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Children Series Volume II

Crime against children

Education and Child Statistics Directorate

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Crime against children: SAPS data



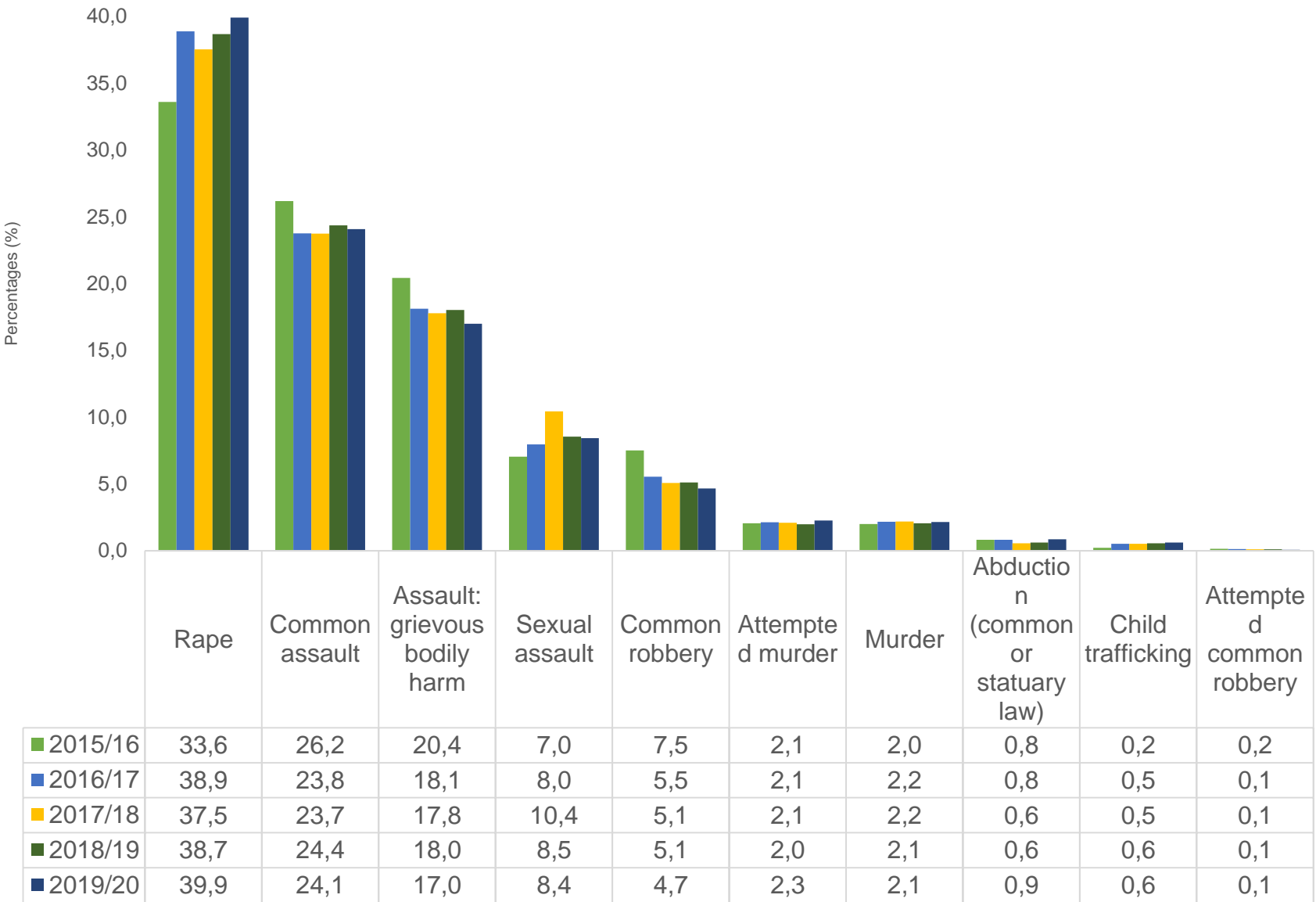
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Percentages of offences for children aged 17 years and younger reported to the police by year

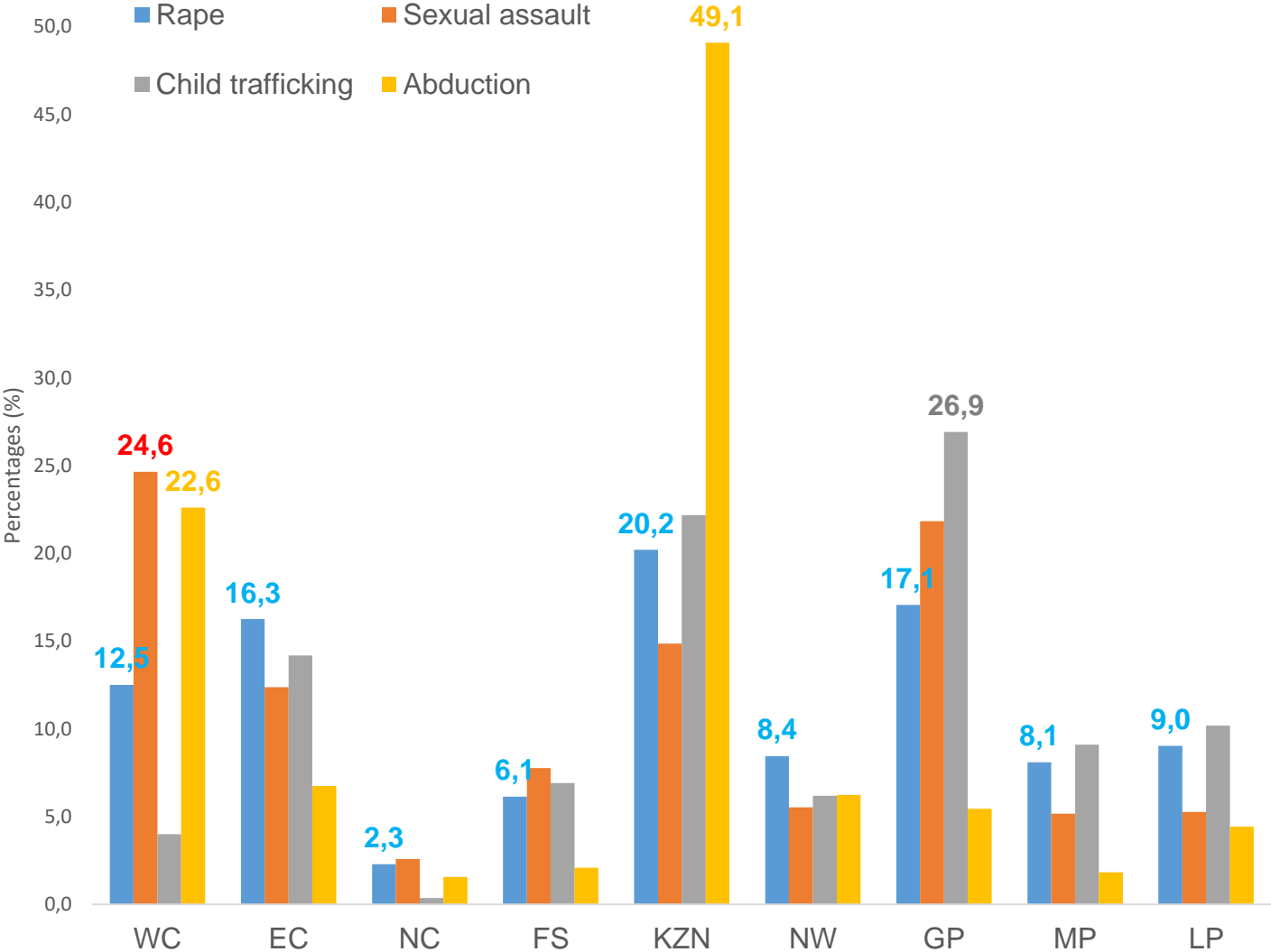
In 2019/20, the most common crime experienced by children 17 years and younger reported to the police was **rape (39,9%)**, followed by **common assault (24,1%)** and **assault with GBH (17,0%)**



Source: SAPS, 2015/16-2019/20

Percentages of offences for children aged 17 years and younger by province

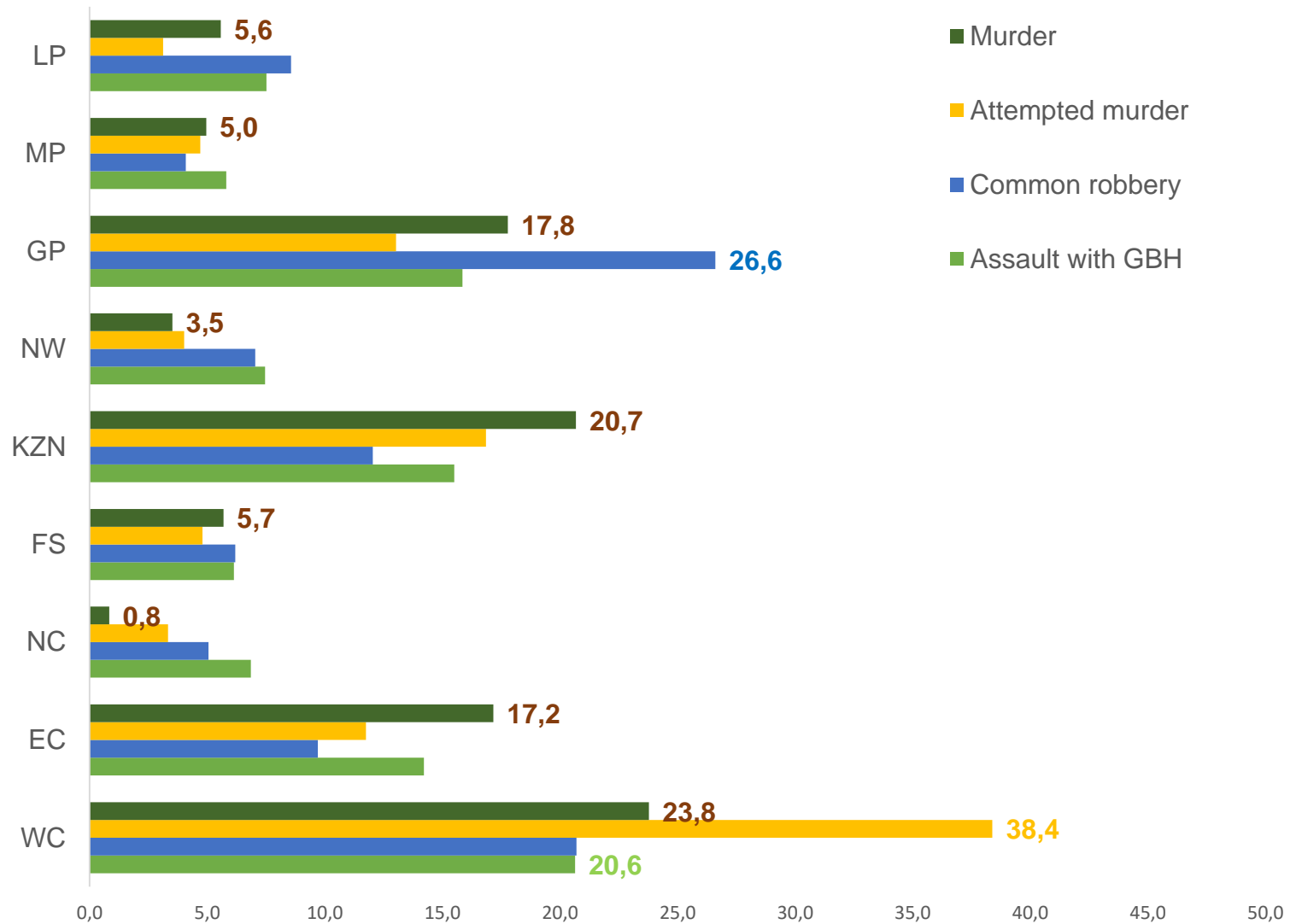
- In 2019/20, **abduction (49,1%)** and **rape (20,2%)** were most common in **KwaZulu-Natal**
- **Child trafficking (26,9%)** was more prominent among children in **Gauteng**
- **Sexual assault** was most common in the **Western Cape (24,6%)**



Source: SAPS, 2019/20

Percentages of offences for children aged 17 years and younger by province

- In 2019/20, attempted murder (38,4%), murder (23,8%), and assault with GBH (20,6%) were mostly common in the Western Cape
- Common robbery (26,6%) was more prominent in Gauteng

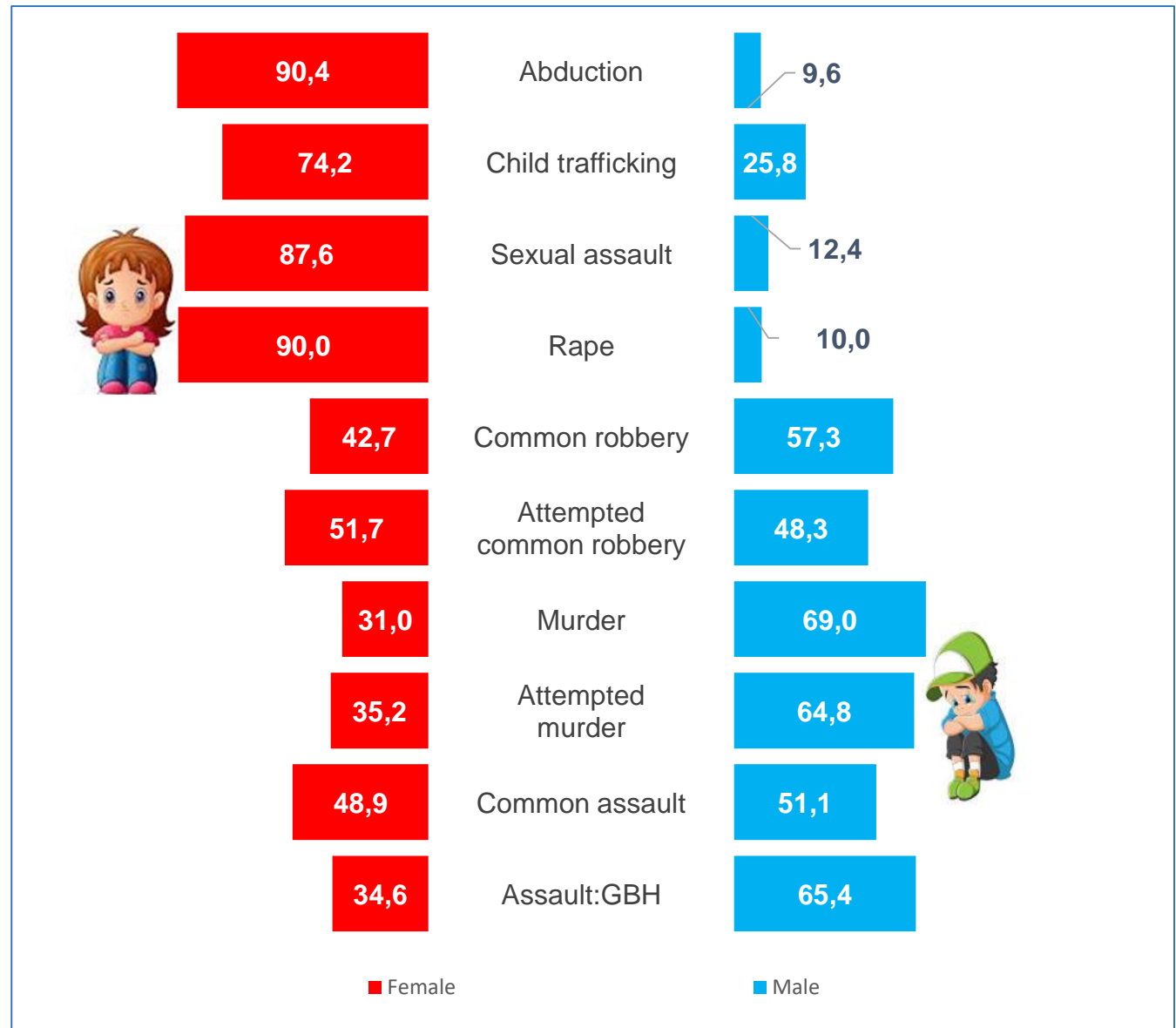


Source: SAPS, 2019/20



Percentages of offences for children aged 17 years and younger by gender

- In 2019/20, **females** aged 17 years and younger were more likely to be affected by **abduction, rape, sexual assault, child trafficking, and attempted common robbery**
- Males** aged 17 years and younger were more likely to experience **murder, assault with GBH, attempted murder, common robbery, and common assault**

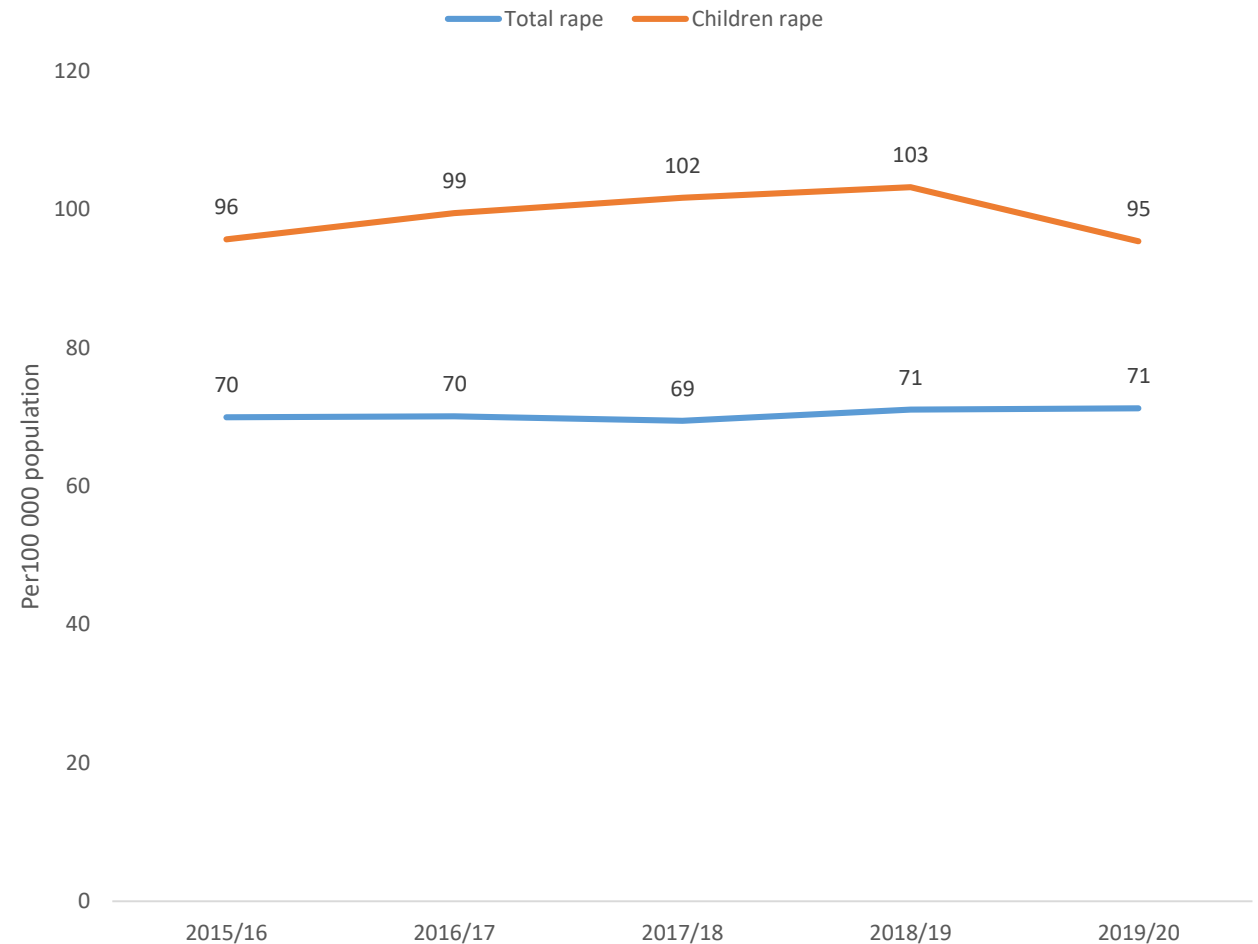


Source: SAPS, 2019/20



Volume of reported rape cases to the police per 100 000 population by year

- **Rape** cases per 100 000 population were higher among **children** compared to **total** rape cases reported to the police throughout the years



Source: SAPS, 2015/16-2019/20



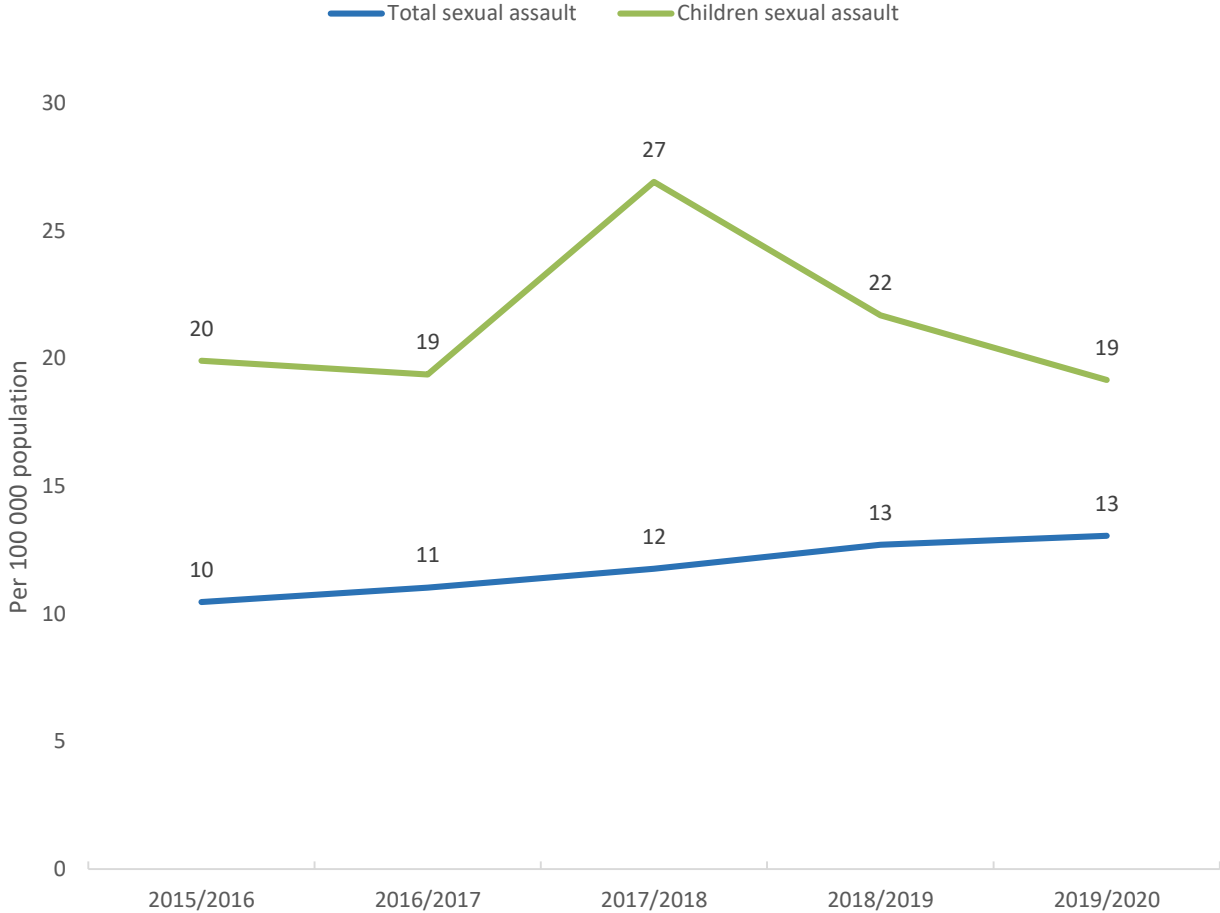
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Volume of reported sexual assault cases to the police per 100 000 population by year

- **Sexual assault** cases per 100 000 population were higher among **children** compared to **total** sexual assault cases reported to the police throughout the years



Source: SAPS, 2015/16-2019/20



Crime against children: marriages and divorces data



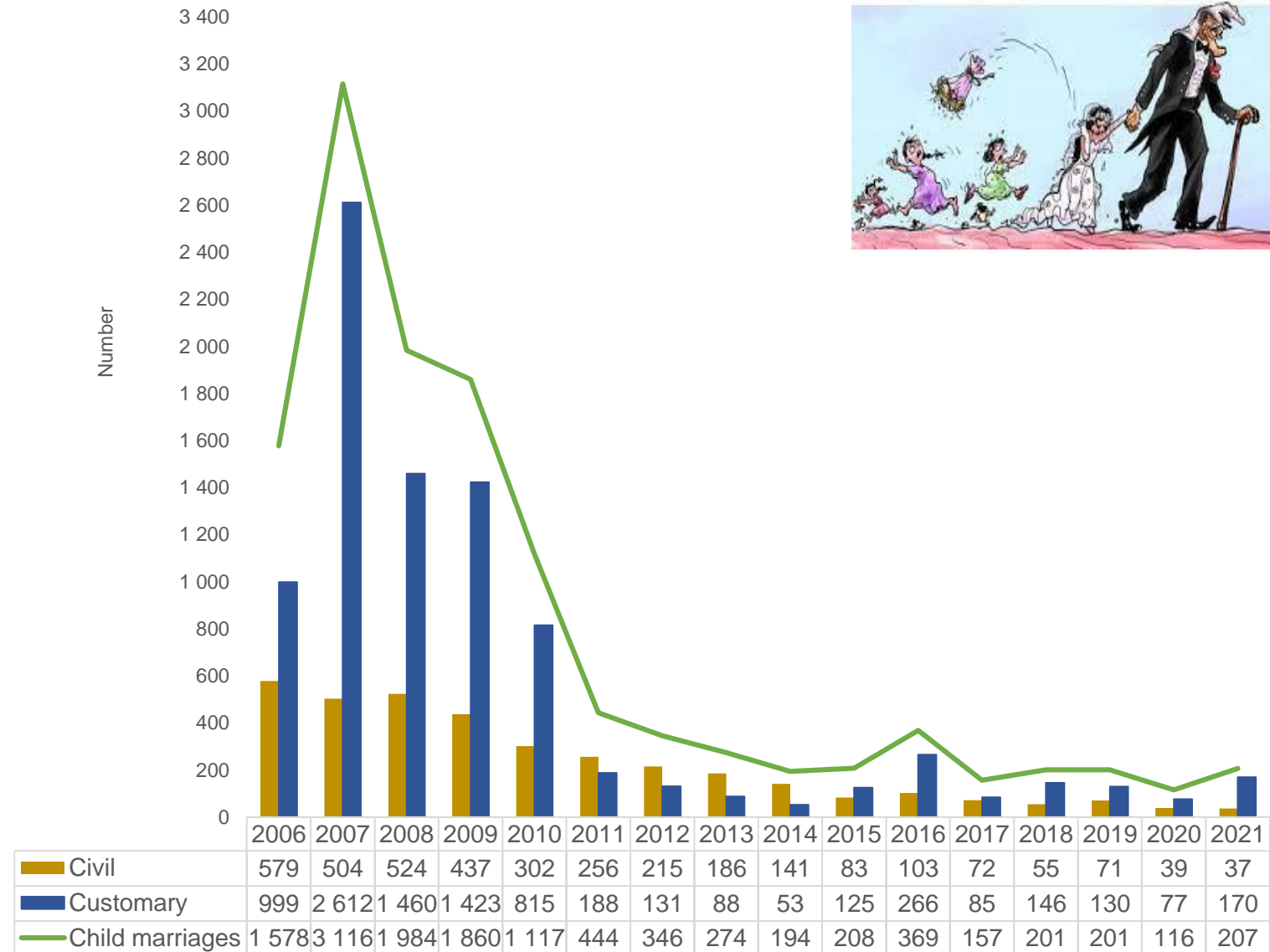
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Number of child marriages for children aged 17 years and younger

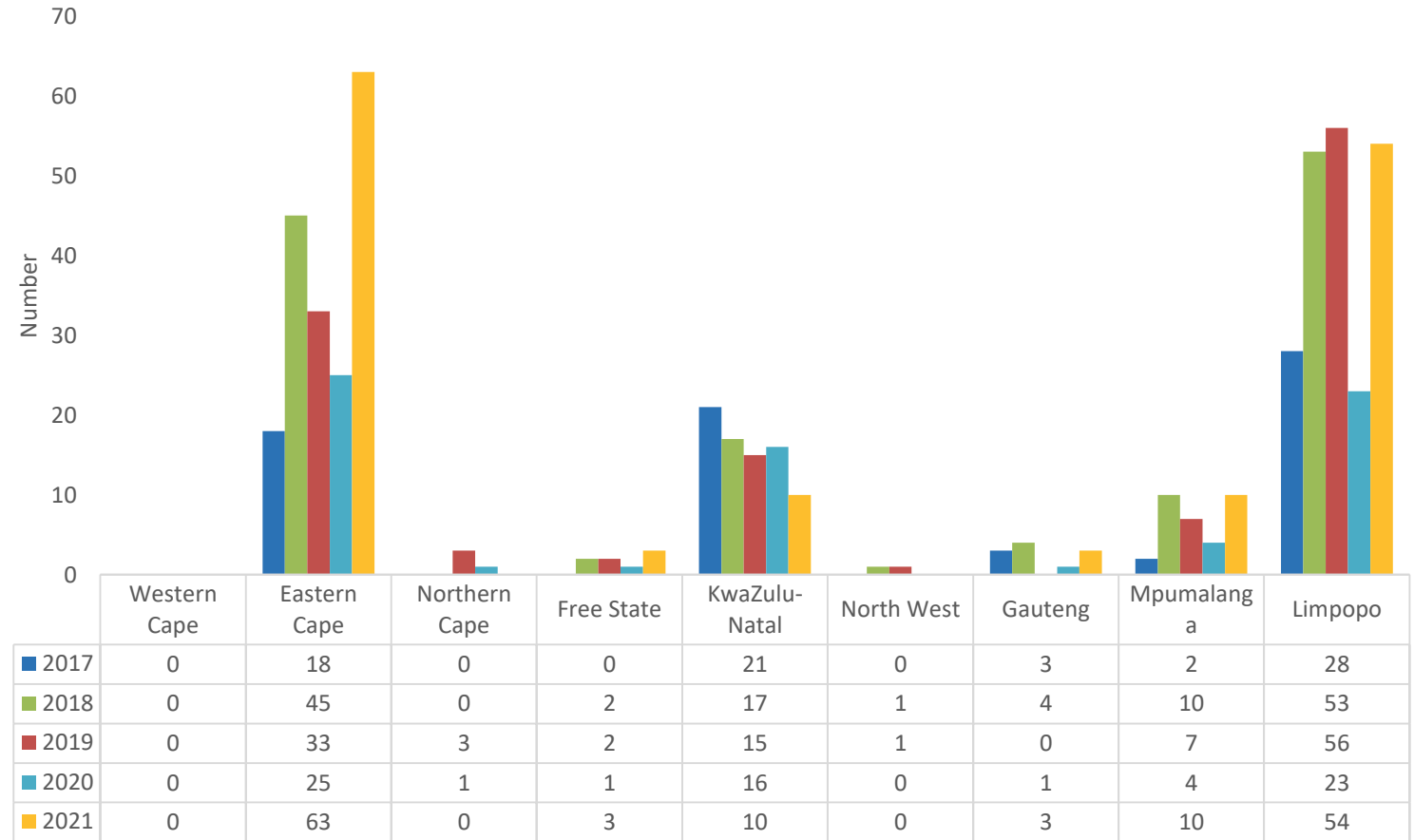
- Overall **child marriages** declined drastically from **1 578** in 2006 to **207** in 2021.
- Both **customary marriages** and **civil marriages** for children sharply dropped by **82,9%** and **93,6%** respectively between 2006 and 2021



Source: Marriages and divorces, 2006-2021

Number of customary marriages for children aged 17 years and younger by province

- **Customary marriages** for children were mostly common in **Eastern Cape, Limpopo, and KwaZulu-Natal** between 2017 and 2021



Source: Marriages and divorces, 2017-2021



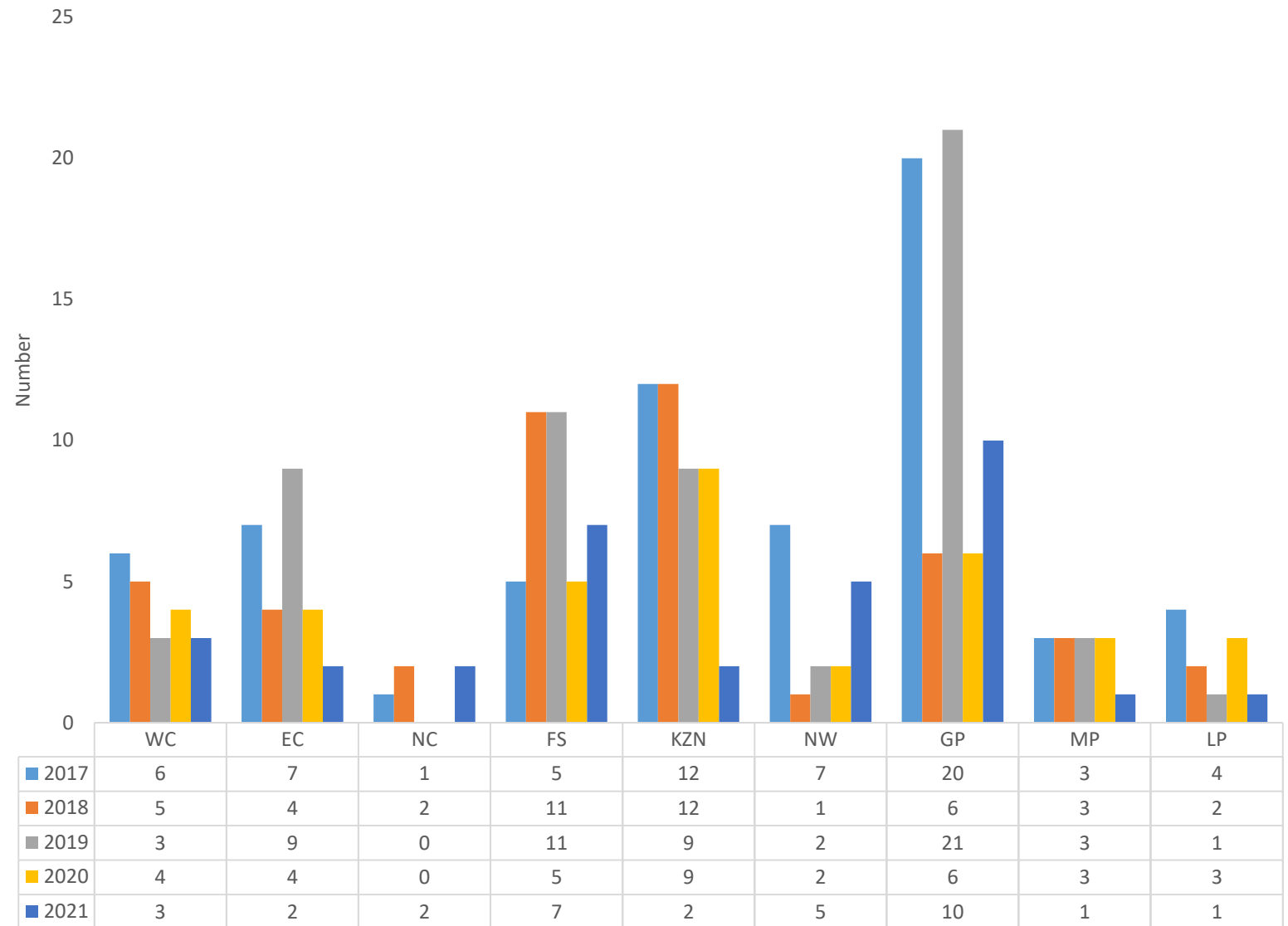
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Number of civil marriages for children aged 17 years and younger by province, 2017-2021

- **Civil marriages for children were prevalent in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, and Free State between 2017 and 2021**



Source: Marriages and divorces, 2017-2021



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Crime against children: GPSJS data



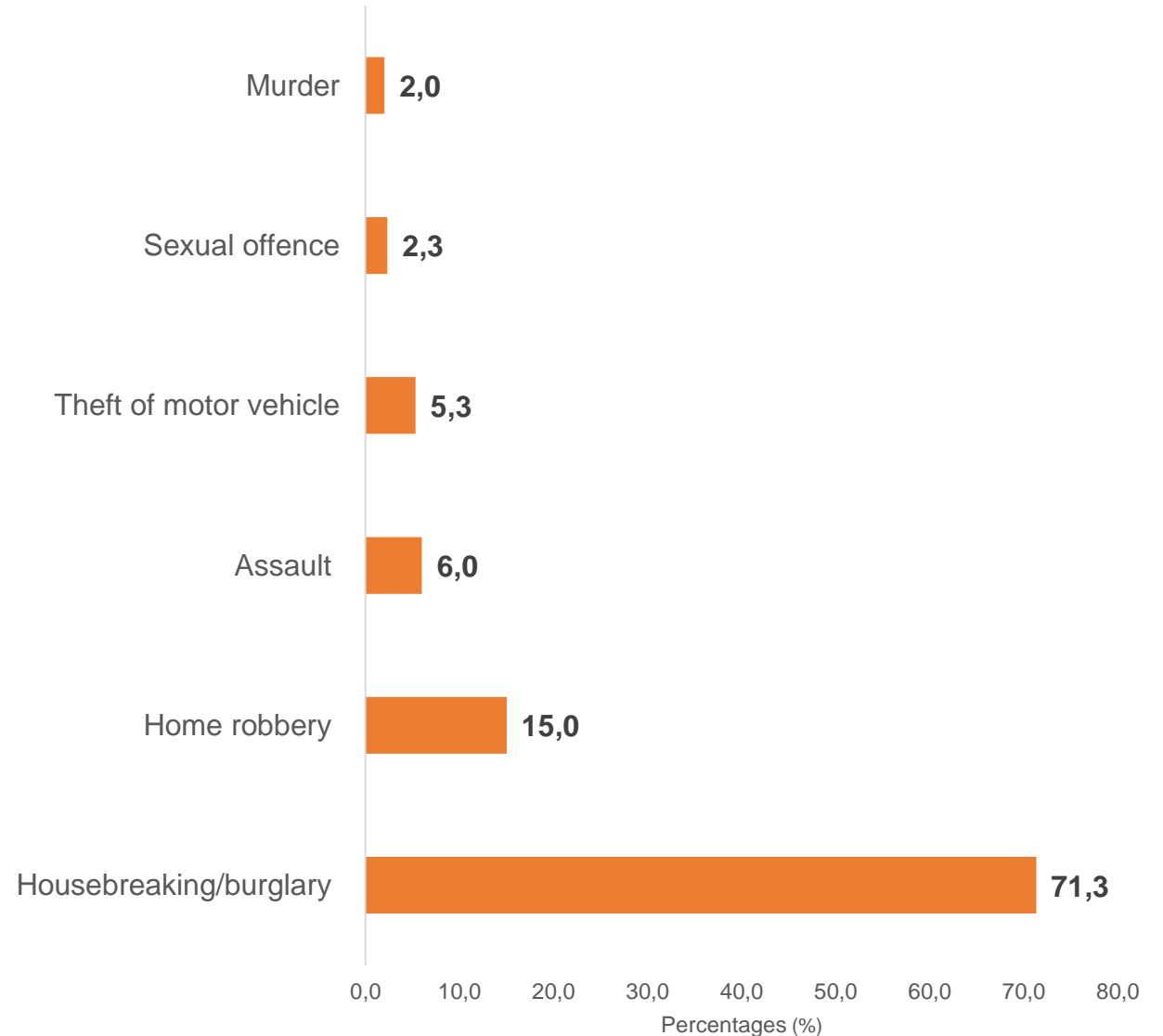
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Percentage of households with children aged 17 years and younger who experienced specific crimes

- The most common crime experienced by households with children was **housebreaking/burglary (71,3%)**, followed by **home robbery (15,0%)** and **assault (6,0%)**
- While only **2,0%** of the households with children experienced **murder**



Source: GPSJS.2022/23



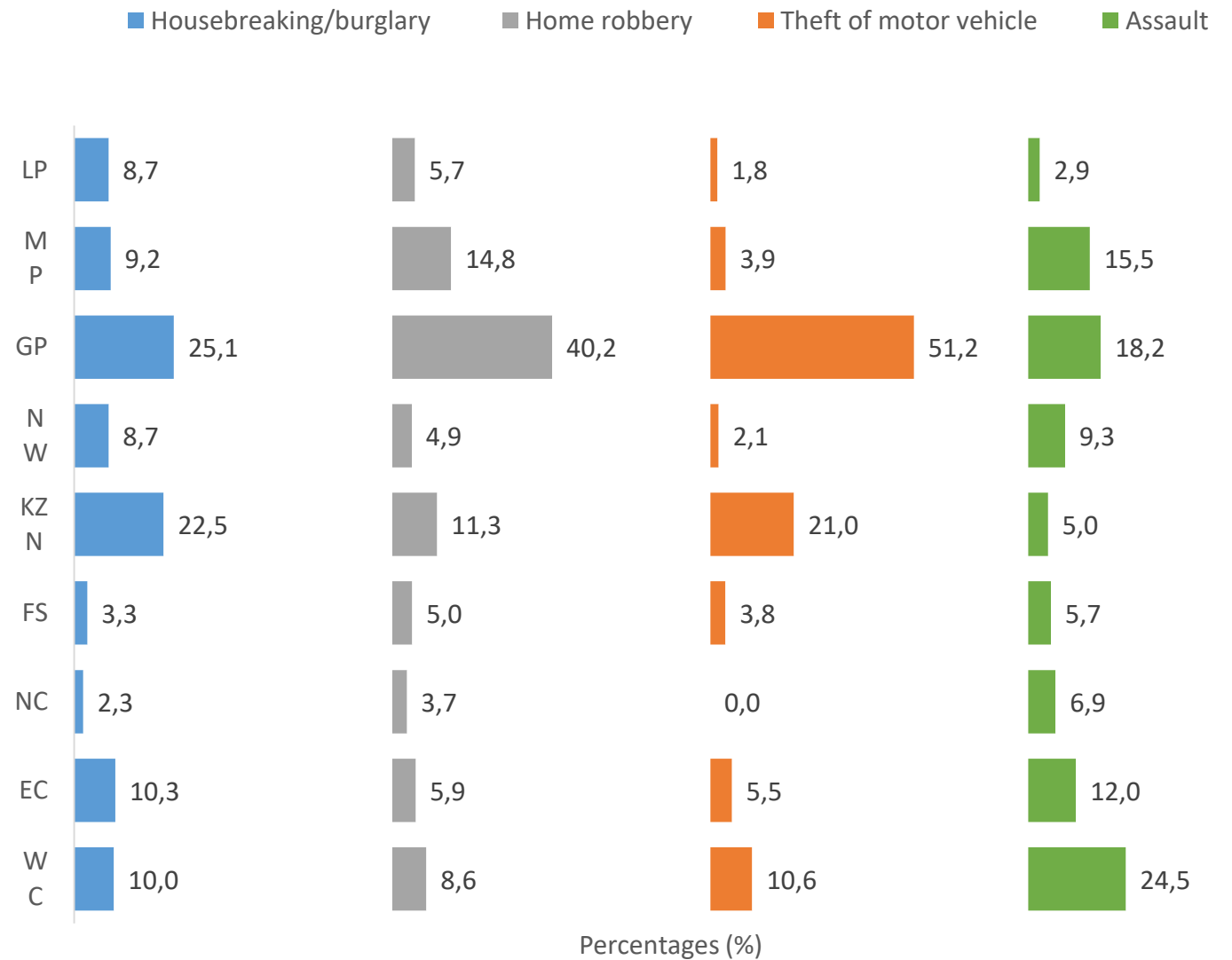
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Percentage of households with children aged 17 years and younger who experienced specific crimes by province

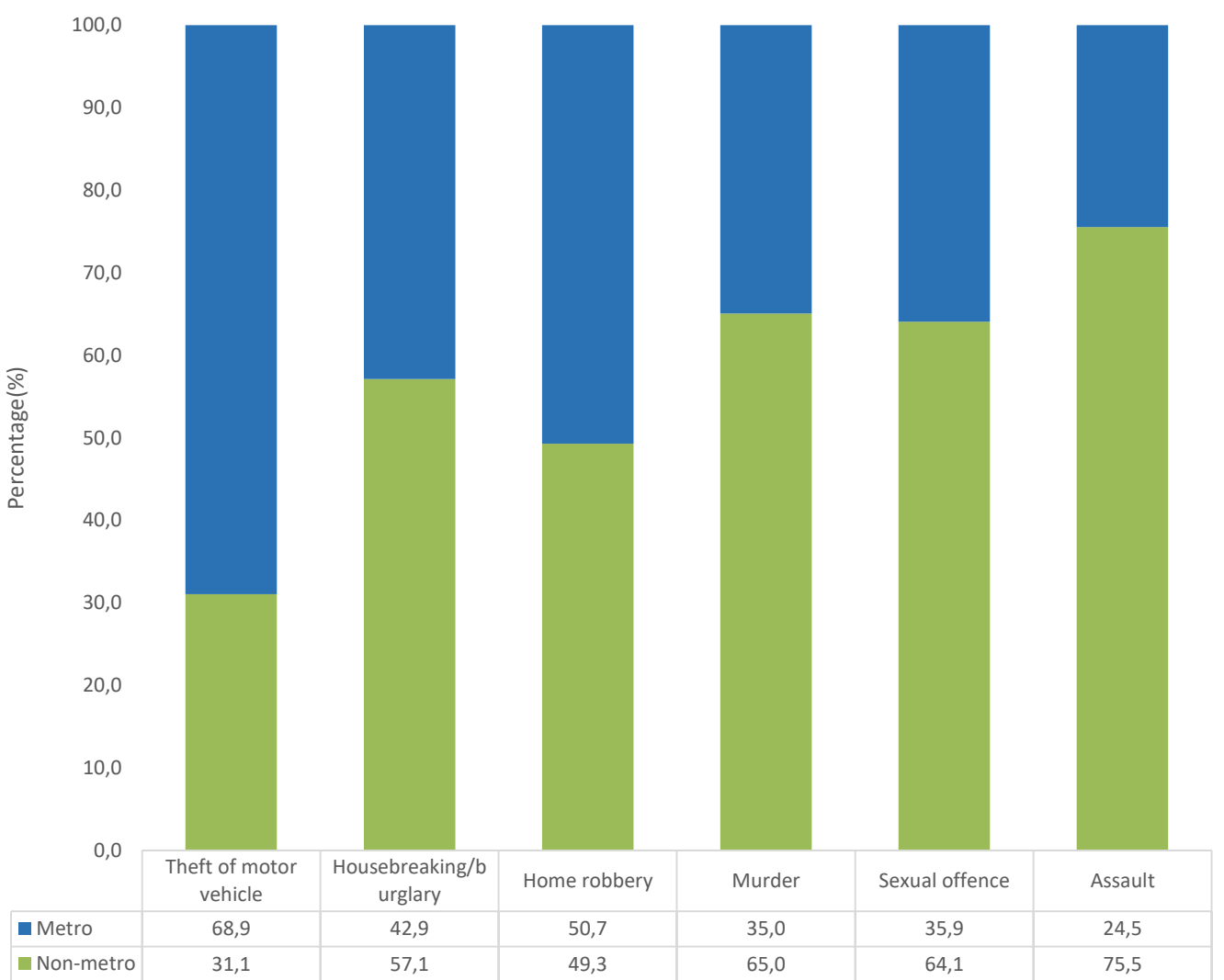
- Households with children in **Gauteng** experienced high percentages of **theft of motor vehicle (51,2%)**, **home robbery (40,2%)**, and **housebreaking/burglary (25,1%)**
- Almost a quarter (**24,5%**) of the households with children in the **Western Cape** were mostly affected by **assault**



Source: GPSJS, 2022/23

Percentage of households with children aged 17 years and younger who experienced specific crimes by metropolitan status

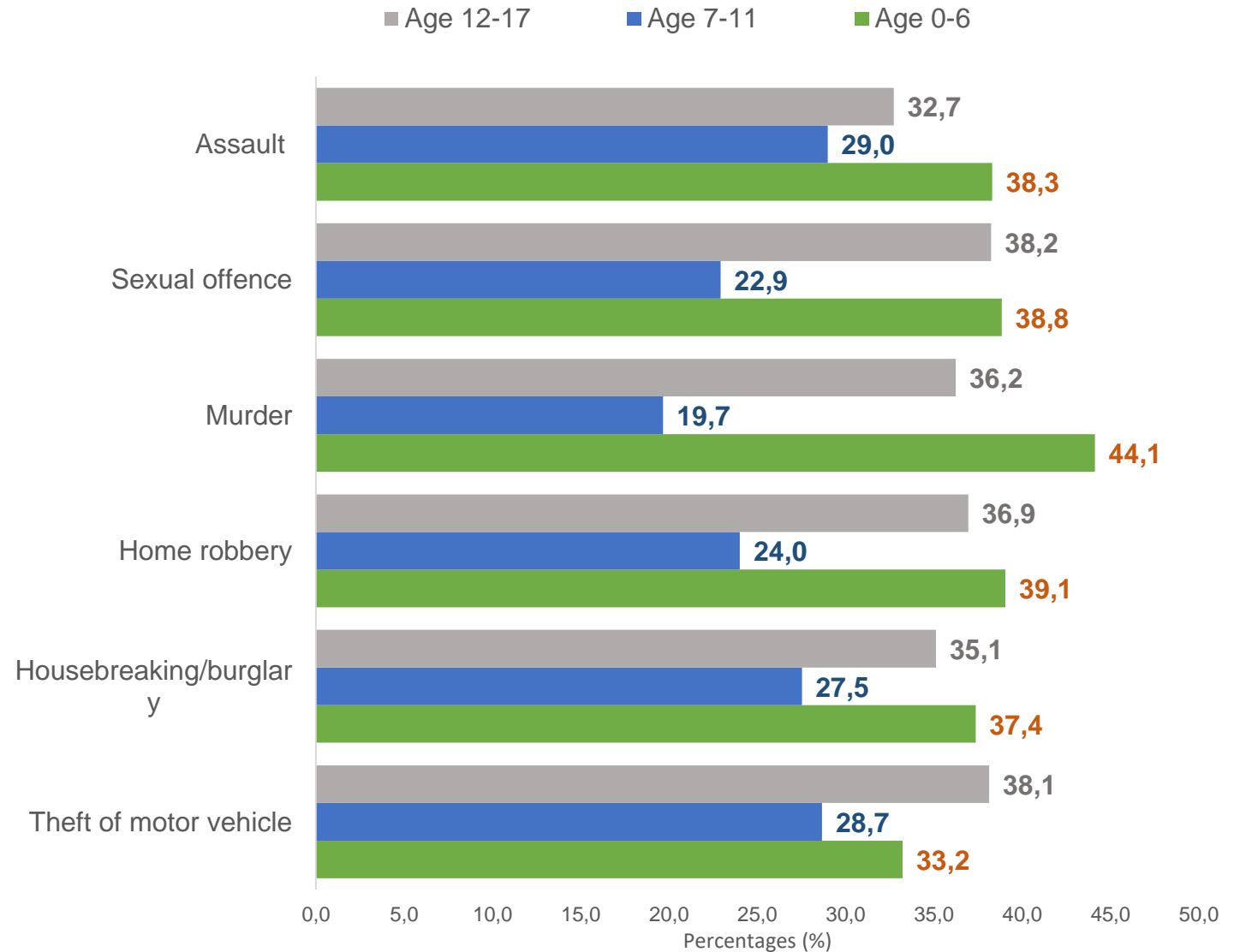
- Overall, households with children in non-metropolitan areas were more likely to encounter crime than households situated in metropolitan areas, except for **theft of motor vehicle (68,9%)** and **home robbery (50,7%)** which were highly experienced by households in the metropolitan areas



Source: GPSJS,2022/23

Percentage of households with children aged 17 years and younger who experienced specific crimes by age group

- In 2022/23, households comprised of children aged **0-6 years** were more likely to experience crime, except for theft of a motor vehicle which was high in households consisting of teenagers (**12-17 years**)

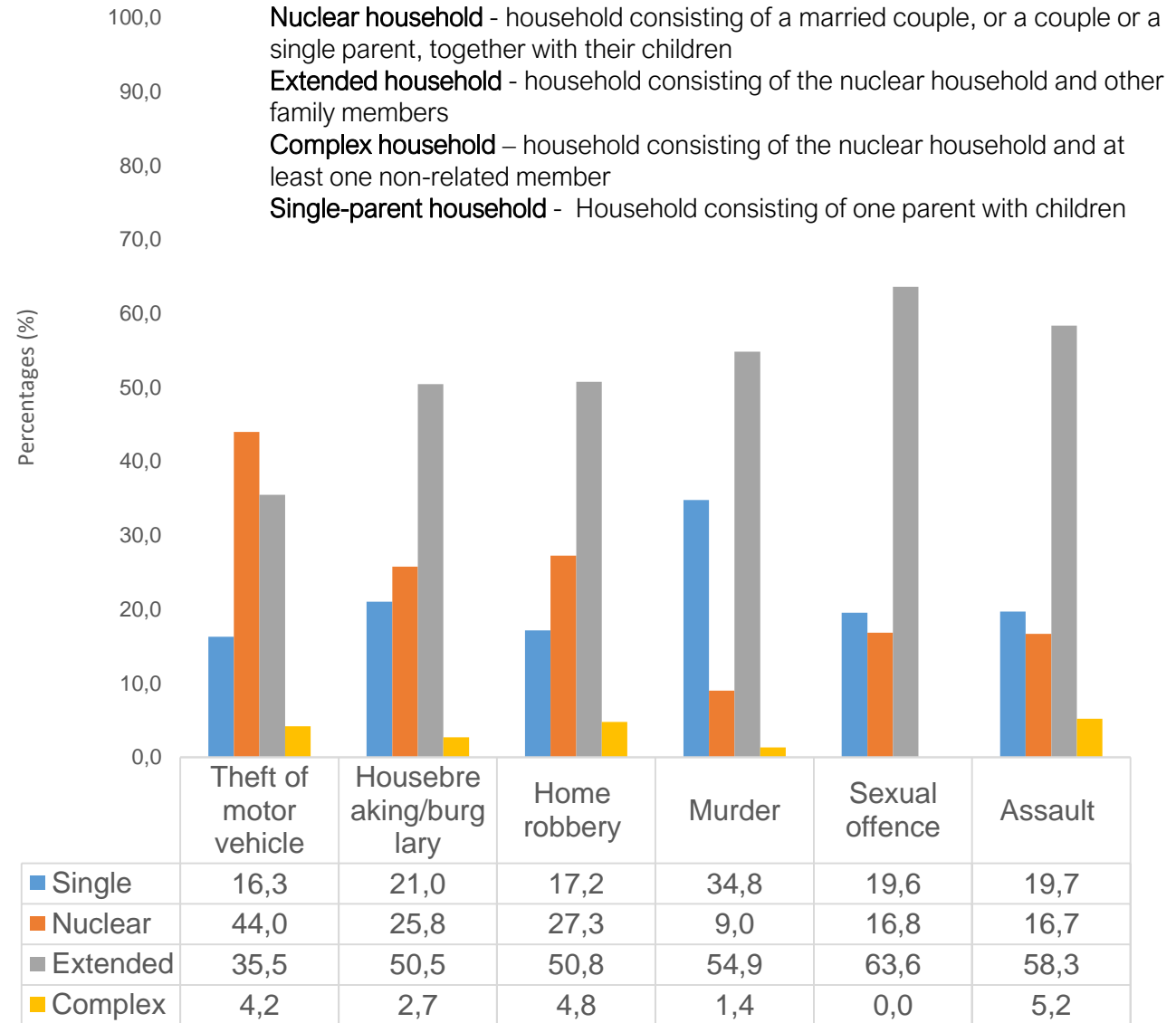


Source: GPSJS, 2022/23



Percentage of households with children aged 17 years and younger who experienced specific crimes by household composition

- **Extended** households with children had a high percentage of **sexual offence (63,6%)**
- **Nuclear** households with children encountered a high percentage of **theft of motor vehicles (44,0%)**
- **Single-parent** households with children had the highest percentage of **murder (34,8%)**



Source: GPSJS,2022/23



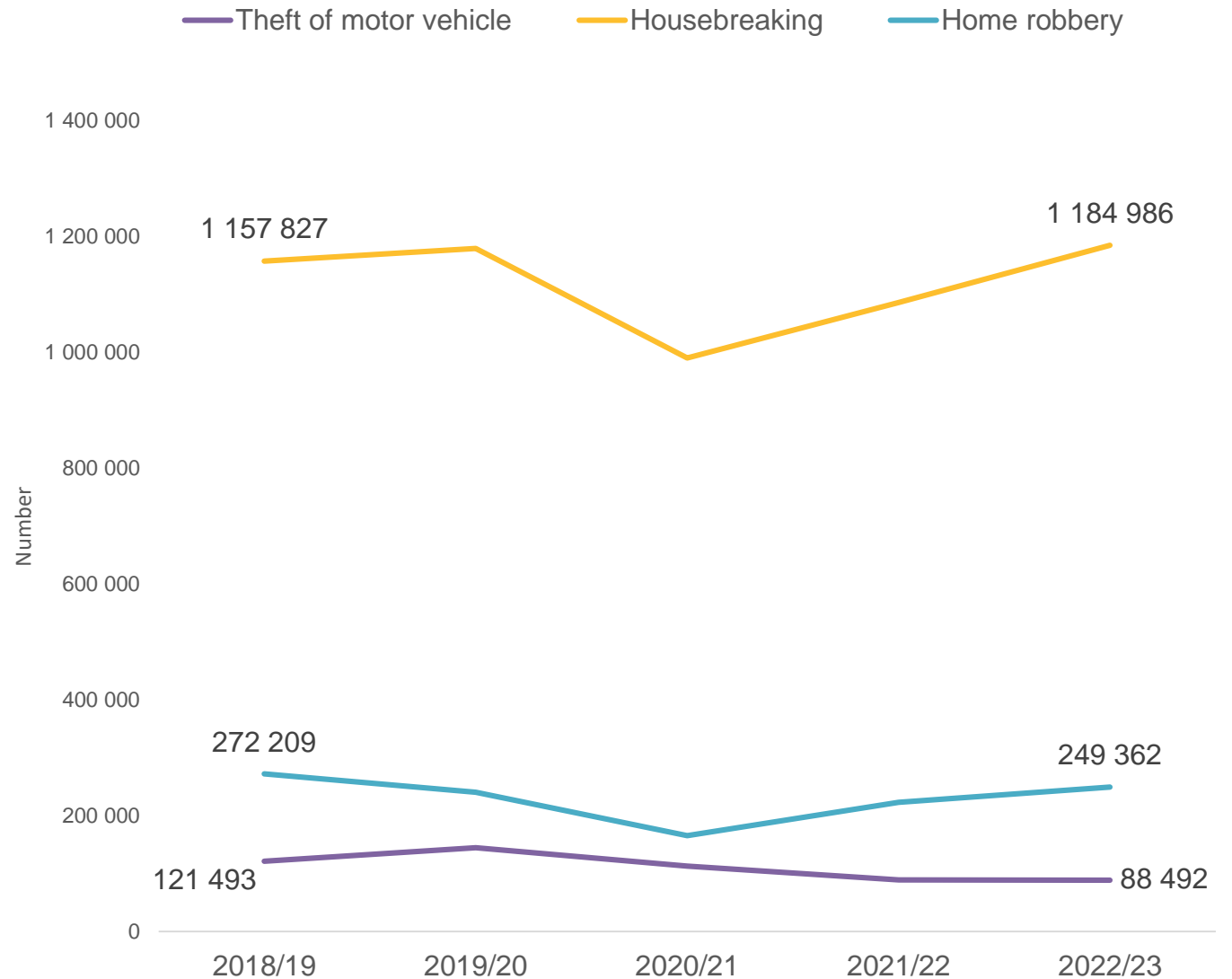
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Five year trends for households with children aged 17 years and younger who experienced specific crimes

- **Housebreaking:** increased by **2,4%**
- **Home robbery:** decreased by **8,4%**
- **Theft of motor vehicle:** drastically decreased by **27,2%**



Source: GPSJS, 2022/23



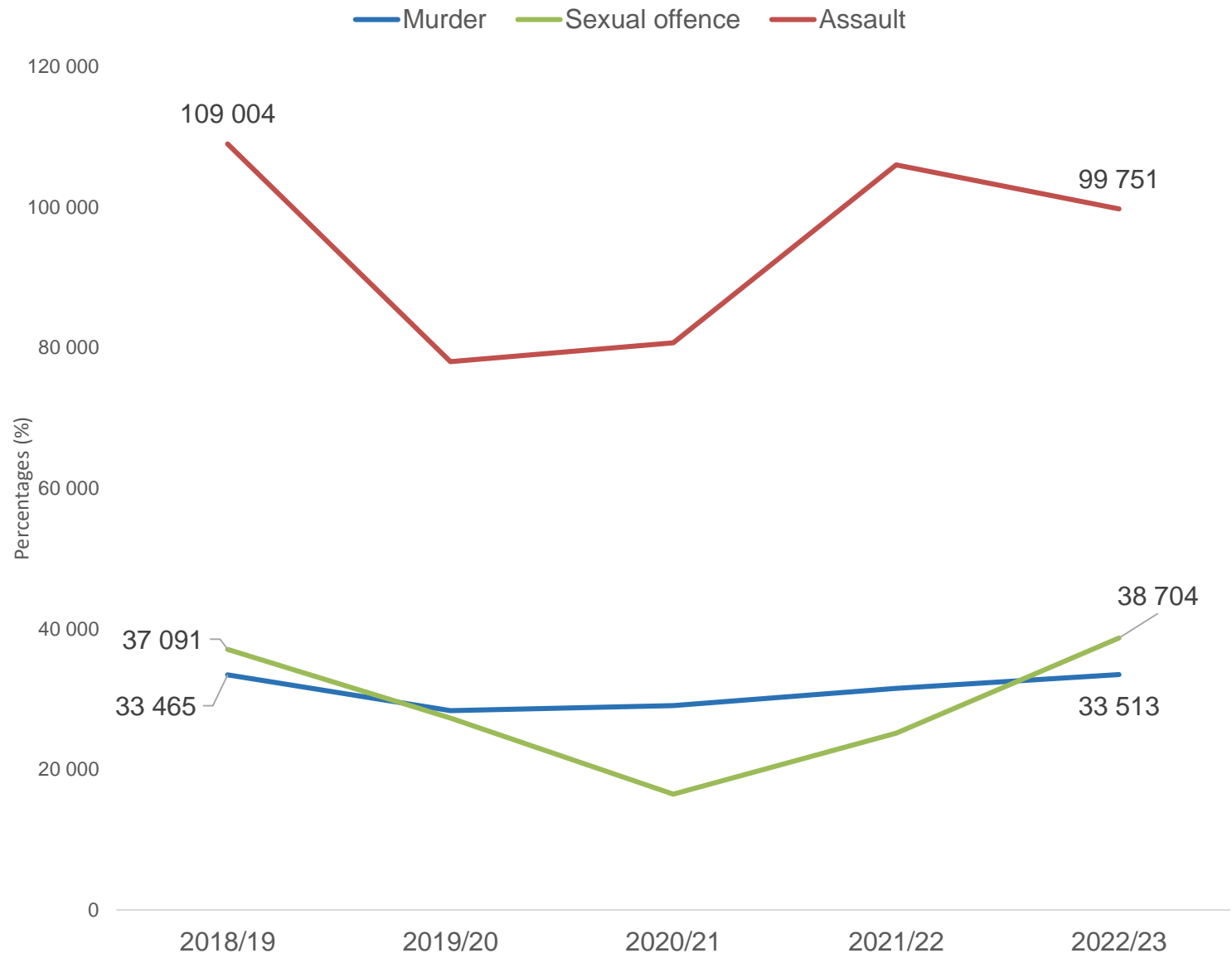
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Five year trends for households with children aged 17 years and younger who experienced specific crimes

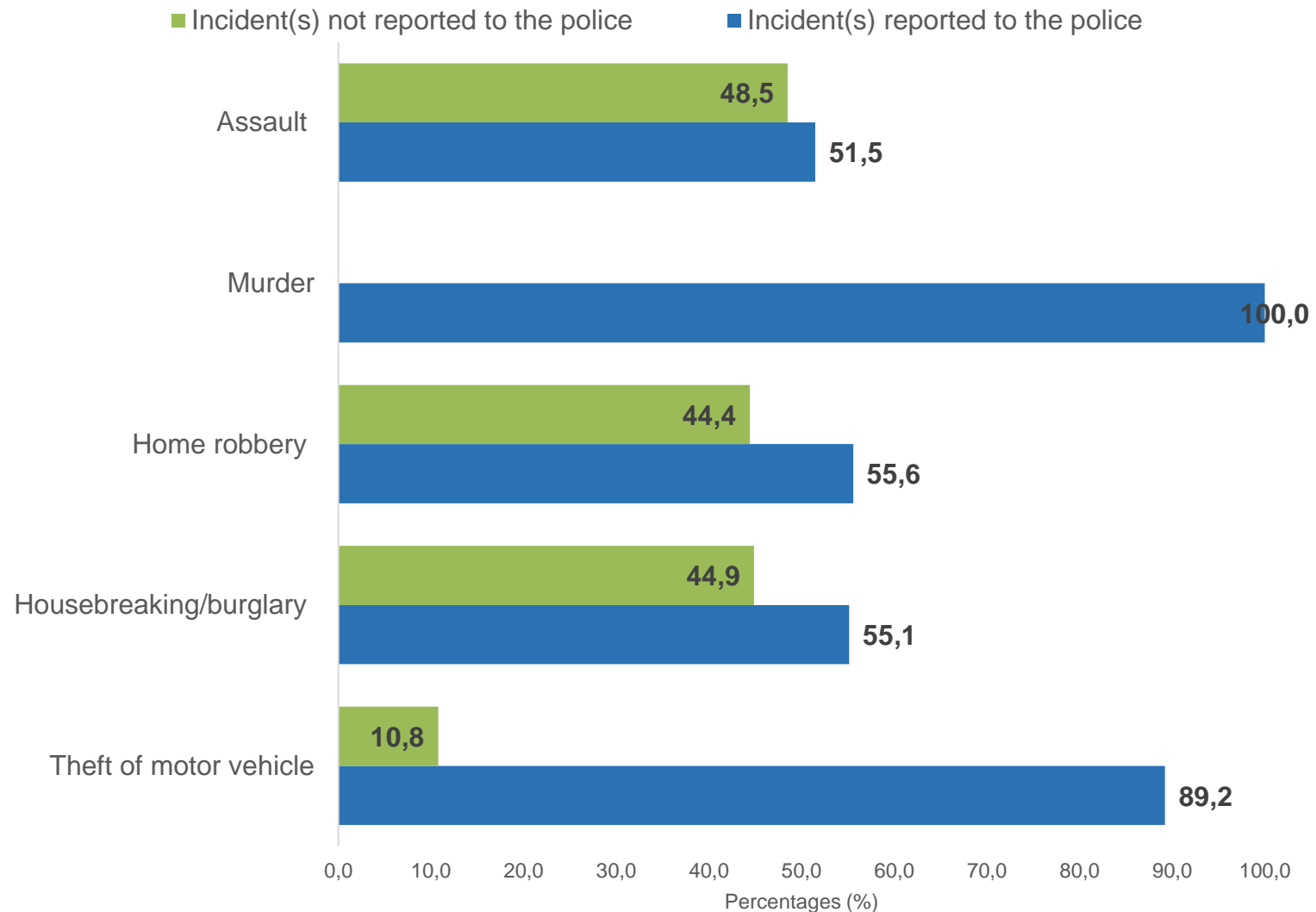
- **Assault:** decreased by **8,5%**
- **Sexual offence:** increased by **4,0%**
- **Murder:** slightly increased by **0,1%**



Source: GPSJS,2022/23

Percentage of households with children aged 17 years and younger who experienced specific crimes and reported them to the police

- In 2022/23, all **murder** incidents (**100%**) were reported to the police, followed by **theft of a motor vehicle** (**89,2%**) and **home robbery** (**55,6%**)



Source: GPSJS,2022/23



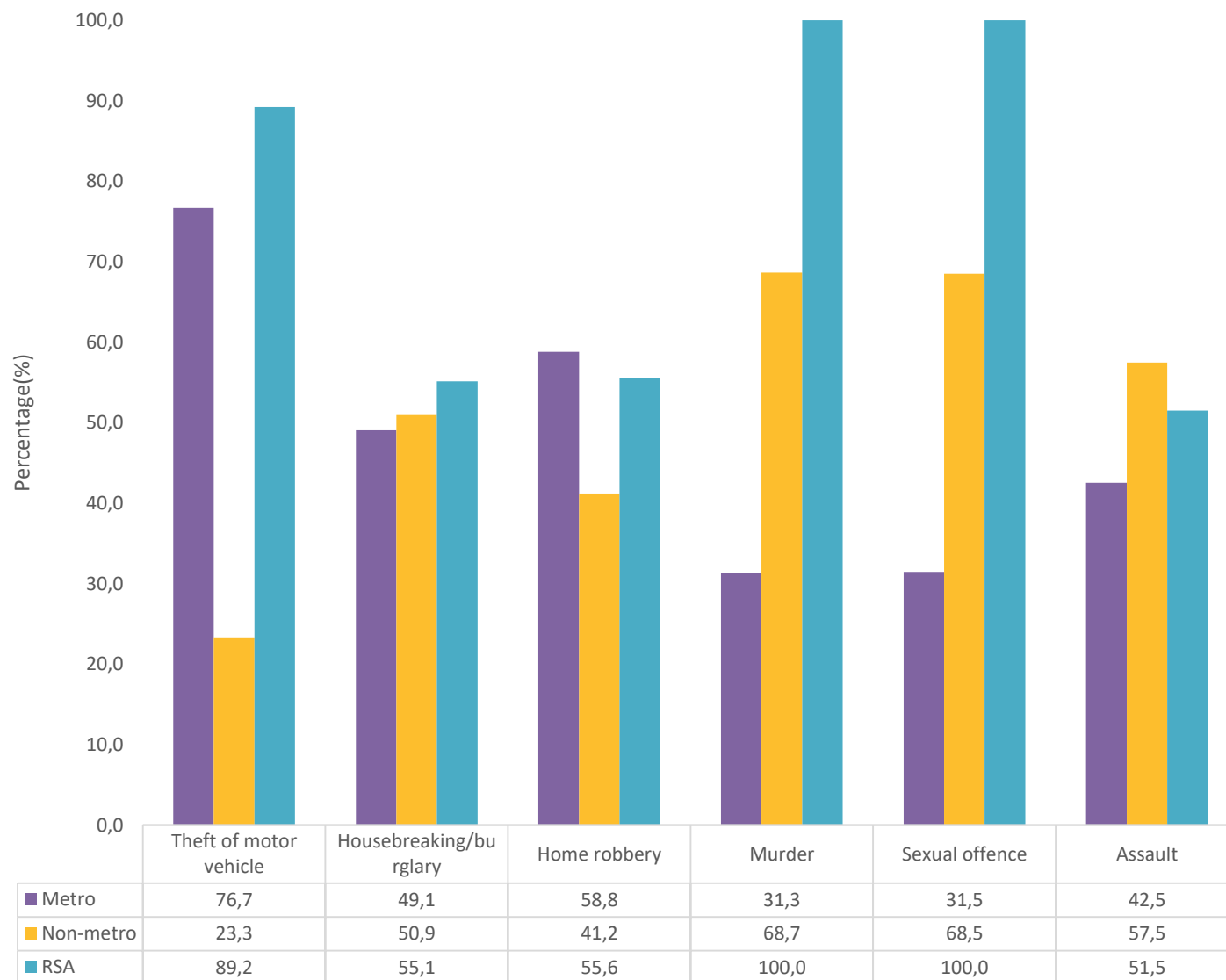
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Percentage of households with children aged 17 years and younger who experienced specific crimes and reported them to the police by metropolitan status

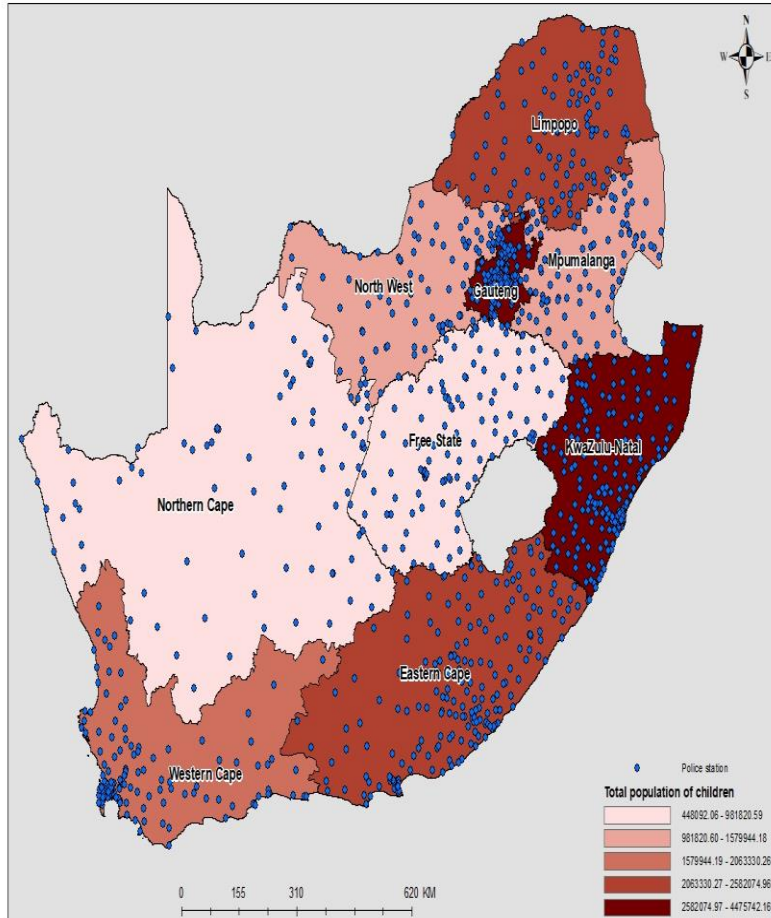
- Households with children in **non-metropolitan areas** were more prone to report **murder, sexual offence, assault, and housebreaking/burglary** incidents to the police than households in **metropolitan areas**



Source: GPSJS,2022/23

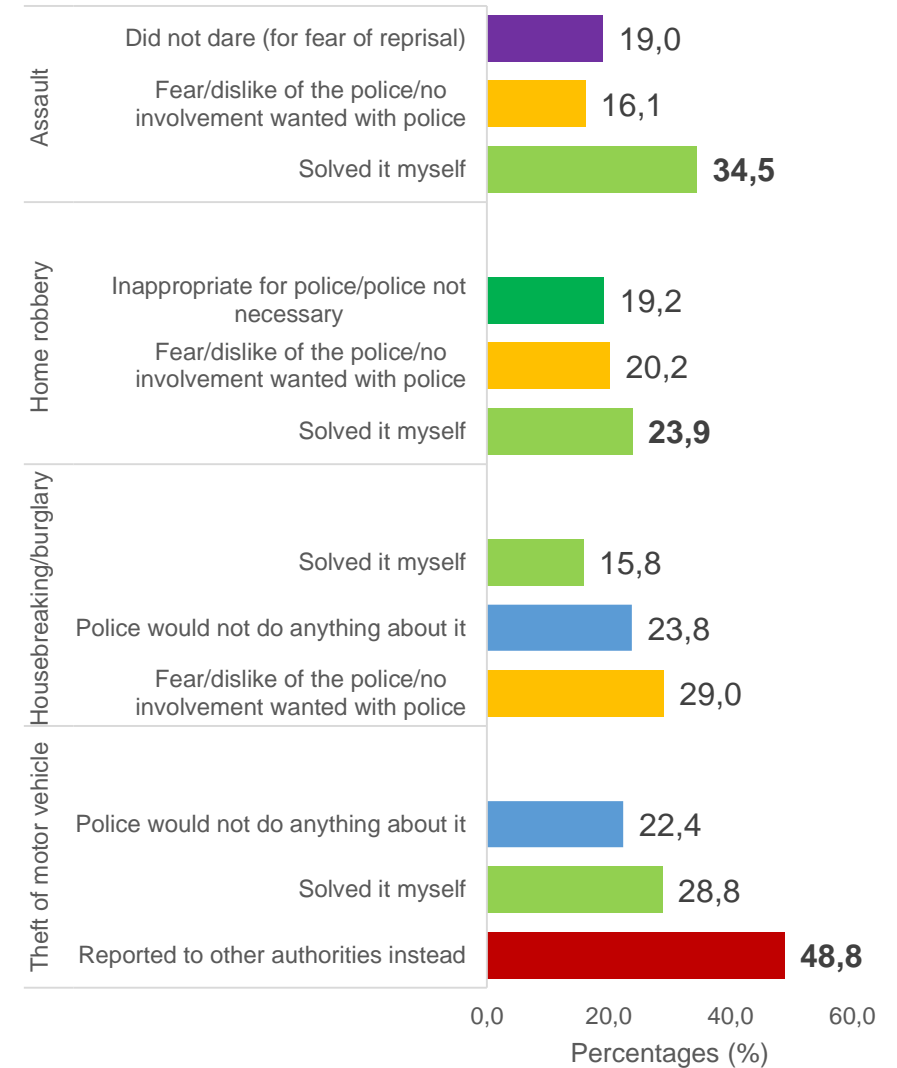


Top 3 reasons for not reporting crime to the police and distribution of available police stations by province.



Source: SAPS

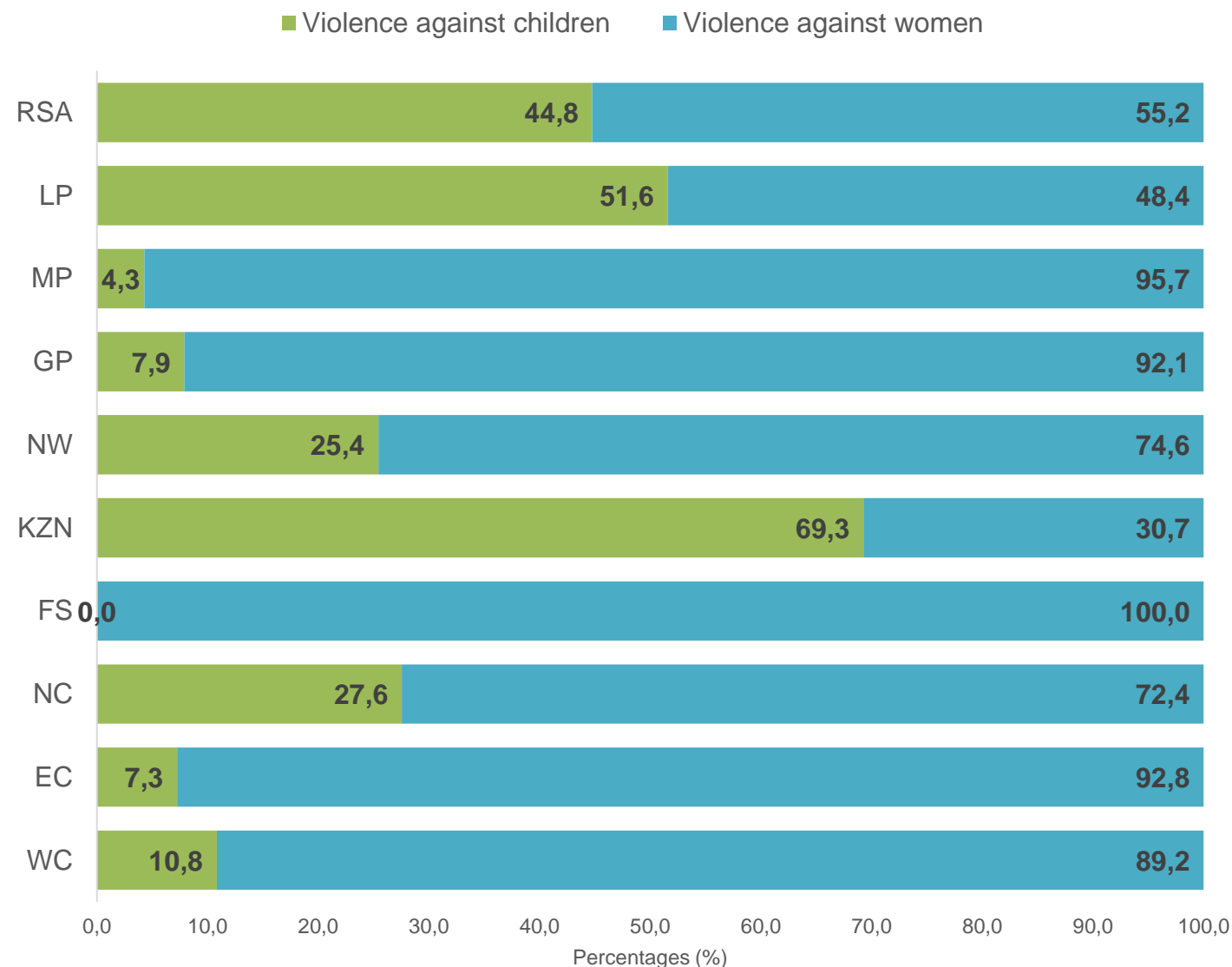
- Overall, each province had sufficient police stations for reporting the crime, however, some households with children had different reasons for not reporting
- Households who experienced **assault** and **home robbery** preferred to **solve it by themselves** instead of reporting to the police.
- Those who experienced **theft of motor vehicles** **reported to other authorities.**



Source: GPSJS,2022/23

Percentage distribution of households with children who experienced domestic violence dispute/problem by province

- In South Africa, **531 384** households experienced domestic violence
- Approximately **45,0%** of the households with children experienced **domestic violence against children**
- **Domestic violence against children** was most common in **KwaZulu-Natal (69,3%)**

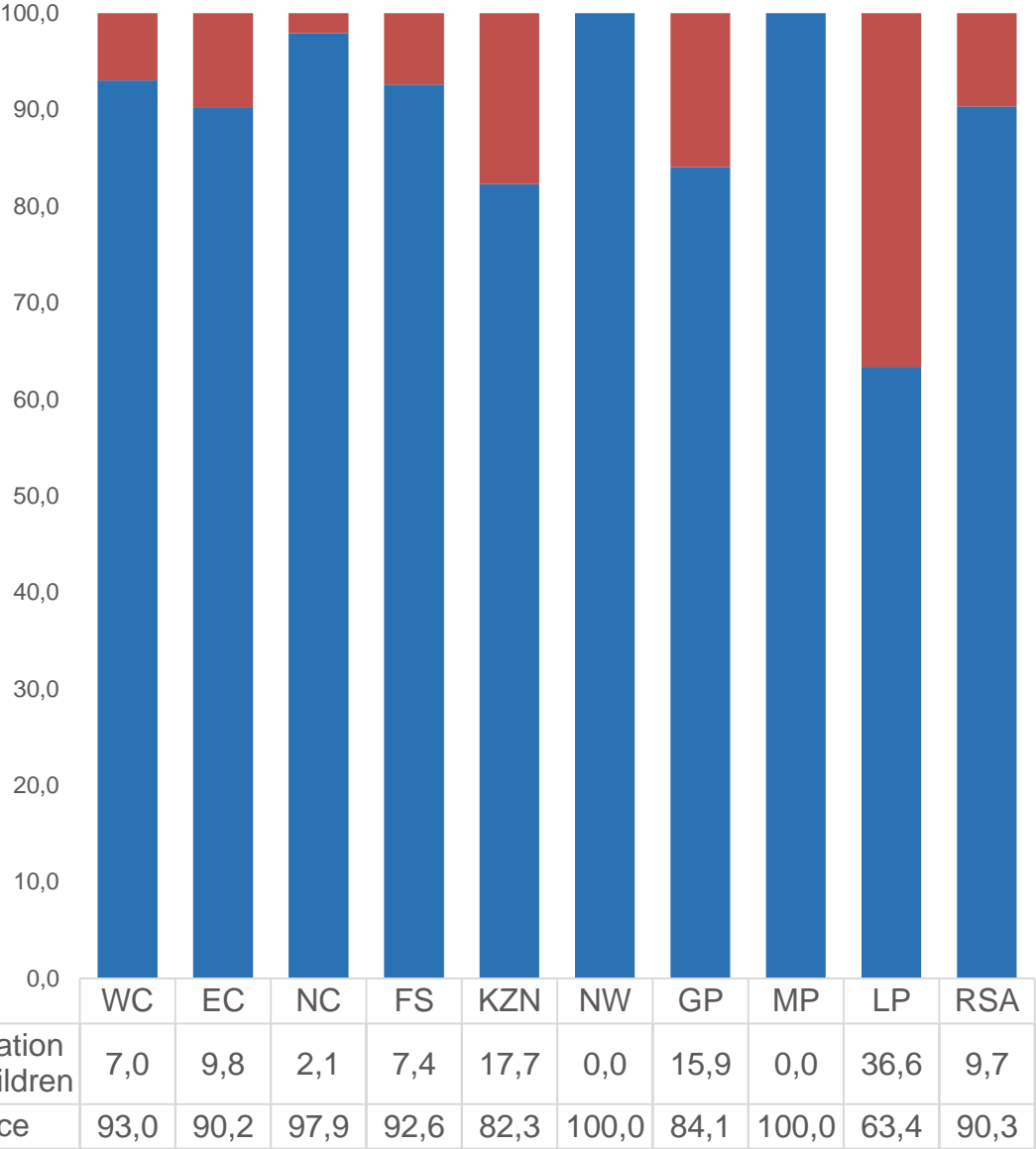


Source: GPSJS,2021/22

Percentage distribution of households with children who experienced conflict on child support, visitation, and guardianship dispute/problems by province

- The majority of households with children experienced conflicts regarding **child support and maintenance** more as opposed to disputes related to **child custody, visitation arrangements, or access to children**

Percentages (%)

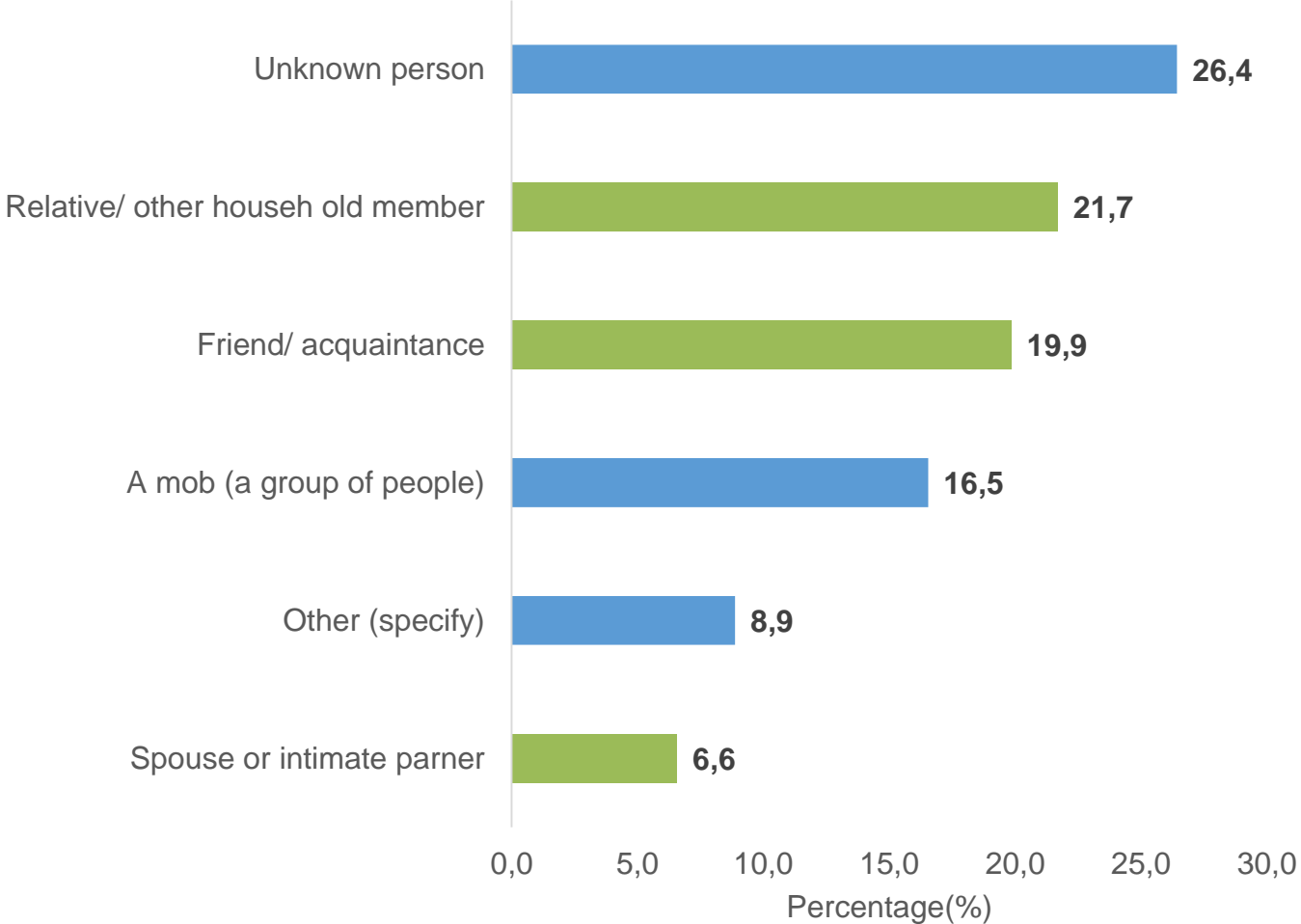


Source: GPSJS,2021/22



Percentage distribution of households with children aged 17 years and younger who experienced incidents of assault committed by a specific perpetrator

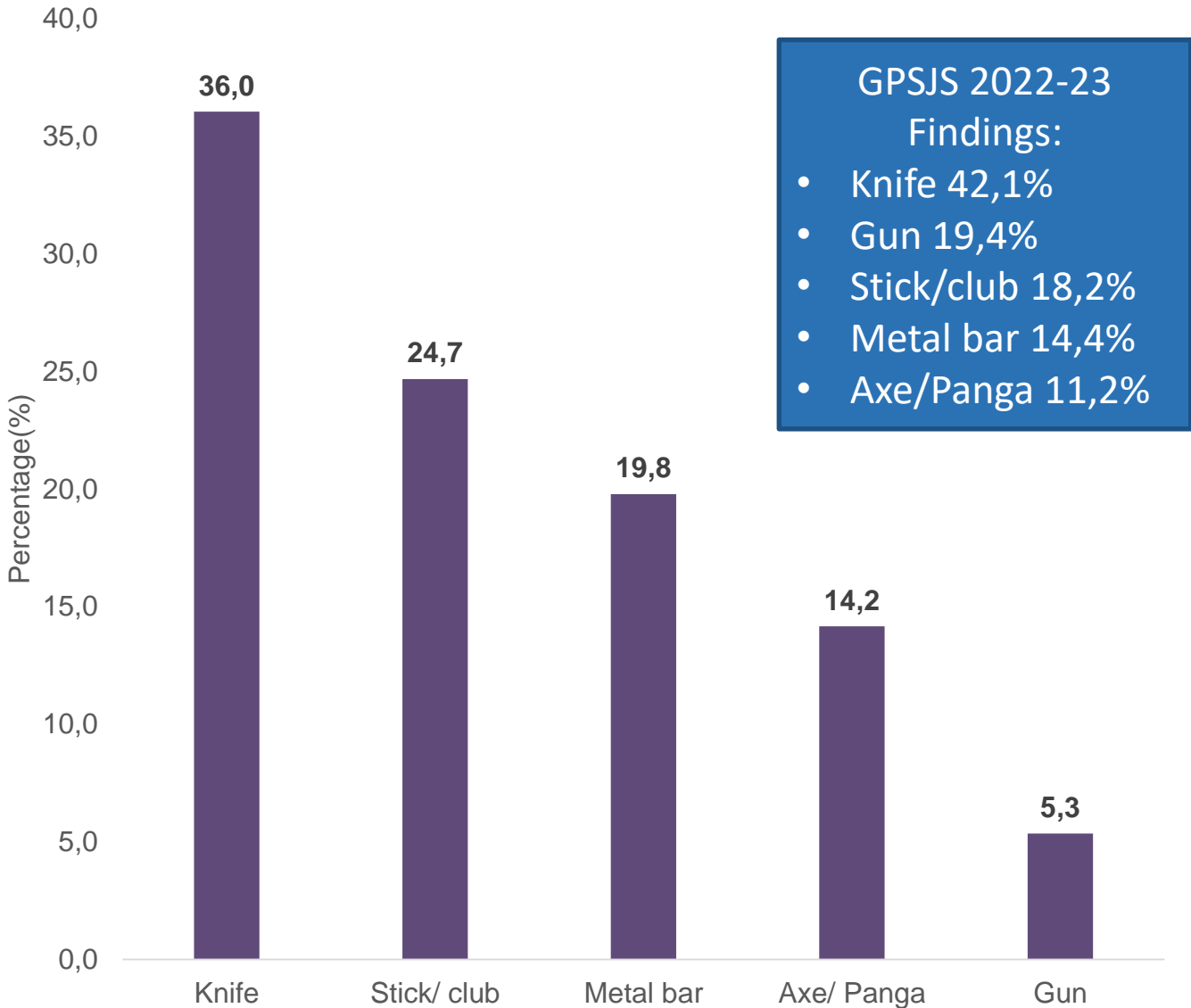
- The majority of assault cases **(48,2%)** were perpetrated by individuals known to the victim



Source: GPSJS,2022/23

Type of weapons used in incidents of assault in a household with children aged 17 years and younger during a home robbery

- The most common weapons used in incidents of assault during home robbery were knives **(36,0%)**



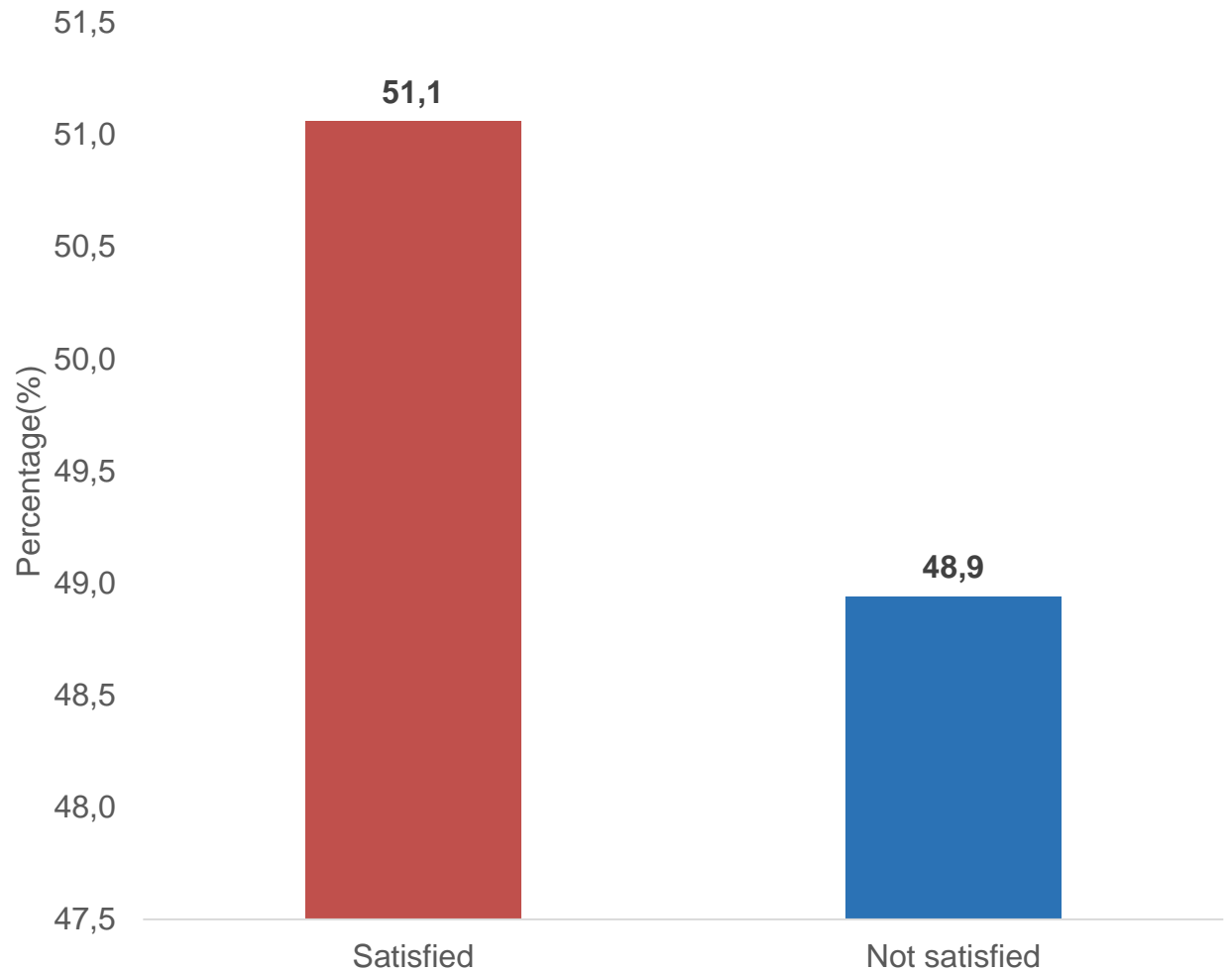
GPSJS 2022-23 Findings:

- Knife 42,1%
- Gun 19,4%
- Stick/club 18,2%
- Metal bar 14,4%
- Axe/Panga 11,2%

Source: GPSJS,2022/23

Percentage distribution of households with children aged 17 years and younger who experienced assault and were satisfied with the police response

- More than half **(51,1 %)** of the households with children who experienced assault were satisfied with the police response



Source: GPSJS,2022/23



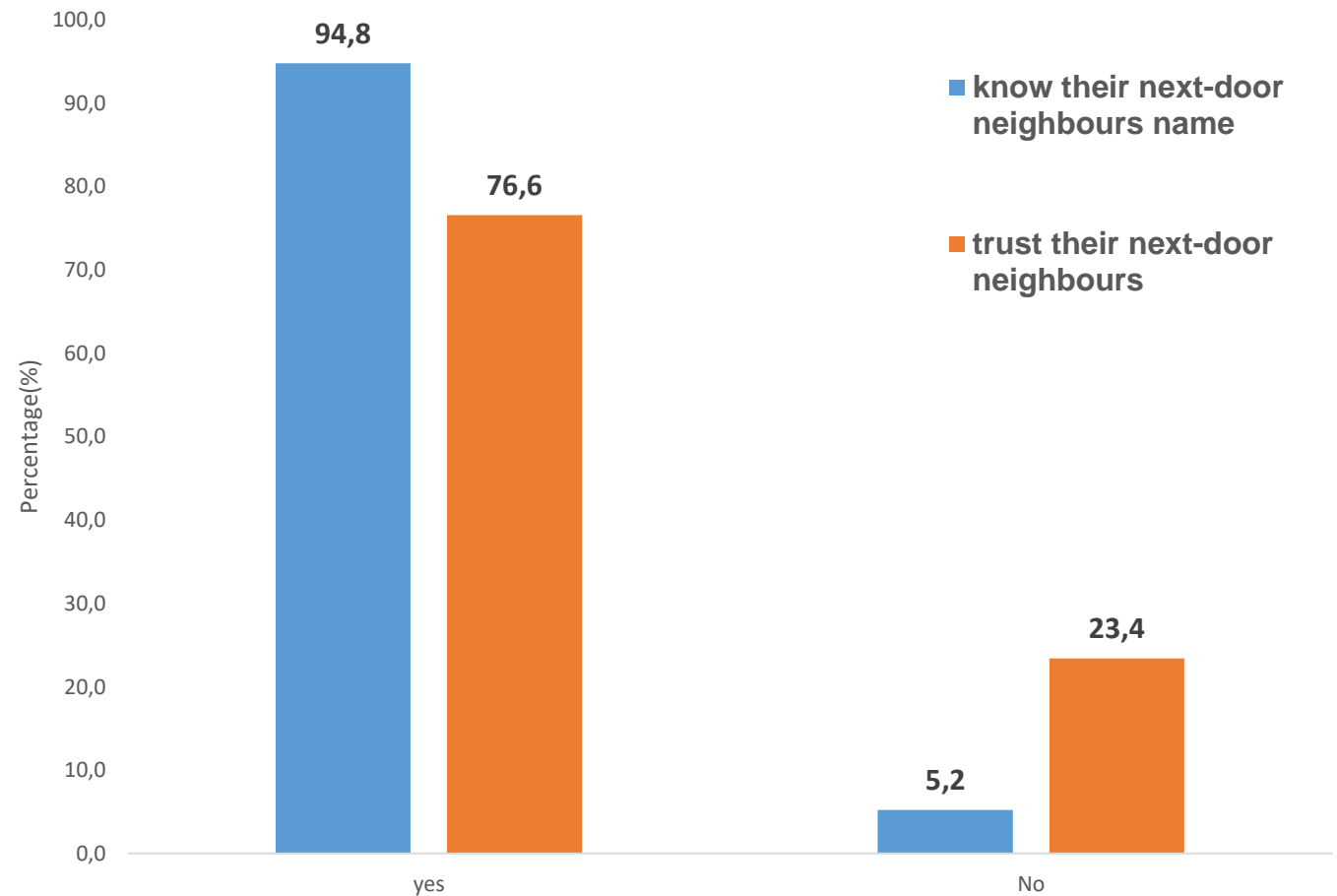
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Percentage distribution of households with children aged 17 years and younger that know/trust their next-door neighbours enough to let them look after their children for more than an hour

- The majority of households with children **know their next-door neighbors' names** and **trust them** enough to allow them to look after their children for more than an hour



Source: GPSJS,2022/23



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- The most common crime experienced by children 17 years and younger reported to the police was **rape**, followed by **common assault**, and **assault with GBH**.
 - In 2019/20, abduction and rape were most common in **KwaZulu-Natal**;
 - Child trafficking was more prominent in **Gauteng**;
 - Sexual assault was most common in the **Western Cape**;
 - Attempted murder, murder, and assault with GBH were mostly common in the **Western Cape**.
 - Households in **Gauteng** had the highest percentage of common robbery.
 - **Females** aged 17 years and younger were more likely to be affected by abduction, rape, sexual assault, child trafficking, and attempted common robbery.
 - **Males** aged 17 years and younger were more likely to experience murder, assault with GBH, attempted murder, common robbery, and common assault.
- **Rape** and **sexual assault** cases per 100 000 population were higher among children compared to total rape and sexual assault cases reported to the police throughout the years.

- The most common crime experienced by households with children was housebreaking/burglary, followed by home robbery and assault.
 - Households with children in **Gauteng** experienced high percentages of theft of motor vehicle, home robbery, and housebreaking/burglary;
 - Almost a quarter (24,5%) of the households with children in the **Western Cape** were mostly affected by assault.
- A high percentage of the households with children experienced domestic violence against children.
 - Domestic violence against children was most common in **KwaZulu-Natal**.
- The majority of households with children experienced conflicts regarding child support and maintenance compared to disputes related to child custody, visitation arrangements, or access to children.

Summary (Cont.)

- In 2022/23, among households with children, the majority of perpetrators were individuals known to the victims
- **Knives** were the most used weapons in incidents of assault (36,0%) in households with children, followed by **sticks/clubs** (25,0%), **metal bars** (20,0%), **axes/pangas** (14,0%) , and **Guns** (5,0%) .
- High percentages of households with children know **their next-door neighbors' names and trust them** enough to allow them to look after their children for more than an hour.



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