% in 2023/24.

Figure 6.15 - Percentage of victims of theft of personal property crimes by age and province, 2023/24



Source: GPSJS 2023/24

Figure 6.15 shows the percentage of victims of theft of personal property crimes by age and province, in 2023/24. Nationally, theft of personal property crime was more common amongst the youth, compared to those aged above 35. Provincial differences showed that youth were more likely to experience theft of personal property crimes in eight provinces, compared to those aged 35 and above. Gauteng reported the highest percentage of individuals that experienced theft of personal property crimes, while Mpumalanga reported the lowest percentages, irrespective of age.

6.4 Conclusion

Analysis on feelings of safety showed that young males were more likely to feel safe when walking alone in their areas regardless of time between 2018/19 and 2023/24. Feeling of safety during the day decreased from 83,0% in 2018/19 to 81,2% in 2023/24. Gender disparities showed that, while young women were less likely to feel safe than their male counterparts, the percentage of both young women and men who felt safe walking alone during the day decreased in the reported period. The percentage of young males who felt safe walking alone at night increased while young females reported a decrease between 2018/19 and 2023/24. Provincial variations show that Limpopo (96,4%) recorded the highest proportion of youth who felt safe walking alone during the day, followed by North West (90,6%) and Free State (90,3%) in 2023/24.. The proportion of youth who felt safe walking alone during the day increased in four provinces: Free State, Limpopo, Northern Cape and North West. Young people aged 16–34 were more likely to be victims of assault, robbery, and property theft crimes compared to those aged 35 and above. Gender disparities showed that young males were more likely to be victims of assault, robbery and theft of personal property crimes than their female counterparts in 2023/24.

CHAPTER 7: MORTALITY

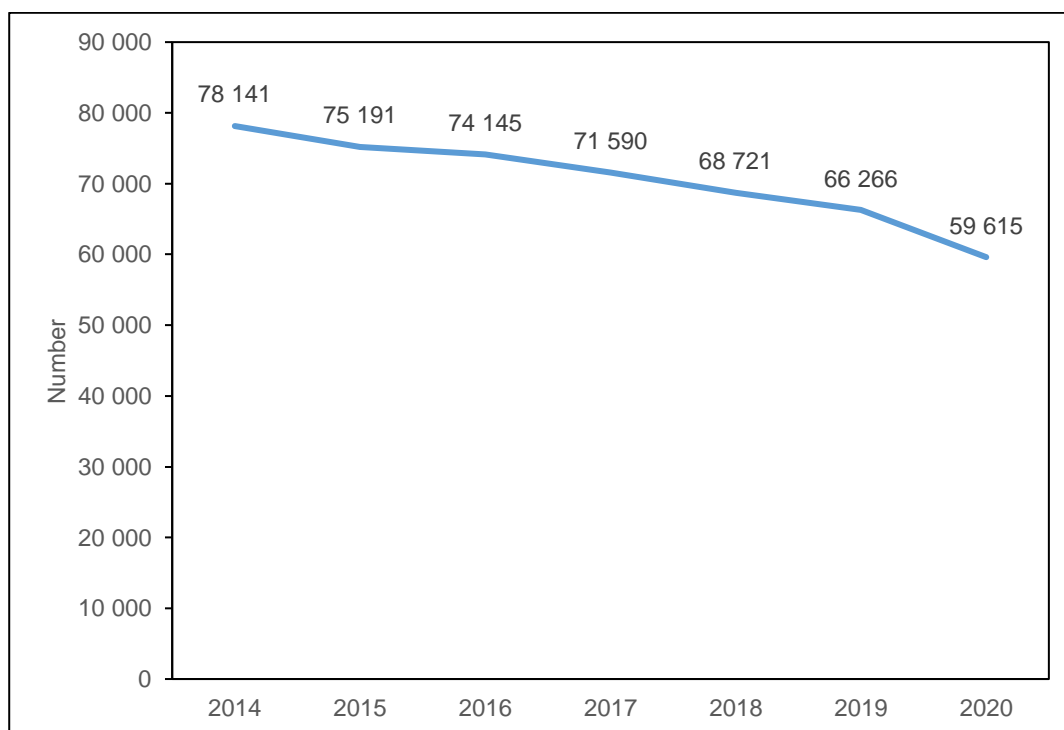
7.0 Background

Youth face greater health risks around the world, including physical and psychological trauma from sexual abuse, gender-based violence, other forms of accident and diseases in general¹¹. According to N de Wet-Billings (2021), Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) cause premature mortality among youth – these include diseases such as strokes, heart diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic kidney diseases just to mention a few. This publication further suggests that younger youth, those aged 15–24 years are becoming more susceptible to non-communicable diseases as a result of their exposure to cheap fast foods and inactive lifestyles, which puts them at risk of lifestyle diseases such as obesity and diabetes. Poverty, unemployment, and a lack of access to quality education increase the risk of high blood pressure and coronary heart disease among young people in low- and middle-income countries¹². South Africa, as a middle-income country, is not immune to the stress-induced lifestyle diseases that are prevalent among young people.

This chapter looks at trends in the causes of death among youth using the data on recorded deaths between 2014 and 2020.

7.1 Death occurrence

Figure 7.1 - Number of registered deaths (15–34 years) by year of death, 2014–2020

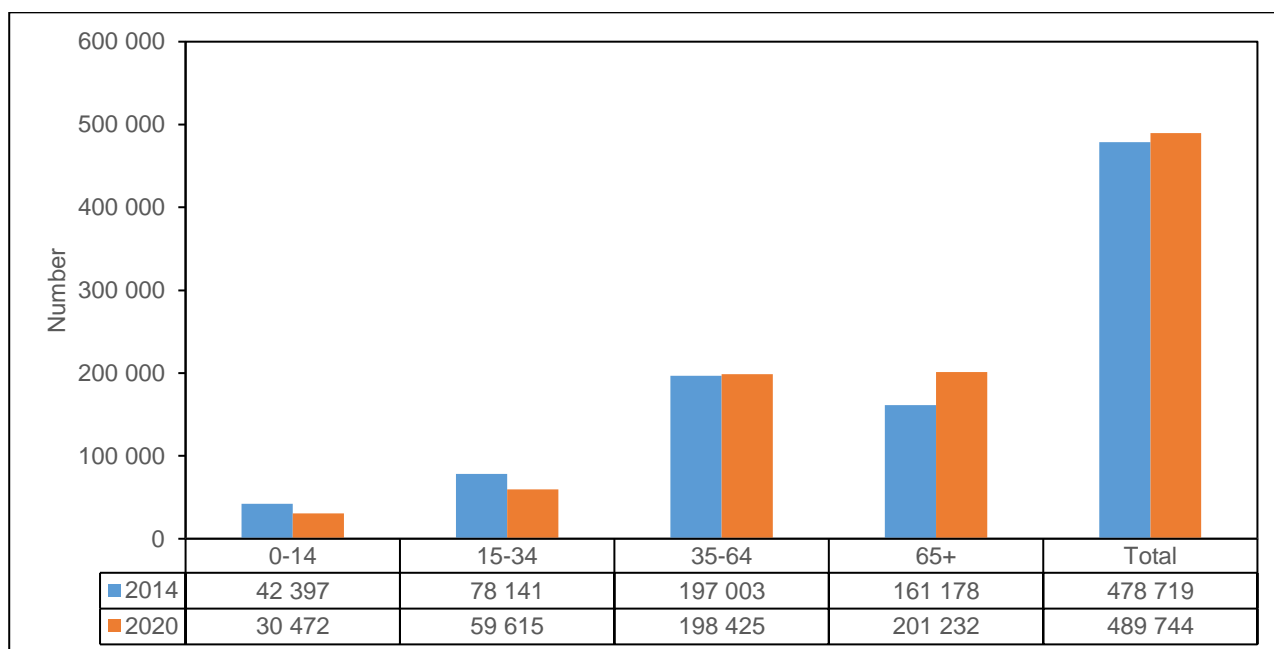


Source: Mortality and Causes of Death, 2014- 2020

Figure 7.1 shows the total number of registered deaths of youth over a period of seven years. Nationally, the number of deaths for the youth declined from 78 141 in 2014 to 59 615 in 2020. The time series analysis revealed a steady decline in the total number of deaths for the youth during the reporting period.

¹¹ Statistics South Africa, 2013. Morbidity and mortality patterns among the youth of South Africa, Report 03-09-12

¹²N de Wet-Billings, 2021. Preventable deaths among youth in South Africa: Measuring life expectancy in the absence of noncommunicable diseases and its implications for the healthcare system

Figure 7.2 - Total number of deaths by age groups, 2014 and 2020

Source: Mortality and Causes of Death, 2014 & 2020

Figure 7.2 shows the total number of youth deaths by age groups in 2014 and 2020. In 2014, most recorded deaths were amongst those aged 35–64 years followed by those aged 65 years and above. In 2020, the deaths were more prevalent for those aged 65 or more followed by those 35–64 years. Deaths that occurred among those aged 15–34 were the third highest in both years. The young people recorded a lower number of deaths as compared to the older age groups.

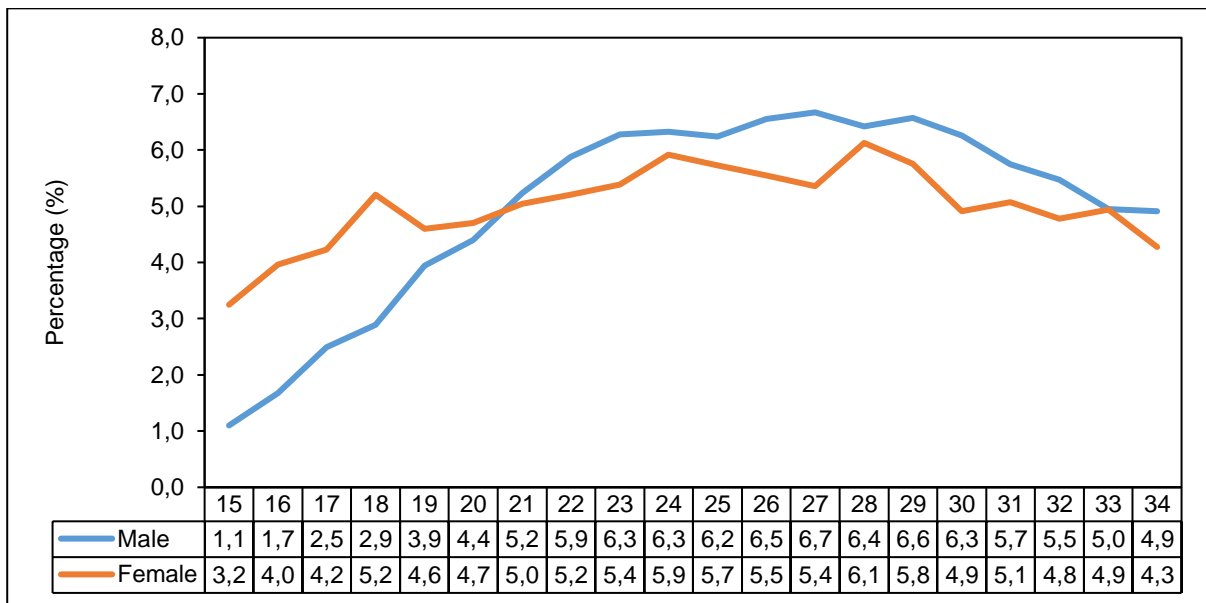
Table 7.1 - Number of deaths by sex and age groups, 2014 and 2020

Age groups	2014			2020		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
	N ('000)					
0–14	23	19	42	16	14	30
15–34	43	34	78	36	23	60
35–64	115	82	197	111	87	198
65 +	69	91	161	86	115	201
Total	250	226	479	249	238	490
	Per cent					
0–14	9,1	8,5	8,9	6,6	5,7	6,2
15–34	17,3	15,2	16,3	14,5	9,7	12,2
35–64	45,9	36,1	41,2	44,5	36,3	40,5
65+	27,7	40,3	33,7	34,5	48,3	41,1
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: Mortality and Causes of Death, 2014 & 2020

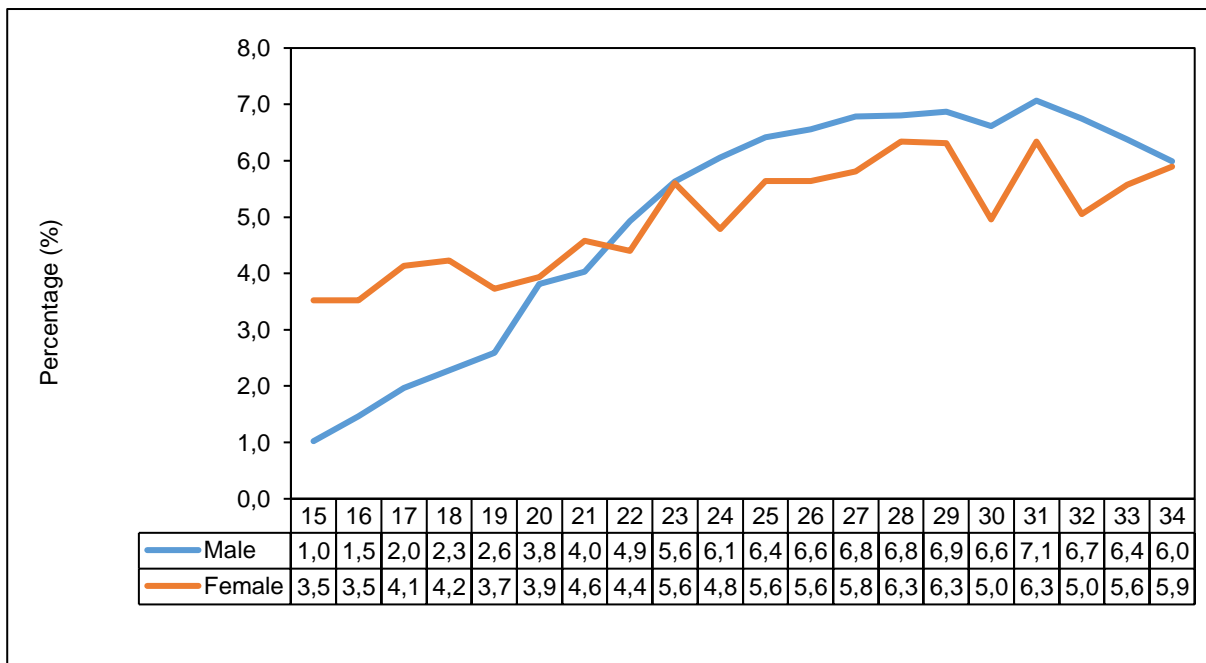
Tables 7.1 shows the number of deaths that occurred by sex and age group in 2014 and 2020. In 2014, 479 000 deaths were reported, with 250 thousand male deaths and 226 thousand female deaths. In 2020, the reported deaths increased to 490 thousand, with 249 thousand male deaths and 238 thousand female deaths. Both males and females aged 35 to 64 and 65 and older accounted for the highest percentage of deaths in both years. Males recorded higher mortality rates compared to females, except for those aged 65 and older.

Figure 7.3a - Percentage of youth deaths by age and sex, 2014



Source: Mortality and Causes of Death, 2014

Figure 7.3b - Percentage of youth deaths by age and sex, 2020

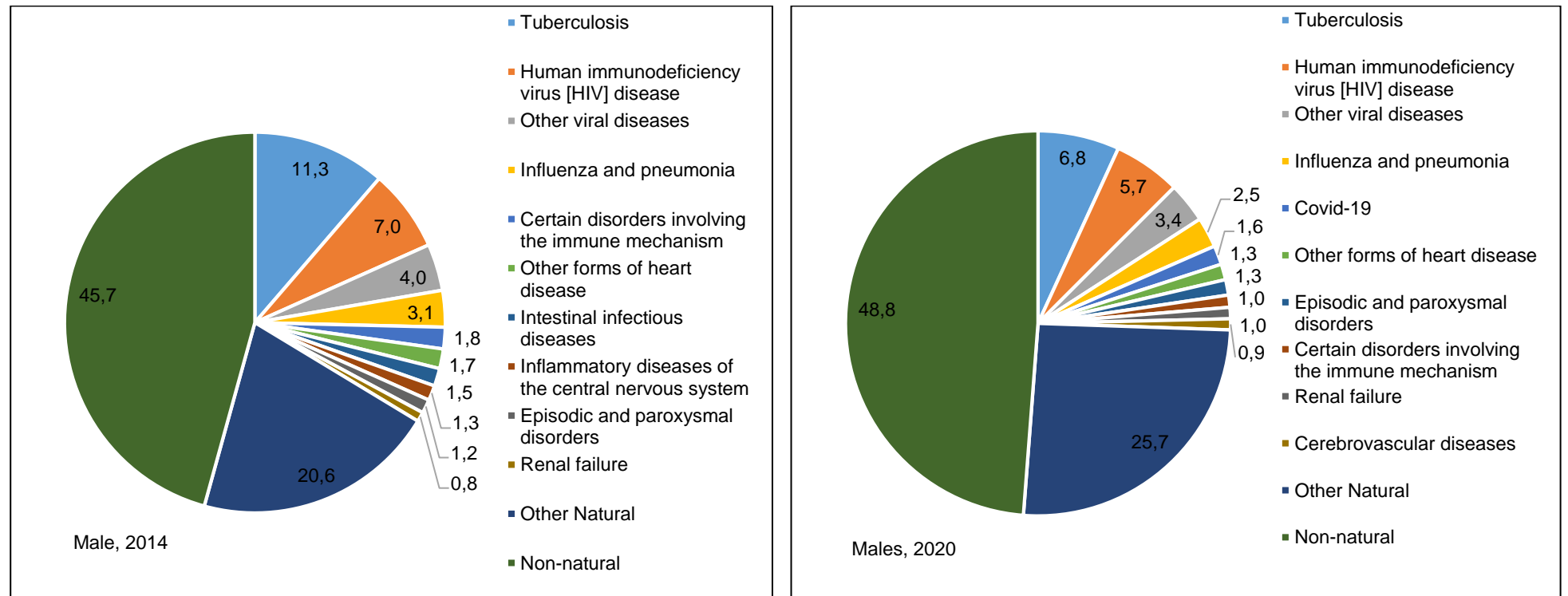


Source: Mortality and Causes of Death, 2020

Figures 7.3a and 7.3b show the percentage of all youth deaths, by age and sex during 2014 and 2020. In 2014, as depicted in figure 7.3a, a higher percentage of young females between the ages 15 to 20 died compared to young males, while the young male deaths were higher than the young female deaths from age 21 to 34. Figure 7.3b shows that young females recorded a higher percentage of deaths for ages 15 to 21 than their male counterparts in 2020. The contrary was observed for the youth aged 22 and those aged 24 to 34.

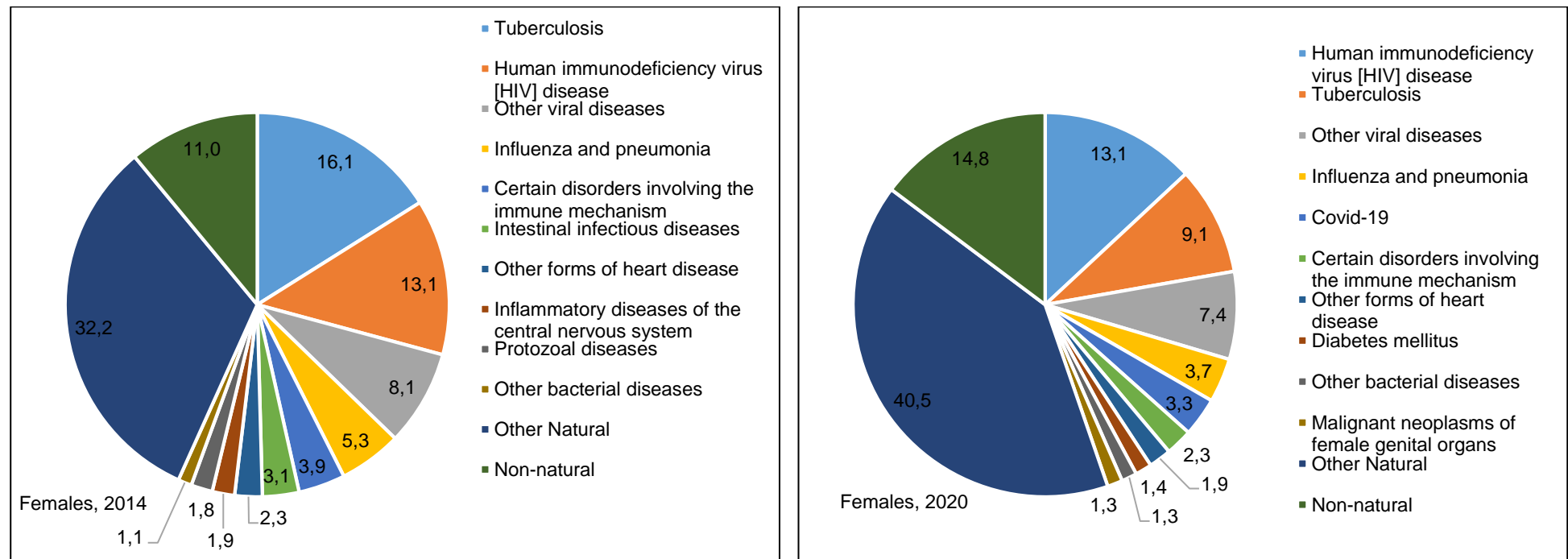
7.2 Causes of death of youth (15 to 34 years)

Figure 7.4a - Most common broad underlying causes of male deaths, 2014 and 2020



Source: Mortality and Causes of Death, 2014 & 2020

Figure 7.4b - Most common broad underlying causes of female deaths, 2014 and 2020



Source: Mortality and Causes of Death, 2014 & 2020

Non-natural causes of death comprise all deaths that were not attributable or may not have been attributable to natural causes. Figures 7.4a and 7.4b show the most common broad underlying causes of death by sex for 2014 and 2020. “Non-natural causes”, was a major cause of death for youth males (45,7% in 2014 and 48,8% in 2020) followed by other natural causes (20,6% in 2014 and 25,7% in 2020) and Tuberculosis (11,3% and 6,8% in 2020). The major cause of death for young females was “other natural causes” (32,2 % in 2014 and 40,5% in 2020). The second major cause of death for female youth was Tuberculosis at 16,1 followed by HIV (13,1%) in 2014. In 2020, HIV was the second major cause of death among female youth and it surpassed Tuberculosis.

Table 7.2 - Main underlying causes of death for the youth by sex, 2014 and 2020

Main group of underlying causes	2014			2020		
	Male	Female	Unspecified	Male	Female	Unspecified
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	25,8	44,1	28,0	18,3	33,7	16,0
Neoplasms	2,0	3,7	2,1	2,0	4,4	1,5
Diseases of the blood and immune mechanism	2,3	5,2	3,5	1,5	3,3	1,5
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	1,0	1,7	0,9	1,4	2,2	1,3
Mental and behavioural disorders	0,1	0,1	0,2	0,5	0,2	0,2
Diseases of the nervous system	3,1	3,2	2,8	2,8	2,7	2,0
Diseases of the eye and adnexa	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Diseases of the ear and mastoid process	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Diseases of the circulatory system	3,5	4,9	4,4	3,8	5,7	3,1
Diseases of the respiratory system	5,0	8,1	7,9	4,8	6,9	6,8
Diseases of the digestive system	2,0	2,6	2,3	1,8	2,5	1,3
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	0,1	0,1	0,0	0,1	0,2	0,2
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system etc.	0,1	0,4	0,2	0,1	0,6	0,0
Diseases of the genitourinary system	1,0	1,6	1,2	1,1	1,6	0,4
Pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium	0,0	2,4	0,0	0,0	1,7	0,0
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,2
Congenital malformations	0,1	0,2	0,0	0,1	0,2	0,0
Symptoms and signs not elsewhere classified	8,0	10,5	12,5	11,3	16,1	14,2
Covid-19	0,0	0,0	0,0	1,6	3,3	0,7
External causes of morbidity and mortality	45,7	11,0	34,0	48,8	14,8	50,5
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: Mortality and Causes of Death, 2014 & 2020

Table 7.2 shows the main underlying causes of death for the youth by sex in 2014 and 2020. For the reference period, the majority of males died of external causes of morbidity and mortality while their female counterparts died of certain infectious and parasitic diseases. In 2014, around 45,7% of males died from morbidity and mortality external causes. This number increased by 3,1 percentage points to 48,8% in 2020, whereas only 11,0% and 14,8% of females died from this cause in 2014 and 2020 respectively. Infectious and parasitic diseases were the leading cause of death among females accounting 44,1 % in 2014 and 33,7% in 2020. However, infections and parasitic diseases accounted for 25,8% and 18,3% of male deaths in 2014 and 2020 respectively. In 2020, there was a pandemic of Covid-19 worldwide. Although Covid-19 mainly affected older persons, it was recorded among the top eight main underlying causes of death for both young female and males in 2020. The females (3,3%) were more likely to die of Covid-19 than their male counterparts (1,6%).

7.3 Certain infectious and parasitic diseases

This section discusses the top three most common causes of youth deaths as presented in Table 7.2, namely: “certain infectious and parasitic diseases”, “external causes of morbidity and mortality” and “diseases of the respiratory system”. The analysis breaks down the underlying causes that are summarised under the heading of “certain infectious and parasitic diseases”.

Table 7.3 - Certain infectious and parasitic diseases (youth 15–34) by sex, 2014 and 2020

Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	2014			2020		
	Male	Female	*Total	Male	Female	*Total
Intestinal infectious diseases	5,8	7,0	6,5	3,5	2,9	3,1
Tuberculosis	43,9	36,5	39,6	37,5	27,1	31,8
Other bacterial diseases	2,5	2,6	2,5	4,2	3,8	4,0
Infections with a predominantly sexual mode of transmission	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,2	0,1
Other spirochaetal diseases	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Rickettsioses	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Viral infections of the central nervous system	0,2	0,1	0,1	0,2	0,2	0,2
Arthropod-borne viral fevers and viral haemorrhagic fevers	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Viral infections characterized by skin and mucous membrane lesions	0,2	0,2	0,2	0,1	0,0	0,1
Viral hepatitis	0,4	0,3	0,3	0,5	0,3	0,4
Human immunodeficiency virus [HIV] disease	27,1	29,8	28,6	30,9	38,8	35,2
Other viral diseases	15,4	18,3	17,0	18,5	21,9	20,4
Mycoses	0,9	0,9	0,9	1,2	0,9	1,0
Protozoal diseases	3,0	4,1	3,6	2,5	3,3	2,9
Helminthiases	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,0	0,1
Pediculosis, acariasis and other infestations	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Sequelae of infectious and parasitic diseases	0,4	0,3	0,3	0,7	0,6	0,6
Other infectious diseases	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

*Totals include unspecified and unknown

Source: Mortality and Causes of Death, 2014 & 2020

Table 7.3 shows the infectious and parasitic diseases as underlying causes of deaths amongst young males and females during 2014 and 2020. Generally, tuberculosis and HIV were the two most common causes of death for the youth in both years. In 2014, tuberculosis ranked number 1 and HIV surpassed it in 2020. Gender variations shows that the highest cause of deaths for both males and females was tuberculosis in 2014 (males: 43,9% and females: 36,5%). Tuberculosis remained the leading cause of death for males (37,5%) in 2020 while, the leading cause of the death for females (38,8%) was human immunodeficiency virus [HIV] disease. The second highest cause of death for both males and females during 2014 was human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease at 27,1% for males and 29,8% for females. The females reported the highest percentage point of HIV as the cause of death increasing by 9,0 percentage points (from 29,8% in 2014 to 38,8% in 2020).

7.4 Diseases of the respiratory system

Table 7.4 - Diseases of the respiratory systems for youth (15–34) by sex, 2014 and 2020

Diseases of respiratory system	2014			2020		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	* Total
Acute upper respiratory infections	12	19	31	42	38	80
Influenza and pneumonia	1 348	1 823	3 194	918	859	1 796
Other acute lower respiratory infections	253	327	583	236	214	452
Total	1 613	2 169	3 808	1 196	1 111	2 328
	Per cent					
Acute upper respiratory infections	0,7	0,9	0,8	3,5	3,4	3,4
Influenza and pneumonia	83,6	84,0	83,9	76,8	77,3	77,1
Other acute lower respiratory infections	15,7	15,1	15,3	19,7	19,3	19,4
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

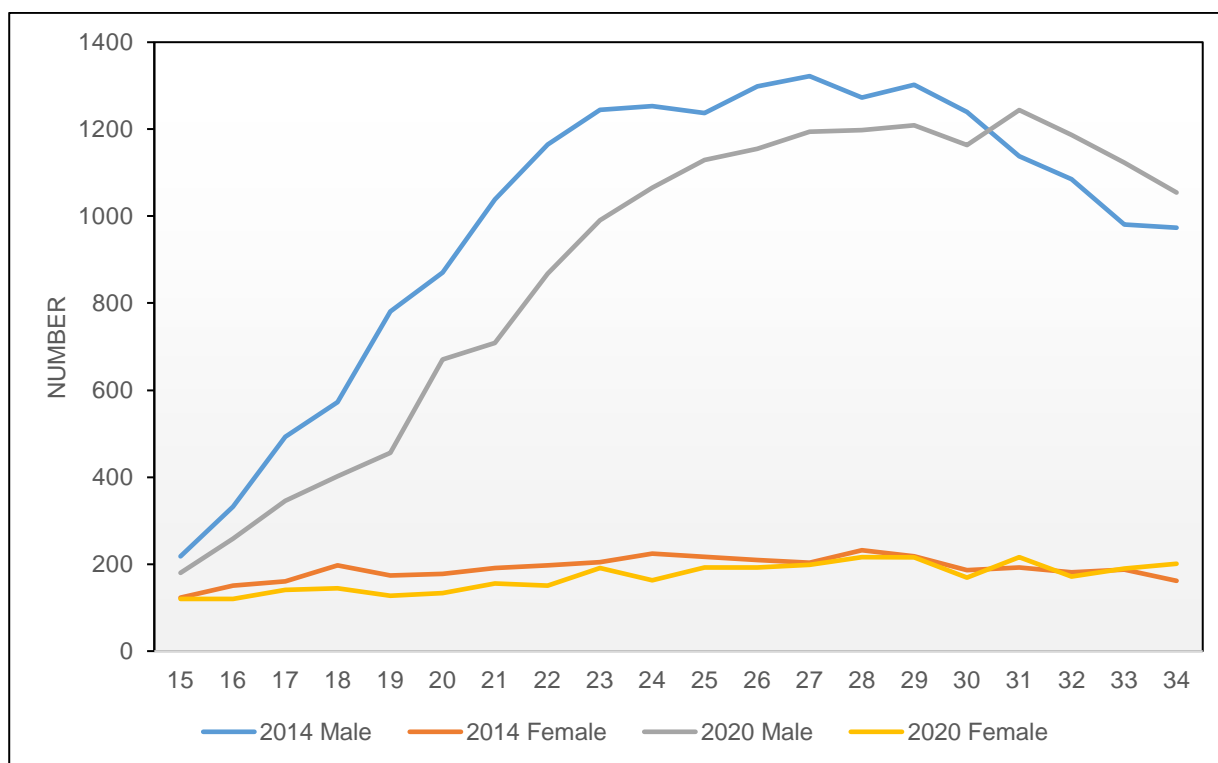
*Totals exclude unspecified and unknown

Source: Mortality and Causes of Death, 2014 & 2020

Table 7.4 shows the major underlying reasons for deaths that were classified as being respiratory system diseases during 2014 and 2020. The highest percentage of deaths from respiratory diseases were due to “influenza and pneumonia” in both years (83,9% in 2014 and 77,1% in 2020) and the second largest recorded disease was other acute lower respiratory infections (15,3% in 2014 and 19,4% in 2020. Both young males and females were more likely to die from “influenza and pneumonia” for the reference period.

7.5 External causes of morbidity and mortality

Figure 7.5 - Actual number of deaths for youth from external causes of morbidity and mortality by age, 2014 and 2020



Source: Mortality and Causes of Death, 2014 & 2020

Figure 7.5 depicts the actual number of deaths for youth from external causes of morbidity and mortality by single years. The analysis shows the significant difference between males and females in the actual numbers of deaths resulting from external causes of mortality and morbidity. Generally, male youth recorded the highest number of deaths resulting from external causes compared to their female counterparts. Both males and females depicted a fluctuating pattern from 15 to 34 years.

Table 7.5 - External causes of morbidity and mortality for youth by sex, 2014 and 2020

Broad group of underlying causes	2014		2020	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
	Number			
Transport accidents	2 167	569	1 525	443
Other external causes of accidental injury	10 068	1 933	12 042	2 115
Intentional self-harm	287	84	90	26
Assault	3 730	354	3 176	334
Event of undetermined intent	3 455	736	736	451
Complications of medical and surgical care	104	110	32	36
Sequelae of external causes of morbidity and mortality	6	0	3	2
Total	19 817	3 786	17 604	3 407
	Per cent			
Transport accidents	10,9	15,0	8,7	13,0
Other external causes of accidental injury	50,8	51,1	68,4	62,1
Intentional self-harm	1,4	2,2	0,5	0,8
Assault	18,8	9,4	18,0	9,8
Event of undetermined intent	17,4	19,4	4,2	13,2
Complications of medical and surgical care	0,5	2,9	0,2	1,1
Sequelae of external causes of morbidity and mortality	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,1
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: Mortality and Causes of Death, 2014 & 2020

Table 7.5 provides the immediate underlying causes of death due to external causes of morbidity and mortality that occurred during 2014 and 2020. The analysis revealed that most of the reasons for male and female deaths in this regard were as a result of "other external causes of accidental injury"; 50,8% and 68,4% for males in 2014 and 2020 respectively; and 51,1 % and 62,1% for females in 2014 and 2020 respectively. For the reference period, both males and females recorded an increase in this type of cause of death. The second highest cause for males was "assault" at 18,8% in 2014 and 18,0 % in 2020. Similarly, the second highest cause of death for females in 2014 was the event of undetermined intent at 19,4% in 2014 and 13,2% in 2020. Young males were more likely to die from assault than females during the reported period, with the male death rate nearly twice that of females.

7.6 Main causes of death by province where death occurred

The following tables show the percentages of the top four causes of youth deaths as percentages of all the causes of death within each province for males and females.

Table 7.6a - Top 4 causes of youth deaths by province of occurrence and sex, 2014

Province of death	Tuberculosis		HIV		Other viral diseases		Other external causes of accidental injury	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Western Cape	7,0	4,3	11,3	11,9	2,4	3,0	15,8	11,0
Eastern Cape	13,8	16,2	19,2	21,6	14,9	15,0	13,5	13,2
Northern Cape	2,4	2,4	4,1	5,1	2,4	2,0	1,4	1,4
Free State	7,9	6,5	6,0	5,1	8,1	7,6	5,4	7,0
KwaZulu-Natal	30,6	27,2	28,0	25,3	29,1	25,1	22,4	22,0
North West	6,9	7,0	6,0	5,6	7,4	6,3	4,0	4,4
Gauteng	16,6	17,0	11,8	10,9	15,7	16,1	22,3	21,9
Mpumalanga	8,5	10,2	9,5	8,2	10,6	11,9	9,2	10,5
Limpopo	6,1	9,0	4,1	6,1	8,8	12,8	5,3	7,0
Outside South Africa	0,2	0,2	0,1	0,2	0,6	0,4	0,7	1,5
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: Mortality and Causes of Death, 2014

Table 7.6b - Top 4 causes of youth deaths by province of occurrence and sex, 2020

Province of death	Tuberculosis		HIV		Other viral diseases		Other external causes of accidental injury	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Western Cape	11,3	8,5	15,6	15,4	3,1	4,3	16,1	11,7
Eastern Cape	19,4	19,6	17,3	19,7	14,4	14,5	14,8	13,9
Northern Cape	3,8	3,5	4,4	4,4	3,3	3,9	1,3	2,5
Free State	5,6	6,5	8,4	8,3	5,8	7,3	4,9	5,8
KwaZulu-Natal	23,2	25,7	22,0	21,6	24,0	21,5	23,7	23,8
North West	6,6	6,4	5,3	5,3	9,2	8,6	4,2	5,3
Gauteng	17,5	15,3	13,5	11,8	22,7	18,9	24,2	23,3
Mpumalanga	5,6	6,2	7,5	5,9	8,6	9,5	6,3	6,7
Limpopo	6,7	8,1	5,8	7,6	8,7	11,5	4,3	6,8
Outside South Africa	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Unspecified	0,1	0,2	0,1	0,1	0,3	0,1	0,2	0,2
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: Mortality and Causes of Death, 2020

Tuberculosis by province

In 2014, the young males recorded the highest percentage of death resulting from tuberculosis than their female counterparts in Western Cape, Free State and KwaZulu-Natal. The majority of youth deaths caused by tuberculosis were in KwaZulu-Natal, followed by Gauteng and Eastern Cape for both males and females. In 2020, the opposite was observed for KwaZulu-Natal and Free State where young females were more likely to die of tuberculosis than their male counterparts. Western Cape recorded the largest percentage increase of young females who died as a result of tuberculosis at 4,2 percentage points (from 4,3% in 2014 to 8,5% in 2020) while Eastern Cape showed the same pattern for males at 5,6 percentage points (from 13,8% in 2014 to 19,4% in 2020) for the reference period.

HIV by province

Males were more likely to die from deaths caused by HIV than their female counterparts in five out of nine provinces for both years, even though it was different provinces. KwaZulu-Natal (28,0% for males and 25,3% for females) recorded the highest percentage of deaths from HIV in 2014. The same pattern was observed in 2020 (22,0% for males and 21,6% for females). In 2020, Northern Cape and North West recorded the lowest percentage of youth deaths resulting from HIV and they remained constant for both males and females (4,4% and 5,3% respectively). Between 2014 and 2020, Western Cape and Free State recorded the highest percentage increase of the youth who died as a result of HIV for both males and females.

Other viral diseases

KwaZulu-Natal province reported the highest percentage of deaths resulting from other viral diseases in 2014 and 2020 for both males (29,1 % in 2014 and in 24,0% 2020) and females (25,1% in 2014 and 21,5% in 2020). Gauteng recorded the second highest percentage of youth deaths resulting from other viral diseases for both male and female deaths, followed by Eastern Cape in both years.

7.7 Conclusion

Nationally, the number of deaths for the youth declined between 2014 and 2020. The majority of the deaths were recorded among the older people compared to young people for both years. Males recorded higher mortality rates compared to females, except for those aged 65 and older. The major cause of death for young males was “non-natural causes” followed by other natural causes and tuberculosis while for young females, the major cause of death was “other natural causes.” The majority of males died of external causes of morbidity and mortality while their female counterparts died of certain infectious and parasitic diseases for both years. Tuberculosis and HIV were the two most common causes of death for the youth in both years. Young males were more likely to die from deaths caused by HIV than their female counterparts in five provinces for both years.

CHAPTER 8: YOUTH AND DISABILITY

8.0 Background

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) emphasises on the notion of leaving no one behind. It is therefore important to look at the youth and disability as this vulnerable group experience marginalisation twice. It is also imperative to have an inclusive education that continuously enhances and improves education for everyone; this includes access and support to persons with disabilities. This section uses data from Census 2011 and 2022 to explore disability among the youth.

8.1 Disability prevalence of youth

Table 8.1 - Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by type of domain and degree of difficulty in functioning, 2011 and 2022

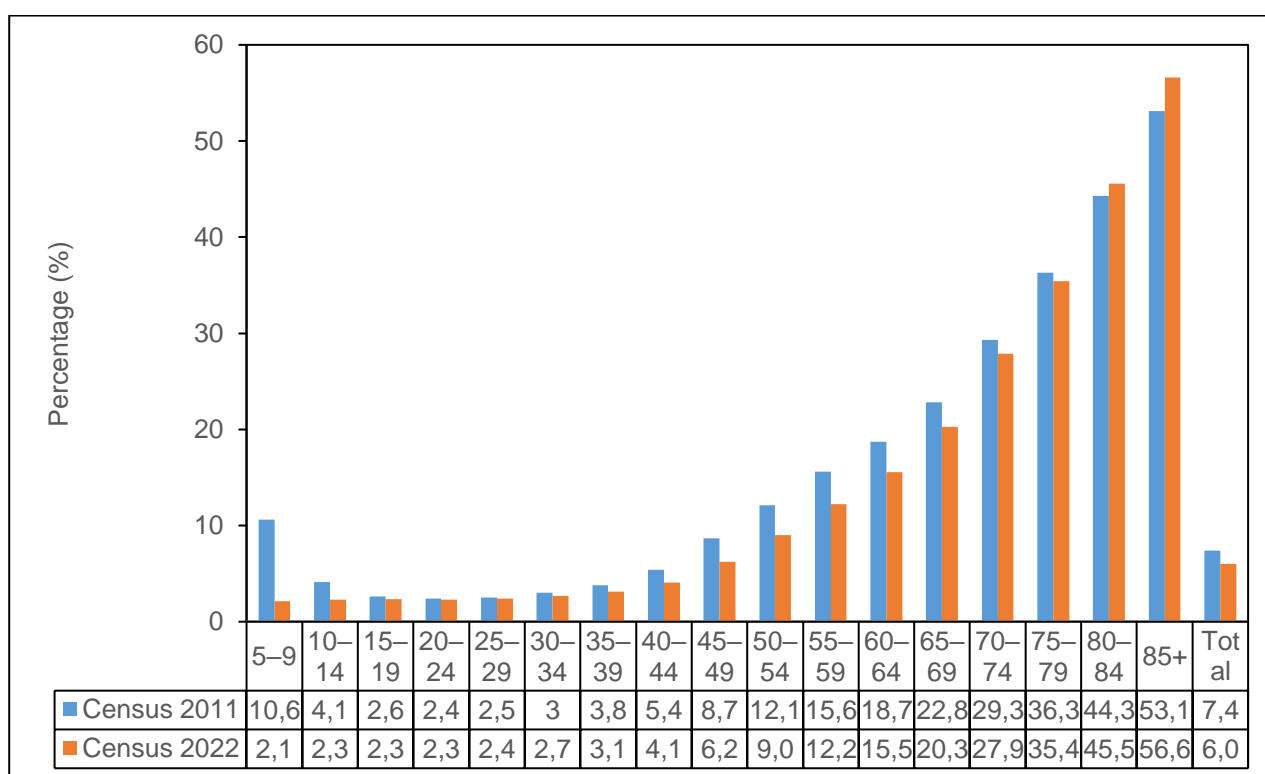
Type of domain and degree of difficulty in functioning	2011		2022	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Seeing				
No difficulty	17 492 735	94,9	20 050 471	94,9
Some difficulty	808 230	4,4	890 854	4,2
A lot of difficulty	101 532	0,6	152 332	0,7
Cannot do at all	18 637	0,1	10 424	0,0
Do not know	8 029	0,0	18 573	0,1
Total	18 429 164	100,0	21 122 654	100,0
Hearing				
No difficulty	18 094 665	98,4	20 795 018	98,4
Some difficulty	234 869	1,3	257 097	1,2
A lot of difficulty	36 927	0,2	40 839	0,2
Cannot do at all	18 660	0,1	11 968	0,1
Do not know	7 247	0,0	17 594	0,1
Total	18 392 367	100,0	21 122 515	100,0
Communication				
No difficulty	18 188 203	99,1	20 836 671	98,6
Some difficulty	108 793	0,6	213 978	1,0
A lot of difficulty	28 607	0,2	36 853	0,2
Cannot do at all	23 612	0,1	20 374	0,1
Do not know	6 140	0,0	14 578	0,1
Total	18 355 354	100,0	21 122 454	100,0
Walking or climbing stairs				
No difficulty	18 207 614	98,9	20 863 223	98,8
Some difficulty	143 887	0,8	180 781	0,9
A lot of difficulty	30 639	0,2	43 026	0,2
Cannot do at all	23 881	0,1	20 849	0,1
Do not know	4 638	0,0	14 486	0,1
Total	18 410 659	100,0	21 122 365	100,0
Remembering/ concentrating				
No difficulty	18 075 262	98,3	20 789 831	98,4
Some difficulty	227 761	1,2	247 550	1,2
A lot of difficulty	49 596	0,3	55 020	0,3
Cannot do at all	21 025	0,1	13 215	0,1
Do not know	8 036	0,0	16 678	0,1
Total	18 381 680	100,0	21 122 294	100,0

Type of domain and degree of difficulty in functioning	2011		2022	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Self-care				
No difficulty	18 118 045	99,0	20 921 766	99,1
Some difficulty	116 728	0,6	131 149	0,6
A lot of difficulty	28 280	0,2	29 963	0,1
Cannot do at all	34 635	0,2	24 414	0,1
Do not know	8 134	0,0	14 949	0,1
Total	18 305 822	100,0	21 122 240	100,0

Source: Census 2011 & 2022

Table 8.1 shows the youth population (15–34 years) by degree of difficulty in any of six functional domains for 2011 and 2022. Overall, the majority (over 90%) of youth had no difficulty in functioning in all six domains measured. There was no significant difference among the proportions of youth by degree of difficulty in all the domains. Noticeably, the youth recorded an increase in the percentage of those who experienced a lot of difficulty in seeing, some difficulty in communication and walking or climbing stairs in the eleven-year period.

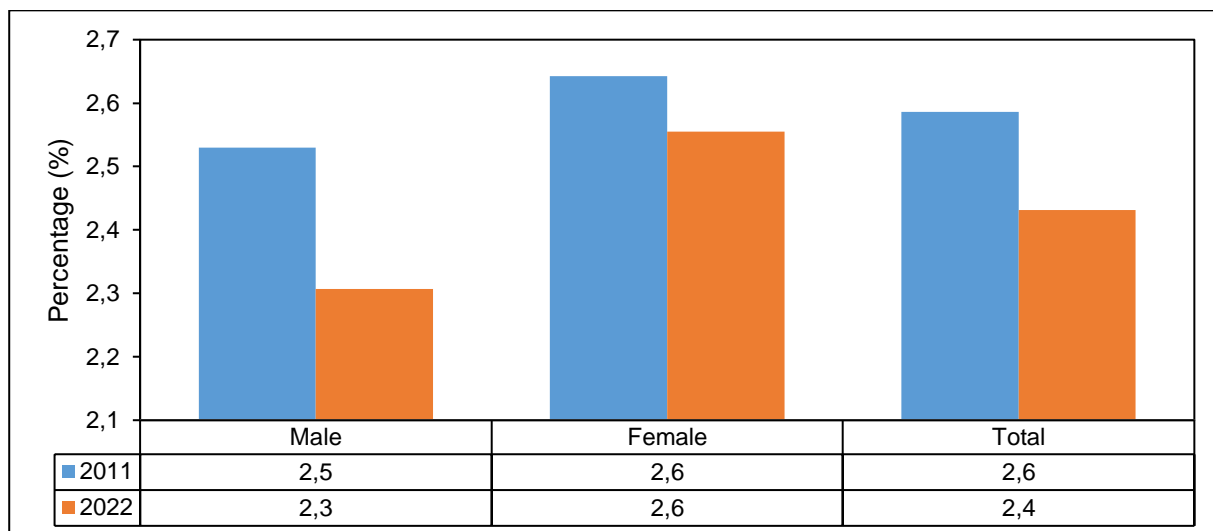
Figure 8.1 - Disability prevalence by age group, 2011 and 2022



Source: Census 2011 & 2022

Figure 8.1 shows the disability prevalence by age group in 2011 and 2022. The disability prevalence decreased by 1,4 percentage points (from 7,4% in 2011 to 6,0% in 2022). Between 2011 and 2022, the disability prevalence decreased in all the age groups of the youth. The group aged 30 to 34 years reported the highest disability prevalence (3,0% in 2011 and 2,7% in 2022).

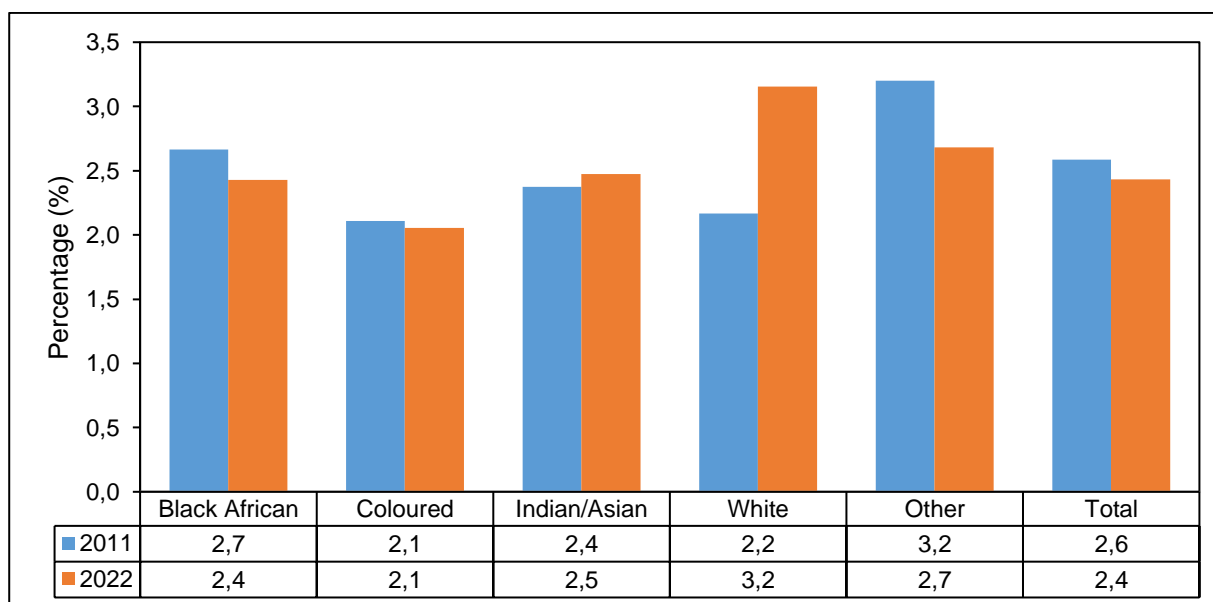
Figure 8.2 - Distribution of persons aged 15–34 years old by sex and disability status, 2011 and 2022



Source: Census 2011 & 2022

Figure 8.2 shows the distribution of persons aged 15–34 years old by sex and disability status in 2011 and 2022. Nationally, the percentage of persons aged 15–34 with disabilities slightly decreased from 2,6% in 2011 to 2,4% in 2022. The analysis showed that young females were more likely to have disability as compared to their male counterparts for both years. Young males recorded the smallest percentage of those with disability (2,5% in 2011 and 2,3% in 2022) while young females recorded a constant disability prevalence of 2,6% for both years for the reference period.

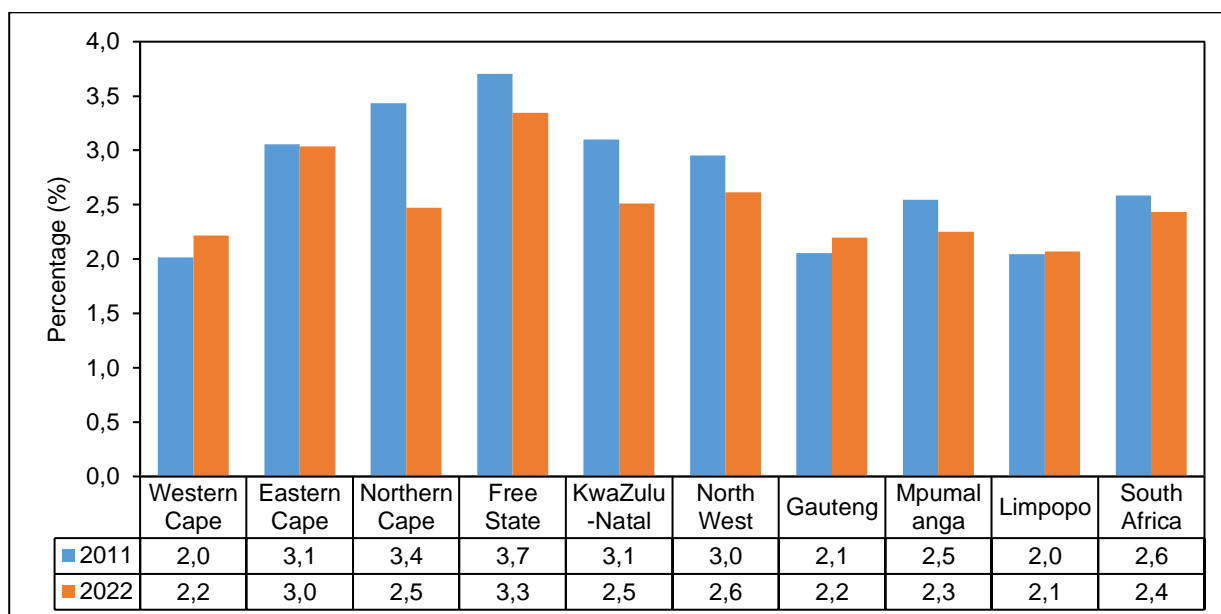
Figure 8.3 - Distribution of persons aged 15–34 years old by population group and disability status, 2011 and 2022



Source: Census 2011 & 2022

The analysis revealed that the white youth with disability recorded the largest increase of 1,0 percentage point (from 2,2% in 2011 to 3,2% in 2022). The coloured youth maintained a stable disability status, with no change in the proportions. In 2022, the disability prevalence was highest among the white, other and Indian/Asian youths. Although the black African youth recorded the second largest disability prevalence in 2011, it recorded the second lowest in 2022. Among all the population groups, Indian/Asian youth and white youth recorded an increase in the disability prevalence with the white youth recording the largest.

Figure 8.4 - Distribution of persons aged 15–34 by province and disability status, 2011 and 2022



Source: Census 2011 & 2022

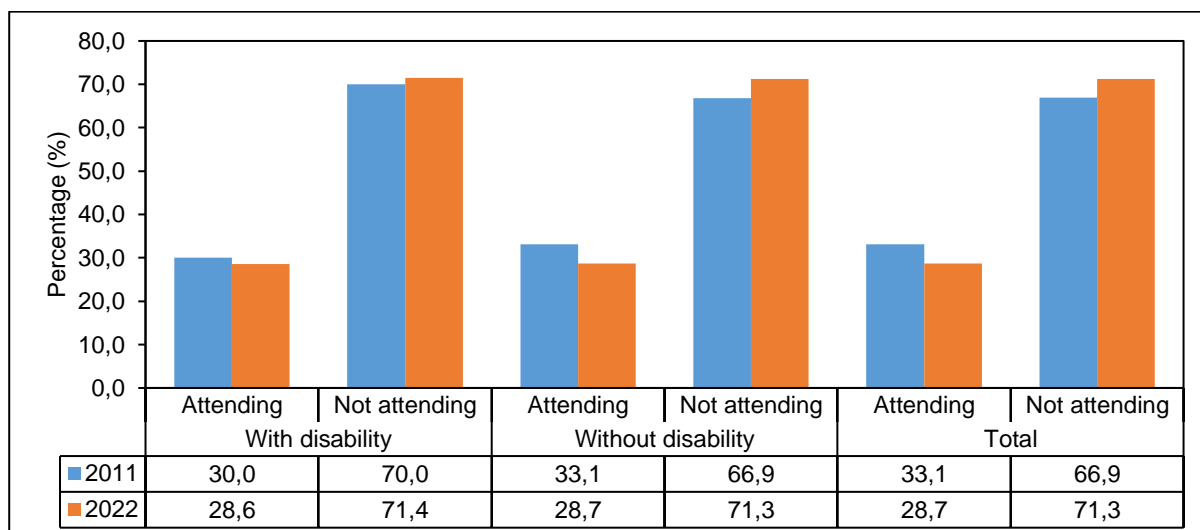
Figure 8.4 depicts the youth prevalence of disability in provinces in 2011 and 2022. For the reference period, three provinces showed an increasing trend in the proportion of youth living with disabilities (Namely: Western Cape, Gauteng and Limpopo). Northern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal showed a huge reduction (0,9 and 0,6 of a percentage points respectively) in disability prevalence among the youth. Limpopo, Gauteng and Western Cape recorded the lowest percentage of disability prevalence among the youth for both years.

8.2 Disability status of youth by education attendance

Education is very important as it empowers people and everyone has the right to education¹³ including young people with disabilities. Education empowers the youth and advances their skill level and knowledge, enabling them to be competitive in the labour market. The analysis in this section focuses on school attendance for persons aged 15–34 years old to ascertain the extent of educational accessibility by persons with disability in the country. The comparison is made among those with and without disability for both censuses 2011 and 2022. The results are disaggregated by variables such as sex, population group and age group.

¹³ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 26

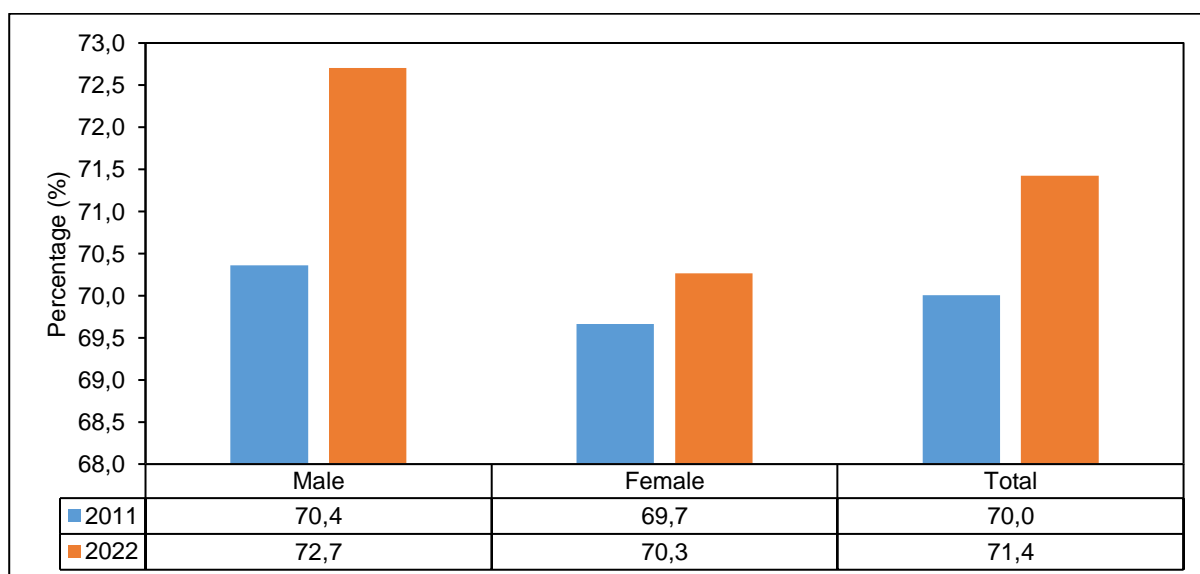
Figure 8.5 - Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by disability status and educational attendance, 2011 and 2022



Source: Census 2011 & 2022

Figure 8.5 depicts the distribution of youth (15–34 years) by disability status and educational attendance in 2011 and 2022. Generally, there was no significant difference in terms of attendance at an educational institution between 2011 and 2022. For the reference period, the percentage of youth with disabilities who did not attend an educational institution increased by 1,4 percentage points (from 70,0% in 2011 to 71,4% in 2022). The higher number of non-attendance of youth at the educational institution might be explained by the fact that most of the youth are expected to be employed or looking for a job and out of school. There was a decrease in the percentage of youth attending educational institution compared to those not attending where the opposite was observed.

Figure 8.6 - Percentage of persons aged 15–34 years with disabilities not attending an educational institution by sex, 2011 and 2022



Source: Census 2011 & 2022

Figure 8.6 shows the percentage of youth with disabilities not attending an educational institution for 2011 and 2022. Gender disparities revealed that, young males with disabilities were more likely to not attend an educational institution (70,4 in 2011 and 72,7% in 2022) compared to their female counterparts (69,7% in 2011 and 70,3% in 2022).

Figure 8.7 - Percentage of persons aged 15–34 years with disabilities not attending an educational institution by population group, 2011 and 2022

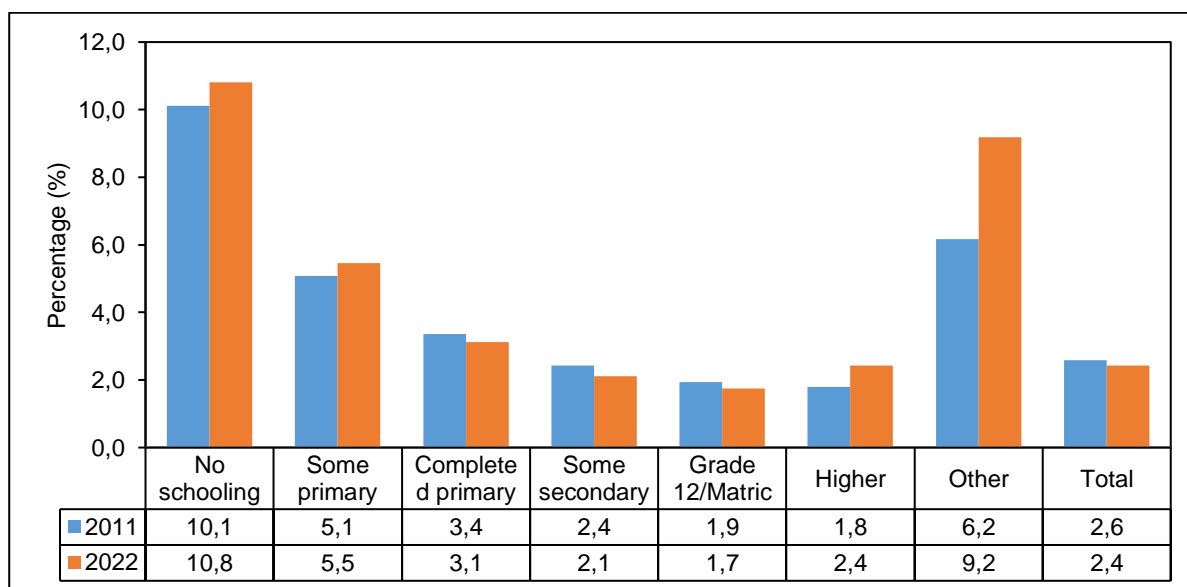


Source: Census 2011 & 2022

Figure 8.7 shows the percentage of youth with disabilities not attending an educational institution by population group in 2011 and 2022. For the reference period, there was an increase in the percentage of youth with disabilities not attending an educational institution among black African (from 69,1% in 2011 to 70,9% in 2022) and coloured (from 76,6% in 2011 to 77,0% in 2022) population groups. Between 2011 and 2022, the other population recorded a decrease of 6,6 percentage points (from 86,1% in 2011 to 79,5% in 2022) of the youth with disabilities not attending an educational institution. The percentage of youth with disabilities that were not attending school were highest amongst “other,” followed by the coloured and Indian/Asian population groups for both years.

8.3 Disability status of youth by educational attainment

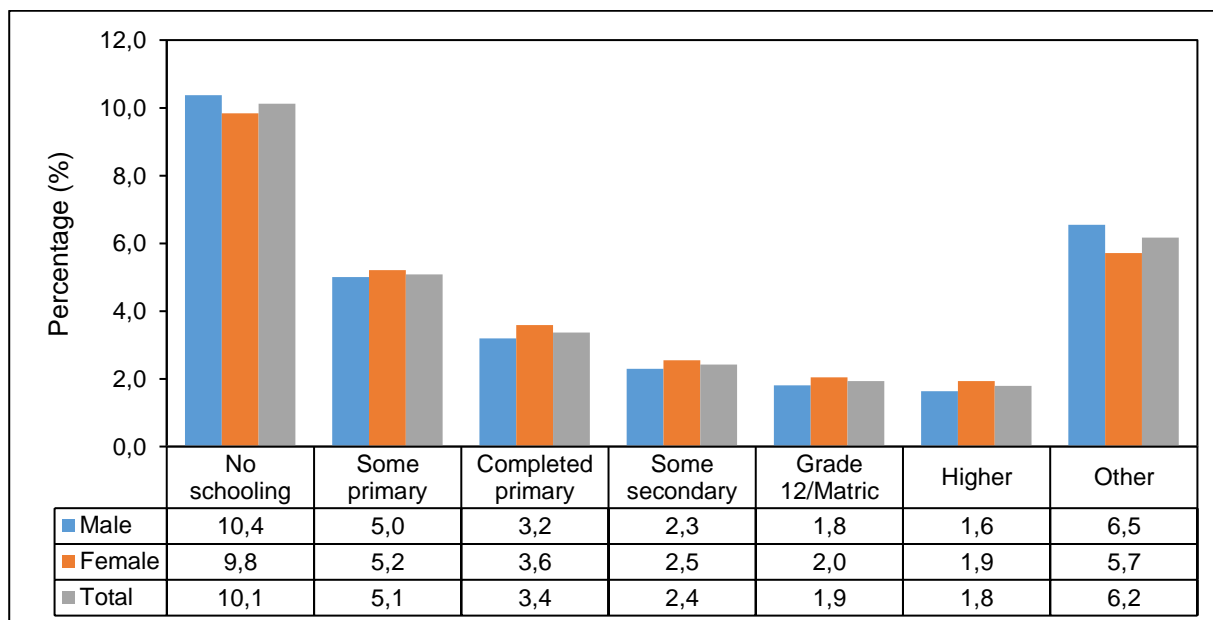
Figure 8.8 - Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by disability status and highest level of education completed, 2011 and 2022



Source: Census 2011 & 2022

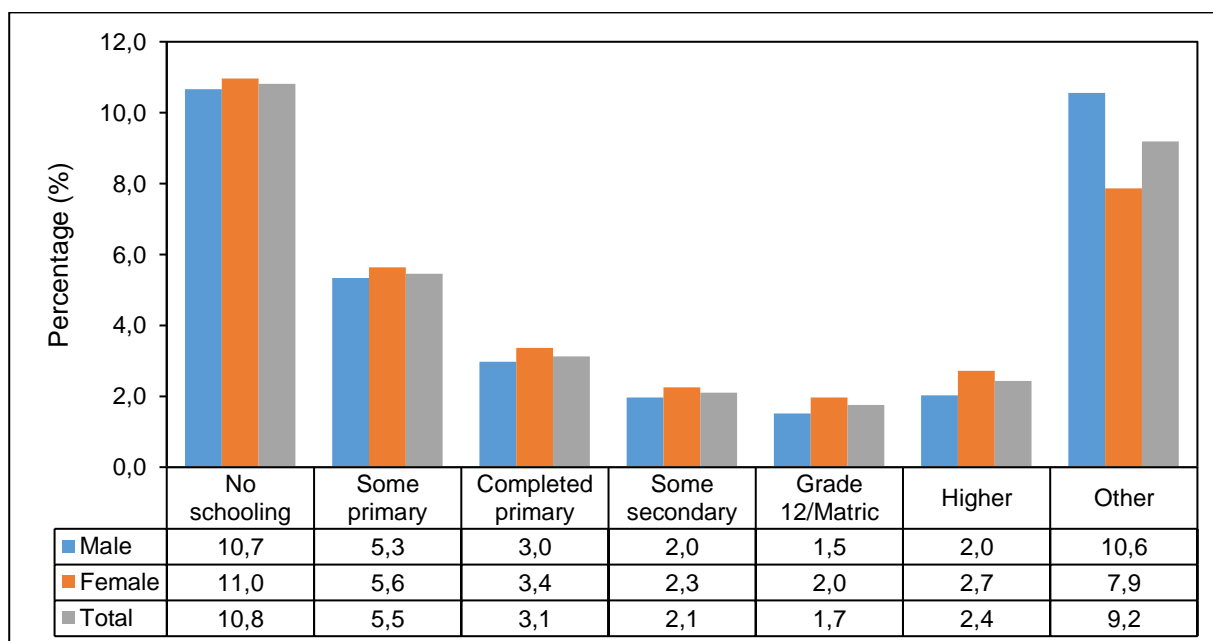
Figure 8.8 shows the distribution of youth by disability status and highest level of education attained in 2011 and 2022. Generally, the analysis revealed that the majority of youth with disability had no schooling as the highest educational level (10,1% in 2011 to 10,8% in 2022). The percentage of youth living with disability who had no schooling, attained some primary, higher and “other” increased between 2011 and 2022. Conversely, the percentage of those who completed primary, some secondary and grade 12 decreased. The youth living with disability who attained “other” as a qualification had the highest percentage at 6,2% in 2011 and 9,2% in 2022, increasing by 3,0 percentage points.

Figure 8.9a - Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by disability status, sex and highest level of education completed, 2011



Source: Census 2011

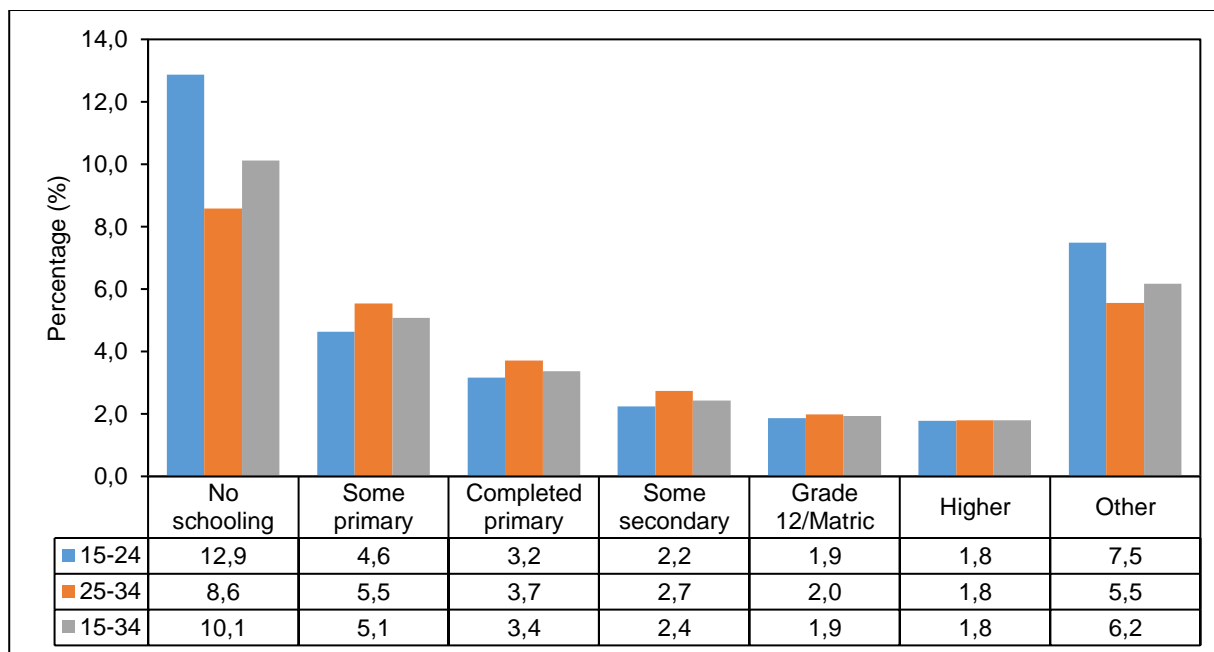
Figure 8.9b - Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by disability status, sex and highest level of education completed, 2022



Source: Census 2022

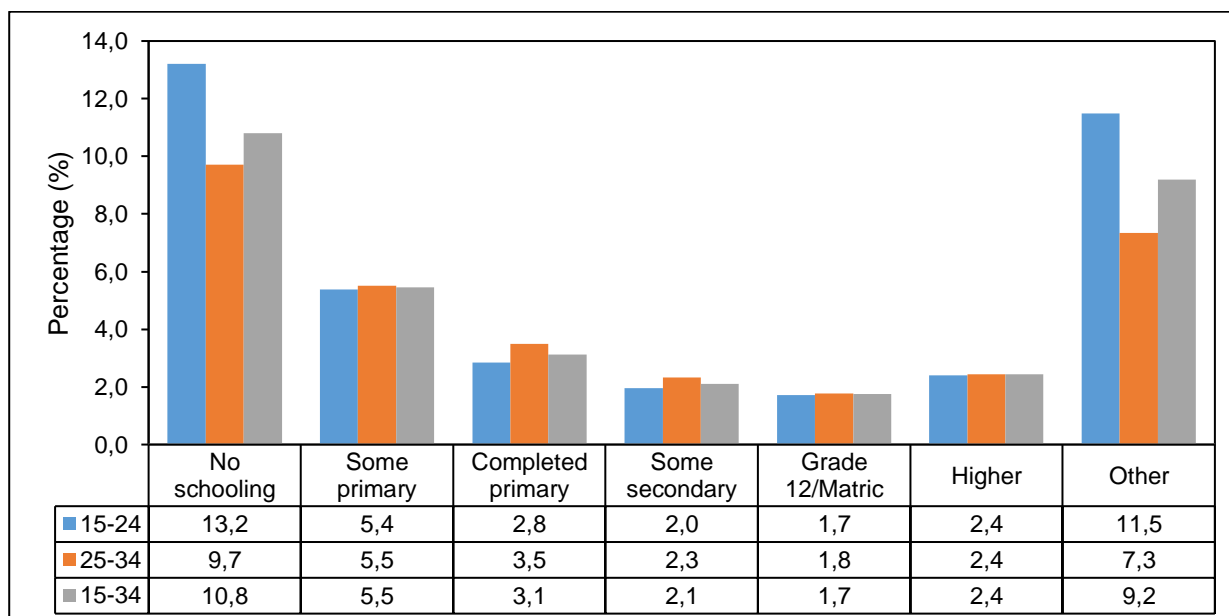
Figure 8.9a and 8.9b shows the distribution of youth by disability status, sex and educational attainment for 2011 and 2022. For the reference period, the female youth with disability were more likely to attain the “higher” educational attainment than their male counterparts. The male youth living with disability recorded the highest percentage increase at 4,1 percentage points (from 6,5% in 2011 to 10,6% in 2022) of those who attained other qualification for the reference period. Conversely, both youth males and females living with disability recorded a drop in those who completed primary and some secondary for the reference period. For the youth living with disability who attained Grade 12 as a highest qualification, a drop of 0,3 percentage points (from 1,8% in 2011 to 1,5% in 2022) for males was recorded while females remained constant at 2,0%.

Figure 8.10a - Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by disability status, age group and highest level of education completed, 2011



Source: Census 2011

Figure 8.10b - Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by disability status, age group and highest level of education completed, 2022

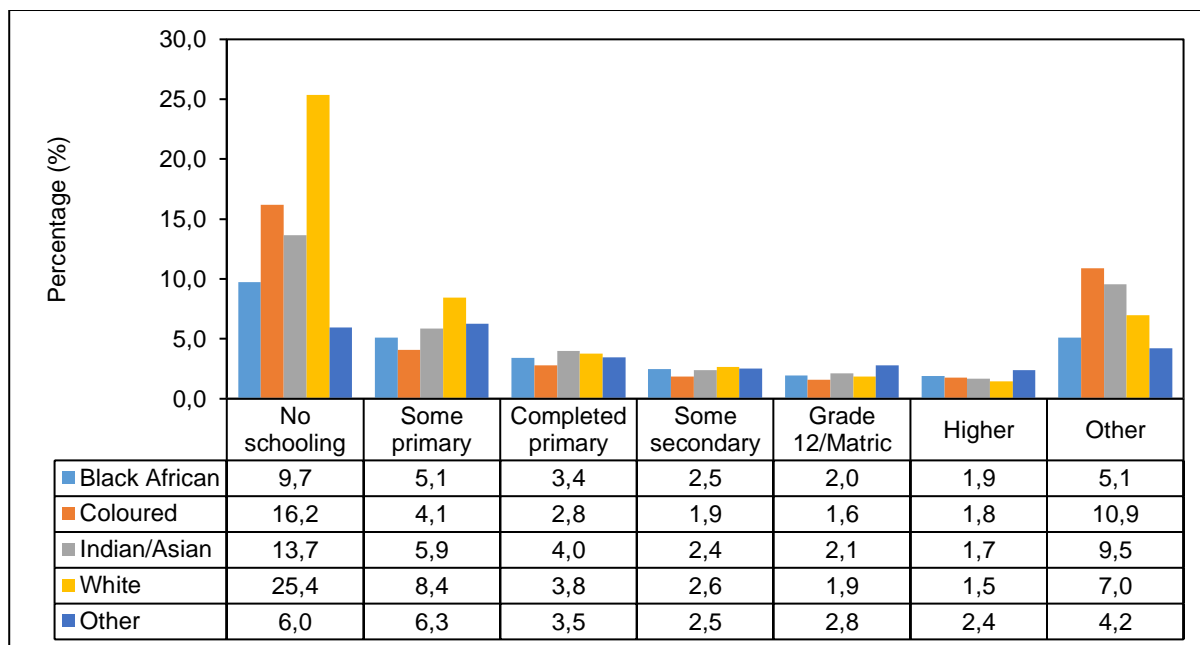


Source: Census 2022

Figure 8.10a and 8.10b shows the distribution of youth by disability status, age group and educational attainment for 2011 and 2022. The analysis revealed that the majority of youth with disability reported to have no schooling and “other” qualifications for both age cohorts of youth. For the reference period, the youth with disability recorded an increase in those with no schooling, higher and “other” educational attainment in all age cohorts. The youth aged 15–24 years living with disability who attained some primary as a highest qualification increased while those aged 25–34 years remained constant at 5,5%.

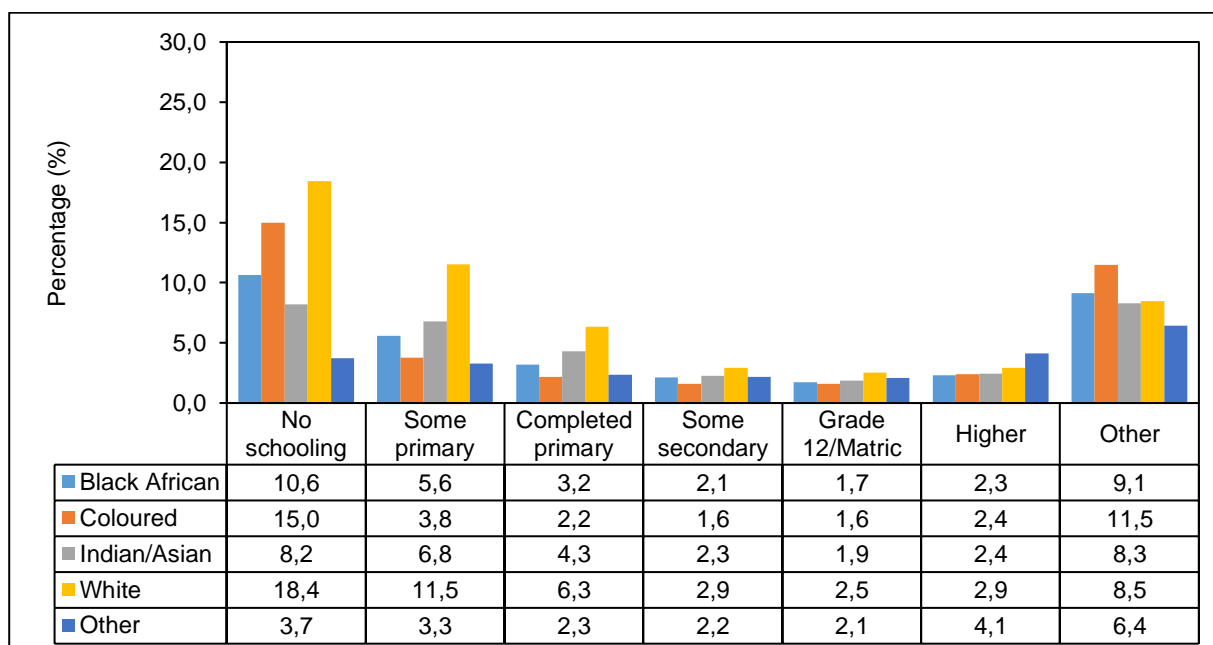
On the opposite, the youth in both age cohorts recorded a decrease in those who completed primary schooling, some secondary and grade 12 for the reference period.

Figure 8.11a - Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by disability status, population group and highest level of education completed, 2011



Source: Census 2011

Figure 8.11b - Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by disability status, population group and highest level of education completed, 2022



Source: Census 2022

Figure 8.11a and 8.11b shows the distribution of youth by disability status, population group and educational attainment for 2011 and 2022. The youth with disability who reported to have higher educational attainment increased in all population groups for the reference period. The black African youth with disability is the only population group that recorded an increase in those with no schooling. The white youth with disability was the only population group that recorded an increase in all the educational attainment categories except for those with no schooling where the contrary was observed. For the category “other”, all population groups recorded an increase in the youth living with disability except for the Indian/Asian.

8.4 Usage of assistive devices by youth

Assistive devices are the external devices designed to assist persons with disability to perform a certain task that they have difficulty with. These assistive devices enable them to perform their daily activities and to actively participate in their communities and to become productive in the economy. Assistive devices have been reported to reduce disability and may substitute or supplement support services. This question was asked of everyone, irrespective of their disability status.

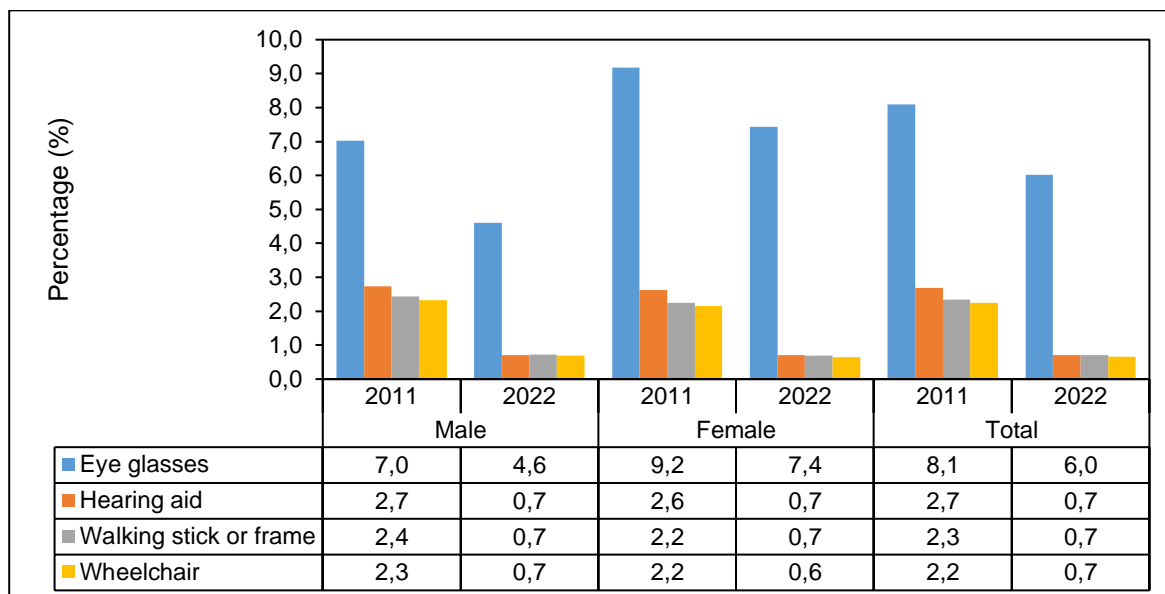
Table 8.2 - Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by use of assistive devices, 2022

Assistive devices	2011		2022	
	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent
Eye glasses				
Yes	1 487	8,1	1 269	6,0
No	16 885	91,9	19 804	94,0
Total	18 372	100,0	21 073	100,0
Hearing aid				
Yes	491	2,7	150	0,7
No	17 824	97,3	20 915	99,3
Total	18 315	100,0	21 065	100,0
Walking stick or frame				
Yes	429	2,3	148	0,7
No	17 921	97,7	20 918	99,3
Total	18 350	100,0	21 066	100,0
A wheelchair				
Yes	411	2,2	136	0,7
No	17 896	97,8	20 375	99,3
Total	18 307	100,0	20 512	100,0

Source: Census 2011 & 2022

Table 8.2 shows the distribution of the youth by the type of assistive device used in 2011 and 2022. The analysis reveals a drop in the usage of assistive devices by the youth for the reference period. The results show that in 2022, over 1 million, constituting 6,0% of youth used eye glasses/spectacles/contact lenses, while other devices like a hearing aid (150 000), walking stick (148 000), or wheelchair (136 000) were used by slightly over 2,0% of the youth.

Figure 8.12 - Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by use of assistive devices and sex, 2011 and 2022



Source: Census 2011 & 2022

Figure 8.12 shows the percentage of the youth using the different assistive devices by sex in 2011 and 2022. For the reference period, sex variations in use of eye glasses shows that young females are more likely to be using eye glasses compared to their male counterparts (9,2% and 7,4% respectively). Although the young females were more likely to use eye glasses, they recorded the least percentage increase in the usage of this device (1,8 percentage points) compared to young males between 2011 and 2022.

8.5 Conclusion

For the 11-year period, the youth recorded an increase in the percentage of those who experienced a lot of difficulty in seeing, some difficulty in communication and walking or climbing stairs. The majority of youth (over 90,0%) had no difficulty in all six domains of functioning. Nationally, the percentage of youth with disabilities slightly decreased for the reference period. The young females were more likely to have disability as compared to their male counterparts for both years. Among all the nine provinces, Free State recorded the highest disability prevalence of the youth for both years.

Generally, there was a decrease in the percentage of youth attending educational institutions compared to those not attending where the opposite was observed with young males with disabilities being more likely to not attend an educational institution compared to their female counterparts. The majority of youth with disability had no schooling as the highest educational level. The usage of assistive devices by youth dropped for period 2011 and 2022. Young females were more likely to use eye glasses compared to their male counterparts.

CHAPTER 9: YOUTH- LIVING CONDITIONS

9.0 Background

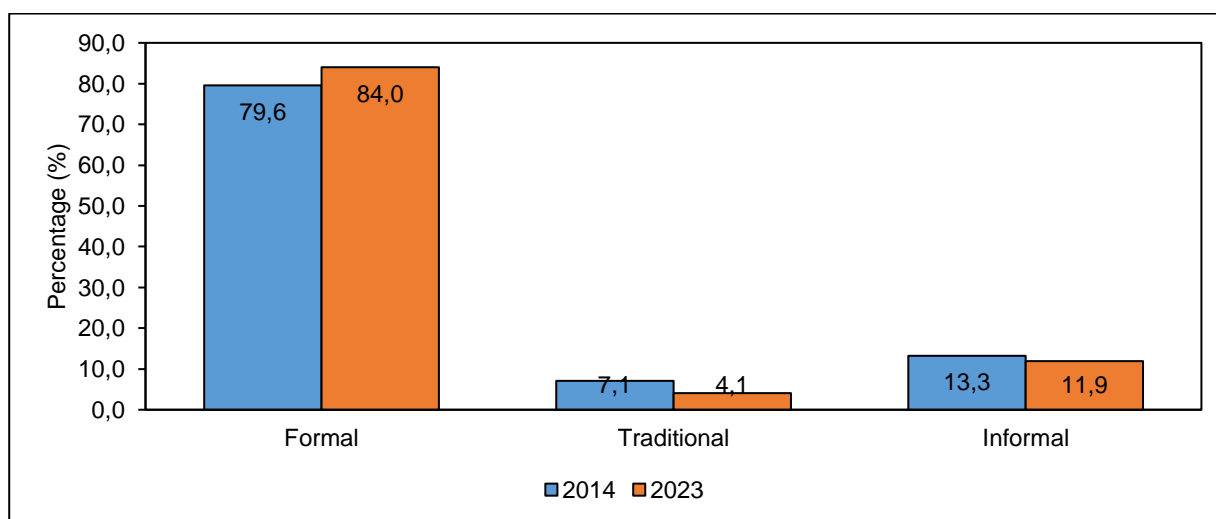
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is built on the promise of leaving no one behind, particularly marginalised groups who were previously more likely to be left behind in the country's developmental agenda. This agenda includes a dedicated goal on human settlements (SDG 11), which aims to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, with Target 11.1 emphasising access to adequate, safe, and affordable housing and basic services for all, as well as the upgrading of informal settlements¹⁴. The rise of urban living has greatly impacted the nation's increasing country population and serves as one of the reasons for insufficient housing¹⁵. Young people are continuously in motion, often relocating from rural areas to urban regions in pursuit of employment and enhanced prospects. The swift migration of youth seeking improved prospects serves as a trigger for geographic disparities, resulting in some residing in dire conditions, particularly if they lack access to the hoped-for opportunities.

This section of the report examines the living conditions and hunger experiences of young persons aged 15–34. The chapter further provides analysis on main sources of income in households with youth .

9.1 Housing

The right to adequate housing is entrenched in the constitution and acknowledged by global human rights statutes, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. Both instruments strongly declare that everyone has the right to have access to adequate housing. Lack of housing is a major impediment to social and economic development.

Figure 9.1 - Distribution of households with youth by type of main dwelling, 2014 and 2023



Source: GHS 2014 & 2023

Figure 9.1 illustrates the distribution of households with youth by type of main dwelling between 2014 and 2023. For the reporting period, the majority of youth lived in formal dwellings, increasing by 4,4 percentage points (from 79,6% in 2014 to 84,0% in 2023). On the contrary, the proportion of households with youth living in both traditional and informal types of residences reduced by 3,0 percentage points from (from 7,1% in 2014 to 4,1% in 2023) and 1,4 percentage points from (13,3% in 2014 to 11,9% in 2023) respectively. The drop in informal dwellings is in line with the objectives of the National Development Plan (NDP 2030), which seeks to eradicate informal settlements by 2050.

¹⁴ <https://www.local2030.org/library/296/A-short-guide-to-Human-Settlements-Indicators-Goal-11.pdf>

¹⁵ Marutlulle, N.K., 2021, 'A critical analysis of housing inadequacy in South Africa and its ramifications', Africa's Public Service Delivery and Performance Review 9(1), a372. <https://doi.org/10.4102/apsdpr.v9i1.372>

Table 9.1 - Distribution of households with youth by province and type of main dwelling, 2014 and 2023

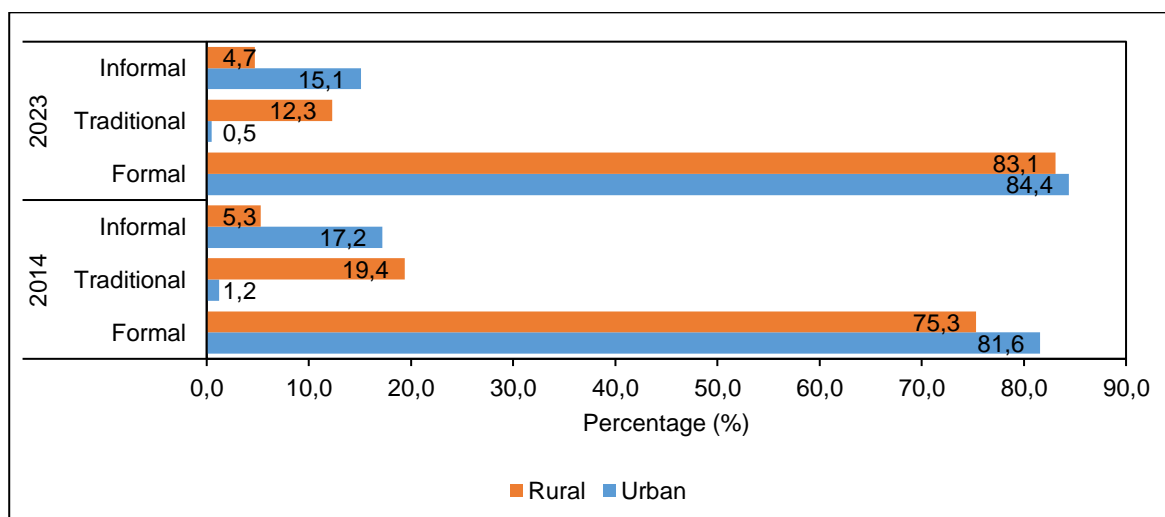
Province	2014				2023			
	Formal	Traditional	Informal	Total	Formal	Traditional	Informal	Total
	Per cent							
Western Cape	82,6	0,0	17,4	100,0	78,8	0,1	21,1	100,0
Eastern Cape	64,1	28,6	7,3	100,0	78,0	17,4	4,6	100,0
Northern Cape	86,9	1,8	11,3	100,0	85,2	0,3	14,5	100,0
Free State	83,7	2,1	14,3	100,0	83,1	1,2	15,7	100,0
KwaZulu-Natal	73,9	17,4	8,7	100,0	83,4	11,2	5,4	100,0
North-West	79,5	0,9	19,7	100,0	82,6	0,4	17,0	100,0
Gauteng	79,2	0,1	20,6	100,0	83,1	0,0	16,9	100,0
Mpumalanga	88,8	4,4	6,8	100,0	90,2	3,0	6,8	100,0
Limpopo	93,1	2,7	4,2	100,0	95,3	2,3	2,3	100,0
RSA	79,6	7,1	13,3	100,0	84,0	4,1	11,9	100,0

Source: GHS 2014 & 2023

Table 9.1 shows the distribution of households with youth by province and type of main dwelling between 2014 to 2023 period. During the reporting period, six out of nine provinces showed an increase in the proportion of households with youth residing in formal dwellings. The largest increases were recorded amongst households in Eastern Cape with an increase of 13,9 percentage points from (64,1% in 2014 to 78,0% in 2023), followed by Kwazulu-Natal with an increase of 9,5 percentage points from (73,9% in 2014 to 83,4% in 2023). The Western Cape province experienced the largest decrease of 3,8 percentage points from (82,6% in 2014 to 78,8% in 2023) for households with youth in formal dwellings.

Nationally, the number of households with youth residing in traditional dwellings decreased by 3,0 percentage points from (7,1% in 2014 to 4,1% in 2023). This decline was noted in almost every province, with the exception of the Western Cape. The decline was more significant in provinces such as the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, decreasing by 11,2 percentage points from (28,6% in 2014 to 17,4% in 2023) and 6,2 percentage points from (17,4% in 2014 to 11,2% in 2023), respectively. Similarly, the percentage of households with youth in informal dwellings decreased in four of the nine provinces. The largest decreases were observed in Gauteng (3,7 percentage points from 20,6% in 2014 to 16,9% in 2023), KwaZulu-Natal (3,3 percentage points from 8,7% in 2014 to 5,4% in 2023), and Eastern Cape (2,7 percentage points from 7,3% in 2014 to 4,6% in 2023) respectively, whereas Mpumalanga province remained constant at 6,8% for both years.

Figure 9.2 - Households with youth by main type of dwelling and geographical type, 2014 and 2023



Source: GHS 2014 & 2023

The Rural Housing Programme, which is part of the Human Settlement Plan, was initiated to reduce the urban bias in housing delivery. Figure 9.2 illustrates that the proportion of rural households with youth living in formal dwellings increased from 75,3% in 2014 to 83,1% in 2023, reflecting an increase of 7,8 percentage points, whereas the proportion of formal dwellings in urban areas grew by 2,8 percentage points from (81,6% in 2014 to 84,4% in 2023). On the other hand, the increase in households with youth living in formal dwellings was as results of the decline in households with youth in both informal and traditional dwellings. This trend was found in both urban and rural areas.

9.2 Household income sources

Evaluating shifts in income streams and income allocation is crucial for understanding the economic health of individuals and households, as these factors affect their capacity to obtain the products and services necessary to satisfy their needs. Households' income sources such as social grants are critical in improving households' welfare as they help households to achieve a minimum standard of living¹⁶.

¹⁶ Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute, 2012, 'The role of social grants in supporting economic development (LED)'

Table 9.2 - Percentage of households with youth aged 15–34 by income source and province, 2014 and 2023

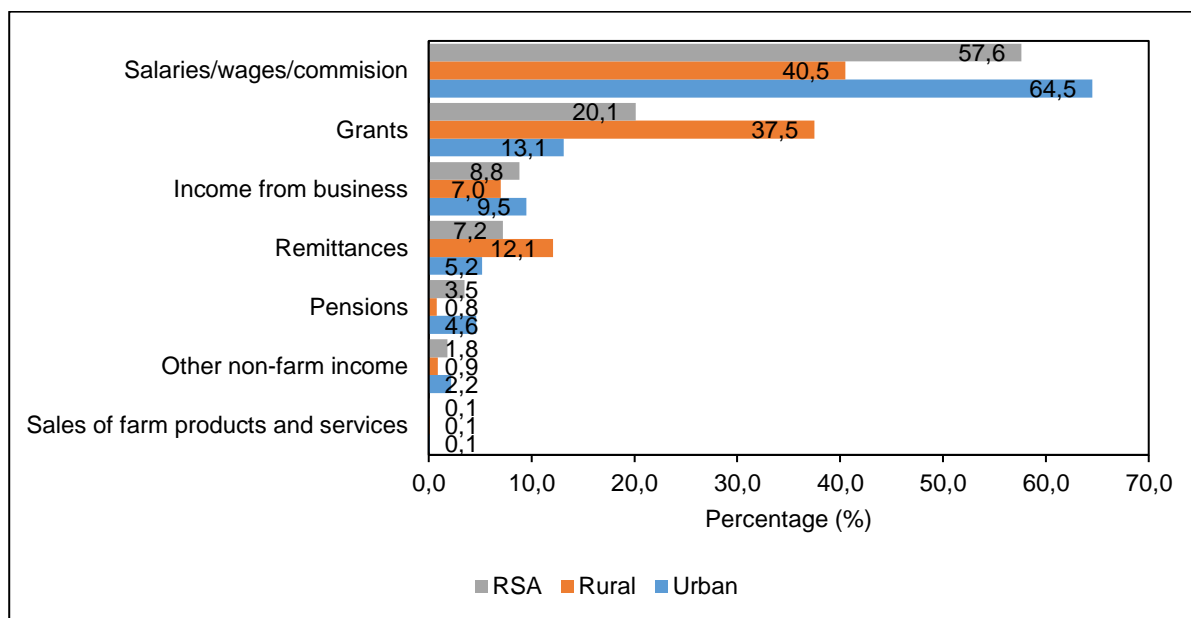
Income source	WC	EC	NC	FS	KZN	NW	GP	MP	LP	RSA (HH with youth)	RSA (HH without youth)
2014											
Salaries/wages/commission	58,4	41,0	47,2	48,7	53,9	55,9	70,7	59,7	47,2	57,8	57,6
Income from business	9,3	4,9	9,0	9,5	9,3	6,0	10,8	8,4	8,0	7,7	8,8
Remittances	2,7	6,0	4,7	6,8	7,5	10,0	5,7	11,1	13,4	9,5	7,2
Pensions	9,0	6,4	4,0	3,8	2,4	1,3	3,1	1,2	0,5	1,3	3,5
Grants	14,2	40,0	32,2	28,3	24,6	23,3	6,9	18,6	29,1	21,4	20,1
Sales of farm products and services	0,2	0,1	0,7	0,1	0,0	0,2	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,1	0,1
Other non-farm income	5,6	0,8	0,8	1,1	0,9	1,2	2,3	0,4	0,9	1,4	1,8
No income	0,7	0,8	1,6	1,7	1,5	2,1	0,5	0,7	0,7	1,0	1,0
2023											
Salaries/wages/commission	72,9	45,8	55,6	48,8	51,4	50,9	64,3	49,2	39,7	55,9	50,2
Income from business	7,1	4,5	5,3	4,8	8,2	5,4	9,9	7,6	7,2	7,7	10,9
Remittances	3,3	12,9	5,8	9,0	12,3	10,5	8,0	12,0	16,4	10,0	6,3
Pensions	1,3	1,2	1,1	2,3	2,0	1,2	1,2	1,6	1,6	1,5	5,7
Grants	12,6	34,0	31,0	33,3	24,8	29,1	12,9	27,2	33,3	22,5	23,1
Sales of farm products and services	0,0	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,3	0,1	0,0	0,1
Other non-farm income	1,3	0,8	0,9	1,2	0,5	1,2	1,8	1,1	0,6	1,2	1,6
No income	1,5	0,6	0,4	0,7	0,7	1,8	1,9	0,9	1,2	1,3	2,0

Source: GHS 2014 & 2023

Table 9.2 looks at the income sources between households that have youth and those that do not. Nationally, from 2014 to 2023, the leading three primary income sources for households with youth included salaries, wages, and commissions, followed by social grants and remittances respectively. In contrast, for households without youth, income generated from businesses ranked as the third main income source.

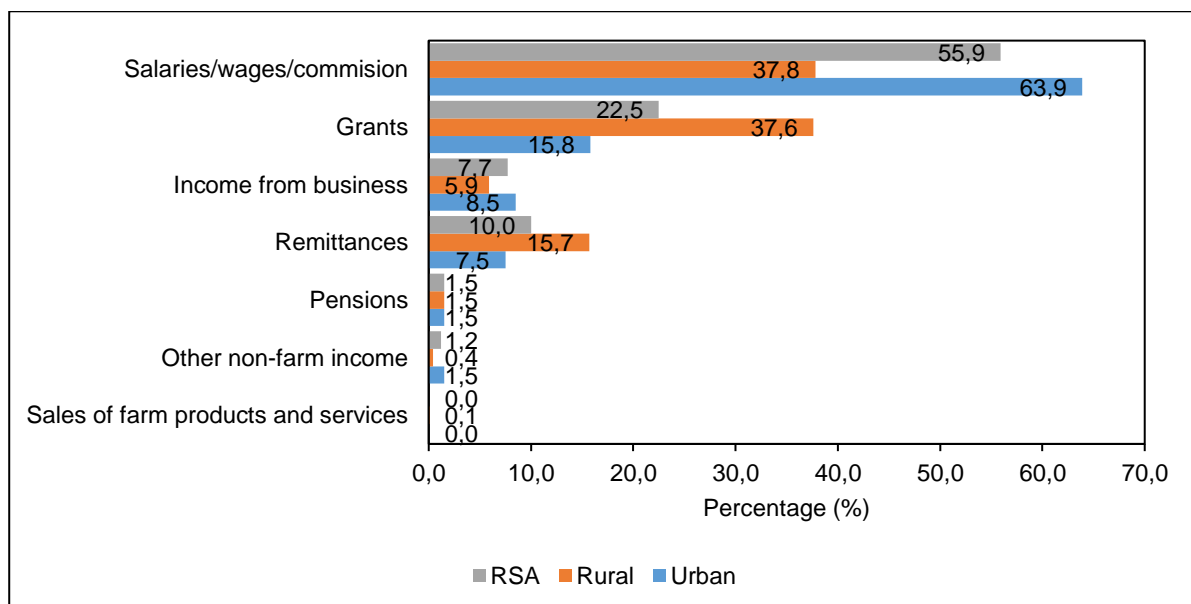
Provincial disparities revealed that salaries/wages/commissions constituted the primary income source for households with youth across all provinces. In 2014, social grants were the second most common source of income in almost all provinces except for Gauteng where income from business was the second source of income. In 2014, the Eastern Cape province had the highest proportion of households which depended on social grants (40,0%), followed by Northern Cape with 32,2%. This trend was similarly noted in the year 2023.

Figure 9.3a - Percentage of households with youth aged 15–34 years by income source and geographical type, 2014



Source: GHS 2014 & 2023

Figure 9.3b - Percentage of households with youth aged 15-34 years by income source and geographical type, 2023

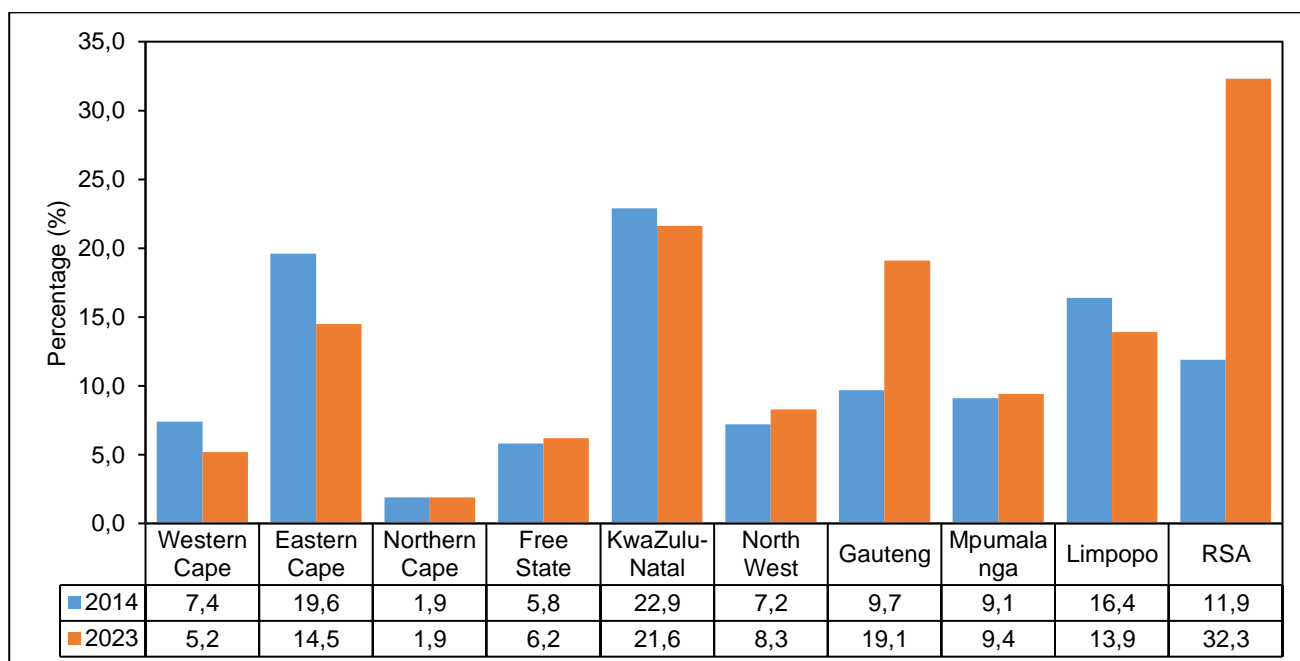


Source: GHS 2014 & 2023

Rural areas are characterised by high levels of unemployment and poverty, resulting in most households being supported by monetary aid (in the form of social grants) provided by the government to eligible and deserving household members such as older persons, children, and persons with disabilities.

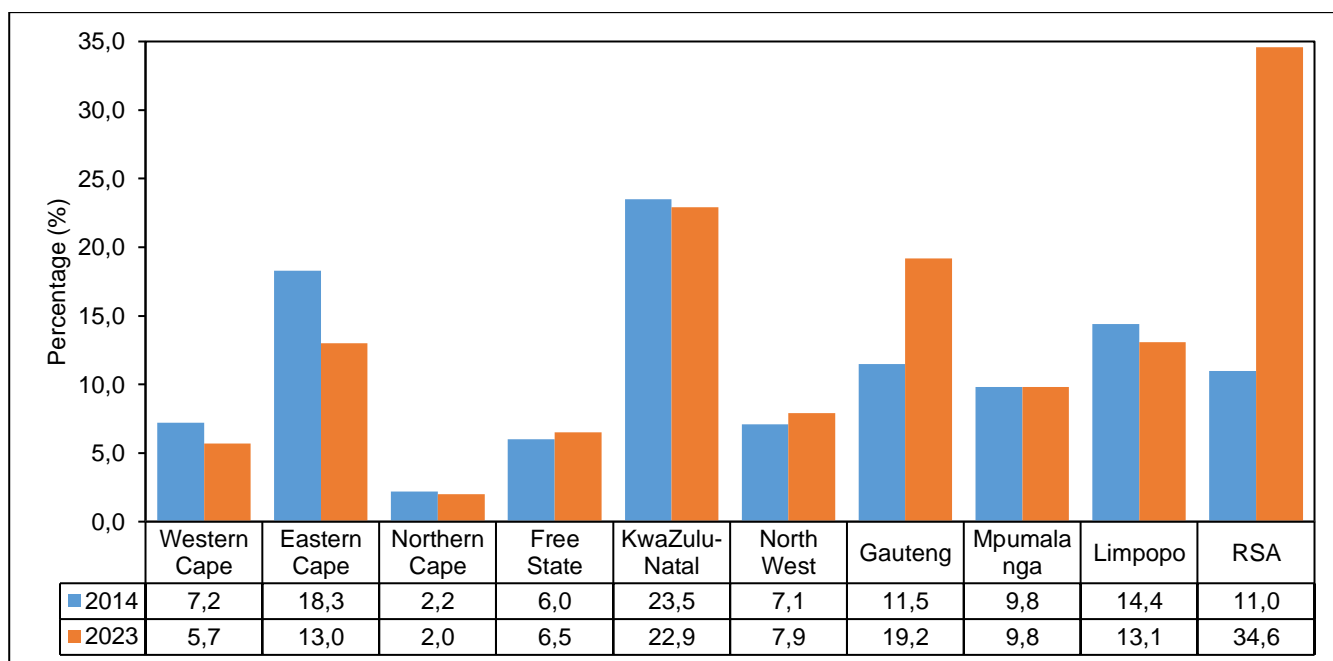
As portrayed in Figures 9.3a and 9.3b, the dependence on social grants as the primary income stream for rural households increased by of 0,1% for the reporting period (rising from 37,5% in 2014 to 37,6% in 2023), whereas in urban areas, the reliance on social grants grew by 2,7 percentage points (from 13,1% in 2014 to 15,8% in 2023). Additionally, remittances for both rural and urban households experienced an increase of 3,6 percentage points from (12,1% in 2014 to 15,7% in 2023) and 2,3 percentage points from (5,2% in 2014 to 7,5% in 2023) respectively.

Figure 9.4a - Percentage of male grant recipients aged 15–34 years by province, 2014 and 2023



Source: GHS 2014 & 2023

Figure 9.4b - Percentage of female grant recipients aged 15–34 years by province, 2014 and 2023



Source: GHS 2014 & 2023

South Africa has a high unemployment rate, low labour market participation rates, and widespread poverty, including pockets of deep deprivation¹⁷. Social grants are implemented by the government to protect its residents from the severe economic impacts of poverty, and they serve as a vital source of income for low-income households. Figures 9.4a and 9.4b illustrate the distribution of grants among youth aged 15–34. Nationally, the percentage of male youth receiving social grants increased by 20,4 percentage points (from 11,9% in 2014 to 32,3% in 2023), while the percentage of female youth receiving social grants increased by 23,6 percentage points (from 11,0% in 2014 to 34,6% in 2023).

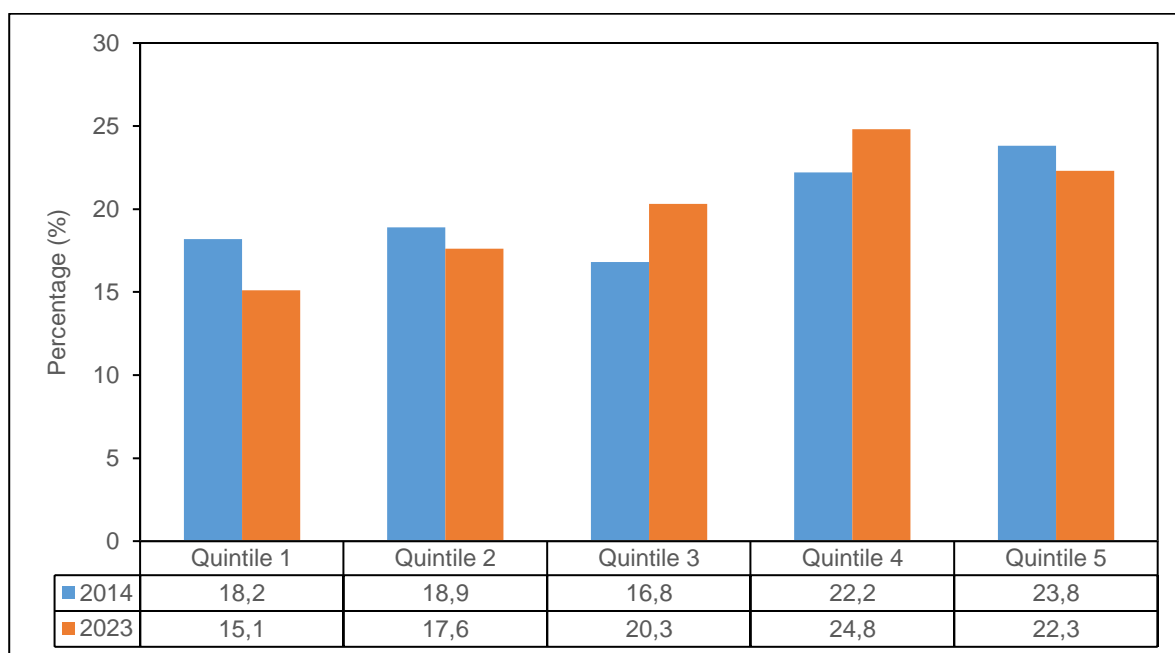
¹⁷ The World Bank, SOUTH AFRICA: SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND SYSTEM REVIEW

Looking at the provincial differences for male and female youth social grant recipients, the top two provinces which experienced an increase were Gauteng and North West, (9,7% in 2014 to 19,1% in 2023) and (7,2% in 2014 to 8,3% in 2023) for male youth respectively, whilst for female youth, (11,5% in 2014 to 19,2% n 2023) and (7,1% in 2014 to 7,9% in 2023). Northern Cape province remained constant at 1,9% for male youth social grants recipients while Mpumalanga province remained the same at 9,8% for the reporting period for the female youth social grants recipients.

9.3 Household Income quintiles

Income distribution among households in South Africa is uneven, likely due to the varying sources from which households derive their total income. Nevertheless, some households depend exclusively on government cash transfers in the form of social grants to sustain themselves, consequently placing them within the lowest income quintile of households. A household income quintile is a measure of neighbourhood socioeconomic status that divides the households into five income groups (from lowest income to highest income) so that approximately 20% of the population is in each group. The household income quintiles are defined by following: Quintile 1 is for those households with an income of R1 800 and above, Quintile 2 (R1 800–R3 450), Quintile 3 (R3 450–R5 900), Quintile 4 (R5 900–R14 000) and Quintile 5 (R14 000 and above).

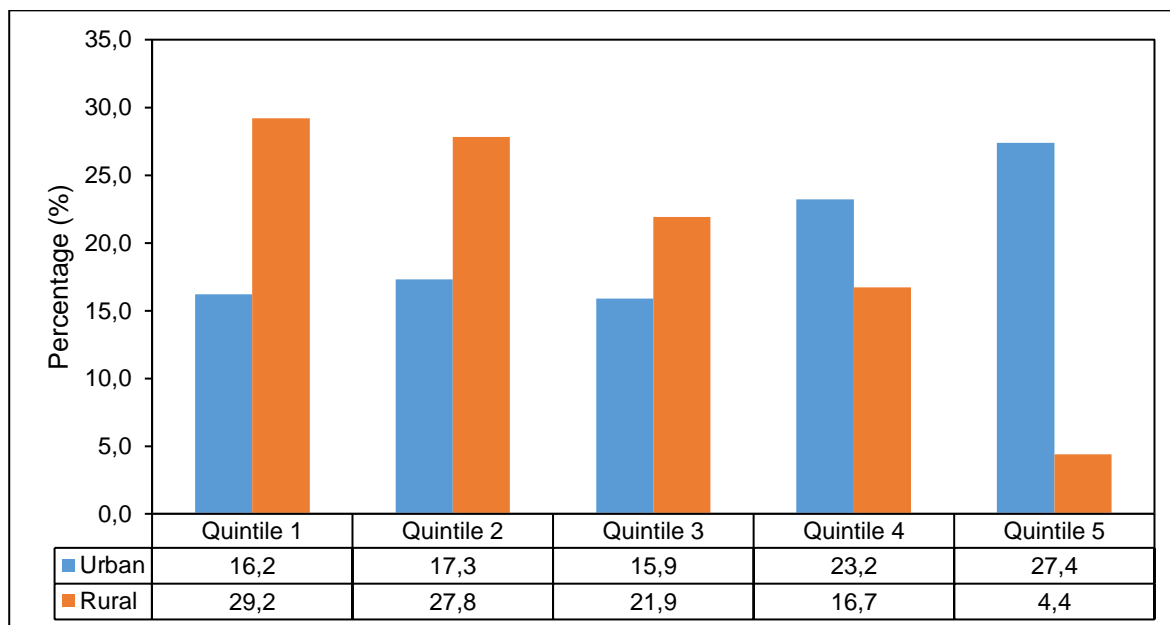
Figure 9.5 - Distribution of households with youth by income quintiles, 2014 and 2023



Source: GHS 2014 & 2023

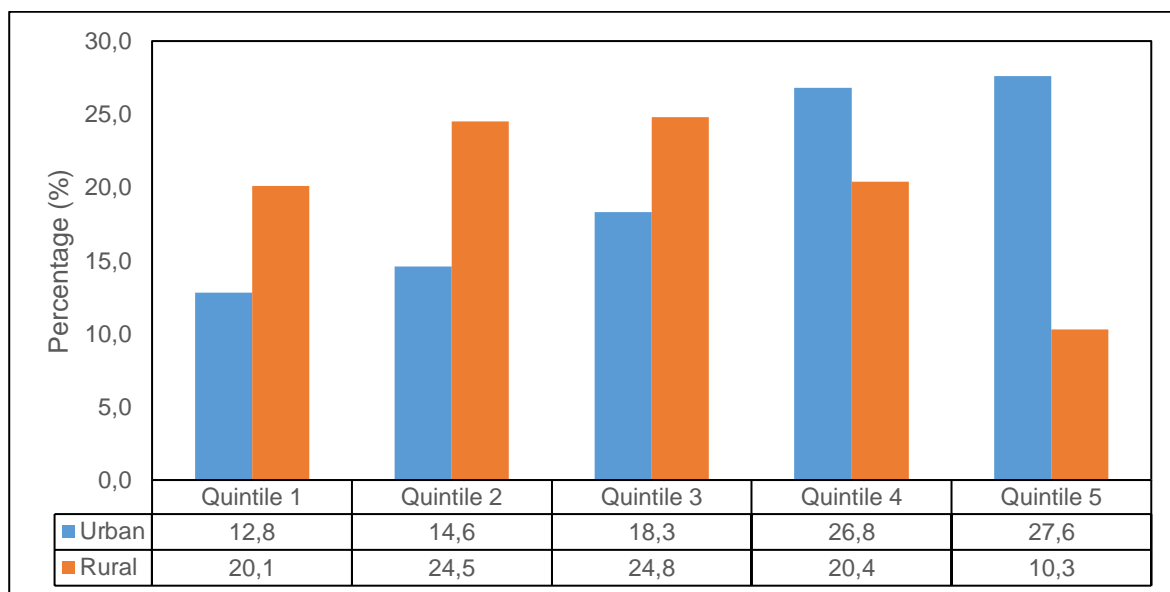
Figure 9.5 shows the distribution of income quintile for households with youth for the period of 2014 and 2023. The study indicates that households with youth in quintiles 1 and 2 experienced a decline between the periods, with quintile 1 declining by 3,1 percentage points from (18,2% in 2014 to 15,1% in 2023) and quintile 2 by 1,3 percentage points from (18,9% in 2014 to 17,6% in 2023), However, there has been an improvement for households with youth within quintiles 3 and 4. In 2014, households with the presence of youth was sitting at 23,8% while in 2023 it was 22,3%, representing households income of above R14 000.

Figure 9.6a - Distribution of households with youth by income quintile and geographic location, 2014



Source: GHS 2014

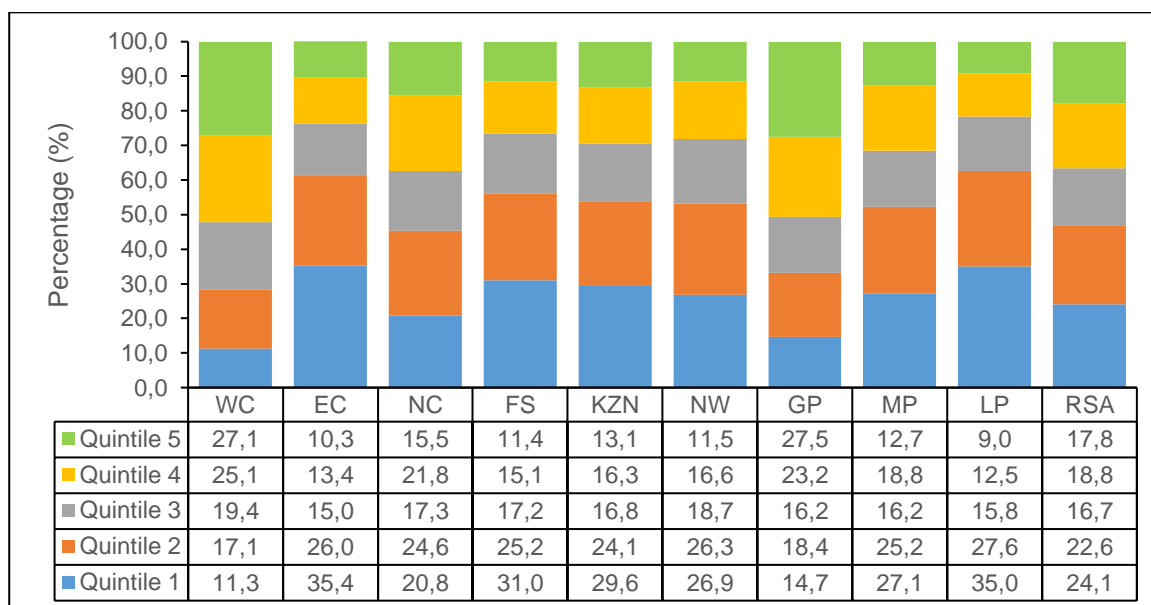
Figure 9.6b - Distribution of households with youth by income quintiles and geographic location, 2023



Source: GHS 2023

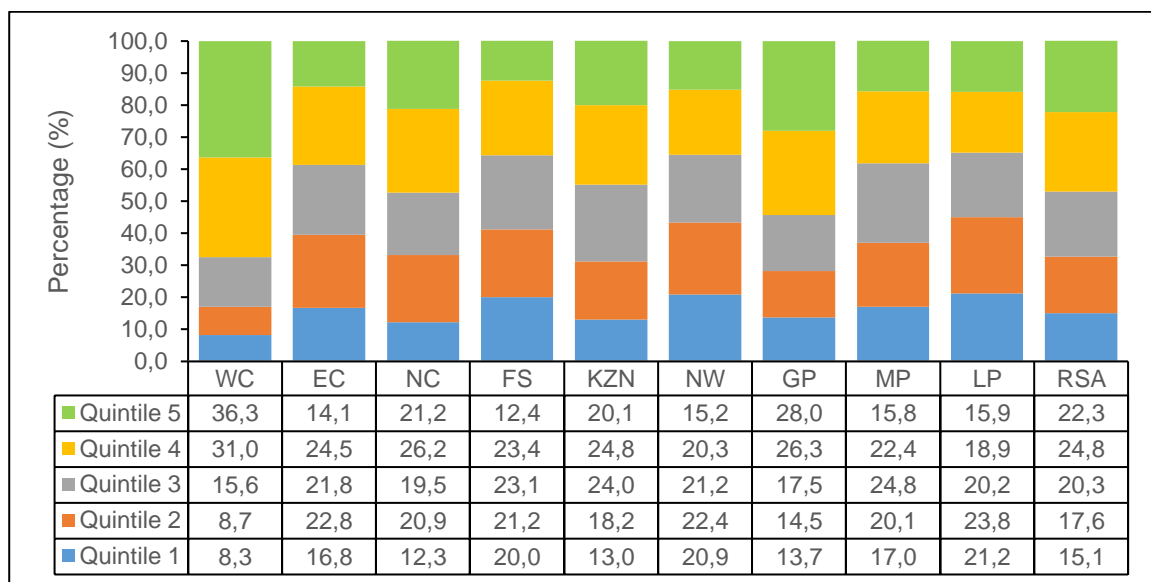
The analysis of income quintiles among youth households by geographic location showed notable differences in income levels. In 2014, the results revealed that a significant number of households with youth in rural areas were primarily situated in the lower income categories (quintiles 1 and 2), with 29,2% in quintile 1 and 27,8% in quintile 2. However, in 2023, the majority of households with youth were found in quintiles 2 and 3, with 24,5% in quintile 1 and 24,8% in quintile 2. There was a slight increase of about 0,2 percentage points from (27,4% in 2014 to 27,6% in 2023) for those households with youth residing in urban areas within quintile 5, while for those in rural areas within the same quintile showed the highest increase of 5,9 percentage points from (4,4% in 2014 to 10,3% in 2023).

Figure 9.7a - Distribution of households with youth by income quintile and province, 2014



Source: GHS 2014

Figure 9.7b - Distribution of households with youth by income quintiles and province, 2023



Source: GHS 2023

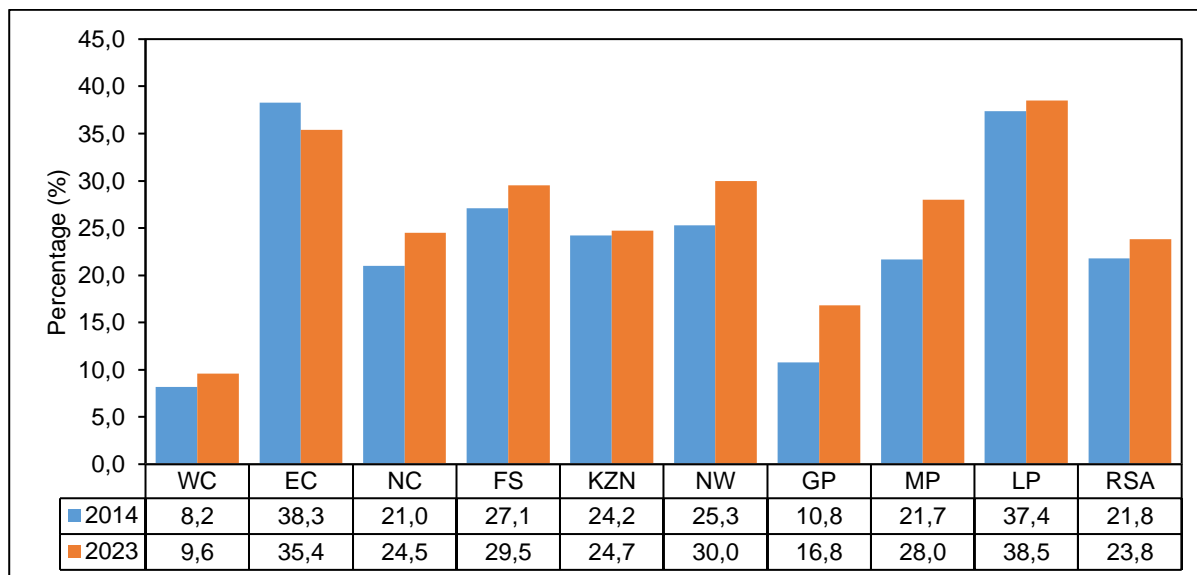
Figure 9.7a and 9.7b illustrate the distribution of income quintiles for households with youth by province in 2014 and 2023. Nationally, households with youth within quintile 1 declined by 9,0 percentage points from 24,1% in 2014 to 15,1% in 2023, whereas those households in the income quintile 5 increased by 4,5 percentage points from 17,3% in 2014 to 22,3% in 2023. The provincial disparities show that, in 2014 those households with youth within the lower income quintiles with found in provinces like Eastern Cape (35,4%), Limpopo (35,0%) followed by Free State (31,0%), while in 2023, Limpopo was leading with 21,2% followed by North West (20,9%) and Free State (20,0%).

Households with the presence of youth within the highest income quintile were more dominant in provinces like Gauteng and Western Cape. There were 0,5 percentage points increase of households with youth residing in Gauteng province from 27,5% in 2014 to 28,0% in 2023, whereas Western Cape province showed an incredible increase of 9,2 percentage points from 27,1% in 2014 to 36,3% in 2023 within the income quintile 5.

9.4 Households without an employed adult

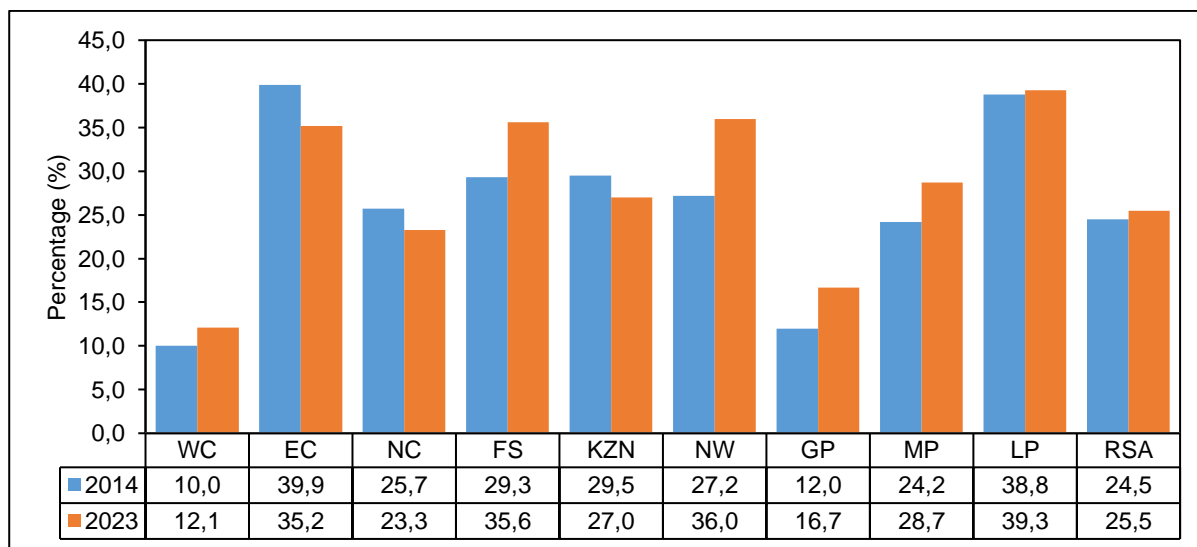
Households without working adults are more prone to poverty, given that employment serves as a crucial income source and a vital factor in breaking free from financial struggle. Unemployment disturbs the financial stability of numerous households, particularly when they must focus on essential needs like education, healthcare, transportation, and nutrition, among others.

Figure 9.8a - Percentage of males aged 15–34 years living in households without an employed adult, 2014 and 2023



Source: GHS 2014 & 2023

Figure 9.8b - Percentage of females aged 15–34 years living in households without an employed adult, 2014 and 2023



Source: GHS 2014 & 2023

Figures 9.8a and 9.8b illustrate the proportions of males and females aged 15–34 residing in households with no working adult. For the reporting period, the proportion of youth living without an employed adult increased, with households with males seeing an increase of 2,0 percentage points from (21,8% in 2014 to 23,8% in 2023) and those with females experiencing 1,0 percentage point increase from (24,5% in 2014 to 25,5% in 2023). In general, female youth were more likely than their male counterparts to live in households without any working adults.

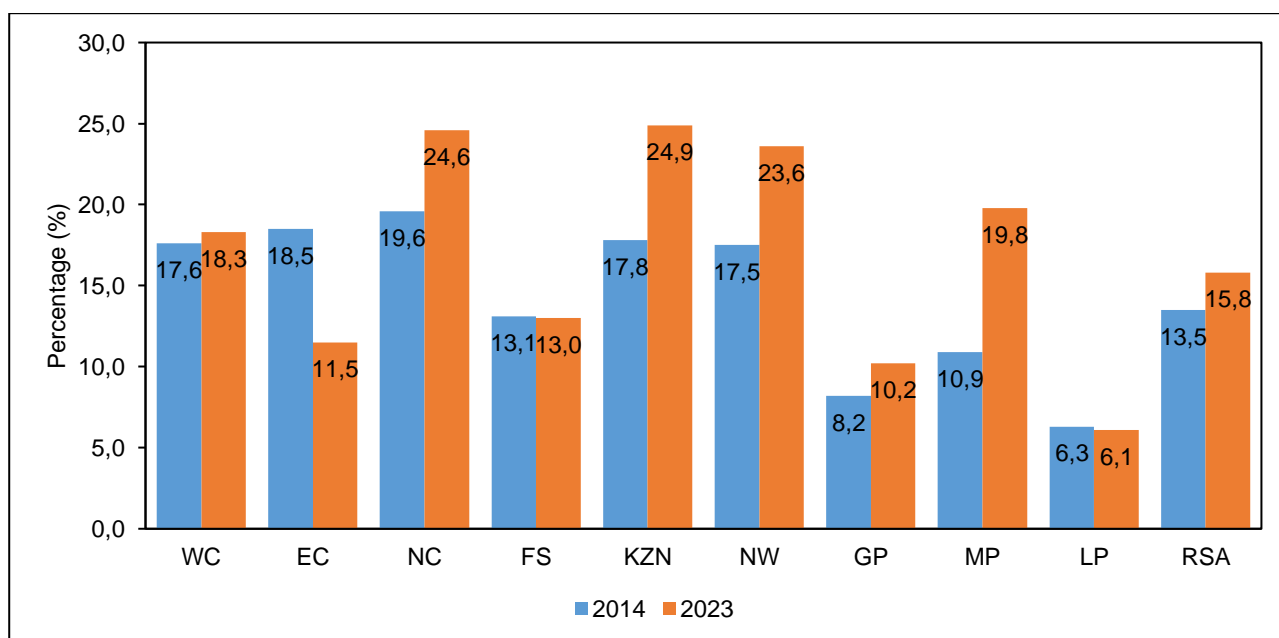
The province disparities showed that eight of the nine provinces experienced an increase in the percentage of male youth residing in households without an employed adult. The most significant increases were noted in Mpumalanga (21,7% in 2014 to 28% in 2023), Gauteng (10,8% in 2014 to 16,8% in 2023), and North West (25,3% in 2014 to 30,0% in 2023). Eastern Cape province experienced a decline of 2,9 percentage points from (38,3% in 2014 to 35,3% in 2023).

Similarly, the proportion of youth living without an employed adult increased in six provinces. The provinces that showed the highest increases were North West (27,2% in 2014 to 36,0% in 2023), Free State (29,3% in 2014 to 35,6% in 2023), and Gauteng (12,0% in 2014 to 16,7% in 2023) respectively.

9.5 Hunger and poverty

Poverty levels in South Africa remain relatively high, particularly among the marginalised groups, including youth. To battle extreme poverty, the government offers a "social wage package" that includes social grants, no-fee schools, free public health care, and the delivery of Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) houses¹⁸. The NDP highlights that food scarcity, a significant driver of hunger in numerous families, serves as both a contributing factor and a consequence of poverty. Although South Africa maintains food security on a national scale, many households still experience food inadequacy, as not everyone has reliable access to adequate nourishment¹⁹.

Figure 9.9 - Youth in households that experience hunger by province, 2014 and 2023



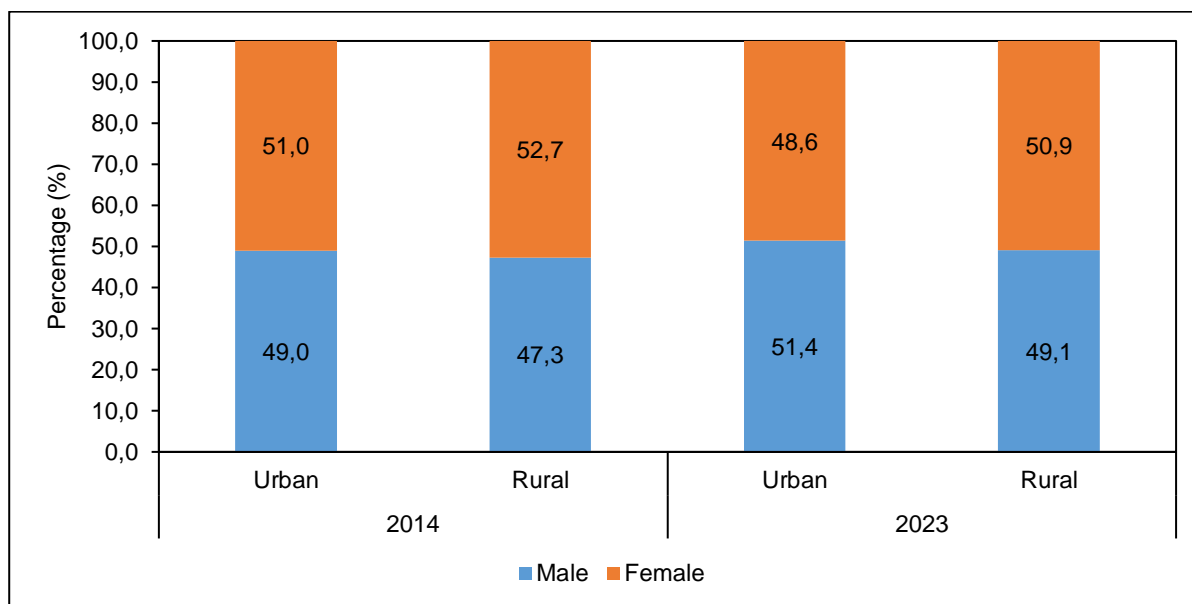
Source: GHS 2014 & 2023

Figure 9.9 illustrates that youth in households that experience hunger by province in 2014 and 2023. Nationally, for the reporting period, the percentage of youth living in households experiencing hunger increased by 2,3 percentage points (from 13,5% in 2014 to 15,8% in 2023). This increase was predominantly caused by significant increases reported in provinces like Mpumalanga (8,9 percentage points, from 10,9% in 2014 to 19,8% in 2023), KwaZulu-Natal (7,1 percentage points, from 17,8% in 2014 to 24,9% in 2023), and North West (6,1 percentage points, from 17,5% in 2014 to 23,6% in 2023) which were above the national average. Only three provinces reported a decline in the youth in households that experience hunger (namely: Eastern Cape, Free State and Limpopo).

¹⁸ Ariane De Lannoy, Murray Leibbrandt and Emily Frame. (2015). South African Child Gauge "A focus on youth: An opportunity to disrupt the intergenerational transmission of poverty"

¹⁹ Statistics South Africa. (Report: 03-00-14). "Towards Measuring the extent of Food Security in South Arica: an examination of hunger and food inadequacy"

Figure 9.10 - Youth in households that experience hunger by geographic location and sex, 2014 and 2023



Source: GHS 2014 & 2023

Women are more likely than men to go hungry as a result of income disparities, limited access to employment or means of production, and cultural practices that place them last or allow them smaller portions when food is scarce²⁰. As illustrated in figure 9.10, females disproportionately carry the weight of hunger, a trend evident in both examined years across all geographic areas, except in the urban area of 2023, where households with male youth reported a higher percentage of 51,4% than that of female youth (48,6%), showing a gap of 2,8 percentage points.

Contrary, female youth in rural households reported significantly high occurrences of hunger in both years, with the year 2014 showing the greatest percentage disparity of 5,4 percentage points (47,3% for males and 52,7% for females), while in 2023, a difference of 1,8 percentage points was noted (49,1% for males and 50,9% for females).

9.6 Conclusion

The majority of youth resided in formal dwellings; this proportion increased from 79,6% in 2014 to 84,0% in 2023, whereas households with youth residing in traditional and informal dwellings declined. Between 2014 and 2023, the top three main sources of income for households with youth were salaries/wages/commission, social grants and remittances, though salaries/wages/commission decreased in 2023. During the reporting period, rural households with youth relied on grants as their second source of income, with an increase of 0,1 percentage point (from 37,5% in 2014 to 37,6% in 2023).

Furthermore, approximately 15,1% of households with youth fell into income quintile 1, with a monthly income of no more than R1 800 in 2023. Over the reporting period, the percentage of youth living in households without an employed adult has increased, with males increasing from 21,8% in 2014 to 23,8% in 2023, and females increasing from 24,5% in 2014 to 25,5% in 2023.

²⁰ www.oxfam.org/grow 'Hidden Hunger in South Africa'

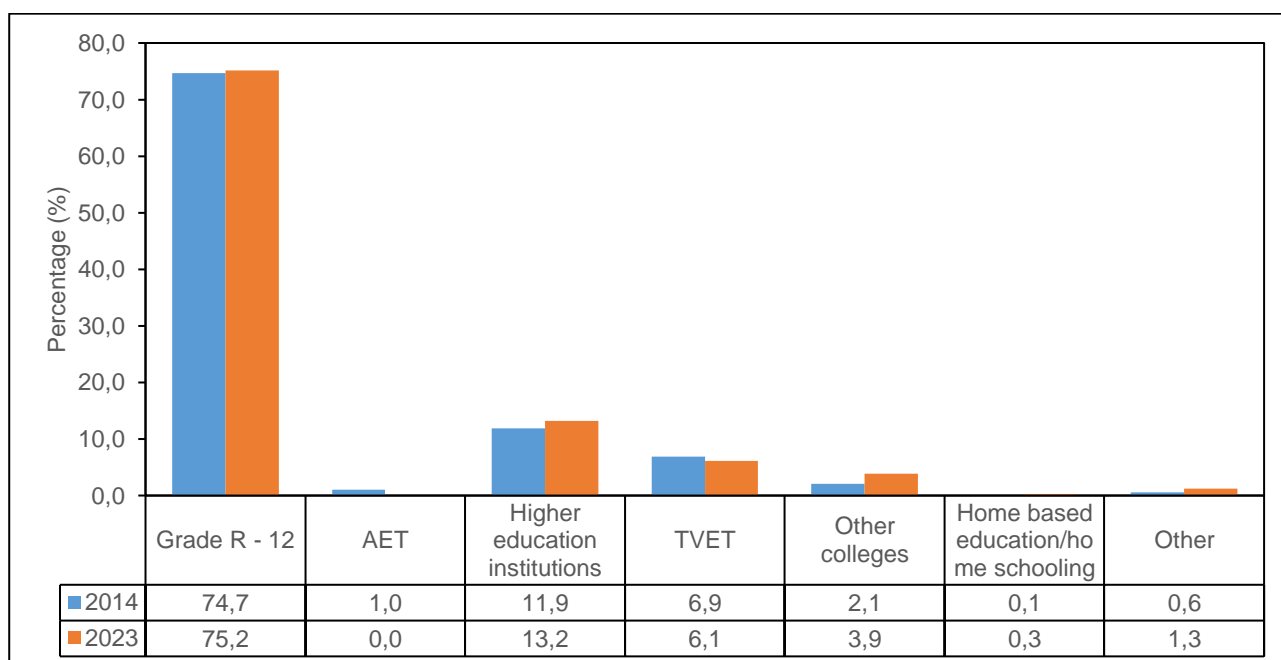
CHAPTER 10: YOUTH AND EDUCATION

10.0 Background

According to Section 29(1) of the South African Constitution, everyone has a right to a basic education, including the right to further education, which the state, through reasonable measures, must make progressively available and accessible. The target in the National Development Plan (NDP) is 1.6 million enrolments by 2030²¹. This section examines various aspects of the education profile of South African youth, including youth enrolment at educational institutions, educational attainment and higher education.

10.1 Educational Attendance

Figure 10.1 - Percentage of youth attending educational institutions, 2014 and 2023

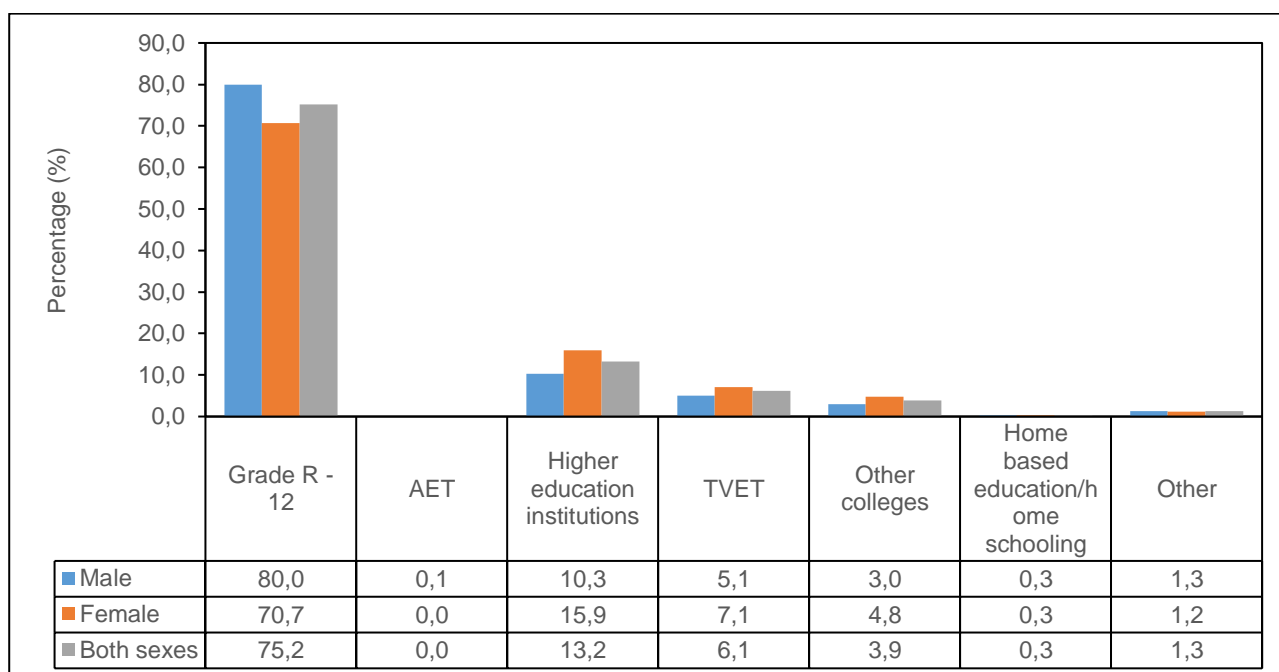


Source: GHS 2014 & 2023

*0,0% for AET indicates lower absolute values.

Figure 10.1 shows the percentage of youth attending educational institutions in 2014 and 2023. In the reported period, attendance for youth increased for those in schools, other colleges, higher educational institutions, home schooling and other, compared to other educational institutions. Youth attendance at schools increased by 0,5 percentage points (from 74,7% in 2014 to 75,2% in 2023) while those attending higher education institutions increased by 1,3 percentage points (from 11,9% in 2014 to 13,2% in 2023), other colleges by 1,8 percentage points (from 2,1% in 2014 to 3,9% in 2023). On the contrary, the percentage of youth attending TVET and AET decreased by 0,8 (from 6,9% in 2014 to 6,1% in 2023) and 1,0 percentage points (from 1,0% in 2014 to 0,0% in 2023), respectively.

²¹ National Development Plan, 2011

Figure 10.2 - Percentage of youth attending educational institutions by sex, 2023

Source: GHS 2023

*0,0% for AET indicates lower absolute values.

The figure above shows the percentage of youth attending educational institutions by sex, in 2023. Among the youth population, a higher percentage of males were attending schools while females reported higher percentages of attendance at higher educational institutions, TVET and other colleges. There was no difference between young males and young females attending home schooling, both sexes reporting at 0,3% in 2023.

Table 10.1 - Percentage of youth attending educational institution by population group, 2023

Education institution	Black African	Coloured	Indian/Asian	White	RSA
Grade R – 12	77,3	74,2	45,7	53,6	75,2
AET	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Higher education institutions	11,5	10,8	45,7	31,1	13,2
TVET	6,4	6,1	1,4	4,7	6,1
Other colleges	3,5	6,3	4,5	6,4	3,9
Home based education/home schooling	0,1	0,5	0,0	3,4	0,3
Other	1,2	2,3	2,8	0,7	1,3

Source: GHS 2023

*0,0% indicates lower absolute values.

Table 10.1 shows the percentage of youth attending educational institutions by population group, in 2023. Among all the population groups, the Indian/Asian population and white population had the highest percentage (45,7% and 31,1% respectively) of youth enrolled at higher educational institutions. Compared to other population groups, young whites had a higher percentage of 3,4% who enrolled for home-based education/home schooling. Attendance at TVET was common amongst the black African and coloured youth population groups.

Table 10.2 - Percentage of youth attending educational institution by geo type, 2023

Education institution	Urban		Rural		Total	
	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent	N ('000)	Per cent
Grade R – 12	2 597	68,3	1 942	86,8	4 538	75,2
AET	2	0,0	1	0,0	2	0,0
Higher education institutions	653	17,2	145	6,5	799	13,2
TVET	268	7,1	103	4,6	371	6,1
Other colleges	206	5,4	28	1,3	235	3,9
Home based education/home schooling	14	0,4	2	0,1	16	0,3
Other	61	1,6	15	0,7	76	1,3
Total	3 801	100,0	2 236	100,0	6 037	100,0

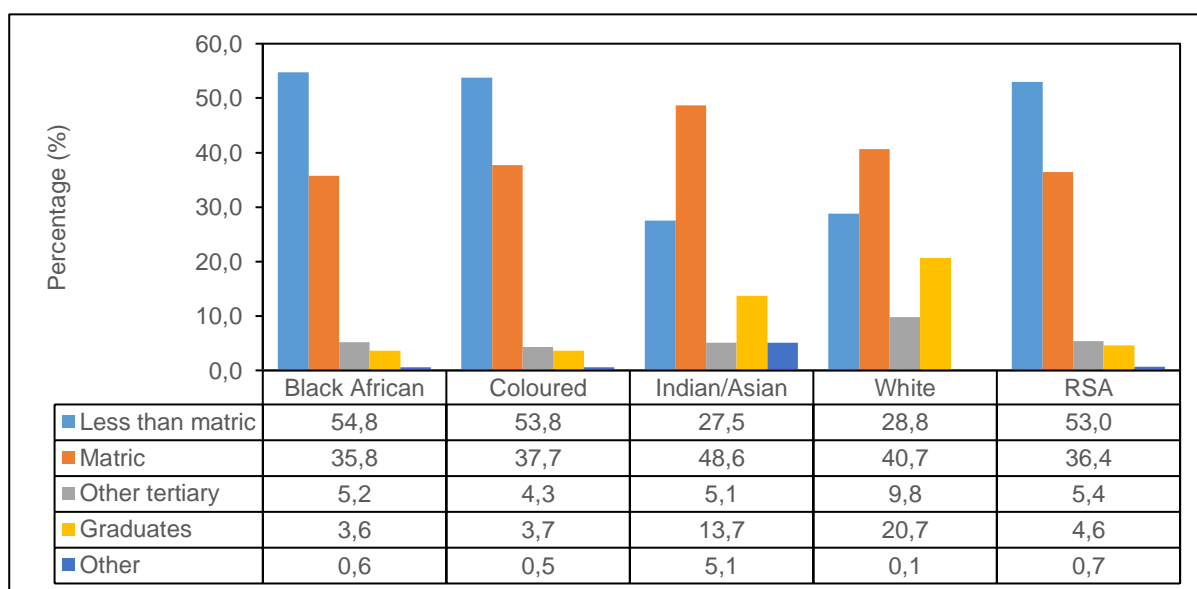
Source: GHS 2023

*0,0% for AET indicates lower absolute values.

Table 10.2 shows the percentage of youth attending educational institutions by geographical location, in 2023. Analysis revealed that the majority of the youth reported to have enrolled in schools, irrespective of geographical location (86,8% in rural areas and 68,3% in urban areas). Youth in urban areas were more likely to attend higher education institutions than those in rural areas (17,2% and 6,5% respectively). There was no significant difference in enrolment in Adult Education and Training Learning Centre (ABET/AET Centre) between urban or rural areas.

10.2 Educational Attainment

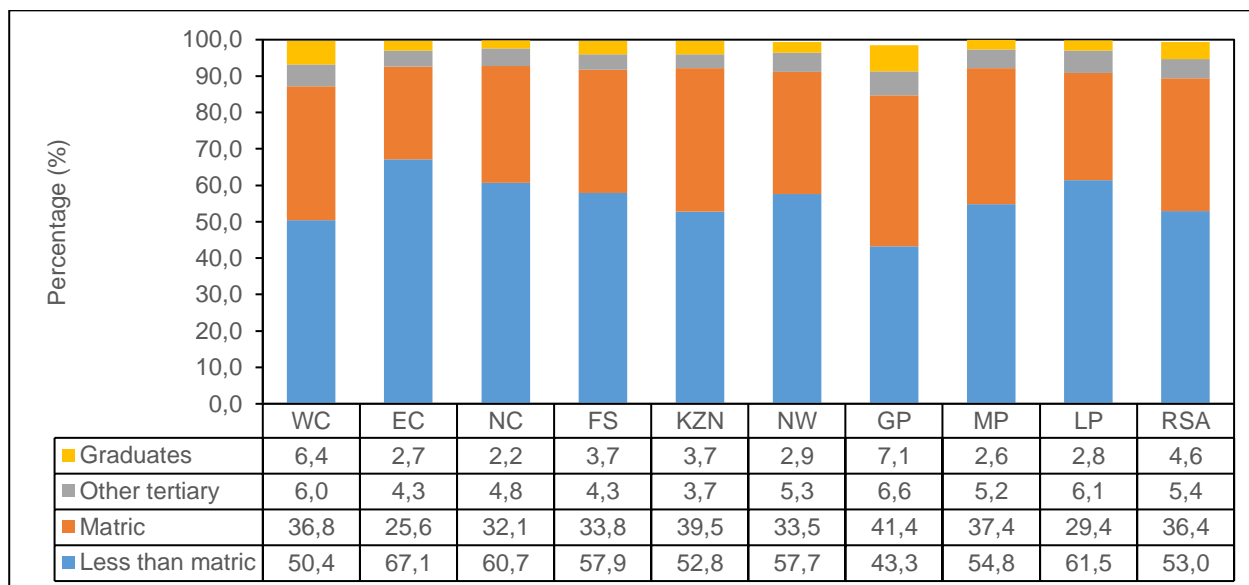
Figure 10.3 - Percentage of youth by educational attainment and population group, 2023



Source: GHS 2023

Figure 10.3 above shows the youth educational attainment by population group in 2023. Nationally, 53,0% of the youth indicated that they have less than matric, followed by those with matric (36,4%), other tertiary (5,4%) and the least were graduates (4,6%) as their highest level of education attained. White population had the highest percentage of youth as graduates compared to other population groups while black Africans had the highest percentage of youth with less than matric as the highest level of education.

Figure 10.4 - Percentage distribution of youth by educational attainment and province, 2023



Source: GHS 2023

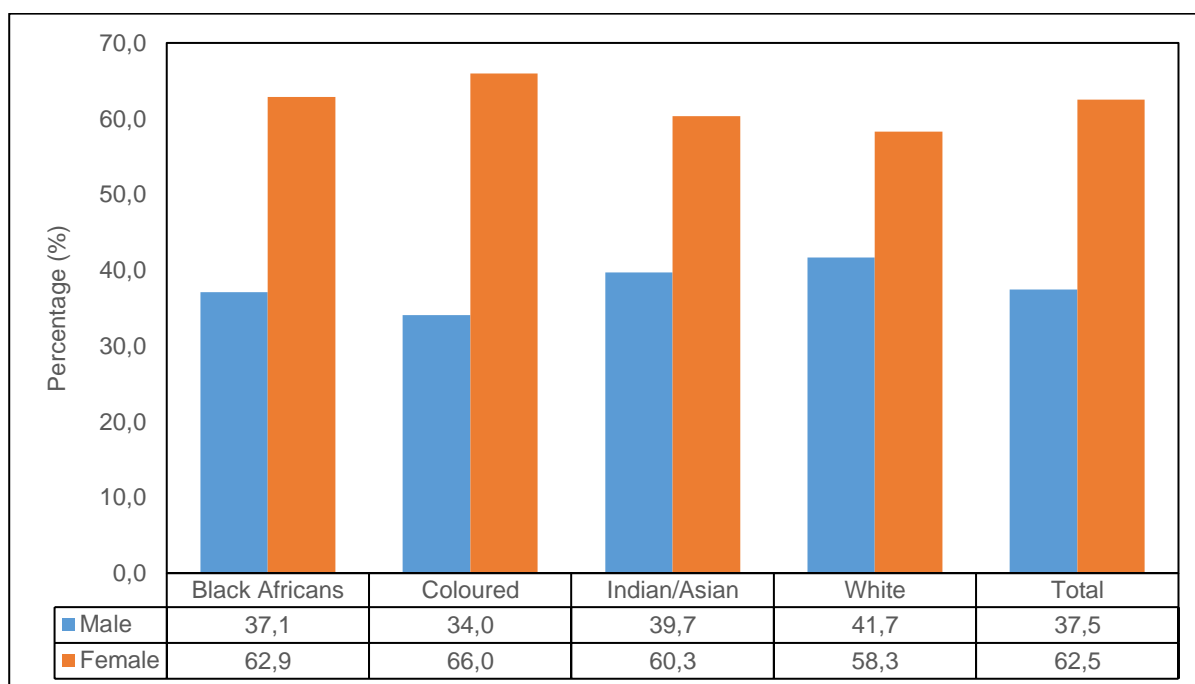
Figure 10.4 shows the percentage distribution of youth by educational attainment and province in 2023. Provincial variations show that the majority of youth reported to have less than matric followed by those with matric in all the nine provinces. However, graduates were most common in Gauteng (7,1%) and Western Cape (6,4%) and least common in Northern Cape and Mpumalanga. Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal reported the highest percentage of youth with matric, while Eastern Cape and Limpopo reported the lowest percentage of youth with matric.

Table 10.3 - Number of students enrolled from public Higher Education Institutions by age group and sex, 2022

	15–34		35+		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Population group	N ('000)					
Black African	290	491	36	53	326	544
Coloured	17	33	3	5	20	38
Indian/Asian	13	19	2	3	15	22
White	37	52	4	6	41	58
Total	356	595	45	68	401	663
	Per cent					
Black African	33,3	56,4	4,1	6,1	37,5	62,5
Coloured	29,3	56,9	5,2	8,6	34,5	65,5
Indian/Asian	35,1	51,4	5,4	8,1	40,5	59,5
White	37,4	52,5	4,0	6,1	41,4	58,6
Total	33,5	55,9	4,2	6,4	37,7	62,3

Source: DHET 2022

Table 10.3 above shows the number of enrolled students from public **Higher Education Institution (HEI)** by age group, population group and sex, in 2022. Analysis shows that the majority of students enrolled in public institutions in 2022 were aged between 15–34 with females accounting for 55,9% and males reported 33,5%. Those aged 35 and above represented 10,6% of enrolments in the reported period. Females reported a higher percentage of students compared to males in all population groups, accounting for 62,3% of enrolments in 2022.

Figure 10.5 - Percentage of youth students in public Higher Education Institution by population group and sex, 2022

Source: DHET 2022

Figure 10.5 shows the number of enrolled youth students in public HEI by population group and sex, in 2022. Analysis shows that young females reported a higher percentage of students in all population groups, with young females accounting for 62,5% of students enrolled in public institutions. Amongst the young coloureds, 66,0% of students were young females and young white female students accounted for 58,3%.

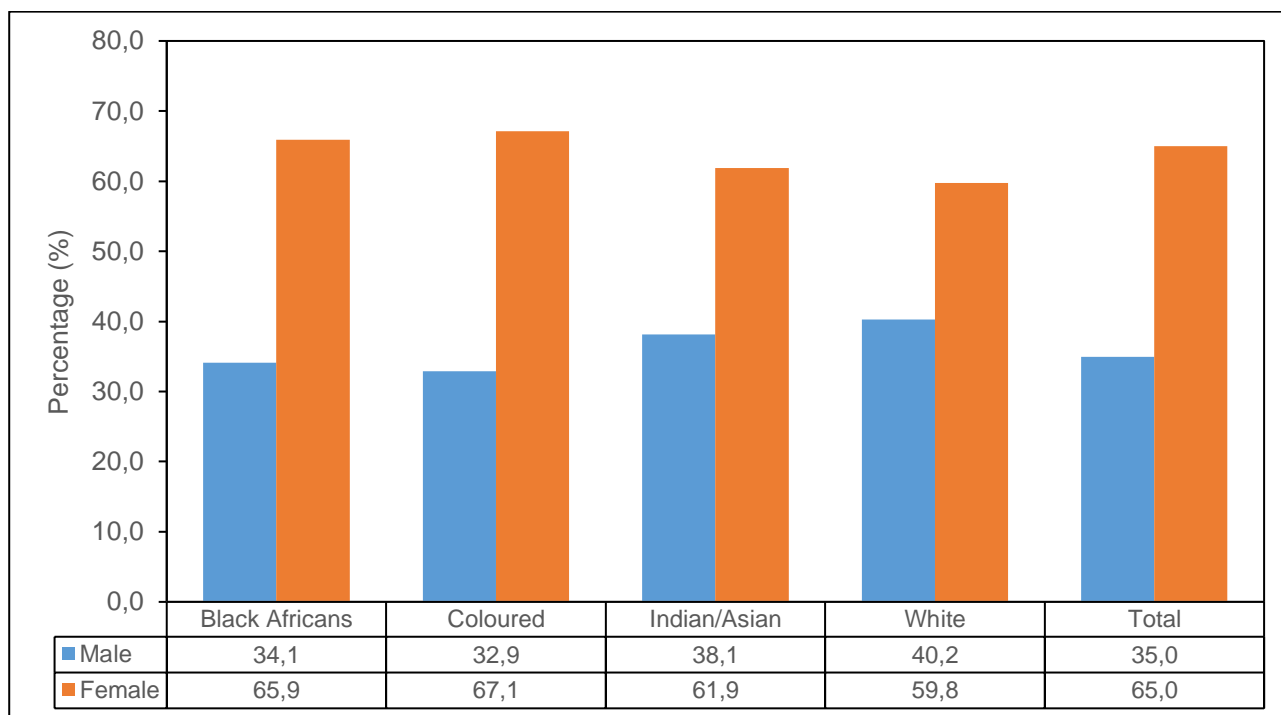
Table 10.4 - Number of graduates from public Higher Education Institution by age group and sex, 2022

Population group	15-34		35+		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	N ('000)					
Black African	50	97	9	16	59	113
Coloured	4	7	1	1	4	9
Indian/Asian	3	5	1	1	4	6
White	10	15	1	2	11	17
Total	67	124	12	20	79	144
	Per cent					
Black African	29,1	56,4	5,2	9,3	34,3	65,7
Coloured	30,8	53,8	7,7	7,7	30,8	69,2
Indian/Asian	30,0	50,0	10,0	10,0	40,0	60,0
White	35,7	53,6	3,6	7,1	39,3	60,7
Total	30,0	55,6	5,4	9,0	35,4	64,6

Source: DHET 2022

Table 10.4 above shows the number of graduates from public HEI by age group, population group and sex, in 2022. Analysis shows that 85,6% of graduates in public institutions in 2022 were aged between 15–34 with females accounting for 55,6% and males reported at 30,0%. Those aged 35 and above represented 14,4% of the graduates. Females reported a higher proportion of graduates in all population groups, compared to their counterparts.

Figure 10.6 - Percentage of youth graduates from public Higher Education Institution by population group and sex, 2022



Source: DHET 2022

Figure 10.6 shows the percentage of graduates from public HEI by population group and sex, in 2022. Results show that almost two thirds of the graduates in 2022 were females (65,0%), while 35,0% were males. This trend is visible among all the population groups, with females accounting for the majority of graduates. Amongst the coloureds, 67,1% of graduates were females and males accounted for 32,9% while for the white graduates 59,8% were females and 40,2% were males.

10.3 Conclusion

Between 2014 and 2023, attendance for youth increased for those in schools, other colleges, higher educational institutions, other and home schooling, while the opposite was recorded for the youth in TVET and AET. The Indian/Asian population and white population had the highest percentage of youth enrolled at higher educational institutions. Provincially, the majority of youth reported to have less than matric, followed by those with matric in all the nine provinces.

CHAPTER 11: CONCLUSION

11.1 Conclusion

The purpose of this report was to provide analyses relating to the situation of the youth in this country. Different chapters in the report covered various demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the youth. There were several areas where progress was made, as well as ongoing issues and challenges.

In terms of the demographic profile of the youth, between 2014 and 2024, the percentage of the youth population in South Africa (those aged 15–34 years) increased from 20,4 million to 20,9 million. In general, South Africa's general population experienced positive growth, while the youth population in the Eastern Cape and Free State, experienced negative growth. Nationally, the share of youth in the overall population declined over the past 10 years.

In relation to household characteristics, the analysis in the report showed that households headed by youth accounted for 24,5% in 2023. Those aged 25–34 years accounted for a higher percentage of youth-headed households (19,9%) compared to their younger counterparts (15–24 years) at 4,6%. The share of youth-headed households was higher for those in urban areas compared to rural areas (73,3% vs. 26,7%). The findings further showed that the majority of youth household heads were males for both urban and rural areas. Among the youth households, the female-headed households in both urban and rural areas increased by 2,3 percentage points in 2014 and 4,4 percentage points in 2023.

In terms of the participation of the youth, the primary labour market concern is the high rate of unemployment among youth. The youth unemployment rate increased from 36,8% in 2014 to 45,5% in 2024. Efforts directed towards tackling the scourge of youth unemployment have to address structural factors contributing to this troubling phenomenon. The structural factors mentioned above relate mainly to education, skills in so far as work experience is concerned, and race. For example, unemployed youth were most likely to have their highest level of education being less than matric whilst young graduates (those who qualified with a degree tertiary qualification) and others were least likely to be unemployed.

A review of other labour market indicators shows that between 2014 and 2024, labour force participation rates (LFPR) amongst youth increased by 2,6 percentage points; whilst the inactivity rate decreased with 2,6 percentage points. The percentage of young persons aged 15–34 years who were not in employment, education, or training (NEET) increased by 5,0 percentage points from 38,2% in 2014 to 43,2% in 2024. These trends could have detrimental effects on the future work force of this country.

The number of provinces where young people felt safe during the day increased in four provinces, namely Free State, Limpopo, Northern Cape, and North West. Assault, street robbery, and theft of personal property offences were more common among youth than among adults.

5,3% of the youth population in South Africa were immigrants with the young immigrants found mainly in Gauteng (51,3%) and Western Cape (15, 3%). The majority of the youth migrated from Zimbabwe (50,7%), followed by Mozambique at 19,6%.

Nationally, the percentage of youth with disabilities slightly decreased between 2011 and 2022. Gender disparities revealed that young females were more likely to have a disability as compared to their male counterparts for both years. Among all the nine provinces, Free State recorded the highest disability prevalence of the youth for both years.

The analysis of the living conditions of youth showed that the percentage of youth living in households without an employed adult has increased and as a result, rural households with youth relied mostly on grants as their primary source of income.

An analysis of the causes of death pertaining to youth showed that youth deaths made up 16,3% of all recorded deaths for 2014. This percentage of youth deaths decreased to 12,2% of the recorded deaths in 2020 (14,5% for males and 9,7% for females).

The Indian/Asian population and white population had the highest percentage of youth enrolled at higher educational institutions. Provincially, variations showed that the majority of youth had less than matric followed by those with matric in all the nine provinces.

ADDENDUM

Assistive devices

Assistive devices	Census 2011						Census 2022					
	Black African	Coloured	Indian or Asian	White	Other	Total	Black African	Coloured	Indian or Asian	White	Other	Total
Eye glasses												
Yes	910 889	155 784	104 960	302 272	13 473	1 487 378	748 536	163 951	100 727	246 536	8 824	1 268 573
No	14 273 275	1 332 949	319 801	848 643	110 154	16 884 822	17 235 219	1 451 997	372 990	662 037	81 817	19 804 060
Total	15 184 164	1 488 733	424 762	1 150 914	123 627	18 372 200	17 983 756	1 615 948	473 717	908 573	90 640	21 072 634
Hearing aid												
Yes	392 865	36 327	15 704	41 095	4 836	490 827	123 090	10 950	5 747	9 141	588	149 515
No	14 753 799	1 446 934	405 461	1 099 589	118 402	17 824 185	17 853 635	1 604 228	467 817	899 383	90 039	20 915 102
Total	15 146 664	1 483 261	421 165	1 140 685	123 238	18 315 013	17 976 725	1 615 178	473 564	908 524	90 627	21 064 617
Walking stick or frame												
Yes	345 848	30 862	13 187	34 741	4 292	428 929	124 971	10 926	4 896	7 036	552	148 381
No	14 827 468	1 455 381	408 849	1 109 876	119 242	17 920 817	17 853 105	1 604 456	468 622	901 605	90 050	20 917 838
Total	15 173 316	1 486 243	422 036	1 144 617	123 534	18 349 746	17 978 076	1 615 382	473 518	908 642	90 602	21 066 219
Wheelchair												
Yes	329 172	30 723	12 731	33 983	4 248	410 857	114 264	10 944	4 769	5 764	481	136 222
No	14 805 744	1 452 451	408 404	1 110 378	119 079	17 896 056	17 770 269	1 496 299	427 358	602 608	78 897	20 375 431
Total	15 134 916	1 483 174	421 135	1 144 361	123 327	18 306 912	17 884 533	1 507 244	432 127	608 372	79 377	20 511 653

4.3 Internal migration

Table 4.1 - Percentage distribution of youth (15–34) by province of enumeration, 2022

Province of birth	Province of enumeration									Total
	Western Cape	Eastern Cape	Northern Cape	Free State	KwaZulu-Natal	North West	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	Limpopo	
Western Cape	8,4	0,2	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,0	0,0	8,8
Eastern Cape	2,3	10,8	0,0	0,1	0,4	0,1	0,9	0,1	0,0	14,7
Northern Cape	0,1	0,0	2,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,0	0,0	2,2
Free State	0,1	0,0	0,0	4,4	0,0	0,1	0,5	0,0	0,0	5,3
Kwazulu-Natal	0,1	0,1	0,0	0,0	20,4	0,0	1,5	0,2	0,0	22,5
North West	0,0	0,0	0,1	0,0	0,0	5,1	0,6	0,0	0,0	6,0
Gauteng	0,4	0,2	0,0	0,1	0,2	0,3	16,7	0,3	0,2	18,3
Mpumalanga	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,9	7,9	0,1	9,1
Limpopo	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,1	2,9	0,3	9,7	13,0
Total	11,5	11,3	2,2	4,8	21,2	6,0	24,2	8,8	10,1	100,0

Source: Census 2022

Table 4.2 - Number of youth population inflows and outflows by province, 2022

Province of birth	Non-mover	in	out	net
Western Cape	1 693 714	616 396	81 570	534 826
Eastern Cape	2 164 221	99 414	787 334	-687 920
Northern Cape	393 715	47 136	55 419	-8 283
Free State	887 641	67 029	171 770	-104 741
Kwazulu-Natal	4 105 860	153 853	410 761	-256 908
North West	1 033 086	166 145	165 599	546
Gauteng	3 352 920	1 511 178	329 725	1 181 453
Mpumalanga	1 591 415	174 286	239 800	-65 514
Limpopo	1 940 780	84 136	677 595	-593 459

Source: Census 2022

Disability status**Table 3 - Distribution of persons aged 15–34 years old by sex and disability status, 2011 and 2022**

Sex	Census 2011			Census 2022		
	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total
Male	9 152 344	237 534	9 389 878	10 270 152	242 560	10 512 712
Female	9 153 275	248 479	9 401 755	10 329 664	270 819	10 600 484
Total	18 305 620	486 013	18 791 633	20 599 817	513 380	21 113 196
Per cent						
Male	97,5	2,5	100,0	97,7	2,3	100,0
Female	97,4	2,6	100,0	97,4	2,6	100,0
Total	97,4	2,6	100,0	97,6	2,4	100,0

Source: 2011 and 2022

Table 3 - Distribution of persons aged 15–34 years old by population group and disability status, 2011 and 2022

Population group	Census 2011			Census 2022		
	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total
Black African	15 115 456	414 015	15 529 471	17 581 136	437 246	18 018 383
Coloured	1 488 197	32 050	1 520 247	1 585 660	33 251	1 618 911
Indian/Asian	425 216	10 341	435 557	462 965	11 734	474 699
White	1 154 419	25 563	1 179 982	881 601	28 709	910 310
Other	122 332	4 044	126 375	88 455	2 439	90 894
Total	18 305 620	486 013	18 791 633	20 599 817	513 380	21 113 196
Per cent						
Black African	97,3	2,7	100,0	97,6	2,4	100,0
Coloured	97,9	2,1	100,0	97,9	2,1	100,0
Indian/Asian	97,6	2,4	100,0	97,5	2,5	100,0
White	97,8	2,2	100,0	96,8	3,2	100,0
Other	96,8	3,2	100,0	97,3	2,7	100,0
Total	97,4	2,6	100,0	97,6	2,4	100,0

Source: 2011 and 2022

Table 3 - Distribution of persons aged 15–34 years old by province and disability status, 2011 and 2022

Province	Census 2011			Census 2022		
	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total
Western Cape	1 987 411	40 897	2 028 308	2 411 048	54 625	2 465 673
Eastern Cape	2 075 369	65 399	2 140 768	2 235 442	70 035	2 305 477
Northern Cape	372 833	13 252	386 085	424 893	10 779	435 672
Free State	926 186	35 607	961 792	945 387	32 741	978 128
Kwa-Zulu Natal	3 693 726	118 189	3 811 915	4 202 904	108 231	4 311 135
North West	1 190 403	36 243	1 226 646	1 226 607	32 911	1 259 518
Gauteng	4 718 323	98 960	4 817 283	5 307 182	119 331	5 426 513
Mpumalanga	1 468 703	38 383	1 507 086	1 784 737	41 131	1 825 869
Limpopo	1 872 667	39 084	1 911 751	2 061 617	43 595	2 105 212
South Africa	18 305 620	486 013	18 791 633	20 599 817	513 380	21 113 196
	Per cent					
Western Cape	98,0	2,0	100,0	97,8	2,2	100,0
Eastern Cape	96,9	3,1	100,0	97,0	3,0	100,0
Northern Cape	96,6	3,4	100,0	97,5	2,5	100,0
Free State	96,3	3,7	100,0	96,7	3,3	100,0
Kwa-Zulu Natal	96,9	3,1	100,0	97,5	2,5	100,0
North West	97,0	3,0	100,0	97,4	2,6	100,0
Gauteng	97,9	2,1	100,0	97,8	2,2	100,0
Mpumalanga	97,5	2,5	100,0	97,7	2,3	100,0
Limpopo	98,0	2,0	100,0	97,9	2,1	100,0
South Africa	97,4	2,6	100,0	97,6	2,4	100,0

Source: 2011 and 2022

Educational attendance**Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by sex, disability status and attendance at an educational institution, 2011**

Sex	15–24 years			25–34 years			Total (15–34 years)		
	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total
Male									
Attending	2 579 714	58 748	2 638 462	331 975	8 422	340 397	2 911 689	67 170	2 978 859
Not attending	2 134 186	57 824	2 192 010	3 754 708	101 649	3 856 357	5 888 894	159 473	6 048 367
Total	4 713 901	116 571	4 830 472	4 086 683	110 071	4 196 754	8 800 583	226 642	9 027 226
Female									
Attending	2 499 386	60 036	2 559 422	406 902	11 572	418 474	2 906 288	71 607	2 977 895
Not attending	2 214 036	58 412	2 272 448	3 634 767	106 042	3 740 809	5 848 803	164 454	6 013 257
Total	4 713 422	118 448	4 831 869	4 041 669	117 614	4 159 283	8 755 091	236 061	8 991 153
Total									
Attending	5 079 100	118 783	5 197 884	738 877	19 994	758 871	5 817 977	138 777	5 956 754
Not attending	4 348 222	116 236	4 464 458	7 389 475	207 691	7 597 166	11 737 697	323 927	12 061 624
Total	9 427 323	235 019	9 662 341	8 128 352	227 685	8 356 037	17 555 674	462 704	18 018 378

Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by sex, disability status and attendance at an educational institution, 2022

Sex	15-24 years			25-34 years			Total (15-34 years)		
	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total
Male									
Not attending	2 349 134	55 987	2 405 121	4 599 601	112 451	4 712 052	6 948 735	168 437	7 117 173
Attending	2 296 123	48 501	2 344 625	488 870	14 734	503 604	2 784 993	63 235	2 848 228
Total	4 645 257	104 488	4 749 745	5 088 471	127 184	5 215 656	9 733 729	231 672	9 965 401
Female									
Not attending	2 299 212	56 441	2 355 653	4 618 925	123 429	4 742 354	6 918 137	179 870	7 098 006
Attending	2 225 123	57 907	2 283 030	577 620	18 206	595 826	2 802 744	76 112	2 878 856
Total	4 524 335	114 348	4 638 682	5 196 545	141 634	5 338 180	9 720 880	255 982	9 976 862
Total									
Not attending	4 648 346	112 428	4 760 773	9 218 526	235 879	9 454 406	13 866 872	348 307	14 215 179
Attending	4 521 247	106 408	4 627 654	1 066 491	32 939	1 099 430	5 587 737	139 347	5 727 084
Total	9 169 592	218 836	9 388 428	10 285 017	268 819	10 553 835	19 454 609	487 654	19 942 263

Source: 2022

*unspecified not included

Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by population group, disability status and attendance at an educational institution, 2011

Population group	15–24 years			25–34 years			Total (15–34 years)		
	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total
Black African									
Attending	4 327 976	104 746	4 432 723	602 181	17 267	619 449	4 930 157	122 014	5 052 171
Not attending	3 574 714	97 782	3 672 497	6 046 635	175 642	6 222 277	9 621 349	273 425	9 894 774
Total	7 902 691	202 529	8 105 219	6 648 816	192 910	6 841 726	14 551 507	395 439	14 946 945
Coloured									
Attending	315 320	6 204	321 524	35 341	794	36 135	350 662	6 998	357 660
Not attending	448 233	9 262	457 496	588 251	13 629	601 880	1 036 484	22 891	1 059 375
Total	763 554	15 466	779 020	623 592	14 423	638 015	1 387 146	29 889	1 417 035
Indian/Asian									
Attending	102 462	2 025	104 488	23 112	409	23 521	125 574	2 434	128 008
Not attending	87 643	2 252	89 895	185 441	4 921	190 362	273 084	7 173	280 257
Total	190 105	4 278	194 382	208 553	5 330	213 883	398 658	9 607	408 266
White									
Attending	319 095	5 377	324 472	72 192	1 426	73 618	391 287	6 802	398 090
Not attending	204 094	5 684	209 778	506 277	11 489	517 766	710 371	17 173	727 544
Total	523 189	11 061	534 250	578 469	12 914	591 384	1 101 658	23 975	1 125 633
Other									
Attending	14 247	431	14 677	6 050	98	6 148	20 297	529	20 825
Not attending	33 538	1 255	34 793	62 871	2 010	64 881	96 409	3 265	99 674
Total	47 785	1 685	49 470	68 921	2 108	71 029	116 706	3 793	120 499
Total									
Attending	5 079 100	118 783	5 197 884	738 877	19 994	758 871	5 817 977	138 777	5 956 754
Not attending	4 348 222	116 236	4 464 458	7 389 475	207 691	7 597 166	11 737 697	323 927	12 061 624
Total	9 427 323	235 019	9 662 341	8 128 352	227 685	8 356 037	17 555 674	462 704	18 018 378

Source: 2011

*unspecified not included

Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by population group, disability status and attendance at an educational institution, 2022

Population group	15–24			25–34			Total (15–34 years)		
	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total
Black African									
Not attending	3 883 451	95 085	3 978 536	7 808 556	198 987	8 007 544	11 692 008	294 073	11 986 080
Attending	3 918 162	92 298	4 010 460	945 002	28 215	973 217	4 863 164	120 513	4 983 677
Total	7 801 613	187 384	7 988 996	8 753 559	227 202	8 980 761	16 555 171	414 586	16 969 757
Coloured									
Not attending	482 897	9 055	491 952	716 039	15 624	731 663	1 198 936	24 679	1 223 615
Attending	283 582	5 628	289 209	48 868	1 732	50 600	332 449	7 360	339 809
Total	766 479	14 683	781 161	764 907	17 356	782 263	1 531 385	32 039	1 563 424
Indian/Asian									
Not attending	97 123	2 463	99 587	230 107	5 653	235 760	327 230	8 116	335 347
Attending	86 334	2 126	88 460	22 146	839	22 985	108 480	2 965	111 445
Total	183 457	4 589	188 047	252 253	6 492	258 745	435 710	11 081	446 791
White									
Not attending	163 808	5 347	169 155	413 976	14 235	428 211	577 784	19 582	597 366
Attending	223 097	6 019	229 116	46 515	2 011	48 526	269 612	8 030	277 642
Total	386 905	11 366	398 271	460 492	16 245	476 737	847 396	27 612	875 008
Other									
Not attending	21 067	477	21 543	49 847	1 381	51 228	70 914	1 857	72 772
Attending	10 072	337	10 409	3 959	143	4 102	14 032	480	14 512
Total	31 139	814	31 952	53 807	1 524	55 331	84 946	2 337	87 283
Total									
Not attending	4 648 346	112 428	4 760 773	9 218 526	235 879	9 454 406	13 866 872	348 307	14 215 179
Attending	4 521 247	106 408	4 627 654	1 066 491	32 939	1 099 430	5 587 737	139 347	5 727 084
Total	9 169 592	218 836	9 388 428	10 285 017	268 819	10 553 835	19 454 609	487 654	19 942 263

Source: 2022

*unspecified not included

Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by province, disability status and attendance at an educational institution, 2011

Province	15–24 years			25–34 years			Total (15–34 years)		
	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total
Western Cape									
Attending	403 341	7 372	410 713	64 827	1 309	66 136	468 168	8 681	476 849
Not attending	527 041	10 599	537 640	869 744	18 862	888 606	1 396 784	29 462	1 426 246
Total	930 381	17 971	948 353	934 571	20 171	954 742	1 864 952	38 143	1 903 095
Eastern Cape									
Attending	719 570	17 773	737 343	70 092	2 640	72 732	789 662	20 413	810 074
Not attending	504 280	16 517	520 797	715 015	26 058	741 073	1 219 295	42 575	1 261 870
Total	1 223 849	34 290	1 258 139	785 107	28 698	813 805	2 008 956	62 988	2 071 944
Northern Cape									
Attending	86 954	2 663	89 617	7 863	299	8 161	94 817	2 961	97 778
Not attending	107 073	3 431	110 504	158 704	6 349	165 053	265 777	9 780	275 557
Total	194 027	6 094	200 121	166 567	6 647	173 214	360 594	12 741	373 335
Free State									
Attending	261 351	9 058	270 409	26 389	944	27 332	287 740	10 001	297 741
Not attending	235 074	8 405	243 478	383 464	16 153	399 616	618 537	24 557	643 095
Total	496 425	17 462	513 887	409 852	17 096	426 949	906 277	34 559	940 836
KwaZulu-Natal									
Attending	1 135 243	30 956	1 166 199	182 445	6 298	188 743	1 317 687	37 254	1 354 942
Not attending	869 332	27 816	897 147	1 323 906	46 078	1 369 984	2 193 238	73 893	2 267 131
Total	2 004 574	58 772	2 063 346	1 506 351	52 376	1 558 727	3 510 925	111 148	3 622 073
North West									
Attending	296 756	7 919	304 675	30 681	839	31 520	327 437	8 758	336 194
Not attending	312 824	9 784	322 608	514 947	16 501	531 448	827 771	26 285	854 056
Total	609 580	17 703	627 283	545 627	17 340	562 967	1 155 208	35 043	1 190 250
Gauteng									
Attending	1 013 703	21 621	1 035 324	247 002	5 086	252 088	1 260 704	26 707	1 287 412
Not attending	1 050 222	21 259	1 071 480	2 177 064	45 751	2 222 815	3 227 286	67 010	3 294 295
Total	2 063 925	42 880	2 106 804	2 424 066	50 837	2 474 903	4 487 990	93 717	4 581 707

Province	15–24 years			25–34 years			Total (15–34 years)		
	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total
Mpumalanga									
Attending	441 057	9 616	450 672	50 360	1 167	51 526	491 416	10 782	502 199
Not attending	353 332	9 437	362 770	580 288	16 526	596 815	933 621	25 964	959 584
Total	794 389	19 053	813 442	630 648	17 693	648 341	1 425 037	36 746	1 461 783
Limpopo									
Attending	721 126	11 806	732 932	59 220	1 413	60 633	780 346	13 219	793 565
Not attending	389 045	8 988	398 033	666 343	15 413	681 756	1 055 388	24 401	1 079 790
Total	1 110 171	20 794	1 130 965	725 564	16 826	742 390	1 835 735	37 620	1 873 355
South Africa									
Attending	5 079 100	118 783	5 197 884	738 877	19 994	758 871	5 817 977	138 777	5 956 754
Not attending	4 348 222	116 236	4 464 458	7 389 475	207 691	7 597 166	11 737 697	323 927	12 061 624
Total	9 427 323	235 019	9 662 341	8 128 352	227 685	8 356 037	17 555 674	462 704	18 018 378

Source: 2011

*unspecified not included

Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by province, disability status and attendance at an educational institution, 2022

Province	15–24			25–34			Total (15–34 years)		
	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total
Western Cape									
Not attending	623 020	12 265	635 285	1 174 118	26 715	1 200 833	1 797 138	38 980	1 836 118
Attending	434 983	10 360	445 342	88 587	3 233	91 820	523 570	13 592	537 162
Total	1 058 003	22 624	1 080 627	1 262 705	29 948	1 292 653	2 320 708	52 572	2 373 280
Eastern Cape									
Not attending	506 439	15 873	522 313	894 241	31 896	926 136	1 400 680	47 769	1 448 449
Attending	607 102	15 256	622 359	123 545	4 213	127 757	730 647	19 469	750 116
Total	1 113 542	31 130	1 144 671	1 017 785	36 108	1 053 894	2 131 327	67 238	2 198 565
Northern Cape									
Not attending	121 306	2 868	124 173	181 557	4 801	186 358	302 863	7 669	310 532
Attending	91 316	2 134	93 450	14 238	513	14 751	105 554	2 647	108 202
Total	212 622	5 002	217 624	195 795	5 314	201 109	408 417	10 316	418 733
Free State									
Not attending	202 187	6 866	209 054	405 211	14 771	419 982	607 398	21 637	629 036
Attending	248 614	8 106	256 720	44 485	1 626	46 111	293 099	9 732	302 831
Total	450 801	14 972	465 773	449 696	16 397	466 093	900 498	31 369	931 867
KwaZulu-Natal									
Not attending	914 311	23 351	937 662	1 771 862	47 616	1 819 478	2 686 173	70 967	2 757 140
Attending	956 507	21 992	978 499	258 756	8 157	266 913	1 215 263	30 149	1 245 412
Total	1 870 818	45 343	1 916 161	2 030 617	55 773	2 086 390	3 901 436	101 116	4 002 551
North West									
Not attending	305 787	7 852	313 639	543 033	15 196	558 229	848 820	23 048	871 868
Attending	272 361	6 948	279 309	50 023	1 674	51 696	322 384	8 622	331 005
Total	578 148	14 800	592 948	593 055	16 870	609 925	1 171 203	31 670	1 202 873
Gauteng									
Not attending	1 181 985	25 522	1 207 507	2 661 383	56 683	2 718 066	3 843 368	82 206	3 925 574
Attending	953 925	23 732	977 657	259 002	8 077	267 079	1 212 928	31 808	1 244 736
Total	2 135 911	49 254	2 185 164	2 920 385	64 760	2 985 146	5 056 296	114 014	5 170 310

Province	15–24			25–34			Total (15–34 years)		
	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total
Mpumalanga									
Not attending	401 611	9 158	410 769	776 449	18 872	795 322	1 178 060	28 030	1 206 090
Attending	385 158	8 054	393 212	90 921	2 378	93 299	476 078	10 433	486 511
Total	786 769	17 212	803 981	867 370	21 251	888 620	1 654 139	38 462	1 692 601
Limpopo									
Not attending	391 699	8 674	400 372	810 673	19 328	830 002	1 202 372	28 002	1 230 374
Attending	571 280	9 827	581 106	136 934	3 069	140 003	708 214	12 895	721 109
Total	962 978	18 501	981 479	947 607	22 397	970 004	1 910 586	40 898	1 951 483
South Africa									
Not attending	4 648 346	112 428	4 760 773	9 218 526	235 879	9 454 406	13 866 872	348 307	14 215 179
Attending	4 521 247	106 408	4 627 654	1 066 491	32 939	1 099 430	5 587 737	139 347	5 727 084
Total	9 169 592	218 836	9 388 428	10 285 017	268 819	10 553 835	19 454 609	487 654	19 942 263

Source: 2022

*unspecified not included

Youth educational attainment

Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by sex, disability status and highest level of education completed, Census 2011

Sex	15–24			25–34			Total (15–34 years)		
	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total
Male									
No schooling	67 535	10 304	77 839	123 412	11 795	135 207	190 947	22 099	213 046
Some primary	337 204	16 564	353 768	300 229	16 971	317 200	637 433	33 535	670 968
Completed primary	282 153	8 940	291 093	159 266	5 640	164 906	441 419	14 580	455 999
Some secondary	2 748 543	60 181	2 808 725	1 593 055	42 161	1 635 215	4 341 598	102 342	4 443 940
Grade 12/Matric	1 192 798	21 297	1 214 095	1 578 543	29 590	1 608 133	2 771 341	50 888	2 822 229
Higher	225 592	3 542	229 134	517 011	8 748	525 759	742 603	12 291	754 894
Other	7 998	755	8 752	17 699	1 046	18 744	25 696	1 800	27 497
Total	4 861 823	121 583	4 983 406	4 289 214	115 951	4 405 165	9 151 038	237 534	9 388 572
Female									
No schooling	58 851	8 375	67 226	115 247	10 611	125 858	174 097	18 986	193 084
Some primary	202 099	9 630	211 728	219 741	13 539	233 280	421 840	23 168	445 008
Completed primary	201 070	6 810	207 880	139 158	5 835	144 992	340 228	12 645	352 873
Some secondary	2 715 497	64 691	2 780 189	1 558 518	46 692	1 605 210	4 274 015	111 383	4 385 399
Grade 12/Matric	1 435 693	28 525	1 464 218	1 614 745	35 275	1 650 020	3 050 438	63 800	3 114 238
Higher	254 965	5 184	260 150	615 170	12 011	627 181	870 135	17 196	887 331
Other	6 822	445	7 267	14 664	855	15 519	21 486	1 301	22 786
Total	4 874 997	123 661	4 998 658	4 277 242	124 818	4 402 060	9 152 239	248 479	9 400 718
Total									
No schooling	126 386	18 679	145 065	238 658	22 406	261 065	365 044	41 085	406 129
Some primary	539 303	26 193	565 496	519 970	30 510	550 480	1 059 273	56 703	1 115 976
Completed primary	483 223	15 750	498 973	298 424	11 474	309 899	781 647	27 225	808 872
Some secondary	5 464 041	124 873	5 588 913	3 151 573	88 853	3 240 426	8 615 613	213 726	8 829 339
Grade 12/Matric	2 628 491	49 822	2 678 313	3 193 288	64 866	3 258 153	5 821 779	114 688	5 936 467
Higher	480 557	8 727	489 284	1 132 181	20 759	1 152 940	1 612 739	29 486	1 642 225
Other	14 819	1 200	16 020	32 363	1 901	34 263	47 182	3 101	50 283
Total	9 736 820	245 244	9 982 064	8 566 456	240 769	8 807 226	18 303 277	486 013	18 789 290

Source: 2011

*unspecified not included

Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by sex, disability status and highest level of education completed, Census 2022

Sex	15–24			25–34			Total (15–34 years)		
	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total
Male									
No schooling	74 830	12 024	86 853	165 200	16 644	181 845	240 030	28 668	268 698
Some primary	166 586	9 181	175 767	185 650	10 691	196 341	352 236	19 872	372 108
Completed primary	213 681	5 899	219 580	136 543	4 833	141 376	350 225	10 731	360 956
Some secondary	2 497 929	45 018	2 542 946	1 727 196	39 943	1 767 139	4 225 124	84 960	4 310 085
Grade 12/Matric	1 637 281	23 626	1 660 906	2 214 863	35 583	2 250 446	3 852 144	59 208	3 911 352
Higher	182 834	3 434	186 268	580 202	12 395	592 597	763 037	15 828	778 865
Other	30 642	4 778	35 420	39 072	3 455	42 526	69 714	8 233	77 947
Do not know	75 409	3 767	79 176	206 766	7 096	213 862	282 176	10 862	293 038
Total	4 879 192	107 725	4 986 917	5 255 493	130 638	5 386 131	10 134 685	238 364	10 373 048
Female									
No schooling	60 763	8 610	69 374	145 128	16 757	161 885	205 891	25 367	231 259
Some primary	94 312	5 663	99 976	123 377	7 349	130 726	217 689	13 012	230 702
Completed primary	114 291	3 721	118 012	102 218	3 809	106 027	216 509	7 530	224 039
Some secondary	2 265 784	49 967	2 315 750	1 660 530	40 511	1 701 040	3 926 313	90 478	4 016 791
Grade 12/Matric	1 906 804	38 592	1 945 396	2 400 728	47 502	2 448 230	4 307 532	86 094	4 393 626
Higher	278 418	7 875	286 293	764 565	21 272	785 837	1 042 983	29 147	1 072 130
Other	32 042	3 359	35 401	43 249	3 071	46 319	75 291	6 430	81 720
Do not know	58 207	2 496	60 704	144 915	6 079	150 993	203 122	8 575	211 697
Total	4 810 622	120 284	4 930 905	5 384 709	146 349	5 531 058	10 195 330	266 633	10 461 963
Total									
No schooling	135 593	20 634	156 227	310 329	33 401	343 730	445 921	54 035	499 957
Some primary	260 898	14 844	275 743	309 027	18 040	327 067	569 925	32 884	602 810
Completed primary	327 972	9 620	337 592	238 761	8 642	247 403	566 733	18 262	584 995
Some secondary	4 763 712	94 985	4 858 697	3 387 725	80 453	3 468 179	8 151 438	175 438	8 326 876
Grade 12/Matric	3 544 085	62 217	3 606 302	4 615 591	83 085	4 698 676	8 159 675	145 302	8 304 978
Higher	461 253	11 308	472 561	1 344 767	33 667	1 378 434	1 806 020	44 975	1 850 995
Other	62 684	8 137	70 821	82 320	6 525	88 846	145 005	14 662	159 667
Do not know	133 617	6 263	139 879	351 681	13 174	364 855	485 298	19 437	504 735
Total	9 689 813	228 009	9 917 822	10 640 202	276 988	10 917 189	20 330 015	504 997	20 835 012

Source: 2022

*unspecified not included

Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by population group, disability status and highest level of education completed, 2011

Population group	15–24			25–34			Total (15–34 years)		
	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total
Black African									
No schooling	115 738	16 536	132 274	221 366	19 879	241 246	337 105	36 415	373 520
Some primary	482 520	23 653	506 172	462 324	27 245	489 570	944 844	50 898	995 742
Completed primary	422 421	13 777	436 198	257 262	10 267	267 529	679 683	24 044	703 727
Some secondary	4 671 163	109 285	4 780 448	2 717 313	77 606	2 794 918	7 388 476	186 891	7 575 366
Grade 12/Matric	2 105 104	40 636	2 145 740	2 569 954	52 880	2 622 835	4 675 058	93 516	4 768 575
Higher	332 326	6 355	338 682	726 224	14 277	740 501	1 058 550	20 632	1 079 182
Other	9 110	584	9 694	20 917	1 033	21 950	30 027	1 618	31 644
Total	8 138 382	210 827	8 349 209	6 975 360	203 188	7 178 548	15 113 742	414 015	15 527 757
Coloured									
No schooling	4 514	1 071	5 584	7 079	1 166	8 245	11 593	2 236	13 830
Some primary	43 439	1 562	45 001	42 680	2 102	44 782	86 118	3 664	89 782
Completed primary	45 605	1 312	46 917	32 745	948	33 693	78 350	2 260	80 610
Some secondary	469 084	8 421	477 505	287 931	6 041	293 973	757 015	14 463	771 478
Grade 12/Matric	213 695	3 253	216 948	246 617	4 089	250 706	460 311	7 343	467 654
Higher	29 262	587	29 849	61 750	1 050	62 799	91 012	1 637	92 648
Other	1 469	198	1 667	2 198	250	2 448	3 667	448	4 115
Total	807 067	16 405	823 472	681 000	15 645	696 645	1 488 067	32 050	1 520 117
Indian/Asian									
No schooling	1 398	286	1 684	2 812	381	3 193	4 210	667	4 877
Some primary	3 971	182	4 153	3 836	306	4 141	7 807	488	8 295
Completed primary	3 351	156	3 508	2 454	85	2 539	5 805	241	6 046
Some secondary	78 273	1 657	79 930	38 343	1 196	39 539	116 616	2 853	119 469
Grade 12/Matric	85 553	1 750	87 304	108 038	2 426	110 463	193 591	4 176	197 767
Higher	26 362	430	26 792	67 607	1 154	68 761	93 969	1 584	95 553
Other	947	95	1 042	2 199	237	2 435	3 146	332	3 478
Total	199 857	4 557	204 413	225 288	5 784	231 072	425 144	10 341	435 485

Population group	15–24			25–34			Total (15–34 years)		
	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total
White									
No schooling	1 534	578	2 112	2 070	647	2 717	3 604	1 225	4 829
Some primary	5 857	554	6 411	5 315	477	5 792	11 172	1 031	12 203
Completed primary	9 186	365	9 550	3 286	122	3 408	12 471	487	12 958
Some secondary	223 587	4 861	228 448	84 223	3 467	87 690	307 810	8 328	316 138
Grade 12/Matric	209 990	3 752	213 741	246 900	4 878	251 778	456 890	8 630	465 519
Higher	88 962	1 296	90 258	265 168	3 965	269 134	354 130	5 262	359 392
Other	2 648	295	2 943	5 384	307	5 691	8 033	601	8 634
Total	541 763	11 700	553 463	612 347	13 863	626 210	1 154 110	25 563	1 179 673
Other									
No schooling	3 202	209	3 411	5 330	333	5 663	8 533	542	9 074
Some primary	3 516	242	3 758	5 815	380	6 195	9 331	622	9 954
Completed primary	2 660	140	2 801	2 678	52	2 730	5 338	192	5 530
Some secondary	21 934	648	22 582	23 763	543	24 306	45 697	1 191	46 888
Grade 12/Matric	14 149	431	14 580	21 778	593	22 371	35 928	1 024	36 951
Higher	3 645	57	3 703	11 433	313	11 746	15 078	371	15 449
Other	645	28	673	1 665	74	1 739	2 310	102	2 411
Total	49 752	1 755	51 507	72 462	2 289	74 750	122 214	4 044	126 258
Total									
No schooling	126 386	18 679	145 065	238 658	22 406	261 065	365 044	41 085	406 129
Some primary	539 303	26 193	565 496	519 970	30 510	550 480	1 059 273	56 703	1 115 976
Completed primary	483 223	15 750	498 973	298 424	11 474	309 899	781 647	27 225	808 872
Some secondary	5 464 041	124 873	5 588 913	3 151 573	88 853	3 240 426	8 615 613	213 726	8 829 339
Grade 12/Matric	2 628 491	49 822	2 678 313	3 193 288	64 866	3 258 153	5 821 779	114 688	5 936 467
Higher	480 557	8 727	489 284	1 132 181	20 759	1 152 940	1 612 739	29 486	1 642 225
Other	14 819	1 200	16 020	32 363	1 901	34 263	47 182	3 101	50 283
Total	9 736 820	245 244	9 982 064	8 566 456	240 769	8 807 226	18 303 277	486 013	18 789 290

Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by population group, disability status and highest level of education completed, 2022

Population group	15–24			25–34			Total (15–34 years)		
	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total
Black African									
No schooling	121 410	18 165	139 575	284 203	30 154	314 358	405 614	48 319	453 933
Some primary	220 054	13 066	233 121	275 391	16 143	291 534	495 445	29 209	524 654
Completed primary	280 721	8 528	289 249	206 550	7 563	214 114	487 271	16 092	503 363
Some secondary	4 152 952	84 001	4 236 953	2 988 638	71 423	3 060 061	7 141 590	155 424	7 297 014
Grade 12/Matric	2 998 226	52 037	3 050 263	3 985 340	70 053	4 055 394	6 983 566	122 091	7 105 657
Higher	350 955	8 332	359 287	976 711	23 175	999 886	1 327 666	31 507	1 359 173
Other	49 568	6 533	56 102	65 270	4 981	70 251	114 839	11 514	126 353
Do not know	104 563	5 140	109 702	288 926	10 791	299 717	393 489	15 931	409 420
Total	8 278 449	195 803	8 474 251	9 071 030	234 284	9 305 314	17 349 479	430 087	17 779 566
Coloured									
No schooling	6 290	1 315	7 604	9 185	1 412	10 597	15 475	2 727	18 201
Some primary	32 376	1 045	33 421	24 722	1 202	25 924	57 098	2 247	59 345
Completed primary	39 011	709	39 719	25 705	731	26 437	64 716	1 440	66 156
Some secondary	386 766	5 632	392 398	295 340	5 474	300 814	682 106	11 106	693 212
Grade 12/Matric	276 180	4 383	280 563	308 010	5 174	313 184	584 191	9 556	593 747
Higher	27 509	590	28 099	77 197	1 955	79 152	104 705	2 546	107 251
Other	5 519	792	6 311	5 232	606	5 838	10 752	1 397	12 149
Do not know	16 689	592	17 281	33 982	1 155	35 137	50 671	1 746	52 418
Total	790 339	15 056	805 395	779 374	17 709	797 082	1 569 713	32 765	1 602 478
Indian/Asian									
No schooling	3 266	359	3 625	7 778	630	8 408	11 044	989	12 033
Some primary	3 110	218	3 328	3 626	272	3 897	6 736	490	7 225
Completed primary	2 576	94	2 670	2 628	141	2 769	5 204	235	5 439
Some secondary	65 996	1 432	67 428	37 202	970	38 173	103 199	2 402	105 601
Grade 12/Matric	92 066	1 775	93 841	131 416	2 450	133 866	223 482	4 225	227 707
Higher	18 852	482	19 334	67 517	1 662	69 179	86 369	2 144	88 513
Other	2 263	220	2 483	3 224	277	3 501	5 487	497	5 984
Do not know	4 215	141	4 356	9 904	360	10 263	14 119	501	14 619
Total	192 344	4 720	197 064	263 295	6 762	270 057	455 639	11 482	467 121

Population group	15–24			25–34			Total (15–34 years)		
	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total
White									
No schooling	2 742	707	3 449	5 093	1 065	6 158	7 835	1 772	9 607
Some primary	3 725	466	4 192	2 273	315	2 588	5 999	781	6 780
Completed primary	4 351	261	4 612	1 759	152	1 911	6 110	413	6 523
Some secondary	144 845	3 632	148 478	48 334	2 182	50 516	193 179	5 814	198 993
Grade 12/Matric	167 670	3 823	171 492	174 461	5 047	179 508	342 131	8 870	351 001
Higher	61 808	1 827	63 635	216 484	6 566	223 051	278 292	8 394	286 686
Other	4 854	547	5 401	7 637	608	8 246	12 492	1 155	13 647
Do not know	6 706	327	7 033	14 945	728	15 672	21 650	1 055	22 705
Total	396 701	11 590	408 291	470 987	16 663	487 650	867 688	28 253	895 942
Other									
No schooling	1 885	89	1 973	4 069	140	4 209	5 953	229	6 182
Some primary	1 632	49	1 681	3 016	108	3 124	4 649	157	4 805
Completed primary	1 314	28	1 343	2 118	54	2 172	3 432	82	3 514
Some secondary	13 154	287	13 441	18 211	405	18 616	31 364	692	32 056
Grade 12/Matric	9 943	200	10 143	16 363	361	16 724	26 306	561	26 867
Higher	2 129	77	2 206	6 859	308	7 167	8 987	386	9 373
Other	479	46	525	956	53	1 009	1 436	99	1 535
Do not know	1 444	63	1 507	3 925	141	4 066	5 369	204	5 573
Total	31 980	840	32 820	55 516	1 570	57 086	87 496	2 409	89 905
Total									
No schooling	135 593	20 634	156 227	310 329	33 401	343 730	445 921	54 035	499 957
Some primary	260 898	14 844	275 743	309 027	18 040	327 067	569 925	32 884	602 810
Completed primary	327 972	9 620	337 592	238 761	8 642	247 403	566 733	18 262	584 995
Some secondary	4 763 712	94 985	4 858 697	3 387 725	80 453	3 468 179	8 151 438	175 438	8 326 876
Grade 12/Matric	3 544 085	62 217	3 606 302	4 615 591	83 085	4 698 676	8 159 675	145 302	8 304 978
Higher	461 253	11 308	472 561	1 344 767	33 667	1 378 434	1 806 020	44 975	1 850 995
Other	62 684	8 137	70 821	82 320	6 525	88 846	145 005	14 662	159 667
Do not know	133 617	6 263	139 879	351 681	13 174	364 855	485 298	19 437	504 735
Total	9 689 813	228 009	9 917 822	10 640 202	276 988	10 917 189	20 330 015	504 997	20 835 012

Source: 2022

*unspecified not included

Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by province, disability status and highest level of education completed, 2011

Province	15–24			25–34			Total (15–34 years)		
	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total
Western Cape									
No schooling	5 495	1 147	6 642	10 251	1 134	11 385	15 746	2 282	18 027
Some primary	44 276	1 729	46 005	53 290	2 488	55 778	97 566	4 217	101 782
Completed primary	49 570	1 387	50 958	37 710	964	38 673	87 280	2 351	89 631
Some secondary	552 332	9 472	561 803	410 041	8 861	418 902	962 372	18 333	980 705
Grade 12/Matric	268 799	3 958	272 757	348 295	5 930	354 226	617 095	9 889	626 983
Higher	57 218	1 091	58 309	142 578	2 193	144 771	199 796	3 284	203 079
Other	2 677	253	2 930	4 754	289	5 043	7 431	542	7 973
Total	980 366	19 037	999 404	1 006 918	21 859	1 028 778	1 987 285	40 897	2 028 181
Eastern Cape									
No schooling	19 644	3 395	23 040	28 422	3 654	32 077	48 067	7 050	55 116
Some primary	134 209	6 446	140 655	86 317	6 124	92 441	220 526	12 571	233 096
Completed primary	96 145	3 315	99 460	39 291	1 903	41 194	135 437	5 218	140 655
Some secondary	757 248	17 793	775 041	339 577	11 308	350 885	1 096 825	29 102	1 125 927
Grade 12/Matric	212 378	3 853	216 230	241 863	5 107	246 970	454 241	8 960	463 201
Higher	33 840	605	34 445	82 933	1 711	84 645	116 773	2 316	119 090
Other	1 095	69	1 164	2 162	113	2 276	3 257	183	3 440
Total	1 254 559	35 477	1 290 036	820 566	29 922	850 488	2 075 125	65 399	2 140 524
Northern Cape									
No schooling	3 116	496	3 612	6 520	838	7 358	9 636	1 334	10 970
Some primary	14 936	876	15 813	16 154	1 195	17 349	31 090	2 071	33 161
Completed primary	12 160	461	12 621	9 324	404	9 728	21 483	865	22 348
Some secondary	117 299	3 429	120 729	69 151	2 592	71 743	186 450	6 021	192 471
Grade 12/Matric	46 131	965	47 095	57 752	1 530	59 282	103 883	2 494	106 377
Higher	5 223	42	5 266	14 196	319	14 515	19 419	361	19 781
Other	162	23	185	664	83	747	827	105	932
Total	199 028	6 292	205 320	173 761	6 960	180 721	372 788	13 252	386 040

Province	15-24			25-34			Total (15-34 years)		
	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total
Free State									
No schooling	4 287	859	5 145	7 899	1 337	9 235	12 185	2 196	14 381
Some primary	26 051	1 623	27 675	28 011	1 865	29 876	54 062	3 488	57 551
Completed primary	25 805	1 125	26 931	17 080	1 032	18 113	42 886	2 158	45 043
Some secondary	294 027	10 140	304 167	168 146	7 097	175 243	462 173	17 237	479 410
Grade 12/Matric	131 045	3 579	134 624	154 789	4 982	159 771	285 833	8 562	294 395
Higher	22 787	665	23 452	44 022	1 134	45 157	66 809	1 799	68 609
Other	553	33	587	1 616	133	1 749	2 169	167	2 336
Total	504 555	18 025	522 580	421 563	17 581	439 144	926 118	35 607	961 725
KwaZulu-Natal									
No schooling	31 166	5 128	36 295	57 745	5 902	63 647	88 911	11 031	99 942
Some primary	114 888	6 592	121 480	108 871	7 388	116 259	223 759	13 980	237 738
Completed primary	100 091	3 551	103 643	54 430	2 920	57 350	154 521	6 471	160 993
Some secondary	1 130 617	30 555	1 161 171	550 284	20 048	570 332	1 680 900	50 603	1 731 503
Grade 12/Matric	628 566	13 919	642 485	673 093	15 967	689 060	1 301 659	29 886	1 331 545
Higher	79 772	1 848	81 620	158 128	3 799	161 927	237 900	5 647	243 547
Other	1 840	273	2 114	3 799	297	4 097	5 639	571	6 210
Total	2 086 940	61 867	2 148 807	1 606 349	56 322	1 662 671	3 693 290	118 189	3 811 478
North West									
No schooling	12 002	1 640	13 642	24 712	2 047	26 759	36 713	3 688	40 401
Some primary	51 158	2 489	53 647	53 687	3 174	56 861	104 845	5 664	110 508
Completed primary	38 710	1 391	40 101	26 107	918	27 026	64 817	2 310	67 127
Some secondary	352 032	9 256	361 288	212 526	6 689	219 215	564 557	15 945	580 502
Grade 12/Matric	148 633	3 128	151 761	201 305	4 111	205 417	349 938	7 239	357 177
Higher	21 161	345	21 506	46 002	905	46 907	67 163	1 250	68 412
Other	779	70	849	1 448	78	1 526	2 227	148	2 375
Total	624 474	18 319	642 793	565 786	17 924	583 710	1 190 260	36 243	1 226 503

Province	15-24			25-34			Total (15-34 years)		
	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total
Gauteng									
No schooling	20 038	2 123	22 161	44 061	2 864	46 924	64 098	4 987	69 086
Some primary	55 498	2 351	57 849	90 224	3 654	93 878	145 723	6 005	151 727
Completed primary	61 555	2 058	63 612	63 508	1 720	65 227	125 062	3 777	128 839
Some secondary	1 045 154	21 476	1 066 631	838 612	18 977	857 589	1 883 766	40 454	1 924 219
Grade 12/Matric	765 739	13 577	779 316	1 024 246	18 148	1 042 394	1 789 986	31 724	1 821 710
Higher	193 956	3 010	196 966	495 740	8 051	503 791	689 696	11 061	700 757
Other	5 750	293	6 043	13 437	659	14 096	19 188	952	20 139
Total	2 147 690	44 888	2 192 578	2 569 828	54 072	2 623 899	4 717 518	98 960	4 816 477
Mpumalanga									
No schooling	13 556	1 788	15 343	26 487	2 108	28 595	40 043	3 895	43 938
Some primary	44 928	1 810	46 738	39 666	2 434	42 100	84 594	4 244	88 838
Completed primary	44 070	1 372	45 442	22 619	731	23 350	66 689	2 103	68 792
Some secondary	467 009	10 210	477 219	236 933	6 699	243 632	703 942	16 909	720 851
Grade 12/Matric	214 855	4 169	219 023	258 570	5 121	263 691	473 424	9 290	482 715
Higher	27 788	467	28 255	68 797	1 203	70 000	96 585	1 670	98 255
Other	1 004	60	1 064	2 130	211	2 341	3 134	272	3 406
Total	813 210	19 875	833 085	655 201	18 508	673 709	1 468 411	38 383	1 506 794
Limpopo									
No schooling	17 083	2 101	19 185	32 562	2 522	35 084	49 646	4 623	54 269
Some primary	53 358	2 277	55 635	43 751	2 187	45 939	97 110	4 464	101 574
Completed primary	55 116	1 090	56 205	28 356	882	29 238	83 472	1 972	85 443
Some secondary	748 323	12 541	760 864	326 305	6 581	332 886	1 074 628	19 122	1 093 750
Grade 12/Matric	212 346	2 675	215 021	233 374	3 968	237 342	445 720	6 644	452 364
Higher	38 814	653	39 467	79 784	1 444	81 228	118 598	2 097	120 695
Other	959	125	1 084	2 352	36	2 388	3 310	162	3 472
Total	1 125 999	21 463	1 147 461	746 484	17 621	764 105	1 872 483	39 084	1 911 566

Province	15-24			25-34			Total (15-34 years)		
	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total
Total									
No schooling	126 386	18 679	145 065	238 658	22 406	261 065	365 044	41 085	406 129
Some primary	539 303	26 193	565 496	519 970	30 510	550 480	1 059 273	56 703	1 115 976
Completed primary	483 223	15 750	498 973	298 424	11 474	309 899	781 647	27 225	808 872
Some secondary	5 464 041	124 873	5 588 913	3 151 573	88 853	3 240 426	8 615 613	213 726	8 829 339
Grade 12/Matric	2 628 491	49 822	2 678 313	3 193 288	64 866	3 258 153	5 821 779	114 688	5 936 467
Higher	480 557	8 727	489 284	1 132 181	20 759	1 152 940	1 612 739	29 486	1 642 225
Other	14 819	1 200	16 020	32 363	1 901	34 263	47 182	3 101	50 283
Total	9 736 820	245 244	9 982 064	8 566 456	240 769	8 807 226	18 303 277	486 013	18 789 290

Source: 2011

*unspecified not included

Distribution of youth (15–34 years) by province, disability status and highest level of education completed, 2022

Province	15–24			25–34			Total (15–34 years)		
	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total
Western Cape									
No schooling	9 297	1 511	10 808	16 625	1 849	18 474	25 922	3 359	29 281
Some primary	30 097	1 087	31 184	32 053	1 314	33 367	62 150	2 401	64 551
Completed primary	37 842	716	38 557	30 368	851	31 219	68 210	1 567	69 777
Some secondary	504 552	8 441	512 994	453 874	8 534	462 407	958 426	16 975	975 401
Grade 12/Matric	412 688	7 624	420 312	489 131	9 137	498 268	901 819	16 761	918 580
Higher	71 387	2 065	73 452	208 054	6 539	214 592	279 441	8 604	288 044
Other	9 533	1 146	10 680	10 876	917	11 793	20 409	2 063	22 473
Do not know	21 131	800	21 930	48 672	1 408	50 080	69 803	2 208	72 010
Total	1 096 527	23 389	1 119 916	1 289 653	30 548	1 320 201	2 386 180	53 937	2 440 117
Eastern Cape									
No schooling	13 812	3 628	17 440	27 552	5 135	32 687	41 364	8 764	50 128
Some primary	50 412	3 313	53 726	56 466	4 329	60 795	106 878	7 642	114 521
Completed primary	59 576	1 908	61 485	37 077	1 741	38 818	96 654	3 649	100 303
Some secondary	674 045	14 524	688 569	425 936	12 713	438 649	1 099 980	27 237	1 127 218
Grade 12/Matric	307 635	6 061	313 696	335 294	7 523	342 817	642 929	13 585	656 513
Higher	42 819	1 122	43 941	115 482	3 036	118 517	158 301	4 158	162 459
Other	5 502	796	6 298	6 661	616	7 277	12 164	1 412	13 576
Do not know	12 812	706	13 519	32 197	1 591	33 789	45 010	2 298	47 307
Total	1 166 615	32 060	1 198 674	1 036 665	36 684	1 073 349	2 203 280	68 744	2 272 023
Northern Cape									
No schooling	1 997	576	2 573	3 350	602	3 952	5 347	1 178	6 525
Some primary	12 134	515	12 649	8 779	469	9 249	20 913	984	21 897
Completed primary	14 034	319	14 354	7 408	279	7 687	21 442	598	22 040
Some secondary	119 826	2 293	122 119	80 851	1 934	82 785	200 677	4 227	204 904
Grade 12/Matric	64 727	1 082	65 809	77 826	1 459	79 285	142 553	2 541	145 094
Higher	4 557	108	4 665	14 570	370	14 940	19 127	478	19 605
Other	949	132	1 081	1 368	107	1 475	2 317	239	2 556
Do not know	2 594	131	2 725	6 034	234	6 268	8 628	365	8 993
Total	220 818	5 156	225 974	200 188	5 454	205 642	421 005	10 610	431 616

Province	15–24			25–34			Total (15–34 years)		
	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total
Free State									
No schooling	4 190	897	5 087	8 600	1 302	9 902	12 790	2 199	14 989
Some primary	13 885	916	14 801	12 805	910	13 715	26 690	1 826	28 516
Completed primary	21 903	823	22 726	10 852	518	11 371	32 755	1 341	34 097
Some secondary	246 522	7 260	253 783	161 128	5 745	166 873	407 650	13 005	420 655
Grade 12/Matric	157 912	4 109	162 021	199 173	5 452	204 625	357 085	9 561	366 646
Higher	20 130	689	20 820	51 313	1 728	53 042	71 444	2 418	73 861
Other	2 950	468	3 418	3 836	341	4 177	6 786	809	7 596
Do not know	5 321	380	5 701	14 852	855	15 708	20 174	1 235	21 409
Total	472 814	15 542	488 356	462 560	16 852	479 413	935 375	32 394	967 769
Kwazulu-Natal									
No schooling	26 336	5 330	31 666	68 352	8 918	77 270	94 688	14 249	108 936
Some primary	45 479	3 340	48 819	62 248	4 184	66 432	107 727	7 524	115 251
Completed primary	55 964	1 944	57 908	42 209	1 838	44 047	98 173	3 782	101 954
Some secondary	981 356	19 801	1 001 157	589 900	15 228	605 128	1 571 256	35 029	1 606 286
Grade 12/Matric	772 233	12 863	785 096	1 056 337	18 821	1 075 158	1 828 570	31 684	1 860 254
Higher	81 967	1 742	83 709	232 690	5 296	237 986	314 657	7 038	321 695
Other	9 874	1 432	11 306	13 197	1 170	14 367	23 071	2 602	25 673
Do not know	24 766	1 241	26 007	65 211	2 710	67 921	89 977	3 952	93 928
Total	1 997 975	47 694	2 045 669	2 130 144	58 166	2 188 310	4 128 119	105 860	4 233 979
North West									
No schooling	8 907	1 335	10 242	17 587	1 844	19 431	26 494	3 179	29 673
Some primary	24 475	1 196	25 670	25 770	1 444	27 214	50 244	2 639	52 884
Completed primary	29 390	862	30 252	19 119	660	19 779	48 509	1 522	50 031
Some secondary	306 063	6 462	312 525	217 259	5 787	223 047	523 323	12 249	535 572
Grade 12/Matric	207 531	3 890	211 421	252 584	4 814	257 398	460 115	8 705	468 819
Higher	17 536	480	18 015	49 812	1 388	51 199	67 348	1 867	69 215
Other	3 936	570	4 506	5 017	385	5 403	8 954	955	9 909
Do not know	7 641	485	8 126	20 305	862	21 168	27 946	1 347	29 293
Total	605 478	15 279	620 758	607 454	17 185	624 638	1 212 932	32 464	1 245 396

Province	15–24			25–34			Total (15–34 years)		
	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total
Gauteng									
No schooling	31 559	2 860	34 419	72 435	4 233	76 667	103 993	7 092	111 086
Some primary	39 117	2 093	41 210	55 791	2 323	58 114	94 908	4 416	99 324
Completed primary	48 235	1 413	49 648	49 541	1 381	50 921	97 776	2 794	100 569
Some secondary	939 916	19 418	959 335	830 951	17 803	848 754	1 770 867	37 222	1 808 089
Grade 12/Matric	977 417	17 572	994 989	1 399 238	24 117	1 423 355	2 376 655	41 689	2 418 344
Higher	154 147	3 785	157 932	484 491	11 811	496 302	638 639	15 596	654 234
Other	19 684	2 595	22 278	26 432	2 069	28 501	46 116	4 663	50 779
Do not know	32 543	1 497	34 041	92 016	2 880	94 896	124 559	4 377	128 937
Total	2 242 617	51 233	2 293 851	3 010 895	66 616	3 077 511	5 253 513	117 849	5 371 362
Mpumalanga									
No schooling	18 045	2 198	20 242	42 309	4 167	46 475	60 353	6 364	66 717
Some primary	22 232	1 187	23 419	27 971	1 596	29 567	50 203	2 783	52 986
Completed primary	27 617	777	28 394	21 560	748	22 308	49 176	1 526	50 702
Some secondary	417 906	7 848	425 754	274 089	6 074	280 164	691 995	13 922	705 917
Grade 12/Matric	320 904	4 831	325 735	439 368	6 717	446 084	760 272	11 548	771 819
Higher	25 802	517	26 319	72 927	1 565	74 492	98 729	2 082	100 811
Other	3 876	388	4 265	5 674	285	5 959	9 551	673	10 224
Do not know	10 879	414	11 293	29 655	1 070	30 725	40 534	1 484	42 018
Total	847 260	18 161	865 420	913 552	22 222	935 774	1 760 812	40 383	1 801 195
Limpopo									
No schooling	21 451	2 300	23 750	53 519	5 352	58 871	74 970	7 651	82 621
Some primary	23 068	1 197	24 265	27 144	1 471	28 615	50 212	2 668	52 880
Completed primary	33 412	857	34 270	20 627	626	21 252	54 039	1 483	55 522
Some secondary	573 525	8 937	582 463	353 737	6 635	360 372	927 262	15 572	942 835
Grade 12/Matric	323 037	4 185	327 222	366 640	5 045	371 685	689 677	9 230	698 907
Higher	42 907	800	43 708	115 428	1 934	117 362	158 335	2 735	161 070
Other	6 379	610	6 989	9 258	635	9 893	15 637	1 245	16 882
Do not know	15 929	609	16 538	42 738	1 563	44 301	58 667	2 172	60 840
Total	1 039 709	19 496	1 059 204	989 090	23 261	1 012 351	2 028 799	42 757	2 071 556

Province	15–24			25–34			Total (15–34 years)		
	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total	Without disability	With disability	Total
South Africa									
No schooling	135 593	20 634	156 227	310 329	33 401	343 730	445 921	54 035	499 957
Some primary	260 898	14 844	275 743	309 027	18 040	327 067	569 925	32 884	602 810
Completed primary	327 972	9 620	337 592	238 761	8 642	247 403	566 733	18 262	584 995
Some secondary	4 763 712	94 985	4 858 697	3 387 725	80 453	3 468 179	8 151 438	175 438	8 326 876
Grade 12/Matric	3 544 085	62 217	3 606 302	4 615 591	83 085	4 698 676	8 159 675	145 302	8 304 978
Higher	461 253	11 308	472 561	1 344 767	33 667	1 378 434	1 806 020	44 975	1 850 995
Other	62 684	8 137	70 821	82 320	6 525	88 846	145 005	14 662	159 667
Do not know	133 617	6 263	139 879	351 681	13 174	364 855	485 298	19 437	504 735
Total	9 689 813	228 009	9 917 822	10 640 202	276 988	10 917 189	20 330 015	504 997	20 835 012

Source: 2022

*unspecified not included

