

Child Series Volume III

Reported crime against children 2022/23





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Child Series Volume III

Reported crime against children

2022/23

Statistics South Africa

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

Report No. 92-02-03

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IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



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Abbreviations and acronyms

CRC	The Convention on the Rights of the Child
Covid-19	Coronavirus Disease
DHA	Department of Home Affairs
DUI	Driving Under the Influence
DSD	Department of Social Development
DoJ & CD	Department of Justice and Constitutional Development
GBH	Grievous Bodily Harm
GVB	Gender Based Violence
NDP	The National Development Plan
NPAC	National Plan of Action for Children
MTSF	Medium-term strategic framework
ORC	The Office on the Rights of the Child
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SAPS	South African Police Services
STATS SA	Statistics South Africa
WHO	World Health Organization
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNICRI	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WC	Western Cape
EC	Eastern Cape
NC	Northern Cape
FS	Free State
KZN	KwaZulu-Natal
NW	North West
GP	Gauteng
MP	Mpumalanga
LP	Limpopo
RSA	Republic of South Africa

Glossary of concepts

	Term	Definitions/descriptions
1.	Abduction	Consists unlawfully taking a minor out of the control of his or her custodian with the intention of enabling someone to marry or have sexual intercourse with that minor.
2.	Age of consent	The age of consent in South Africa is 16 years old. The age of consent is the minimum age at which an individual is considered legally old enough to consent to participate in sexual activity. Individuals aged 15 or younger in South Africa are not legally able to consent to sexual activity, and such activity may result in prosecution for statutory rape or the equivalent local law.
3.	Assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm (GBH)	The unlawful and intentional direct or indirect application of force to the body of another person with the intention of causing grievous bodily harm to that person. Note: The victim does not need to sustain serious injuries. The decisive element is the intention to cause serious injuries.
4.	Attempted murder	Consists of the commission of an unlawful act with the intention of killing another human being but which does not result in the death of that human being.
5.	Child abuse	'abuse', in relation to a child (child abuse), means any form of harm or ill-treatment deliberately inflicted on a child, and includes — (a) assaulting a child or inflicting any other form of deliberate injury to a child; (b) sexually abusing a child or allowing a child to be sexually abused; (c) bullying by another child; (d) a labour practice that exploits a child; or (e) exposing or subjecting a child to behaviour that may harm the child psychologically or emotionally. Section 1(1) of the Children's Act, 2005 (Act No. 38 of 2005).
6.	Common assault	The unlawful and intentional: a) Direct and indirect application of force to the body of another person, or b) Threat of application of immediate personal violence to another, in circumstances in which the threatened person is prevailed upon to believe that the person who is threatening him has the intention and power to carry out his threat.
7.	Contact crimes	Contact crime refers to those crimes in which victims themselves are targets of violence or property is targeted and victims in the vicinity during the commission of the crime are subjected to threats of violence or the use of such violence: Murder, sexual offences, attempted murder, Assault with GBH, common assault, common robbery.
8.	Kidnapping	Consists of the unlawful intentional deprivation of a person of his freedom of movement or, if such a person is a child, the unlawful intentional deprivation of a parent of control over the child.
9.	Murder	Consists of the unlawful and intentional killing of another human being.
10.	Rape	Section 3 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2007 (Act No.32 of 2007) defines rape as follows: Rape is the unlawful and intentional sexual penetration of a person without his or her consent.
11.	Sexual assault	Section 5 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2007 (Act No. 32 of 2007) defines sexual assault as follows: A person who unlawfully and intentionally – (a) sexually violates a person, without his or her consent; or

	Term	Definitions/descriptions
		(b) inspires the belief in a person that he or she will be sexually violated, is guilty of the offence of sexual assault.
12.	Total sexual offences	Include rape, sexual assault, attempted sexual offences, contact sexual offences
13.	Sexual offences (including sexual assault, sexual grooming, rape and domestic sexual abuse)	<p>Refers to grabbing, touching someone's private parts or sexually assaulting grooming incest or raping someone.</p> <p>Note: In terms of the Sexual Offences Act No 32 of 2007 section 5, (1) A person ('A') who unlawfully and intentionally sexually violates a complainant ('B'), without the consent of B, is guilty of the offence of sexual assault. (2) A person ('A') who unlawfully and intentionally inspires the belief in a complainant ('B') that B will be sexually violated is guilty of the offence of sexual assault.</p>
14.	Statutory rape	Section 15 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2007 (Act No. 32 of 2007) defines the crime as follows: A person who commits an act of sexual penetration with a child is, despite the consent of the child to the commission of such an act, guilty of the offence of having committed an act of consensual sexual penetration with a child.
15.	Statutory sexual assault	Section 16 of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2007 (Act No. 32 of 2007) defines the crime as follows: A person who commits an act of sexual violation of a child is, despite the consent of the child to the commission of such an act, guilty of the offence of having committed an act of consensual sexual violation with a child.

Foreword

This report is part of the children series publications and serves as the second part of the thematic report on crimes against children. It utilizes data collected by the South African Police Service (SAPS) during their crime administration activities, which is then shared with Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) as part of the existing data sharing agreement. SAPS releases quarterly data on crimes against children, focusing on selected indicators. This report aims to provide detailed information on the types of crimes affecting children aged 0–17, as well as trends over time.

Collecting and publishing data on crimes against children is crucial for several reasons. It raises public awareness about the prevalence and severity of these crimes. It helps policymakers and legislators understand the scope of the problem, enabling them to create and implement effective laws and policies to protect children. It also ensures that support services, such as counselling and legal assistance, are available where they are most needed.

Based on the SAPS crime data for 2022/23, the country experienced the highest total contact crime in the past decade, with 654 053 incidents reported. Over half of these incidents involved common assault (185 374) and assault with the intent to cause grievous bodily harm (GBH) (169 374). The data also revealed that nearly 19 418 of common assault and assault with GBH crimes were committed against children, making up about 45,0% of all reported crimes against children. This highlights a significant issue with violent confrontations and physical altercations, which can have severe consequences for the young victims. In the 2022/23 period, common assault was the most prevalent crime against children in both Western Cape (44,0%) and Northern Cape (31,2%).

In South Africa, crimes against children have impacted more females than males. While common assault affected both genders almost equally, boys were predominantly victims of assault with GBH (64,2% in 2022/23), murder (72,0% in 2022/23), and attempted murder (68,4% in 2022/23). Additionally, kidnapping and child abuse were crimes primarily committed against females.

A significant number of crimes against children in South Africa involve sexual offenses, with girls being victimized more frequently than boys. In most provinces, except for Western Cape and Northern Cape, rape has consistently been the most prevalent crime against children. In the 2022/23 period, Limpopo recorded the highest proportion of rape cases among crimes against children at 54,3%, followed by Mpumalanga at 47,6%. Gauteng had the lowest proportion at 35,1%.

Child rape, murder and attempted murder mostly occurred at night, whereas common assault, assault with grievous bodily harm (GBH), sexual assault, and kidnapping typically happened in the afternoon, peaking in the early afternoon. However, child abuse was most common in the early morning. These alarming figures highlight a significant challenge for the country in terms of public safety and crime prevention.



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Chapter 1: Crime in South Africa

1.1 Background

A socially cohesive and safe South Africa requires a series of overlapping interventions that unite the country. A country with high levels of crime brings risks to safety, security and democracy. Violent crimes often lead to a tragic loss of life and injury, resulting in the erosion of public health and psychological well-being of victims and their families. Loss of properties and livelihood due to crime is immense. Fear of crime leads to altering routine activities and habits, enabling those with resources to protect themselves and their property, at the same time displacing crime to those less privileged. Some of the consequences of crime could be the denial of the rights and dignity of citizens, which could lead to threats towards the peaceful resolution of differences and risks of unfair participation in economic and democratic processes. As such, crime can transform some public places and neighbourhoods into no-go areas by withdrawing from the community; they can shrink community cohesion, trust and neighbourhood stability. The causes of crime are multifaceted. They could emanate from socio-economic factors such as poverty, unemployment, lack of educational opportunities, addictions to drugs and alcohol, peer pressure, and poor social norms. Other factors associated with crimes could be dysfunctional family structures, family violence, and poor parenting skills.

Section 12 of the South African Constitution guarantees the right of everybody including children to be protected from all forms of violence from either public or private sources. This section of the law particularly safeguards children from maltreatment, neglect, abuse, and degradation. Therefore, corporal punishment was abolished in all areas of life in the justice system, at schools and at home as a form of discipline. In 2009, close to one in five children (18,6%) aged 5–17 years experienced some sort of violence at school which included corporal punishment or verbal abuse. This decreased to 8,2% in 2019, with just over one million out of 13 million school-going children aged 5–17 years reporting that they had experienced some form of violence (Statistics South Africa, 2023). According to the GHS 2023 report, corporal punishment on learners declined to 6,3% in 2023. KwaZulu-Natal had the highest percentage of learners who suffered from corporal punishment with 17,3% and Western Cape the lowest percentage (0,3%) (Stats SA 2024a).

Crimes committed against children can have long-lasting effects on their well-being, families, and society as a whole. Such crimes may include physical or emotional abuse, as well as acts of violence like assault with grievous bodily harm or robbery. Sexual offences, such as sexual assault, grooming, rape, and domestic abuse, are also included under the umbrella of crimes against children. These acts may cause actual or potential harm to a child's well-being, development, or dignity.

South Africa is one of the top three countries in the world with the highest crime rates, with the most common crimes being assaults, rape, murder, and other violent crimes (World Population Review, 2023). In terms of contact crime trends over twelve-month periods, in 2022/2023, South African Police Service (SAPS) recorded 654 053 contact crimes. Gauteng (181 806) had the largest number of reported contact crimes, followed by Western Cape (112 899) and KwaZulu-Natal at 110 082 respectively. For murder trends over a twelve-month period in 2022/2023, SAPS recorded 27 494 murder cases. KwaZulu-Natal had the largest number of reported murder cases (6 947), followed by Gauteng and Eastern Cape at 6 411 and 5 150 respectively (SAPS recorded crime statistics, 2022/2023).

1.2 The legal framework in South Africa

The Bill of Rights in the South African Constitution (Act No 108, 1996) contains six rights directly related to crime and maltreatment of children. These include the right:

- To be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse, and degradation.
- To be protected from exploitative labour practices.
- To be protected from performing work or services that are not appropriate for their age, would impact their well-being in general but also their physical, mental, spiritual, and moral development; affect their educational participation.

- To be treated as a child when in conflict with the law.
- To be represented by a legal practitioner assigned by the state; and
- To be protected in case of armed conflicts and not be used for the cause.

The Bill also suggests that all decisions concerning the child should be made by looking at their best interests. Various laws were subsequently enacted to give effect to these rights. The main legislation is the Children's Act (Act No. 38 of 2005) which provides a standard for the "best interests of a child". The Act provides guiding factors when applying the principle of the "best interests of a child" which takes into account the following features directly related to crime and maltreatment. These include:

- The need to protect the child from any physical or psychological harm that can subject or expose him/her to maltreatment, abuse, degradation, ill-treatment, violence or harmful behaviour towards another person;
- The need to protect the child from any family violence; and
- There is a need to opt for an action or decision that would avoid or minimise further legal or administrative proceedings concerning the child.

The Children's Act further elaborates on the establishment of children's courts, their proceedings and jurisdiction. It makes new provisions to prohibit child abductions and to create certain new offences relating to children, such as trafficking.

The Office on the Rights of the Child (ORC) was re-established under the Department of Social Development (DSD) in 2019. The main objective of the ORC is to ensure the effective mainstreaming of child rights at the national, provincial and local levels. Furthermore, the ORC was mandated to develop and oversee the implementation of the National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC). The ORC is responsible for all international, regional and national reporting obligations related to children. The NPAC has a direct bearing on the rights and well-being of children and ensures that domestic legislations are in harmony with international laws.

1.3 International instruments

The United Nations Declaration on Human Rights (Resolution A/RES/217(III)), the Declaration of the Rights of the Child (Resolution 1386(XIV)) also known as the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (Resolution 444/25, 1989) are the most notable instruments adopted by the United General Assembly. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) came into force in September 1990 and South Africa ratified the convention in 1995.

The CRC is quite extensive and consists of 54 articles. Furthermore, the CRC articulates in Articles 32-40 the need for children's protection from crime, economic and sexual exploitation and trafficking by:

- Making provision for a minimum age of employment and appropriate conditions of employment;
- Protecting children from the illicit use and trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;
- Protecting the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse;
- Preventing the abduction of, sale or trafficking of children for any purpose or in any form;
- Protecting children from torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, arrest, detention or imprisonment of a child;
- To ensure that children are cared for and protected from armed conflicts. Children 15 years and younger do not take a direct part in armed conflicts and do not form part of the armed forces;
- The establishment of a minimum age below which children shall be presumed not to have the capacity to infringe the penal law; and
- Not to be compelled to give testimony or confess guilt.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child has two optional protocols which South Africa also prescribes. These consist of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Optional Protocol Prohibiting the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Pornography (Resolution A/RES/54/263) which South Africa ratified on June 30, 2003. The second optional protocol is the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Optional Protocol

on Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts (Resolution A/RES/54/263) which South Africa ratified in 2009. These protocols make provision for the prohibition of:

- The sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography.
- Such cases that have been investigated, prosecuted, and sanctioned; and
- Child victims of such crimes who have been provided with recovery assistance or compensation.
- Children to take part in direct hostilities; and
- Recruitment of children in the armed forces must be genuinely voluntary.

An additional international instrument is the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (Document CAB/LEG/24.9/49). The Charter entered into force in November 1999 and South Africa ratified the Charter in January 2000. The Charter consists of 48 articles in total and is a domesticated child rights tool of the UNCRC to suit the continent's needs. Article 21 is the most notable article of this instrument as it makes provision for protection against harmful social and cultural practices.

- Elimination of harmful social and cultural practices; and
- Prevention of child marriages.

1.4 Sustainable Development

Internationally, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Goal 16 targets and indicators are set up to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development; to provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. Target 16.2 focuses particularly on crime against children as follows:

Target 16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against torture of children

- Indicator 16.2.1: Proportion of children aged 1–17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month.
- Indicator 16.2.2: Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age, and form of exploitation.
- Indicator 16.2.3: Proportion of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18.

1.5 The National Development Plan: Vision for 2030

Safe communities are directly related to socio-economic development and equality. A safe and secure country encourages economic growth and transformation and is therefore an important contributor to addressing the triple challenge of poverty, inequality, and unemployment. The National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 envisages a South Africa where people feel safe and enjoy a community life free of crime. Achieving this requires a well-functioning criminal justice system, in which the police, the judiciary and correctional services work together to ensure that suspects are caught, prosecuted, convicted if guilty, and securely incarcerated and rehabilitated. This requires:

- Strengthening the criminal justice system;
- Making the police service professional;
- Increasing rehabilitation of prisoners and their successful reintegration into society and reducing the number of repeat offenders.

1.6 Medium-term strategic framework (MTSF) 2019-2024

The MTSF 2019–2024 turns the NDP goals and the government's priorities over five years. These priorities were announced by the President in July 2019. Priority six consists of social cohesion and safer communities. Under this priority, various goals and targets were set to be achieved by 2024. However, the indicator specific to children was as follows under the outcome: to increase feelings of safety in communities:

- Percentage reduction in the number of crimes against children.

1.7 Objective of the report

This report is the third report in the child series thematic report and constitutes the second part of the Volume II report in this series (Crime against children report) published by Statistics South Africa in March 2024 (Stats SA 2024b). The main purpose of the report is to present data on crimes committed against children and reported to the SAPS. In this report, the data was extended to years which were not included in the previous report.

The report comprised four chapters. The first chapter provides an overview of the child-related national legislation and international instruments. The second chapter presents data on reported offences committed and reported against children under the age of 17 using SAPS 2010/11–2022/23 data. Chapter three presents data on each offence committed against children as a percentage of all reported crimes. Chapter four presents the age of the victims by type of crime and chapter five presents the time of occurrences of the crimes. Chapter six summarises the findings of the report and offers a conclusion.

Chapter 2: Types of offences committed against children

2.1 Introduction

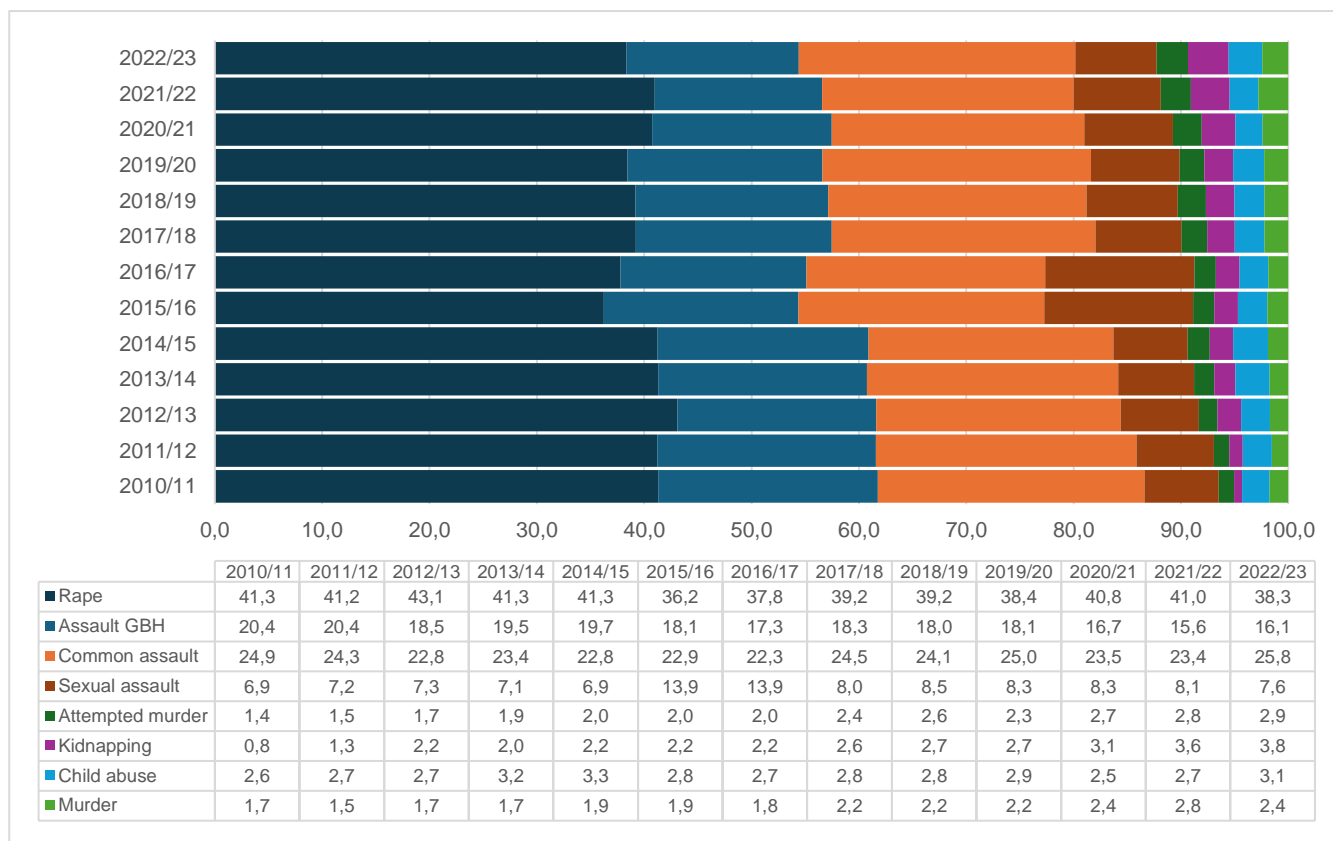
Children are vulnerable to various types of crimes and forms of abuse. The most common ones are physical abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, bullying including cyberbullying, child trafficking and kidnapping, and assault. Some of these crimes are often undetected, especially if the child doesn't have visible signs of harm, malnutrition or poor hygiene. Sexual crimes go unreported due to fear, shame, or manipulation by the abuser.

Police reports indicate that rapes and common assaults predominantly occur at the residences of either the perpetrators or the victims, or in locations familiar to both parties. Assaults with GBH, attempted murders, and murders are more likely to happen in public spaces such as streets, parking areas, open fields, parks, recreational centres, beaches, or even vacant buildings. These violent acts are primarily committed by acquaintances, often known by sight, or by family members, boyfriends, and girlfriends. This section presents data on reported offences reported to the police for children aged 0–17 that cover a period of 13 years from 2010/11 to 2022/23 years.

2.2 Total offences on children reported to the police

The report details crimes against children reported to the police from 2010/11 to 2022/23. These crimes include murder, kidnapping, child abuse, attempted murder, sexual assault, common assault, assault with GBH, and rape. In South Africa, rape remains one of the most severe and traumatic crimes against children while sexual assault against children is a deeply troubling crime that has seen a significant number of reported cases. Attempted murder cases and murder, though fewer in number compared to other crimes, still pose a grave threat to children's lives as these crimes have tragically claimed the lives of many children over the years.

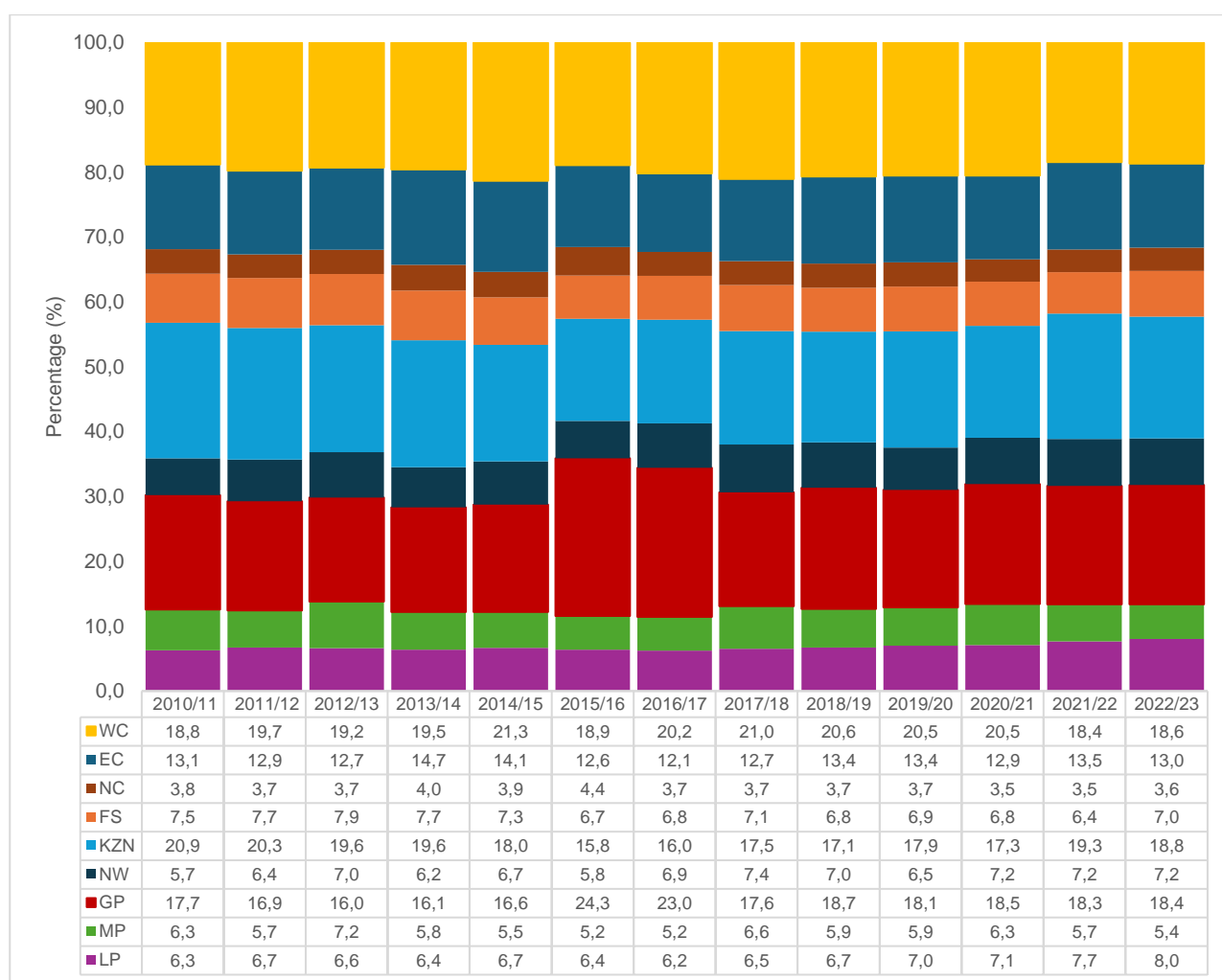
Figure 2.1: Percentage distribution of offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and types of offences, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The above graph illustrates the percentage distribution of offences reported to the police for children aged 0–17 years, categorised by year and type of offence from 2010/11 to 2022/23. The top three crimes committed against children are rape, common assault, and assault with GBH (38,3% 25,8% and 16,1% in 2022/23 respectively). While the incidence of rape and assault with GBH has declined over the years, common assault has remained stable, accounting for approximately a quarter of all reported crimes. Additionally, child abuse and kidnapping have been on the rise during the years presented from 2,6% in 2010/11 to 3,1% in 2022/23, and 0,8% in 2010/11 to 3,8% in 2022/23 respectively. The persistently high rates of rape, common assault, and assault with GBH against children indicate that more comprehensive and sustained efforts are needed to ensure the safety and well-being of children in the country.

Figure 2.2: Percentage distribution of offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and province, 2010/11–2022/23



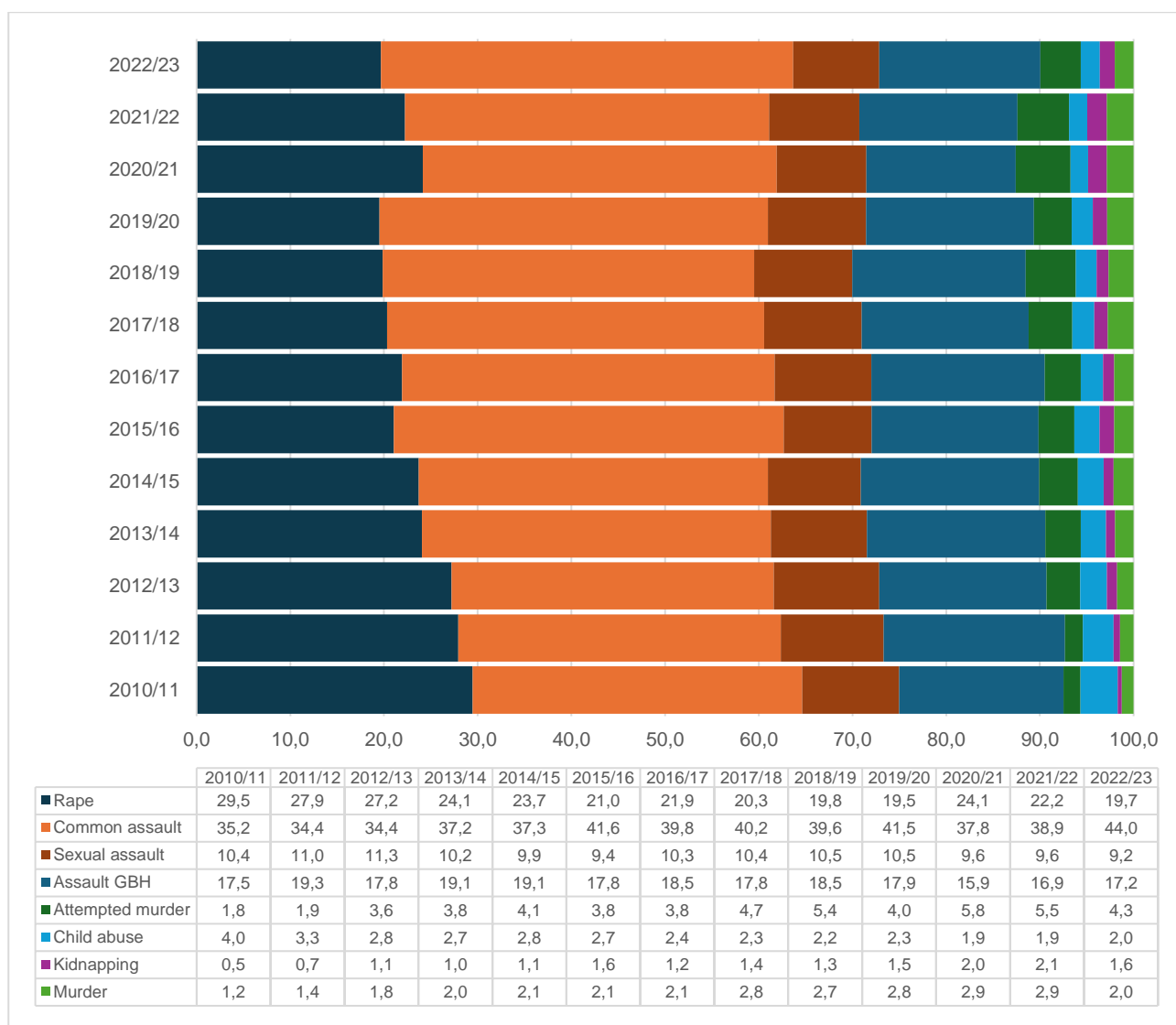
Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

Provinces with the highest reported crime against children are Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng. Western Cape (18,6% in 2022/23), leads with the highest percentage of crimes, followed by KwaZulu-Natal (18,8% in 2022/23) and Gauteng (18,4% in 2022/23). Northern Cape and Mpumalanga have generally reported lower crime rates against children compared to other provinces. Relatively higher crime rates were observed in 2015/16 (24,3%) and 2016/17 (23,0%) in Gauteng whereas lower rates were observed in KwaZulu-Natal during the same period (15,8% and 16,0% respectively).

2.3 Offences reported to the police by province

Analysing crime by region helps in identifying trends and patterns over time. By understanding which areas have higher crime rates by type of crime can lead to more effective crime reduction initiatives. Furthermore, understanding the distribution of violent crimes against children such as sexual assault, common assault and assault with GBH is crucial for public safety and law enforcement strategies. In this section, each crime types are presented by province.

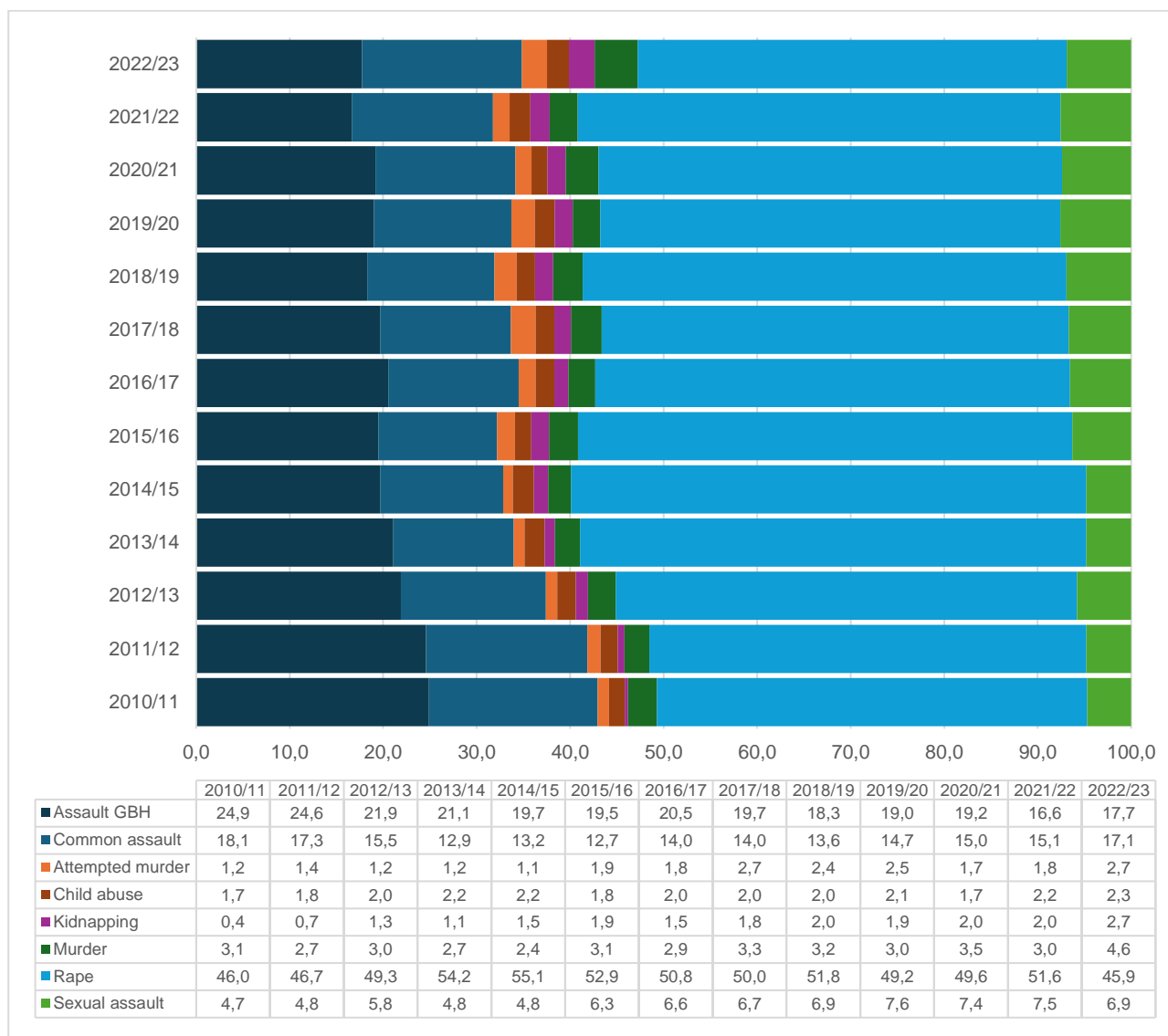
Figure 2.3: Percentage distribution of offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police in Western Cape by year and types of offences, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The above graph illustrates the percentage distribution of offences reported to the police for children aged 0–17 years in Western Cape for 2010/11–2022/23. In Western Cape, common assault was the major crime committed against children across all years accounting as high as 44,0% in 2022/23. The incidence of child rape decreased from 29,5% in 2010/11 to 19,7% in 2022/23, yet it remained the second most prevalent crime against children in the province. Additionally, assault with intent to cause GBH was the third most frequent crime, making up 17,2% of all crimes in 2022/23.

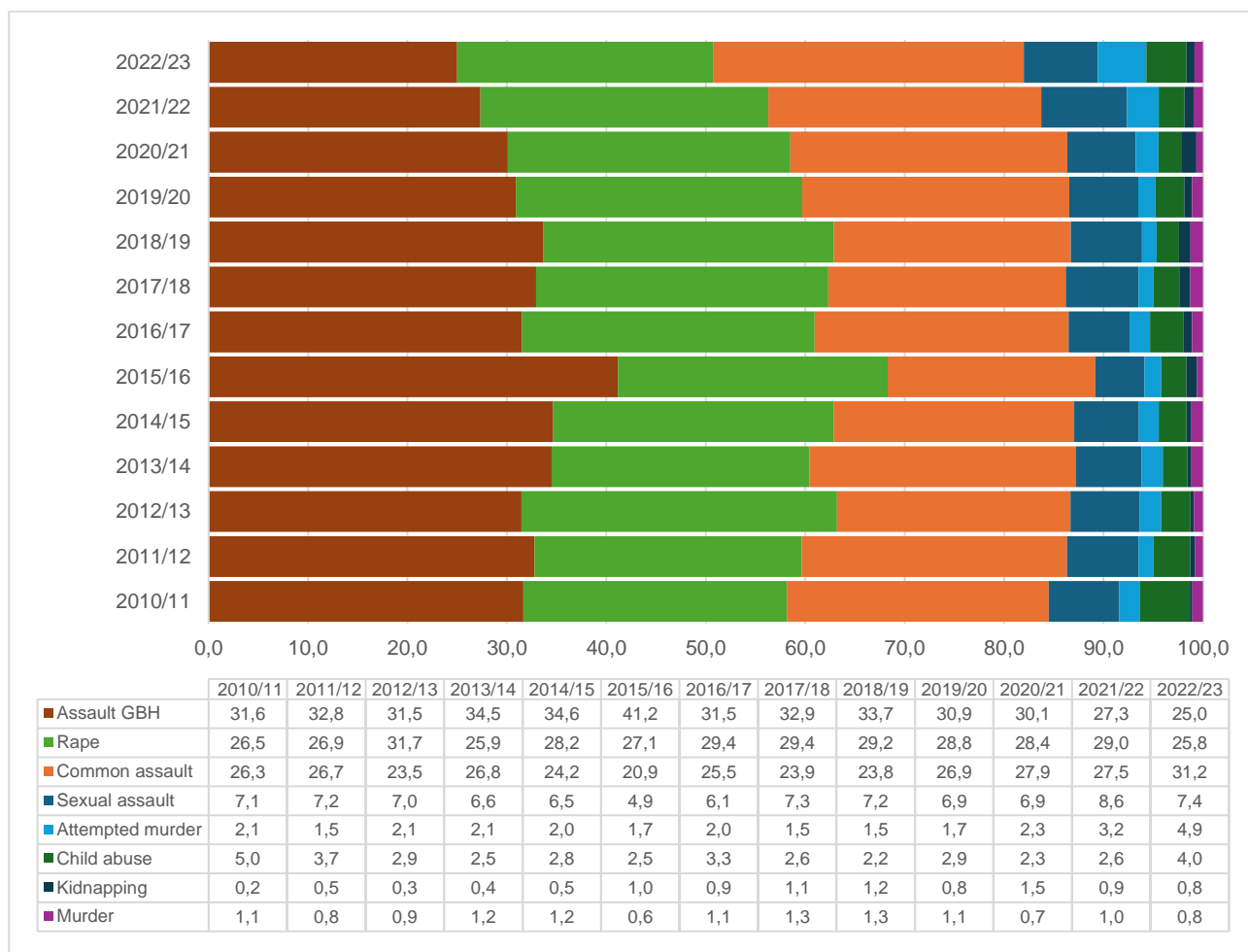
Figure 2.4: Percentage distribution of offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police in Eastern Cape by year and types of offences, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The above graph shows the percentage distribution of offences reported to the police for children aged 0–17 years in Eastern Cape from 2010/11 to 2022/23. Eastern Cape has a high rate of crimes against children, ranking fourth in South Africa. Child rape is a particularly alarming issue in the region, accounting for 46,0% of reported crimes in 2010/11, which rose to 55,1% in 2014/15. Recent data from 2022/23, showing 45,9%, underscore the ongoing severity and persistence of this problem.

Figure 2.5: Percentage distribution of offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police in Northern Cape by year and types of offences, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The above graph illustrates the percentage distribution of offences reported to the police for children aged 0–17 years in Northern Cape for 2010/11–2022/23. In Northern Cape, the most common crimes against children were common assault, rape and assault with GBH. Assault with GBH remained high, peaking at 41,2% in 2015/16. Although it has declined since then, it still accounted for a quarter of the crimes against children in 2022/23 (25,0%). Furthermore, rape accounted for almost 26,0% in 2022/23 and common assault accounted almost for one-third (31,2%) of all crimes in 2022/23. Murder remained closed to one percent across all years.

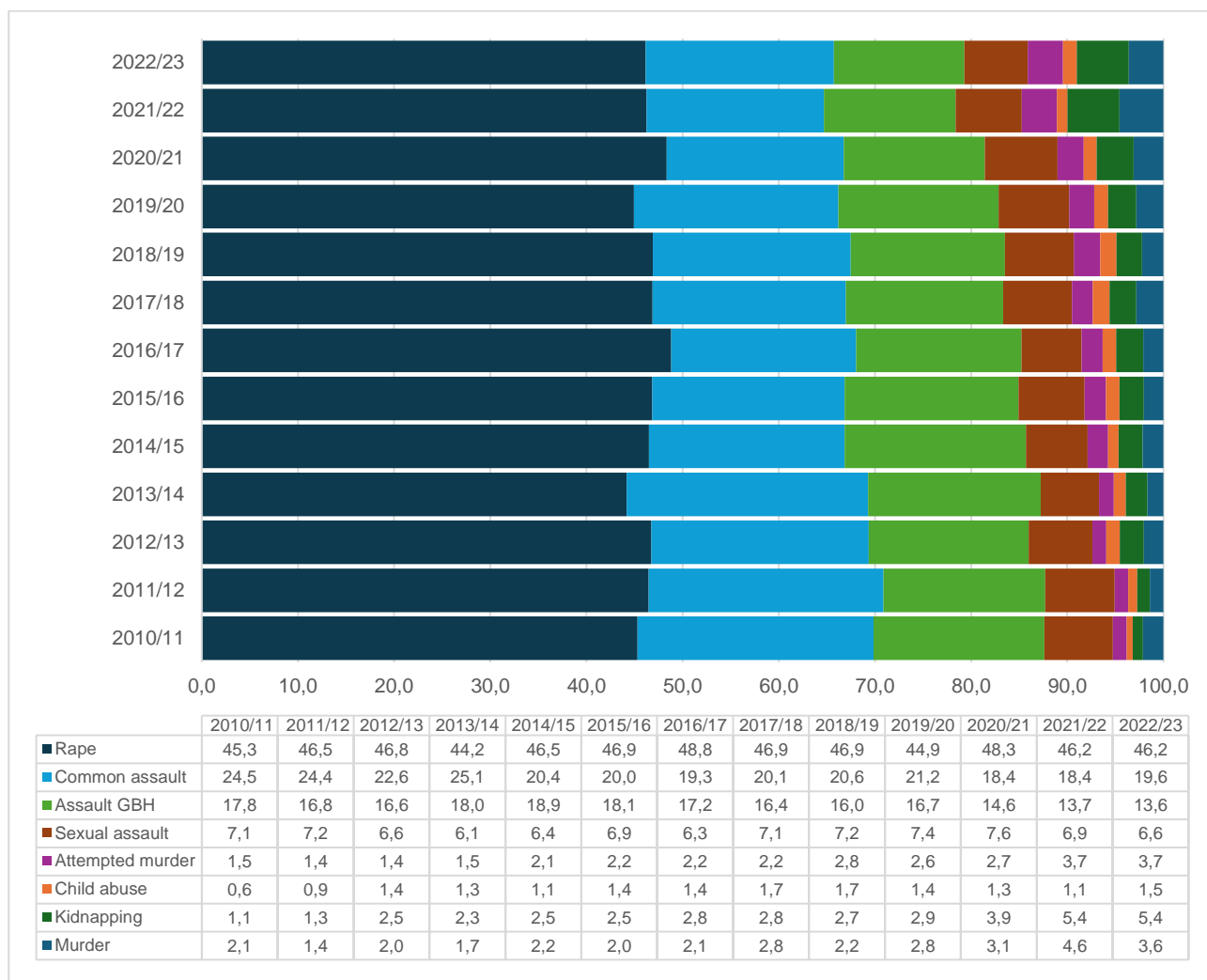
Figure 2.6: Percentage distribution of offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police in Free State by year and types of offences, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above shows the percentage distribution of offences reported to the police for children aged 0–17 years in Free State from 2010/11 to 2022/23. Rape, which accounted for more than one-third (37,3%) of all crimes committed against children in 2022/23, declined by nearly two percentage points since 2010/11. The second most prominent crime against children was common assault, accounting for more than a quarter (26,9%) of all crimes against children during the same period. This type of crime remained steady with minor fluctuations throughout the years presented. While child abuse remained low, it increased from 2,7% in 2010/11 to 6,3% in 2022/23. In some cultures, physical punishment is seen as a normal part of child-rearing. This can blur the lines between discipline and abuse, leading to harmful practices.

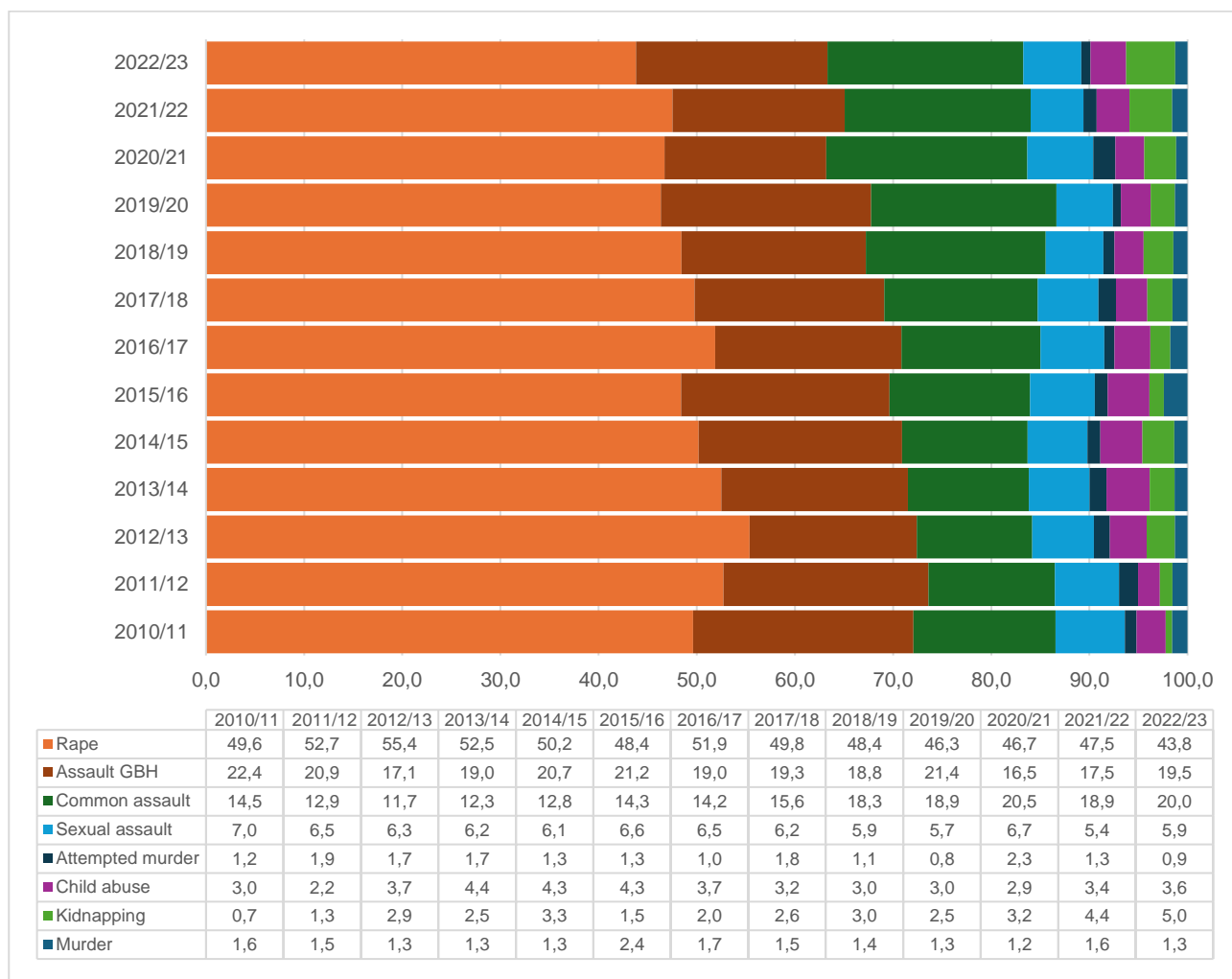
Figure 2.7: Percentage distribution of offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police in KwaZulu-Natal by year and types of offences, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above depicts the percentage distribution of offences reported to the police for children aged 0–17 years in KwaZulu-Natal from 2010/11 to 2022/23. Rape consistently remained the most prevalent crime against children in this region. In 2010/11, 45,3% of children were victims of rape, increasing to 48,3% in 2020/21 before slightly decreasing to 46,2% in 2022/23. The third most common crime experienced by children in KwaZulu-Natal is assault with GBH, which declined from 17,8% in 2010/11 to 13,6% in 2022/23. Additionally, in 2022/23, 19,6% of child victims experienced common assault, a nearly five percentage point decrease from 24,5% in 2010/11. There was also a rise in the percentage of murder in children, from 2,1% in 2010/11 to 3,6% in 2022/23.

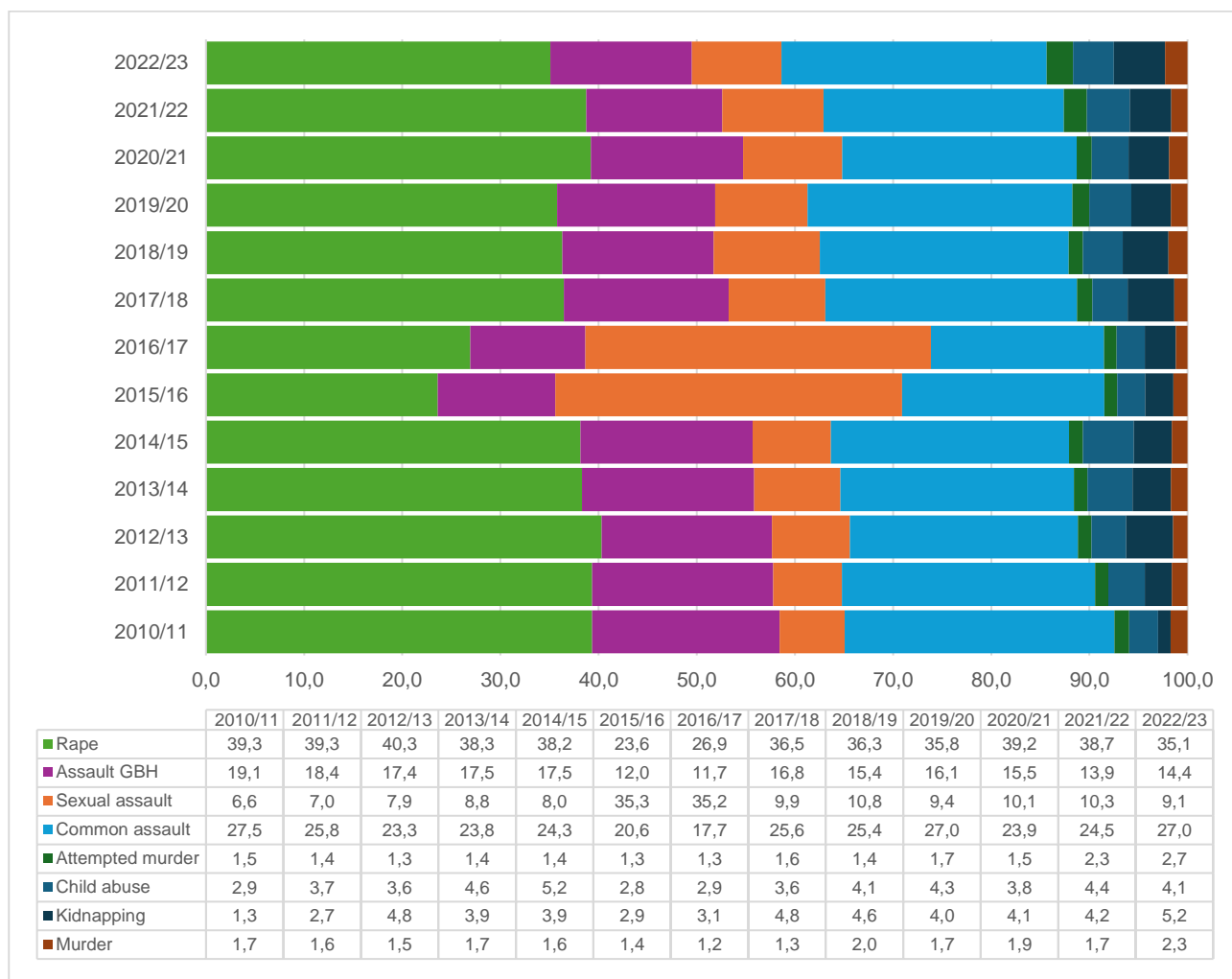
Figure 2.8: Percentage distribution of offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police in North West by year and types of offences, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above illustrates the percentage distribution of offences reported to the police for children aged 0–17 years in North West from 2010/11 to 2022/23. North West exhibited trends similar to other rural provinces, with rape being the most prevalent crime against children. In 2010/11, 49,6% of child victims experienced rape, which decreased by nearly six percentage points to 43,8% in 2022/23. Assault with intent to cause GBH and common assault each accounted for 20,0% of the crimes against children in 2022/23. Kidnapping has been on the rise in the province, increasing from less than one percent in 2010/11 to five percent in 2022/23.

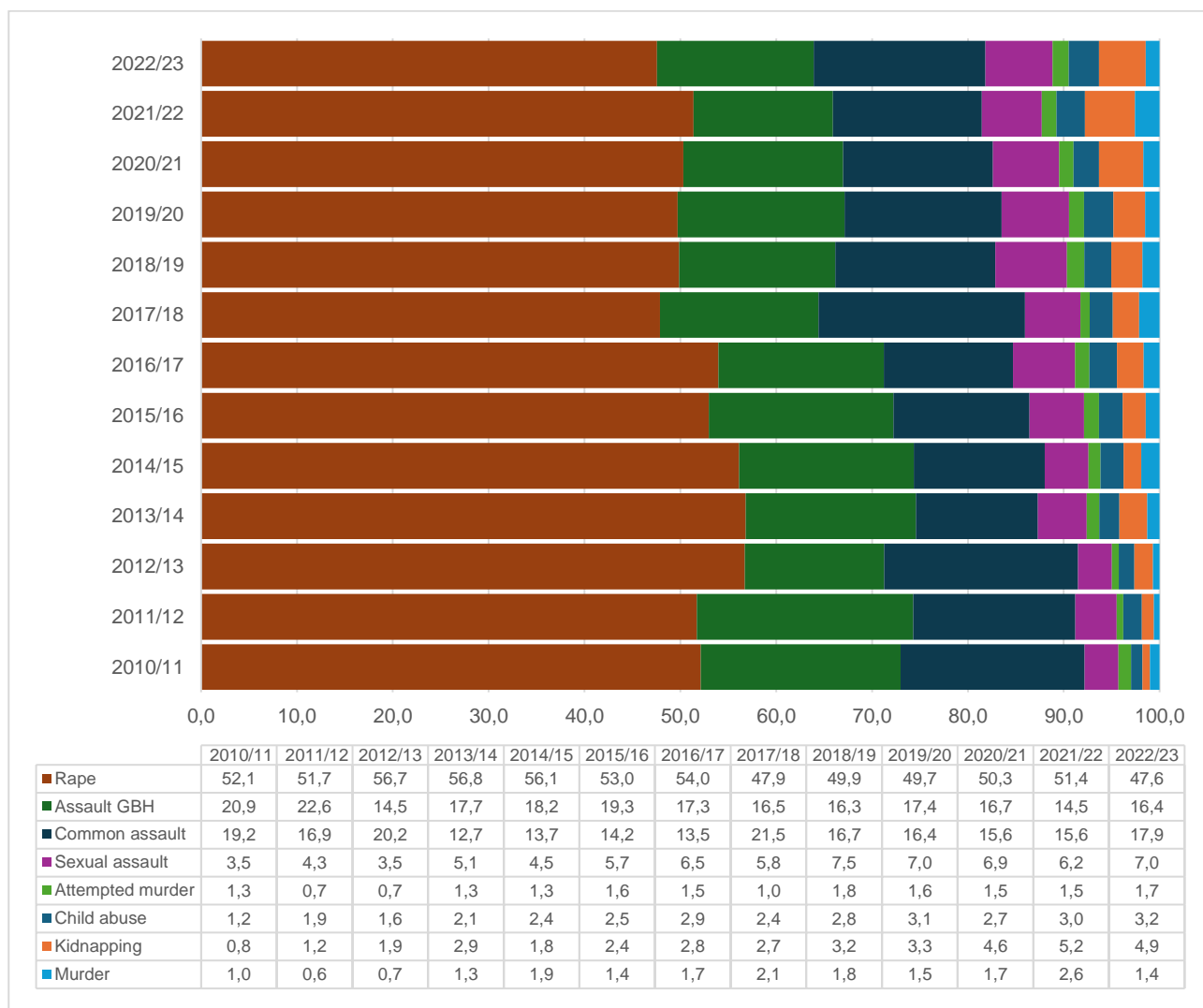
Figure 2.9: Percentage distribution of offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police in Gauteng by year and types of offences, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above shows the percentage distribution of offences reported to the police for children aged 0–17 years in Gauteng from 2010/11 to 2022/23. The incidence of rape among children decreased from 39,3% in 2010/11 to 35,1% in 2022/23. In contrast, sexual assault cases increased from 6,6% in 2010/11 to 9,1% in 2022/23. Notably, the period 2015/16 saw a significant drop in rape cases, while sexual assault cases surged. The sharp rise in sexual assault from 8,0% in 2014/15 to 35,3% in 2015/16 continued into 2016/17 (35,2%), but then dramatically fell to 9,9% in 2017/18. Conversely, the percentage of rape cases dropped from 38,2% in 2014/15 to 23,6% in 2015/16, followed by a slight increase to 26,9% in 2016/17 and a nearly ten percentage point rise to 36,5% in 2017/18. Assault with GBH dropped from 19,1% in 2011/11 to 14,4% in 2022/23. Common assault reached its lowest level in 2016/17 at 17,7%, but rose to approximately 27,0% in 2022/23. Additionally, kidnapping increased fourfold, from 1,3% in 2010/11 to 5,2% in 2022/23.

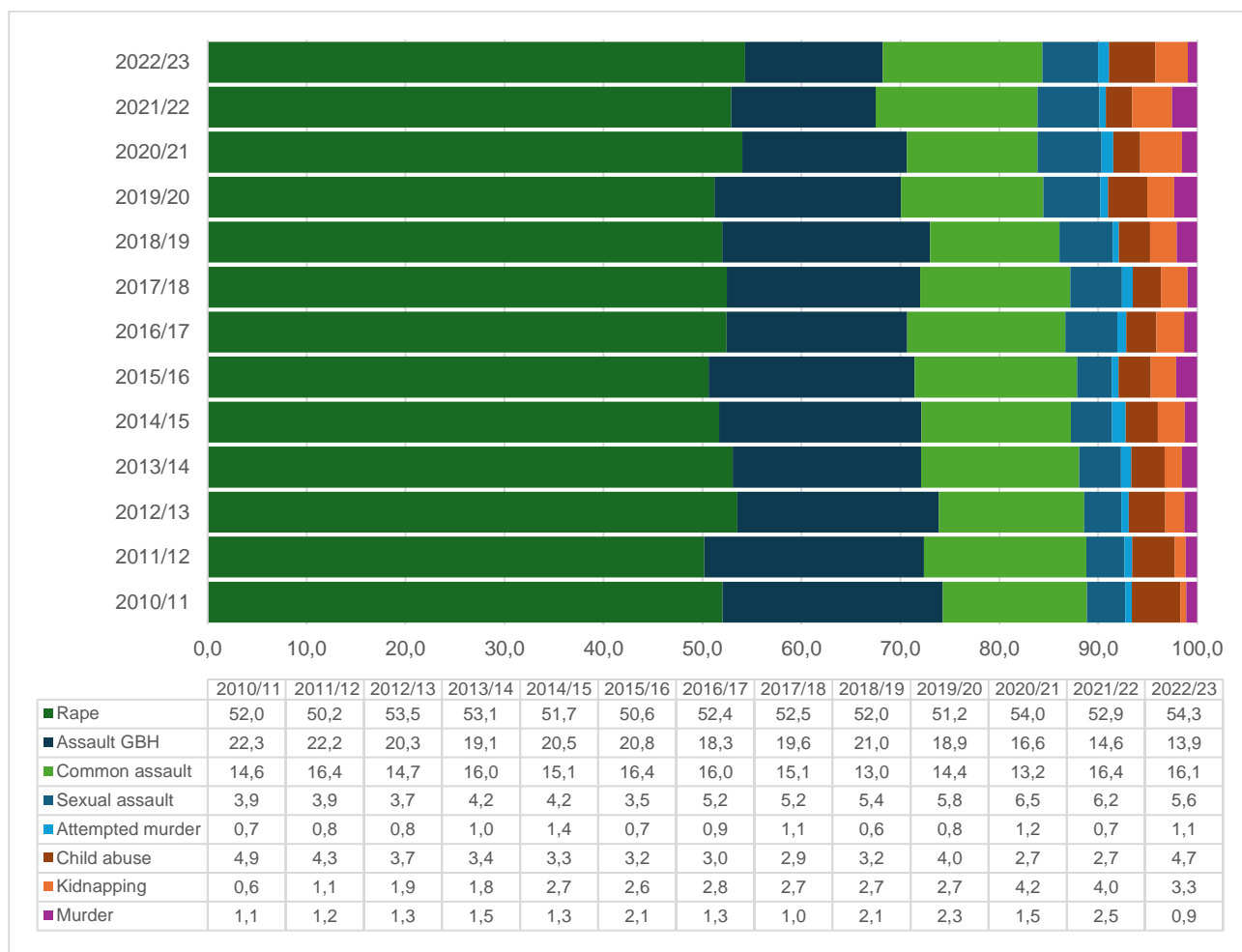
Figure 2.10: Percentage distribution of offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police in Mpumalanga by year and types of offences, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above shows the percentage distribution of offences reported to the police for children aged 0–17 years in Mpumalanga from 2010/11 to 2022/23. Children in Mpumalanga were predominantly victims of rape across all years presented. In 2010/11 the percentage of children who experienced rape were 52,1% which peaked to close to 57,0% in 2012/13–2013/14 and subsequently declined to 47,6% in 2022/23. Assault with GBH declined from 20,9% in 2010/11 to 16,4% in 2022/23 whereas common assault declined from 19,2% in 2010/11 to 17,9% in 2022/23. The percentage of sexual assault doubled in the 13 years presented while kidnapping increased by six-folds in the province.

Figure 2.11: Percentage distribution of offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police in Limpopo by year and types of offences, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph illustrates the percentage distribution of offences reported to the police involving children aged 0–17 years in Limpopo from 2010/11 to 2022/23. Throughout this period, over half of the child crime victims in Limpopo experienced rape, with the figures consistently remaining above 50% despite minor fluctuations. Furthermore, common assault and assault with GBH made up nearly 30% of the reported crimes. The percentage of sexual assault has increased steadily from around four percent in 2010/11 to around six percent in 2022/23.

2.4 Summary

Child victims of various crimes in South Africa face different risks depending on their geographical location. The highest total reported crime numbers against children were found in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, and Western Cape. However, child rape was most prevalent in Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, North West, Mpumalanga, and Limpopo. Limpopo had the highest percentage of rape cases relative to other reported crimes. Additionally, rape accounted for more than one-third of reported crimes against children in Free State and Gauteng. In Western Cape and Northern Cape, common assault was the most frequent crime. Kidnapping was on the rise in KwaZulu-Natal, North West, Gauteng and Mpumalanga which accounted for close to five percent of all crimes in these provinces in 2022/23. Assault with GBH involves severe physical injuries inflicted on children. Statistics reveal a concerning number of such cases, emphasizing the need for stricter penalties and better protective measures.

Chapter 3: Offences as a percentage of all reported crimes

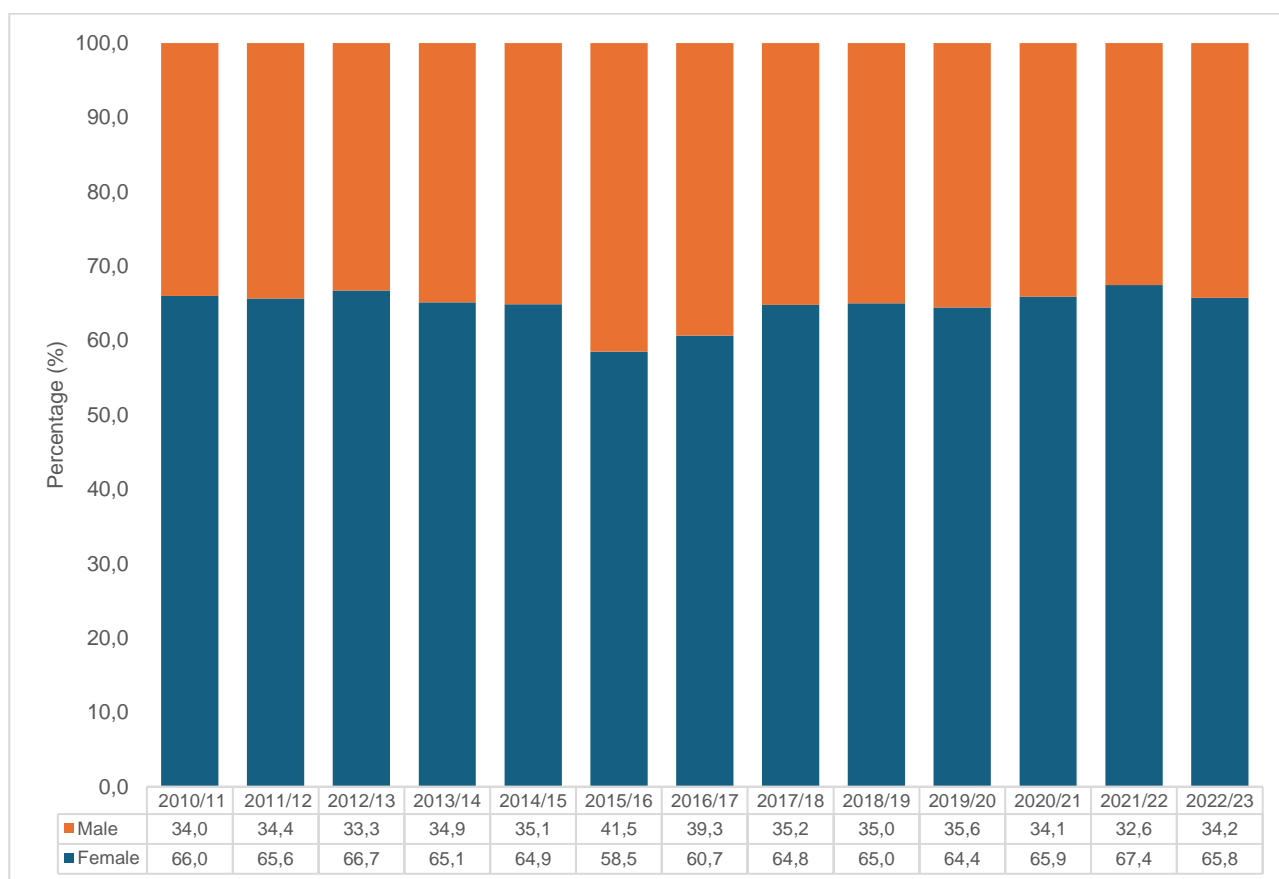
3.1 Introduction

Sex plays a crucial role in shaping the nature and extent of violence against children. Gender-based violence (GBV) impacts both boys and girls, but girls are often more susceptible to certain forms of violence due to societal norms and power imbalances. For girls, this violence frequently includes sexual assault, child marriage, and intimate partner violence. These acts can result in severe physical and psychological trauma, unwanted pregnancies, and an increased risk of sexually transmitted infections. Boys, while also victims of sexual violence and exploitation, often face underreporting due to stigma. Additionally, boys are more likely to be recruited by gangs and may encounter violence in conflicts.

3.2 Offences reported to the police by sex

The type of offences against children reported to the police may differ by sex. Males are more frequently victims of physical assault and homicide, while females are disproportionately the victims of sexual assault and rape. There can be gender biases in how police respond to and investigate certain crimes. For example, sexual assault cases often face challenges due to societal biases and stereotypes, which can affect the thoroughness and sensitivity of investigations. In this section, each crime type is presented by sex.

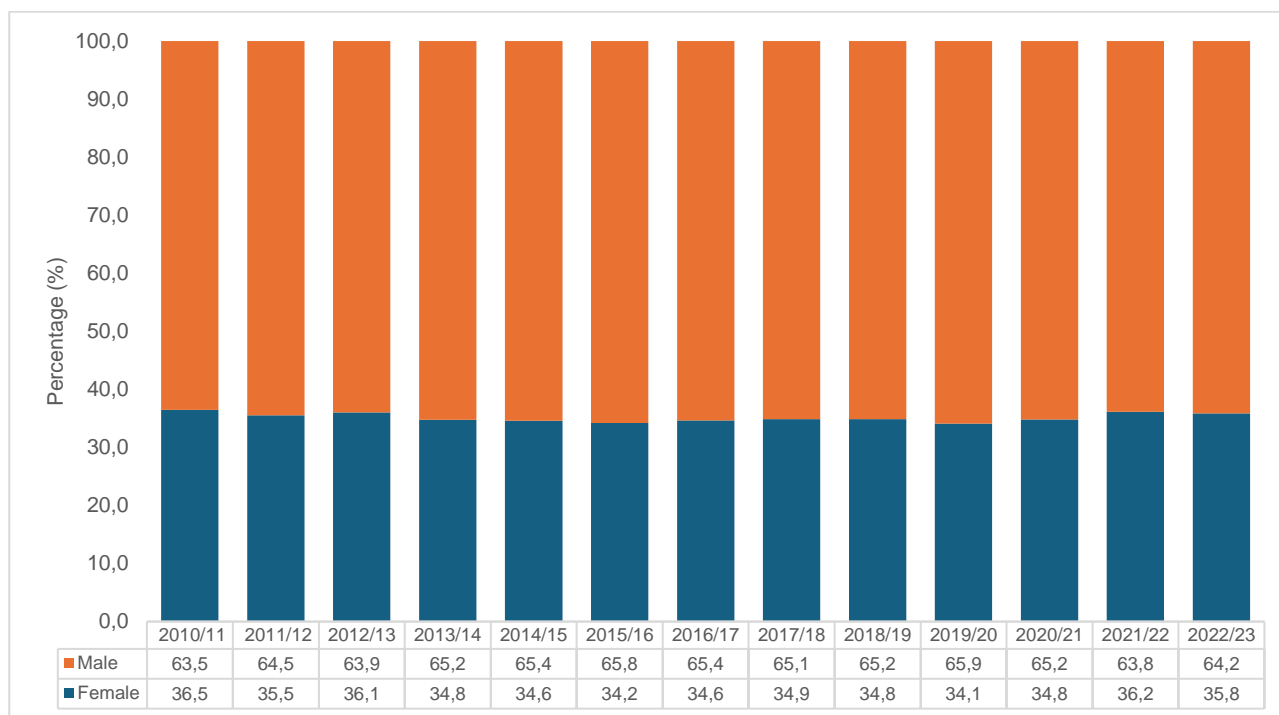
Figure 3.1: Percentage distribution of offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and sex, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above shows the percentage distribution of offences reported to the police for children aged 0–17 years by sex from 2010/11 to 2022/23. Except for the period between 2013/14 and 2019/20, nearly two-thirds of child crime victims were females in almost all the years presented. Overall, females consistently made up the majority of child crime victims across all years.

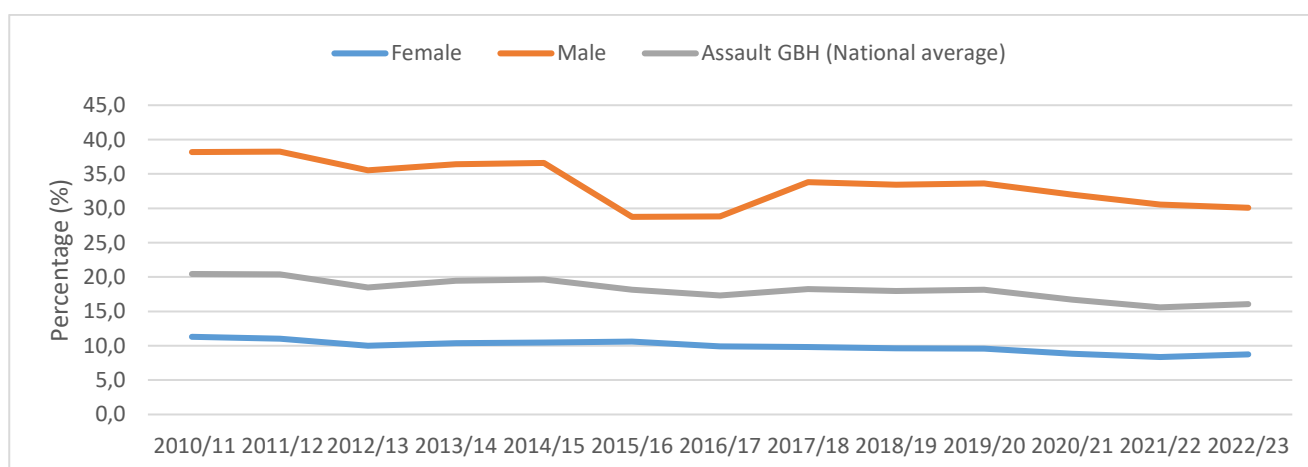
Figure 3.2: Percentage distribution of assault with GBH for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and sex, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above depicts the percentage distribution of assault with GBH reported to the police for children aged 0–17 years by sex from 2010/11 to 2022/23. Throughout the years, males consistently have a higher percentage of reported assault with GBH cases compared to females. The male percentages generally range in the mid-60s, while the female percentage is in the mid-30s. While the overall trend is consistent, there are minor fluctuations in the percentages each year. For example, the male percentage peaks around 2013/14 and 2015/16, while the female percentage shows slight dips and rises in corresponding years. The gap between male and female percentages remains relatively stable, with males always having a higher percentage of reported cases for this type of crime.

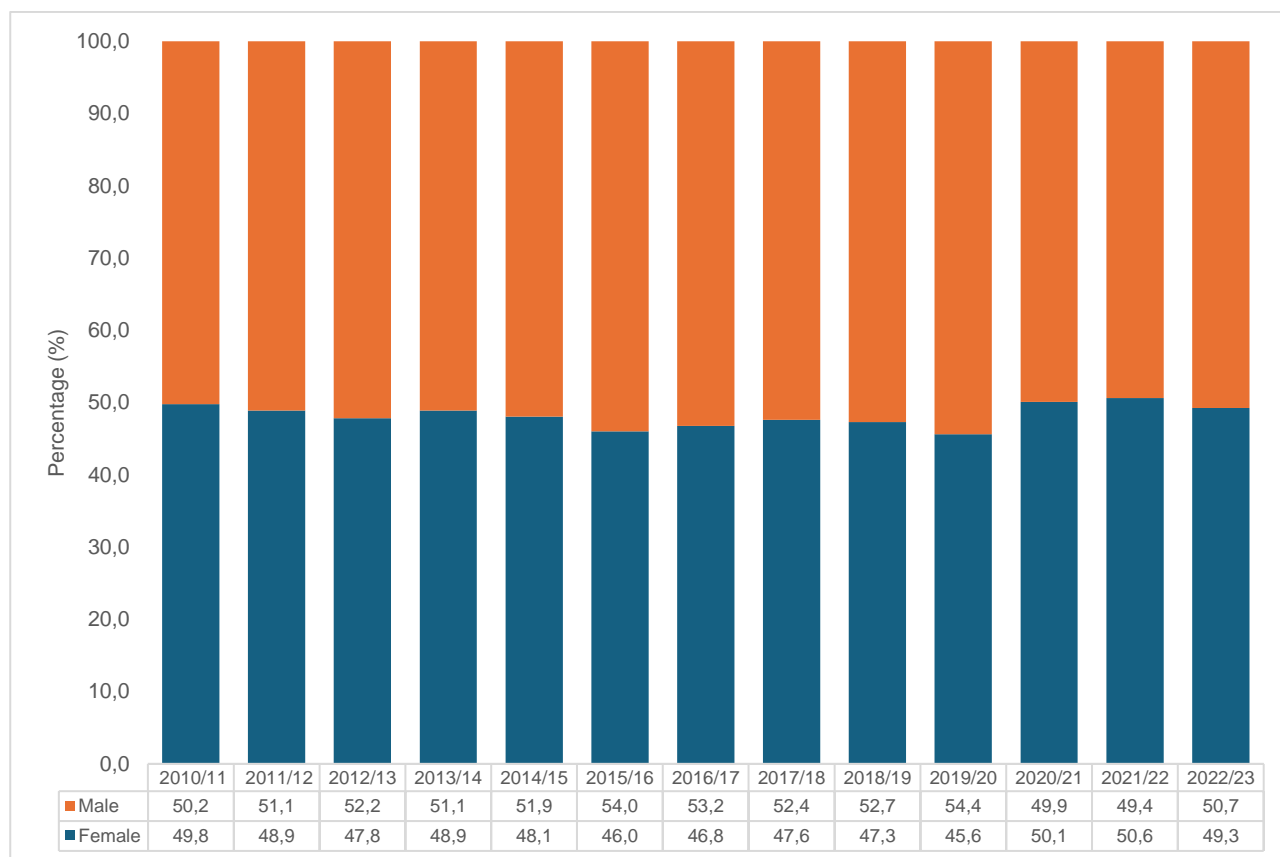
Figure 3.3: Assault with GBH as a percentage of total offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above shows assault with GBH as a percentage of total offences reported to the police for children aged 0–17 years by sex from 2010/11 to 2022/23. Throughout this period, the percentage for males consistently exceeds the national average, whereas the percentage for females remains below the national average. Both male and female percentages show a slight decline over the years. Females are more likely to be victims of assault with GBH, often in the context of domestic violence. This includes physical assault, sexual violence, and other forms of abuse. However, they most likely face numerous barriers when reporting assault with GBH, including fear of not being believed, victim-blaming, and inadequate support systems. These challenges can deter victims from seeking help and justice.

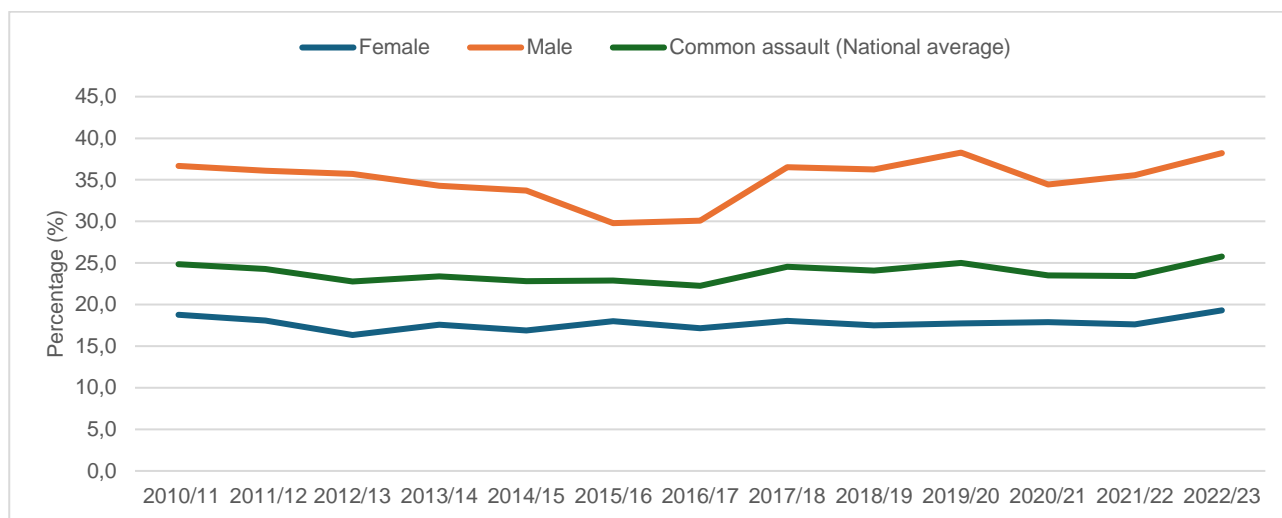
Figure 3.4: Percentage distribution of common assault for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and sex, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above illustrates the percentage distribution of common assault reported to the police for children aged 0–17 years by sex from 2010/11 to 2022/23. Throughout the years, both males and females were nearly equally affected by common assault. However, in the years 2015/16 and 2019/20, there was a notable exception, with close to 46,0% of common assault victims being females.

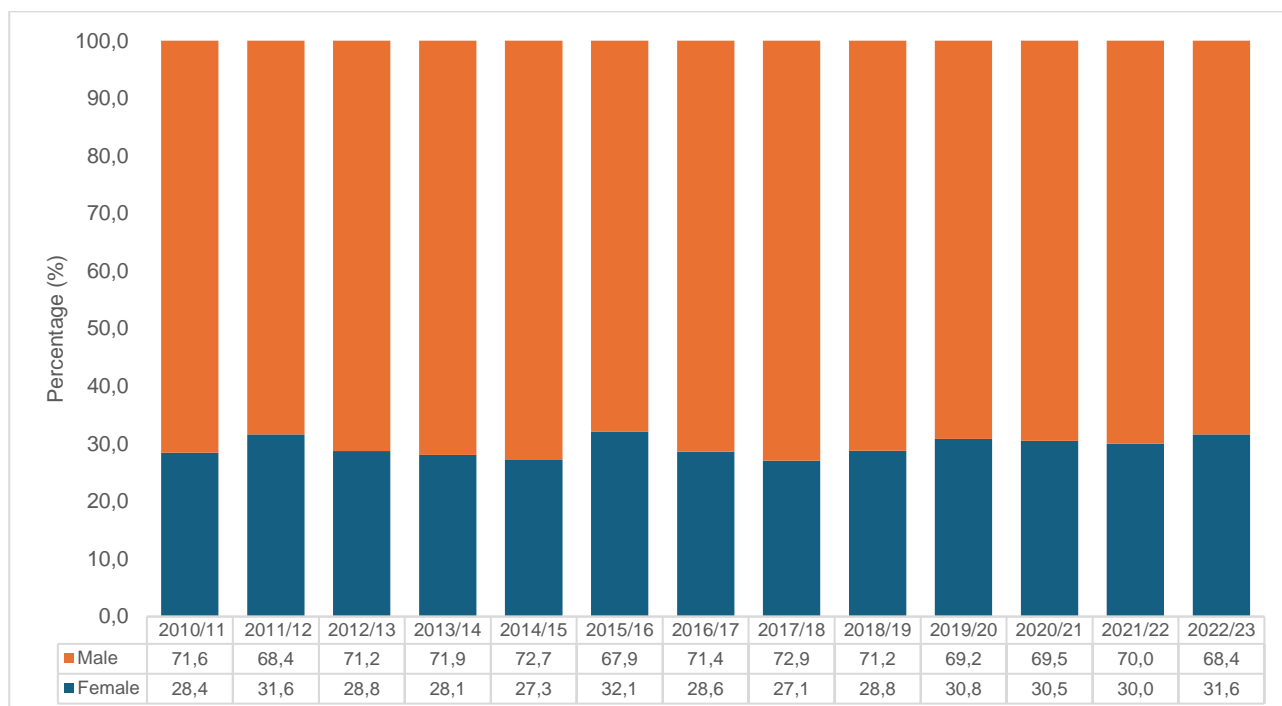
Figure 3.5: Common assault as a percentage of total offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above depicts common assault as a percentage of total offences reported to the police for children aged 0–17 years by sex from 2010/11 to 2022/23. Like assault with GBH, the percentage of males is above the national average, while the percentage of females is below it. However, the percentage of males decreased until 2016/17 and then rose. In contrast, the percentage of females remained consistent throughout the years.

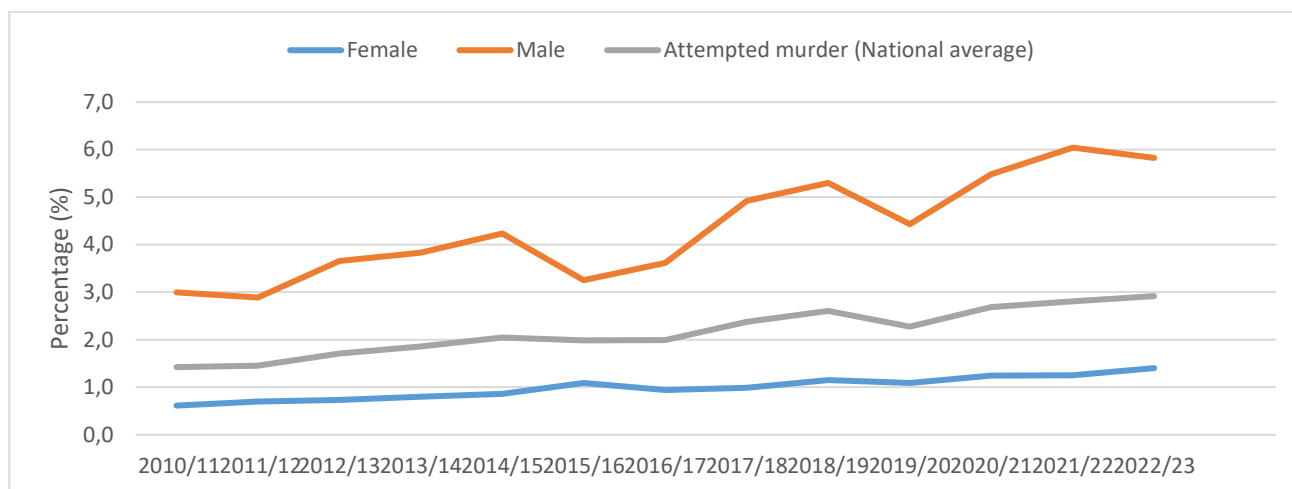
Figure 3.6: Percentage distribution of attempted murder for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and sex, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above shows the percentage distribution of attempted murder reported to the police for children aged 0–17 years by sex from 2010/11 to 2022/23. Data highlights a concerning trend where boys are disproportionately affected by attempted murder compared to girls with nearly 70,0% of the victims being male.

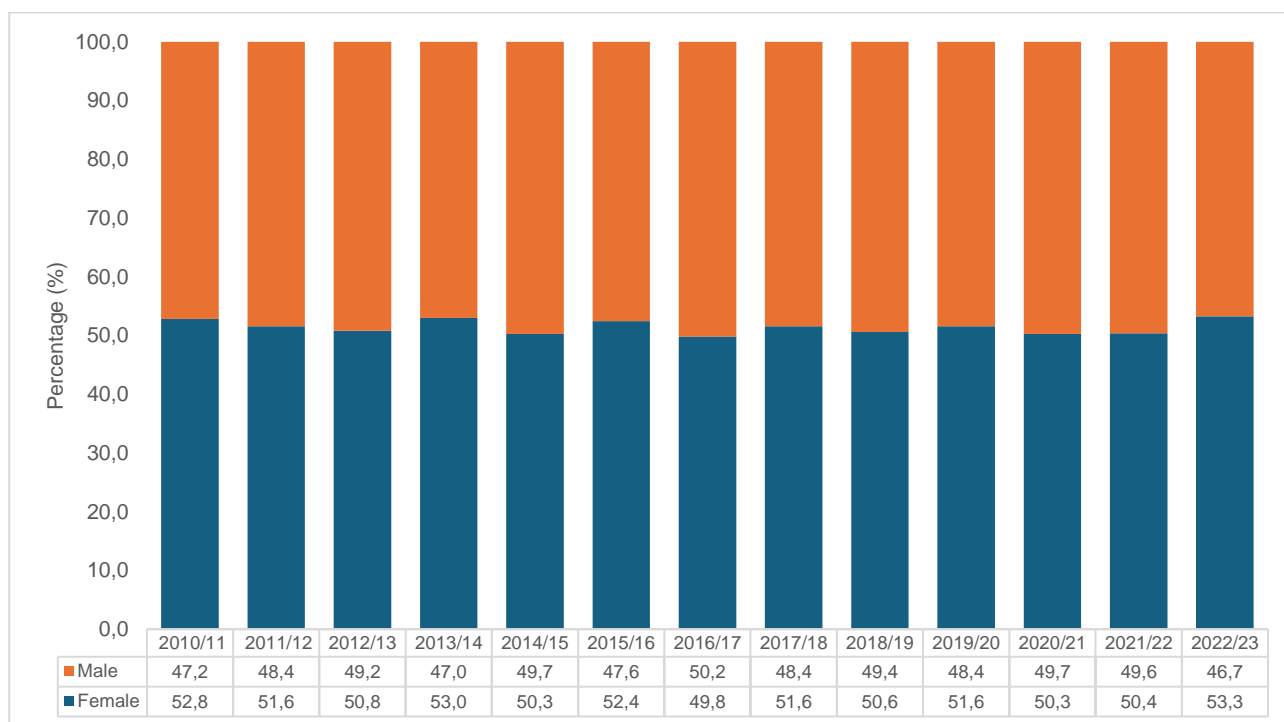
Figure 3.7: Attempted murder as a percentage of total offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above shows attempted murder as a percentage of total offences reported to the police for children aged 0–17 years by sex from 2010/11 to 2022/23. The percentage of attempted murder as a percentage of total offences was relatively low compared to other crimes. However, the increase in attempted murder rates among children aged 0–17 over the years is alarming, especially since it has nearly doubled from 2010/11 to 2022/23. It showed a slight peak during the COVID-19 years. The percentage of male attempted murders was also significantly higher than the national average, whereas it was lower for females.

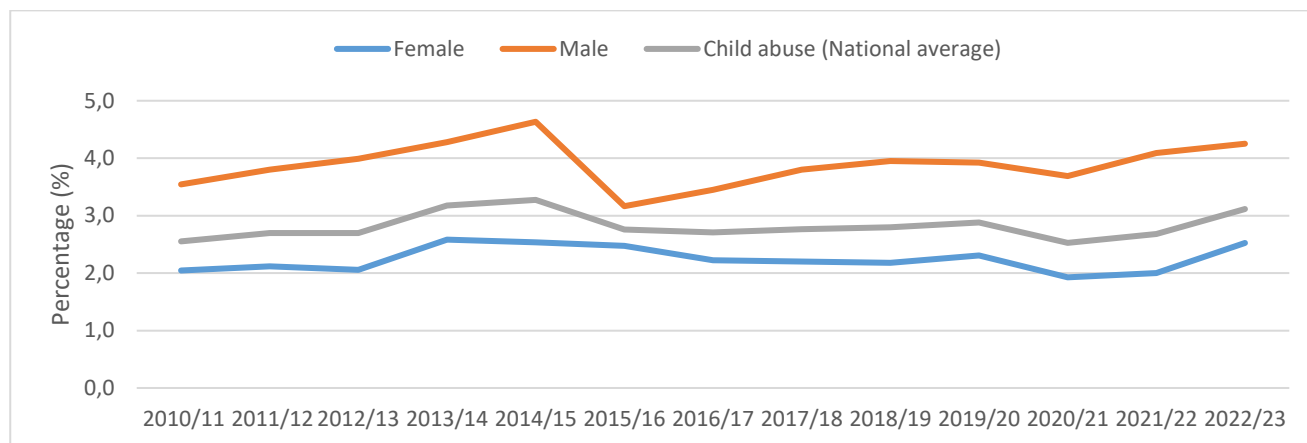
Figure 3.8: Percentage distribution of child abuse for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and sex, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above shows the percentage distribution of child abuse reported to the police for children aged 0–17 years by sex from 2010/11 to 2022/23. The percentage of child abuse was slightly higher among female victims suggesting gender-specific factors at play that may lead to differences in reporting rates between boys and girls. Child abuse can take several forms which could involve causing physical harm to a child through actions like hitting, shaking, burning, or other forms of physical violence. Other forms of abuse include emotional abuse, neglect and exploitation.

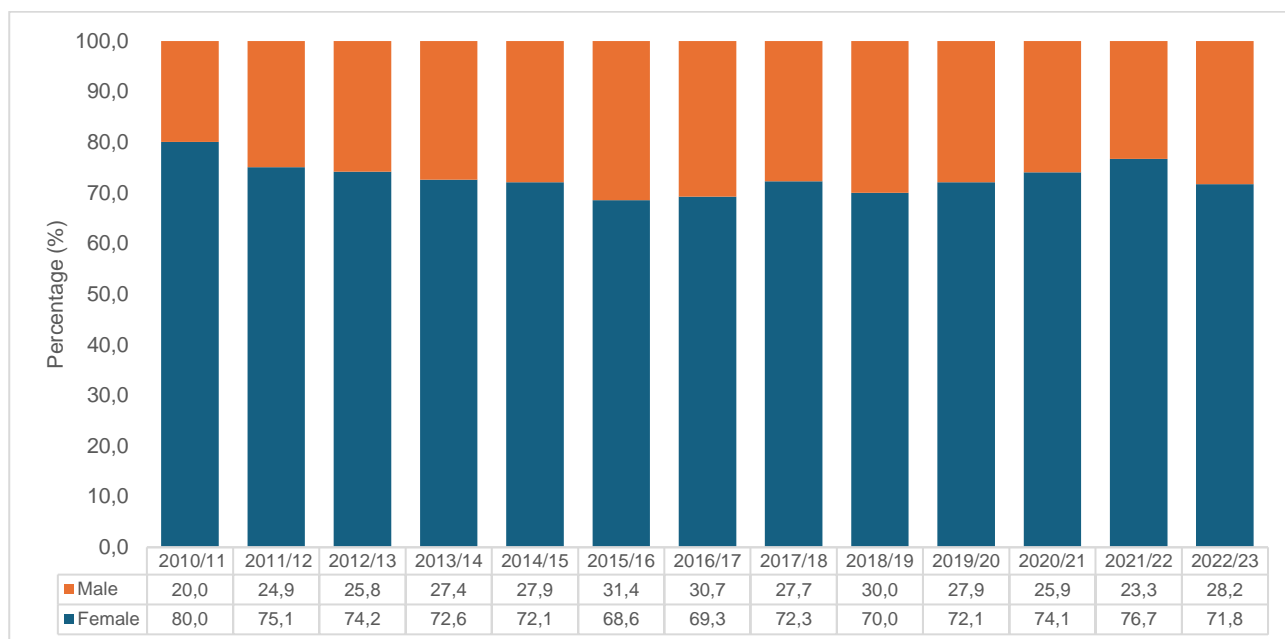
Figure 3.9: Child abuse as a percentage of total offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above shows child abuse as a percentage of total offences reported to the police for children aged 0–17 years by sex from 2010/11 to 2022/23. Compared to all other crimes, the percentage of child abuse as a percentage of total offences was relatively low with a slight increase across the years (2,6% in 2010/11 and 3,1% in 2022/23). Additionally, the percentage of male victims is higher than that of female victims and exceeds the national average.

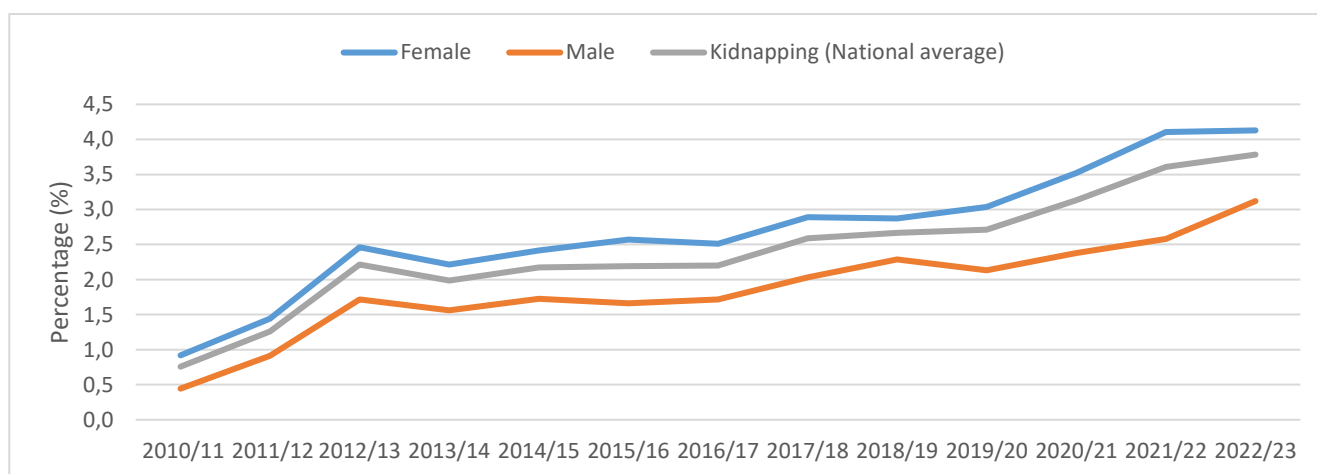
Figure 3.10: Percentage distribution of kidnapping for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and sex, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above shows the percentage distribution of kidnapping reported to the police for children aged 0–17 years by sex from 2010/11 to 2022/23. Kidnapping is one of the gendered crimes and more often committed against females which could often lead to forced prostitution and child trafficking. As shown in the above graph, high percentages of kidnapping cases involved female children ranging as high as close to 80,0% in 2010/11 to close to 72,0% in 2022/23.

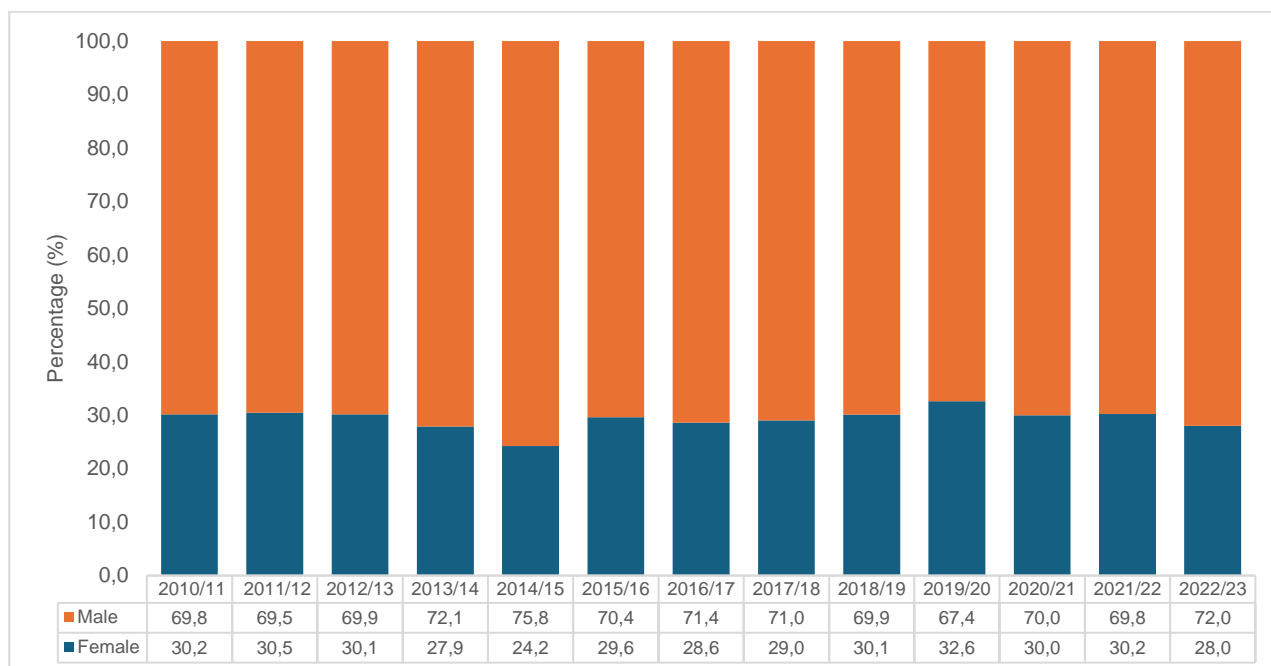
Figure 3.11: Kidnapping as a percentage of total offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above shows kidnapping as a percentage of total offences reported to the police for children aged 0–17 years by sex from 2010/11 to 2022/23. Rates for both males and females are increasing over time, but still remain below five percent overall. Rates for females are higher than the national average, while those for males remain below it.

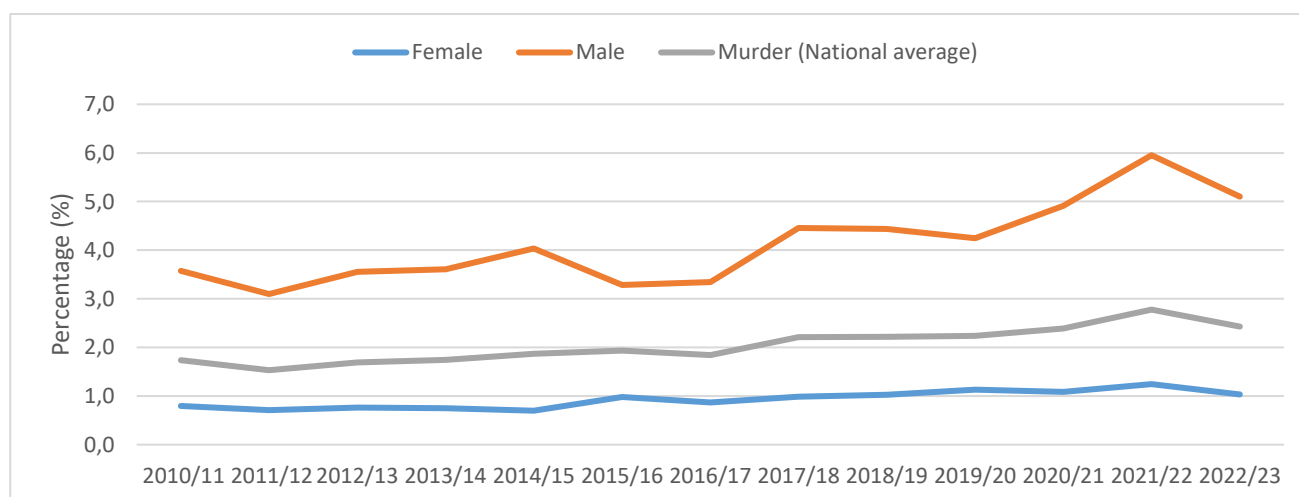
Figure 3.12: Percentage distribution of murder for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and sex, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above shows the percentage distribution of murder reported to the police for children aged 0–17 years by sex from 2010/11 to 2022/23. As shown in the graph, males are more likely to be victims of murder compared to females. The highest percentage of murder of boys was observed in 2014/15 (75,8%). In 201/20 close to one-third (32,6%) of murder victims were girls.

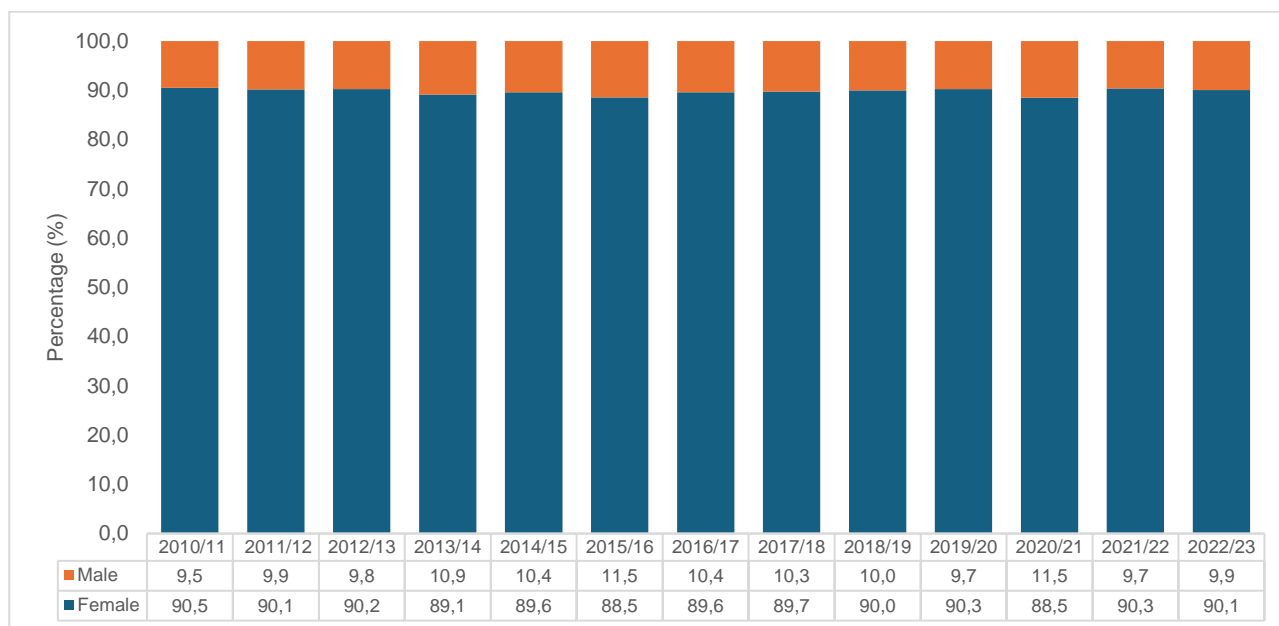
Figure 3.13: Murder as a percentage of total offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above shows murder as a percentage of total offences reported to the police for children aged 0–17 years by sex from 2010/11 to 2022/23. Child murder victims were mostly males and accounted for close to six percent of all crimes perpetrated against boys in 2021/22 and 1,2% percent of all crimes perpetrated against girls in 2021/22.

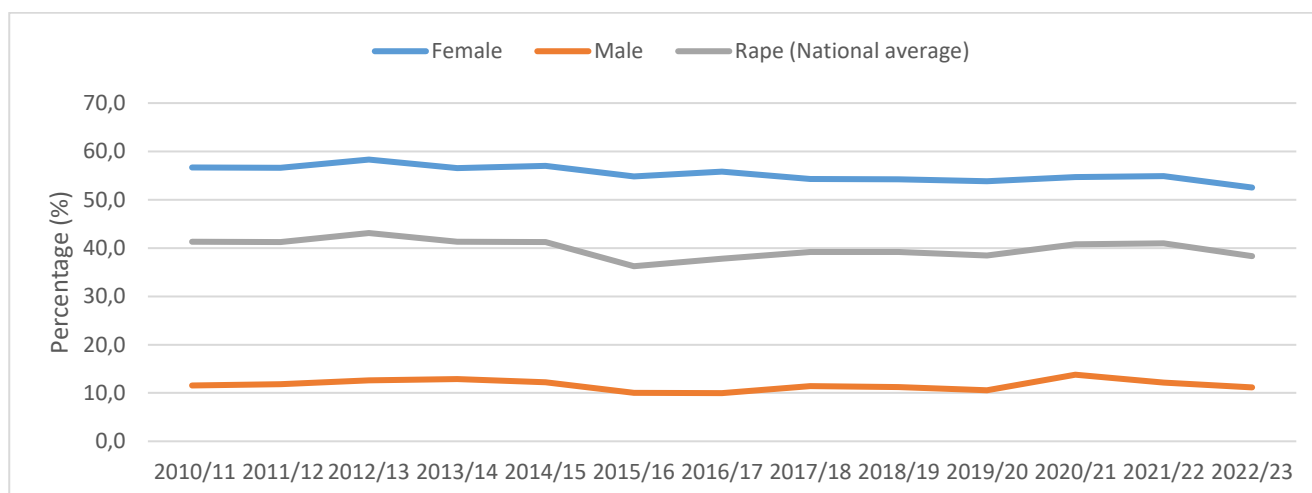
Figure 3.14: Percentage distribution of rape for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and sex, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above shows the percentage distribution of rape reported to the police for children aged 0–17 years by sex from 2010/11 to 2022/23. Females were disproportionately affected by rape; this was less common for males who were also victims of this crime. The data shows nine out of 10 victims of rape were females across most years.

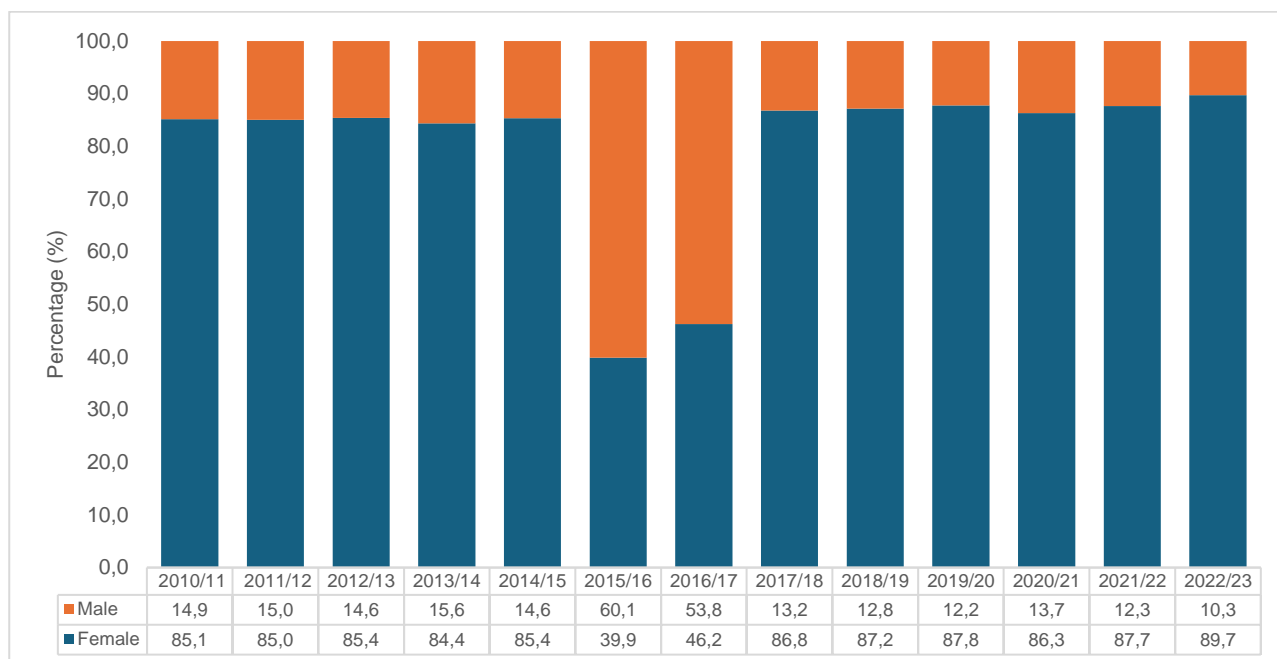
Figure 3.15: Rape as a percentage of total offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above shows rape as a percentage of total offences reported to the police for children aged 0–17 years by sex from 2010/11 to 2022/23. Rape as a percentage of total offences reported to the police for females was close to 60,0%, with a large gender gap between boys and girls. While the overall rate of rape has been declining, the proportion of female victims remains significant and constitutes more than 50,0% of total offences reported to the police for females.

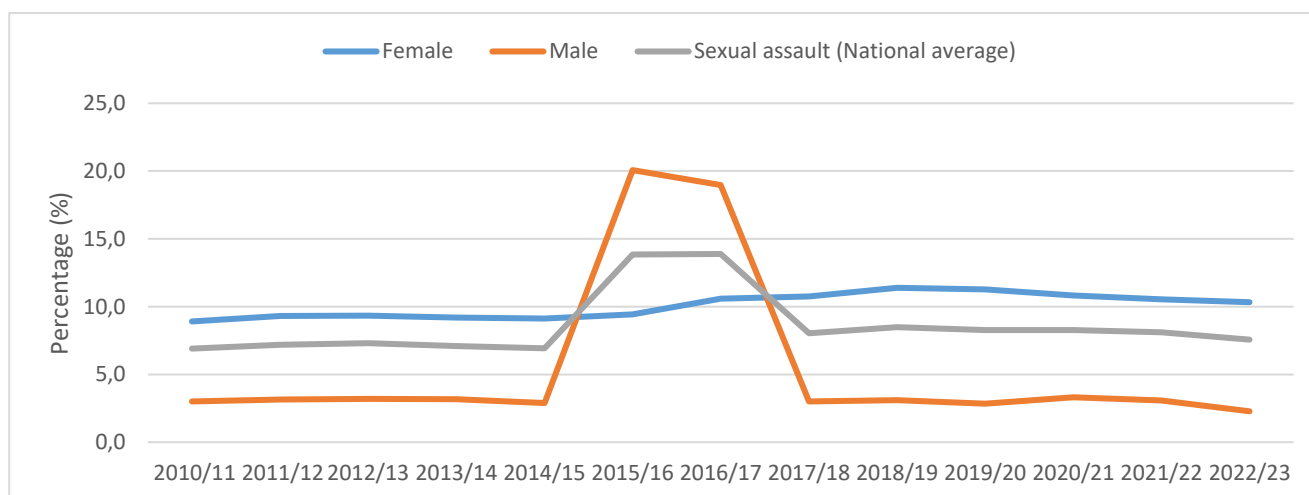
Figure 3.16: Percentage distribution of sexual assault for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and sex, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above shows the percentage distribution of sexual assault reported to the police for children aged 0–17 years by sex from 2010/11 to 2022/23. Like rape, females were the ones mostly affected by sexual assault despite the fluctuations in the statistics of sexual assault victims. The high percentages, especially the recent increase to 89,7% in 2022/23, highlights the ongoing issue of sexual violence against women.

Figure 3.17: Sexual assault as a percentage of total offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph illustrates the proportion of sexual assault cases reported to the police for children aged 0–17 years, categorised by sex, from 2010/11 to 2022/23. Initially, sexual assault predominantly targeted girls between 2010/11 and 2014/15. However, from 2015/16 to 2016/17, there was a significant increase in sexual assault cases against boys, peaking at 20,1% in 2015/16 and 19,0% in 2016/17. Subsequently, the percentage declined to 3,0% in 2017/18.

3.3 Summary

Female children were overall more likely to be victims of crime compared to male children. When breaking down the data by sex and type of crime, it was found that girls were predominantly victims of rape, sexual assault, kidnapping, and child abuse. In contrast, boys were more vulnerable to assault with GBH, murder, and attempted murder. Both boys and girls were equally susceptible to common assault. The high percentage of rape cases among the total offences reported for females, especially with such a significant gender gap, highlights the vulnerability of young girls to this crime. Although there has been a slight decline, the persistently high numbers are alarming. Additionally, kidnapping cases are on the rise and exceed the national average for females.

Chapter 4: Age of victims

4.1 Introduction

The age of children significantly impacts the type of victimisation they may encounter. Younger children face a higher risk of familial abuse, which occurs within the family context. In contrast, older children are more vulnerable to nonfamilial abuse, which takes place outside the home (involving strangers or acquaintances). Some of the crimes that young children may suffer from include inadequate nutrition, physical force resulting in injury, and sexual abuse. Crime against children is subject to different legal protections and policies and often carry harsher penalties.

4.2 Offences reported to the police by age

Knowing the age of victims can raise awareness about the specific vulnerabilities within certain age groups, and could prompt better protective measures and policies. In this section, data by single age of child victims and by type of crime is presented for select years.

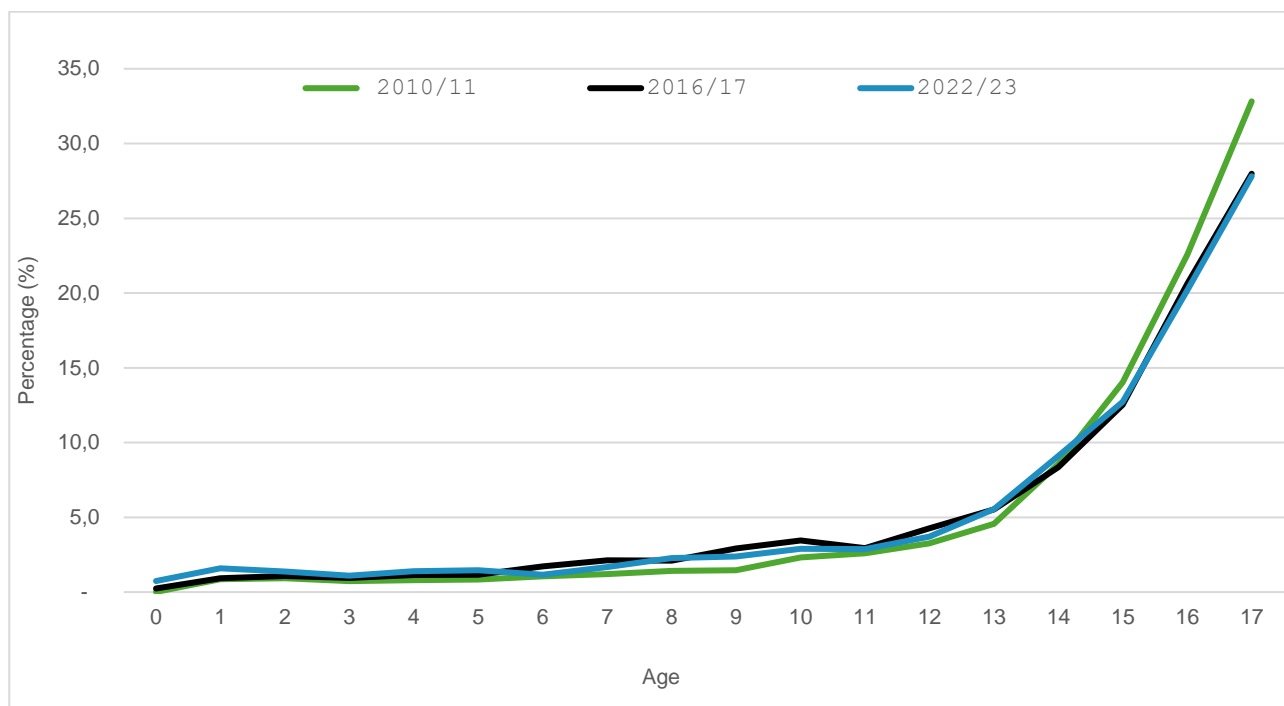
Table 4.1 - Percentage distribution of children aged 0–17 years who were victims of crime reported to the police by year and age, 2010/11–2022/23

Age	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,4	0,9	0,3	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,4	0,5
1	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,2	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,3
2	1,8	1,7	1,7	1,7	1,6	1,3	1,5	1,4	1,3	1,4	1,3	1,4	1,4
3	2,3	2,3	2,3	2,3	2,3	2,0	1,7	2,0	1,9	1,8	1,7	1,8	1,9
4	2,4	2,5	2,5	2,5	2,3	2,2	2,1	2,2	2,1	2,1	1,9	1,9	2,0
5	2,5	2,6	2,6	2,6	2,6	2,5	2,3	2,4	2,2	2,6	2,0	2,1	2,2
6	2,8	2,9	3,0	3,0	3,0	2,7	3,0	2,6	2,8	2,8	2,7	2,4	2,2
7	2,7	2,9	3,0	3,0	3,2	2,9	3,1	3,0	3,1	2,9	2,8	2,8	2,7
8	2,8	3,0	3,4	3,4	3,7	3,5	3,4	3,5	3,6	3,3	3,4	3,2	3,0
9	3,1	3,1	3,3	3,3	3,9	3,4	3,9	4,1	3,9	3,6	3,5	3,4	3,2
10	3,9	3,6	3,6	3,6	3,7	3,9	4,5	4,9	4,6	4,5	4,4	3,8	3,7
11	4,0	4,0	3,8	3,8	3,9	4,5	4,6	5,1	4,9	4,8	4,9	4,7	3,9
12	5,0	5,0	5,4	5,4	5,0	5,2	5,8	6,4	6,4	6,2	6,4	6,0	5,6
13	7,2	6,9	7,6	7,6	7,9	7,3	7,8	8,2	8,4	8,6	9,3	8,7	8,1
14	10,1	10,4	10,1	10,1	10,7	10,3	10,1	10,4	11,0	11,5	11,2	11,7	11,4
15	13,3	13,3	13,3	13,3	12,5	13,8	13,3	12,3	12,6	13,0	13,9	13,6	14,1
16	15,8	15,6	15,8	15,8	14,6	16,0	15,7	13,8	14,1	13,6	13,8	14,8	15,6
17	19,1	19,0	17,5	17,5	17,6	16,5	16,0	16,1	15,3	15,5	14,8	16,2	17,3
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The table above presents the percentage distribution of children aged 0–17 years who were victims of crime reported to the police by year and age. While most child victims of crime were teenagers, infants and toddlers were also affected. 17-year-olds were four times more likely to be victims compared to ten-year-olds, who in turn were four times more likely to be victims than one-year-olds. In the 2010/11 period, nearly 10,0% of the victims were 14-year-olds. This figure increased slightly to 12,0% in the 2021/23 period. Among 13-year-olds, the most significant increase was seen in 2020/21 (9,3%), rising from nearly 7,2% in 2010/11.

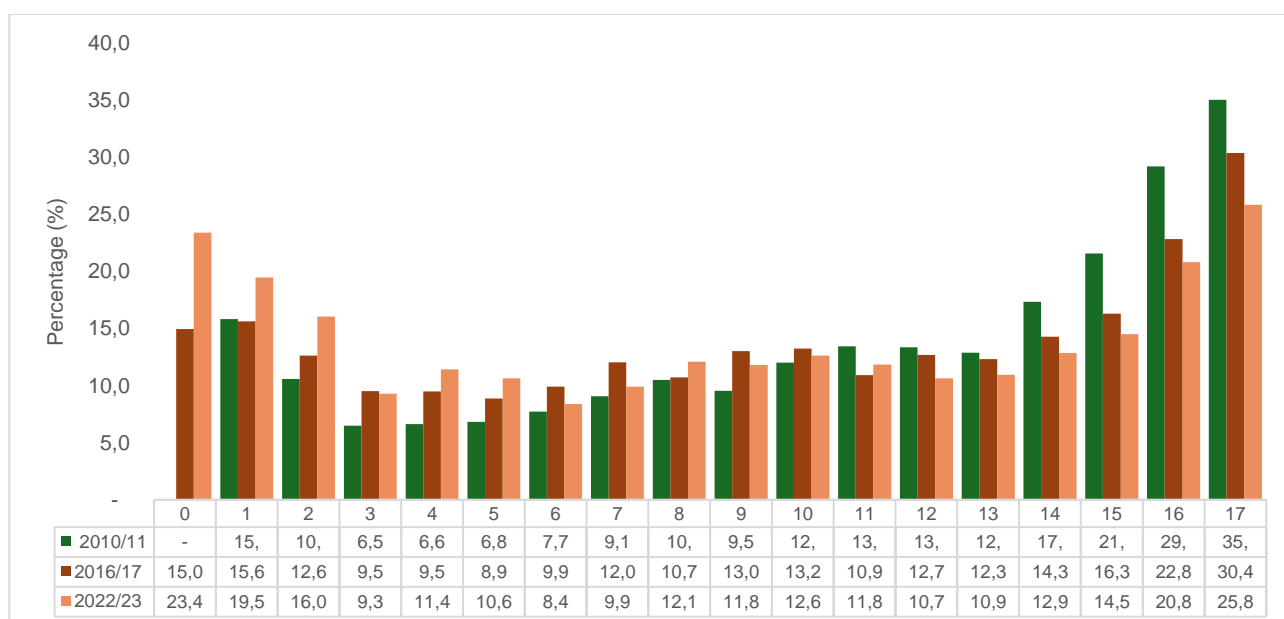
Figure 4.1: Percentage distribution of children aged 0–17 years who were victims of assault with GBH reported to the police by year and age, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above presents the percentage distribution of children aged 0–17 years who were victims of assault with GBH reported to the police by year and age. Assault with GBH predominantly affected older children, as indicated by the graph. It shows a gradual increase in the percentage of victims, followed by a significant spike—rising nearly fivefold—from around four percent at age 12 in 2010/11 to approximately 23% at age 16. Despite a slight increase in the percentage of young children affected by this crime in 2022/23, the incidence of assault with GBH among 17-year-olds decreased from 32,8% in 2010/11 to 27,8% in 2022/23.

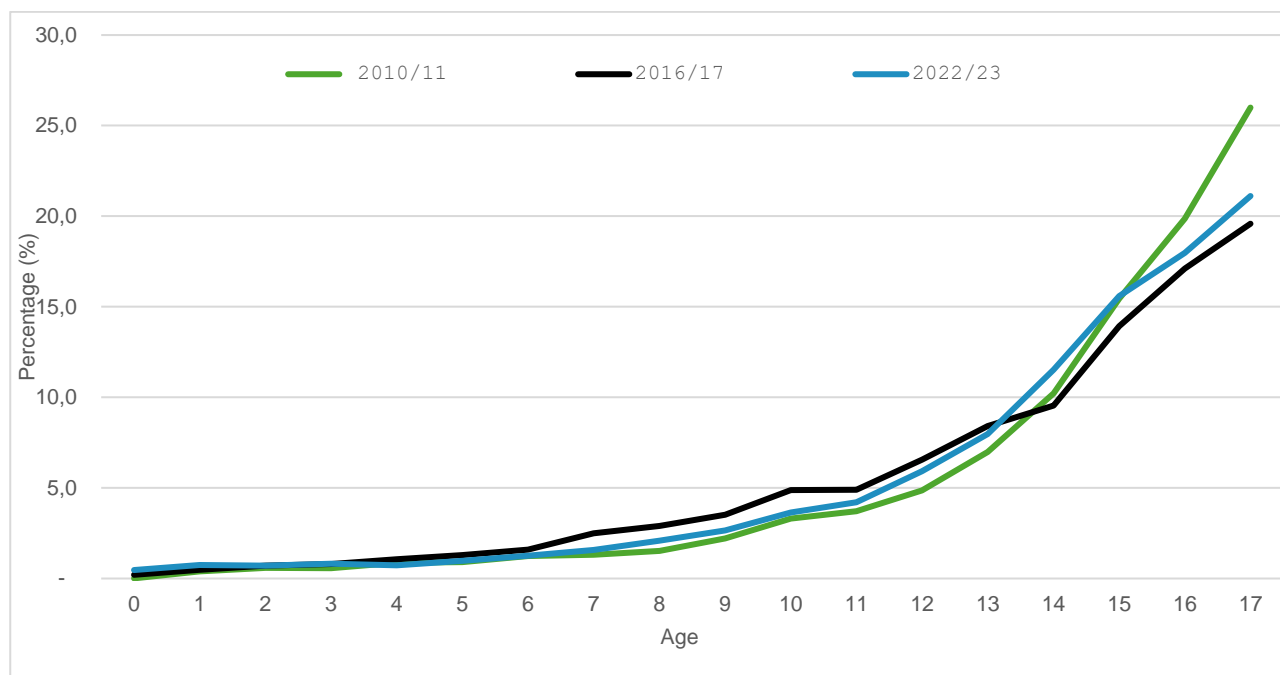
Figure 4.2: Assault with GBH as a percentage of total offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and age, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above presents assault with GBH as a percentage of total offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and age. The proportion of total offences involving assault with GBH is significantly higher among infants (0–1 year-olds) and teenagers (14–17 year-olds). However, while this percentage has been decreasing over time among teenagers, it has been increasing among infants.

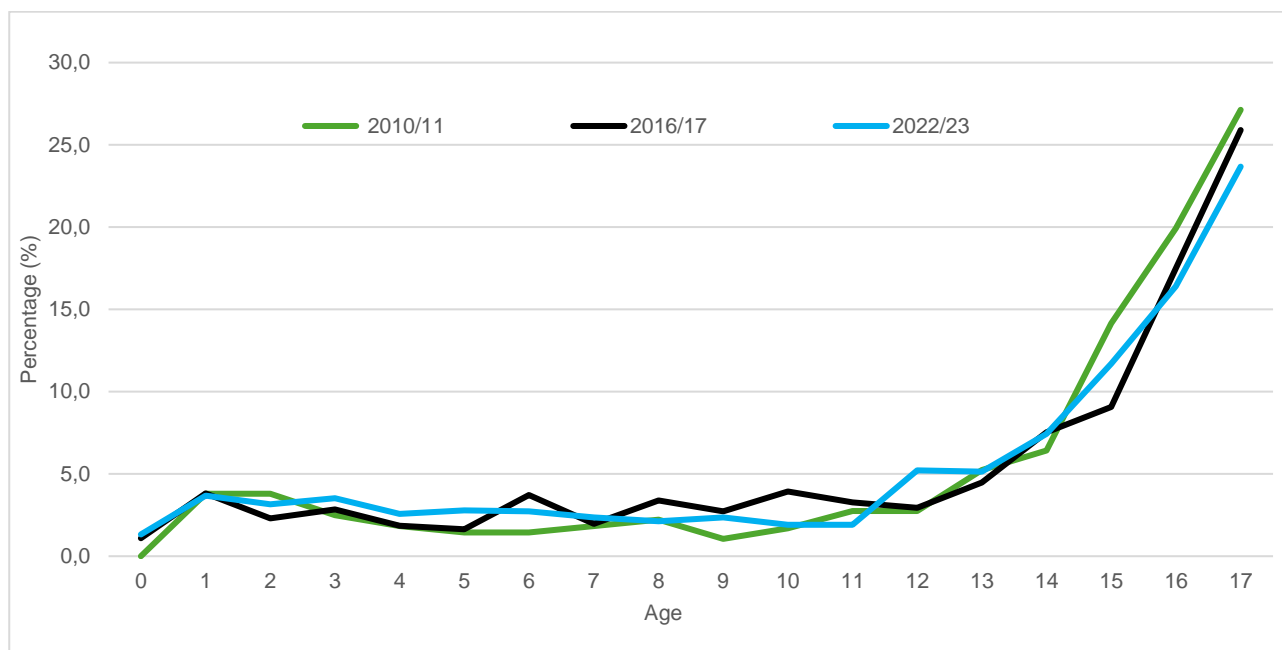
Figure 4.3: Percentage distribution of children aged 0–17 years who were victims of common assault reported to the police by year and age, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above presents the percentage distribution of children aged 0–17 years who were victims of common assault reported to the police by year and age. The graph indicates that children over the age of 10 were predominantly affected by common assault. The percentage of children aged 6–13 who experienced this crime saw a slight increase from 2010/11 to 2016/17 but decreased for those aged 14 and older. However, in 2022/24, the percentage of children aged 14 and older experiencing common assault rose again, though it did not reach the levels observed in 2010/11.

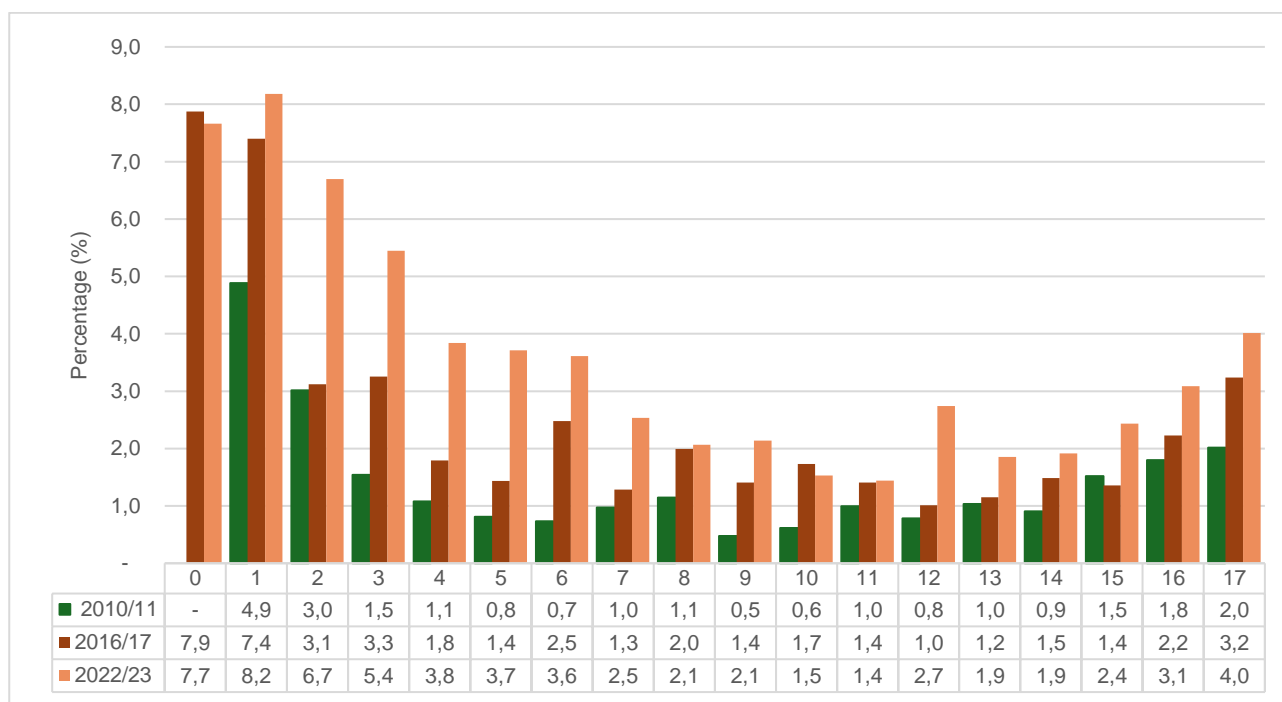
Figure 4.4: Percentage distribution of children aged 0–17 years who were victims of attempted murder reported to the police by year and age, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above presents the percentage distribution of children aged 0–17 years who were victims of attempted murder reported to the police by year and age. The percentage of attempted murder victims varied by age each year, with a consistent increase among teenagers. In 2022/23, there was an overall decline in attempted murder rates across all age groups compared to previous years, except for a notable peak among 3–5 year-olds. Furthermore, there was a significant increase among 12 year-olds, with percentages rising from nearly 3,0% in both years to 5,2% in 2022/23.

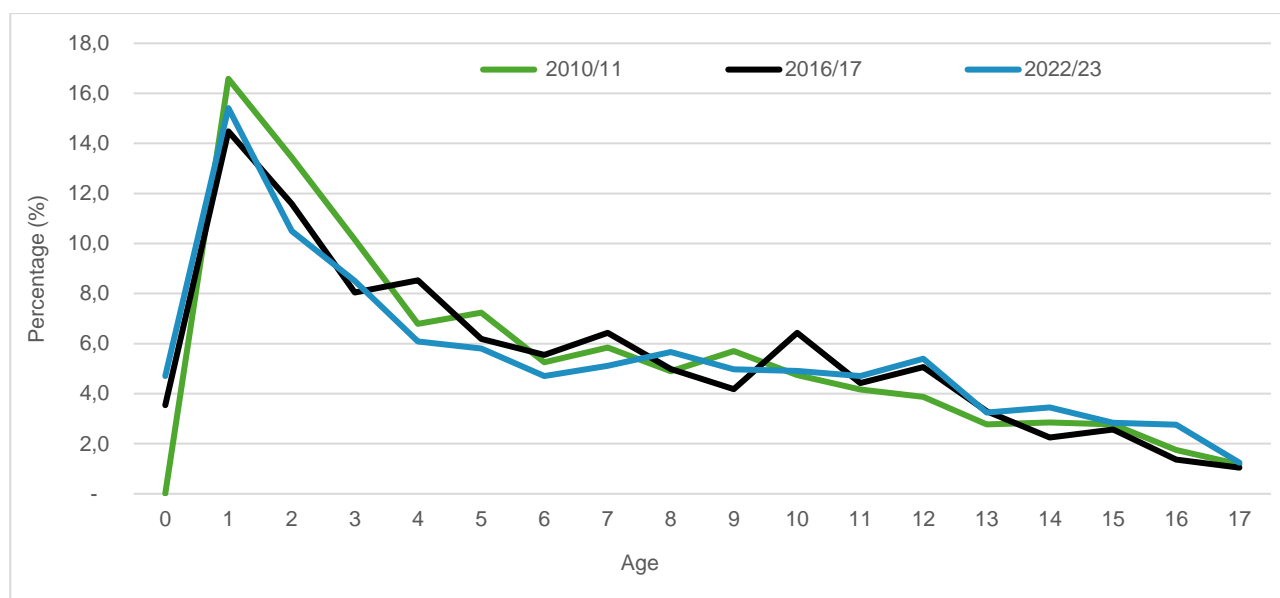
Figure 4.5: Attempted murder as a percentage of total offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and age, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above illustrates the percentage of attempted murder cases out of the total offences reported to the police for children aged 0–17 years, categorised by year and age. There has been an upward trend in attempted murder as a percentage of total offences, with the figures for 2022/23 being double those of 2010/11. Although the overall numbers are low, attempted murder as a percentage of total offences is most notable among infants and toddlers.

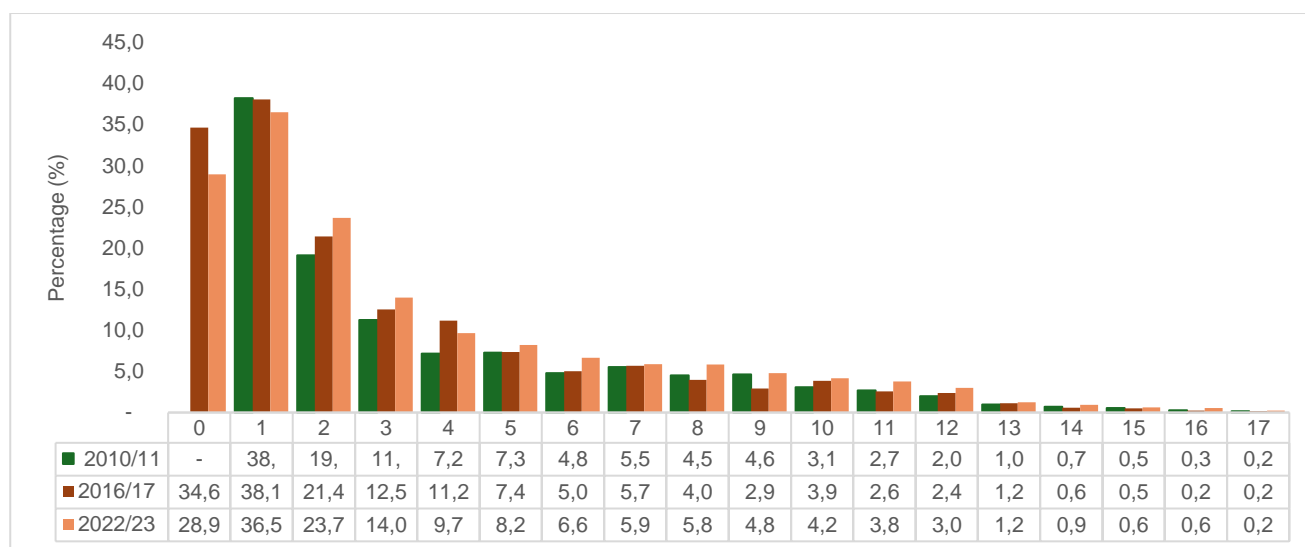
Figure 4.6: Percentage distribution of children aged 0–17 years who were victims of child abuse reported to the police by year and age, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph illustrates the percentage distribution of child abuse victims aged 0–17 years, reported to the police, categorised by year and age. The data reveals that child abuse predominantly affected young children aged 1–3, with the highest incidence among one-year-olds. Notably, there was a significant decline in abuse cases as children grew older. However, the 2022/23 period saw an increase in reported abuse cases among teenagers compared to previous years.

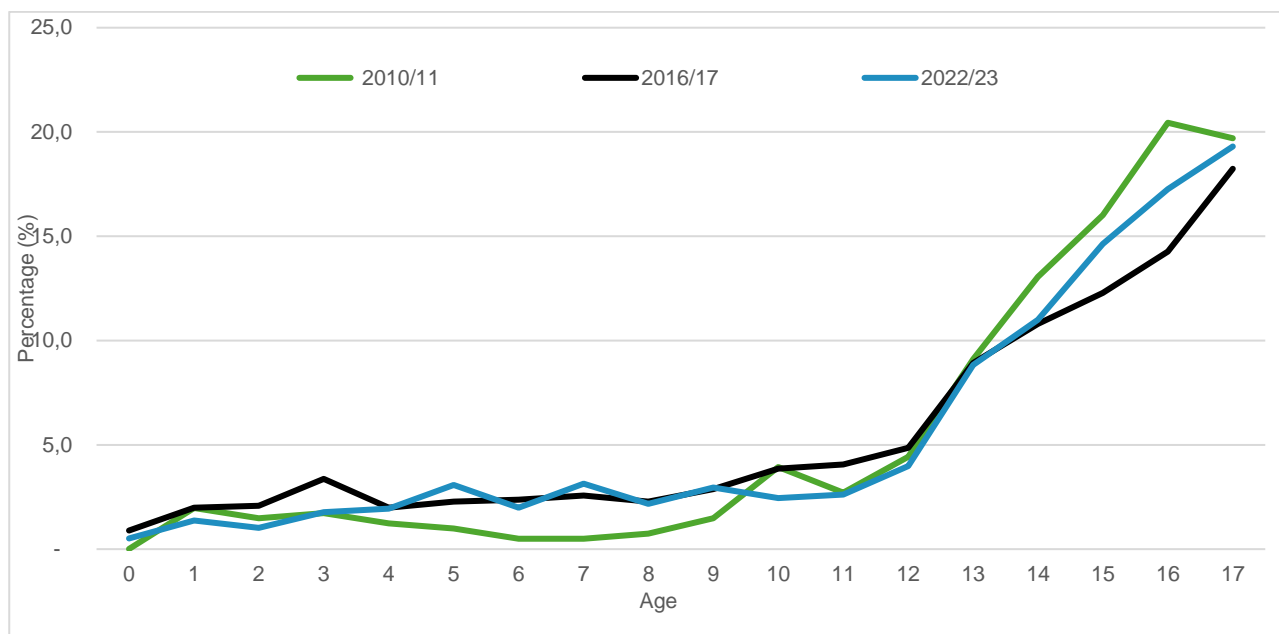
Figure 4.7: Child abuse as a percentage of total offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and age, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The above graph shows child abuse as a percentage of total offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and age. The graph indicates that in the 2022/23 period, 36,5% of one-year-olds who experienced crime were victims of child abuse, a decrease from 38,2% in 2010/11. For victims aged 15 to 17, less than one percent experienced child abuse across all the years presented.

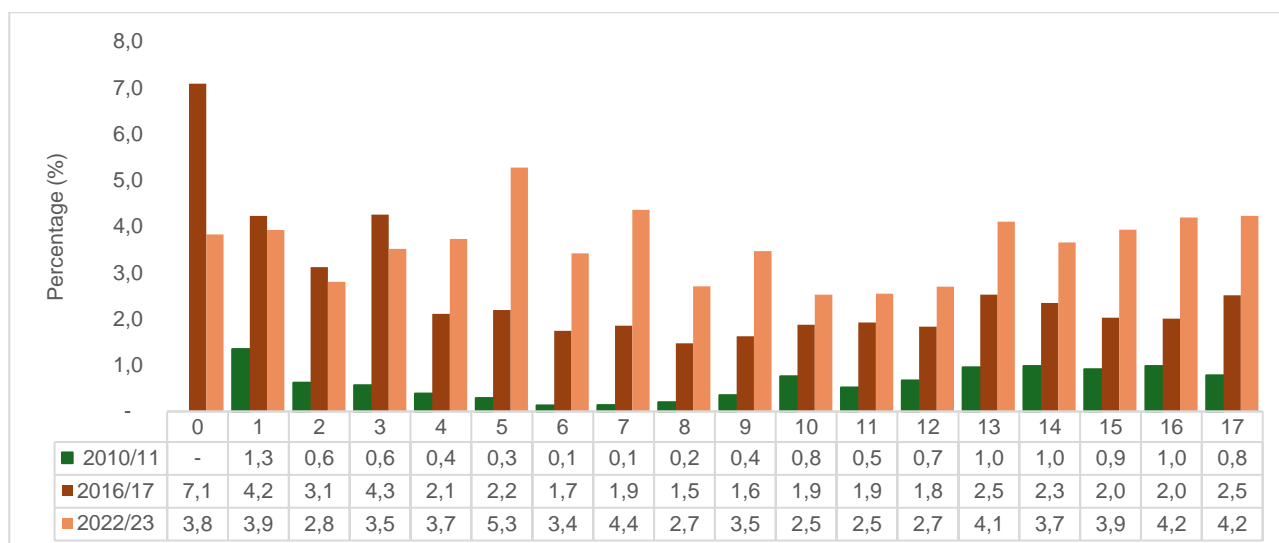
Figure 4.8: Percentage distribution of children aged 0–17 years who were victims of kidnapping reported to the police by year and age, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph illustrates the percentage of child kidnapping victims aged 0–17 years, reported to the police, categorised by year and age. Between 2010/11 and 2016/17, kidnappings of children aged 13 and younger increased, while incidents involving teenagers aged 14–17 decreased. However, when comparing 2016/17 to 2022/23, there was a slight change in kidnapping rates for children aged 0–14, with an increase observed in the percentage of kidnappings for the remaining age groups.

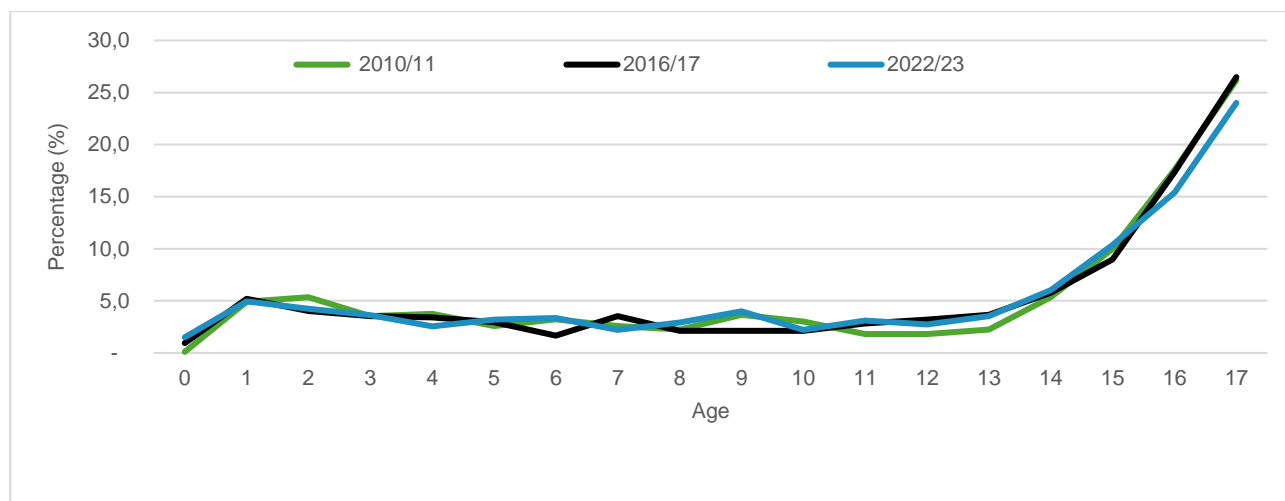
Figure 4.9: Kidnapping as a percentage of total offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and age, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The above graph shows kidnapping as a percentage of total offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and age. In 2016/17, about 7,1% of crime victims under one-year-old were kidnapped. This percentage dropped to 3,8% in 2022/23. However, there was a notable rise in kidnappings among older children. For example, the kidnapping rate for 11-year-olds increased fivefold, from 0,5% in 2010/11 to 2,5% in 2022/23, and for 17-year-olds, it went up from 0,8% in 2010/11 to 4,2% in 2022/23.

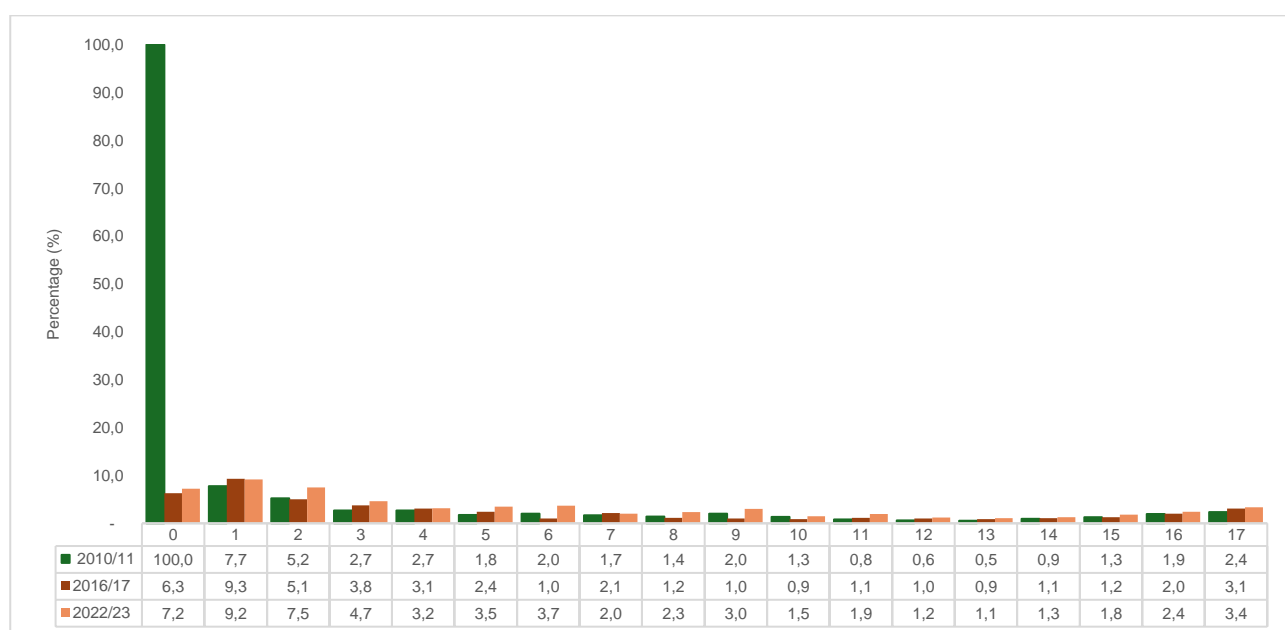
Figure 4.10: Percentage distribution of children aged 0–17 years who were victims of murder reported to the police by year and age, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph presents the percentage of children victims of murder aged 0–17 years, reported to the police, categorised by year and age. The data indicates that 17-year-olds comprised the majority of murder victims, accounting for 26,2% in 2010/11, 26,5% in 2016/17, and 24,0% in 2022/23. The percentage of murder victims aged 0–13 remained below five percent throughout the years presented, but there is a noticeable increase to double digits for children aged 14 and older.

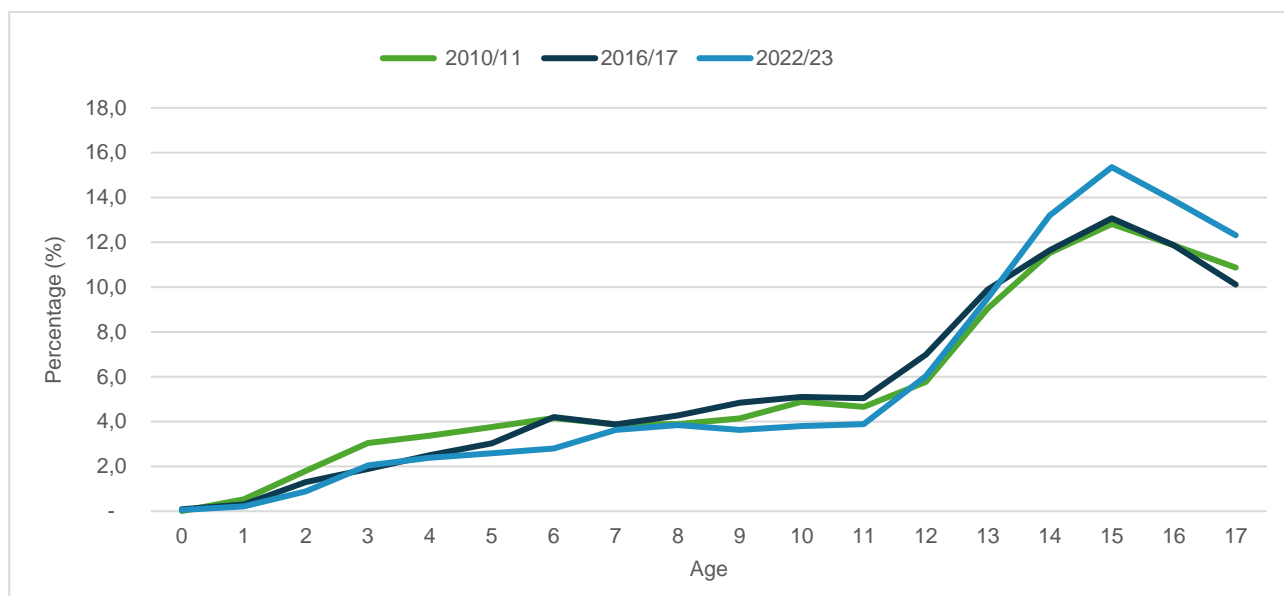
Figure 4.11: Murder as a percentage of total offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and age, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The above graph shows murder as a percentage of total offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and age. Murder disproportionately impacted young children. In the years 2010/11, murder was the sole crime affecting infants under one year of age. This crime constituted 6,3% of the cases in 2016/17 and rose to 7,2% in 2022/23.

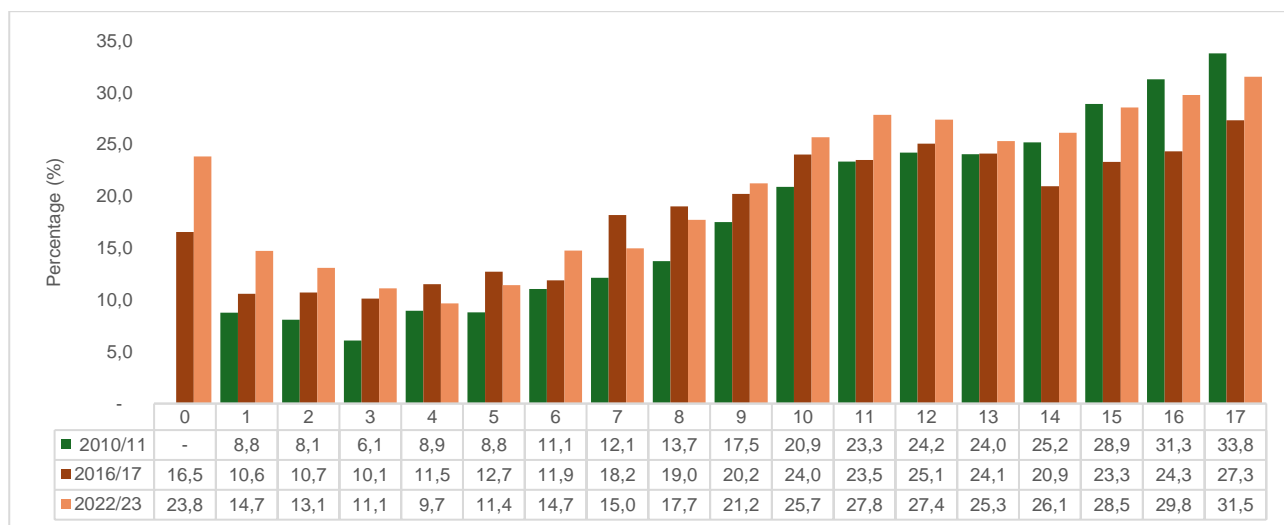
Figure 4.12: Percentage distribution of children aged 0–17 years who were victims of rape reported to the police by year and age, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above presents the percentage of children victims of murder aged 0–17 years, reported to the police by year and age. Rape is an offense that predominantly impacts adolescents. While there has been a general decrease in its occurrence, the exception is within the 14–17 age group. The above graph indicates an increase in the incidence rate correlating with age, reaching its highest point at 15 years old, and is consistent across the data from all the years reviewed.

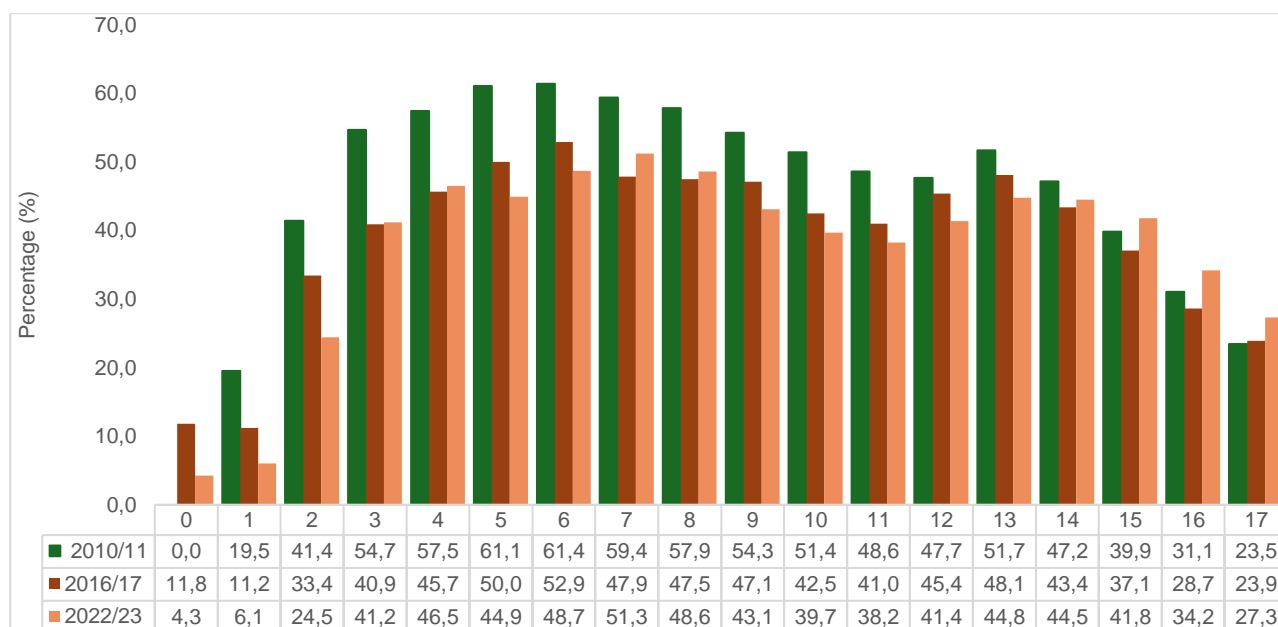
Figure 4.13: Common assault as a percentage of total offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and age, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above presents common assault as a percentage of total offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and age. The incidence of common assault increases with age, with pre-teens and teenagers consistently being the primary victims over the years. In 2010/11, nearly one-third (33,8%) of 17-year-old victims experienced common assault. By 2022/23, a quarter (25,7%) of 10-year-old victims faced the same crime.

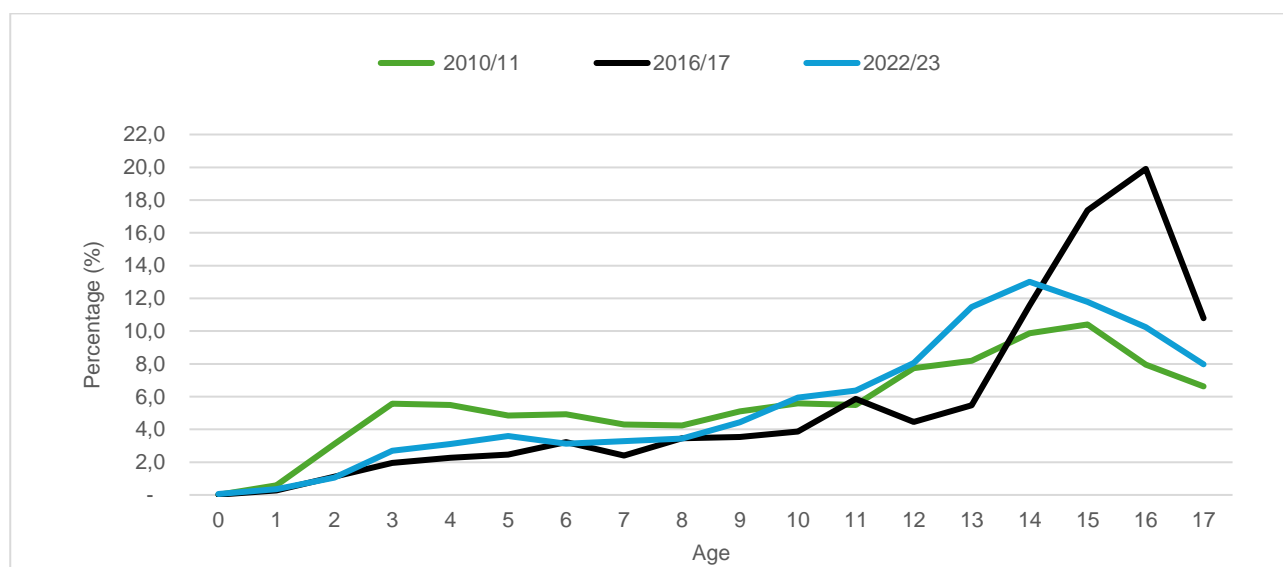
Figure 4.14: Rape as a percentage of total offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and age, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The above graph presents rape as a percentage of total offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and age. Rape constitutes a significant proportion of crimes against children, with instances involving 6-year-olds accounting for 61,4% in 2010/11, decreasing to 52,9% in 2016/17, and 48,7% in 2022/23. Teenagers are also affected by these crimes, though to a lesser extent, representing approximately 27,3% of all offences against 17-year-olds in 2022/23.

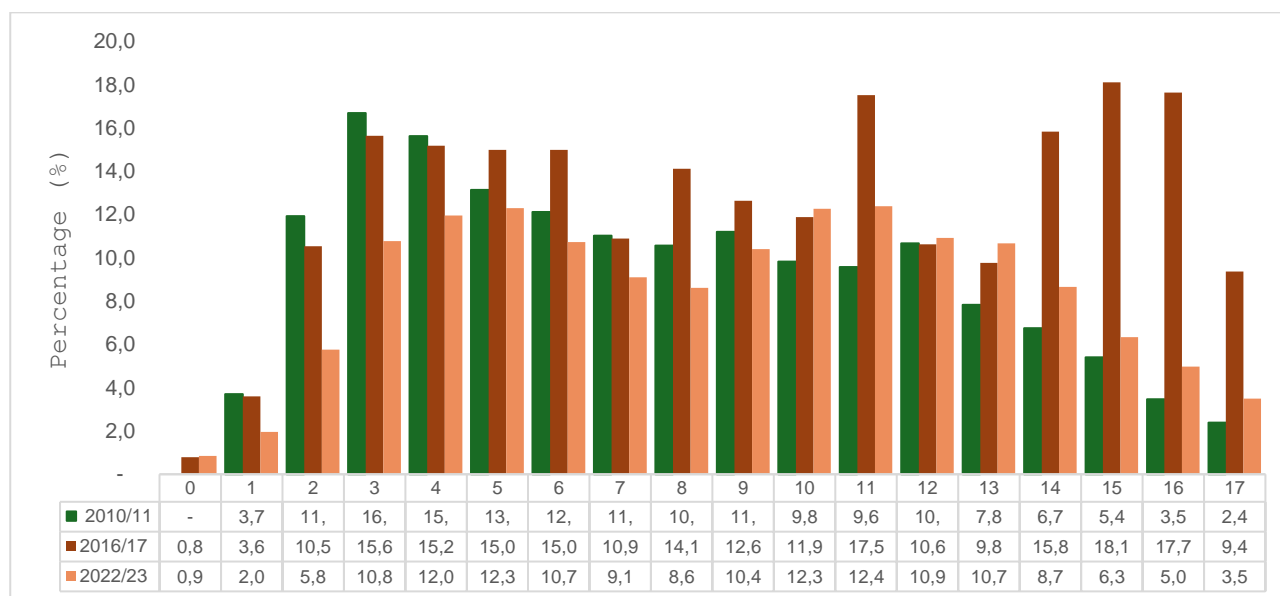
Figure 4.15: Percentage distribution of children aged 0–17 years who were victims of sexual assault reported to the police by year and age, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The above graph presents the percentage distribution of children aged 0–17 years who were victims of sexual assault reported to the police by year and age. Instances of sexual assault predominantly affected teenagers, with a notable increase in the 2016/17 period, where the incidence rate approached approximately 20,0% for individuals aged 16. Subsequently, the rates have not surpassed the 2016/17 levels across all age demographics, except for children aged 0–8 years in the 2022/23 period.

Figure 4.16: Sexual assault as a percentage of total offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and age, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The graph above shows sexual assault as a percentage of total offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and age. In 2016/17, nearly all age groups saw a peak in sexual assault cases as a proportion of total crimes, with the most significant rate, nearly 18,0%, recorded among those aged 15–16. This rate has since been reduced by over 50,0%.

4.3 Summary

The data shows that children under the age of 10 suffer from various types of crimes which have long-lasting effects on their well-being. The most common types of crime they face include child abuse, sexual assault, rape, murder and attempted murder. Specifically, child abuse is most common among toddlers, particularly those aged 1–3, with one-year-olds experiencing the highest rates. Recent data points to a decline in sexual assault reports across various age groups since the high in 2016/17. However, this downtrend unfortunately does not extend to the youngest group, aged 0–8, where the numbers remained unchanged in 2022/23. The occurrence of common assault tends to rise with the victim's age, with adolescents and teens often being the most targeted group. Back in 2010/11, a significant portion (33,8%) of victims were 17-years-old.

Chapter 5: Time of crime

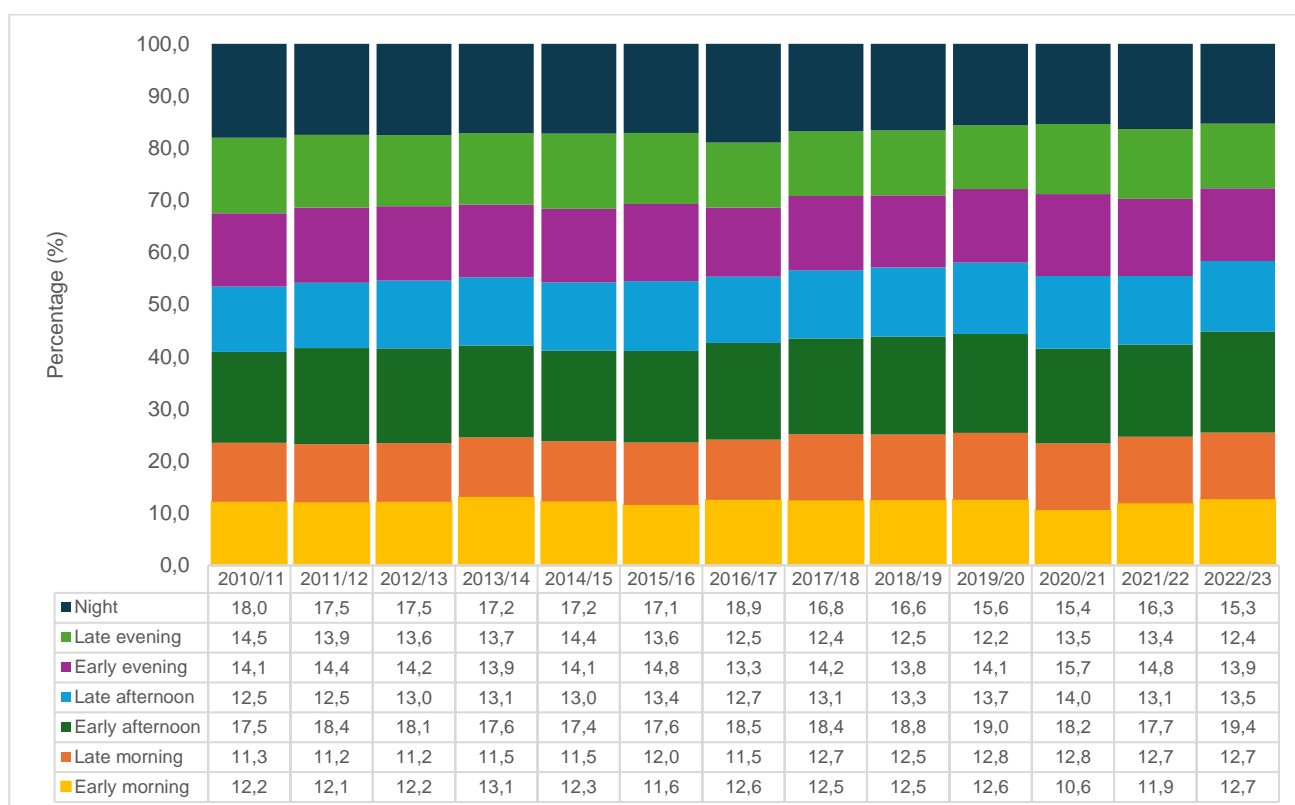
5.1 Introduction

The precise documentation of the offense's occurrence, its reporting time, the assignment of the call, and the arrival of the first responding officer are critical elements that must be carefully recorded. Such details are invaluable for the effective investigation and legal proceedings of the crime. Law enforcement agencies in South Africa are committed to accurately logging the timing of criminal activities to ensure a thorough and fair legal process and attempt to always best to adhere to the standard procedure.

5.2 Timing of crime occurrences

Crime incidents are recorded using a 24-hour clock system. For analytical purposes, the occurrence times are categorised into distinct periods in this report: early morning, late morning, early afternoon, late afternoon, early evening, late evening, and night¹.

Figure 5.1: Percentage distribution of offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and time of occurrence, 2010/11–2022/23

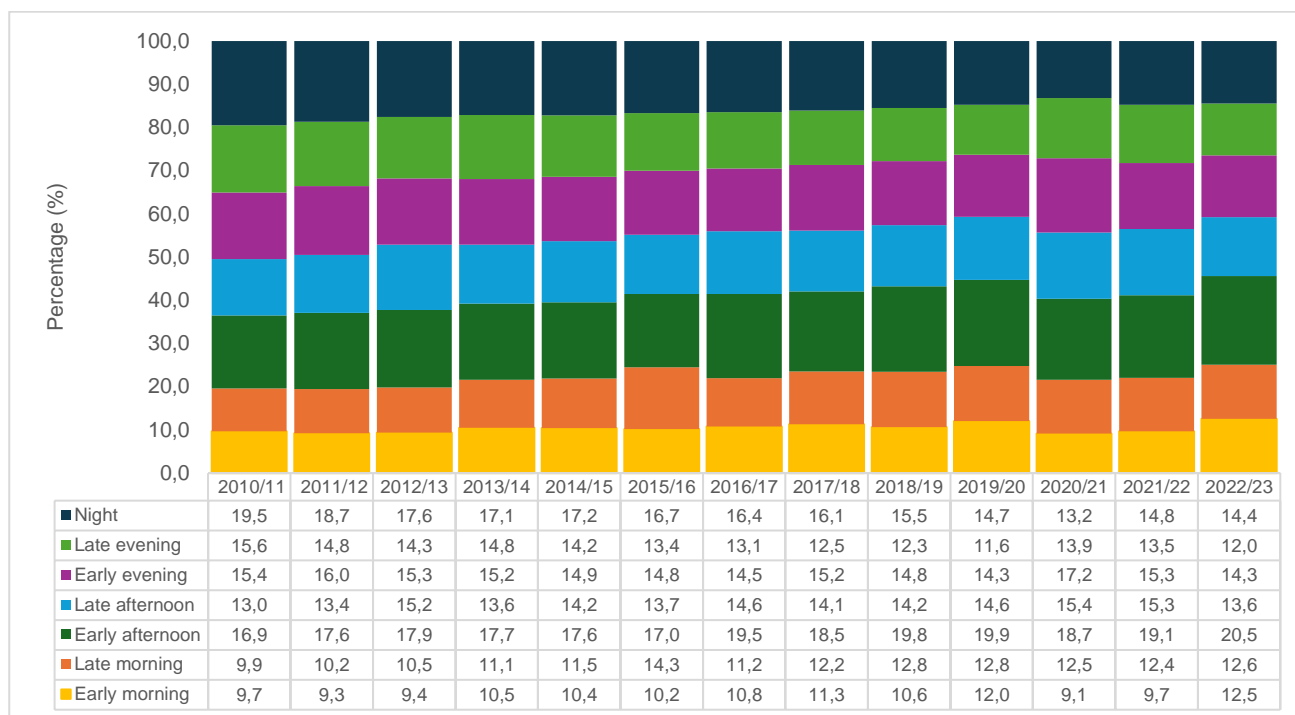


Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The above graph presents the percentage distribution of offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and time of occurrence. Child-related crimes were predominantly committed in the afternoon hours, particularly in the early part of the afternoon. Additionally, a significant number of these incidents took place in the evening, with a higher frequency in the early evening hours. Notably, there has been a decrease in the incidence of crimes against children during nighttime, dropping from nearly 19,0% in the 2016/17 period to 15,3% in the 2022/23 period.

¹ early morning (4.01–9.00am); late morning (9.01–12.00am); early afternoon (12.01–15.00pm); late afternoon (15.01–17.00pm); early evening (17.01–19.00pm); late evening (19.01–21.00pm); night (21.01pm–4:00am)

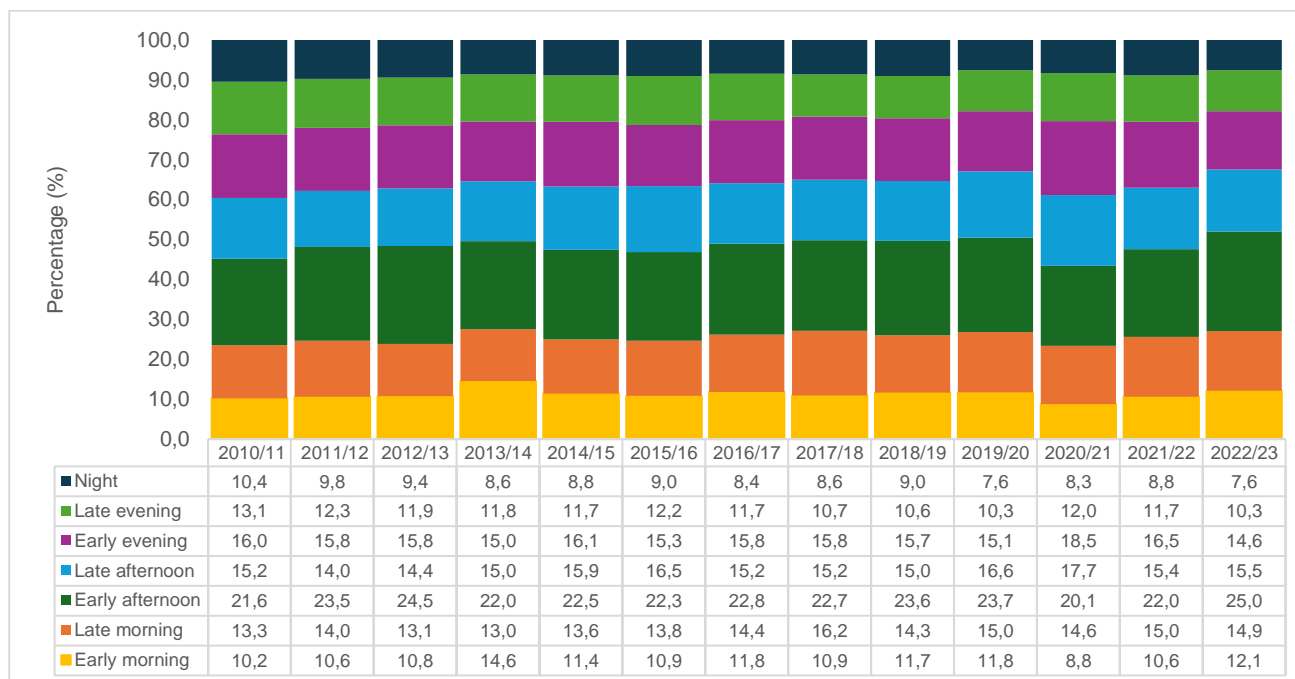
Figure 5.2: Percentage distribution of assault with GBH for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and time of occurrence, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The above graph presents the percentage distribution of assault with GBH for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and time of occurrence. Majority of assaults resulting in GBH were committed in the early afternoon against children, particularly from the 2016/17 to 2022/23 period. Although incidents were prevalent during late evenings and nights, there has been a gradual decrease from approximately 35,1% in 2010/11 to around 26,4% in 2022/23.

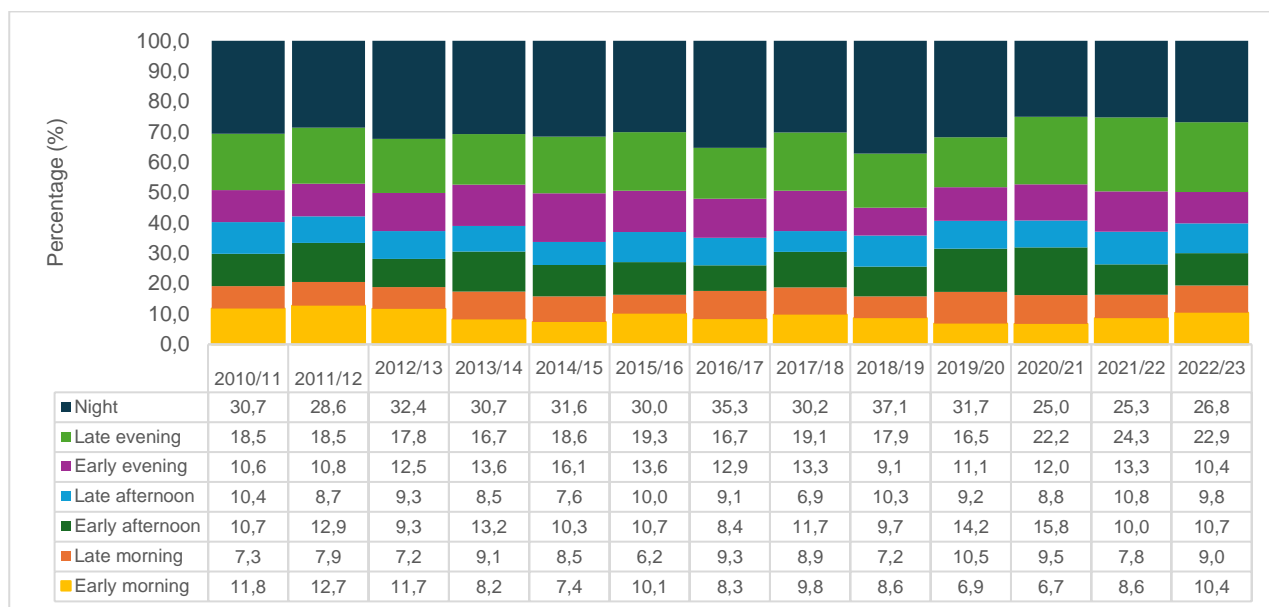
Figure 5.3: Percentage distribution of common assault for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and time of occurrence, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The above graph presents the percentage distribution of common assault for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and time of occurrence. Victims of common assaults typically experienced attacks in the afternoon hours, with a higher frequency in the early part of the afternoon. It was less common for these crimes to be committed against children at night, with a decrease from 10,4% in 2010/11 to 7,6% in 2022/23.

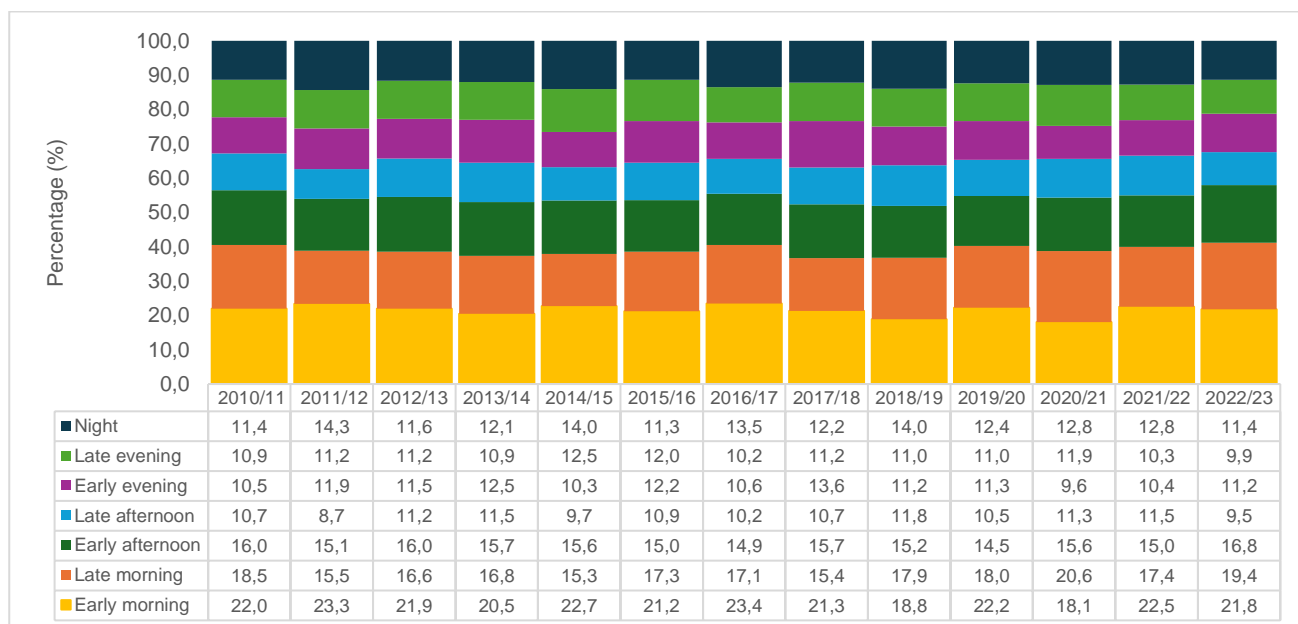
Figure 5.4: Percentage distribution of attempted murder for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and time of occurrence, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The above graph presents the percentage distribution of attempted murder for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and time of occurrence. The majority of attempted murder incidents occurred at night. The year 2018/19 saw the highest rate, with 37,1% of such crimes against children happening during nighttime. This rate decreased to approximately 25,0% in both 2020/21 and 2021/22. Incidents in the late evening ranked second in frequency, increasing from 18,5% in 2010/11 to 22,9% in 2022/23.

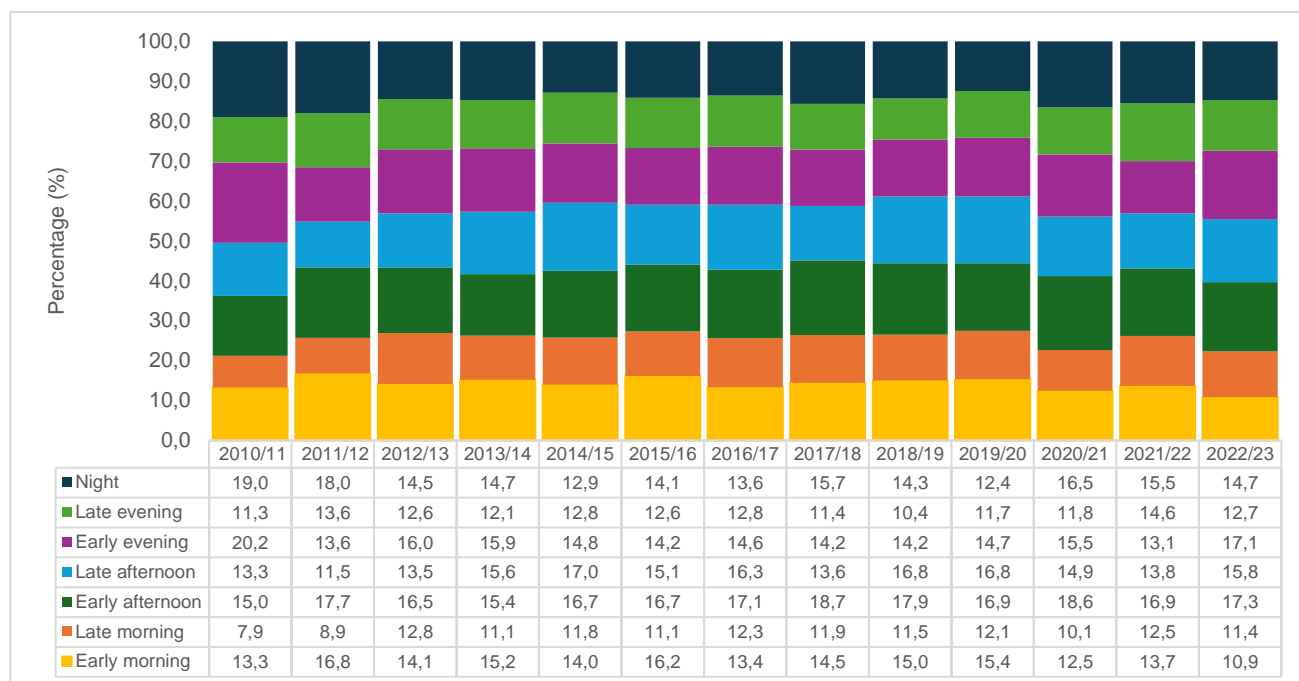
Figure 5.5: Percentage distribution of child abuse for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and time of occurrence, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The above graph presents the percentage distribution of child abuse for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and time of occurrence. The majority of child abuse incidents occurred during the morning hours, accounting for approximately 40,0% in 2021/22 and 41,2% in 2022/23. However, the early morning hours saw a slightly higher frequency of these incidents, with nearly 23,0% in 2021/22 and 22,0% in 2022/23.

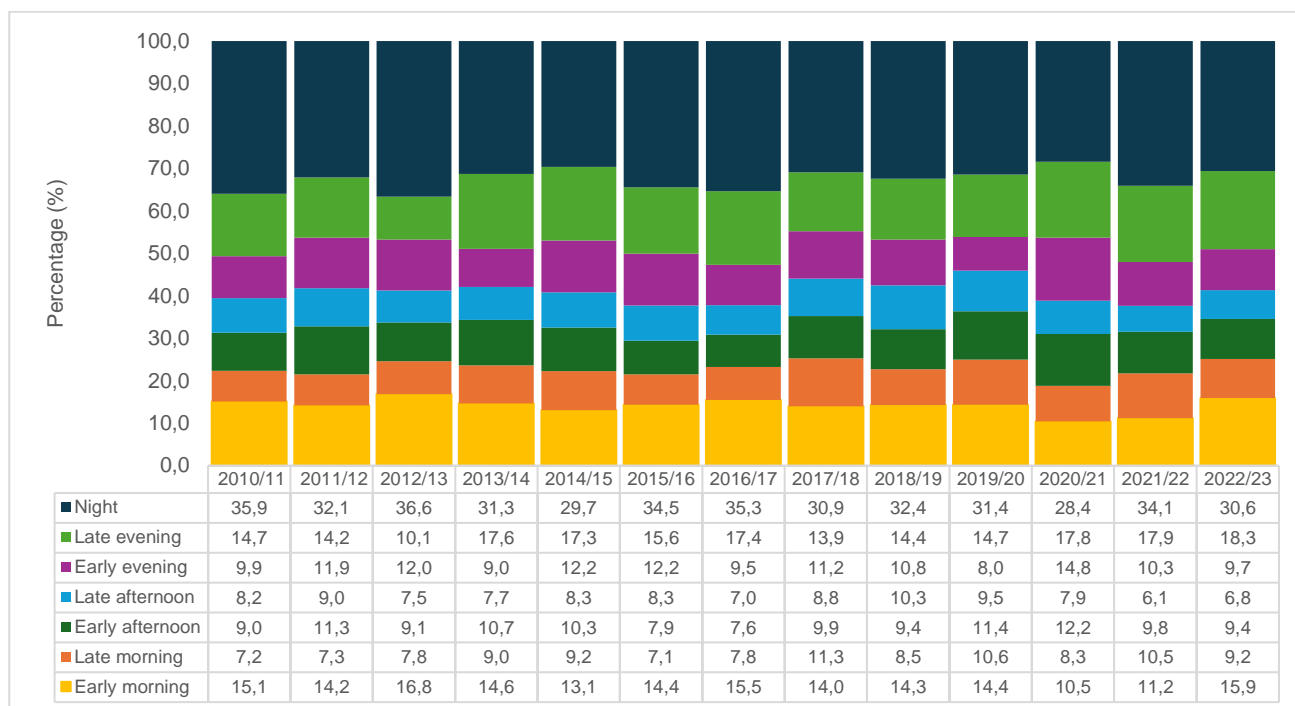
Figure 5.6: Percentage distribution of kidnapping for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and time of occurrence, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The above graph presents the percentage distribution of kidnapping for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and time of occurrence. During the period analysed, child kidnappings predominantly occurred in the afternoons, with a higher frequency in the early afternoon. By contrast, in the 2010/11 period, kidnappings were more evenly distributed, with 50,5% happening in the evenings and at night. This evening and nighttime incidence decreased to 44,5% by the 2022/23 period.

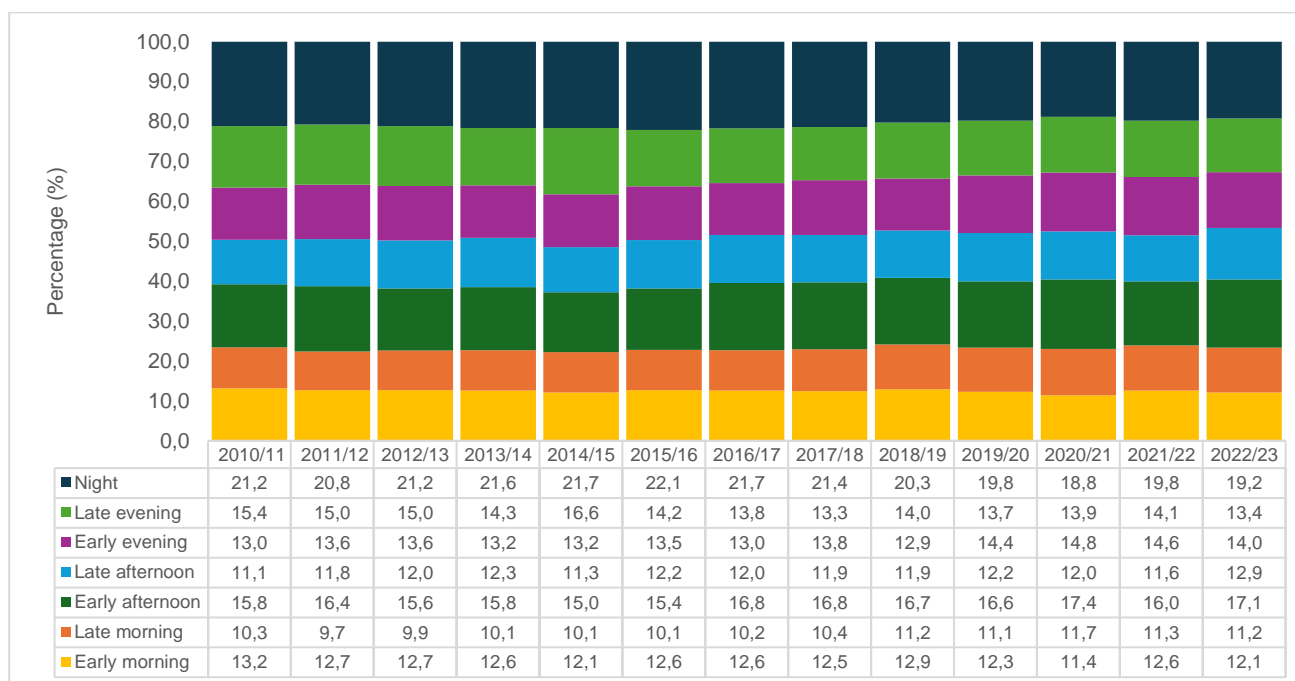
Figure 5.7: Percentage distribution of murder for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and time of occurrence, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The above graph presents the percentage distribution of murder for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and time of occurrence. Murder incidents were primarily nocturnal crimes. The rate varied, peaking at nearly 36,0% in 2010/11, then dropping to 28,4% in 2020/21, and rising again to 30,6% in 2022/23. The frequency of these events was also notably high during the late evening and early morning hours.

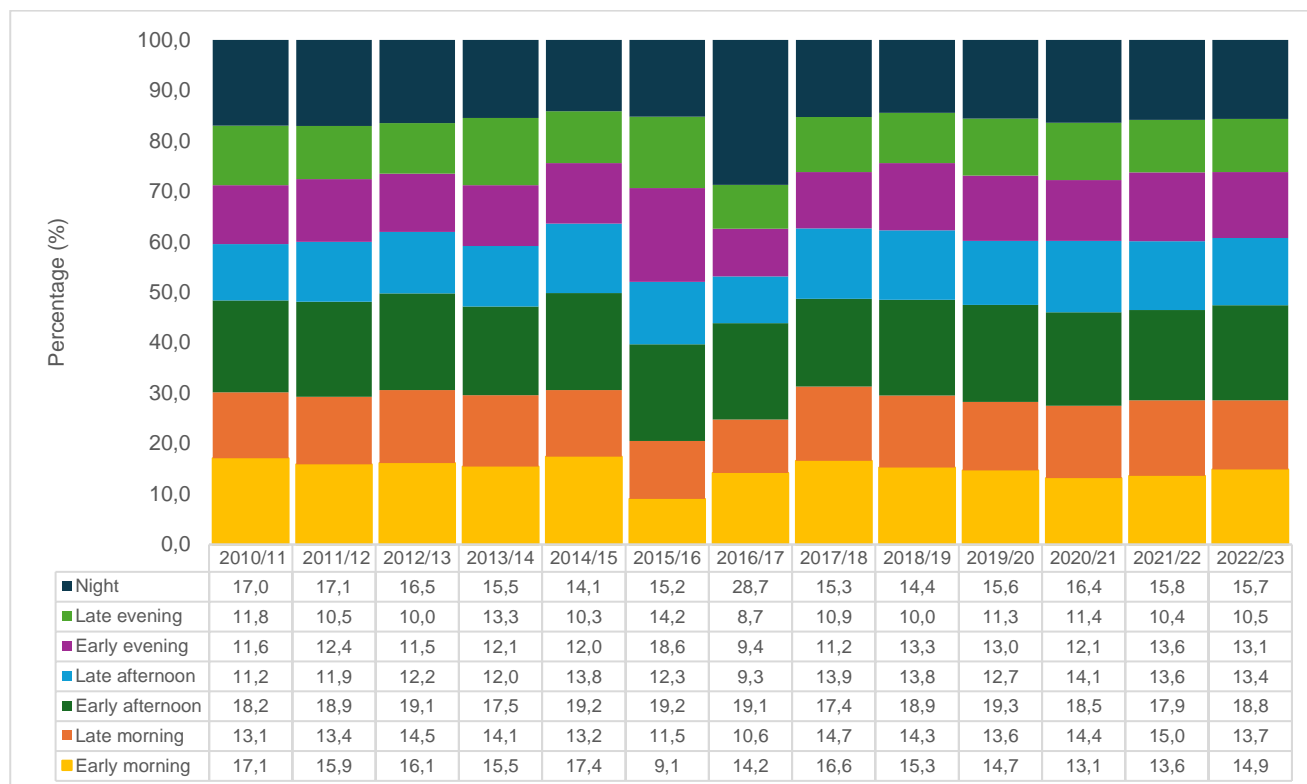
Figure 5.8: Percentage distribution of rape for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and time of occurrence, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The above graph presents the percentage distribution of rape for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and time of occurrence. Incidents of child rape predominantly took place at night, maintaining a consistent rate of approximately 21-22% from 2010/11 to 2017/18. Following this period, there was a marginal decrease to about 19-20% from 2018/19 to 2022/23. The frequency of such events was also high in the evenings, particularly in the later hours. The majority of afternoon incidents occurred in the early part of the afternoon.

Figure 5.9: Percentage distribution of sexual assault for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and time of occurrence, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The above graph presents the percentage distribution of sexual assault for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and time of occurrence. Majority of sexual assault incidents, approximately 60,0%, took place during daylight hours, predominantly in the early afternoon. Additionally, about 30,0% of cases were reported to happen in the late morning to early afternoon timeframe. Notably, during the 2016/17 period, there was a significant number of incidents, nearly 30,0%, that occurred at night.

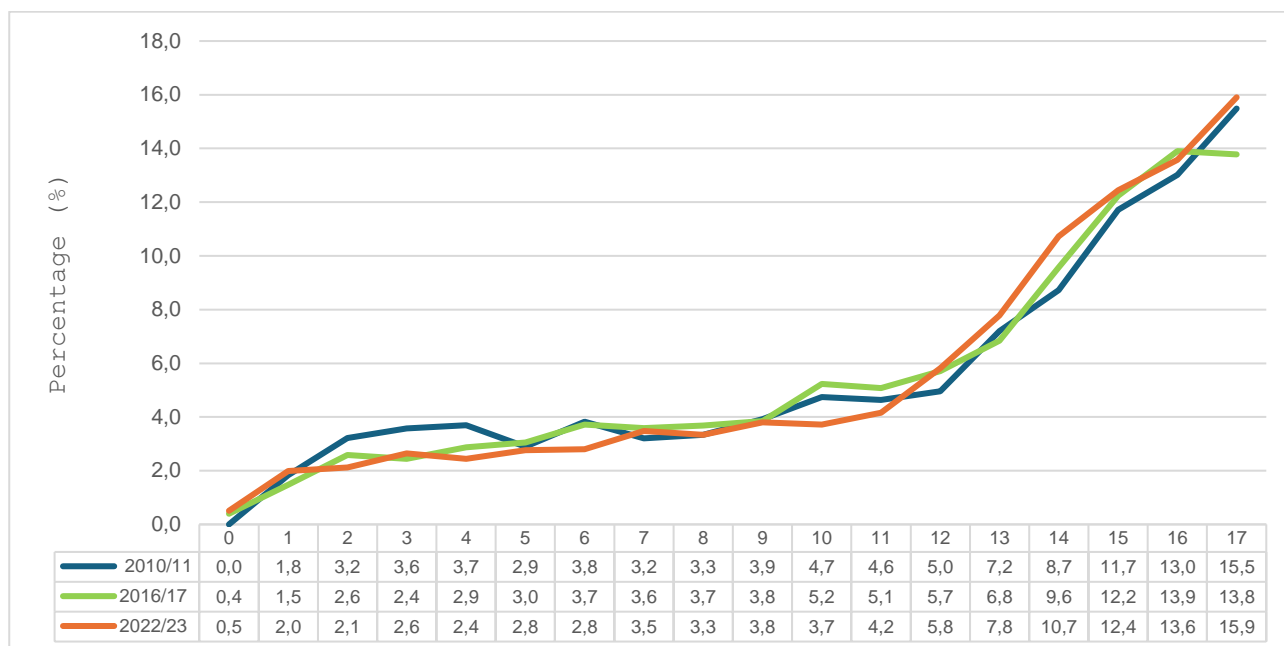
The table below presents the percentage distribution of offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year, time of occurrence and sex. The data indicates that approximately one-third or more of the criminal incidents involving both female and male children occurred in the early afternoon and at nighttime. For females, the peak incidence was noted at night, whereas for males, it was predominantly in the early afternoon.

Table 5.1 - Percentage distribution of offences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year, time of occurrence and sex, 2010/11–2022/23

	2010/2011		2011/2012		2012/2013		2013/2014		2014/2015		2015/2016		2016/2017		2017/2018		2018/2019		2019/2020		2020/2021		2021/2022		2022/2023	
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Early morning	12,8	11,2	12,8	10,7	12,7	11,3	13,7	12,0	12,7	11,5	13,3	9,2	12,9	12,0	12,8	11,8	13,1	11,6	12,9	12,0	11,1	9,7	12,3	11,2	12,9	12,3
Late morning	10,6	12,5	10,6	12,4	10,4	12,8	10,6	13,0	10,6	13,3	10,8	13,7	10,9	12,4	11,8	14,3	11,6	14,3	11,9	14,4	12,4	13,5	12,2	13,8	11,9	14,4
Early afternoon	16,8	18,8	17,3	20,5	17,0	20,5	16,4	19,9	16,2	19,5	16,3	19,4	16,8	21,1	17,3	20,2	17,6	20,9	17,3	21,9	17,0	20,4	16,7	19,8	17,9	22,3
Late afternoon	12,0	13,5	12,3	13,0	12,7	13,8	12,7	13,7	12,6	13,8	12,5	14,7	12,7	12,7	12,2	14,7	12,7	14,3	13,2	14,7	13,2	15,4	12,5	14,4	13,5	13,5
Early evening	13,8	14,6	14,1	15,1	14,0	14,7	13,6	14,4	13,7	14,9	13,5	16,6	13,6	12,8	13,8	15,1	13,5	14,3	14,1	14,3	15,0	17,0	14,5	15,3	14,0	13,9
Late evening	14,8	13,9	14,3	13,3	14,3	12,2	13,9	13,2	15,1	13,1	14,0	13,1	13,6	10,8	13,0	11,3	13,1	11,4	13,1	10,7	14,0	12,4	14,0	12,3	12,8	11,6
Night	19,3	15,6	18,8	15,0	18,9	14,7	19,0	13,8	19,1	13,8	19,7	13,4	19,5	18,1	19,2	12,5	18,4	13,3	17,6	12,0	17,4	11,6	17,8	13,2	16,9	12,1
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

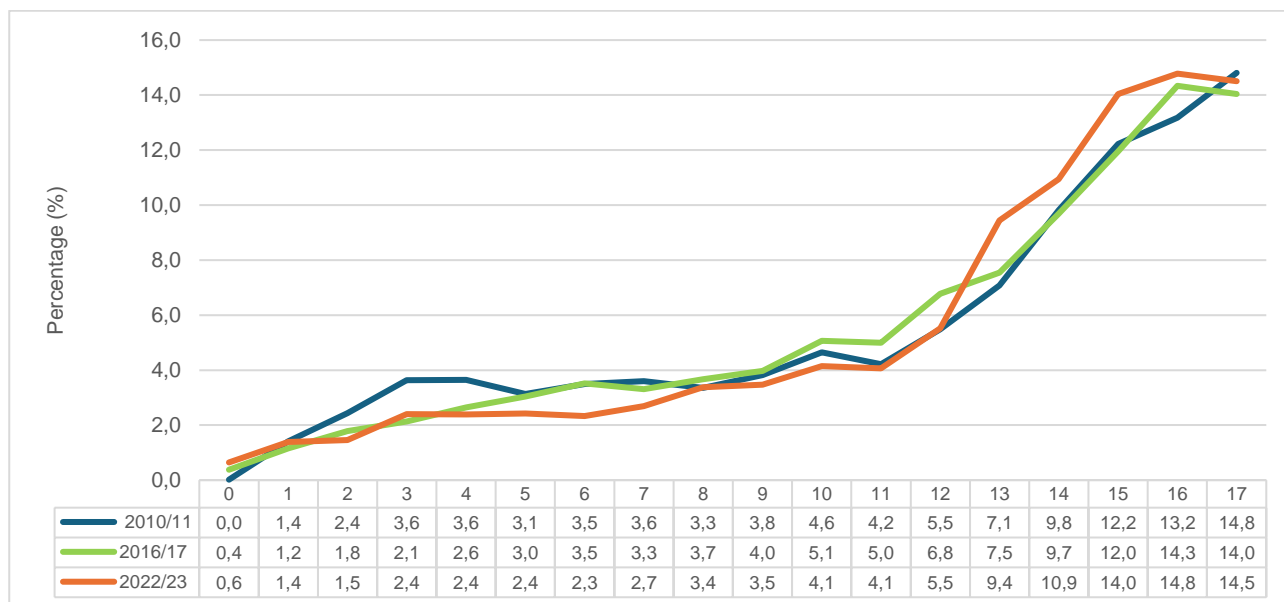
Figure 5.10: Percentage distribution of early morning offence occurrences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and age, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The above graph presents the percentage distribution of early morning offence occurrences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year, time of occurrence and age. Throughout the years observed, despite a gradual increase, the proportion of early morning offences involving children consistently stayed under five percent for those up to the age of nine. In the 2022/23 period, there was a notable increase in early morning offences involving children over the age of 12 compared to previous years.

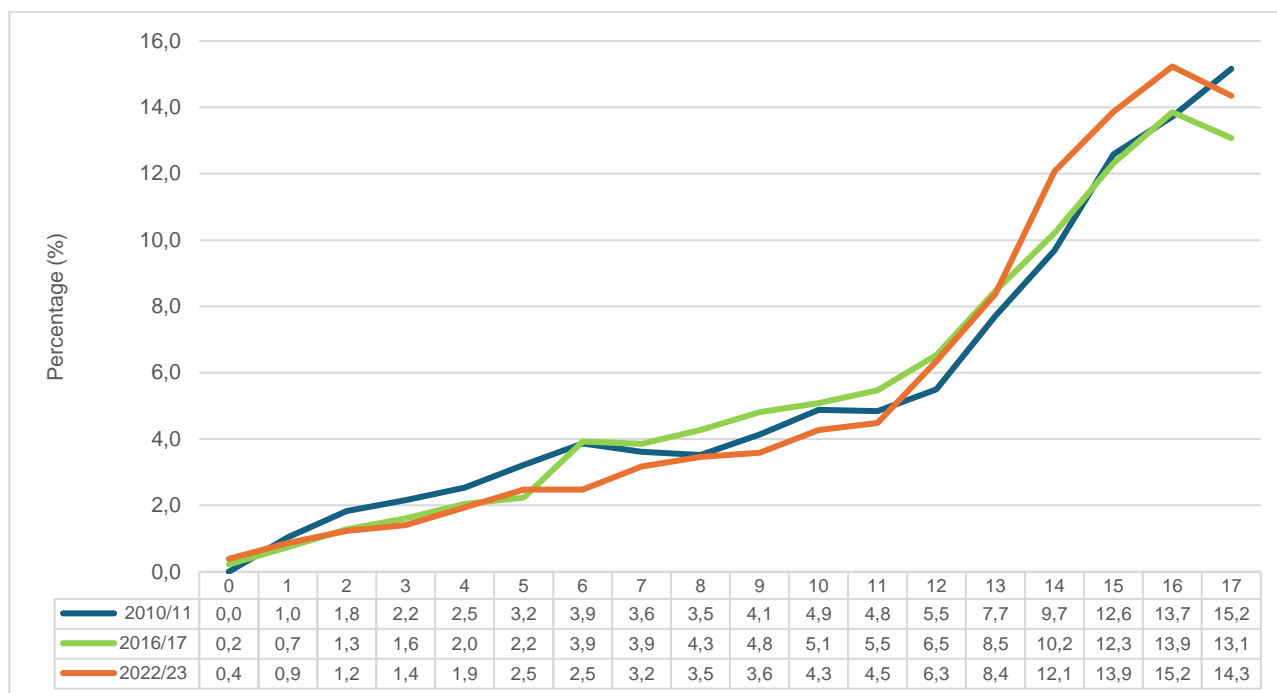
Figure 5.11: Percentage distribution of late morning offence occurrences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and age, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The above graph presents the percentage distribution of late morning offence occurrences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year, time of occurrence and age. In 2010/11, late morning offences were significantly more frequent among 1–8 year-olds. Conversely, in 2022/23, the 13–17-year-old age group saw a higher incidence of late morning offences.

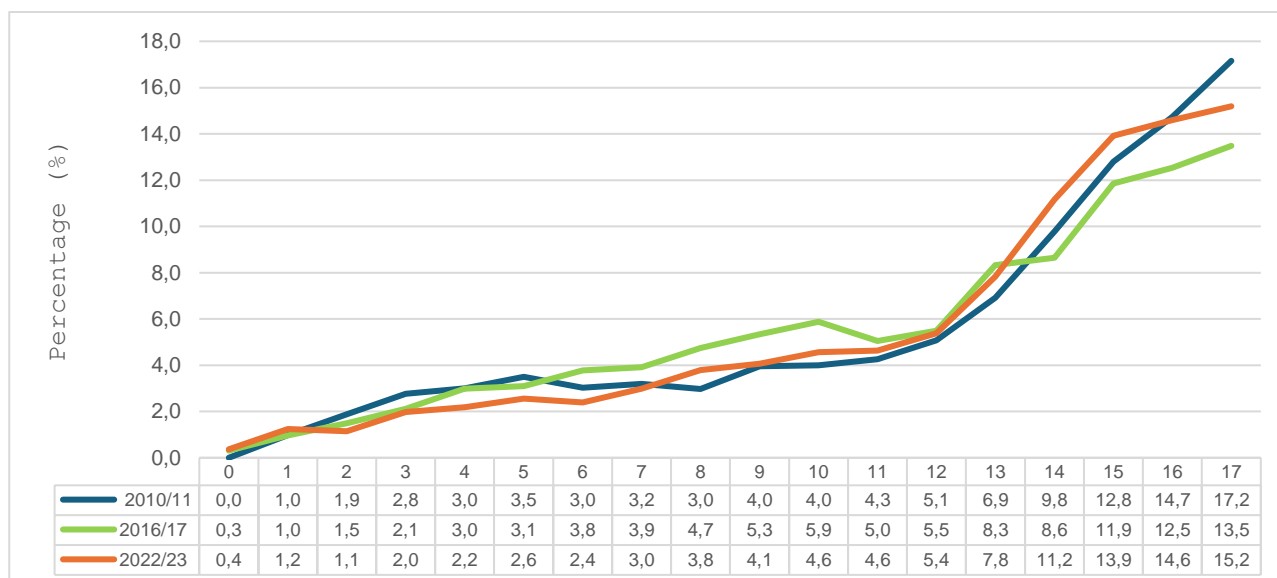
Figure 5.12: Percentage distribution of early afternoon offence occurrences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and age, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The above graph presents the percentage distribution of early afternoon offence occurrences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year, time of occurrence and age. In 2022/23, there was a noticeable increase in offences occurring in the early afternoon, particularly among children aged 12 and older.

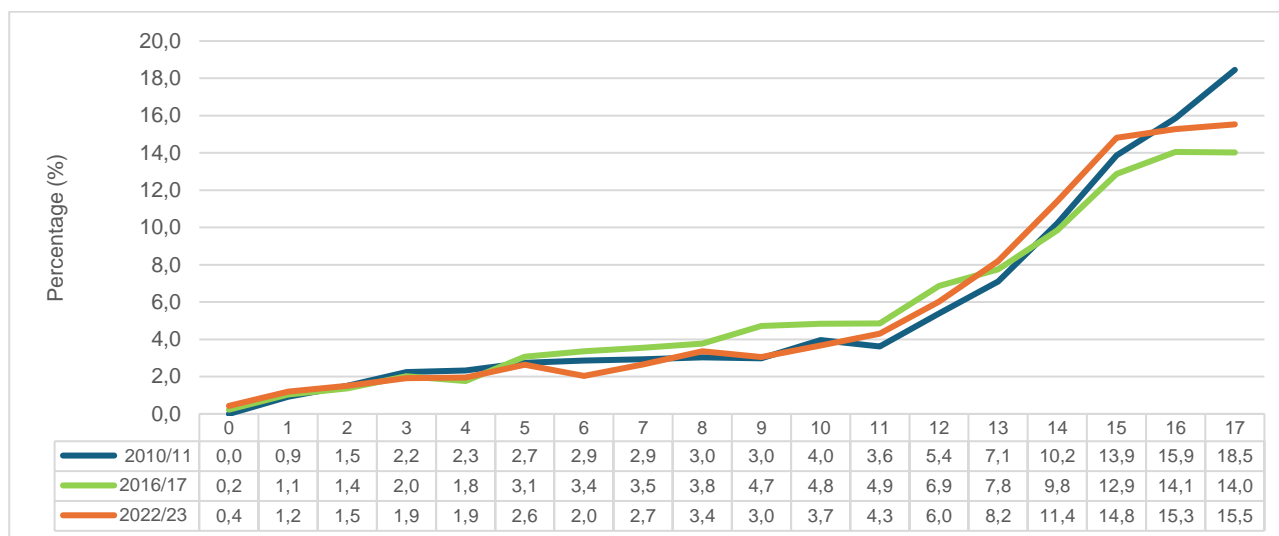
Figure 5.13: Percentage distribution of late afternoon offence occurrences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and age, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The above graph presents the percentage distribution of late afternoon offence occurrences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year, time of occurrence and age. In 2022/23, there was an increase in late afternoon offence occurrences among 14–17 year olds, while the rate among 4–11 year olds remained lower than in 2016/17.

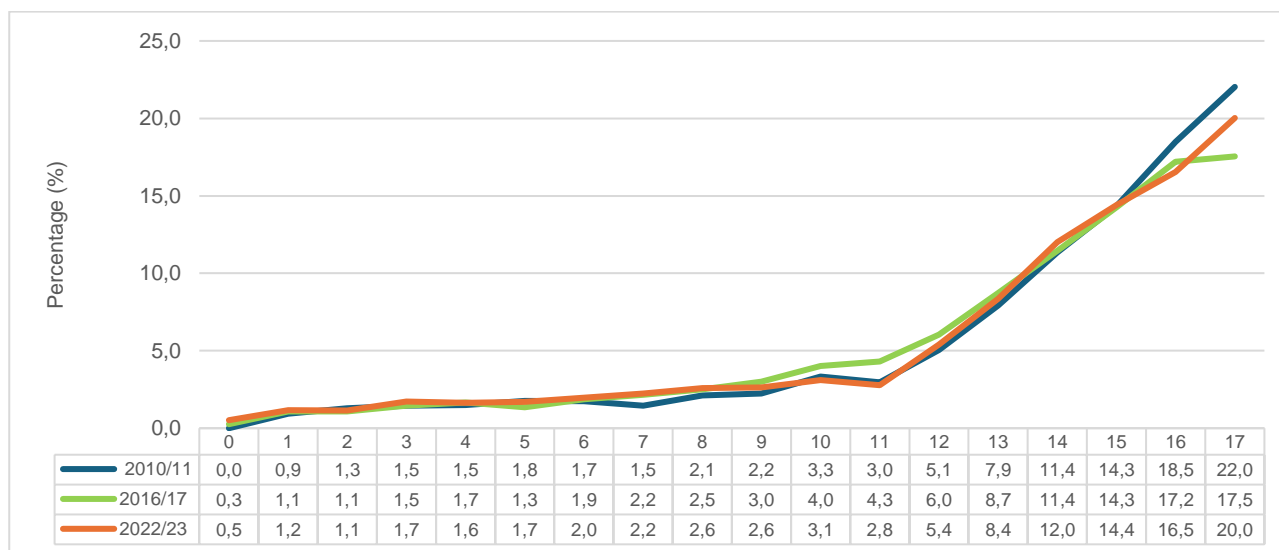
Figure 5.14: Percentage distribution of early evening offence occurrences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and age, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The above graph presents the percentage distribution of early evening offence occurrences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year, time of occurrence and age. The percentage of occurrences among children aged 0–5 years consistently stayed between zero and three percent throughout all the years shown. Although there was a decrease in crime occurrences the early evenings in 2022/23 for children under 13, there was an increase in occurrences for teenagers aged 13 and older during this period.

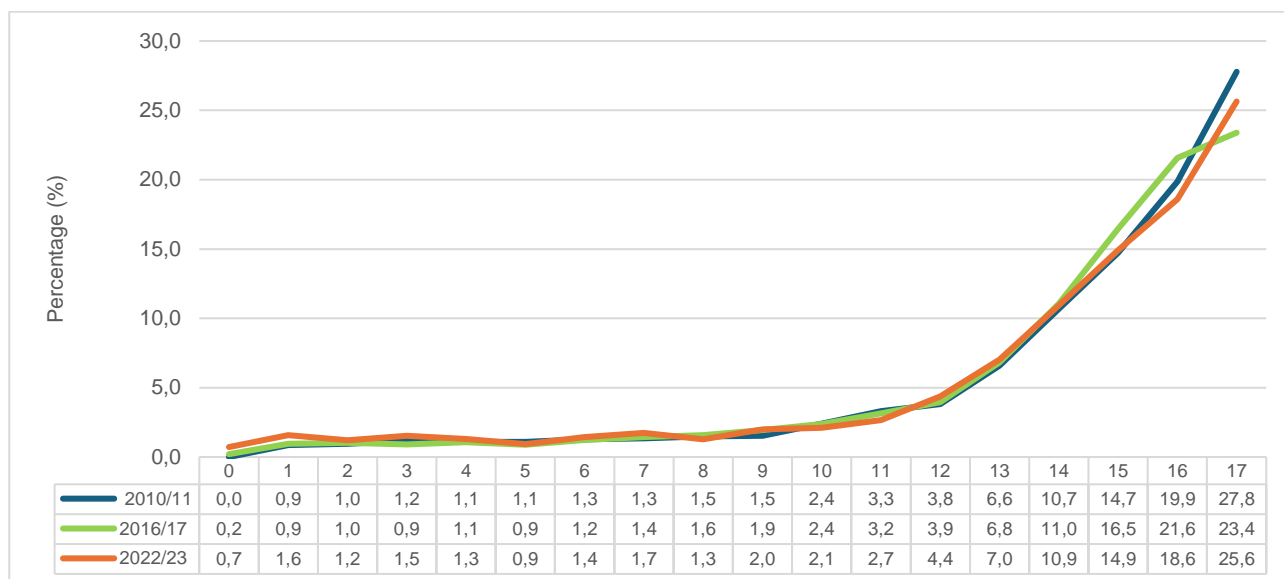
Figure 5.15: Percentage distribution of late evening offence occurrences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and age, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The above graph presents the percentage distribution of late evening offence occurrences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year, time of occurrence and age. Late evening crime occurrences remained consistent across all years for all age groups, with a slight decline among 16–17-year-olds. Among 16–17-year-olds, late evening crime occurrences decreased by two percentage points from 2010/11 to 2022/23. For the 14–17 age group, occurrences were consistently above ten percent each year. Notably, in 2022/23, there was a higher incidence of offences among 14-year-olds compared to previous years, while the percentage for 15-year-olds stayed the same.

Figure 5.16: Percentage distribution of night offence occurrences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year and age, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

The above graph presents the percentage distribution of night offence occurrences for children aged 0–17 years reported to the police by year, time of occurrence and age. Nighttime crime rates have remained stable over the years for all age groups. In both 2010/11 and 2022/23, the incidence of night crimes among 17-year-olds was nearly four times higher than that among 13-year-olds.

5.3 Summary

Child victims experienced incidents primarily in the early afternoon and early evening. Over time, nighttime incidents decreased. Most child abuse incidents occurred in the early morning. Early afternoon incidents often involved assault GBH and common assault. Rape, attempted murder, and murder typically happened at night, although many rape incidents also took place in the evening. In 2022/23, nearly 20,0% of children who were victims of late evening crime were 17-year-olds, while close to 17,0% were 16-year-olds. Older children were more likely to be victims at night, with almost 28,0% of 17-year-olds experiencing it in 2010/11, which decreased to 26,0% in 2022/23.

Chapter 6: Summary and conclusion

Reported crime for children aged 0–17 years are presented in this report. Child victims of various crimes in South Africa face different risks depending on their geographical location. Provinces with the highest total reported crimes against children were Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, and Western Cape. However, child rape was most prevalent in Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, North West, Mpumalanga, and Limpopo. Limpopo had the highest percentage of rape cases compared to other reported crimes. Additionally, rape made up more than one-third of reported crimes against children in Free State and Gauteng. In Western Cape and Northern Cape, common assault was the most frequent crime. Kidnapping was on the rise in KwaZulu-Natal, North West, Gauteng, and Mpumalanga, accounting for nearly five percent of all crimes in these provinces in 2022/23. Meanwhile, common assault was most prevalent in Western Cape and Northern Cape, whereas kidnapping was commonly occurring in Northern Cape.

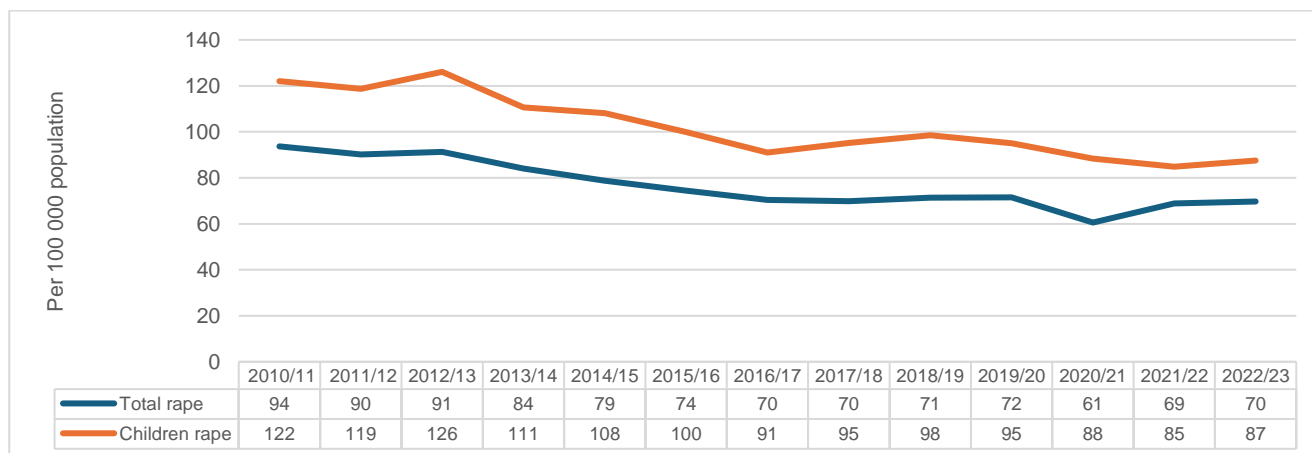
The high percentage of rape cases among total offences reported for females, especially with such a significant gender gap, underscores the vulnerability of young girls to this crime. Even though there's been a slight decline, the fact that it remains high is alarming. Furthermore, kidnapping cases exceed the national average for females across all years. The trend seen for females being the majority of victims, highlights the urgent need for targeted interventions to protect vulnerable children from such crimes.

The data indicates that children under 10 are victims of various crimes, which have lasting impacts on their well-being. The most prevalent crimes include child abuse, sexual assault, rape, murder, and attempted murder. Child abuse is particularly common among toddlers, especially those aged 1–3, with one-year-olds being the most affected. Although there has been a decline in sexual assault reports across different age groups since the peak in 2016/17, this trend does not apply to the youngest group (0–8 years), where the numbers remained stable in 2022/23. Common assault incidents increase with the victim's age, with adolescents and teens being the most frequently targeted.

An increase in attempted murder rates among children aged 0–17 over the years is alarming, especially since it has nearly doubled from 2010/11 to 2022/23. The peak during COVID-19 years might reflect the broader social and economic stresses of that period. Additionally, the significantly higher rates for males compared to the national average, and the lower rates for females, suggest gender-specific factors at play.

Ultimately, ending violence against children is crucial for their development and the future of society. It demands urgent and sustained efforts from the government, communities, and international partners to ensure the safety and well-being of every child in South Africa.

Figure 6.1: Volume of reported rape per 100 000 population, 2010/11–2022/23

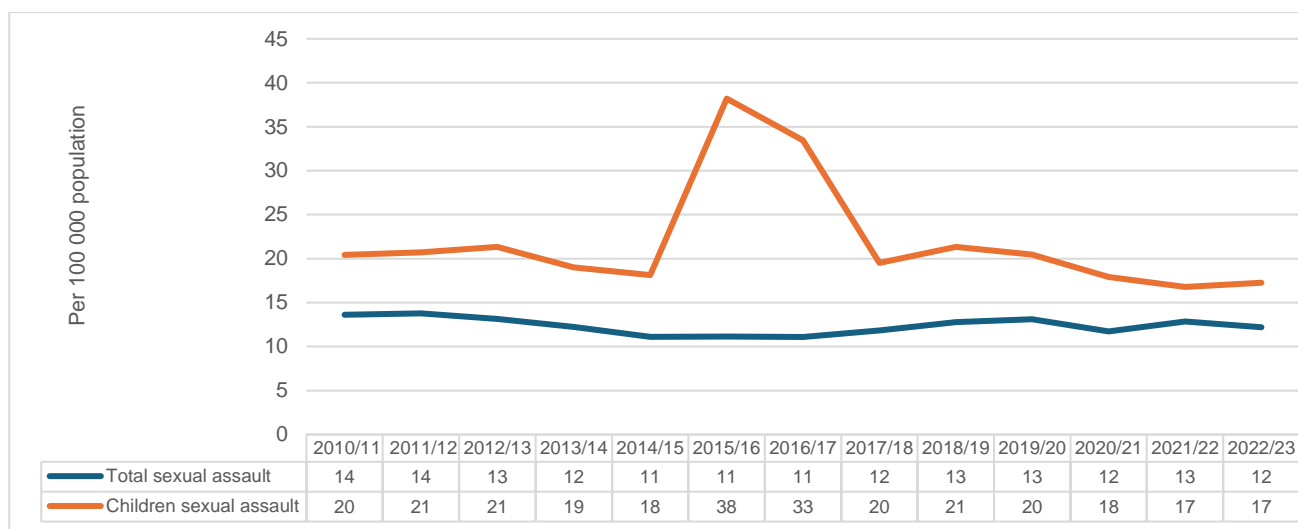


Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

Note: 2024 version of the mid-year population estimates were used for the denominators, which may have changed slightly previously published values

The above graph presents the volume of reported rapes per 100 000 population. Despite both showing a downward trend, the incidence of child rape per 100 000 children remains significantly higher than the overall rape rate per 100 000 people. The highest rate of child rape was recorded in 2012/13 at 126 per 100 000, while the lowest was in 2021/22 at 85 per 100 000. The gap between the child rape rate and the total rape rate has fluctuated, peaking in 2012/13, but has slightly narrowed in recent years.

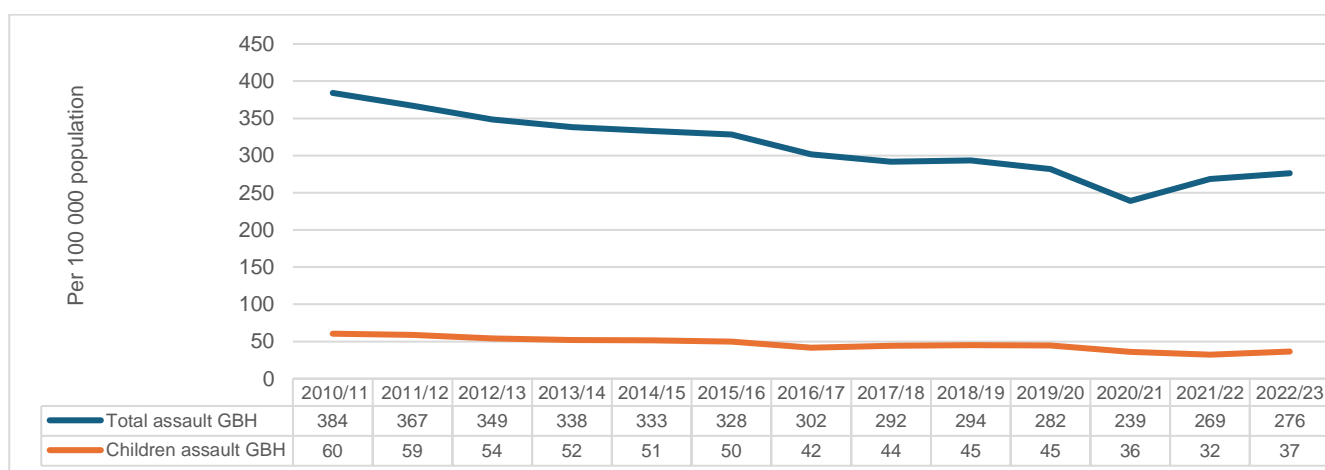
Figure 6.2: Volume of reported sexual assault per 100 000 population, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23 Note: 2024 version of the mid-year population estimates were used for the denominators, which may have changed slightly previously published values

The above graph presents the volume of reported sexual assaults per 100 000 population. Sexual assault rates among children have historically been higher than the total rates, peaking at 38 per 100 000 children in 2015/16. Although these rates have gradually decreased to 17 per 100 000 children in recent years, they remain higher than the reported sexual assault cases in the general population.

Figure 6.3: Volume of reported assault with GBH per 100 000 population, 2010/11–2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23 Note: 2024 version of the mid-year population estimates were used for the denominators, which may have changed slightly previously published values

The above graph presents the volume of reported assaults with GBH per 100 000 population. Both the overall rate of reported assaults with GBH per 100 000 people and the rate of reported assaults on children with GBH per 100 000 children have decreased. The assault rate per 100 000 children significantly dropped from 60 in 2010/11 to 32 in 2021/22, although it rose again to 37 in 2022/23. Until 2014/15, children's assault rate was six times lower than the total rate, but it has since increased to being seven or eight times lower.

The table below presents the total crimes and crimes on children from 2010/11 to 2022/23. The reported total sexual offences include rape, sexual assault, attempted sexual offences and contact sexual offences. Data for children on total sexual offences only shows rape and sexual assault. In 2022/23, rape constituted almost close to 80,0% of the total sexual offences crimes, followed by sexual assault. Furthermore, compared to the total reported crime, the percentages for both rape and sexual crimes on children are relatively high, indicating a significant portion of these crimes involve children. There was a noticeable increase in the percentage of rape committed in children as a percentage of total rape from 45,9% in 2010/11 to 48,4% in 2020/21. Similarly, the percentage of total sexual offences in children increased from 39,8% in 2010/11 to 45,8% in 2020/21. It then decreased to 39,8% in 2022/23. Over half of the reported sexual assault crimes were committed against children, peaking at 63,6% in 2016/17. This figure later decreased to 46,9% in 2022/23.

From 2019/20 to 2020/21, there was a 6,3% decrease in child rape cases. However, the overall rape incidents saw a nearly double decline, close to 14,0%. Additionally, sexual assault incidents on children dropped by almost 11,5% during the same period, while the total reported sexual assaults decreased by approximately 13,3%. The COVID-19 pandemic led to lockdowns and restrictions, which significantly reduced social interactions and public gatherings. This likely contributed to fewer opportunities for such crimes to occur. The pandemic may also have affected how and when victims reported the crimes. Some victims might have delayed reporting due to the challenges posed by the pandemic, such as limited access to support services.

The report shows concerning aspect of crime statistics in South Africa, as it underscores the vulnerability of children to such heinous acts. Crime against children in South Africa remains a deeply troubling issue, with significant impacts on the physical, emotional, and social well-being of young victims. Despite some progress, such as a decline in sexual offences, the overall situation is still dire, with an increase in attempted murders.

The pervasive violence against children not only devastates families and communities but also imposes substantial economic costs.

Table 6.1 - Total reported crimes and crimes on children 2010/11–2022/23

Total crime	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Total sexual offences*	64 921	60 539	60 888	56 680	53 617	51 895	49 660	50 108	52 420	53 293	46 214	52 694	53 498
Rape	48 158	47 069	48 408	45 349	43 195	41 503	39 828	40 035	41 583	42 289	36 330	41 739	42 780
Sexual assault	7 006	7 194	6 967	6 597	6 087	6 212	6 271	6 786	7 437	7 749	7 025	7 798	7 483
Attempted sexual offences	3 599	3 535	3 293	2 913	2 641	2 573	2 073	2 066	2 146	2 076	1 800	2 027	2 376
Contact sexual offences	6 158	2 741	2 220	1 821	1 694	1 607	1 488	1 221	1 254	1 179	1 059	1 130	859
Attempted murder	15 360	14 730	16 236	16 989	17 537	18 127	18 205	18 233	18 980	18 635	18 707	22 095	25 131
Murder	15 893	15 554	16 213	17 023	17 805	18 673	19 016	20 336	21 022	21 325	19 972	25 181	27 494
Assault GBH	197 470	191 612	185 050	182 333	182 556	182 933	170 616	167 352	170 979	166 720	143 393	162 842	169 374
Common assault	184 103	180 165	171 653	166 081	161 486	164 958	156 450	156 243	162 012	165 494	149 442	169 963	185 374
Total contact crime	633 228	615 935	608 724	611 574	616 973	623 223	608 321	601 366	617 210	621 282	535 217	607 163	654 053
Crime on children													
Total sexual offences**	25 814	25 419	27 075	24 023	23 613	22 385	21 322	22 038	23 321	22 757	21 155	20 464	21 313
Rape	22 114	21 641	23 155	20 502	20 219	18 876	17 336	18 290	19 167	18 726	17 586	17 084	17 800
Sexual assault	3 700	3 778	3 920	3 521	3 394	3 509	3 986	3 748	4 154	4 031	3 569	3 380	3 513
Attempted murder	763	762	918	922	1 003	1 035	915	1 108	1 274	1 109	1 160	1 172	1 360
Murder	932	804	909	867	917	1 009	846	1 031	1 086	1 091	1 031	1 160	1 129
Assault GBH	10 954	10 705	9 936	9 659	9 635	9 447	7 956	8 521	8 784	8 838	7 215	6 500	7 454
Common assault	13 318	12 744	12 243	11 614	11 177	11 927	10 212	11 451	11 773	12 189	10 149	9 776	11 964
Crime on children as a percentage of total													
Total sexual offences	39,8	42,0	44,5	42,4	44,0	43,1	42,9	44,0	44,5	42,7	45,8	38,8	39,8
Rape	45,9	46,0	47,8	45,2	46,8	45,5	43,5	45,7	46,1	44,3	48,4	40,9	41,6
Sexual assault	52,8	52,5	56,3	53,4	55,8	56,5	63,6	55,2	55,9	52,0	50,8	43,3	46,9
Attempted murder	5,0	5,2	5,7	5,4	5,7	5,7	5,0	6,1	6,7	6,0	6,2	5,3	5,4
Murder	5,9	5,2	5,6	5,1	5,2	5,4	4,4	5,1	5,2	5,1	5,2	4,6	4,1
Assault GBH	5,5	5,6	5,4	5,3	5,3	5,2	4,7	5,1	5,1	5,3	5,0	4,0	4,4
Common assault	7,2	7,1	7,1	7,0	6,9	7,2	6,5	7,3	7,3	7,4	6,8	5,8	6,5

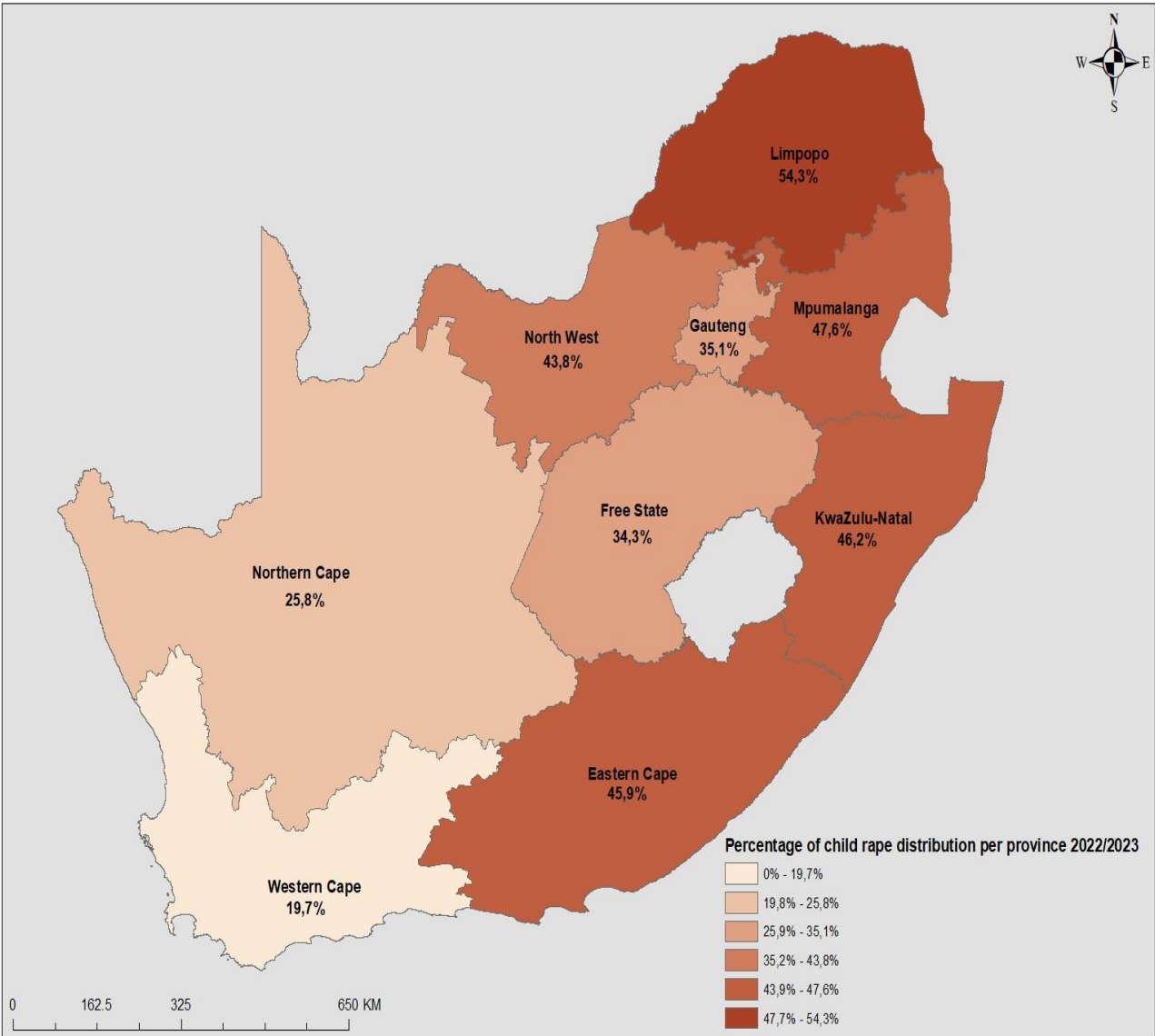
Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

* Includes rape, sexual assault, attempted sexual offences and contact sexual offences

** Includes rape and sexual assault

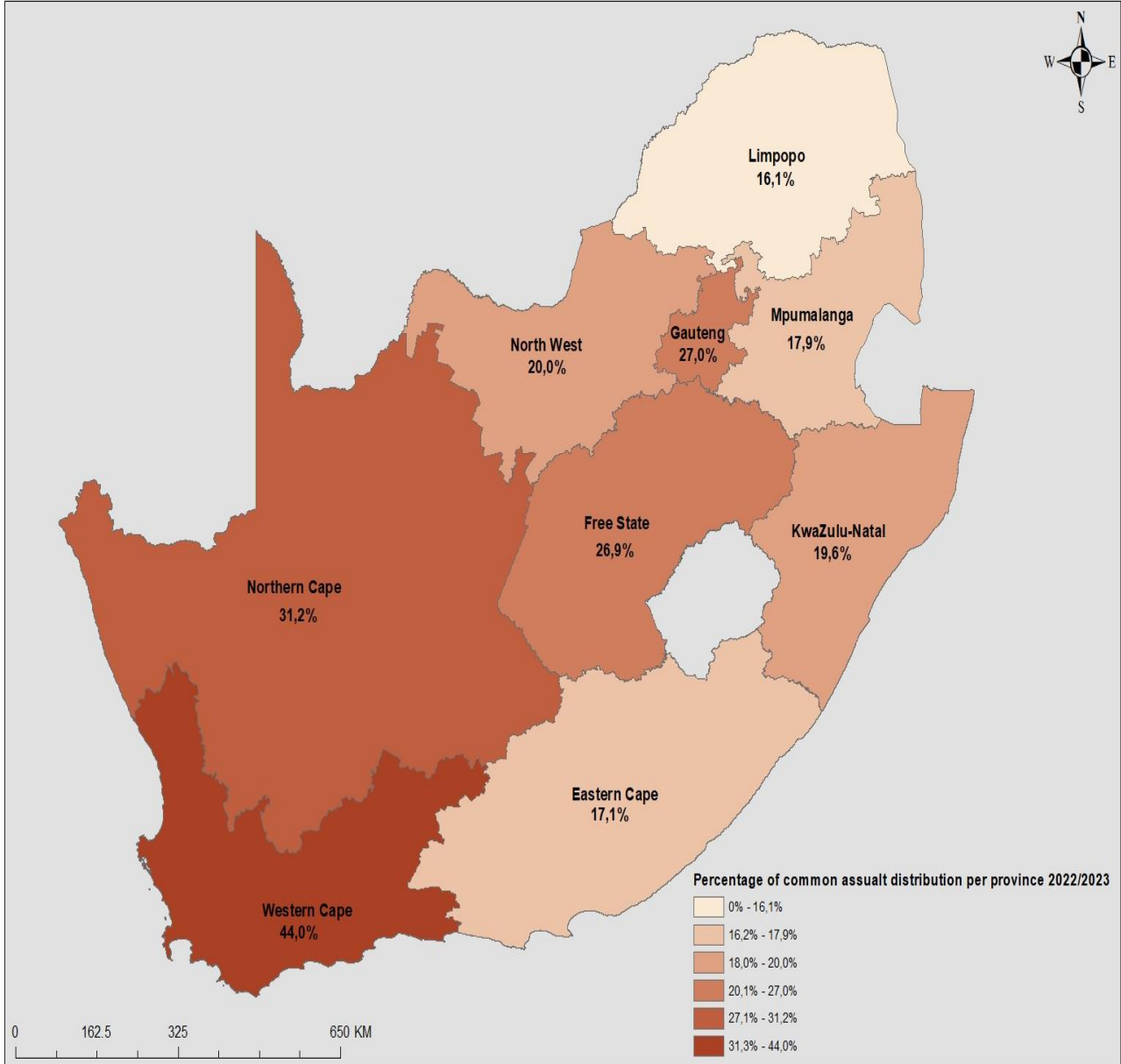
Annexure

Map A.1: Distribution of rape of children aged 0–17 by province, 2022/23



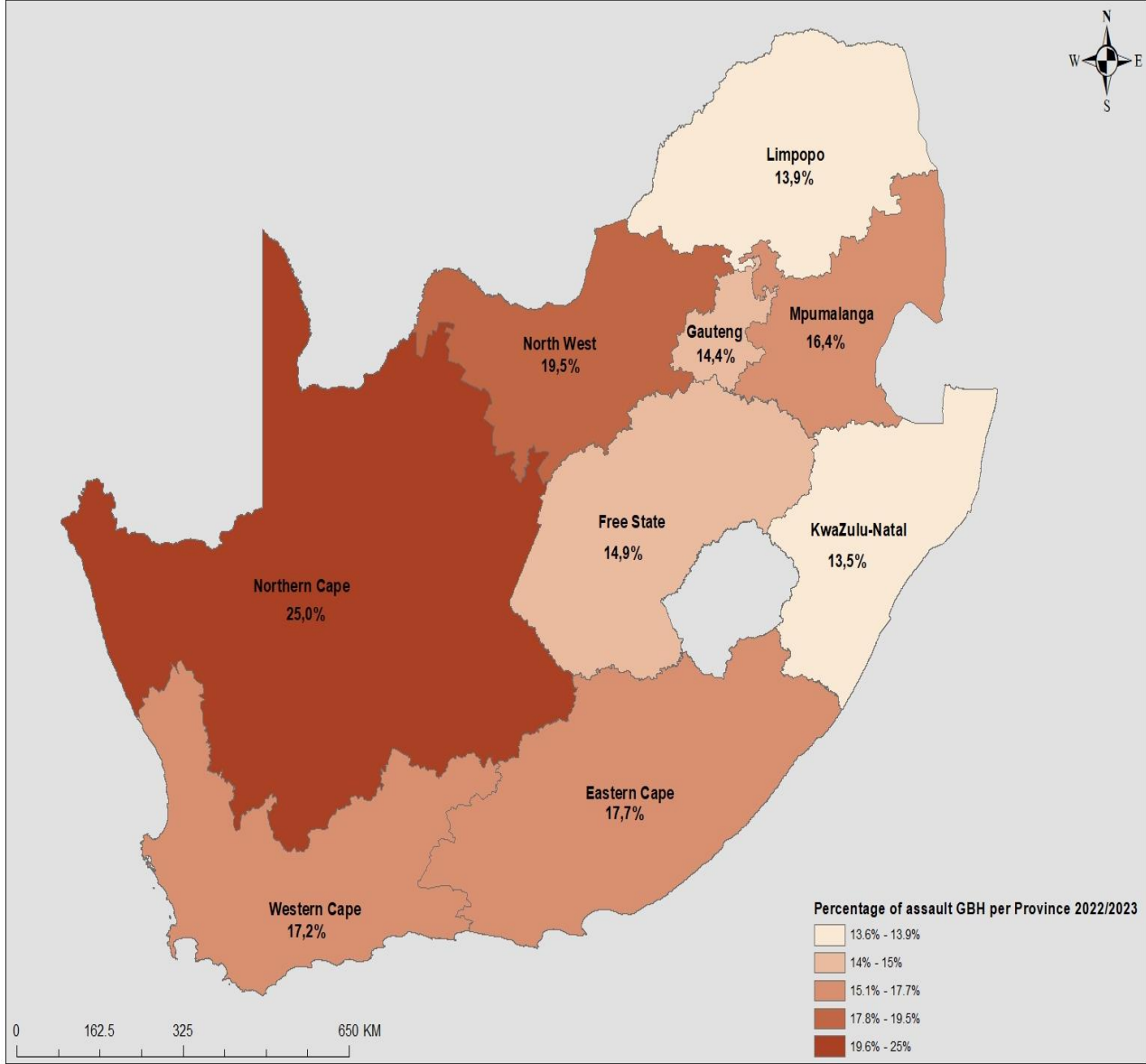
Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

Map A.2: Distribution of common assault of children aged 0–17 by province, 2022/23



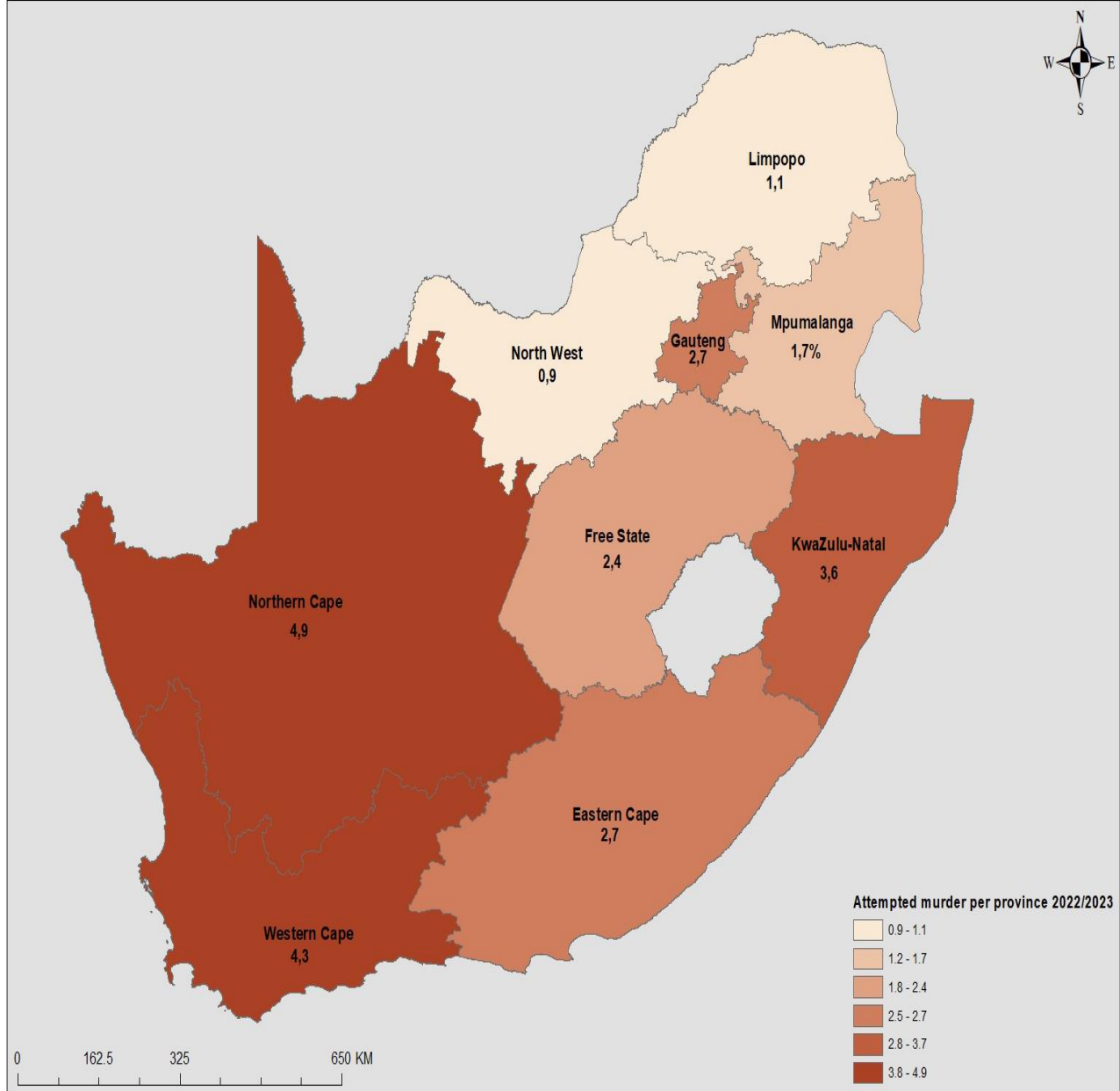
Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

Map A.3: Distribution of assault with GBH of children aged 0–17 by province, 2022/23



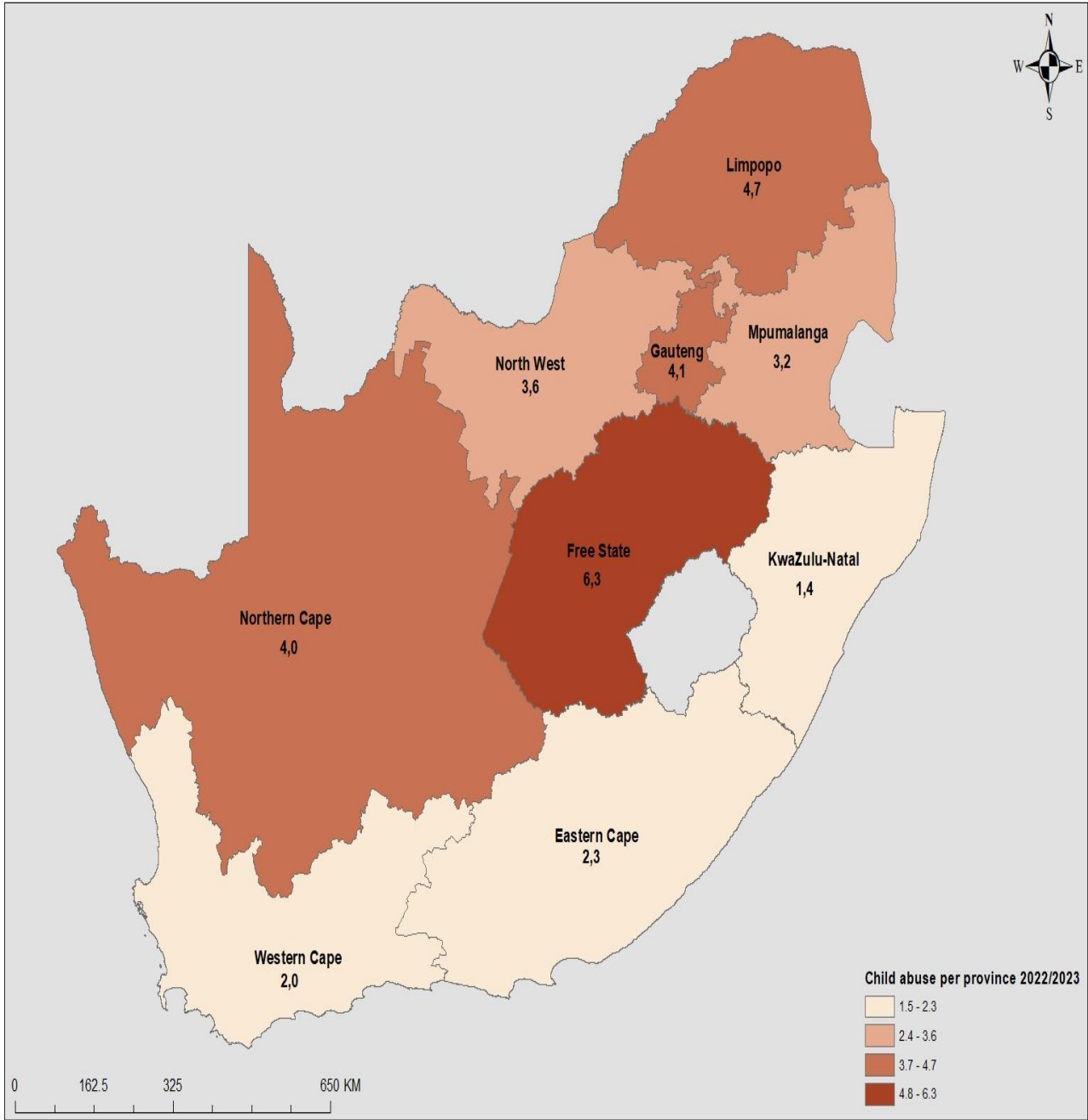
Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

Map A.4: Distribution of attempted murder of children aged 0–17 by province, 2022/23



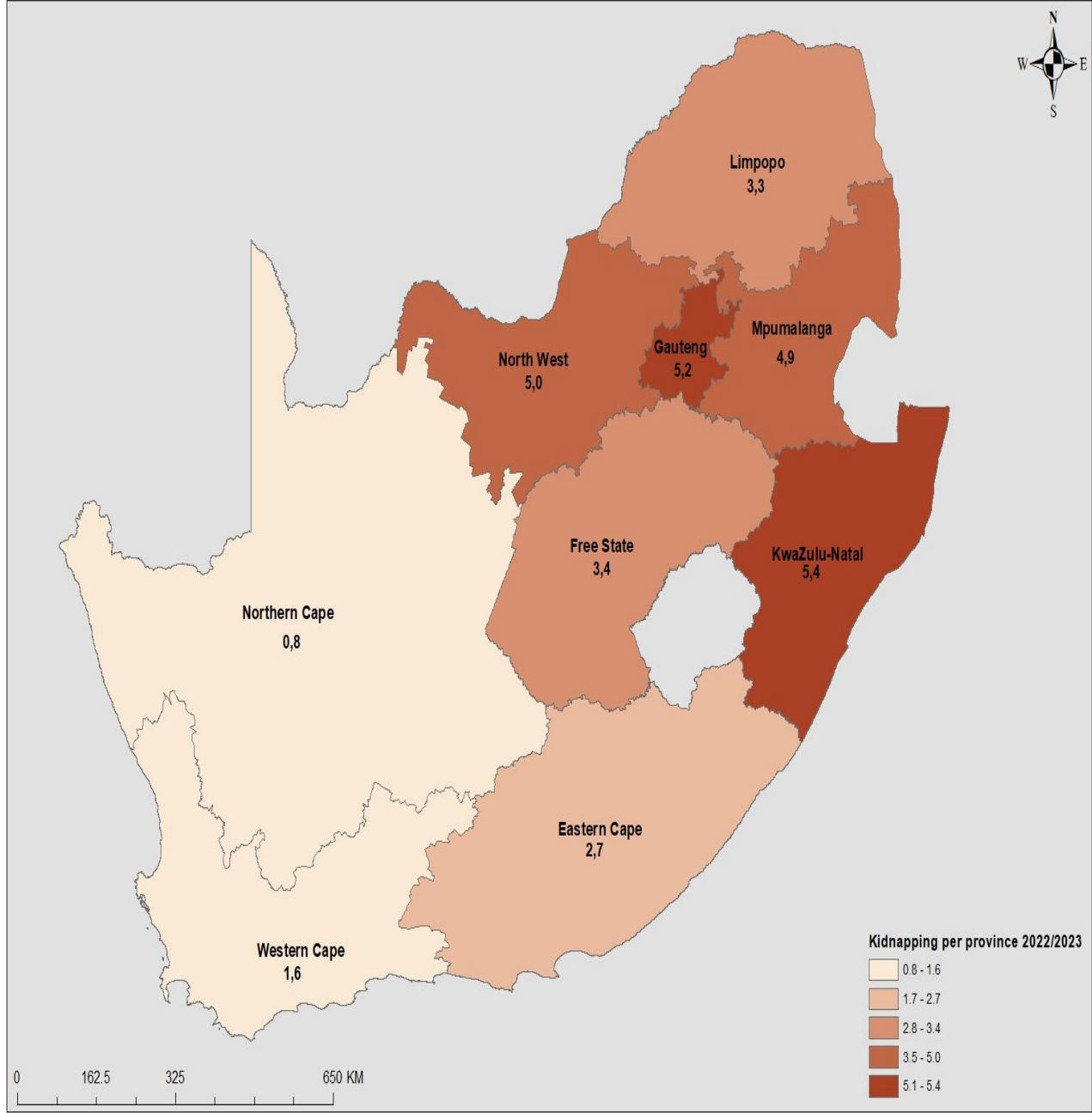
Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

Map A.5: Distribution of child abuse of children aged 0–17 by province, 2022/23

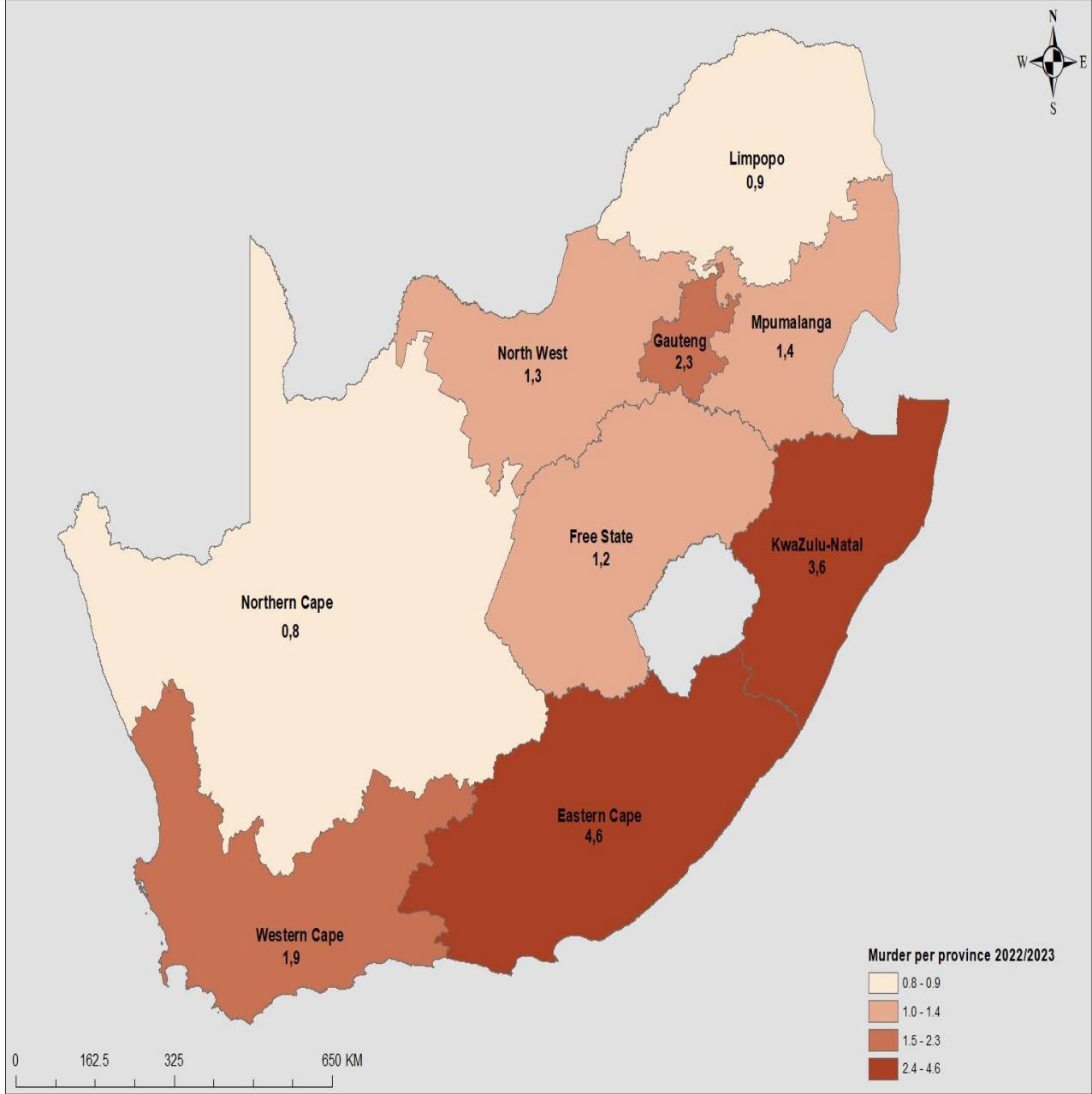


Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

Map A.6: Distribution of kidnapping of children aged 0–17 by province, 2022/23

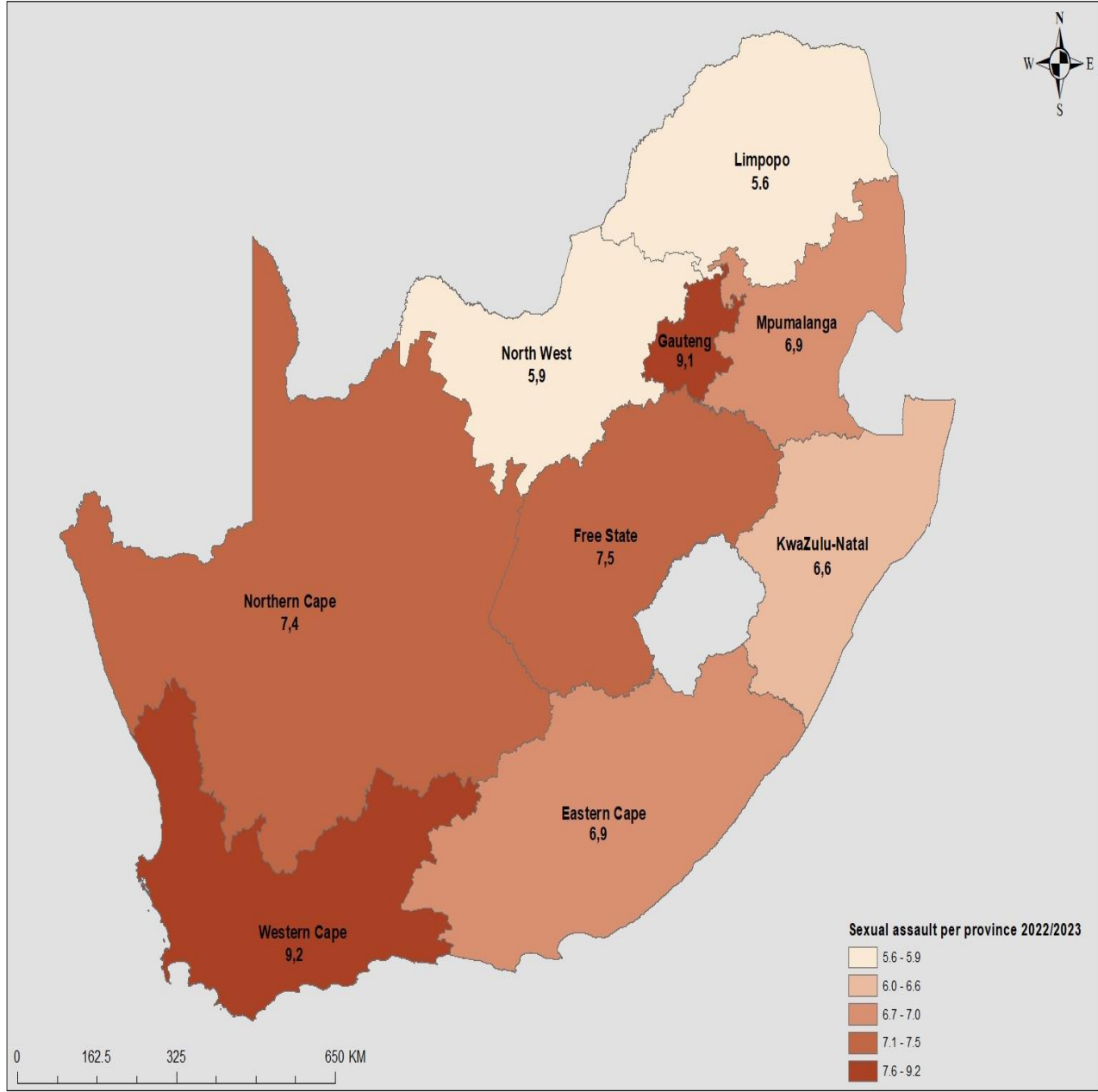


Map A.7: Distribution of murder of children aged 0–17 by province, 2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

Map A.8: Distribution of Sexual assault of children aged 0–17 by province, 2022/23



Source: SAPS 2010/11–2022/23

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