stats sa

Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

District Population Estimates - Eastern Cape Report

MYPE 2025 series

Embargoed until:
29th January 2026
13:00

Statistics South Africa

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

Report No. 03-02-47

Contents

List of tables

List of figures

Acronyms and abbreviations

ASFR	Age-Specific Fertility Rate
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy
BUF	Buffalo City
CBR	Crude birth rate
CDR	Crude death rate
DBE	Department of Basic Education
DHA	Department of Home Affairs
DHIS	District Health Information System
EA	Enumeration Area
EC	Eastern Cape
IEC	Independent Electoral Commission
IMF	International Monetary Fund
MACOD	Mortality and causes of death
MDB	Municipal Demarcation Board
MYPE	Mid-year population estimates
NDoH	National Department of Health
NMA	Nelson Mandela Bay
NPR	National Population Register
SDDS	Special Data Dissemination Standards
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa
TFR	Total fertility rate
VRS	Vital Registration System

Definition of concepts

Crude birth rate (CBR) – The number of live births per 1 000 population in a given year

Crude death rate (CDR) – The number of deaths per 1 000 population in a given year

Dependency ratio – A measure of the number of dependents aged 0–14 and 65 years and older, compared to the total population aged 15–64 years.

Growth rate (GR) – The exponential rate at which the population is increasing or decreasing in a given year due to natural increase and net migration, expressed as a percentage of the base population.

Rate of Natural Increase (RNI) – The rate at which the population is increasing or decreasing in a given year due to the surplus or deficit of births over deaths, expressed as a percentage of the base

Sex ratio – A measure of the number of males per 100 females in a population.

Summary

- The cohort-component methodology is used to estimate the district population.
- The estimates cover all the residents of South Africa at the 2025 mid-year point and are based on the latest available information. Estimates may change as new data becomes available. The updated estimates are accompanied by an entire series of revised estimates for the period 2002–2025. On this basis, comparisons between this model and previous series should not be made.
- For 2025, Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) estimates the mid-year population at 7 090 788 people in Eastern Cape province. The female population accounts for 53,6% (approximately 3,8 million) of the population.
- The most populous district in the province is OR Tambo district municipality (accounting for 22,9% of the population), whilst the least populated district is Sarah Baartman district municipality (7,4%).
- The highest crude birth rate (CBR) for the period 2021–2026 can be found in Alfred Nzo district municipality with 31,0 births per 1000 persons, whilst the lowest CBR is located in Nelson Mandela Bay metropolitan municipality with 16,0 births per 1000 persons
- The highest crude death rate (CDR) can be found in Chris Hani district municipality with 14,4 deaths per 1000 persons, whilst the lowest CDR is located in Alfred Nzo district municipality with 8 deaths per 1000 persons for the period 2021–2026.
- The highest proportion of the elderly (65+) can be found in Amathole district municipality, whilst the highest proportion of school-age persons can be found in Alfred Nzo district municipality.

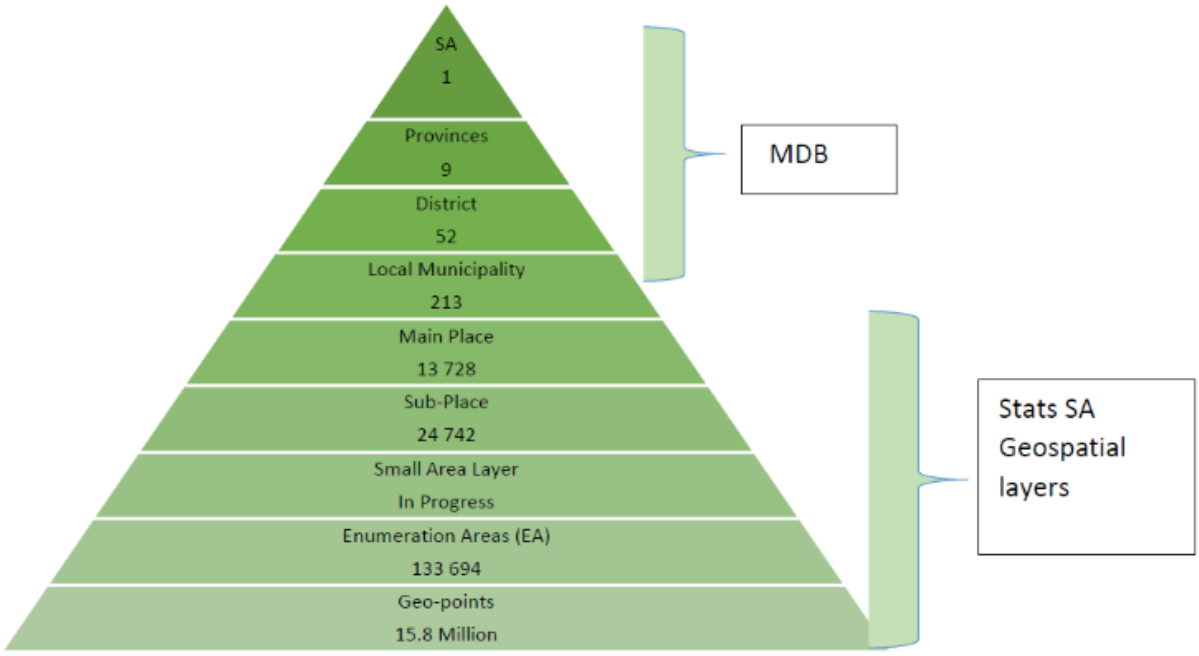
Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

1. Overview

Internationally, the mid-year population estimates (MYPE) are designed to provide population and demographic information between censuses and are done annually to compare population trends over time. Population estimates are typically based on a variety of administrative records, such as births, deaths, school enrolment, housing, etc., to determine population changes since the most recent decennial census (Bryan, 2004). In an effort to plan, budget, and cater for the needs of the population, a spectrum of government agencies, ranging from transport to education and health, require population estimates (Smith and Cody, 2013). International institutions as well as those within the private sector of the country will also require population estimates to monitor, plan, budget and allocate resources (Lomahoza, Brockerhoff and Frye, 2013). Estimates are also used as a uniform denominator for surveys as well as reporting on population-based indicators (Lymer and Brown, 2012).

In planning, it is important to understand the spatial demarcation that exists. South Africa's geographic hierarchy is such that the country is divided into nine provinces (Figure 1). Each province is divided into district municipalities or metropolitan municipalities (52 districts in total). There are currently eight metropolitan municipalities spread out across five of the provinces. Each district in turn is divided into local municipalities. Inclusive of the metro municipalities, there are 213 local municipalities in South Africa. Below local municipality the geographical hierarchy is broken down into main place, sub-place, wards and a small area layer, respectively. Given the dependency of small area estimates on the demarcation of South Africa, changes in demarcation over time will affect processes in producing not only small area estimates but also estimates at other aggregate levels (Rayer, 2015).

Figure 1 – Stats SA nested geographical hierarchy



Source: Stats SA (2023) How the count was done.

2. Methodology

2.1 District Estimation

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) publishes national, provincial, district and local municipal population estimates annually.

We distinguish between four levels of geography in our projections. These are:

(a) National population estimates and projections by using the cohort-component method, enabled by the SPECTRUM software.

(b) Provincial projection by applying a UN sub-national method of cohort-component projections (United Nations, 1992).

(c) District projection by applying a UN sub-national method of cohort-component projections (United Nations, 1992).

(d) Local Municipal Population projection by applying a geographical ratio method.

The detailed methodology at national and provincial levels can be found in the MYPE report published by Stats SA (https://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=1854&PPN=P0302). Stats SA develops district estimates and projections that are updated annually. It is therefore important to note that population and other demographic data in each release form a new set of time series. **Users should therefore compare the time series data in each statistical release and not data across statistical releases. This publication refers to the MYPE 2025 series.**

When developing the district population estimates and projections, Stats SA uses a cohort-component method. In the projection with base-year 2001 (census based on 2021 boundaries), fertility, mortality and both internal as well as international migration for the projection period are required. The base from which a population projection is done is very important, as it has a big effect on the outcome of a projection. Census information regarding the population structure over time was used as an input in determining the base.

Census generally provides fairly accurate data at fine geographical detail; however, it is rather costly and not frequently updated (conducted decennially in SA). Statistics South Africa conducts a Community Survey in order to supply information at lower levels of geography between censuses, the latest being the CS 2016. However, the Community Survey 2016 is also a sample survey that was weighted and thereafter calibrated using the mid-year population estimates (2015 series), and thus, we are unable to use the survey as an independent point. Many countries, including South Africa, are opting for the utilisation of estimation techniques using various data sources to produce estimates at lower levels over a series of time (Smith and Morrison, 2005). The projections are unique for each year due to the assumptions made and the data inputs thereof, i.e. fertility, mortality and migration patterns.

2.2 District Municipality Estimation

For district projections, data on fertility, mortality and migration are prepared over 5-year periods, i.e. 2001–2006, 2006–2011, 2011–2016, 2016–2021, 2021–2026, etc. A cohort-component method is used to develop the projection for each 5-year period. There are several principles that must be considered when implementing the cohort-component method. To preserve the integrity of the age cohorts as they progress through time, it is helpful to follow basic principles: i.e. the number of years in the projection should be equal to the number of years in the age groups. Also, projections by sex are essential in that the projection for females in determining the projection of births is done separately.

2.3 Age-sex Structures of the Base Population

The base age/sex structures of the district municipalities were determined through an iterative process, using the following datasets:

- The projected 2001 provincial populations by sex and five-year age groups (2021 boundaries); and
- The district municipalities and metro populations for Census 2001 by age and sex (2021 boundaries).

The 2025 MYPE series incorporates the 2022 Census district and metro populations' age and sex structure, bearing in mind also the administrative data available.

2.4 Migration Trends Between District Municipalities

When projections for all the regions of a country are desired, and the appropriate data are available, a multi-regional approach should be considered, as this is the only way to guarantee that the total migration flows between regions will sum to zero, or to the assumed level of international migration (United Nations, 1992).

Developed by Willekens and Rogers (1978), multi-regional methods require the estimation of separate age- and sex-specific migration rates between every region of the country and every other region, and such detailed data are rarely available. For example, in South Africa, 2448 (9x8x17x2) migration streams are derived if the multi-regional model is applied in calculating migration streams by age group (17 in total) and sex for each province. This becomes even higher (90 168) and more complex at a district level where there are 52 districts and metropolitan municipalities.

The census is the primary source of collecting migration stream data. Migration rates from Censuses 2011 and 2022 are applied to the different projection periods with modifications where inconsistencies are found. Whilst initiatives by the Department of Home Affairs are underway to improve availability of information of movement across borders, census data will continue to remain the primary source of international and internal migration data in the country. Due to the wide-ranging number of streams for each district, migration patterns at district level are not discussed in this report. Narratives on the provincial migration streams can be found in the MYPE 2025 series report (https://www.statssa.gov.za). Migration at district is based on census data and updated using the residual method based on current data on age/ sex structure to determine migration estimates.

2.5 Fertility Estimation of District Municipalities

The following steps were used to obtain a set of age-specific fertility rates (ASFRs) for each district municipality and each metro to be used in these cohort-component projections:

(a) Analyses of the recorded live births datasets (1998 to 2023) were done to adjust for late registration and completeness. The number of births for women in the age groups 15 to 49 was obtained. This was done for each district municipality and metro (Stats SA, 2024).

(b) The total number of births generated from the district municipalities was then compared with the total number of births in each respective province. Proportional adjustments were made if necessary, and TFRs were calculated by applying the births to the specific district municipality or metro population's 15–49 female population.

(c) Using these adjusted TFRs and ASFRs, as well as survival ratios, the number of births and the 0–4 projected population was obtained. The projected 0–4 year and 5–9 year populations were checked for consistency. Provision was made to adjust the TFR if inconsistencies were found.

(d) The process above was repeated if inconsistencies were found in (c).

2.6 Mortality Estimation of District Councils and Metros

The following steps were used to obtain a set of survival ratios for each district municipality and metro, and were used in the cohort-component projections:

(a) Only data up to 2021 (1997–2021) were available at this level to do analyses of the Mortality and Causes of Death (MACOD) datasets to adjust for late registration and completeness (Stats SA, 2025).

(b) The numbers of male and female deaths calculated for each district municipality were then compared with the total number of male and female deaths in each respective province. Proportional adjustments were made if necessary.

(c) Age-specific mortality rates (m(x)) were then calculated.

(d) Using the m(x) rates, separate Life Tables for males and females and for each district municipality were calculated.

(e) Life expectancies at birth, as well as survival ratios by age, can be read from the obtained life tables.

2.7 Data Confrontation at the District Level

The age-sex pattern of mortality is informed by the MACOD data from the Vital Registration System (VRS), District Health Information System (DHIS), as well as that of censuses. The number of registered deaths processed by Stats SA and those recorded on the National Population Register (NPR) is maintained by the DHA for the period 1997–2021 (Stats SA, 2025). In general, estimated deaths reported in the MYPE are always expected to be higher than those in the VRS, as MYPE reports on all deaths occurring and not just those registered. Deaths data from the DHA are collected regardless of citizenship status and birth registration, while the NPR maintained by DHA only includes deaths of South African citizens and permanent residents whose particulars were already on the NPR. Other sources of data used to determine the plausibility of the MYPE age and sex structure include the Independent Electoral Commission Data (IEC) and Department of Basic Education data (DBE).

In October 2010, Stats SA for the first time made available estimates on the District Council level on its website. This was seen as a Beta version and has since been published annually for over a decade. Stats SA has engaged with stakeholders on these projections. The data will be updated when necessary and on the basis of empirical data.

3. Provincial Demographics

This section of the report looks at MYPE indicators for the year 2025 within Eastern Cape (EC) districts and metropolitan municipalities. According to the MYPE, EC is the fourth most populous province in the country with an estimated population of 7 090 788 persons, with six districts and two metros. EC is situated in the south-centre of SA and constitutes 168 966 2km². The Eastern Cape is a province in South Africa known for its diverse landscapes, bordering the Indian Ocean. The neighbouring provinces are Western Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal and Northern Cape. EC has a strong Xhosa cultural heritage. Primary sectors of the EC province include agriculture, manufacturing (major focus on vehicle assembly) and tourism. The capital city of Bisho is located in Buffalo City Municipality.

3.1. Population in Eastern Cape District Municipalities

Figure 2 below depicts the distribution of the population in the EC by district and metropolitan municipalities. The O.R. Tambo district municipality has the largest population in the province with approximately 1,6 million (22,9%) people, followed by Nelson Mandela Bay metro with 1,3 million (17,8%). The Joe Gqabi district is the least populous district municipality in EC, contributing only 5,0% to Eastern Cape province. In terms of national share, EC contributes 11,2% to the country's population. For the total populations for each district, refer to Appendix F.

Figure 2 – Distribution of population in Eastern Cape by district/metropolitan municipality, 2025

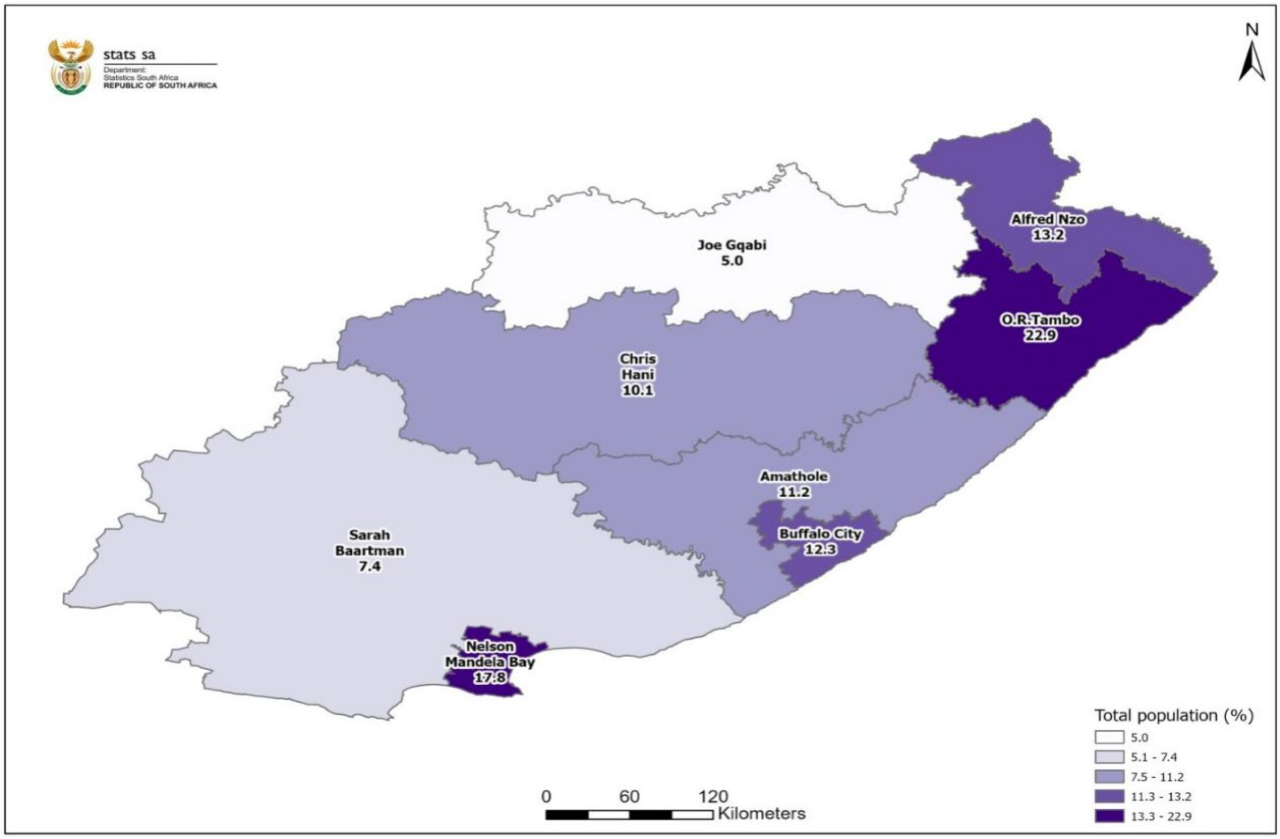


Table 1 presents the population, age structure, as well as other indicators. These indicators include the district share of the national and provincial population, as well as sex ratios and annual growth rates of the metros and district municipalities in EC. The O.R. Tambo district contributes the highest proportion (2,6%) in the EC to the national share, while the Nelson Mandela Bay district contributed 2,0%. These shares are far more than the contributions of the other districts within EC, which range between 0,6% and 1,5% in the province. A third of the population of the EC resides in the two metropolitan districts of Buffalo City and Nelson Mandela Bay. The sex ratios are indicative of the population structure by sex and are influenced significantly by migration as

well as mortality. Notably, all districts in this province are below 100, indicating higher proportions of females. This may be a result of the out-migration of males to other provinces. Sarah Baartman district municipality has the highest sex ratio, i.e. 92 males per 100 females. The Alfred Nzo District Municipality has the lowest sex ratio (74 males per 100 females) of all the districts in EC. It is important to note that sex ratios may differ by age (see Appendix B). The percentage of males and females merely reiterates distributions identified by the sex ratios.

Table 1 – District/metropolitan municipality indicators in Eastern Cape, 2025

District municipality	Population		Age structure			Percentage to EC	Percentage to national	Sex ratio	Annual growth rate % (2024-2025)
	Male %	Female%	0-14	15-64	65+				
EC - Sarah Baartman District Municipality (DC10)	47,8	52,2	26,0	65,5	8,6	7,4	0,8	91,7	0,8
EC - Amathole District Municipality (DC12)	47,0	53,0	27,9	59,2	12,9	11,2	1,3	88,8	-0,9
EC - Chris Hani District Municipality (DC13)	45,9	54,1	30,0	58,5	11,6	10,1	1,1	84,8	-1,3
EC - Joe Gqabi District Municipality (DC14)	46,6	53,4	31,6	58,4	10,0	5,0	0,6	87,3	-0,1
EC - O.R. Tambo District Municipality (DC15)	47,0	53,0	33,6	59,7	6,7	22,9	2,6	88,6	0,9
EC - Alfred Nzo District Municipality (DC44)	42,5	57,5	41,7	50,9	7,4	13,2	1,5	74,0	0,8
EC - Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BUF)	47,4	52,6	26,0	65,0	8,9	12,3	1,4	90,1	0,3
EC - Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality (NMA)	47,3	52,7	23,3	65,0	11,7	17,8	2,0	89,9	-0,02

The demographic pillars of fertility, mortality and migration cumulatively impact the population growth seen at a district level. From Table 1, it is clear that the districts of O.R. Tambo, Sarah Baartman, Alfred Nzo and Buffalo City experienced a positive growth between 2024 and 2025 (with annual growth rates of 0,9%, 0,8%, 0,8% and 0,3%, respectively). All other district municipalities within EC experienced negative growth during that same period (all ranging between -1,3% and -0,01%). The population structure of Alfred Nzo district indicates a relatively larger percentage of children aged 0–14 years (41,7%) compared to other districts in the province. Sarah Baartman district municipality had the highest percentage of adults aged 15–64 years (65,5%), followed by both Nelson Mandela Bay and Buffalo City metros with 65,0% each. Amathole district municipality had the highest percentage of the elderly aged 65 and over when compared to other districts, with 11,6%, followed by Chris Hani and Nelson Mandela Bay (11,6% and 11,7%).

3.2. District Population Over Time

Figure 3 shows the percentage distribution of the working-age population (15–64 years) within each district/metropolitan municipality, while Table 2 presents the same distribution for the six districts and the two metros in the Eastern Cape, disaggregated by sex (male and female). Sarah Baartman District Municipality has the highest proportion of working-age persons (65,5%), with a relatively balanced distribution between males (66,7%) and females (64,3%). Alfred Nzo District Municipality records the lowest proportion of the working-age population at 50,9%, with females making up a higher share (54,5%) compared to males (45,9%). Similarly, in the O.R. Tambo District Municipality, the female working-age population is also marginally higher than that of males (60,0% versus 59,4%). Both Nelson Mandela Bay and Buffalo City metros have relatively high working-age population shares, each at 65,0%. For both these metros, females constitute approximately 66,0%, while males make up about 65,0%. This reflects the economic and urban pull of the metro area. In most districts, males have a slightly higher proportion of the working-age population than females, though the gap is narrow.

Figure 3 – Percentage distribution of working-age population (15–64) within each district/metropolitan municipality, 2025

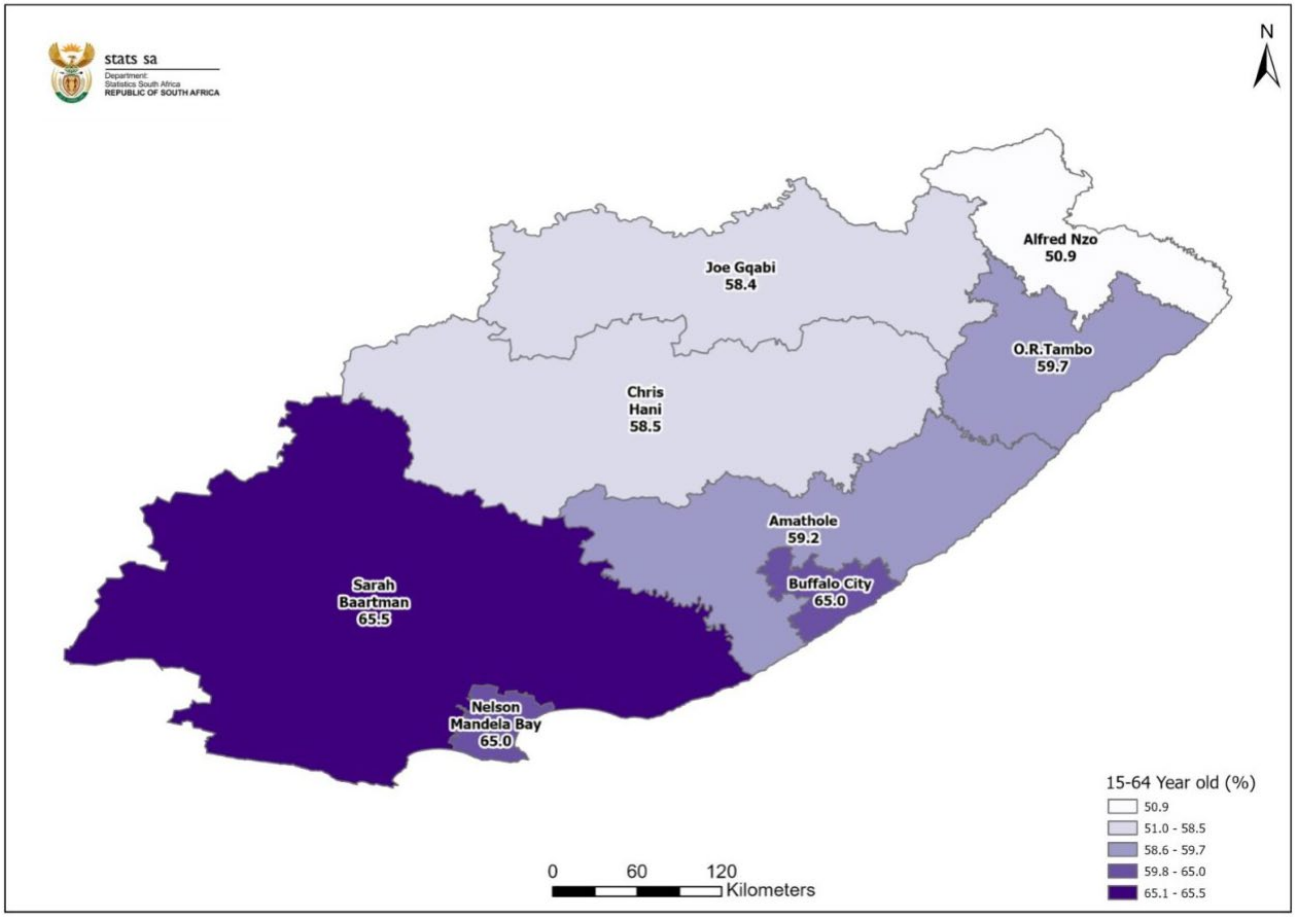


Table 2 – Percentage distribution of working-age population (15–64) within each district/metropolitan municipality, 2025

District Municipality	Male (%)	Female (%)
EC - Sarah Baartman District Municipality (DC10)	66,7	64,3
EC - Amathole District Municipality (DC12)	60,5	58,1
EC - Chris Hani District Municipality (DC13)	59,7	57,5
EC - Joe Gqabi District Municipality (DC14)	58,9	57,9
EC - O.R. Tambo District Municipality (DC15)	59,4	60,0
EC - Alfred Nzo District Municipality (DC44)	45,9	54,5
EC - Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BUF)	65,5	64,6
EC - Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality (NMA)	65,8	64,2

Figure 4 – Total dependency ratio by district/metropolitan municipality, 2025

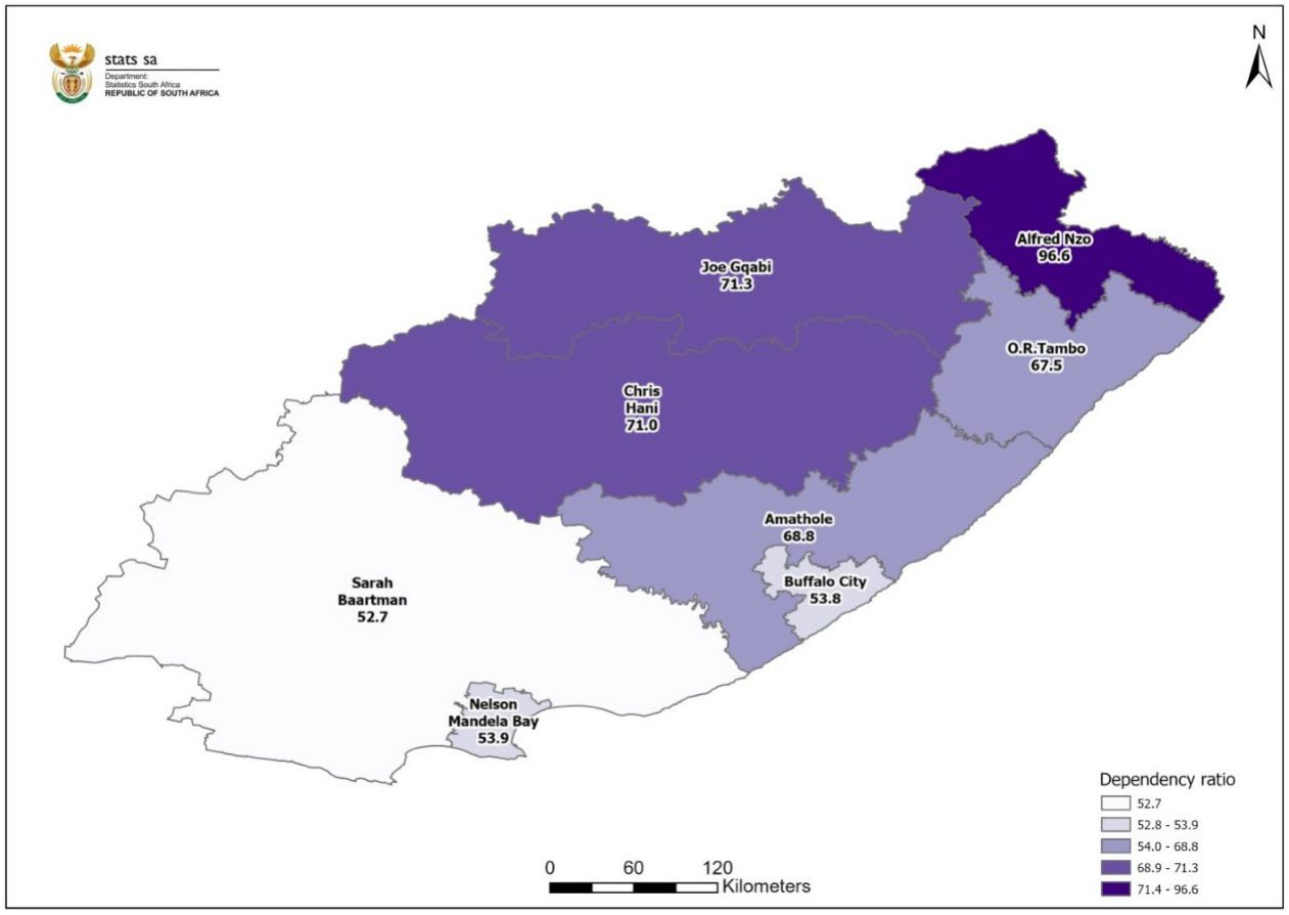


Figure 4 shows the total dependency ratio by district/metropolitan municipality. The total dependency ratio is the proportion of children and the elderly relative to working-age persons. It should be noted that there are some elderly people who are engaged in work beyond age 64; similarly, a significant proportion of those in the working age of 15–64 are, in fact, unemployed and dependent on those who are working. The dependency ratio is a crude reflection of the burden defined by age. A moderate dependency ratio is generally between 50% and 65%, which is common in many developed countries and signifies a balance between the number of working-age people and the number of dependents (under 15 and over 64). The EC dependency ratio can be considered moderate (almost 66 per 100 working-age persons); however, the EC has the highest dependency ratio when compared to other provinces in SA. Internally, the dependency ratio is highest in Alfred Nzo District Municipality, with 96,6 children and elderly per 100 working-age adults (15–64 years), indicating a significant burden on the workforce. It is followed by Chris Hani (71,3) and Amathole (71,0) districts, which also exhibit high dependency levels. In contrast, Nelson Mandela Bay and Buffalo City Metros have the lowest dependency ratios, at approximately 54 dependents per 100 working-age adults, reflecting a more balanced population structure.

Figure 5 – Percentage distribution of school-age population (4–17 years) within each district/metropolitan municipality, 2025

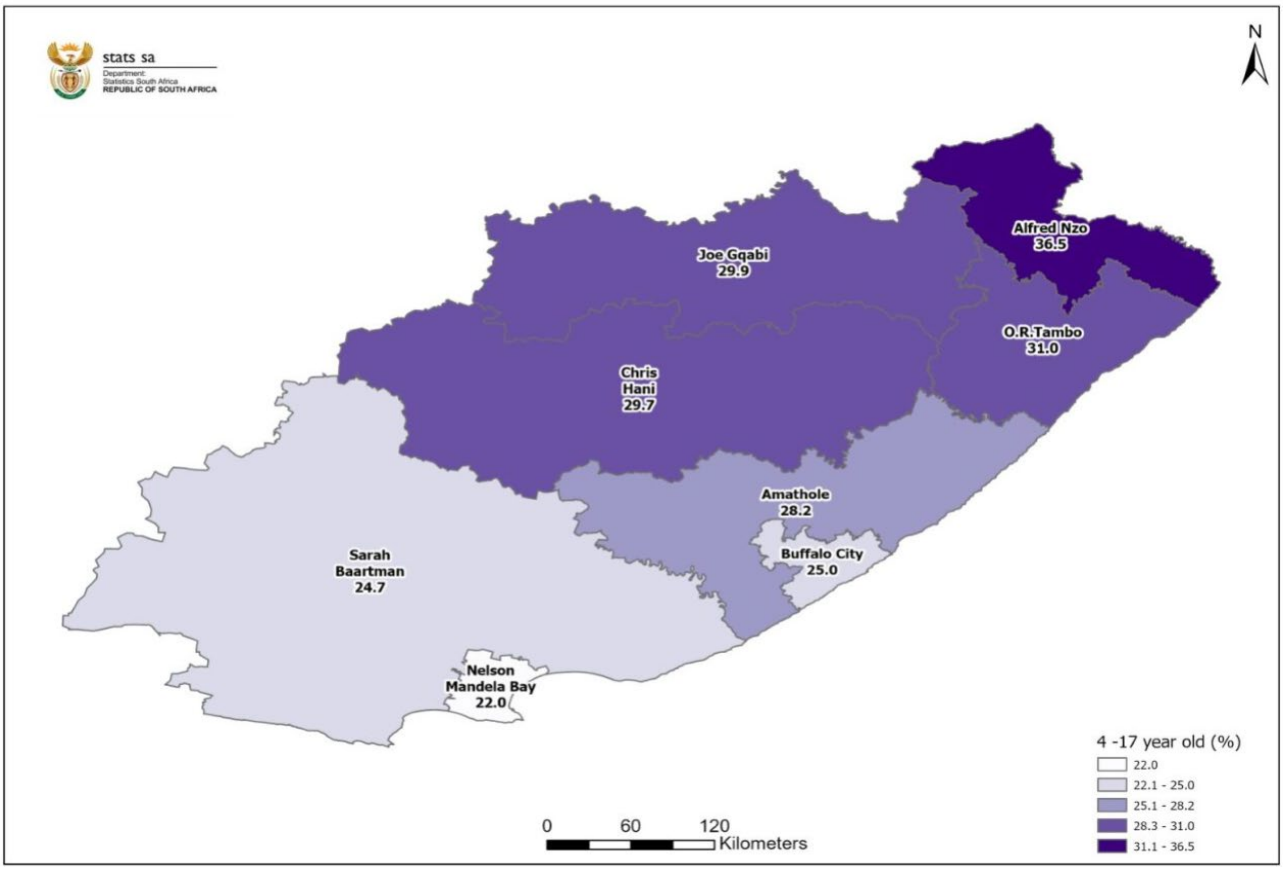


Figure 5 above depicts the percentage of the school-age population by district in EC for the year 2025. Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan had the lowest percentage of school-age population (22,0%) while Alfred Nzo district had the highest percentage of school-age population (36,5%) compared to all other districts in EC. The other six districts/metros had school-age populations ranging between 24,7% and 31,0%. These variations in age structure suggest differing demands for educational infrastructure and resources across the province, with districts like Alfred Nzo likely facing greater pressure on schools, teachers, and related services compared to districts/metros such as Nelson Mandela Bay. Over the years, the school-age populations across all districts have remained fairly constant (Appendix C).

Figure 6 – Percentage distribution of voting-age population (18 years and older) within each district/metropolitan municipality, 2025

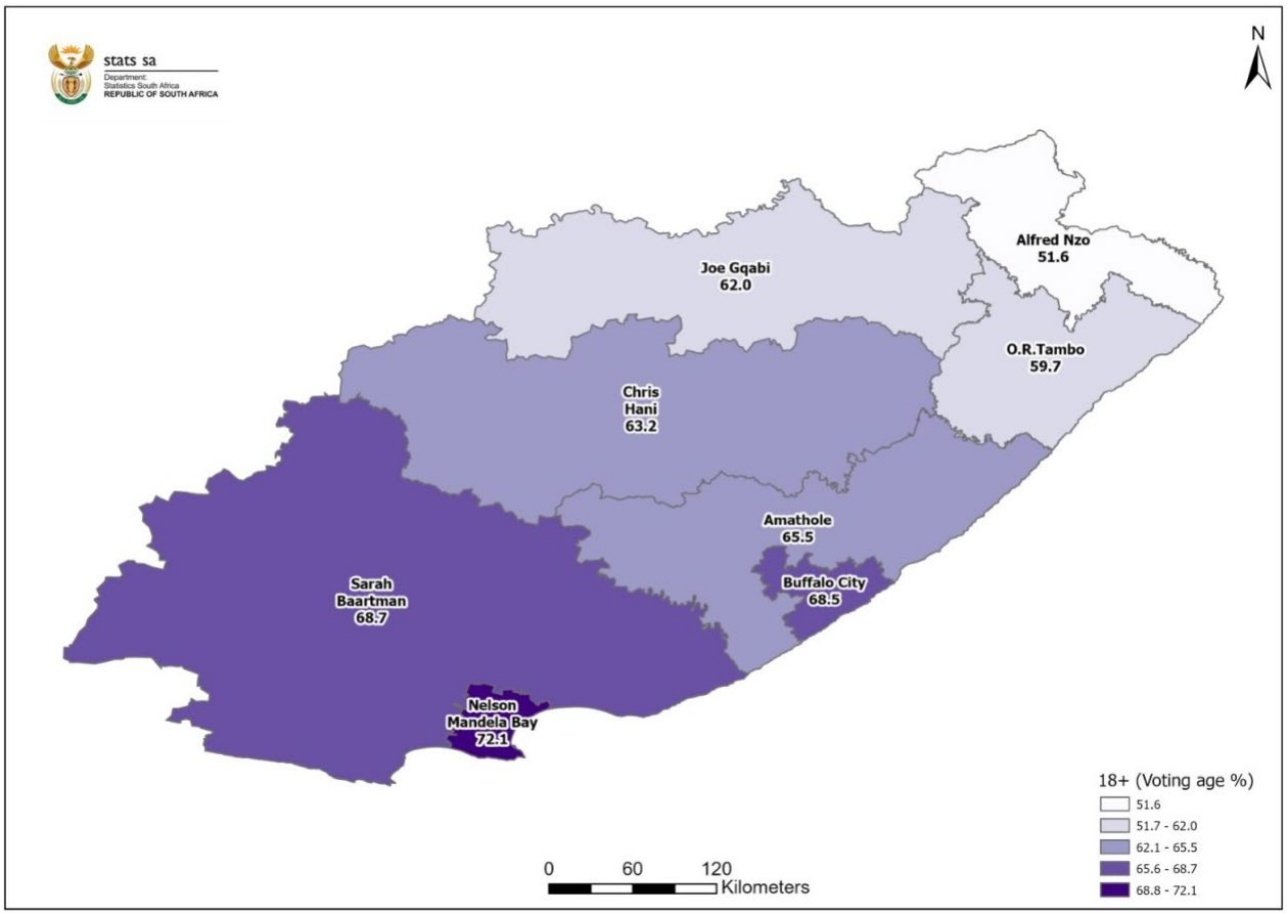


Figure 6 shows the percentage of voting-age population per district/metro in the province. According to the MYPE, the two metros and the Sarah Baartman district municipality have the highest proportion of persons eligible to vote compared to all other districts. In contrast to the high proportion of those of school-going age, Alfred Nzo district had the lowest proportion of voting-age persons (51,6%), whilst Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan had the highest proportion of the voting-age population (72,1%). Data over time (2011–2025) (see Appendix C), indicates that while some districts have seen a fairly constant voting-age population over the past decade, a few have also seen a marginal increase. The O.R. Tambo district reflects the biggest increase in its voting population over the past decade. Note, the voting-age population and school-going age merely refer to persons who qualify to attend school or vote due to age (regardless of citizenship).

3.3. Population Pyramids

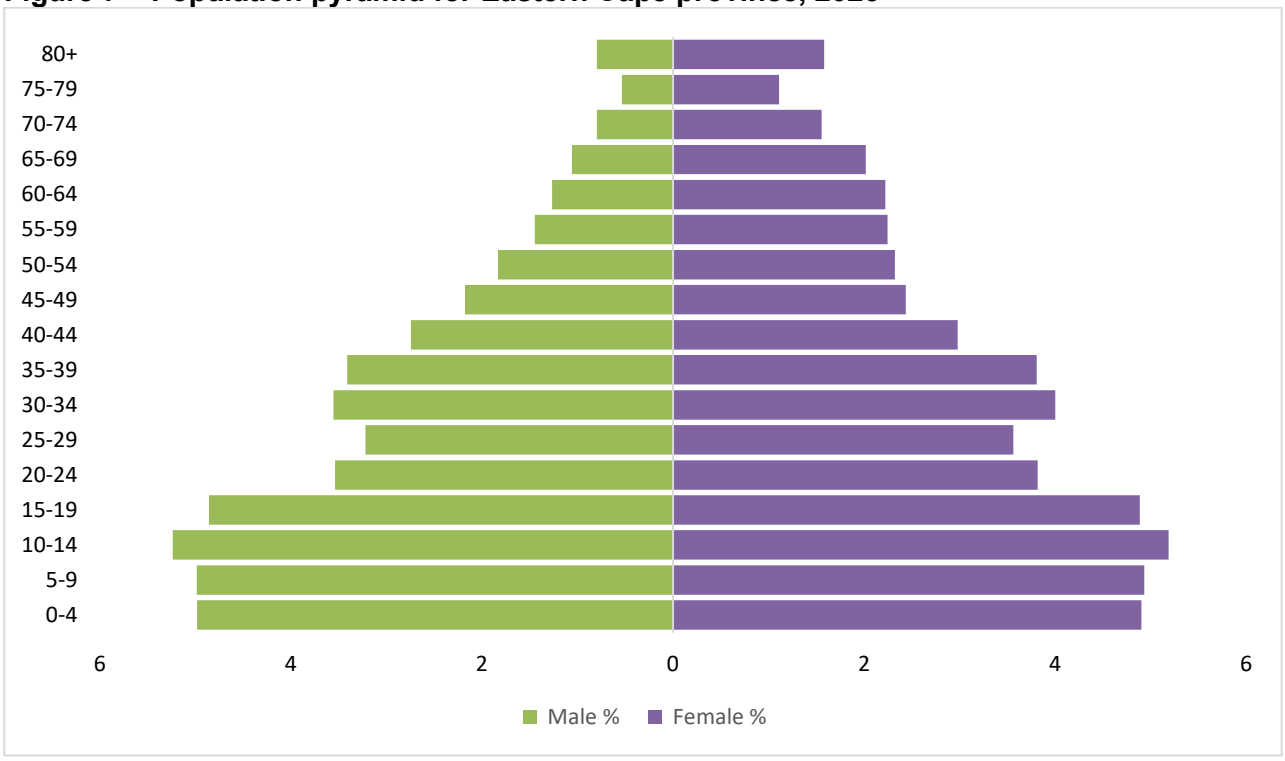
The age and sex structure of the population defines the ultimate shape of the pyramid. As a result, this shape communicates information about that specific population, not only currently, but is also reflective of past trends in fertility, mortality and migration. For example, adults now aged 40–45 were 25–29 during the peak of the AIDS deaths occurring in 2006. The current size and composition of the population will reflect that experience. A broad-based pyramid indicates that young people make up a large proportion of the population, while a narrow top indicates that older people make up a relatively small proportion of the population. The pyramid may also tell us if at older ages women are more in the population. A bulge or indentation in the pyramid may also indicate changes in the population as a result of fertility, mortality and/or changes resulting from migration (Siegel & Swanson, 2004).

The population pyramid (as seen in Figure 7) graphically illustrates the age structure of the Eastern Cape province (EC) in 2025. The structure reflects a youthful population, typical of regions with higher birth rates and lower proportions of elderly residents. It suggests ongoing population growth and a potential future increase in the working-age population if fertility declines.

The base of the pyramid in EC shows that there has been a decline in births over the last 10 years or so. The indentation in the 20–29 age group may indicate out-migration from the province as young people go out seeking employment and better economic opportunities in other provinces. The pyramid narrows towards the top, indicating a decline in population, indicative of the increase in deaths with age, highest amongst older people. The disproportionality of females over males is quite evident from the age of 40 years and above. This may indicate a combination of out-migration of males as well as higher male mortality over time. However, the pyramid also indicates quite a significant population that still remains at the older ages. This, therefore, indicates population ageing within the province. Consequently, a higher proportion of females is found at the very old ages of the population pyramid compared to males. This is common across all provinces in SA.

The population pyramids for all districts can be found in Appendix A. The population pyramids for the two metros (BUF and NMA) show an almost identical age structure. This may be as a result of a decline in birth rates over the last 10 years in the age groups between 0–9 years. The structures of the metros show an indentation in ages 25–29, which may indicate out-migration. There is also an indication of a bulge in the age groups between 30–44 years, as well as a steady decline across older ages. Compared to other districts' pyramids, the 80+ population is quite small, and this may be a result of older people migrating back home to more rural districts after going to metros for employment (Appendix A).

Figure 7 – Population pyramid for Eastern Cape province, 2025



3.4. Fertility and Mortality

Crude birth and death rates are basic measures of both fertility and mortality. Both of these measures are referred to as crude, as they do not reflect the nuances of the fertility and mortality by sex and age, but rather as measures reflective of an entire population. These indicators can loosely be defined as total births/deaths per 1000 population. These measures provide trends in mortality and fertility over time. The district estimates are based on a 5-year cohort-component method and as such, input data is required in 5-year periods.

Figure 8 – Crude birth rate (CBR), 2021–2026 period

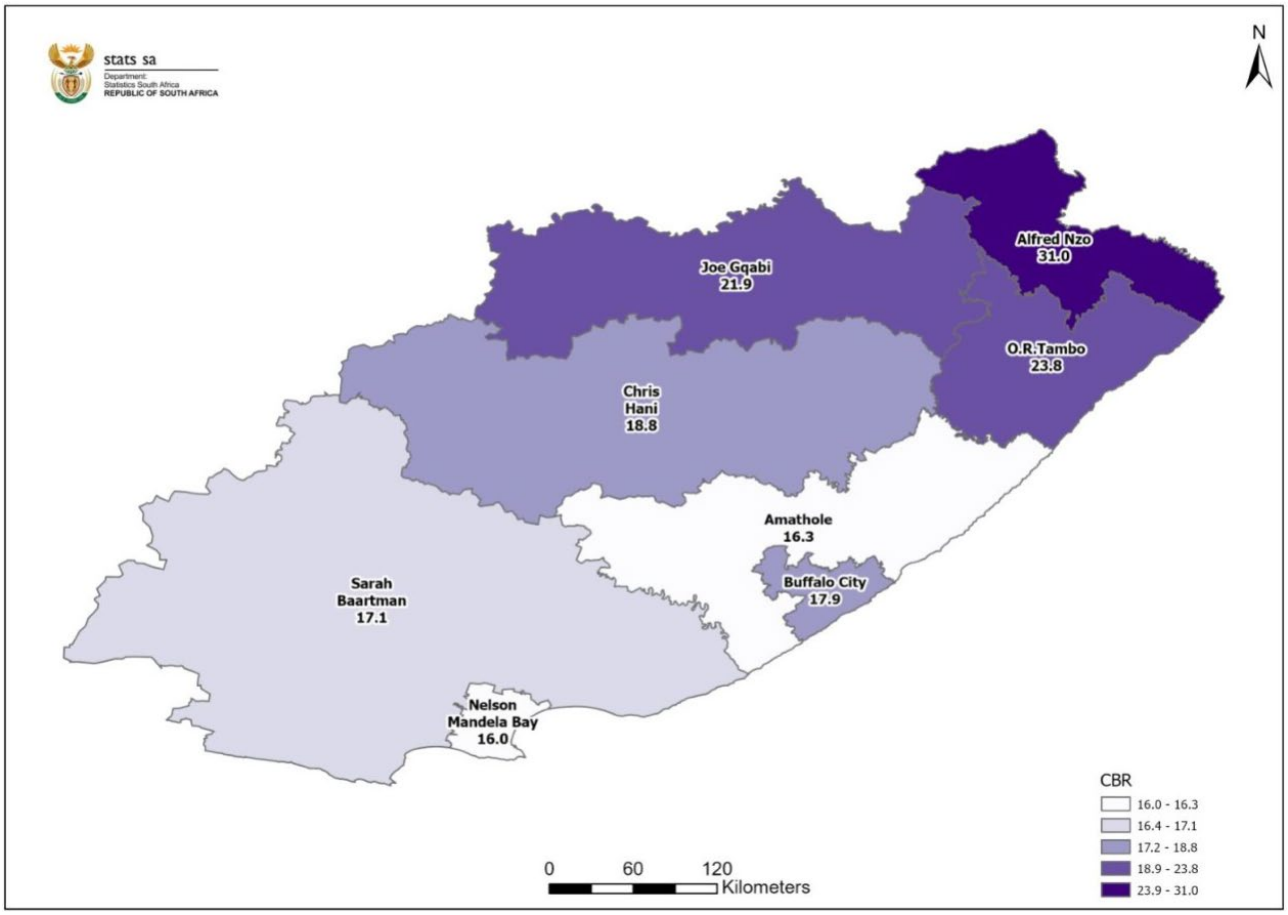


Figure 8 above shows the crude birth rate (CBR) by district/metropolitan municipalities in EC for the period 2021–2026. Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan recorded the lowest crude birth rate (CBR) at 16,0 births per 1 000 people, followed closely by Amathole at 16,3 births per 1 000 people. In contrast, Alfred Nzo and O.R. Tambo districts reported the highest CBRs, at 31,0 and 23,8 births per 1 000 people, respectively. The remaining districts had CBRs ranging between 17,1 and 23,8 births per 1 000 people.

As a largely rural province, the Eastern Cape exhibits higher birth rates in its districts compared to metropolitan areas. Lower birth rates in metros may reflect better access to reproductive health services, higher levels of female education, and greater employment opportunities and agency for women relative to rural districts. Whilst CBR in Buffalo city (17,9) tends to be marginally higher than Sarah Baartman (17,1), this may be related to the higher population size of Sarah Baartman district relative to the births occurring in the district.

Figure 9 – Crude death rate (CDR), 2021–2026 period

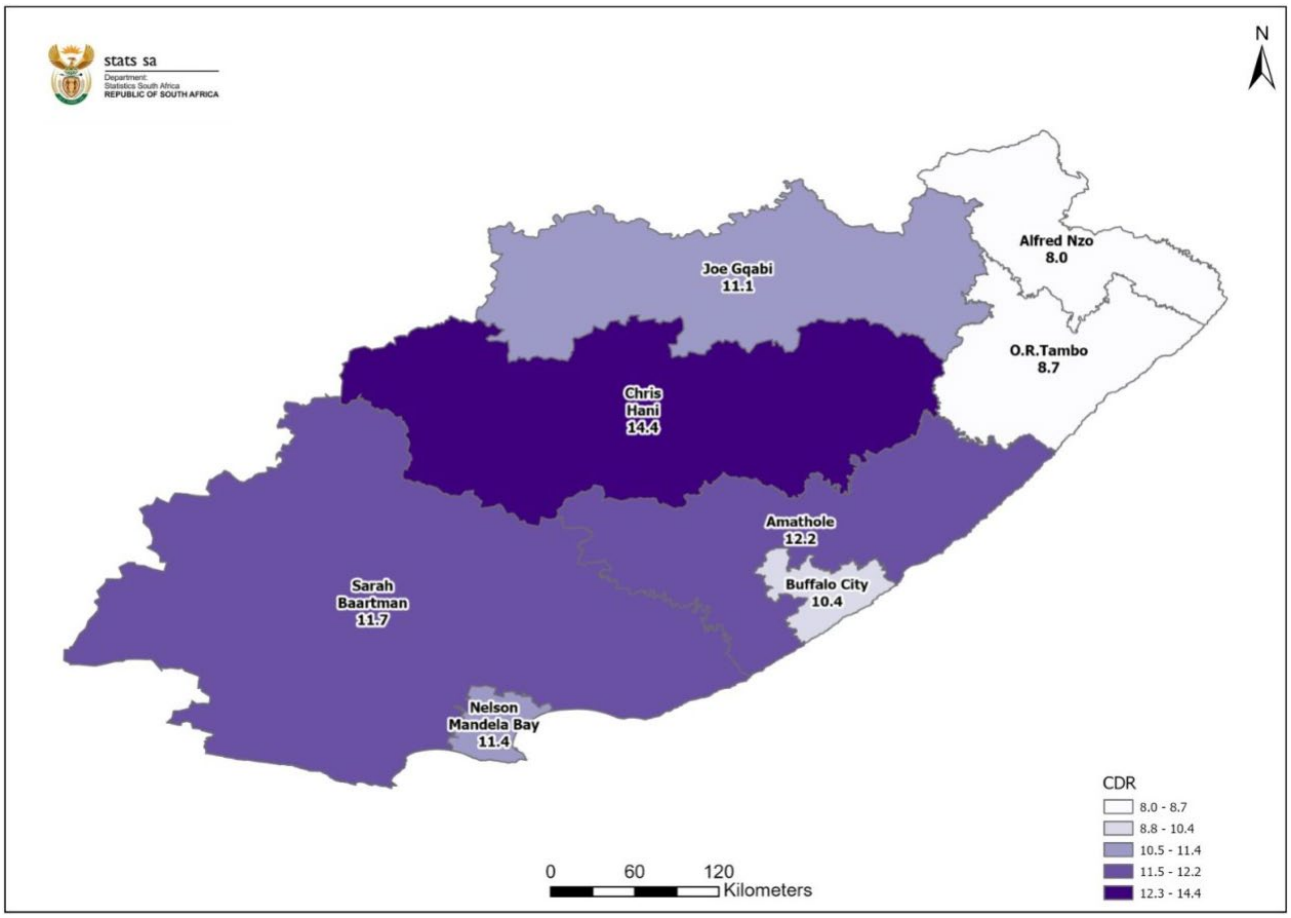
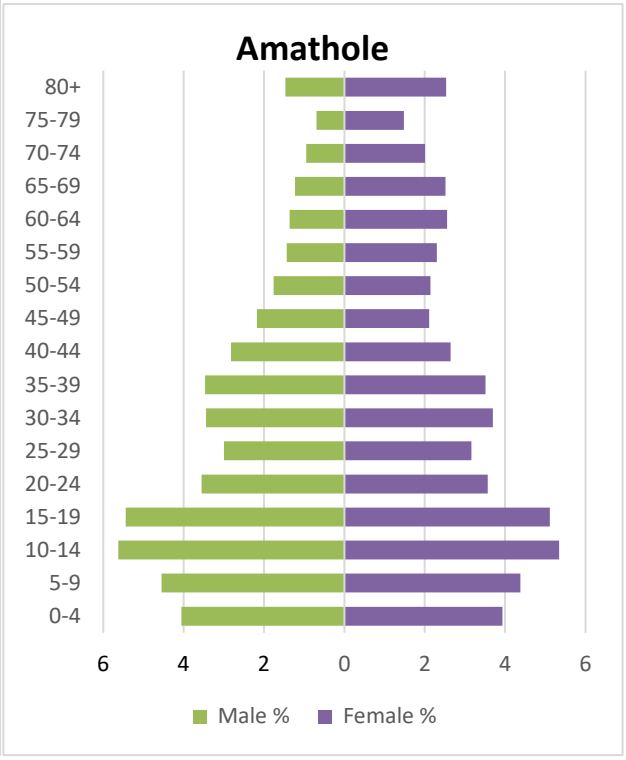


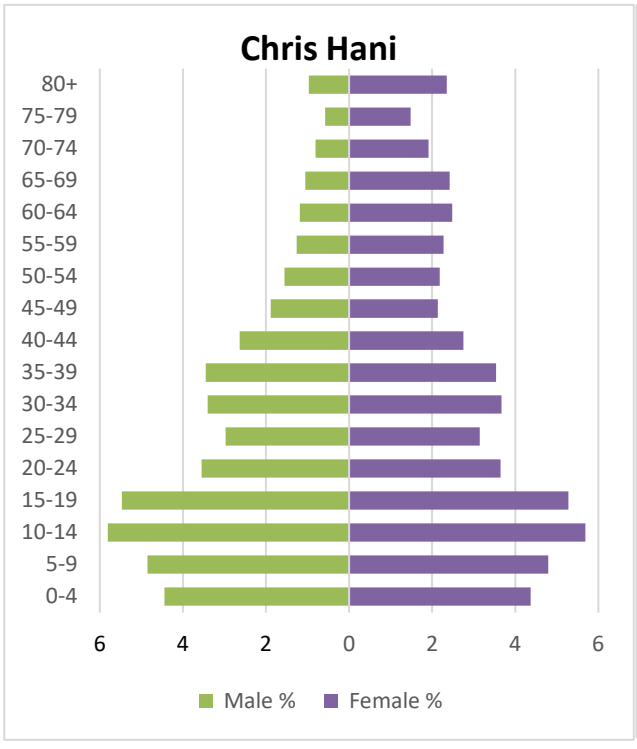
Figure 9 above displays CDR for districts in the Eastern Cape for the period 2021–2026. Alfred Nzo and O.R. Tambo districts show the lowest CDR compared to other districts (8,0 and 8,7 per 1 000 people, respectively). Chris Hani and Amathole districts showed the highest CDR of all districts with 14,4 and 12,2 deaths per 1 000 people for the period 2021–2026. It is interesting to note that the districts with the highest CBR are also the districts with the lowest CDR.

Appendix D indicates the CDR over time, 2011–2026. Much of the health gains in SA were made following the access and utilisation of HIV and AIDS treatment programs since 2005. By 2011, access to antiretroviral therapy (ART) was universal in SA. In contrast, the height of the COVID-19 pandemic (pre-vaccine) between March 2020 and July 2021 resulted in a significant number of deaths in SA. Regrettably, this has seen some districts having higher CDR levels in the period 2016–2021, particularly districts with a higher proportion of the elderly who were more susceptible to death after COVID-19 infections.

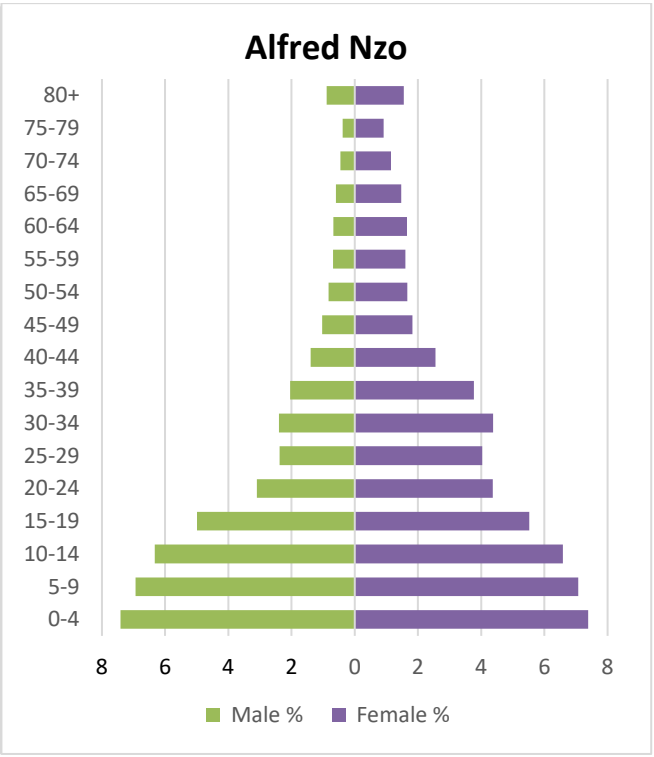
Appendices

Appendix A – Population pyramids per district/metropolitan municipality, 2025

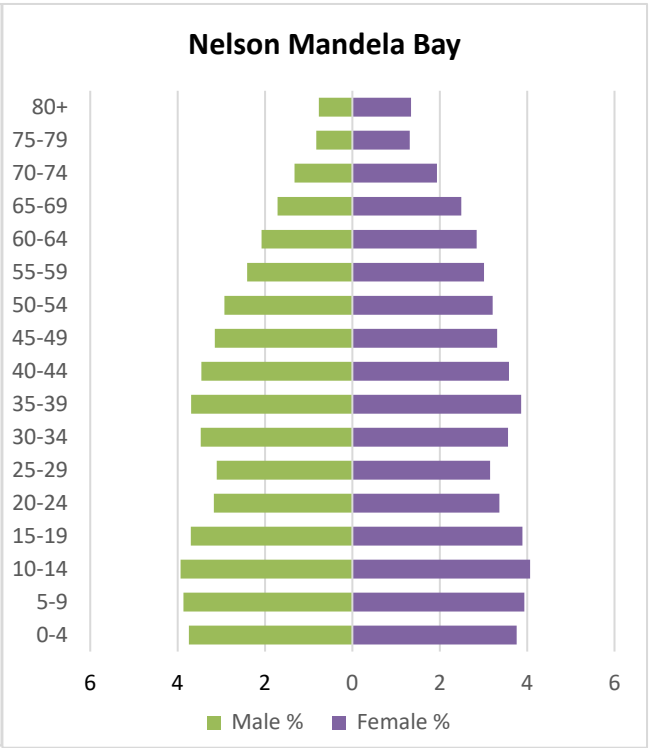





O.R.Tambo
80+
75-79
70-74
65-69
60-64
55-59
50-54
45-49
40-44
35-39
30-34
25-29
20-24
15-19
10-14
5-9
0-4
6 4 2 0 2 4 6
Male %
Female %


Alfred Nzo
80+
75-79
70-74
65-69
60-64
55-59
50-54
45-49
40-44
35-39
30-34
25-29
20-24
15-19
10-14
5-9
0-4
8 6 4 2 0 2 4 6 8
Male %
Female %


Buffalo City
80+
75-79
70-74
65-69
60-64
55-59
50-54
45-49
40-44
35-39
30-34
25-29
20-24
15-19
10-14
5-9
0-4
6 4 2 0 2 4 6
Male %
Female %


Nelson Mandela Bay
80+
75-79
70-74
65-69
60-64
55-59
50-54
45-49
40-44
35-39
30-34
25-29
20-24
15-19
10-14
5-9
0-4
6 4 2 0 2 4 6
Male %
Female %

Appendix B – Sex ratios by age groups and district/metropolitan municipality, 2025

	EC - Sarah Baartman District Municipality (DC10)	EC - Amathole District Municipality (DC12)	EC - Chris Hani District Municipality (DC13)	EC - Joe Gqabi District Municipality (DC14)	EC - O.R. Tambo District Municipality (DC15)	EC - Alfred Nzo District Municipality (DC44)	EC - Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BUF)	EC - Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality (NMA)
0-4	102	103	102	102	103	100	102	100
5-9	103	104	101	102	103	98	101	98
10-14	103	105	102	103	103	96	101	97
15-19	102	106	104	104	101	90	98	95
20-24	100	100	97	97	96	71	96	94
25-29	99	95	95	88	96	59	95	98
30-34	103	93	93	85	95	55	92	97
35-39	104	99	98	89	91	54	94	95
40-44	102	107	96	99	89	55	99	96
45-49	98	103	88	95	82	57	97	95
50-54	88	82	71	80	64	50	90	91
55-59	72	62	55	64	49	43	75	80
60-64	63	54	48	53	43	41	67	73
65-69	57	49	44	47	40	40	62	69
70-74	51	47	42	45	39	40	61	68
70-79	42	47	39	44	38	42	63	63
80+	35	58	41	48	52	57	34	57

Appendix C – Population by selected age groups and indicators per district/metropolitan municipality over time in Eastern Cape, 2012–2025

District municipality	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Old age dependency ratio														
EC - Sarah Baartman District Municipality (DC10)	11,2	11,3	11,3	11,4	11,6	11,8	12,0	12,3	12,4	12,5	12,6	12,8	12,9	13,1
EC - Amathole District Municipality (DC12)	17,5	17,8	18,1	18,3	18,5	18,8	19,2	19,7	20,1	20,5	20,7	21,0	21,4	21,7
EC - Chris Hani District Municipality (DC13)	15,8	16,1	16,4	16,7	16,9	17,2	17,5	17,9	18,3	18,6	18,8	19,1	19,5	19,8
EC - Joe Gqabi District Municipality (DC14)	14,8	14,9	15,1	15,2	15,4	15,7	15,9	16,3	16,5	16,6	16,7	16,9	17,0	17,2
EC - O.R. Tambo District Municipality (DC15)	11,7	11,7	11,6	11,6	11,4	11,3	11,3	11,3	11,3	11,3	11,3	11,2	11,2	11,2
EC - Alfred Nzo District Municipality (DC44)	14,0	14,1	14,2	14,3	14,4	14,4	14,4	14,5	14,5	14,5	14,4	14,5	14,5	14,5
EC - Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BUF)	8,6	8,9	9,1	9,5	9,8	10,3	10,7	11,2	11,7	12,0	12,4	12,8	13,3	13,8
EC - Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality (NMA)	10,3	10,8	11,3	11,8	12,3	12,9	13,6	14,3	14,9	15,4	16,0	16,7	17,4	18,0
School-going age 4-17														
EC - Sarah Baartman District Municipality (DC10)	24,3	24,3	24,4	24,5	24,7	24,8	25,0	25,0	25,0	25,1	25,1	25,0	24,9	24,7
EC - Amathole District Municipality (DC12)	30,3	29,8	29,6	29,6	29,9	29,7	29,7	29,8	29,8	30,0	29,5	29,0	28,6	28,2
EC - Chris Hani District Municipality (DC13)	31,3	30,8	30,6	30,6	30,9	30,7	30,7	30,8	31,0	31,2	30,7	30,3	30,0	29,7
EC - Joe Gqabi District Municipality (DC14)	31,2	30,8	30,5	30,5	30,6	30,5	30,5	30,6	30,7	30,8	30,5	30,3	30,1	29,9
EC - O.R. Tambo District Municipality (DC15)	34,5	33,8	33,3	33,0	33,0	32,7	32,5	32,3	32,0	31,9	31,7	31,4	31,2	31,0
EC - Alfred Nzo District Municipality (DC44)	35,9	35,2	34,6	34,4	34,4	34,2	34,3	34,6	35,0	35,4	35,5	35,8	36,2	36,5
EC - Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BUF)	23,3	23,4	23,5	23,8	24,2	24,5	24,7	24,9	24,9	25,1	25,1	25,1	25,1	25,0
EC - Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality (NMA)	21,9	21,8	21,7	21,7	21,8	21,9	22,0	22,1	22,2	22,3	22,3	22,2	22,1	22,0
Voting-age population (18+)														
EC - Sarah Baartman District Municipality (DC10)	67,6	67,6	67,7	67,7	67,8	67,9	67,9	68,0	67,9	67,7	67,8	68,0	68,3	68,7
EC - Amathole District Municipality (DC12)	61,0	61,7	62,1	62,2	62,2	62,8	63,2	63,4	63,4	63,4	64,0	64,6	65,0	65,5
EC - Chris Hani District Municipality (DC13)	60,0	60,6	60,9	60,9	60,8	61,3	61,6	61,7	61,7	61,6	62,1	62,6	63,0	63,2
EC - Joe Gqabi District Municipality (DC14)	59,7	60,2	60,4	60,5	60,5	60,8	61,0	61,1	61,0	60,9	61,3	61,6	61,8	62,0
EC - O.R. Tambo District Municipality (DC15)	54,9	55,8	56,5	57,0	57,5	58,1	58,5	58,7	58,8	58,6	58,9	59,1	59,4	59,7
EC - Alfred Nzo District Municipality (DC44)	53,2	53,7	53,8	53,8	53,6	53,7	53,6	53,2	52,8	52,2	52,2	52,1	51,9	51,6
EC - Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BUF)	68,5	68,6	68,6	68,5	68,4	68,4	68,3	68,1	67,9	67,6	67,6	67,8	68,1	68,5
EC - Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality (NMA)	71,0	71,2	71,3	71,3	71,3	71,3	71,3	71,3	71,3	71,1	71,2	71,5	71,8	72,1

Appendix D – Crude Birth Rate and Crude Death Rate by district/metropolitan municipalities in EC, 2011–2026

District Municipality	CBR			CDR		
	2011-2016	2016-2021	2021-2026	2011-2016	2016-2021	2021-2026
EC - Sarah Baartman District Municipality (DC10)	20,5	18,7	17,1	12,9	12,2	11,7
EC - Amathole District Municipality (DC12)	21,4	17,3	16,3	11,8	12,2	12,2
EC - Chris Hani District Municipality (DC13)	23,2	19,6	18,8	13,8	14,4	14,4
EC - Joe Gqabi District Municipality (DC14)	24,3	22,1	21,9	11,5	11,0	11,1
EC - O.R. Tambo District Municipality (DC15)	25,2	24,0	23,8	8,8	9,0	8,7
EC - Alfred Nzo District Municipality (DC44)	31,2	32,1	31,0	8,2	8,9	8,0
EC - Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BUF)	20,7	19,5	17,9	9,9	10,7	10,4
EC - Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality (NMA)	20,0	18,3	16,0	9,9	11,2	11,4

Appendix E – Population estimates by district/metropolitan municipality, 2002–2025

	EC - Sarah Baartman District Municipality (DC10)		EC - Amathole District Municipality (DC12)		EC - Chris Hani District Municipality (DC13)		EC - Joe Gqabi District Municipality (DC14)		EC - O.R. Tambo District Municipality (DC15)		EC - Alfred Nzo District Municipality (DC44)		EC - Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BUF)		EC - Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality (NMA)	
	Male	**Female**	**Male**	**Female**	**Male**	**Female**	**Male**	**Female**	**Male**	**Female**	**Male**	**Female**	**Male**	**Female**	**Male**	**Female**
2002	194 797	231 214	453 335	529 663	451 248	512 937	171 704	201 042	649 392	759 741	381 792	452 772	349 675	388 167	548 777	594 051
2003	196 560	232 376	448 476	521 857	445 154	506 645	170 872	198 668	648 701	759 907	379 048	453 081	351 896	389 178	551 424	599 005
2004	198 685	233 801	444 373	514 569	439 617	500 890	170 448	196 592	649 358	761 149	377 064	454 196	354 836	390 894	554 929	604 887
2005	201 161	235 494	441 026	507 641	434 618	495 514	170 439	194 781	651 335	763 205	375 818	455 981	358 435	393 279	559 213	611 687
2006	203 853	237 379	437 793	500 658	429 523	490 104	170 621	193 104	653 513	765 404	374 644	458 044	362 438	396 146	564 023	619 187
2007	206 407	238 894	434 982	495 290	425 007	483 875	170 780	192 752	655 405	765 974	374 502	460 153	366 804	400 693	567 651	623 336
2008	209 164	240 761	432 025	489 981	420 296	477 513	170 883	192 364	657 804	767 094	374 475	462 312	371 572	405 790	571 503	627 953
2009	212 006	242 774	428 608	484 363	415 080	470 670	170 779	191 749	659 856	768 016	374 065	464 058	376 519	411 125	575 314	632 568
2010	214 949	244 847	424 753	478 407	409 375	463 332	170 465	190 860	661 412	768 577	373 186	465 292	381 660	416 601	579 110	637 010
2011	218 149	247 221	420 782	472 615	403 488	455 990	170 058	189 866	662 928	769 548	372 097	466 458	387 260	422 683	583 234	641 952
2012	221 070	249 339	418 880	469 731	398 971	451 805	169 875	189 782	671 853	777 200	372 706	470 187	390 488	425 847	586 076	644 342
2013	224 003	251 418	416 813	466 575	394 376	447 463	169 812	189 773	680 393	784 325	373 903	474 674	393 542	428 992	588 886	646 870
2014	227 151	253 638	414 889	463 395	389 981	443 179	170 005	189 971	689 219	791 488	376 042	480 286	396 783	432 422	592 157	649 947
2015	230 142	255 639	412 438	459 503	385 087	438 229	170 134	190 067	697 041	797 322	378 131	486 024	399 586	435 536	594 946	652 669
2016	232 874	257 340	409 240	454 697	379 444	432 361	170 081	189 964	703 452	801 432	379 720	491 465	401 805	438 205	596 984	654 787
2017	235 291	259 608	405 877	451 420	374 517	428 028	169 837	190 222	709 431	807 172	381 999	496 862	403 902	441 248	599 022	657 549
2018	237 909	262 067	402 605	448 327	369 534	423 748	169 639	190 551	716 611	814 235	384 621	502 661	406 374	444 693	601 082	660 368
2019	240 629	264 670	399 240	445 345	364 324	419 454	169 405	190 913	724 544	822 334	387 296	508 708	409 050	448 442	602 975	663 200
2020	243 049	266 940	395 049	441 477	358 273	414 277	168 852	190 939	731 983	829 975	389 459	514 127	411 291	451 714	603 741	664 939
2021	244 440	268 181	389 108	435 920	350 577	407 468	167 588	190 242	737 100	835 311	390 330	517 905	411 756	453 283	601 375	663 751
2022	246 043	269 594	384 209	431 071	344 568	401 969	166 700	189 686	742 389	840 666	391 772	522 032	412 552	454 959	600 047	663 885
2023	247 976	271 348	380 037	427 053	339 152	397 178	166 110	189 470	748 587	847 081	393 536	526 849	413 519	456 907	599 329	664 599
2024	250 102	273 194	376 303	423 360	334 076	392 624	165 728	189 415	755 497	853 984	395 561	532 056	414 410	458 765	598 734	665 198
2025	252 341	275 077	372 791	419 822	329 148	388 141	165 478	189 453	762 849	861 135	397 751	537 553	415 116	460 503	598 067	665 565

Appendix F – District/metropolitan municipality population in Eastern Cape, 2025

District municipality	Population					Age structure			Age structure %		
	Total	Male	Female	Male %	Female%	0-14	15-64	65+	0-14	15-64	65+
EC - Sarah Baartman District Municipality (DC10)	527 418	252 341	275 077	47,8	52,2	136 949	345 312	45 156	26,0	65,5	8,6
EC - Amathole District Municipality (DC12)	792 612	372 791	419 822	47,0	53,0	221 001	469 564	102 047	27,9	59,2	12,9
EC - Chris Hani District Municipality (DC13)	717 289	329 148	388 141	45,9	54,1	214 879	419 398	83 011	30,0	58,5	11,6
EC - Joe Gqabi District Municipality (DC14)	354 931	165 478	189 453	46,6	53,4	112 076	207 211	35 643	31,6	58,4	10,0
EC - O.R. Tambo District Municipality (DC15)	1 623 984	762 849	861 135	47,0	53,0	545 447	969 758	108 779	33,6	59,7	6,7
EC - Alfred Nzo District Municipality (DC44)	935 303	397 751	537 553	42,5	57,5	390 225	475 859	69 220	41,7	50,9	7,4
EC - Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality (BUF)	875 619	415 116	460 503	47,4	52,6	228 093	569 216	78 310	26,0	65,0	8,9
EC - Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality (NMA)	1 263 632	598 067	665 565	47,3	52,7	294 571	821 039	148 022	23,3	65,0	11,7
EC - Sarah Baartman District Municipality (DC10)	527 418	252 341	275 077	47,8	52,2	136 949	345 312	45 156	26,0	65,5	8,6

References

Bryan, T. (2004). Population estimates. In J. S. Siegel & D. A. Swanson (Eds.), *The methods and materials of demography* (2nd ed., pp. 9–41). Elsevier Academic Press.

Lomahoza, K., Brockerhoff, S., & Frye, I. (2013). *A review of national and provincial government budgets in South Africa (2007/2008–2011/2012): Monitoring the progressive realisation of socio-economic rights project*.

Lymer, S., & Brown, L. (2012). Developing a dynamic microsimulation model of the Australian health system: A means to explore impacts of obesity over the next 50 years. *Epidemiology Research International, 2012*, Article 13.

Rayer, S. (2015). Demographic techniques: Small-area estimates and projections. In J. D. Wright (Ed.), *International encyclopedia of the social and behavioral sciences* (2nd ed., Vol. 6, pp. 162–169). Elsevier.

Siegel, J. S., & Swanson, D. A. (2004). *The methods and materials of demography* (2nd ed.). Elsevier Science & Technology.

Smith, S. K., & Cody, S. (2013). Making the housing unit method work: An evaluation of 2010 population estimates in Florida. *Population Research and Policy Review, 32*, 221–242.

Smith, S. K., & Morrison, P. A. (2005). Small-area and business demography. In P. Dudley & M. Micklin (Eds.), *Handbook of population* (pp. 819–838). Springer.

Statistics South Africa. (2024). *Recorded live births, 2023* (Statistical Release P0305). Statistics South Africa.

Statistics South Africa. (2025a). *Mid-year population estimates* (Statistical Release P0302). Statistics South Africa.

Statistics South Africa. (2025b). *Mortality and causes of death in South Africa, 2021: Findings from death notification* (Statistical Release P0309.3). Statistics South Africa.

United Nations. (1992). *Preparing migration data for sub-national population projections*. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations.

Willekens, F., & Rogers, A. (1978). *Spatial population analysis: Methods and computer programs* (Research Report RR-78-18). International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis.

Willekens, F., Por, A., & Raquillet, R. (1979). *Entropy multi-proportional and quadratic techniques for inferring detailed migration patterns from aggregate data* (Working Paper WP-79-88). International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis.

General Information

Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different statistical releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's eleven official languages. Since the releases are used extensively, not only locally but also by international economic and social-scientific communities, Stats SA releases are published in English only.

Stats SA Library Cataloguing-in-Publication (CIP) Data
District Population Estimates - Eastern Cape Report: MYPE 2025 series/ Statistics South Africa.
Pretoria: Statistics South Africa, 2025

Report no. 03-02-47
27 pp

Advance release calendar
An advance release calendar is disseminated on www.statssa.gov.za

Stats SA products
A complete set of Stats SA publications is available at the Stats SA Library and the following libraries:
National Library of South Africa, Pretoria Division
National Library of South Africa, Cape Town Division
Natal Society Library, Pietermaritzburg
Library of Parliament, Cape Town
Bloemfontein Public Library
Johannesburg Public Library
Eastern Cape Library Services, Qonce
Central Regional Library, Polokwane
Central Reference Library, Mbombela
Central Reference Collection, Kimberley
Central Reference Library, Mmabatho

Stats SA also provides a subscription service.

Electronic services
A large range of data are available via on-line services, diskette and computer printouts. For more details about our electronic data services, contact 012 310 8600.

You can visit us on the internet at: www.statssa.gov.za

Enquiries

User information services	Telephone number: 012 310 8600
	Email address: info@statssa.gov.za
Technical enquiries:	diegoi@statssa.gov.za chantalmu@statssa.gov.za lesegol@statssa.gov.za andisar@statssa.gov.za
Postal address	Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001