

Community Survey 2007

THE RDP COMMITMENT: WHAT SOUTH AFRICANS SAY



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Community Survey 2007

**The RDP commitment:
What South Africans say**

Statistics South Africa
2007

Pali Lehohla
Statistician-General

Table of contents

1	Acknowledgements.....	1
2	The context of measurement.....	2
2.1	What then is the RDP commitment?	2
2.2	What is this report about?	2
3	The Community Survey	3
3.1	Data items collected.....	4
3.2	Release of products	5
4	Key findings on housing and services	6
4.1	Population size and distribution	6
4.2	Health care.....	7
4.2.1	Estimated crude death rates	7
	Figure 1: Crude death rates implied by reported and adjusted numbers of deaths, 2001-2006.....	7
4.3	Education	8
4.3.1	Educational attainment of persons 20 years and older	8
	Figure 2: Highest level of education amongst population aged 20 years and above	8
4.4	Housing.....	9
4.4.1	Households by type of main dwelling	9
	Figure 3: Percentage distribution of household by type of main dwelling.....	9
4.4.2	Refuse disposal.....	10
	Figure 4: Percentage of households by type of refuse disposal.....	10
4.4.3	Toilet facilities.....	11
	Figure 5: Percentage distribution of households by type of toilet facility	11
4.4.4	Main energy source for lighting	12
	Figure 6: Percentage distribution of households by type of energy used for lighting	12
4.4.5	Main energy source for lighting (provincial).....	13
	Figure 7: Percentage of households using electricity for lighting by province	13
4.4.6	Main energy source for cooking	14
	Figure 8: Percentage of households using electricity for cooking by province	14
4.4.7	Main energy source for heating.....	15
	Figure 9: Percentage of households using electricity for cooking by province	15
4.4.8	Main energy source for heating by province	16
	Figure 10: Percentage of households using electricity for heating by province.....	16
4.4.9	Household goods and access to postal facilities.....	17
	Figure 11: Percentage of households with household goods and access to postal facilities	17
4.4.10	Access to piped water by province.....	18
	Figure 12: Percentage of households that have access to piped water by province.....	18
4.4.11	Piped water within the dwelling or yard	19
	Figure 13: Percentage of households by main source of water.....	19
5	What do South Africans say in 2007?.....	20

1 Acknowledgements

In population census terms, a census is the biggest public mobilization in times of peace. The Community Survey although much smaller than a census is still a major mobilization. In these circumstances of peaceful mobilization, we however, still encounter casualties and fatalities arising from accidents. During the Community Survey we lost staff members and members of the public. To these dedicated colleagues who passed on in the line of duty, I wish to express my deepest appreciation and respect for the work they performed and trust that their souls will rest in peace. And to the members of public who passed on as a consequence of our interaction with them may their soul rest in peace.

To the public of South Africa, thank you for participating in this mammoth exercise. The Community Survey team and the rest of the organisation, well done and to the Statistics Council, we appreciate your guidance.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

2 The context of measurement

In 1994 upon winning the election and forming government, the ANC led government adopted the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) as a policy framework for development. The RDP is an integrated, coherent socio-economic policy framework which seeks to mobilize South Africans and their associated resources toward the final eradication of apartheid and the building of a democratic non-racial and non-sexist future.

2.1 What then is the RDP commitment?

The RDP commitment consists of five key pillars of delivery

- Meeting basic needs
- Developing our human resources
- Building the economy
- Democratising the state
- Implementing the RDP

2.2 What is this report about?

The report tabled today, after 13 years of taking the first step in the domain of democratizing the state, deals specifically with measurement in the domains of meeting basic needs and developing our human resources. The other domains of the RDP such as building the economy in particular are continually reported upon through economic indicators. The measurement on meeting basic needs and developing our human resources provides an objective assessment of the performance of the country, on the extent to which it has made progress or failed to make progress. By comparing information gathered over the last 13 years such assessment can be made. The results are based on objective enumeration of those things that can be visibly seen such as the number of households that have access to a particular form of energy and to what end they deploy such energy. It is not anecdote, but it is what South Africans say about their living conditions. It is therefore appropriately titled '**The RDP commitment: What South Africans say.**'

The **RDP** Chapter on **meeting basic needs** deals with ten terrains of delivery and these are:

- Land Reform
- Housing and services
- Water and sanitation
- Energy and electrification
- Telecommunications
- Transport
- Environment
- Nutrition
- Health care and
- Social security and social welfare

The study reports performance on seven of these ten delivery areas. These are

- Housing and services
- Water and sanitation
- Energy and electrification
- Telecommunications
- Health care
- Social security and welfare
- Tenure status as far as main dwellings are concerned

The RDP document on building our human resources talks to four areas

- Education and training
- Arts and culture
- Sports and recreation and
- Youth development

The study enquired only on education and training and will as such report on what South Africans say on the first terrain of delivery namely, education and training.

3 The Community Survey

Statistics South Africa has probed South Africans about their living conditions in three major scientific surveys in the 13 years of democratic dispensation. The first such enquiry was based on the population census of 1996, the second was based on the population census of 2001 and the third is the large scale Community Survey which is the subject of this report. In 2011 we will have an opportunity to run a census similar to what was done in 1996 and 2001. Of all the surveys it conducts, the Community Survey is the largest probability sample survey that Statistics South Africa conducts. The Community Survey reached out to 284 000 households across the country, and of these 274 000 were in scope and valid responses were obtained from about 255 000 households. This sample size combined with other ancillary data enables Statistics South Africa to estimate the population of the country as well as that of provinces. It further enables Statistics South Africa to deliver information at lower levels of geography below district council level and metros. In short, the Community Survey should provide municipal level data on indicators of performance on the RDP commitment.

The survey was undertaken to measure demographic and socio-economic change throughout society, and to monitor progress in provision of services to households. It collected data on demographic variables, including age, sex, fertility and mortality; social variables such as marital status, receipt of social grants, school attendance and level of education; and dwelling structure and services, such type of housing and number of rooms, and access to water, energy and sanitation.

Methodologically, the CS was designed to provide data not only nationally and provincially, but also for each of the country's 264 municipalities. Regular sample surveys conducted by Stats SA, such as the annual General Household Survey (GHS) and twice-yearly Labour Force Survey (LFS), are based on samples of approximately thirty thousand households. This sample size can provide reliable data at national and provincial levels, but not for municipalities. Usually, a full-scale population census is required for relevant and accurate municipal-level data. However, the size of the sample used for the CS, as well as the sampling methodology employed, has allowed for the collection of data for each municipality.

The logistics to undertake a survey of this magnitude were huge in scope. In the field,

teams were made up of 1 182 fieldwork supervisors and 4 728 enumerators. Supervisors were managed by 236 fieldwork co-ordinators, who were in turn supervised by 55 district survey co-ordinators, and these were distributed across the nine provincial survey co-ordinators.

Fifty-five district offices were set up specifically for the CS. In addition to the 55 offices, each of the 236 field work co-ordinators had a temporary local office used as a base during fieldwork, and for the training of enumerators and supervisors attached to them. Over 1750 vehicles were deployed in field. Twelve hundred sedans and nearly 550 bakkies traversed the length and breadth of South Africa executing the fieldwork.

A mountain of stationery was needed to run a survey of this size: 50 000 pencils, 30 000 pens, 15 000 erasers, 10 000 sharpeners, 10 000 rulers, 50 000 rubber bands – again, all having to be delivered to each of the 55 district offices across the nine provinces. A thousand pairs of scissors were needed. And the 55 first aid boxes ordered bear testimony to the fact that fieldwork can be a dangerous activity.

A questionnaire is the key tool for gathering information in any survey or census. The overall process of design and development of the CS questionnaire was undertaken in different phases, including assessment of user needs and stakeholder consultation. Ten stakeholder workshops were held across the country during August and September 2004. Approximately 367 stakeholders, predominantly from national, provincial and local government departments, as well as from research and educational institutions, attended. The workshops aimed to achieve two objectives, namely to better understand the type of information stakeholders need in order to meet their objectives, and to consider the proposed data items to be included in future household surveys. Over 760 000 questionnaires had to be printed for the CS.

Data collection for the survey was concluded by 7 March and all questionnaires had been delivered to the central processing centre by 30 March, where the information from the questionnaires was converted into an electronic dataset enabling it to be presented in statistical tables. This process commenced on 9 April after all systems had been taken through development and testing phases. Optical scanning of the questionnaires was concluded by 31 May, capturing by 29 June, data quality assurance by 29 of July. The first edits, weighting and tabulation were concluded by the end of July, after which the data were sent to independent consultants for evaluation.

The Community Survey is one of the most complex and challenging activities undertaken by Stats SA. The first release of information from this survey just eight months since fieldwork began bears testimony to the dogged commitment of the whole CS team, from fieldworkers to data capturers and drivers, and those who supervised their endeavours.

3.1 Data items collected

In the survey, data was collected for

- demographic variables such as age, sex, fertility and mortality;
- socio-economic variables such as marital status, receipt of social grants, school attendance and level of education; and
- variables on dwellings , such as type of housing, number of rooms, and access to water, energy and sanitation.

3.2 Release of products

Products from the CS will be released in two phases:

October 2007

- Key results for the country as a whole
- Primary tables for the nine provinces
- Methodology

January 2008

- Community profile database
- Municipal profiles based on proportions
- Thematic reports and atlas
- Unit records
- Interactive web-based products

4 Key findings on housing and services

- Over 70% of households now live in formal dwellings. This reflects a steady increase, from 64,4% in 1996, to 68,5% in 2001, and 70,5% in 2007.
- The percentage of households where refuse is removed by a local authority at least once a week increased from 51,2% in 1996, to 55,4% in 2001, to 60,1% in 2007.
- There has been a decline in the percentage of households having to use the bucket toilet system, from 4,1% in 2001 to 2,2% in 2007.
- Use of electricity as the main energy source for lighting increased substantially between 1996 and 2007 (from 57,6% in 1996 to 80,0% in 2007).
- The percentage of households which have computer facilities increased from 8,6% in 2001 to 15,7% in 2007.
- Only 7,3% of households had access to Internet facility at home in 2007.
- The proportion of households owning a radio, television, computer, refrigerator and cellphone increased considerably between 2001 and 2007. For example, the proportion of households owning a cellphone increased from 32,3% in 2001 to 72,9% in 2007.
- The percentage of households with access to piped water increased from 84,5% in 2001 to 88,6% in 2007.
- There was an increase in the percentage of households that have access to piped water in all nine provinces
- The proportion of households obtaining access to water from piped water inside the dwelling increased from 32,3% in 2001 to 47,3% in 2007.

4.1 Population size and distribution

The following results are based on the new provincial boundaries

The total population of South Africa has increased from 44.8 million in October 2001 to 48.5 million in February 2007. This resulted in the population being 8% more than it was in 2001. It grew by an average annual growth rate of 1.5%.

Gauteng, the smallest province in area, contains the largest number of people of the provinces (10 451 713), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (10 259 230 people). The smallest provincial population is found in Northern Cape (1 058 060).

The population of Western Cape has increased by approximately 16% when compared to its size in 2001. This translates into an annual growth rate of 2.9%. Western Cape is followed by Gauteng, which increased by approximately 14% compared to what it was in 2001. Gauteng grew at an average rate of 2.4% per annum.

Provincial distribution of population indicates that Kwa Zulu Natal is no longer the most numerically preponderous but Gauteng is now the most populous. The population of Kwa-Zulu Natal has increased by 7% over this period of five and half years which is below the national average of 8%. Annually Kwa-Zulu Natal grew at a rate of 1.3%.

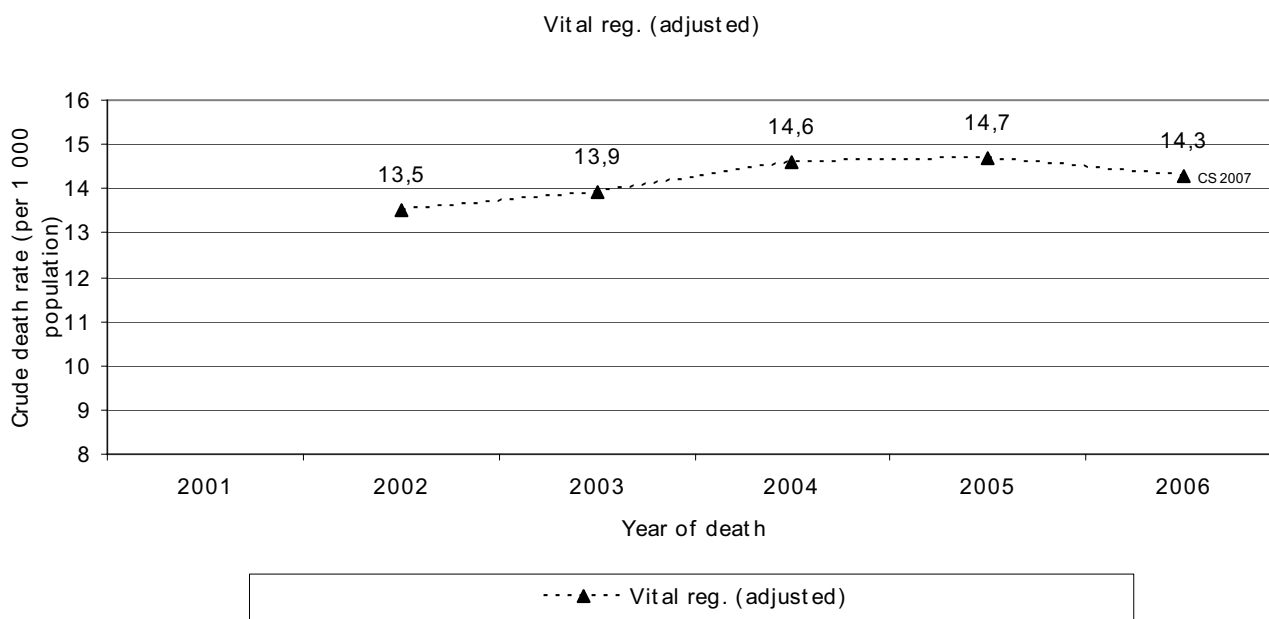
4.2 Health care

4.2.1 Estimated crude death rates

The completeness of the number of death from vital registration data in South Africa was estimated between the range of 81% in 2002 to 89% in 2005 (Statistics South Africa). Crude death rates are used here to evaluate consistencies among the number of deaths reported using different data sets at different times. Crude death rates are defined as the number of deaths in a year per 1 000 midyear population. Though not regarded as a good measure of mortality, crude death rates do give a general indication of the level of mortality and its changes over time.

Figure 1 shows crude death rates calculated based on adjusted deaths taking into account the level of completeness for the years 2002 to 2005. The 2006 figure represents the observation from the 2007 CS. The figure suggests that the crude death rates have been increasing since Census 2001.

Figure 1: Crude death rates implied by reported and adjusted numbers of deaths, 2001-2006



4.3 Education

4.3.1 Educational attainment of persons 20 years and older

Educational attainment amongst those 20 years and older is often seen as critical to addressing the skills constraints facing the South African economy. The higher education participation rates of those aged 20-years and higher is seen as a crucial indicator of employability, labour participation and development. Education levels recorded are based on the completed level of education by the individual on Census night or the day of CS data collection.

Figure 2: Highest level of education amongst population aged 20 years and above

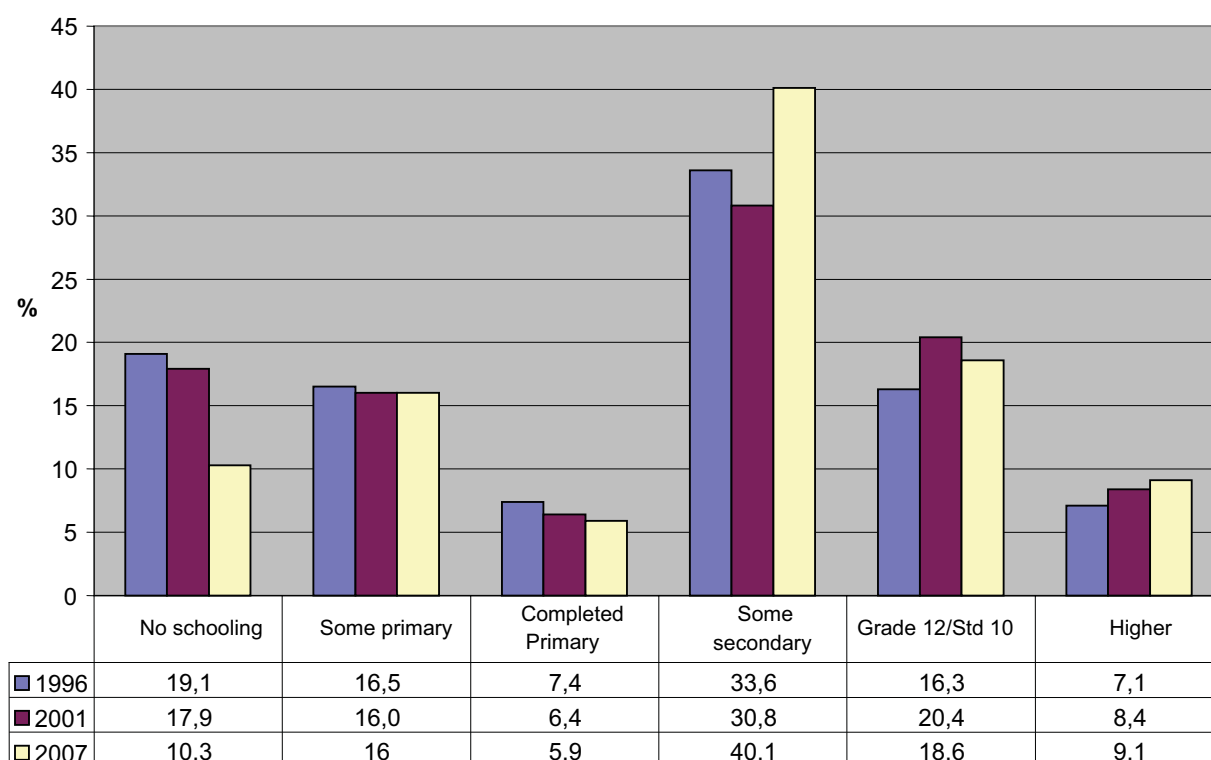


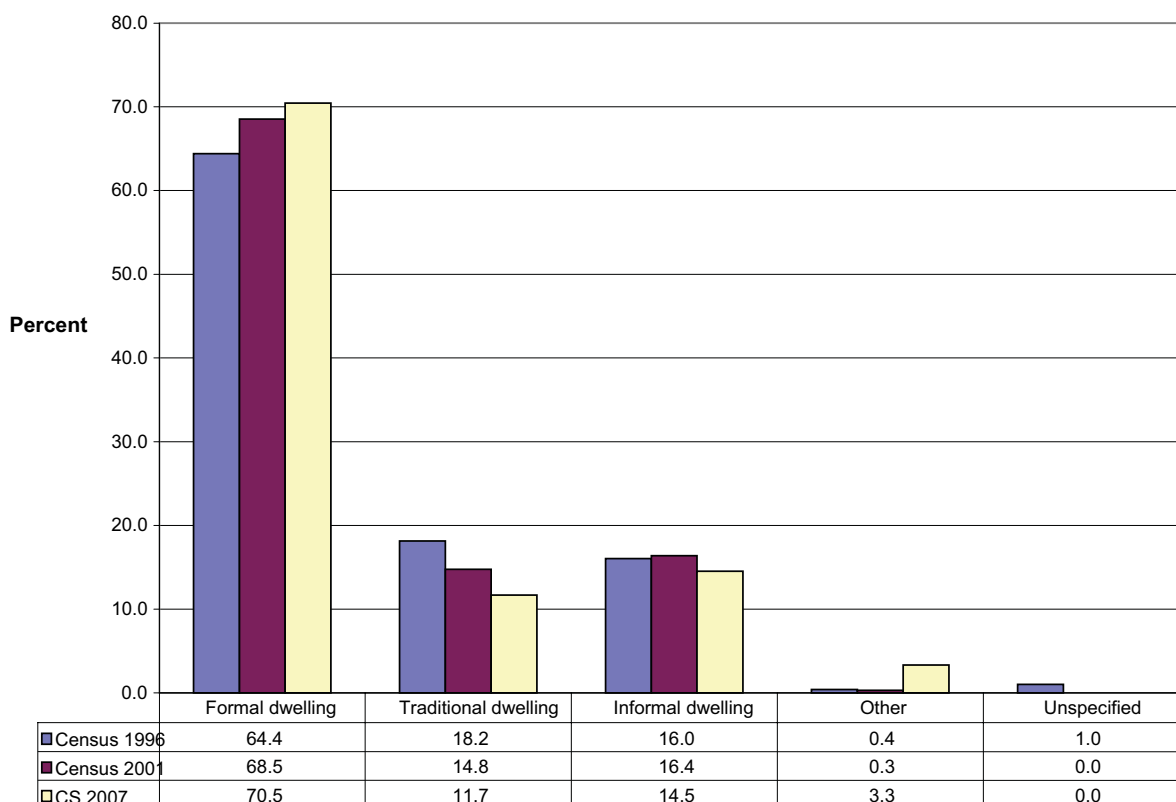
Figure 2 shows that at the time of both censuses just above three in ten as compared to four in ten as depicted by CS, of those aged 20 years and older, had started, but not completed secondary education. Over the period 1996 to 2001, there was a drop in percentage from 33.9 % to 30.8 %. Between 2001 and 2007 however, there has been a notable growth in some secondary schooling among persons aged 20 years and older (33.6% in 1996 to 40.1 % in 2007). There is a decrease in percentage of no schooling since 1996. In 1996, for those aged 20 years and above, no schooling accounted for 19.1% and steadily decreased to 17.9% in 2001 and to 10.3% in 2007. For those with primary education, there is no change since 1996, In 2007, 9.1 % of persons aged 20 years and above had completed higher education, against 8.4% in 2001 and 7.1% in 1996.

4.4 Housing

4.4.1 Households by type of main dwelling

- Over 70% of households now live in formal dwellings. This reflects a steady increase, from 64,4% in 1996, to 68,5% in 2001, and 70,5% in 2007.
- The proportion of households living in traditional dwellings has decreased steadily, from 18,2% in 1996, to 14,8% in 2001, and 11,7% in 2007.
- Between 1996 and 2007, the percentage of households living in informal dwellings decreased from 16,0% to 14,5% (a slight increase over 1996 was seen in 2001, when the percentage was 16,4%).

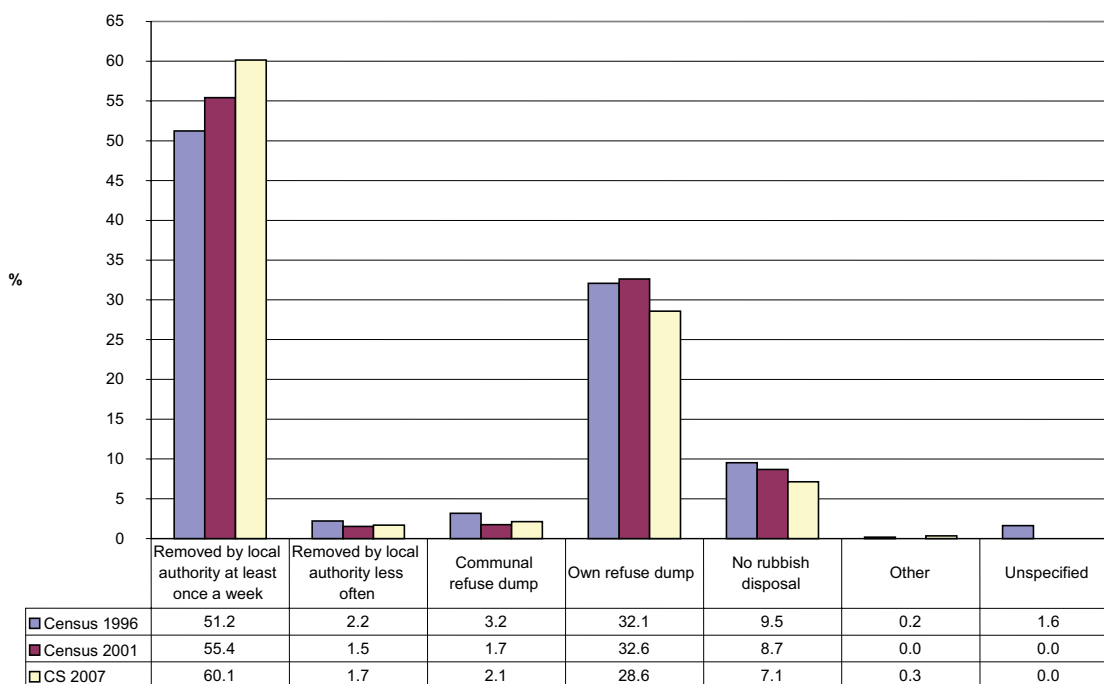
Figure 3: Percentage distribution of household by type of main dwelling



4.4.2 Refuse disposal

- The percentage of households where refuse is removed by a local authority at least once a week increased from 51,2% in 1996, to 55,4% in 2001, to 60,1% in 2007.
- There was an overall reduction in the percentage of households having to rely on their own refuse dump, from 32,1% in 1996, up to 32,6% in 2001, and down to 28,6% in 2007.

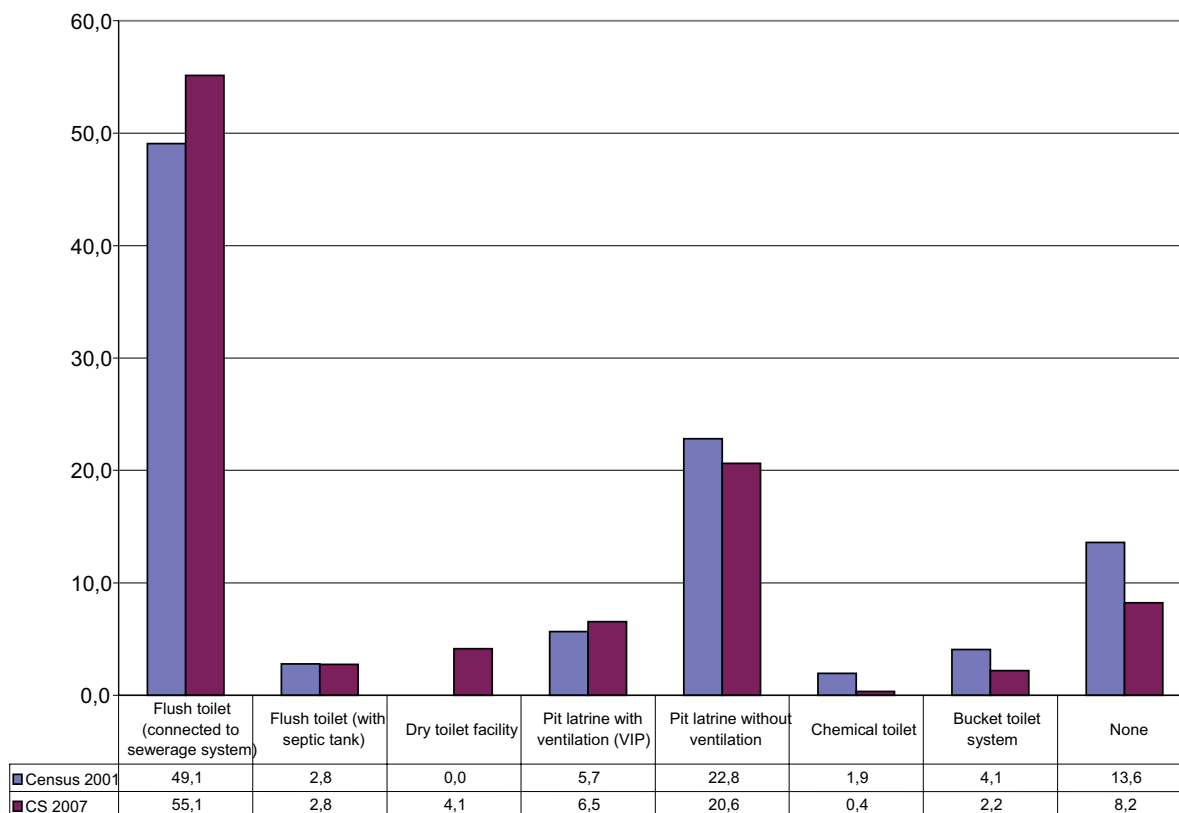
Figure 4: Percentage of households by type of refuse disposal



4.4.3 Toilet facilities

- There has been a steady improvement in the nature of access to toilets facilities.
- The proportion of households with access to a flush toilet connected to sewerage disposal increased from 49,1% in 2001 to 55,1% in 2007.
- There has been a decline in the percentage of households having to use the bucket toilet system, from 4,1% in 2001 to 2,2% in 2007.
- The use of pit latrines (without ventilation) declined from 22,8% to 20,6%.
- The proportion of households without access to any toilet facility declined from 13,6% in 2001 to 8,2% in 2007.

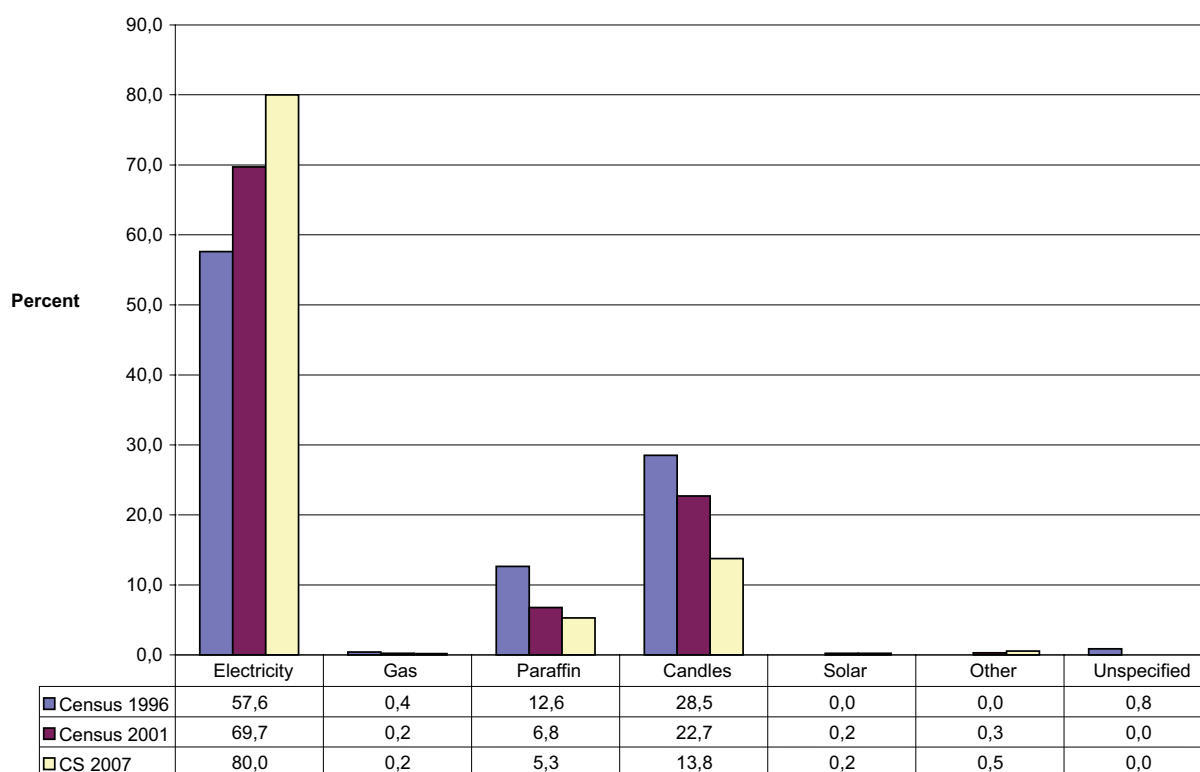
Figure 5: Percentage distribution of households by type of toilet facility



4.4.4 Main energy source for lighting

- Use of electricity as the main energy source for lighting increased substantially between 1996 and 2007 (from 57,6% in 1996 to 80,0% in 2007).
- The use of paraffin and candles as the main source of energy for lighting decreased by more than half between 1996 and 2007.

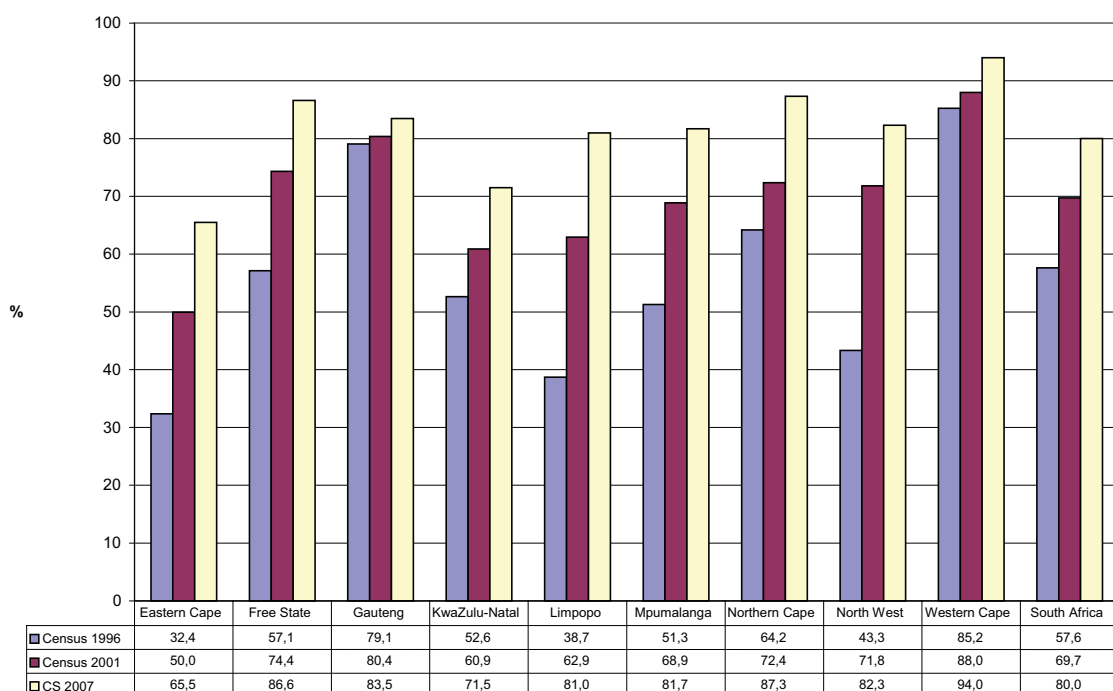
Figure 6: Percentage distribution of households by type of energy used for lighting



4.4.5 Main energy source for lighting (provincial)

- Electricity as the main energy source for lighting increased in all the provinces between 1996 and 2007.
- Western Cape has the highest proportion (94,0%) of households using electricity for lighting, followed by Northern Cape (87,3%) and Free State (86,6%).
- Eastern Cape has the lowest proportion (65,5%) using electricity for lighting.

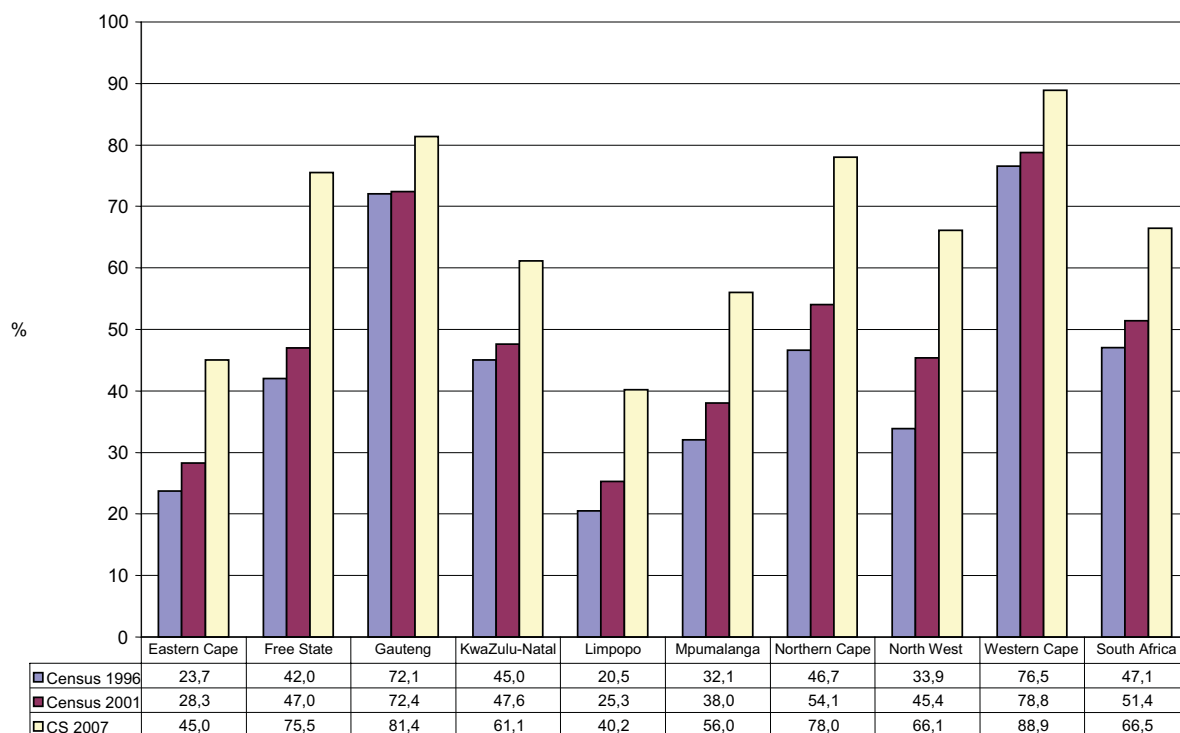
Figure 7: Percentage of households using electricity for lighting by province



4.4.6 Main energy source for cooking

- The use of electricity for cooking increased from 47,1% of households in 1996, to 51,4% in 2001, to 66,5% in 2007.
- The use of gas, paraffin, wood, coal and animal dung as the source of energy for cooking has been declining from 1996.
- The increase in the proportion of households using electricity for cooking has taken place in all nine provinces.
- The highest proportion of households using electricity for cooking is found in Western Cape (88,9%), followed by Northern Cape (78,0%) and Free State (75,5%).
- Limpopo has the lowest percentage of households using electricity for cooking (40,2%).

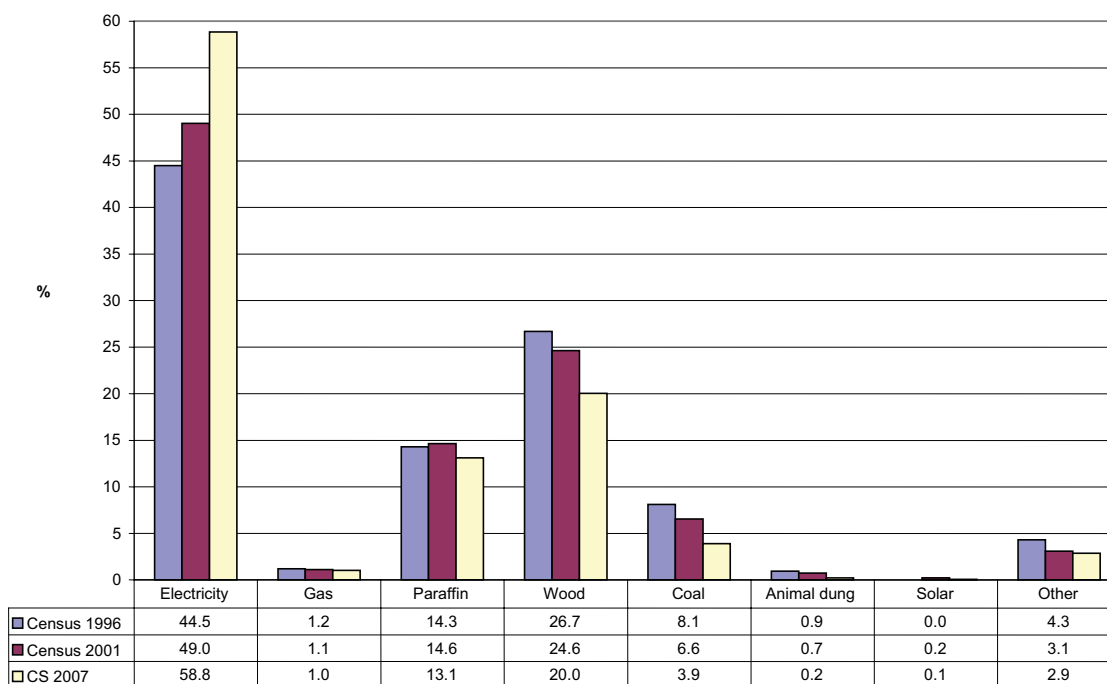
Figure 8: Percentage of households using electricity for cooking by province



4.4.7 Main energy source for heating

- The use of electricity by households as the main energy source for heating increased from 44,5% in 1996, to 49,0% in 2001, to 58,8% in 2007.
- All the other sources of energy for heating, with exception of solar, decreased between 1996 and 2007.

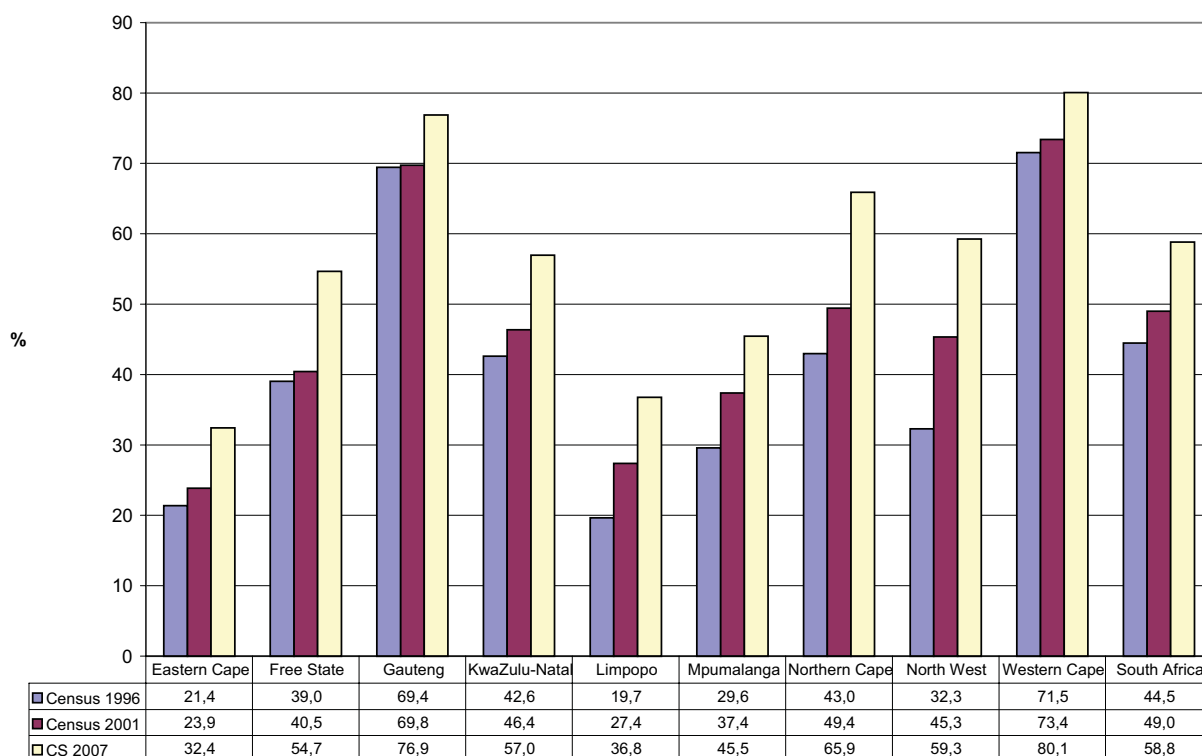
Figure 9: Percentage of households using electricity for cooking by province



4.4.8 Main energy source for heating by province

- This proportion of households using electricity for heating increased in all provinces between 1996 and 2007.
- The highest proportion of households using electricity for cooking is found in Western Cape (80,1%), followed by Northern Cape (76,9%) and Gauteng (65,9%).
- Eastern Cape had the lowest proportion 32,4% of households using electricity as the source of energy for heating.

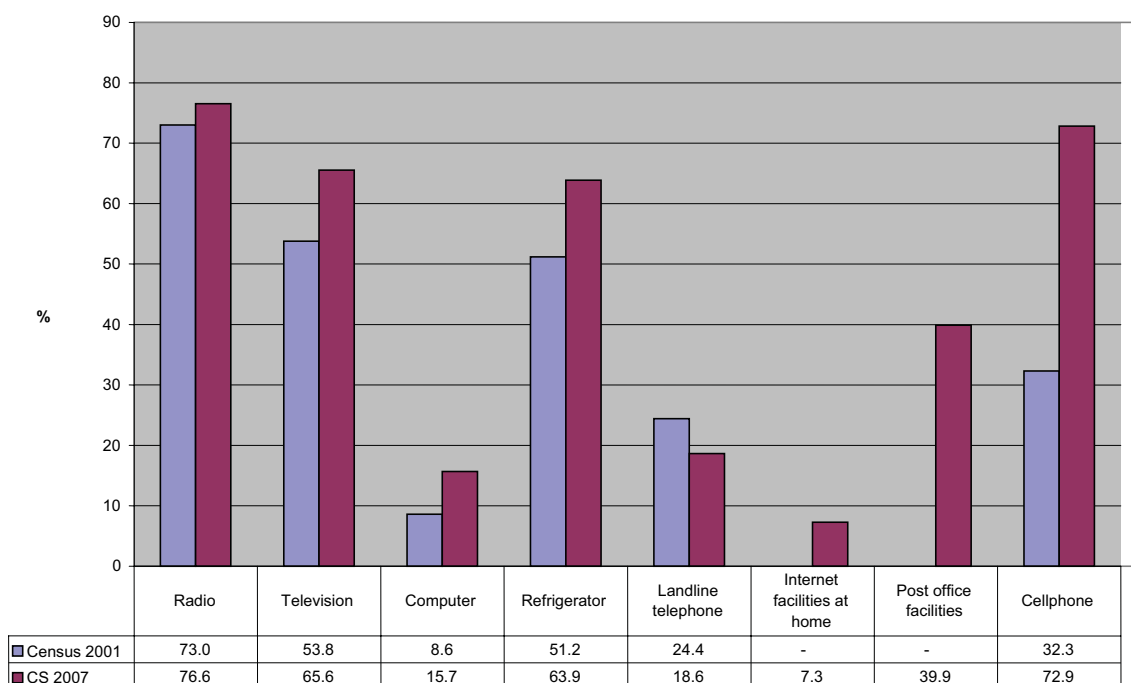
Figure 10: Percentage of households using electricity for heating by province



4.4.9 Household goods and access to postal facilities

- The proportion of households owning a radio, television, computer, refrigerator and cellphone increased considerably between 2001 and 2007.
- The demand for telephone landlines is decreasing, probably as a result of availability of cellphones.
- The percentage of households with computer facilities increased from 8,6% in 2001 to 15,7% in 2007.
- Only 7,3% of households had access to Internet facility at home in 2007.

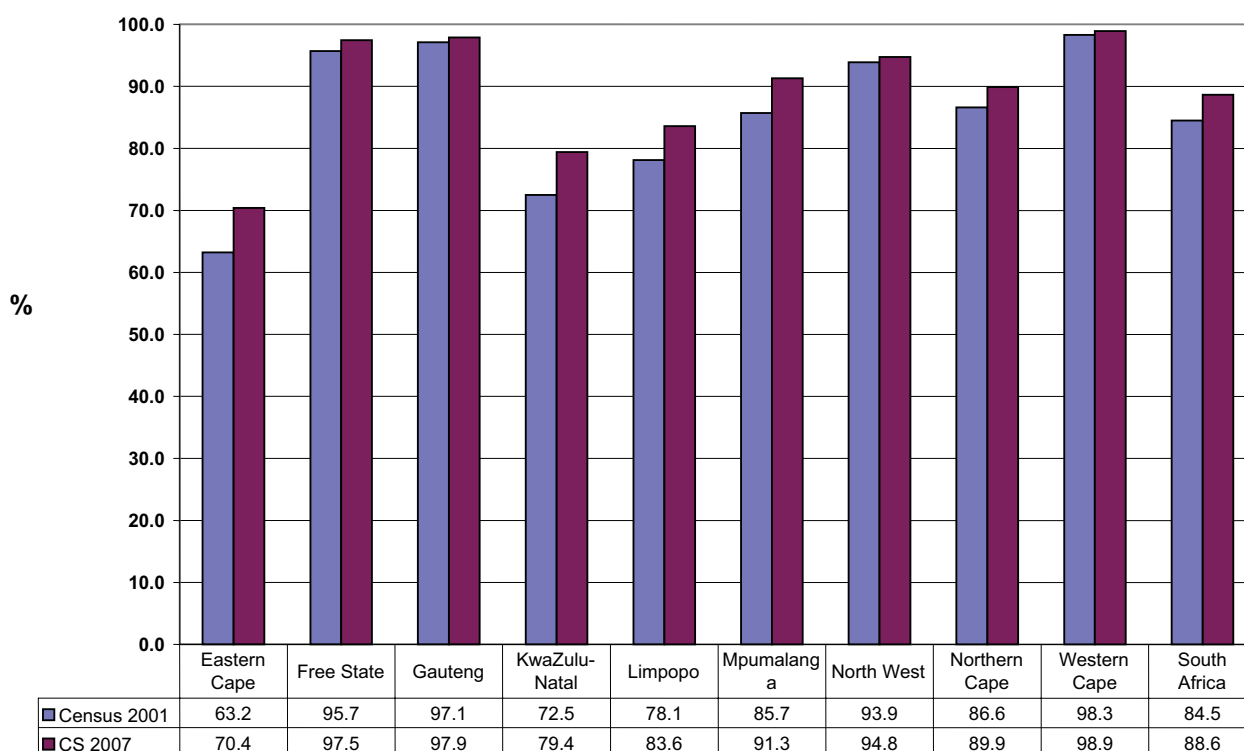
Figure 11: Percentage of households with household goods and access to postal facilities



4.4.10 Access to piped water by province

- The percentage of households with access to piped water increased from 84,5% in 2001 to 88,6% in 2007.
- There was an increase in the percentage of households that have access to piped water in all nine provinces.
- Western Cape has the highest proportion (98,9%) of households with access to piped water (98,9%), followed by Gauteng (97,9%) and Free State (97,5% respectively).

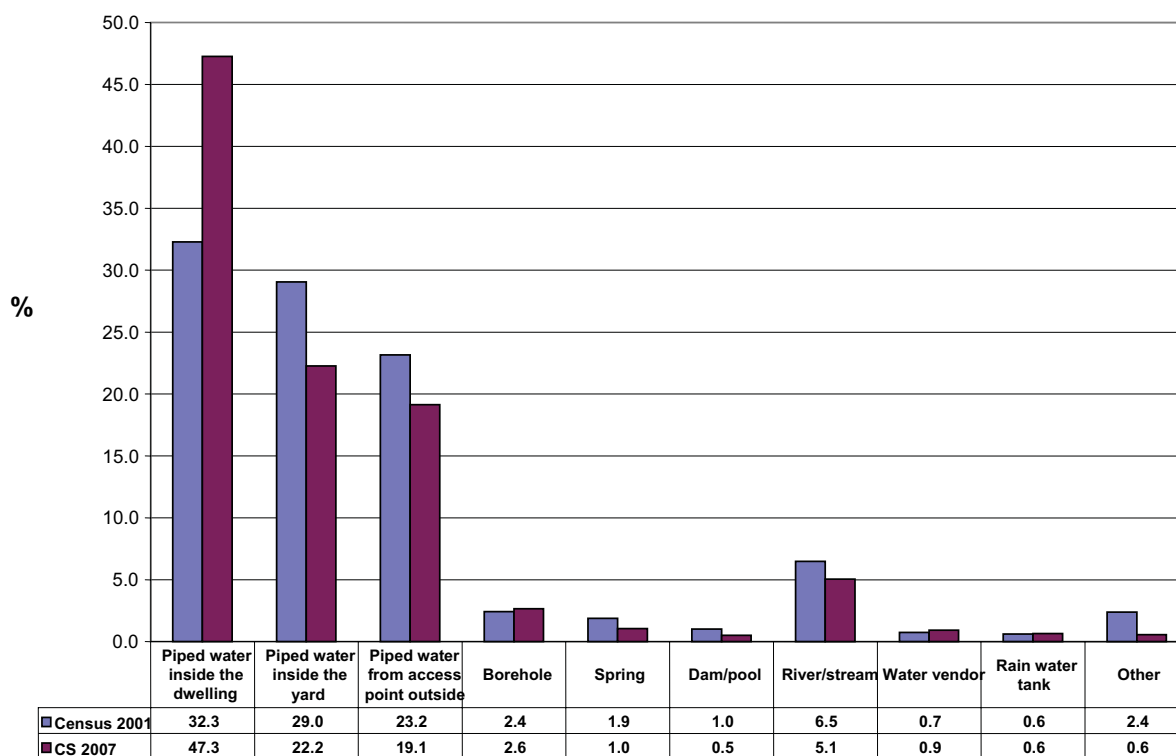
Figure 12: Percentage of households that have access to piped water by province



4.4.11 Piped water within the dwelling or yard

- The proportion of households obtaining access to water from piped water inside the dwelling increased from 32,3% in 2001 to 47,3% in 2007.
- There was a corresponding decrease in the proportion of households obtaining water from piped water inside the yard from 29,0% in 2001 to 22,2% in 2007 and piped water from access point outside the yard from 23,2% in 2001 to 19,1% in 2007.

Figure 13: Percentage of households by main source of water



5 What do South Africans say in 2007?

The report tables what South Africans say. They say in these areas of delivery of Meeting Basic Needs, 2007 is better than 2001 and indeed 2001 was better than 1996. Today is better than yesterday.

