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Statistics South Africa
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District Population Estimates - KwaZulu-Natal Report

MYPE 2025 series

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Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ASFR	Age specific fertility rate
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy
ETH	eThekwini
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
ETH	eThekwini
IEC	Independent Electoral Commission
IMF	International Monetary Fund
KZN	KwaZulu-Natal
MACOD	Mortality and causes of death
MDB	Municipal Demarcation Board
MYPE	Mid-year population estimates
NDoH	National Department of Health
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 5 076 133 people in Mpumalanga province. The female population accounts for 50,6% (approximately 2,56 million) of the population.
- The most populous district in the province is Ehlanzeni district municipality (accounting for 38,0% of the population), whilst the least populated district is Gert Sibande district municipality (26,9%).
- The highest crude birth rate (CBR) for the period 2021–2026 can be found in Ehlanzeni district municipality with 22,8 births per 1000 persons, whilst the lowest CBR is located in Nkangala district municipality with 14,0 births per 1000 persons
- The highest crude death rate (CDR) can be found in Ehlanzeni district municipality with 19,3 deaths per 1000 persons, whilst the lowest CDR is located in both Nkangala district municipality with 7,2 deaths per 1000 persons for the period 2021–2026.
- Ehlanzeni district municipality has the highest proportion of persons aged 65 years and older, as well as the highest proportion of school-age persons in the province.

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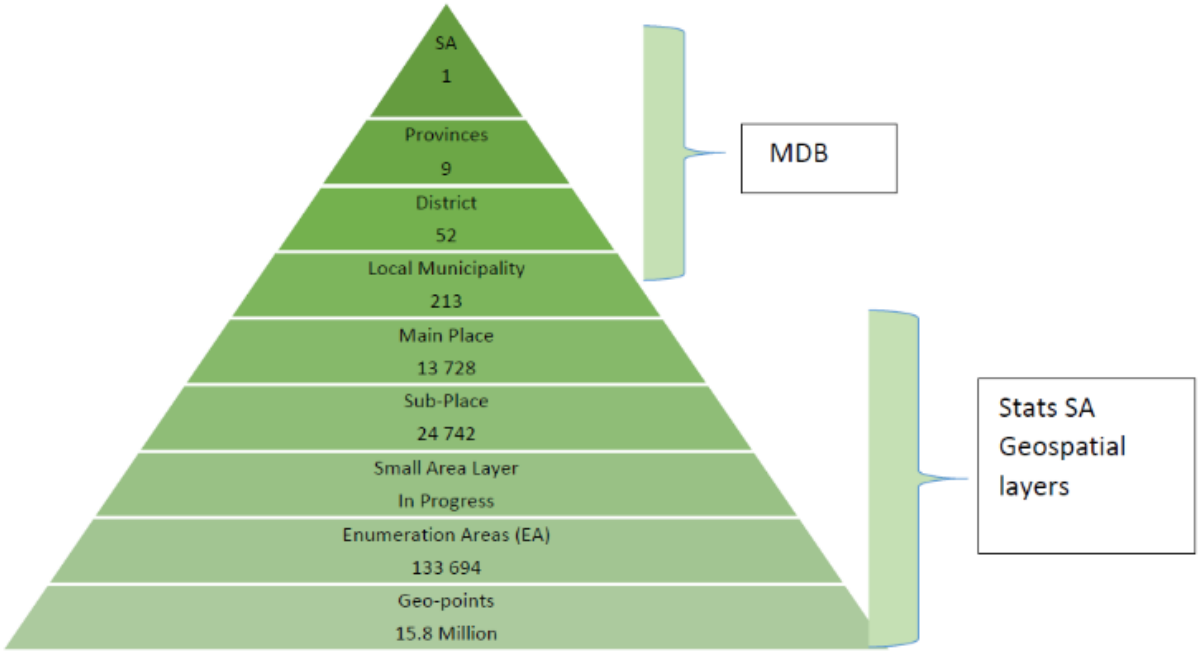
1. Overview

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 (CS) 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),

- 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. While initiatives by the Department of Home Affairs are underway to improve the availability of information on 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 were 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 KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) districts and metropolitan municipalities. According to the MYPE, KZN is the second most populous province in the country with an estimated population of 12 232 247 persons, with ten district municipalities and one metropolitan municipality. The province is along the east coast of SA and constitutes 94 361 km². The neighbouring provinces are the Eastern Cape, Free State and Mpumalanga. The neighbouring countries are Lesotho, eSwatini and Mozambique. The driving sectors of the KZN economy include manufacturing (automotive, chemicals, food), its vital ports (Durban and Richards Bay handling much of SA's cargo), strong trade and tourism and growing agriculture**.**

3.1. Population in KwaZulu-Natal District Municipalities

Figure 2 below depicts the distribution of the population in KZN by district and metropolitan municipalities. eThekwini Metro has the largest population in the province, accounting for 35,8% of KwaZulu-Natal's population—far higher than any other district. The remaining districts range between 4,0–10,0%, with the lowest shares observed in Harry Gwala (4,2%). This distribution highlights the high urban concentration in eThekwini and a relatively even spread of smaller populations across rural districts. For the total populations for each district, refer to Appendix F.

Figure 2 – Distribution of population in KwaZulu-Natal by district/metropolitan municipality, 2025

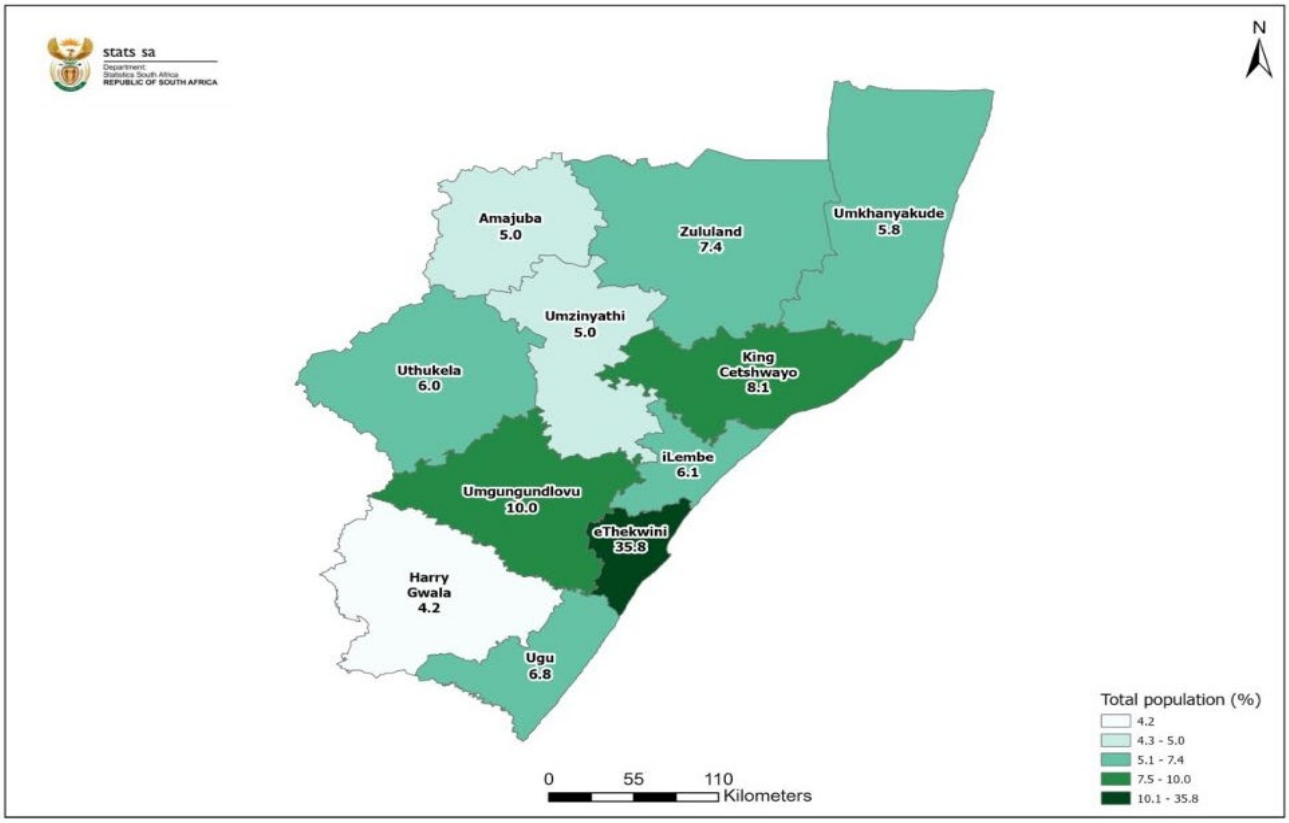


Table 1 presents the population, age structure, as well as other indicators. These indicators include the districts' shares of the national and provincial population, as well as sex ratios and annual growth rates of the metro and district municipalities in KZN. As already mentioned, eThekwini dominates the provincial demographic landscape. 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, except for the metropolitan, are all below 100, indicating higher proportions of females. This may be a result of the continual out-migration of males to other provinces and the local metropolitan. eThekwini metro has the highest sex ratio of 100 males per 100 females, indicating an almost even split of males and females in the metro. Among the non-metro district municipalities, uMzinyathi has the lowest sex ratio with 83 males per 100 females. 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 KwaZulu-Natal, 2025

District municipality	Population		Age structure			Percentage to KZN	Percentage to national	Sex ratio	Annual growth rate % (2024-2025)
	Male %	Female%	0-14	15-64	65+				
Ugu District Municipality (DC21)	47,9	52,1	30,1	65,4	4,5	6,8	1,3	91,8	1,5
uMgungundlovu District Municipality (DC22)	46,6	53,4	25,9	68,6	5,5	10,0	1,9	87,4	1,2
uThukela District Municipality (DC23)	47,7	52,3	33,3	60,7	6,0	6,0	1,2	91,1	0,5
uMzinyathi District Municipality (DC24)	45,3	54,7	35,5	60,0	4,4	5,0	1,0	82,8	1,3
Amajuba District Municipality (DC25)	47,7	52,3	28,8	65,4	5,7	5,0	1,0	91,3	1,1
Zululand District Municipality (DC26)	46,4	53,6	35,4	58,5	6,1	7,4	1,4	86,6	0,7
uMkhanyakude District Municipality (DC27)	44,5	55,5	34,6	60,2	5,2	5,8	1,1	80,0	0,7
King Cetshwayo District Municipality (DC28)	46,1	53,9	33,0	61,6	5,4	8,1	1,6	85,5	0,8
iLembe District Municipality (DC29)	47,4	52,6	30,0	62,4	7,6	6,1	1,2	90,2	1,1
Harry Gwala District Municipality (DC43)	46,0	54,0	35,4	60,0	4,6	4,2	0,8	85,2	0,9
eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality (ETH)	50,1	49,9	23,2	69,4	7,4	35,8	6,9	100,3	1,3

The demographic pillars of fertility, mortality and migration cumulatively impact the population growth seen at a district level. Table 1 indicates that the districts of Ugu, eThekwini, uMzinyathi, uMgugundlovu, Amajuba and iLembe had a growth rate of more than one percent between 2024-2025, with Ugu having the highest annual growth rate. uThukela experienced the least growth (0,5%). The proportion of births in KZN has always been higher than other provinces in SA. This is evident in the high proportion of children aged 0–14 years. The majority of the districts in the province have over a third of their population age profile consisting of children. In contrast, eThekwini only has about 23% of its population comprising children 0–14 years, and this is the lowest of all the districts, followed by uMgugundlovu with 25,9%. eThekwini metro and uMgugundlovu district have the highest proportion of adults aged 15–64 years with 69,4% and 68,6% respectively. Zululand district municipality on the other hand has the least adults compared to other districts with 58,5%. Both iLembe district and eThekwini metro have the highest percentage of the elderly, aged 65 years and above in their populations with 7,6% and 7,4% respectively.

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 districts and the metro in KwaZulu-Natal, disaggregated by sex (male and female). eThekwini metro and uMgugundlovu district have the highest proportion of adults aged 15–64 years with 69,4% and 68,6% respectively. eThekwini metro has a skewed distribution of 70,4% males and 68,6% females. As the metro is the economic hub of the province, it is not surprising that there would be a higher proportion of males than females. uMzinyathi and uMkhanyakude districts, in contrast, have far higher proportions of women relative to men. There is a near-parity split between males and females of working age population for Amajuba district (65,6% and 65,3% respectively). A similar pattern is seen in uThukela and iLembe district municipalities.

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

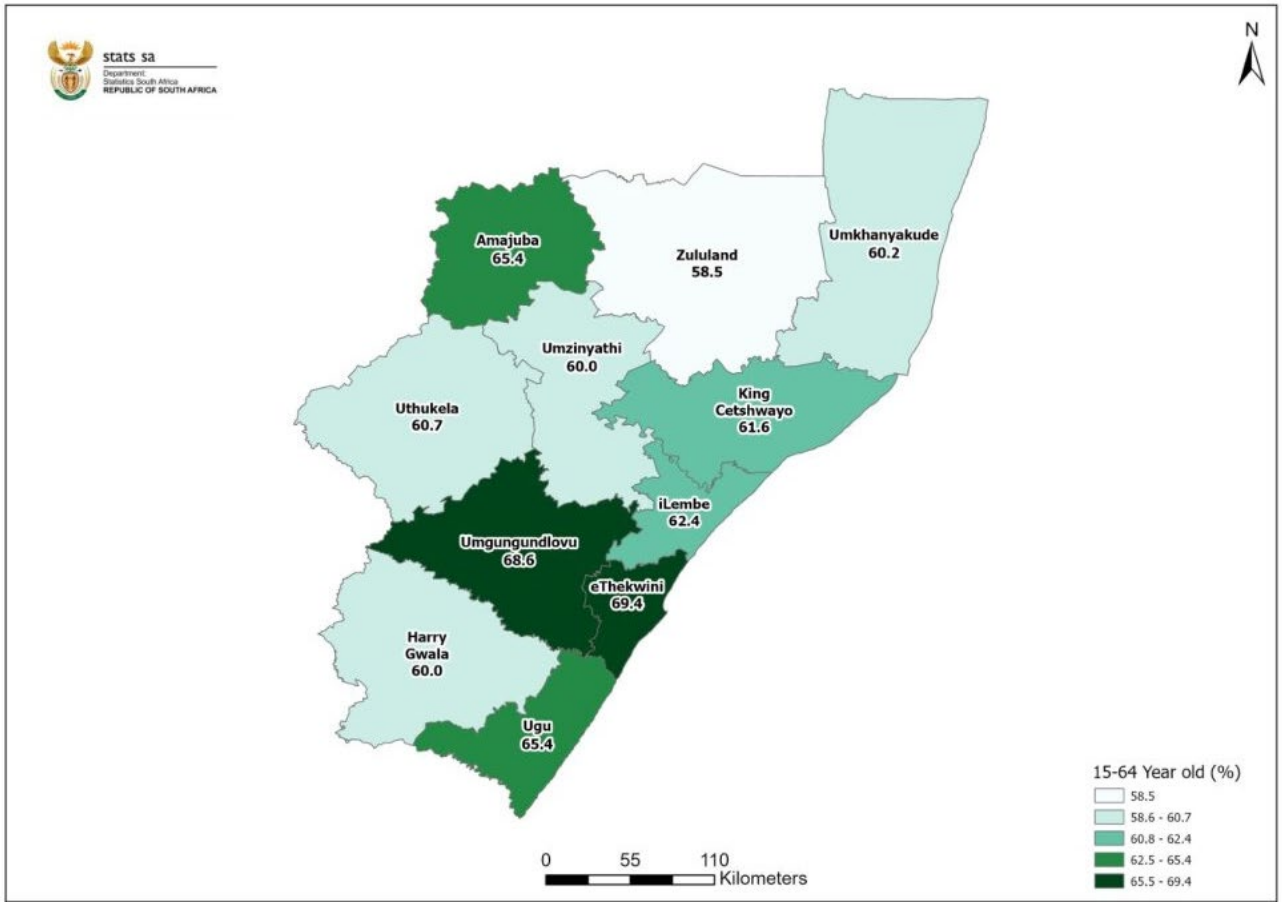


Table 2 – Percentage distribution of working-age population (15–64) within each district/metropolitan municipality, 2025

District Municipality	Male (%)	Female (%)
Ugu District Municipality (DC21)	65,7	65,1
uMgungundlovu District Municipality (DC22)	69,2	68,0
uThukela District Municipality (DC23)	60,8	60,6
uMzinyathi District Municipality (DC24)	57,9	61,8
Amajuba District Municipality (DC25)	65,6	65,3
Zululand District Municipality (DC26)	57,1	59,7
uMkhanyakude District Municipality (DC27)	58,2	61,9
King Cetshwayo District Municipality (DC28)	60,7	62,4
iLembe District Municipality (DC29)	62,7	62,2
Harry Gwala District Municipality (DC43)	58,8	61,0
eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality (ETH)	70,4	68,5

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

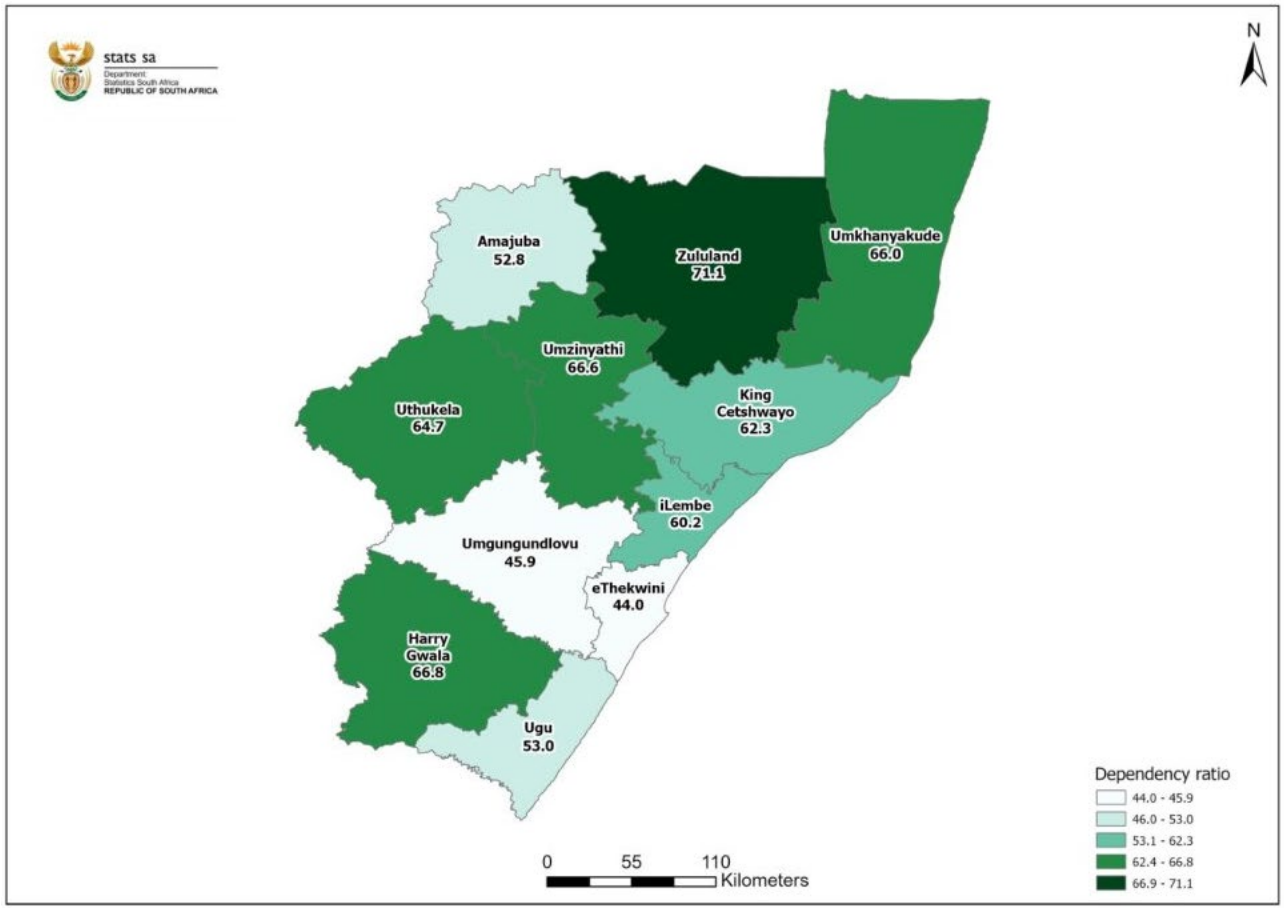


Figure 4 shows the total dependency ratio by district/metropolitan municipality. The total dependency ratio is the proportion of children and the elderly relative to working-age persons. It should be noted that there are elderly people who are engaged in work beyond the age of 64; similarly, a significant 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 dependency ratio for KZN can be considered moderate (almost 54 per 100 working age persons), however, there are variations across the districts in the province with ratios ranging from 52 to 71. Internally, the dependency ratio is highest in Zululand

District Municipality, with 71,1 children and elderly per 100 working-age adults (15–64 years), indicating a high dependency burden on the workforce. This is followed by Harry Gwala (66,8), uMzinyathi (66,6) and uMkhanyakude (66,0) districts, also exhibiting high dependency levels. The districts with the lowest dependency ratios are eThekwini and uMgugundlovu (44,0 and 45,9 respectively). This reflects a relatively low dependency burden and an age structure that is dominated by the working-age population.

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

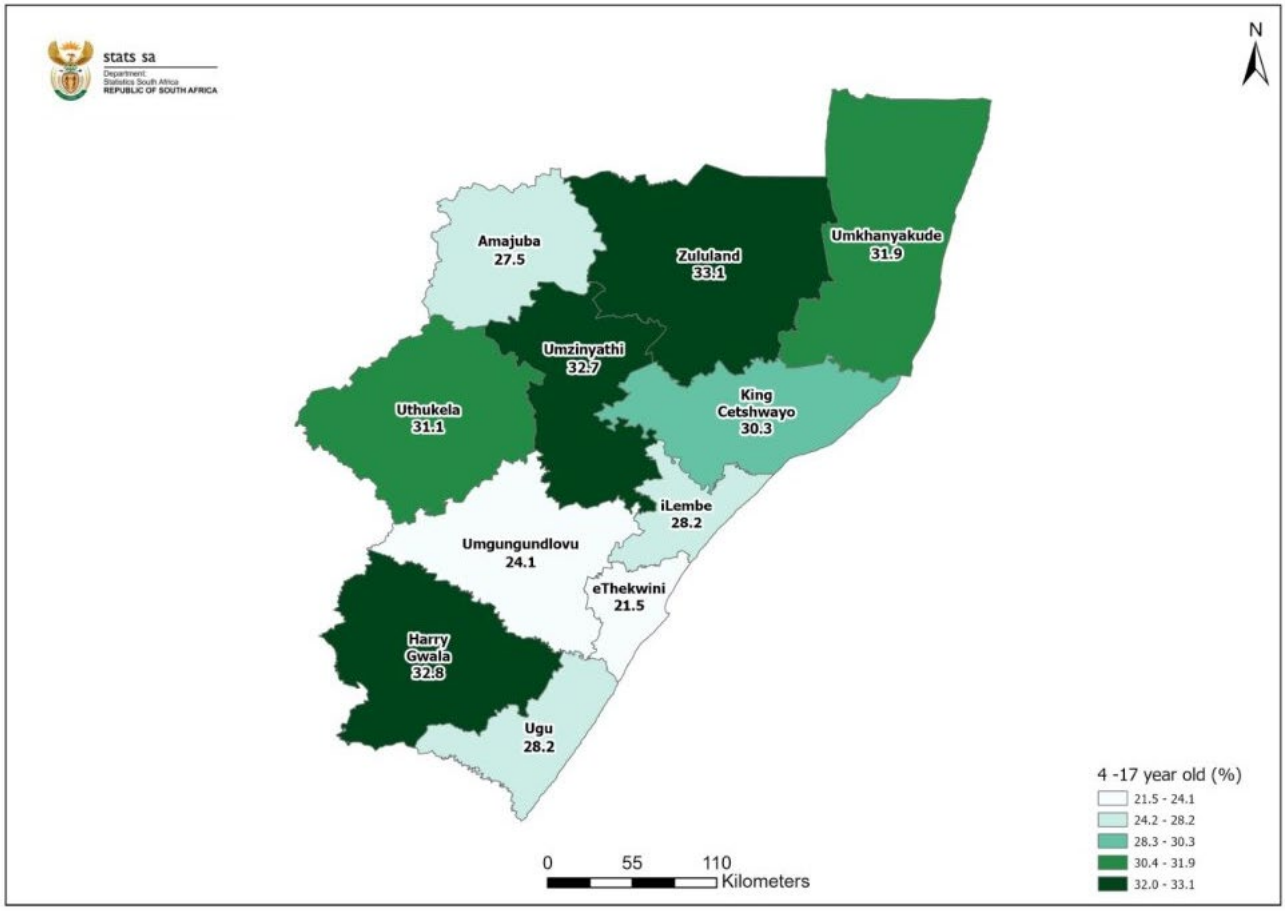


Figure 5 above depicts the percentage of the school-age population by metro/district in KZN for the year 2025. eThekwini Metropolitan municipality had the lowest percentage of school-age population (21,5%), followed by uMgugundlovu with 24,1% whilst Zululand district had the highest percentage of school-age population (33,1%), followed by Harry Gwala and uMzinyathi (32,8% and 32,7%). The other 6 districts had school-age population ranging between 27,5% and 31,1%. These variations in age structure suggest differing demands for educational infrastructure and resources across the province. Over the years, the school-age populations across all districts have shown a decline, which may indicate shifts or changes in births over time and consequently the age structure (Appendix C).

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

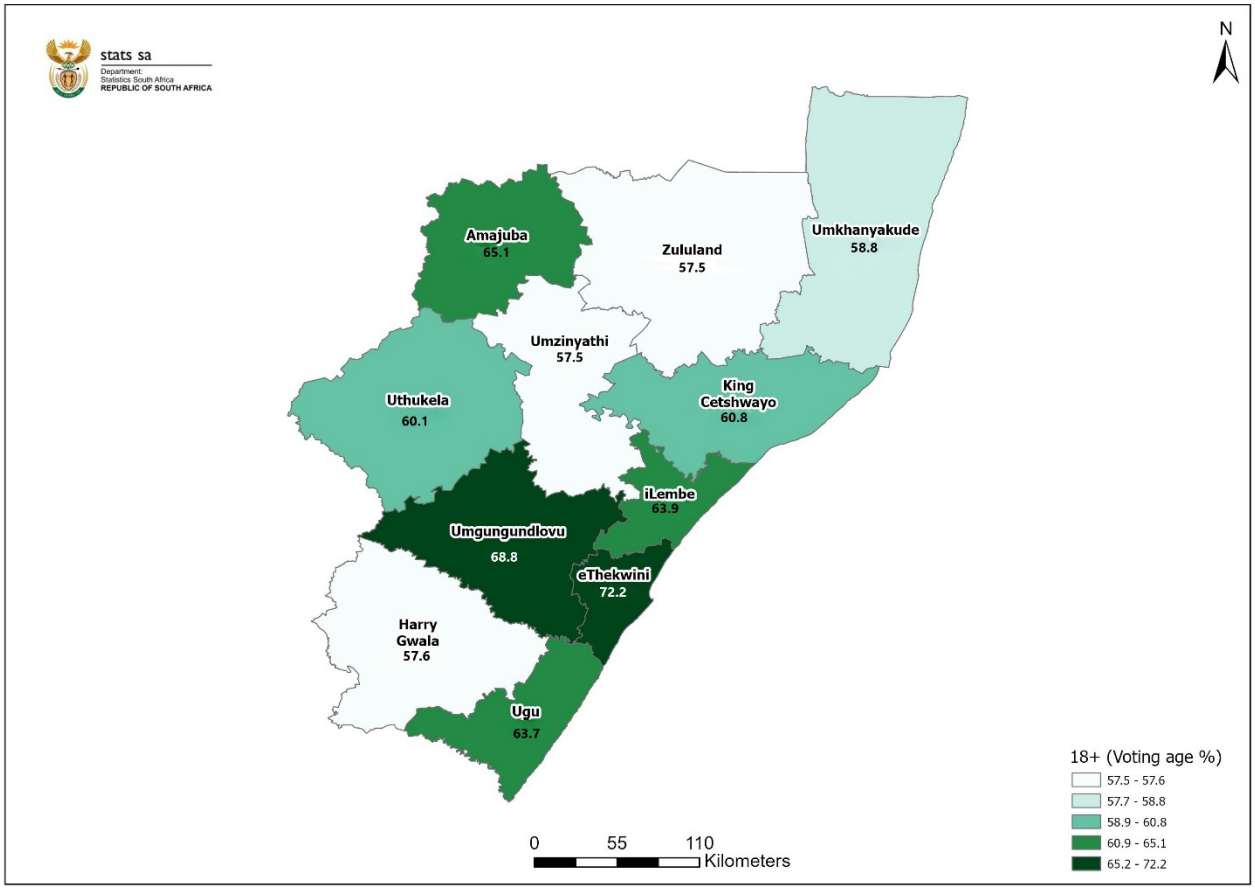


Figure 6 shows the percentage of the voting-age population per district/metro in the province. According to the MYPE, eThekwini metro (72,2%) followed by uMgugundlovu district (68,8%) have the highest proportion of persons eligible to vote compared to all other districts. In contrast to the high proportion of the school-going age population, Zululand, uMzinyathi (both 57,5%) and Harry Gwala (57,6%) have the lowest proportion of voting-age persons. Data over time (2012–2025) (see Appendix C), indicates that all the districts and metro have seen an increase in voting age population over the past decade. uMkhanyakude 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

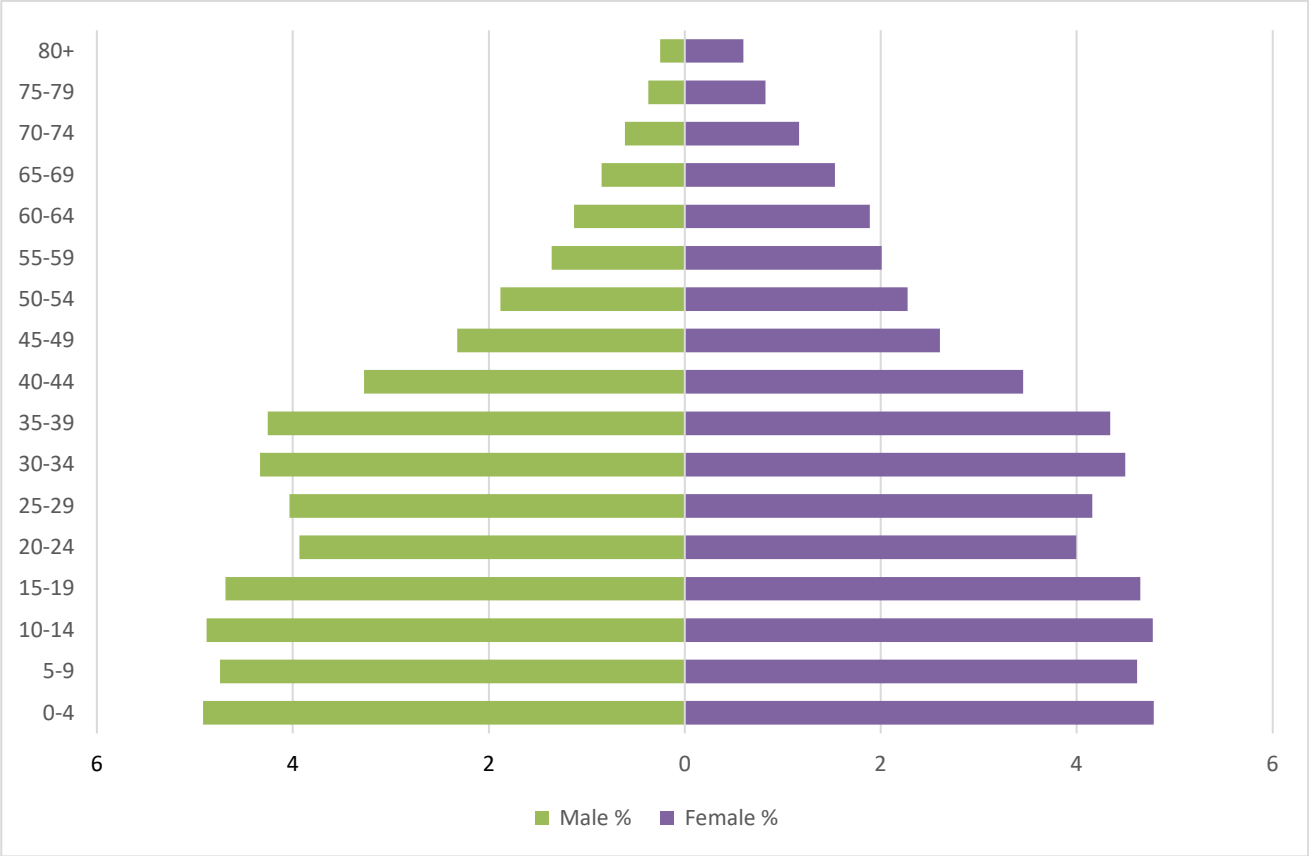
The age and sex structure of the population defines the ultimate shape of the pyramid. As a result, this shape communicates information about that specific population, not only currently, but it is also reflective of past trends in fertility, mortality and migration. For example, adults now aged 40–45 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 and Swanson, 2004).

The population pyramid (as seen in Figure 7) graphically illustrates the age structure of KwaZulu-Natal province (KZN) in 2025. The structure reflects a youthful population, typical of regions with higher birth rates and somewhat lower proportions of elderly residents (especially for men). It suggests ongoing population growth and a potential future increase in the working-age population.

The base of the pyramid in KZN shows that there has been a fluctuation of births over the last 15 years or so. The protraction in the 30–39 age group may indicate in-migration from other provinces as well as immigration, as adults come in seeking employment and better economic opportunities from elsewhere. 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. The pyramid also indicates population ageing within the province, with quite a significant population that is over the age of 60. Consequently, a higher proportion of females is found at the very old ages of the population pyramid compared to males. This is common across districts in KZN.

The population pyramids for all districts can be found in Appendix A. The population pyramid for eThekwini metro differs from that of other districts in the province. The age structure shows an almost square base, meaning that births have been almost constant in the last 15 years, with a bulge in adult ages indicative of in-migration.

Figure 7 – Population pyramid for KwaZulu-Natal province, 2025



3.4. Fertility and Mortality

Crude birth and death rates are basic measures of both fertility and mortality. Both 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

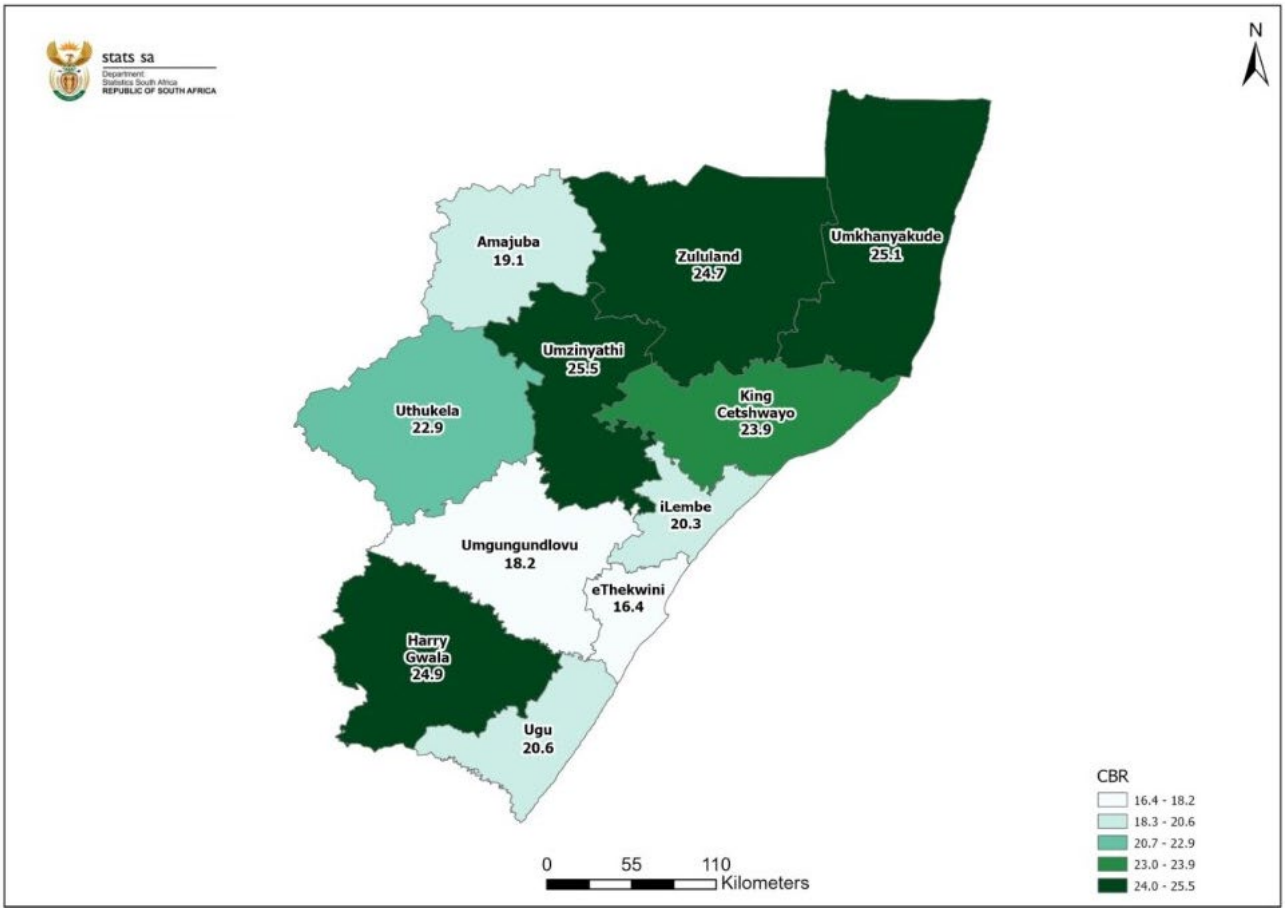


Figure 8 above shows the crude birth rate (CBR) by district/metropolitan municipalities in KZN for the period 2021–2026. eThekwini Metropolitan municipality recorded the lowest crude birth rate (CBR) at 16,4 births per 1,000 people, followed closely by uMgugundlovu district at 18,2 births per 1 000 people. In contrast, uMzinyathi, uMkhanyagude, Harry Gwala as well as Zululand districts reported the highest CBRs, at 25,5; 25,1; 24,9; and 24,7 births per 1 000 people, respectively. The remaining districts had CBRs ranging between 19,1 and 22,9 births per 1 000 people. As a largely rural province, KwaZulu-Natal exhibits higher birth rates in its districts. Higher birth rates point to the need for improved reproductive health services, education, and greater employment opportunities and agency for women relative to urban districts.

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

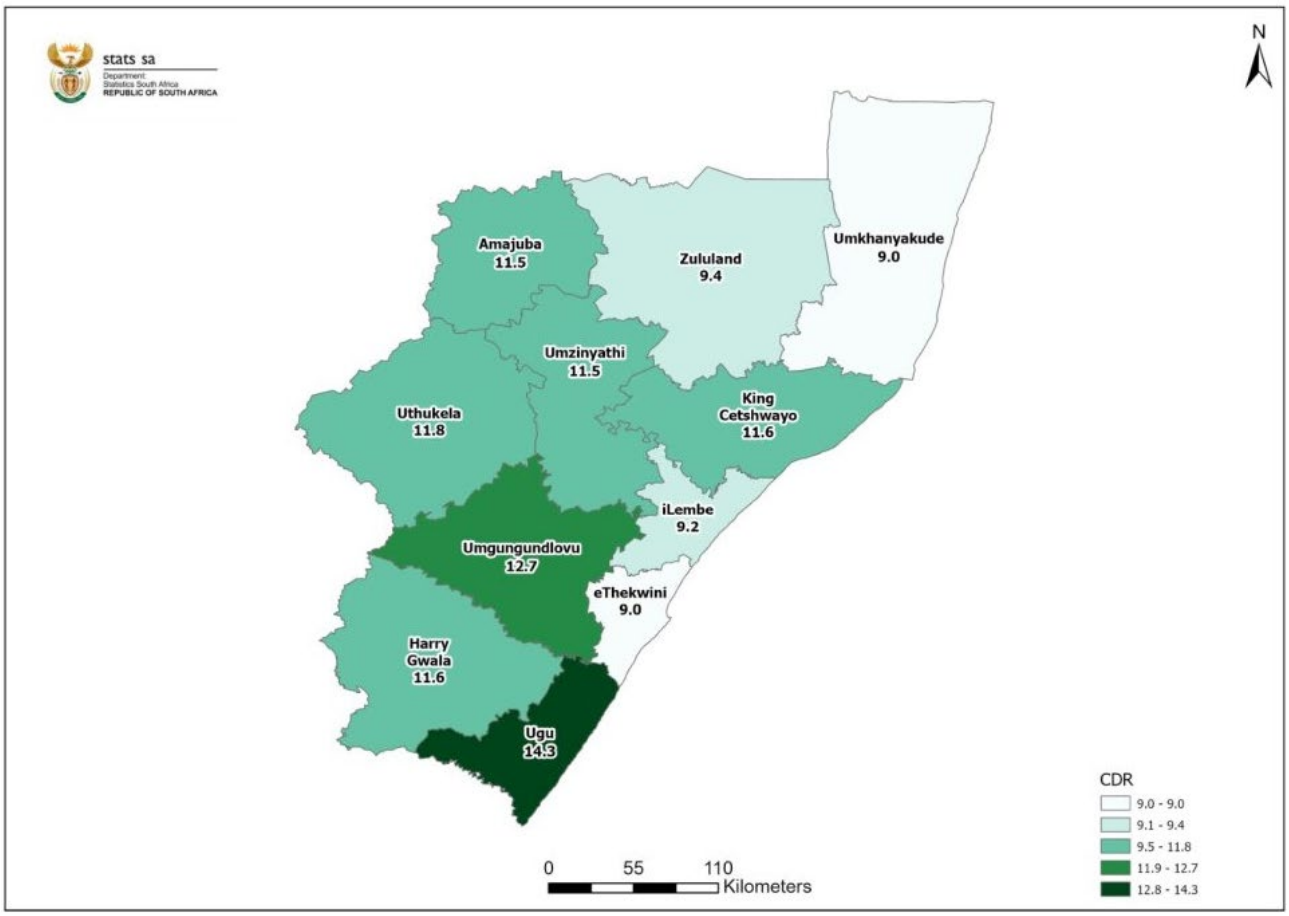
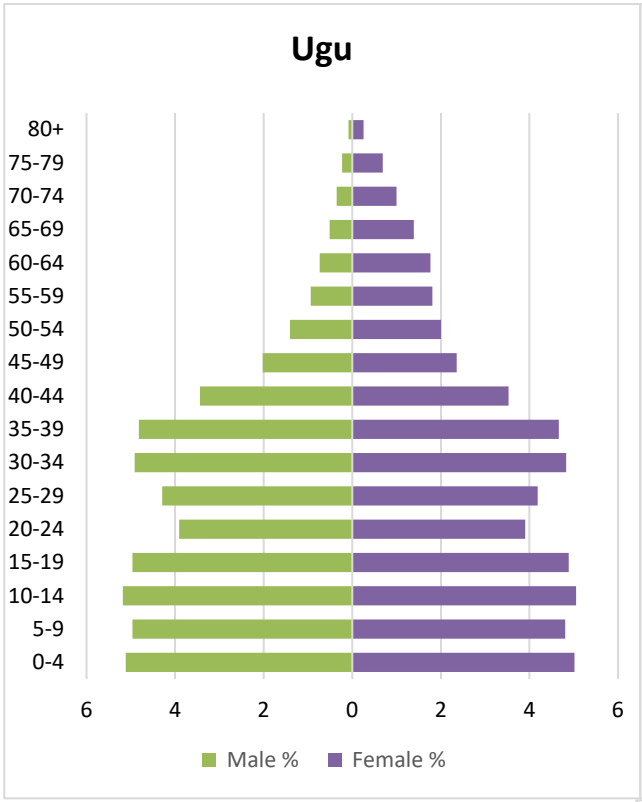


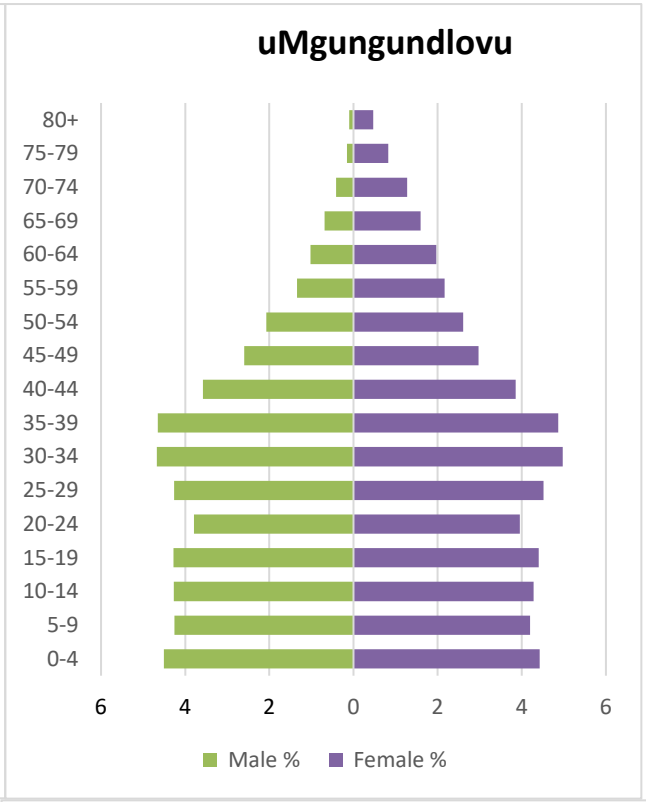
Figure 9 above displays CDR for districts in KwaZulu-Natal for the period 2021–2026. eThekwini metro and Umkhanyakude district show the lowest CDR compared to other districts (both 9,0 deaths per 1000 people). In contrast, Ugu district showed the highest CDR of all districts with 14,3 deaths per 1000 people for the period 2021–2026. It is interesting to note that uMkhanyakude district had the highest CBR, and Figure 9 shows the same district with the lowest CDR.

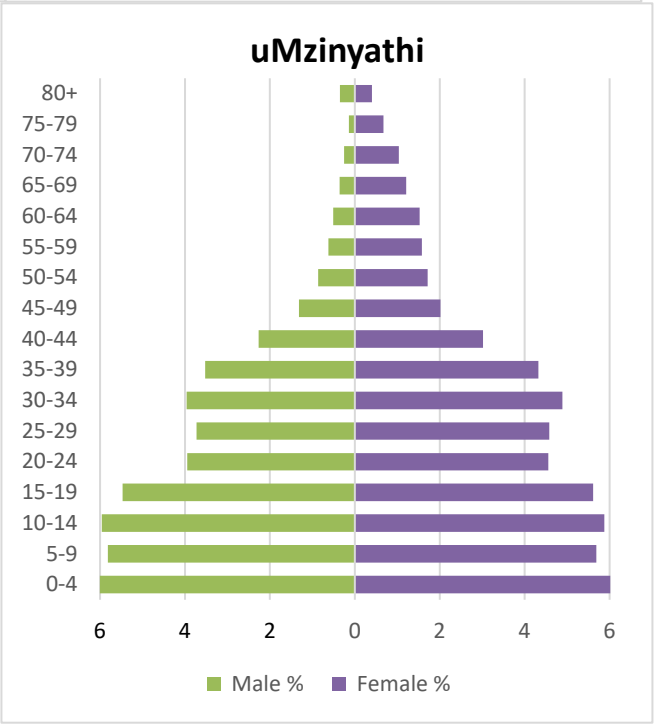
Appendix D indicates the CDR over time, 2012–2025. Much of the health gains in SA were made following the access and utilisation of the HIV and AIDS treatment program since 2005. By 2011, access to antiretroviral treatment (ART) was universal in SA. In contrast, the height of the COVID-19 pandemic (pre-vaccine) 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.

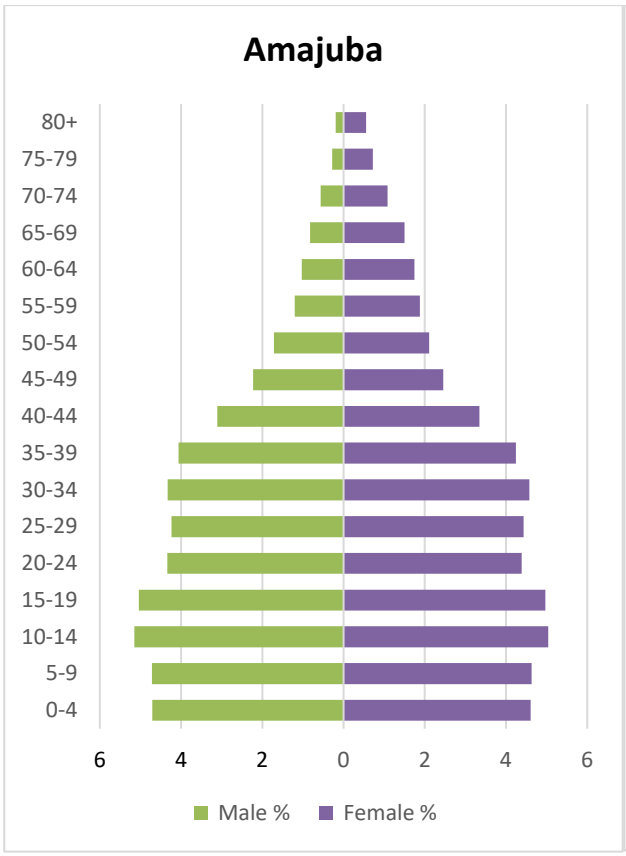
Appendices

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

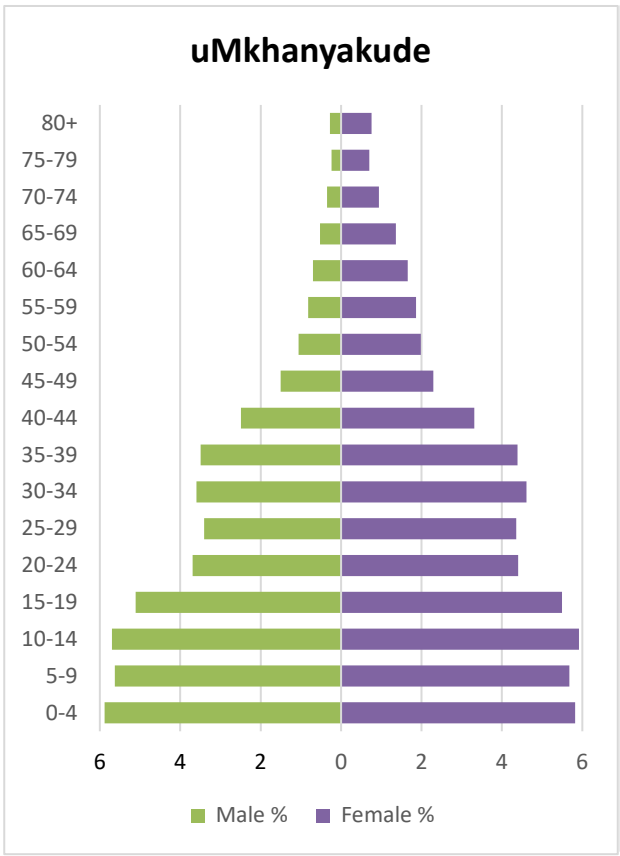


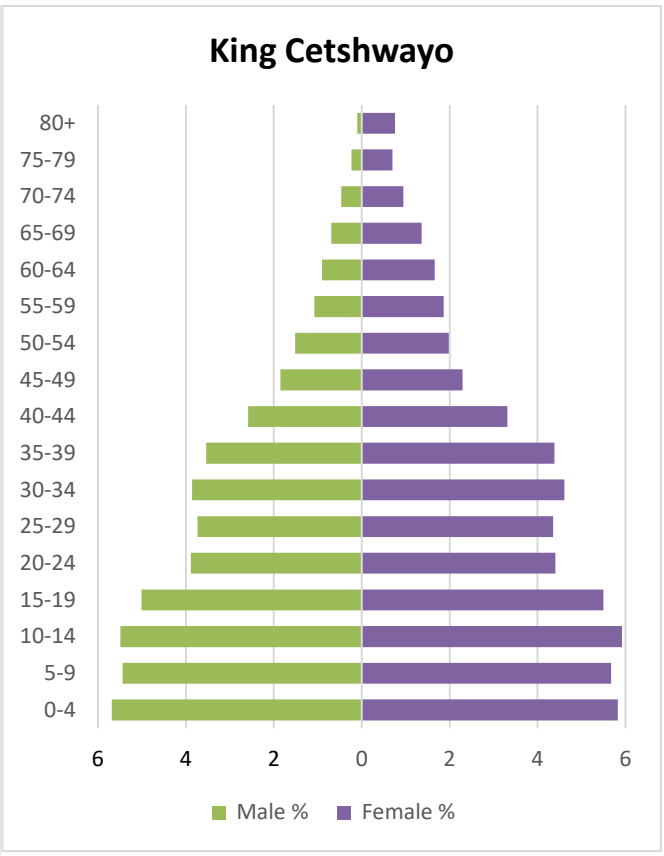


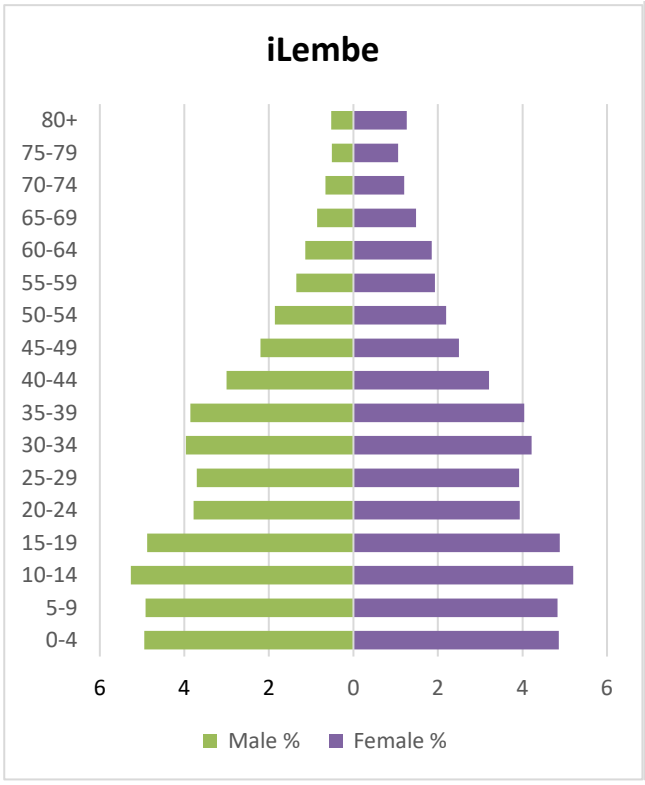


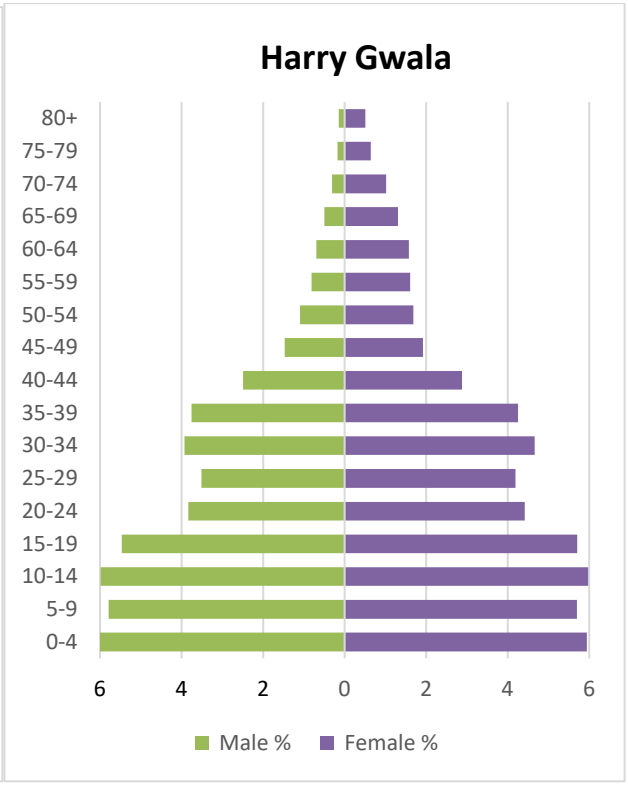

Amajuba
80+
75-79
70-74
65-69
60-64
55-59
50-54
45-49
40-44
35-39
30-34
25-29
20-24
15-19
10-14
5-9
0-4
6 4 2 0 2 4 6
Male %
Female %


Zululand
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 %


uMkhanyakude
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 %


King Cetshwayo
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 %


iLembe
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 %


Harry Gwala
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 %


eThekwini Metropolitan
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

	Ugu District Municipality (DC21)	uMgungundlovu District Municipality (DC22)	uThukela District Municipality (DC23)	uMzinyathi District Municipality (DC24)	Amajuba District Municipality (DC25)	Zululand District Municipality (DC26)	uMkhanyakude District Municipality (DC27)	King Cetshwayo District Municipality (DC28)	iLembe District Municipality (DC29)	Harry Gwala District Municipality (DC43)	eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality (ETH)
0-4	102	102	103	103	102	103	101	103	102	102	104
5-9	103	101	103	102	102	103	99	102	102	102	105
10-14	103	100	103	101	102	103	96	100	101	100	105
15-19	101	97	103	97	101	102	93	98	100	96	106
20-24	100	96	100	87	99	92	84	91	96	87	109
25-29	103	94	97	81	96	83	78	88	95	84	109
30-34	102	94	98	81	95	86	78	86	94	84	108
35-39	103	96	100	82	96	87	80	84	95	88	109
40-44	97	93	95	75	93	82	75	79	94	86	107
45-49	86	87	88	65	91	72	66	76	88	76	102
50-54	70	80	74	50	81	64	53	72	85	65	99
55-59	52	62	57	39	64	51	44	61	70	50	84
60-64	42	52	50	34	59	45	42	52	61	44	76
65-69	37	43	45	30	55	45	38	49	58	38	72
70-74	35	32	41	25	52	43	37	45	55	30	72
70-79	33	19	35	20	39	44	34	29	48	27	64
80+	34	21	47	87	34	61	37	16	41	28	47

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

District municipality	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Old Age Dependency Ratio														
Ugu District Municipality (DC21)	9,5	9,4	9,2	9,1	9,0	8,7	8,4	8,2	7,9	7,7	7,5	7,3	7,1	6,9
uMgungundlovu District Municipality (DC22)	7,8	7,9	7,9	8,0	8,0	8,1	8,2	8,3	8,3	8,3	8,2	8,2	8,1	8,1
uThukela District Municipality (DC23)	9,2	9,4	9,6	9,8	9,9	10,0	10,0	10,1	10,2	10,2	10,1	10,0	10,0	9,9
uMzinyathi District Municipality (DC24)	9,9	9,8	9,7	9,6	9,5	9,3	9,2	9,1	8,8	8,6	8,2	7,9	7,6	7,4
Amajuba District Municipality (DC25)	8,1	8,2	8,4	8,5	8,7	8,8	8,8	8,9	8,9	8,9	8,8	8,8	8,8	8,8
Zululand District Municipality (DC26)	10,0	10,1	10,3	10,4	10,5	10,6	10,6	10,7	10,7	10,7	10,6	10,5	10,5	10,5
uMkhanyakude District Municipality (DC27)	8,6	8,6	8,7	8,7	8,7	8,6	8,5	8,5	8,5	8,6	8,5	8,5	8,5	8,6
King Cetshwayo District Municipality (DC28)	8,2	8,3	8,5	8,6	8,7	8,7	8,7	8,7	8,8	8,8	8,8	8,8	8,8	8,8
iLembe District Municipality (DC29)	10,5	10,8	11,0	11,3	11,4	11,5	11,7	11,8	11,9	12,0	12,0	12,1	12,1	12,1
Harry Gwala District Municipality (DC43)	9,3	9,3	9,3	9,3	9,3	9,2	9,1	8,9	8,8	8,5	8,2	8,0	7,8	7,7
eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality (ETH)	7,4	7,6	7,9	8,1	8,4	8,6	8,9	9,2	9,4	9,6	9,8	10,1	10,4	10,6
School-going age 4-17														
Ugu District Municipality (DC21)	29,4	28,9	28,7	28,6	28,7	28,6	28,6	28,6	28,5	28,6	28,6	28,5	28,4	28,2
uMgungundlovu District Municipality (DC22)	25,4	25,1	24,8	24,7	24,6	24,5	24,4	24,3	24,1	24,1	24,2	24,2	24,2	24,1
uThukela District Municipality (DC23)	32,2	31,8	31,6	31,6	31,7	31,5	31,4	31,4	31,4	31,5	31,4	31,3	31,3	31,1
uMzinyathi District Municipality (DC24)	35,2	34,7	34,3	34,1	34,2	33,9	33,7	33,6	33,5	33,6	33,3	33,1	32,9	32,7
Amajuba District Municipality (DC25)	29,9	29,5	29,2	28,9	28,8	28,7	28,6	28,5	28,4	28,4	28,3	28,1	27,8	27,5
Zululand District Municipality (DC26)	34,4	34,2	34,0	34,0	34,2	34,1	34,2	34,3	34,3	34,4	34,1	33,8	33,5	33,1
uMkhanyakude District Municipality (DC27)	33,7	33,2	32,9	32,8	32,9	32,7	32,6	32,6	32,6	32,6	32,5	32,4	32,1	31,9
King Cetshwayo District Municipality (DC28)	31,5	31,0	30,7	30,5	30,5	30,4	30,3	30,4	30,4	30,5	30,5	30,5	30,4	30,3
iLembe District Municipality (DC29)	29,5	29,2	28,9	28,9	29,0	28,9	28,9	29,0	28,9	29,0	29,0	28,8	28,5	28,2
Harry Gwala District Municipality (DC43)	34,0	33,6	33,4	33,4	33,7	33,5	33,5	33,6	33,5	33,6	33,4	33,2	33,0	32,8
eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality (ETH)	22,6	22,4	22,2	22,0	22,0	22,0	21,9	21,8	21,7	21,6	21,8	21,7	21,7	21,5
Voting-age population (18+)														
Ugu District Municipality (DC21)	61,0	61,6	62,0	62,4	62,7	63,1	63,3	63,3	63,3	63,0	63,1	63,2	63,5	63,7
uMgungundlovu District Municipality (DC22)	66,6	67,0	67,4	67,8	68,2	68,6	68,8	68,9	68,8	68,5	68,4	68,4	68,6	68,8
uThukela District Municipality (DC23)	57,5	57,9	58,2	58,5	58,8	59,3	59,6	59,7	59,6	59,3	59,4	59,6	59,8	60,1
uMzinyathi District Municipality (DC24)	53,8	54,4	54,9	55,2	55,5	56,1	56,4	56,6	56,6	56,4	56,7	57,0	57,3	57,5
Amajuba District Municipality (DC25)	61,2	61,7	62,1	62,5	62,9	63,2	63,6	63,8	63,9	63,9	64,1	64,4	64,7	65,1

Zululand District Municipality (DC26)	54,7	55,1	55,3	55,3	55,3	55,7	55,9	56,0	56,0	56,0	56,4	56,8	57,2	57,5
uMkhanyakude District Municipality (DC27)	55,1	55,6	56,0	56,3	56,6	57,1	57,4	57,6	57,6	57,5	57,8	58,1	58,4	58,8
King Cetshwayo District Municipality (DC28)	58,6	59,1	59,4	59,7	59,9	60,3	60,5	60,5	60,4	60,2	60,3	60,4	60,6	60,8
iLembe District Municipality (DC29)	60,8	61,2	61,5	61,7	62,0	62,4	62,6	62,8	62,8	62,8	63,0	63,3	63,6	63,9
Harry Gwala District Municipality (DC43)	55,2	55,7	56,0	56,1	56,2	56,6	56,8	56,8	56,7	56,5	56,7	57,0	57,3	57,6
eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality (ETH)	70,0	70,2	70,6	70,9	71,3	71,5	71,6	71,7	71,8	71,6	71,5	71,6	71,9	72,2

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

	CBR			CDR		
District municipality	**2011-2016**	**2016-2021**	**2021-2026**	**2011-2016**	**2016-2021**	**2021-2026**
Ugu District Municipality (DC21)	22,4	21,2	20,6	14,8	15,4	14,3
uMgungundlovu District Municipality (DC22)	18,8	18,7	18,2	13,1	12,8	12,7
uThukela District Municipality (DC23)	25,8	24,3	22,9	11,2	11,9	11,8
uMzinyathi District Municipality (DC24)	27,2	25,6	25,5	12,3	12,2	11,5
Amajuba District Municipality (DC25)	21,9	19,7	19,1	10,4	11,6	11,5
Zululand District Municipality (DC26)	28,5	25,1	24,7	9,2	9,9	9,4
uMkhanyakude District Municipality (DC27)	28,8	14,5	25,1	8,7	9,2	9,0
King Cetshwayo District Municipality (DC28)	26,1	24,4	23,9	11,1	11,9	11,6
iLembe District Municipality (DC29)	24,1	21,2	20,3	9,5	9,3	9,2
Harry Gwala District Municipality (DC43)	27,4	25,3	24,9	12,2	12,4	11,6
eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality (ETH)	18,2	17,5	16,4	9,1	9,5	9,0

Appendix E (1) – Population estimates by district/metropolitan municipality, 2002–2025

	Ugu District Municipality (DC21)		uMgungundlovu District Municipality (DC22)		uThukela District Municipality (DC23)		uMzinyathi District Municipality (DC24)		Amajuba District Municipality (DC25)		Zululand District Municipality (DC26)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
2002	831 709	372 532	478 281	535 501	317 382	369 802	226 895	292 662	235 382	256 749	349 832	416 176
2003	319 876	371 573	477 908	534 554	316 827	367 969	226 123	292 151	236 479	257 817	352 092	419 302
2004	319 745	370 961	477 903	533 870	316 406	366 263	225 551	291 923	237 901	259 199	355 205	423 104
2005	319 958	370 596	478 232	533 419	316 090	364 629	225 132	291 891	239 640	260 872	359 099	427 453
2006	320 113	370 221	478 557	533 023	315 487	362 870	224 465	291 823	241 479	262 713	363 143	431 993
2007	319 688	369 043	480 181	535 757	315 819	362 218	225 060	291 884	243 493	264 735	367 113	433 869
2008	319 799	368 467	482 636	539 599	316 684	362 253	225 883	292 285	245 733	267 087	371 146	436 054
2009	320 108	368 120	485 528	544 062	317 715	362 580	226 624	292 728	247 979	269 520	374 813	438 119
2010	320 545	367 858	488 791	548 909	318 837	363 032	227 238	293 131	250 209	271 946	378 121	439 983
2011	321 296	368 000	492 670	554 605	320 249	363 921	227 909	293 775	252 583	274 620	381 439	442 122
2012	326 932	372 719	498 160	561 756	323 052	366 115	231 202	296 462	255 761	278 105	384 591	445 383
2013	332 440	377 303	503 370	568 589	325 607	368 005	234 490	299 130	258 976	281 623	387 923	448 771
2014	338 166	382 075	508 781	575 553	328 245	369 914	238 013	302 024	262 452	285 386	391 773	452 614
2015	343 545	386 462	513 637	581 901	330 347	371 243	241 256	304 622	265 726	288 946	395 290	456 047
2016	348 431	390 342	517 761	587 501	331 739	371 873	244 043	306 779	268 644	292 177	398 155	458 788
2017	353 133	394 436	523 078	593 867	333 691	373 108	247 316	309 217	271 394	295 385	400 864	461 815
2018	358 515	399 261	529 258	601 193	336 057	374 793	250 971	312 117	274 354	298 826	403 819	465 066
2019	364 299	404 576	535 968	609 211	338 540	376 713	254 741	315 271	277 327	302 355	406 613	468 246
2020	369 908	409 741	542 371	616 959	340 609	378 279	258 223	318 178	279 879	305 519	408 614	470 630
2021	374 248	413 571	546 701	622 557	341 313	378 465	260 739	319 984	281 180	307 476	408 813	471 098
2022	379 468	417 765	551 258	628 747	342 914	379 237	263 908	322 391	283 016	309 758	410 471	473 221
2023	385 265	422 679	556 683	635 851	344 825	380 441	267 433	325 431	285 433	312 618	412 727	476 085
2024	391 534	427 981	562 767	643 358	346 909	381 760	271 269	328 880	288 305	315 827	415 429	479 354
2025	398 160	433 549	569 346	651 131	349 029	383 075	275 329	332 647	291 533	319 308	418 398	482 877

Appendix E (2) – Population estimates by district/metropolitan municipality, 2002–2025 (concluded)

	uMkhanyakude District Municipality (DC27)		King Cetshwayo District Municipality (DC28)		iLembe District Municipality (DC29)		Harry Gwala District Municipality (DC43)		eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality (ETH)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
2002	279 074	339 791	421 825	476 981	276 198	311 213	213 597	248 316	1 518 255	1 643 511
2003	278 990	340 514	420 408	476 137	277 547	312 213	213 180	247 419	1 536 295	1 658 006
2004	279 130	341 494	419 333	475 632	279 283	313 605	213 033	246 883	1 556 951	1 674 487
2005	279 452	342 624	418 528	475 345	281 381	315 326	213 117	246 646	1 580 244	1 693 060
2006	279 460	343 638	417 451	474 951	283 530	317 182	213 091	246 519	1 605 728	1 713 415
2007	280 596	345 091	417 393	475 858	286 155	319 991	213 568	247 517	1 633 328	1 732 662
2008	282 190	347 135	417 863	477 483	289 232	323 277	214 204	248 662	1 663 216	1 754 958
2009	283 861	349 392	418 397	479 356	292 471	326 719	214 734	249 686	1 694 295	1 778 789
2010	285 555	351 737	418 930	481 319	295 832	330 205	215 127	250 520	1 726 464	1 803 399
2011	287 501	354 502	419 742	483 828	299 517	334 055	215 553	251 409	1 760 624	1 830 437
2012	290 403	358 131	422 786	488 109	303 920	338 547	216 539	252 575	1 793 978	1 856 341
2013	293 130	361 548	425 795	492 265	308 178	342 930	217 494	253 751	1 826 483	1 881 767
2014	295 997	365 058	429 173	496 674	312 596	347 493	218 626	255 150	1 859 820	1 908 192
2015	298 382	367 994	432 063	500 464	316 614	351 678	219 480	256 333	1 891 292	1 933 096
2016	300 097	370 186	434 181	503 386	320 066	355 349	219 911	257 186	1 920 225	1 955 998
2017	302 016	373 046	436 790	506 873	323 885	359 292	221 291	258 864	1 950 598	1 980 784
2018	304 272	376 266	439 859	510 882	328 010	363 539	222 975	260 870	1 983 218	2 007 848
2019	306 560	379 611	443 004	515 129	332 199	367 914	224 738	263 019	2 017 056	2 036 400
2020	308 423	382 526	445 575	518 869	335 927	371 842	226 233	264 880	2 048 936	2 063 379
2021	309 056	384 038	446 317	520 718	338 227	374 351	226 856	265 759	2 071 532	2 082 351
2022	310 573	386 467	448 307	523 592	341 002	377 789	228 226	267 369	2 098 225	2 105 539
2023	312 350	389 278	450 929	527 176	344 316	381 738	229 857	269 405	2 127 689	2 131 099
2024	314 283	392 206	454 012	531 079	347 997	385 889	231 675	271 680	2 158 700	2 157 244
2025	316 244	395 123	457 402	535 149	351 908	390 130	233 589	274 119	2 190 609	2 183 593

Appendix F – District/metropolitan municipality population in KwaZulu-Natal 2025

District municipality	Population					Age structure			Age structure %		
	Total	Male	Female	Male %	Female%	0-14	15-64	65+	0-14	15-64	65+
Ugu District Municipality (DC21)	831 709	398 160	433 549	47,9	52,1	250 625	543 625	37 459	30,1	65,4	4,5
uMgungundlovu District Municipality (DC22)	1 220 477	569 346	651 131	46,6	53,4	316 410	836 708	67 359	25,9	68,6	5,5
uThukela District Municipality (DC23)	732 104	349 029	383 075	47,7	52,3	243 501	444 412	44 191	33,3	60,7	6,0
uMzinyathi District Municipality (DC24)	607 975	275 329	332 647	45,3	54,7	216 120	364 967	26 888	35,5	60,0	4,4
Amajuba District Municipality (DC25)	610 841	291 533	319 308	47,7	52,3	176 226	399 643	34 972	28,8	65,4	5,7
Zululand District Municipality (DC26)	901 275	418 398	482 877	46,4	53,6	319 139	526 801	55 335	35,4	58,5	6,1
uMkhanyakude District Municipality (DC27)	711 366	316 244	395 123	44,5	55,5	246 315	428 416	36 636	34,6	60,2	5,2
King Cetshwayo District Municipality (DC28)	992 551	457 402	535 149	46,1	53,9	327 326	611 437	53 788	33,0	61,6	5,4
iLembe District Municipality (DC29)	742 038	351 908	390 130	47,4	52,6	222 769	463 204	56 065	30,0	62,4	7,6
Harry Gwala District Municipality (DC43)	507 708	233 589	274 119	46,0	54,0	179 925	304 470	23 313	35,4	60,0	4,6
eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality (ETH)	4 374 202	2 190 609	2 183 593	50,1	49,9	1 014 270	3 037 500	322 432	23,2	69,4	7,4

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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