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General Household Survey 2024

Measuring the progress of development in the country

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Embargo: 27 May 2025, 11:30



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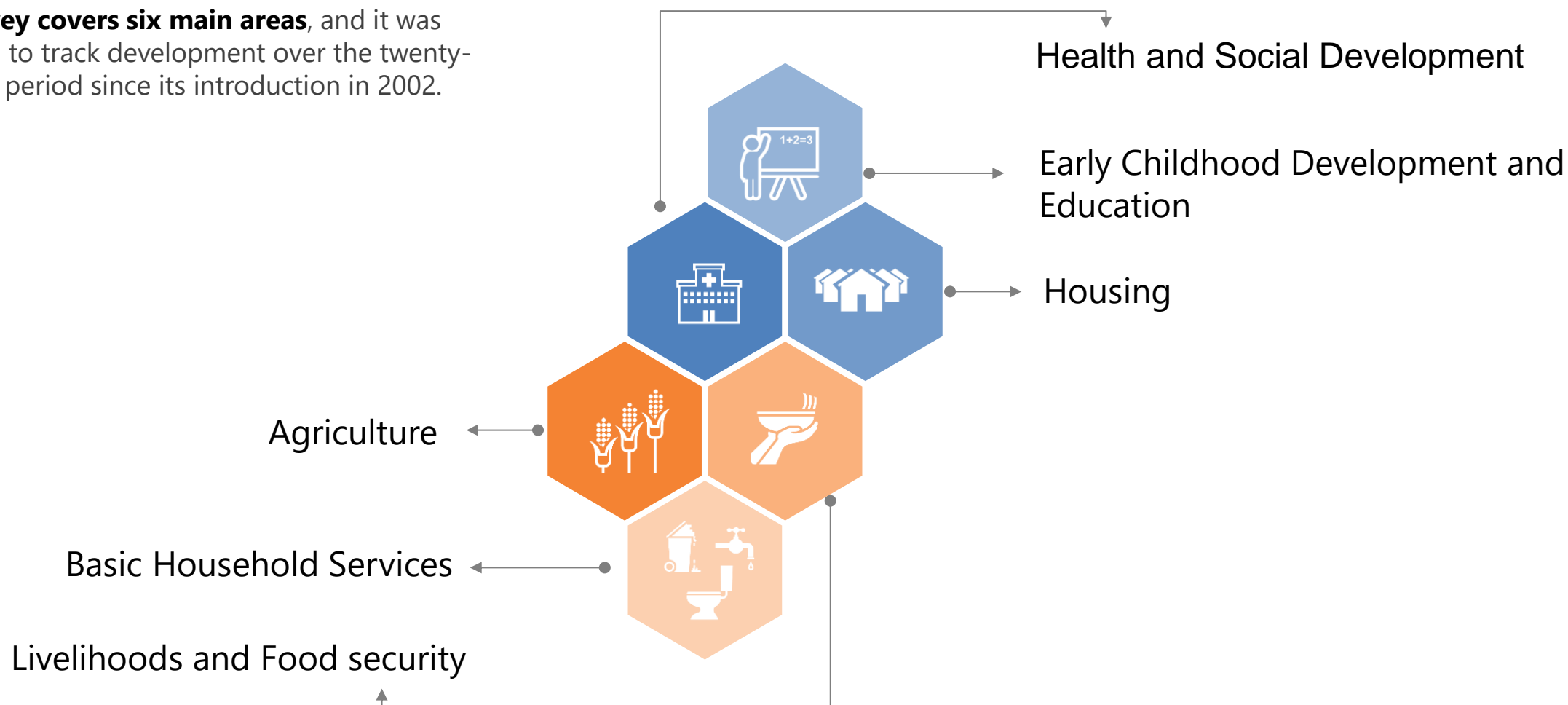
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IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



• General Household Survey 2024

The survey covers six main areas, and it was designed to track development over the twenty-two-year period since its introduction in 2002.



Living arrangements

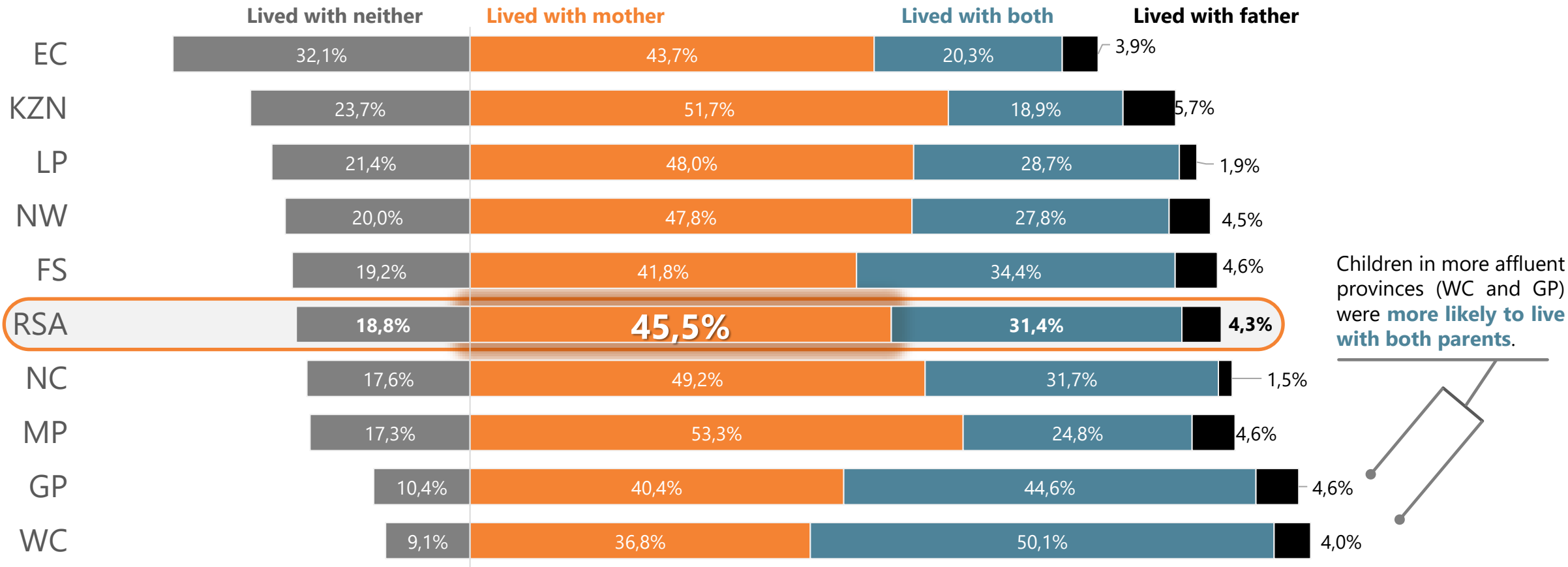
Families and households are profoundly important to the developmental, emotional and cognitive growth of children and parents and/or caregivers can play a central role in the development of children



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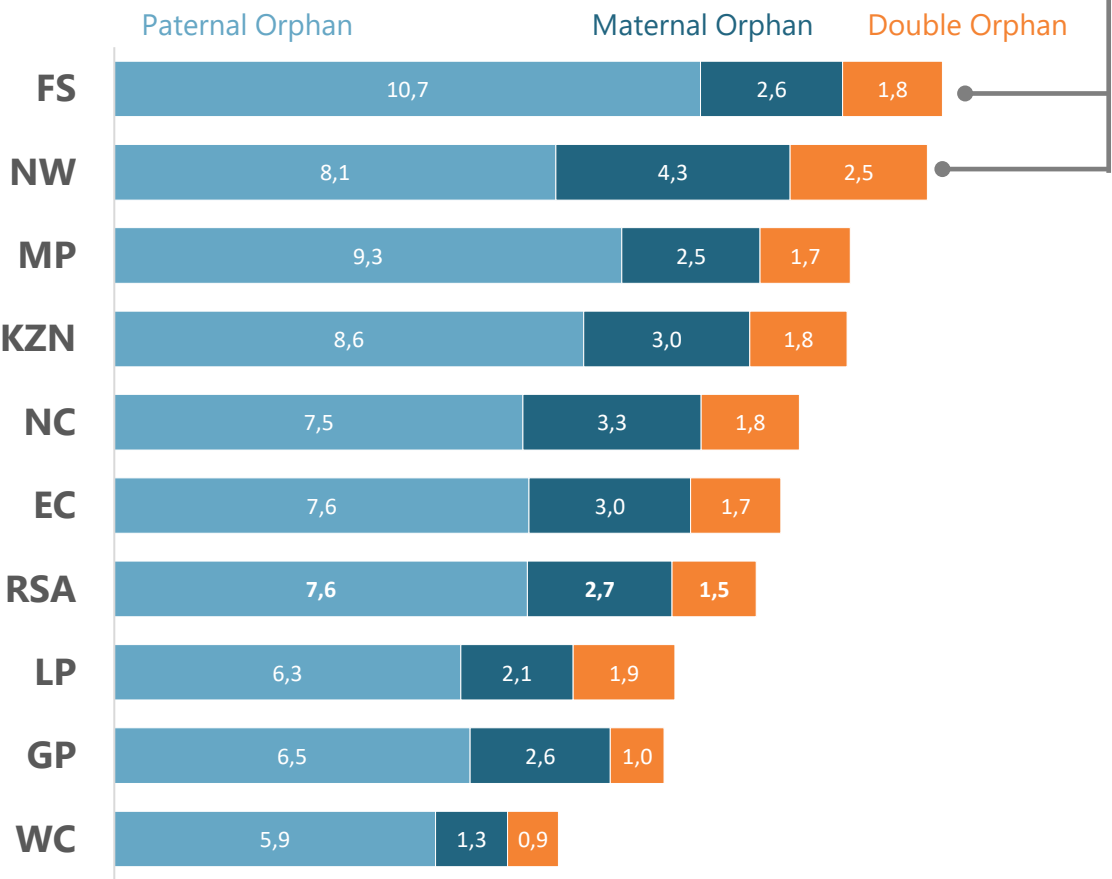
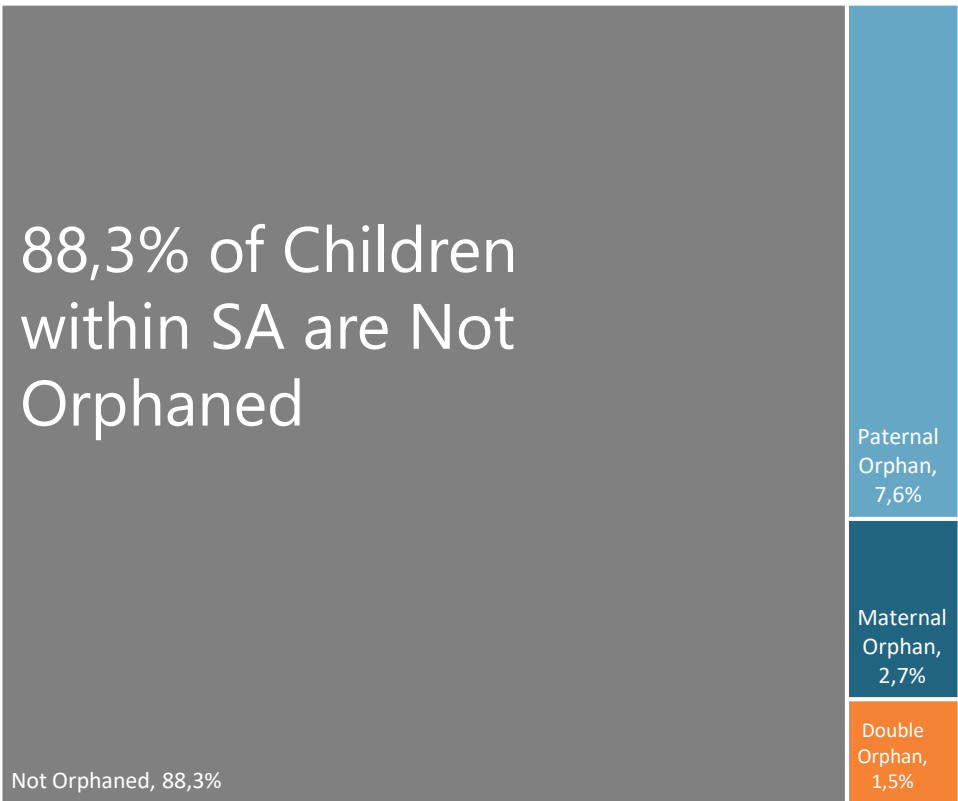
Nationally, **45,5% of children lived with mothers only** while less than a third (31,4%) of children lived with both parents

Percentage of children living arrangements by province, 2024



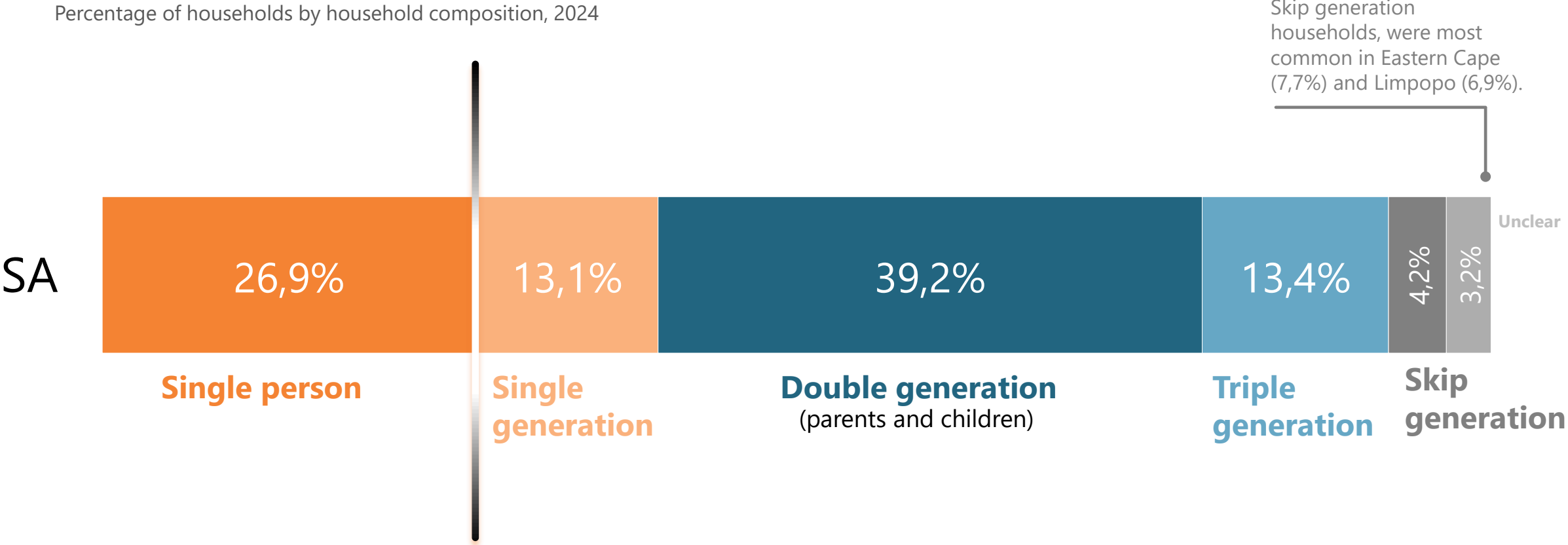
The percentage of orphaned children was the highest in **Free State (15,2%)** and **North West (14,9%)** and lowest in **Western Cape (8,1%)**.

Percentage of children by orphanhood status and province, 2024



More than one-quarter (26,9%) of households consisted of a single person, while 39,2% of household were double generation households comprised of parents and children.

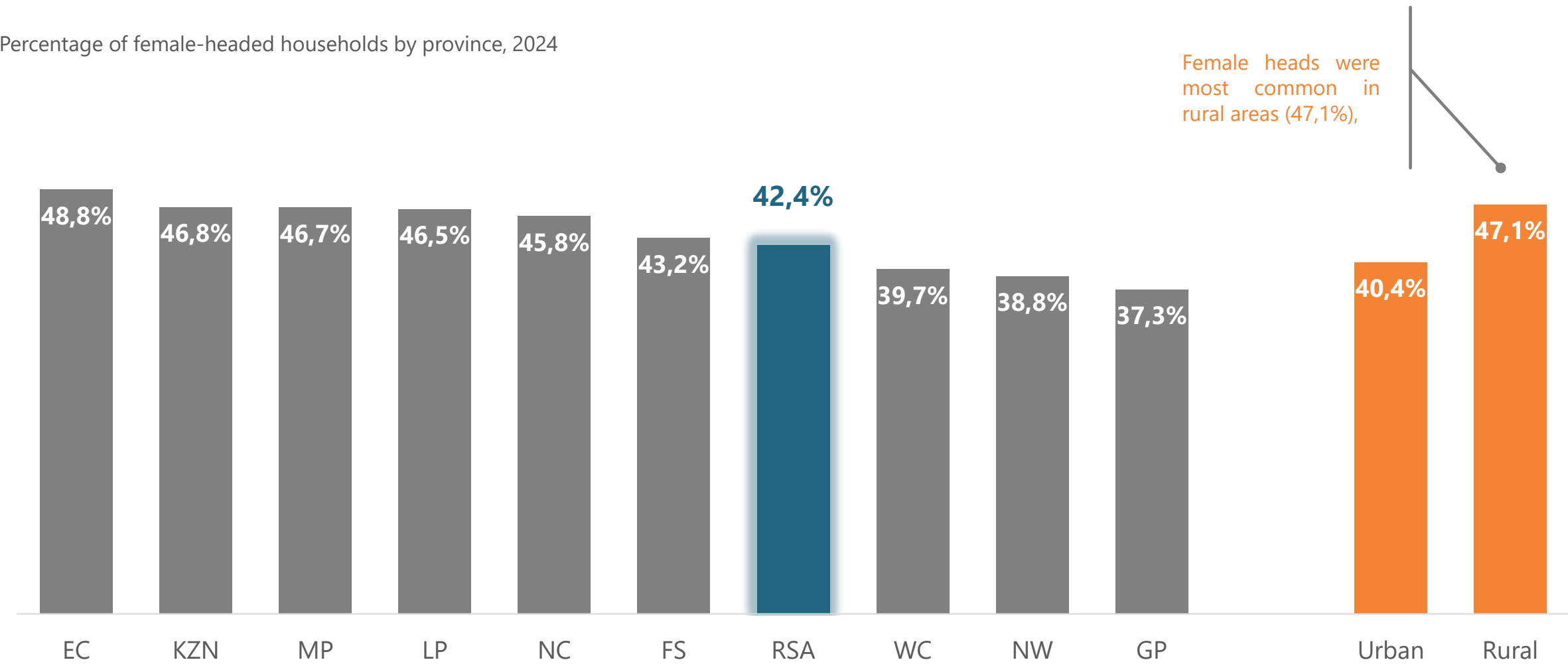
Percentage of households by household composition, 2024



*Single generation households (partners or siblings living together).
*Skip-generation households in which grandparents lived with grandchildren.
Triple generation households (where two or more adult generations live together under the same roof)

More than two-fifths (42,4%) of all households were headed by **females**.

Percentage of female-headed households by province, 2024



Education

By tracking a number of core education and education-related indicators on an annual basis, particular aspects of the circumstances of learners can be analysed.

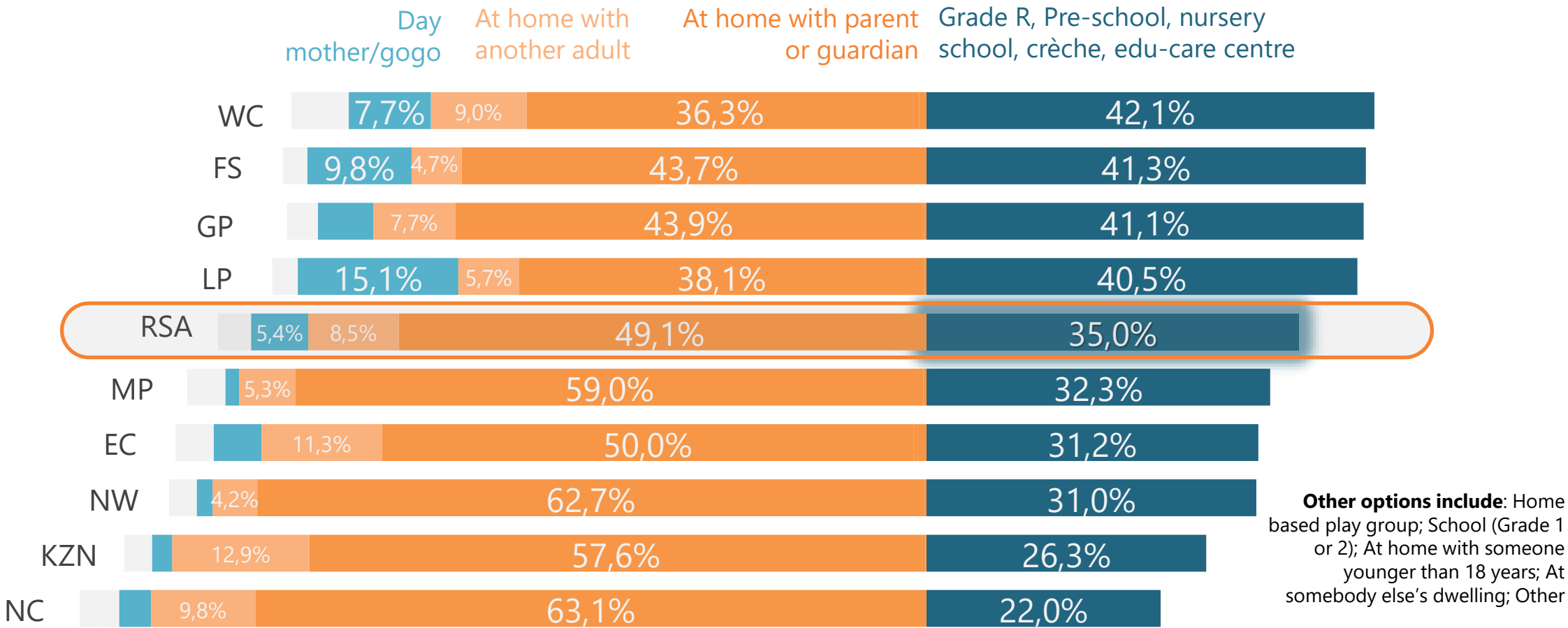


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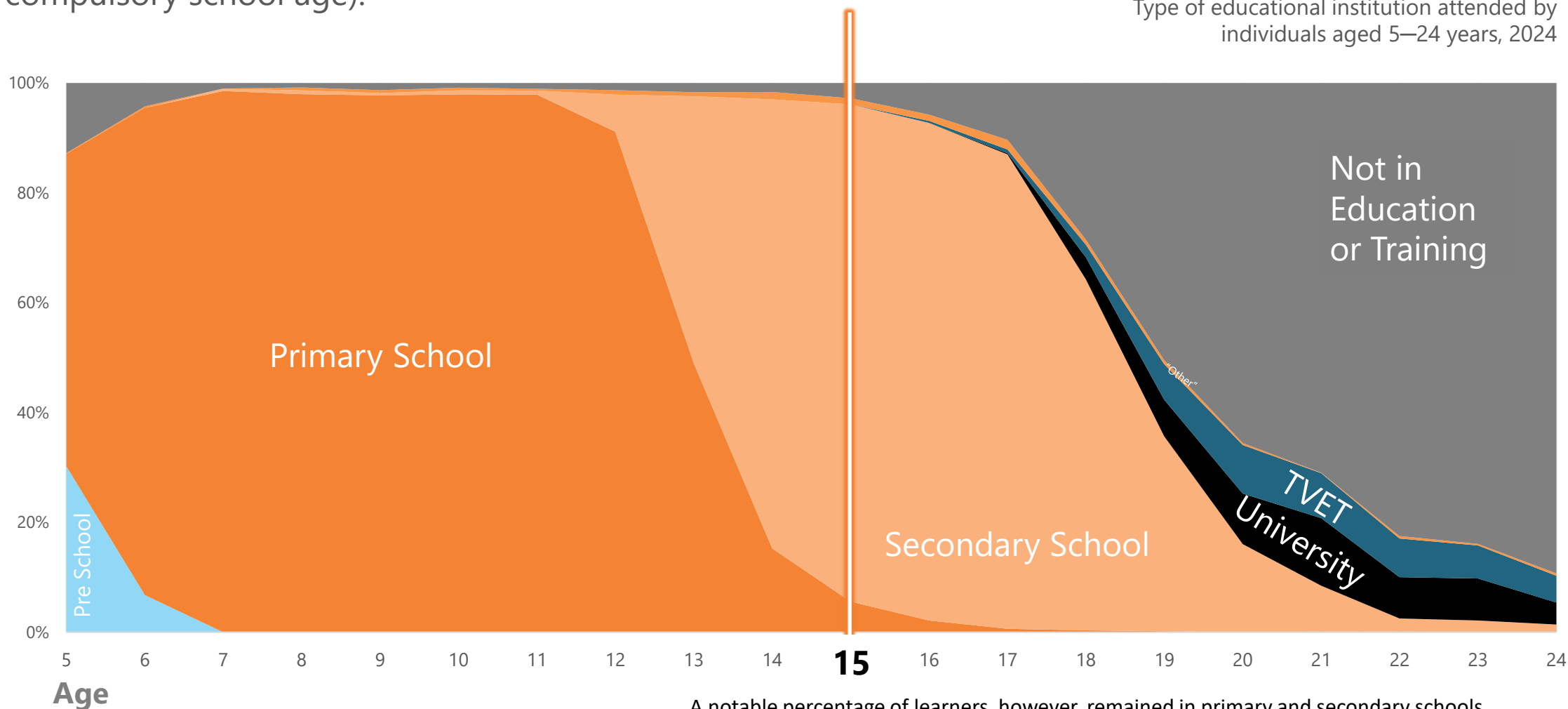
More than **one-third (35,0%)** of 0–4-year-olds **attended ECD programmes** offered at day-care centres, crèches, playgroups, nursery schools and in pre-primary schools.

Percentage of children aged 0–4 years that used different childcare arrangements by province, 2024



Participation in education institutions was **virtually universal (96,1%) by the age of 15 years** (the last compulsory school age).

Type of educational institution attended by individuals aged 5–24 years, 2024



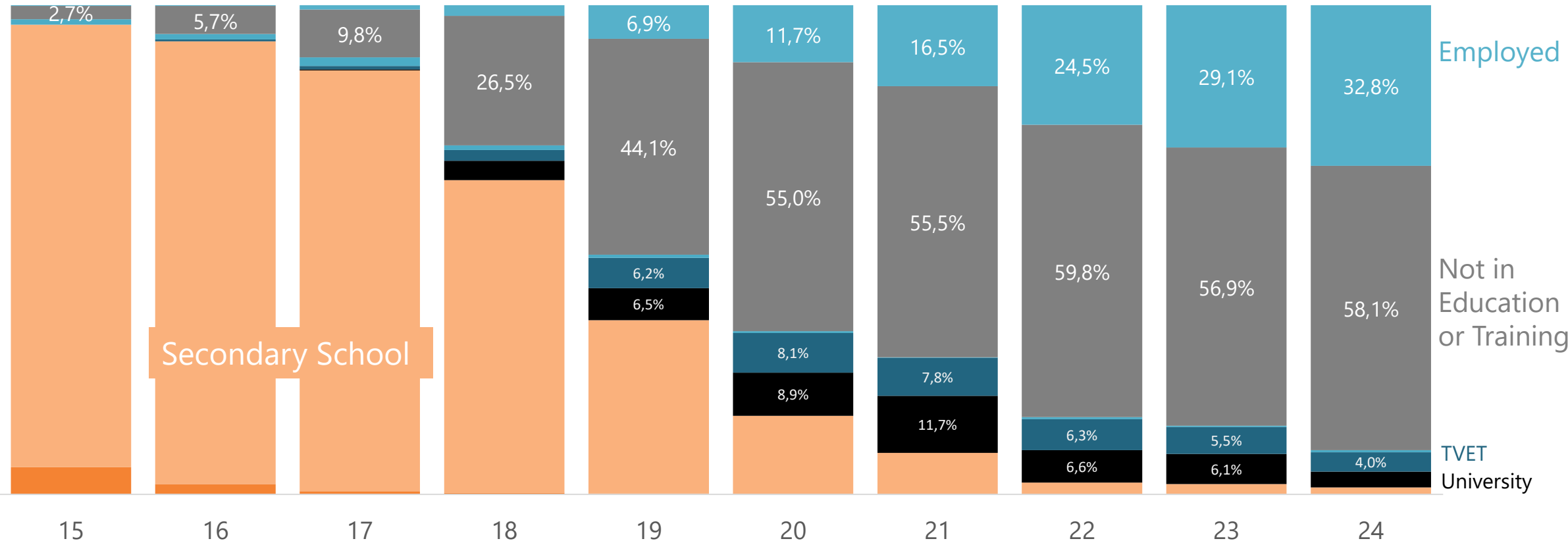
A notable percentage of learners, however, remained in primary and secondary schools long after they should have exited those institutions



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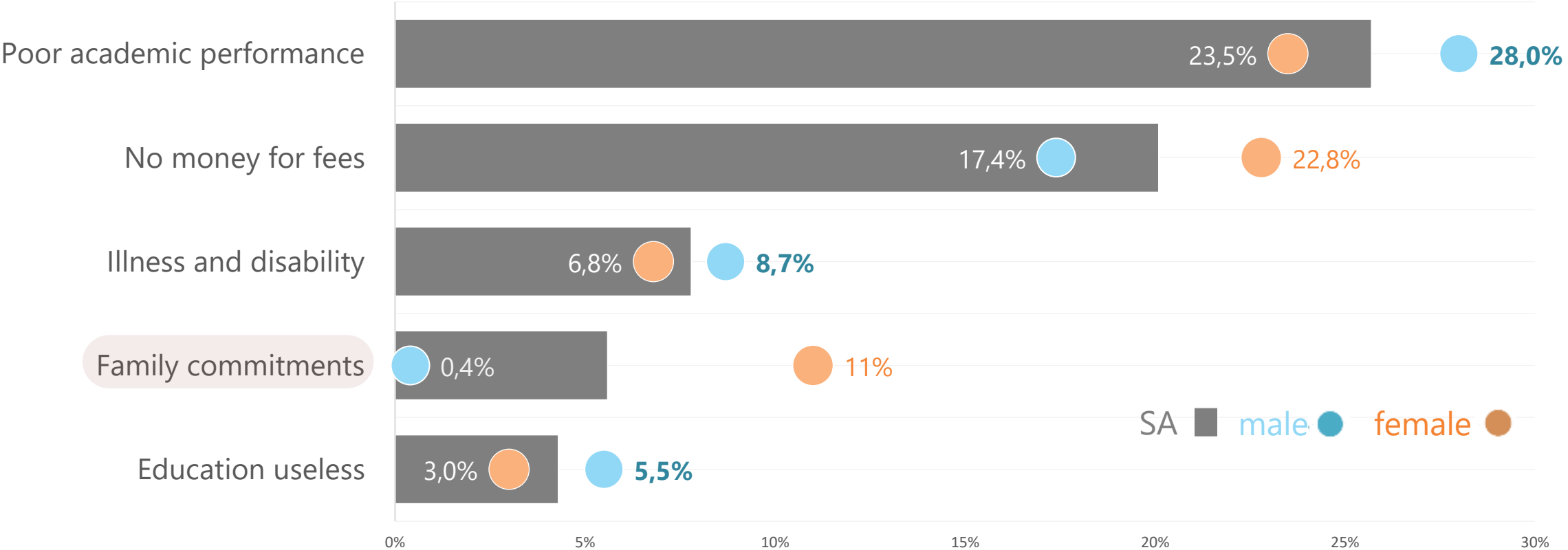
Almost **three-fifths (58,1%)** of youth **aged 24 years of age** were not in education or training in 2024.

Type of **educational institution** attended by youth aged 15-24, 2024



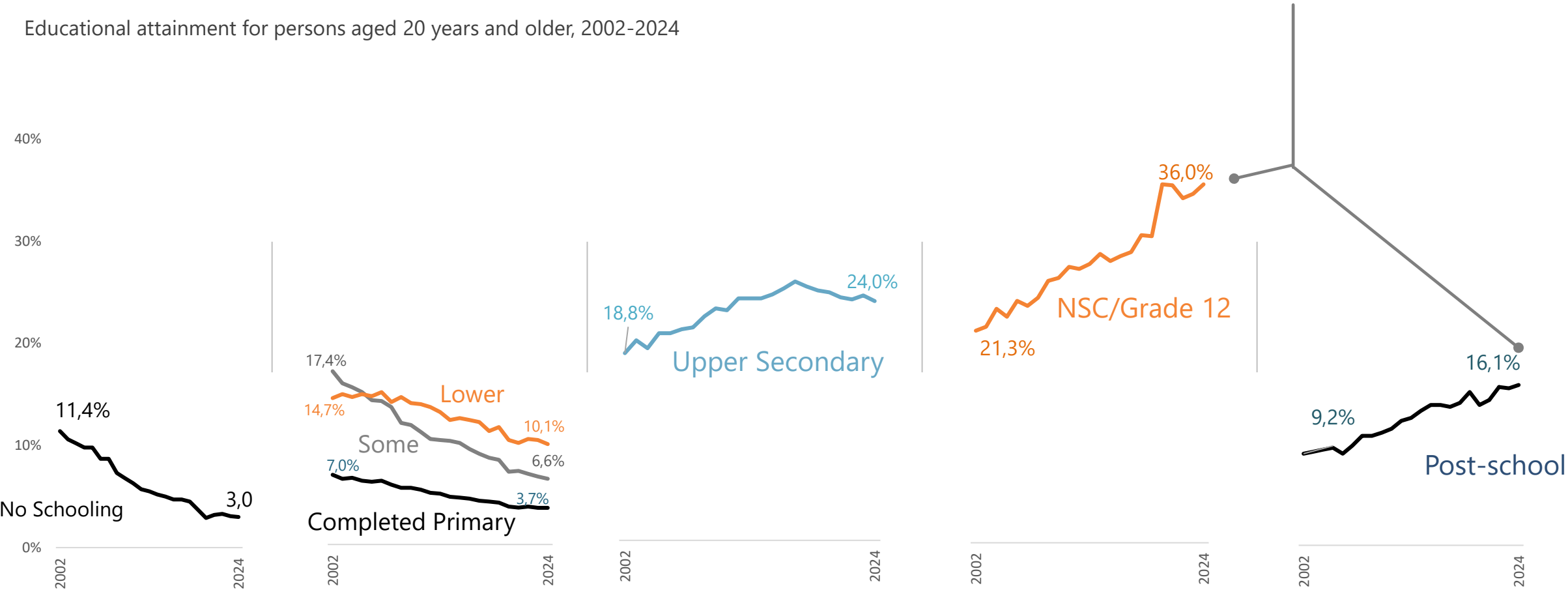
Top reasons for males not attending school was **poor academic performance**, with large gender disparity in **family commitment** as a reason for not attending school.

Percentage distribution of selected reasons given by individuals aged 7 to 18 years for not attending an educational institution, by sex, 2024



The percentage of individuals aged 20 years and older with at least a grade 12 qualification (*NSC + Post School*) increased from **30,5%** in 2002 **to 52,1%** in 2024.

Educational attainment for persons aged 20 years and older, 2002-2024



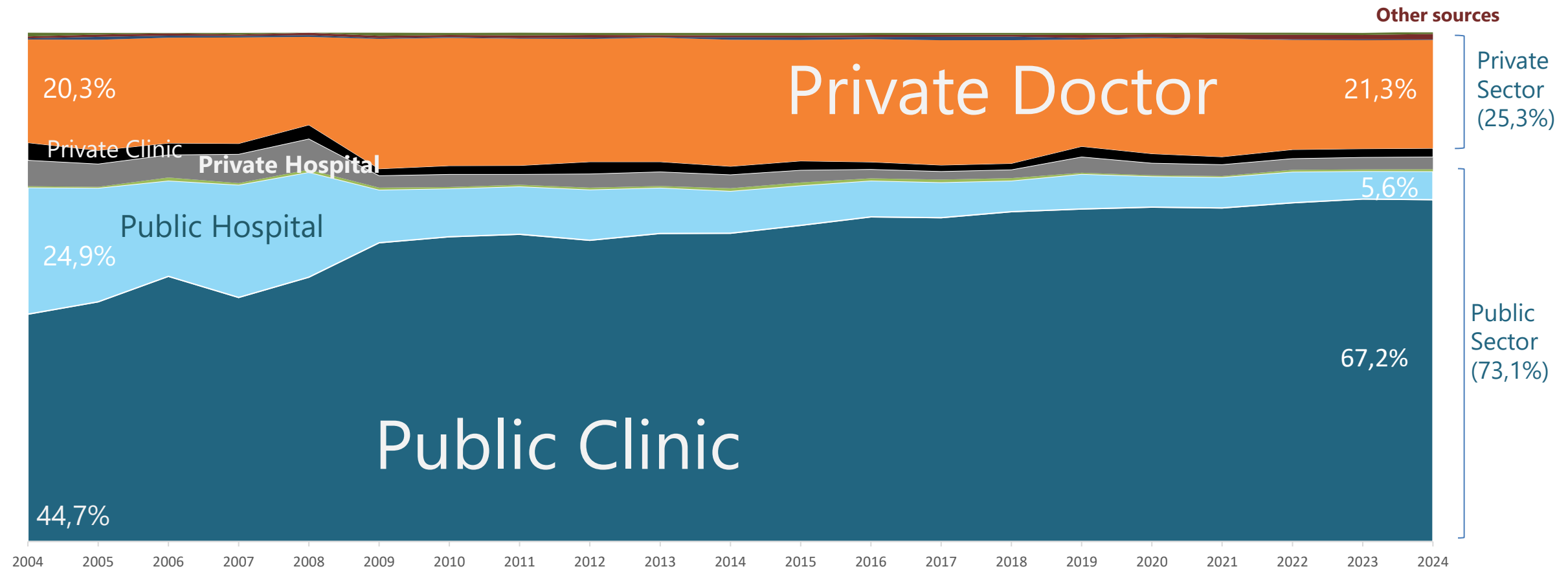
Health

The GHS asked persons to assess their own health based on their own definition of health



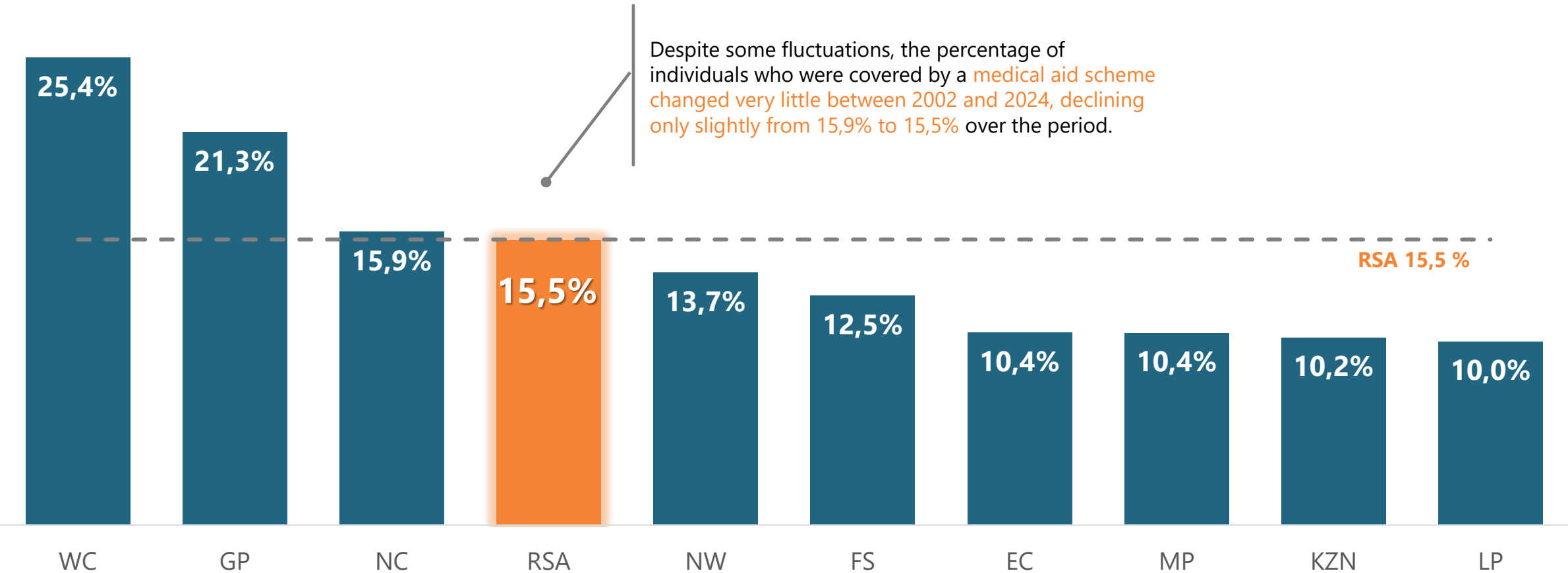
In 2024, 73,1% of household members first consulted personnel at a **Public Clinic or hospital** while 25,3% turned to the private sector.

Percentage distribution of the type of health-care facility consulted first by the households when members fall ill or get injured 2004 - 2024



Medical aid coverage was most common in **Western Cape (25,4%)** and **Gauteng (21,3%)**, and least common in **Limpopo (10,0%)** and **KwaZulu-Natal (10,2%)**.

Individuals who are members of medical aid schemes per province, 2024



GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY 2021

Grants and sources of income

Social grants remain a vital safety net, particularly in the poorest provinces.

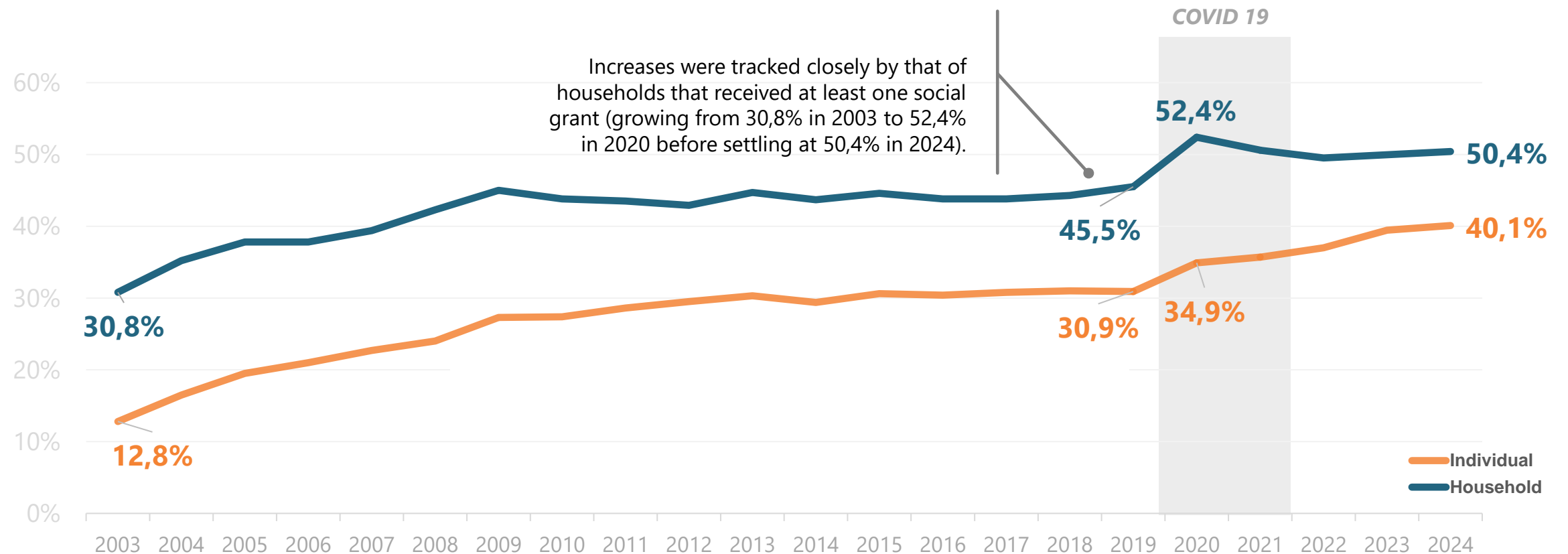


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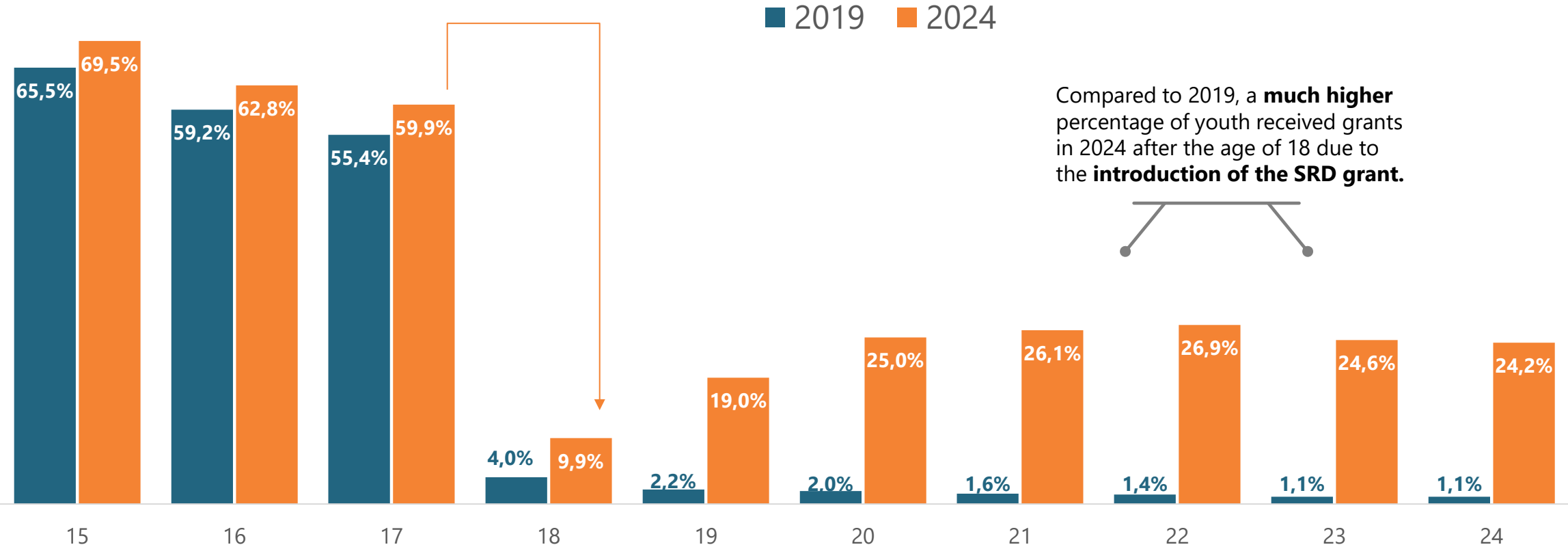
The percentage of **individuals** that benefited from **social grants** increased steadily from 12,8% in 2003 to approximately 31% between 2017 and 2019 before increasing to **40,1% in 2024**.

Percentage of households and individuals who have benefited from social grants, 2003–2024



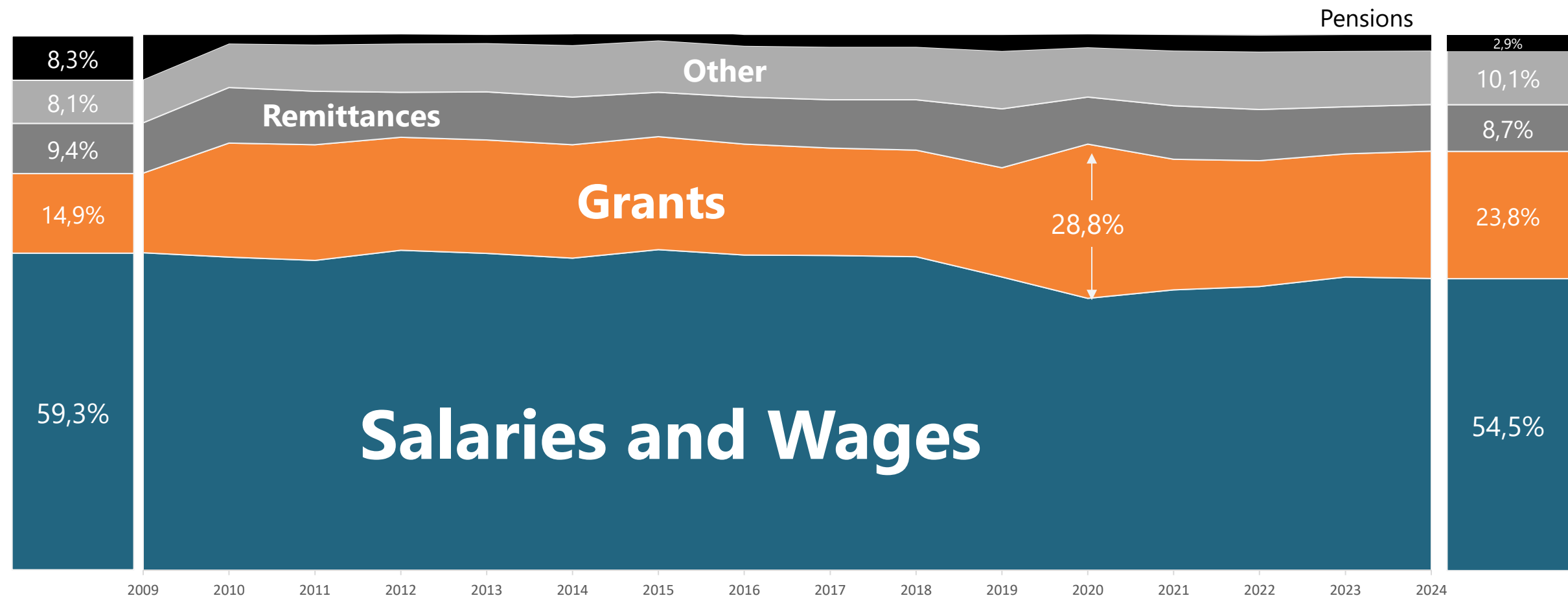
The percentage of **youth (15-24)** that benefited from **social grants** decreased sharply after age 17, dropping from 59,9% to 9,9%.

Percentage of youth aged 15-24 that benefited from social grants by single age, 2019 and 2024



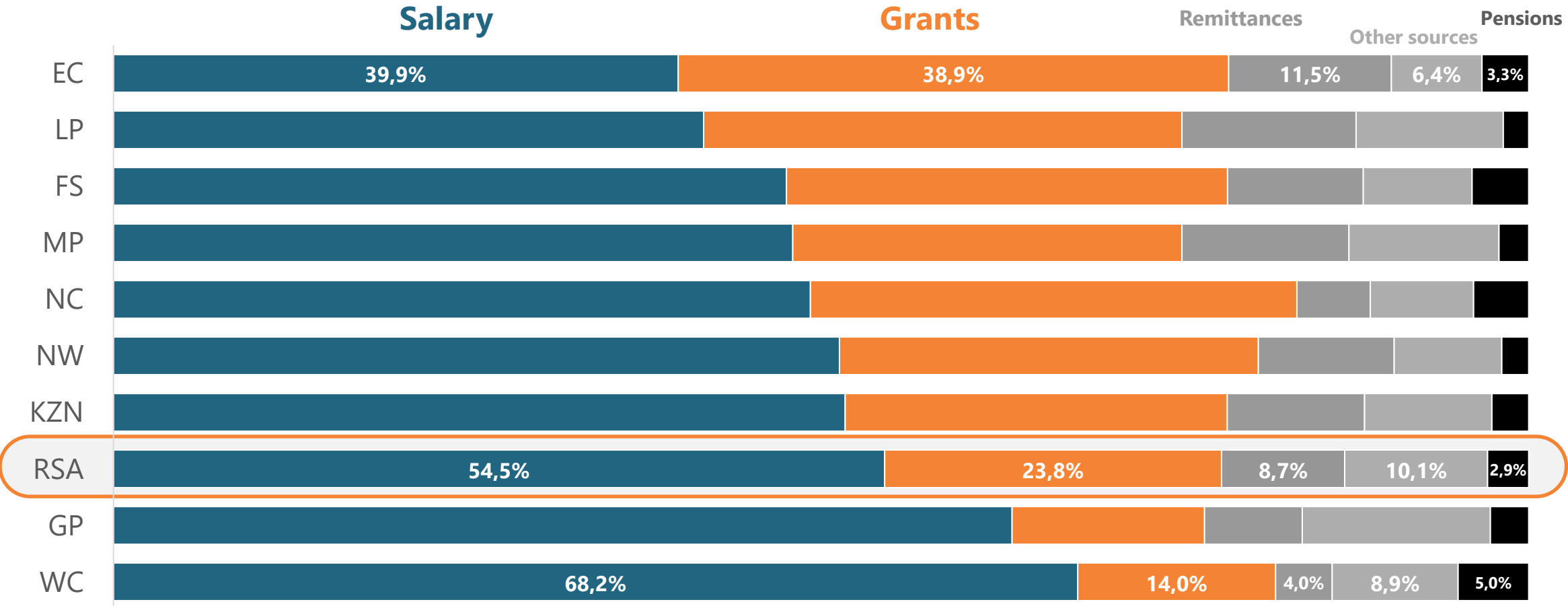
The percentage of households that **considered social grants** as the **main source of income** increased steadily from 21,3% in 2009 to 28,8% in 2020 before falling back **to 23,8% in 2024**.

Percentage of households by main source of income, 2009–2024



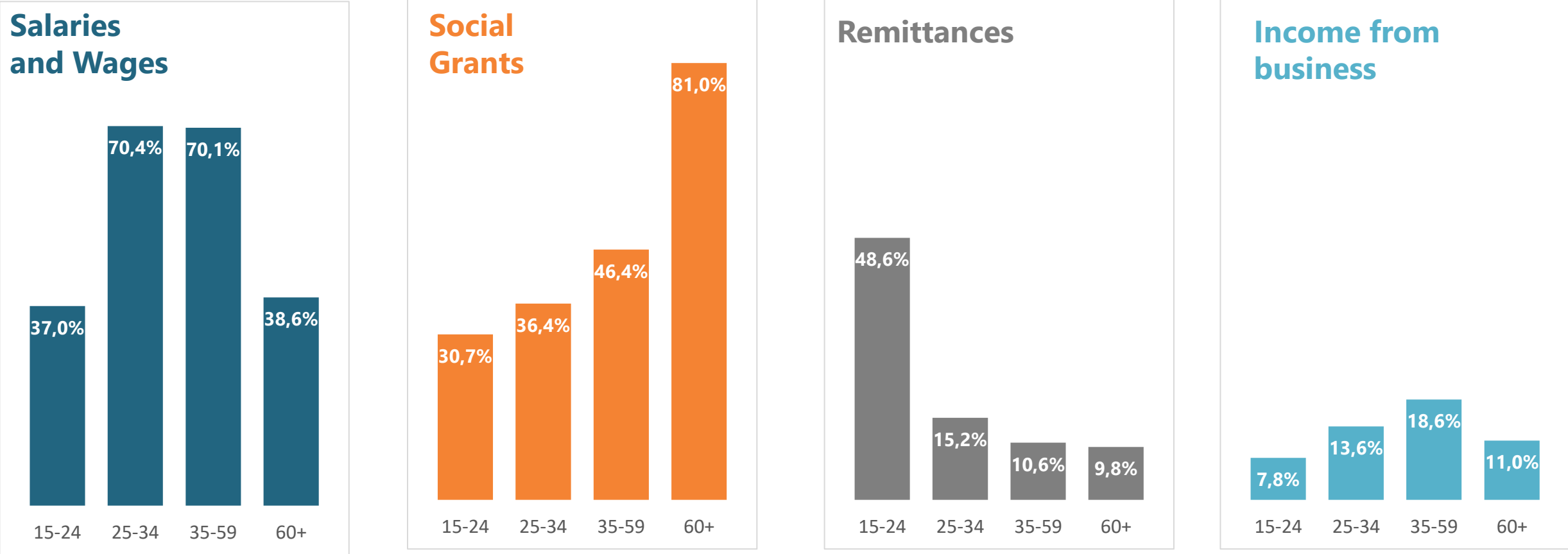
Grants were particularly important as a main source of income for households in **Eastern Cape (38,9%), Northern Cape (34,4%)** and **Limpopo (33,8%)**.

Percentage distribution of main sources of household income by province, 2024



Salaries/wages were about as common in households headed by youth aged 25-34 than in those headed by individuals aged 35-59. **Remittances** were notably higher for households headed by youth aged 15-24 years.

Source of income by age of household head, 2024



Housing and Service Delivery

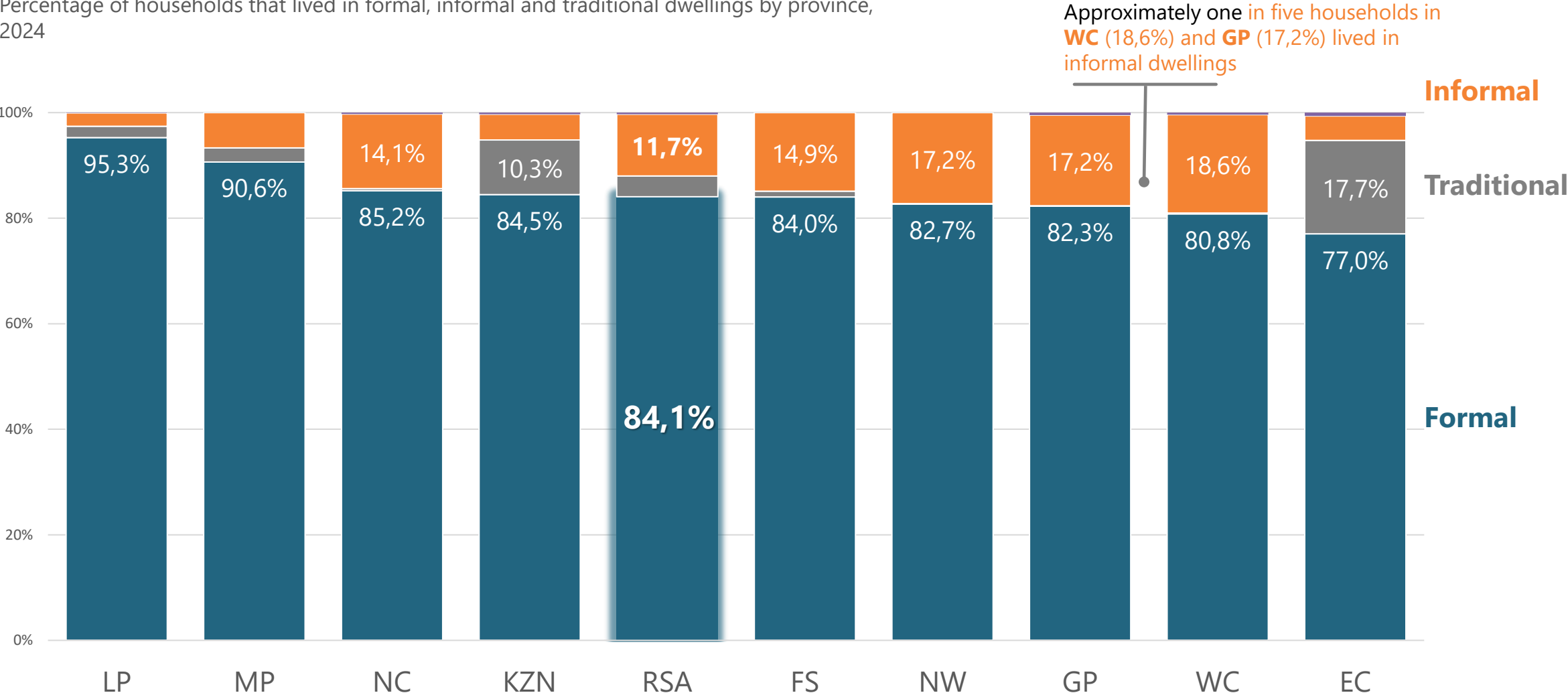
Shelter satisfies a basic human need for physical security and comfort and the characteristics of the dwellings in which households live provide an important indication of the well-being of household members.



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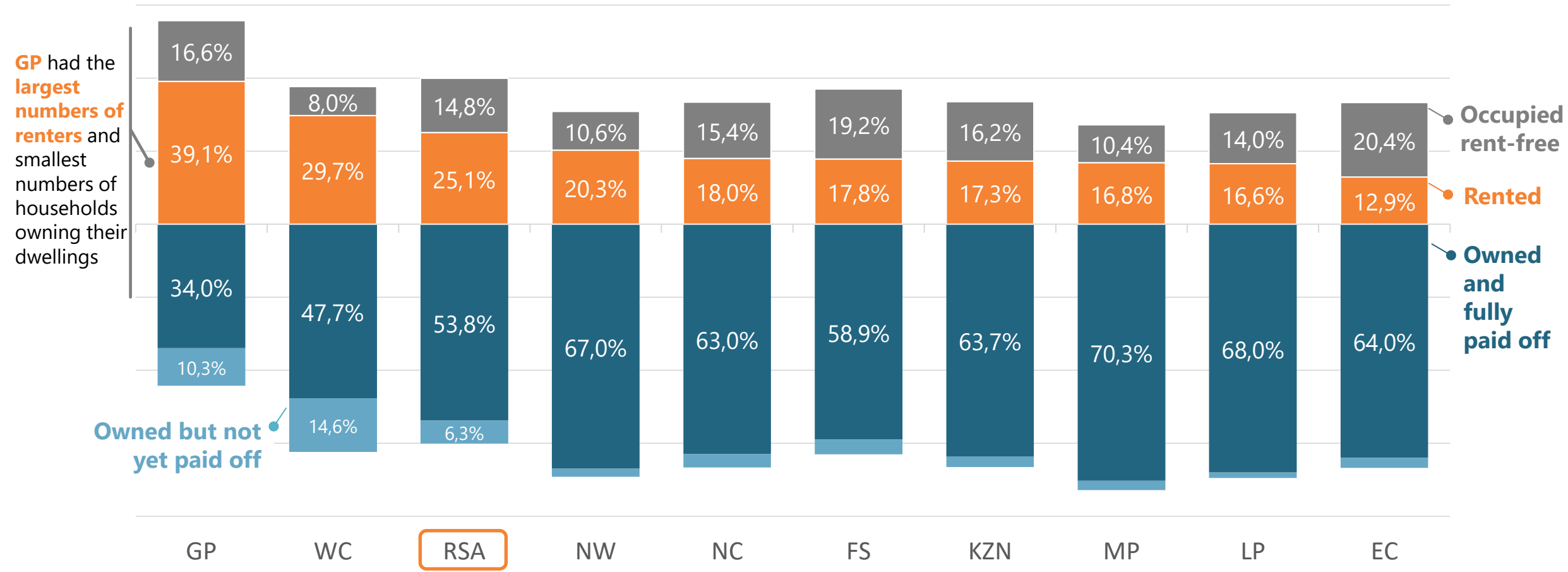
84,1% of all households resided in formal dwellings while 11,7% lived in informal dwellings.

Percentage of households that lived in formal, informal and traditional dwellings by province, 2024



Nationally, three-fifths (60,1%) of households owned (*paid off or being paid off*) the dwelling they lived in. A further 25,1% rented their dwellings.

Percentage distribution of dwelling units by tenure status and province, 2024



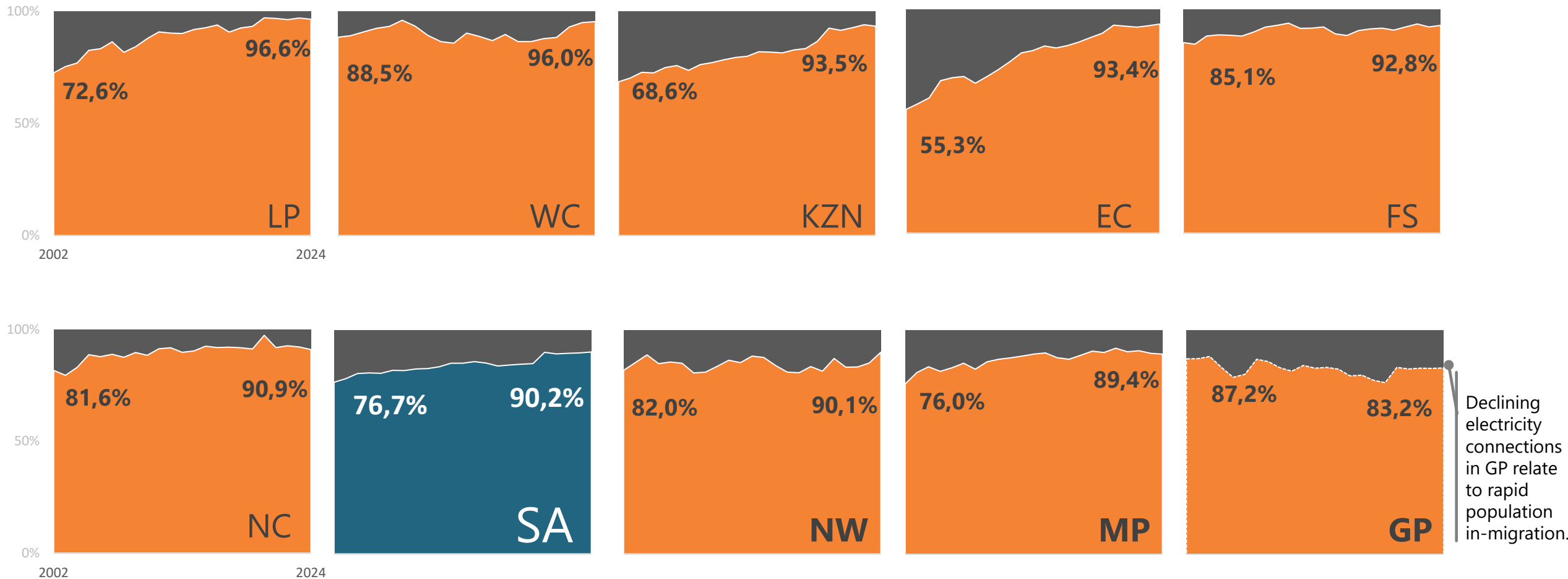
Energy



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The percentage of households that were **connected to the electricity supply** from the mains increased from **76,7% in 2002 to 90,2% in 2024**

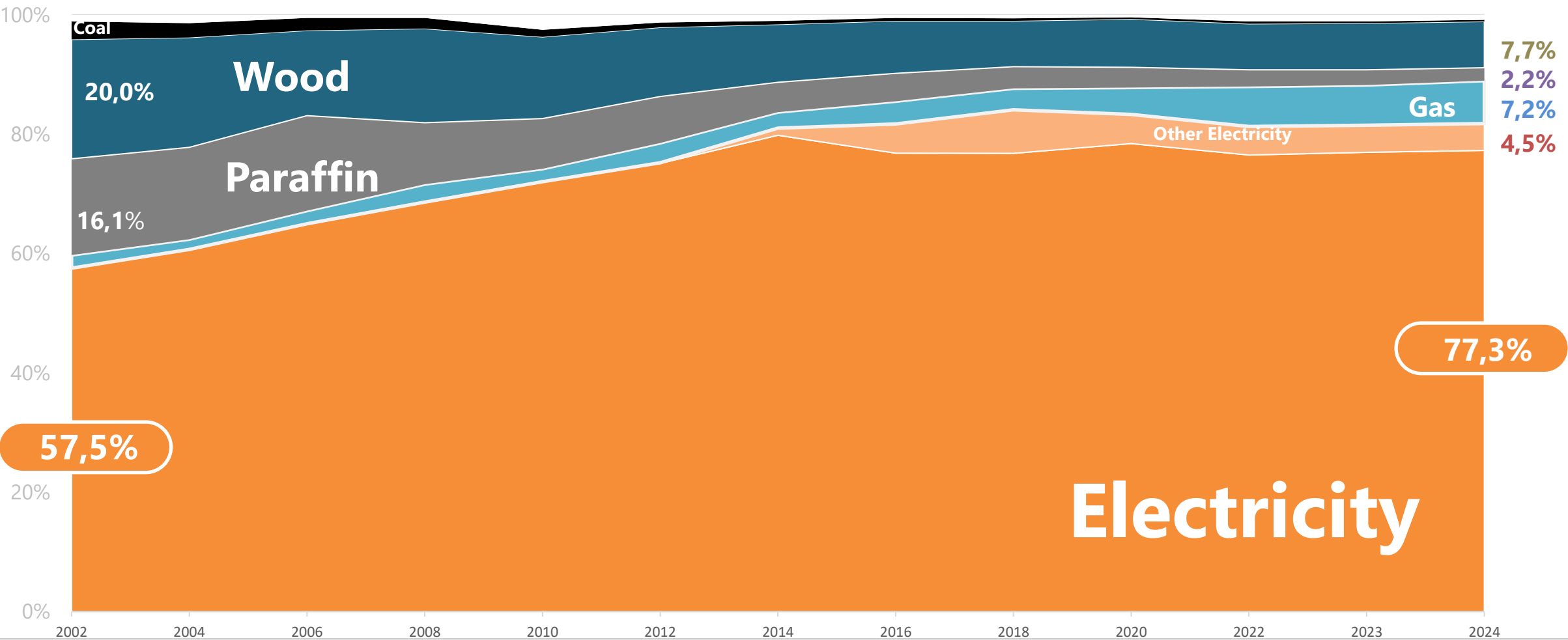
Percentage of households connected to the mains electricity supply by province, 2002—2024



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Nationally electricity (77,3%) is used as main source of energy for cooking, however a third of households in Limpopo (34,3%) and 16,7% of households in Mpumalanga continued to use wood for cooking purposes.

Main source of energy used for cooking, 2002-2024



Water and Sanitation

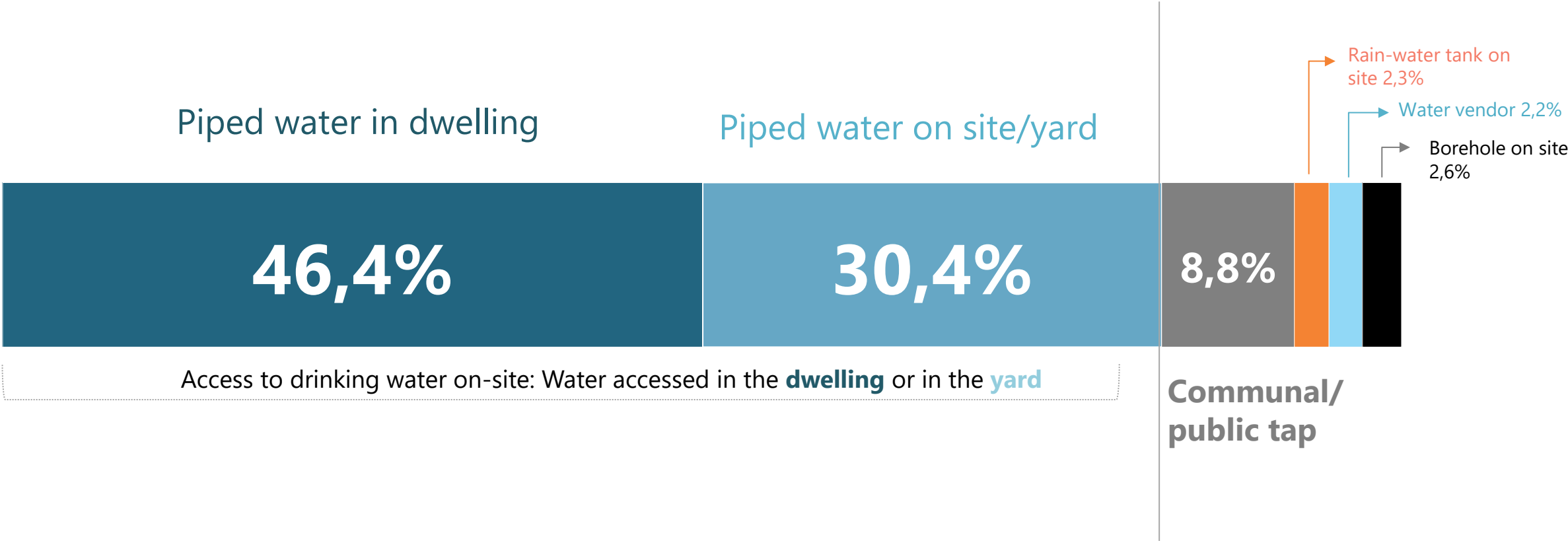


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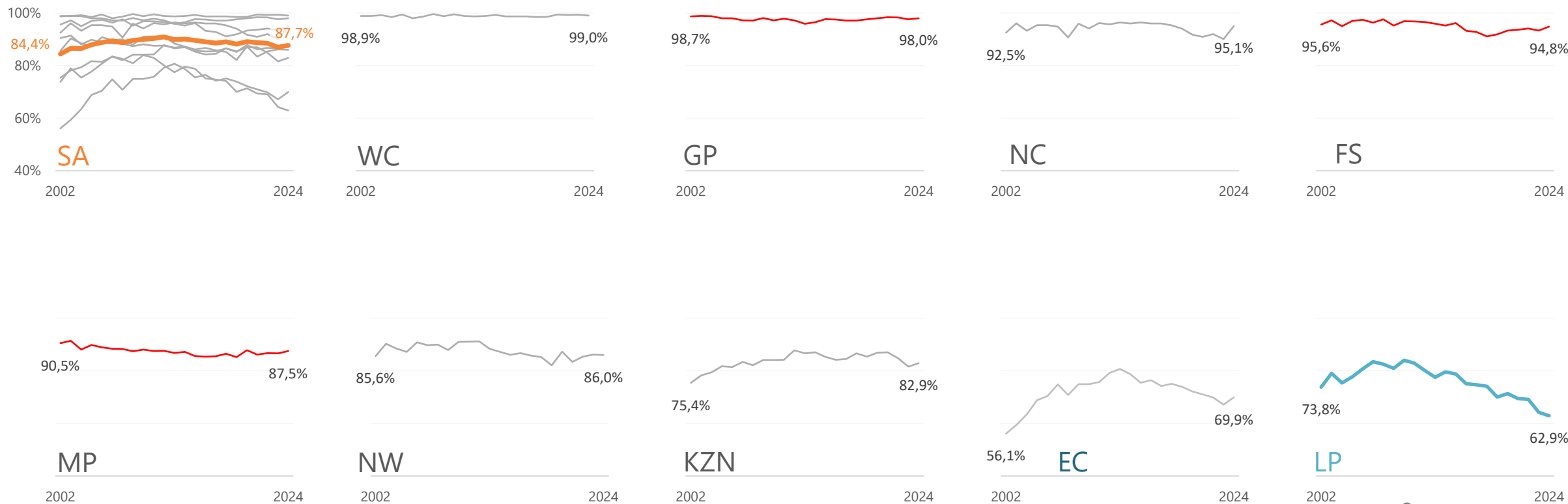
Three quarters (**76,8%**) of South African households have access to **improved water sources** in the **dwelling** or in **the yard**. Approximately, one-tenth (8,8%) of households relied on a **communal/public tap** as a main source of drinking water. .

Percentage of households by selected main water source (**top 6 sources shown**), 2024



Although the percentage of households with access to municipal piped water only increased by **1,4** percentage points to **87,7%** between 2004 and 2024, this represented an **additional 6,3 million households**.

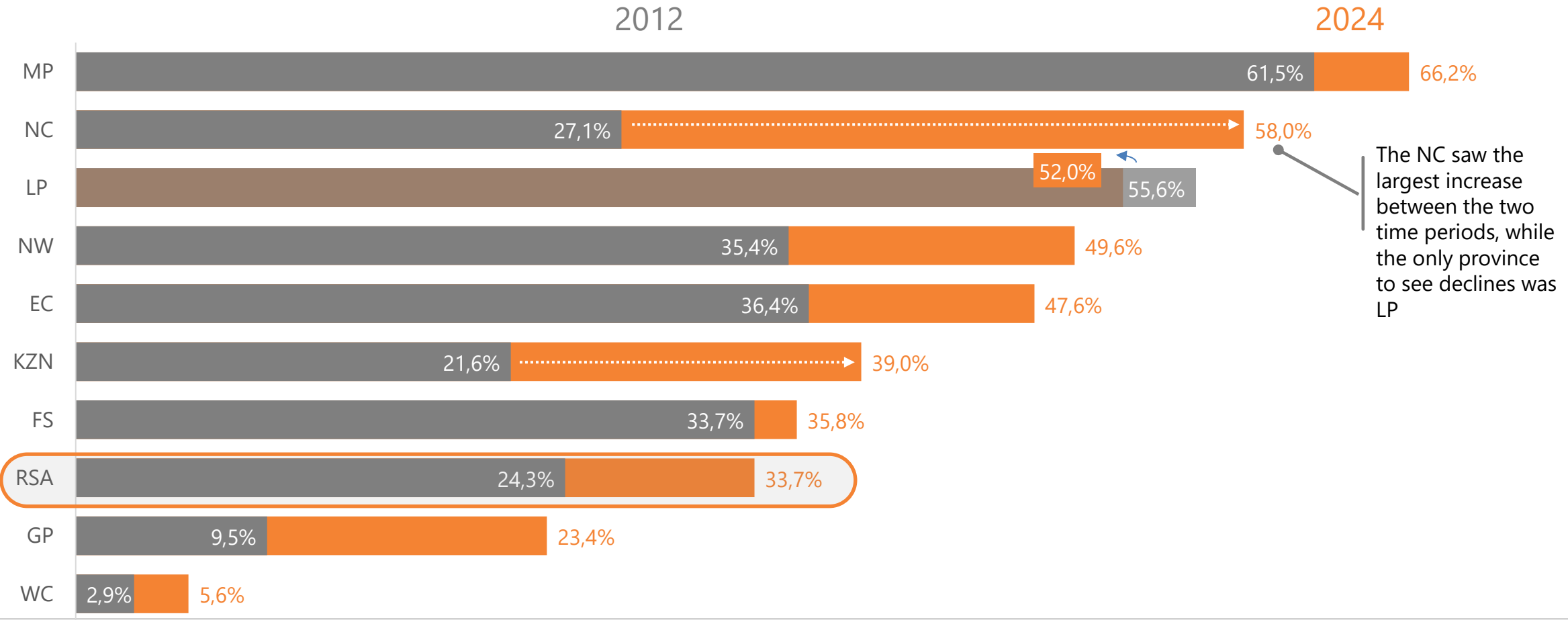
Percentage of households with access to municipal piped water, 2024



The **largest declined** was observed in **Limpopo** (-10,9 percentage points)

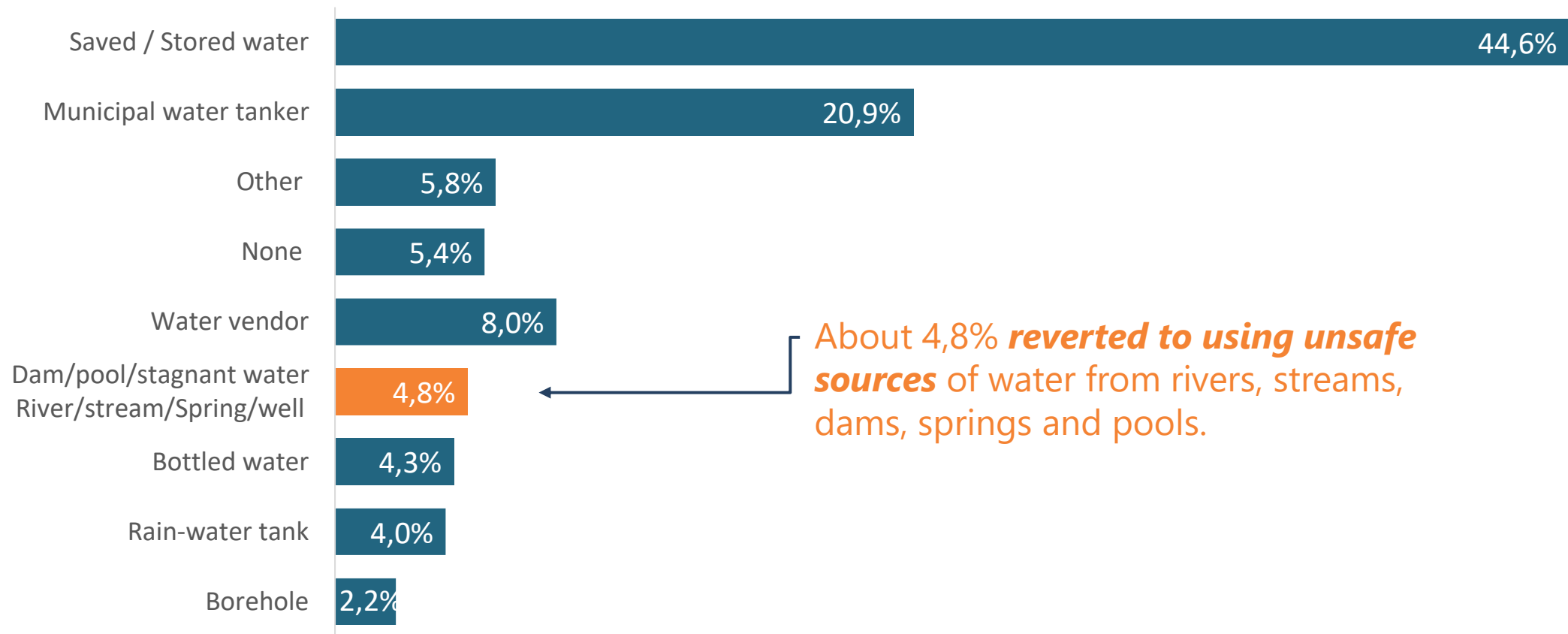
Percentage of households that experienced water interruptions lasting more than 2 days at a time, or 15 days in total over the past year **increased from 24,3% in 2012 to 33,7% in 2024.**

Percentage of households that experienced water interruptions lasting more than 2 days, or 15 days in total over the past year



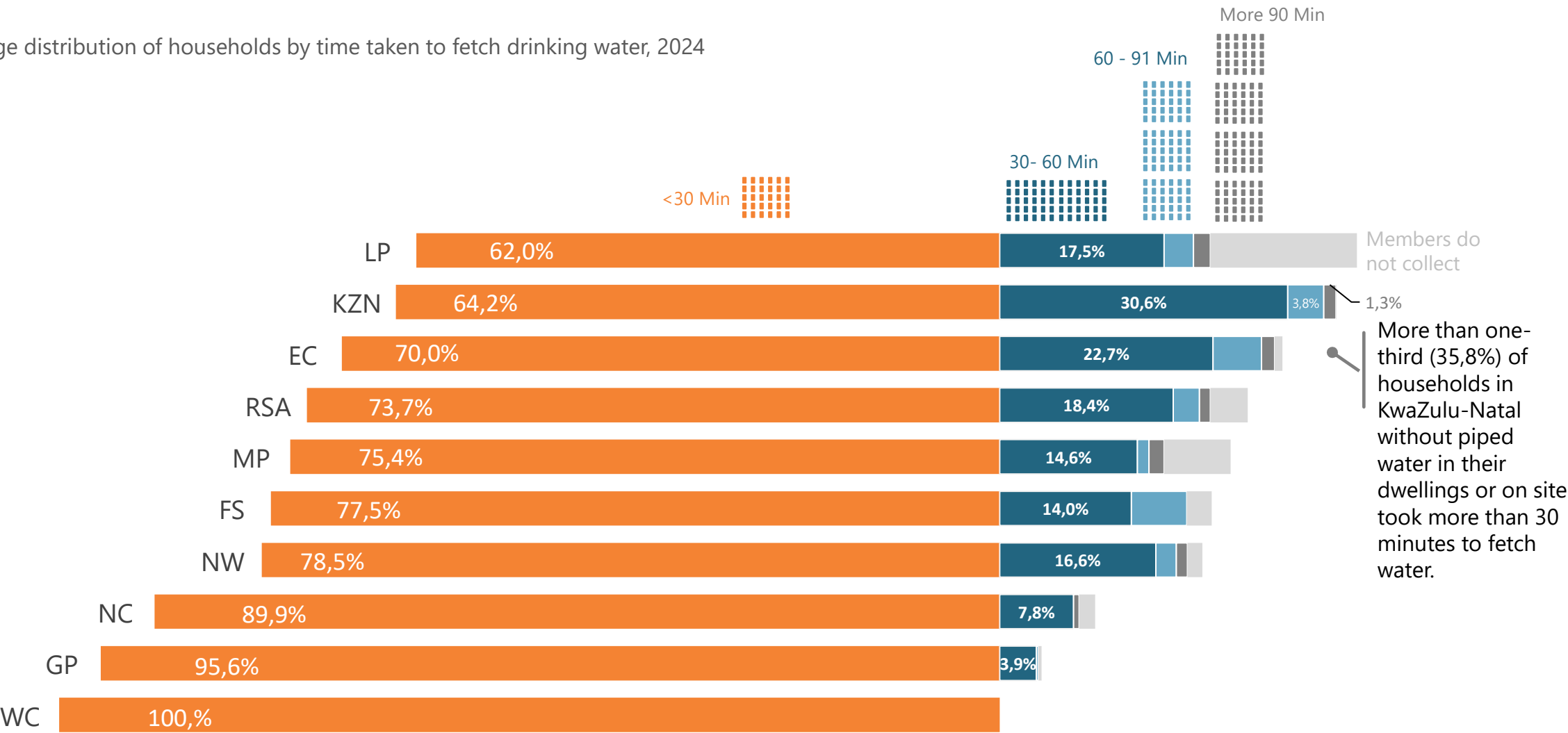
Approximately **one-fifth of households** depended on municipalities to provide water using **tankers** as an alternative source **during water interruptions**. *Approximately, **5 out of 100** households used **bottled water** as an alternative water source during water interruptions.*

Percentage of households by alternative sources of drinking water used during water interruptions that lasted 2 days or longer, 2024



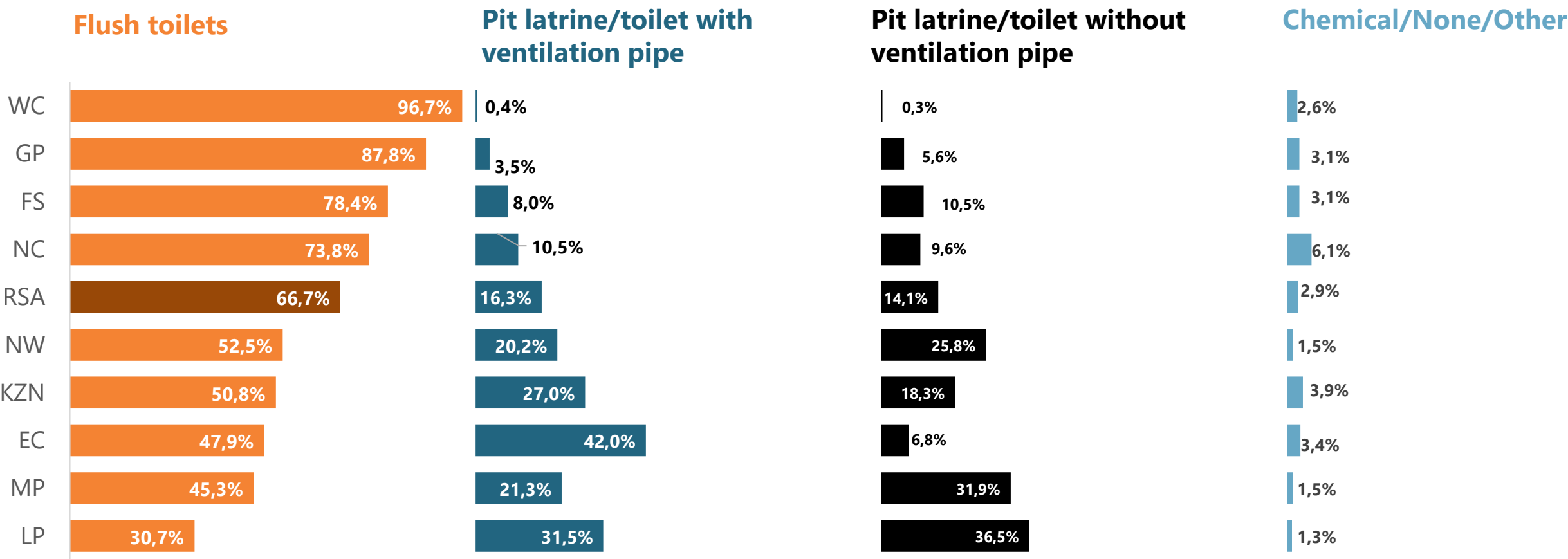
Of the households without piped water in their dwellings or on site, **three-quarters (73,7%) took less than thirty minutes to fetch water** from neighbour's tap, communal taps and other sources of water.

Percentage distribution of households by time taken to fetch drinking water, 2024



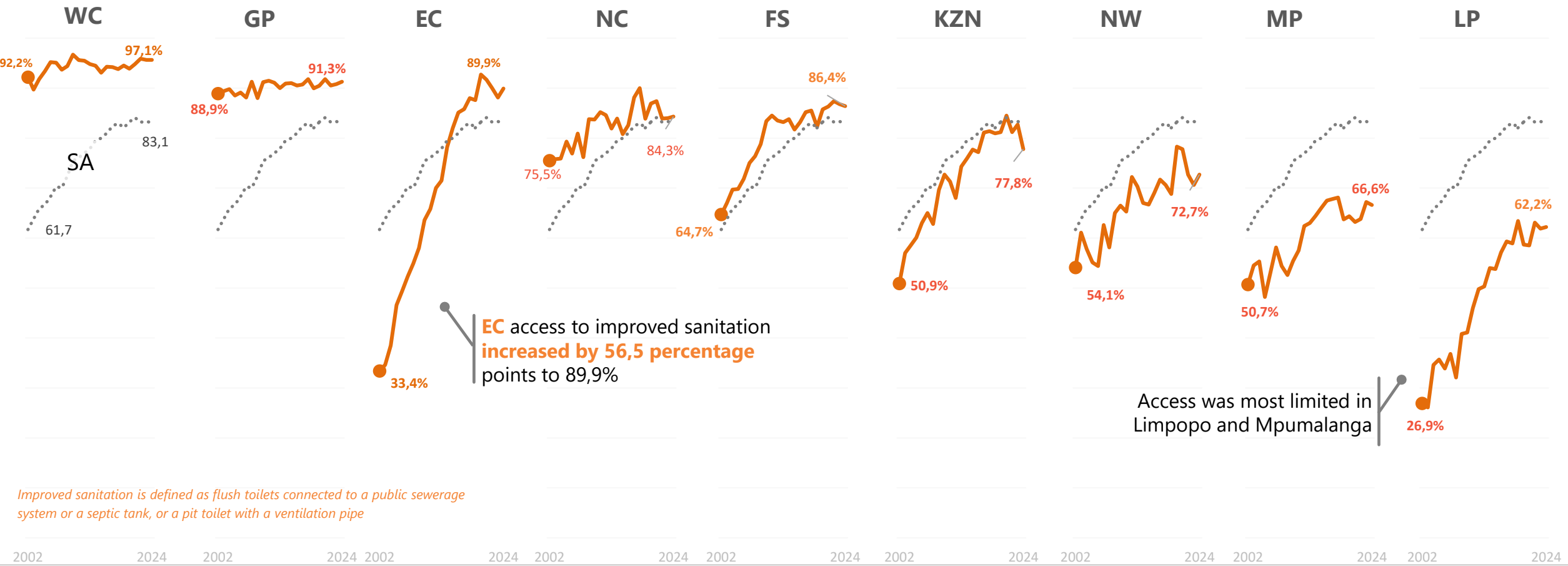
Almost two-thirds (**66,7%**) of South African households have **access to flush toilets**.

Percentage of households by type of toilet facility and province, 2024



The percentage of households with access to improved sanitation increased by 21,4 percentage points between 2002 and 2024, growing from **61,7% to 83,1%.**

Percentage of households that have access to improved sanitation per province, 2002–2024



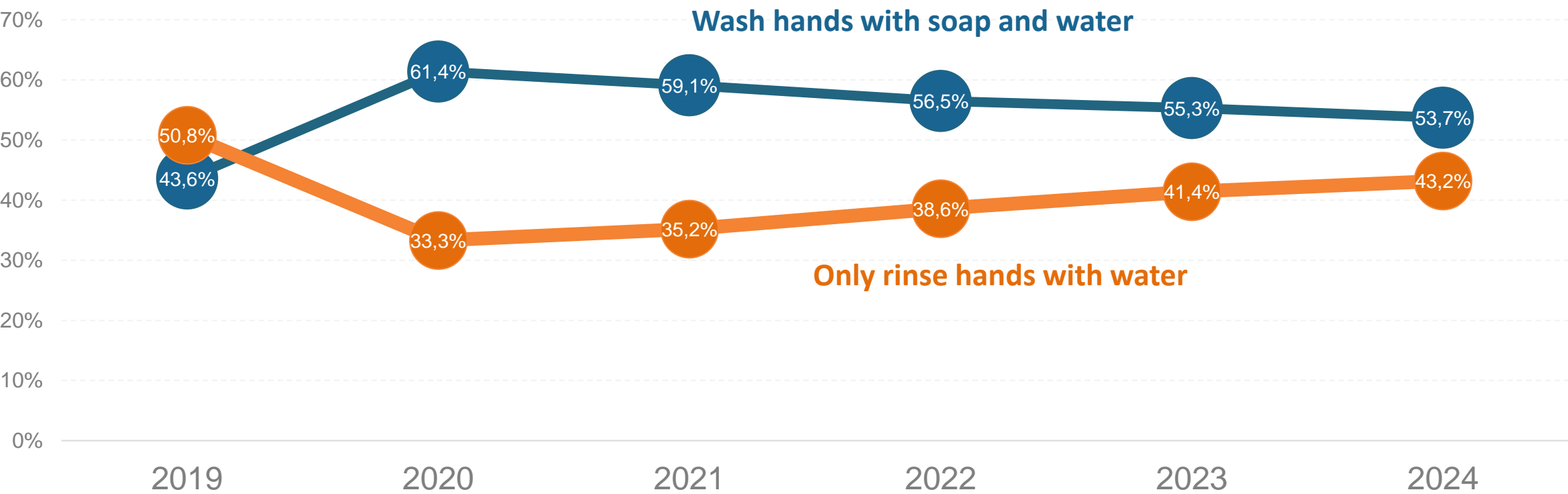
Improved sanitation is defined as flush toilets connected to a public sewerage system or a septic tank, or a pit toilet with a ventilation pipe



Regular hand washing became more common in 2020.

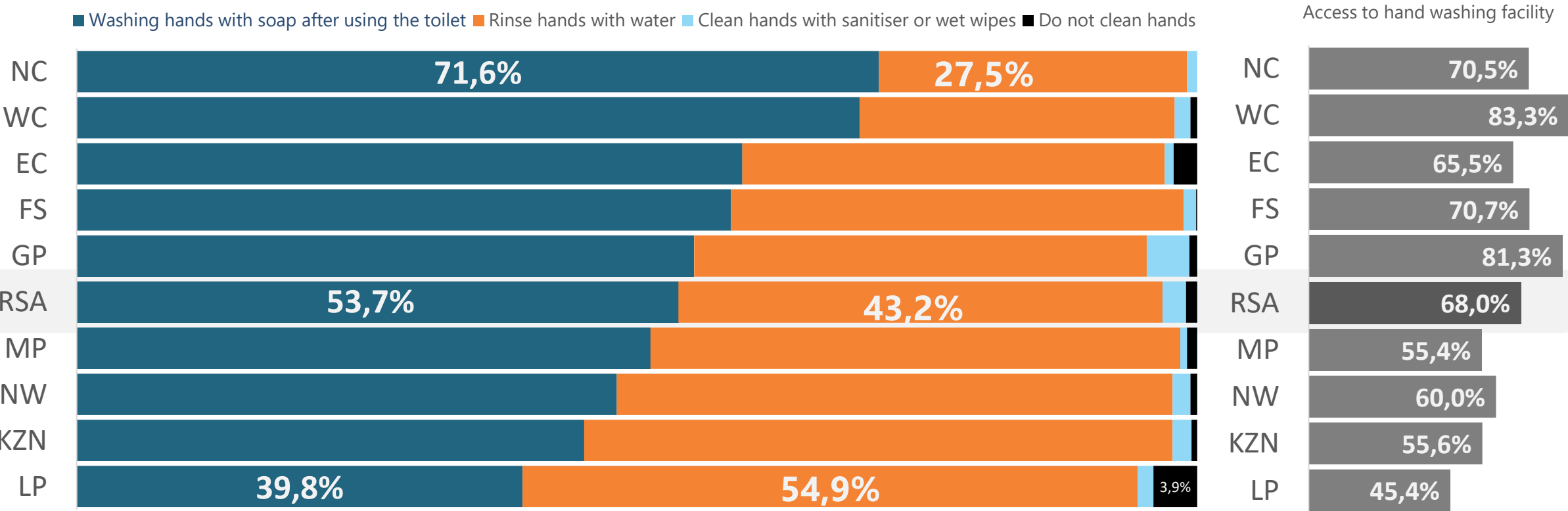
Households whose members usually wash hands with soap and water has started to decrease, while the percentage of households whose members only rinsed their hands with water has increased between 2020 and 2024.

Percentage of households by the methods usually used by household members to clean their hands after using the toilet by province, 2019 - 2024



The majority (53,7%) of households indicated that their members washed hands with soap after using the toilet, while 43,2% only rinsed their hands with water.

Percentage of households by access to hand washing facility, 2024



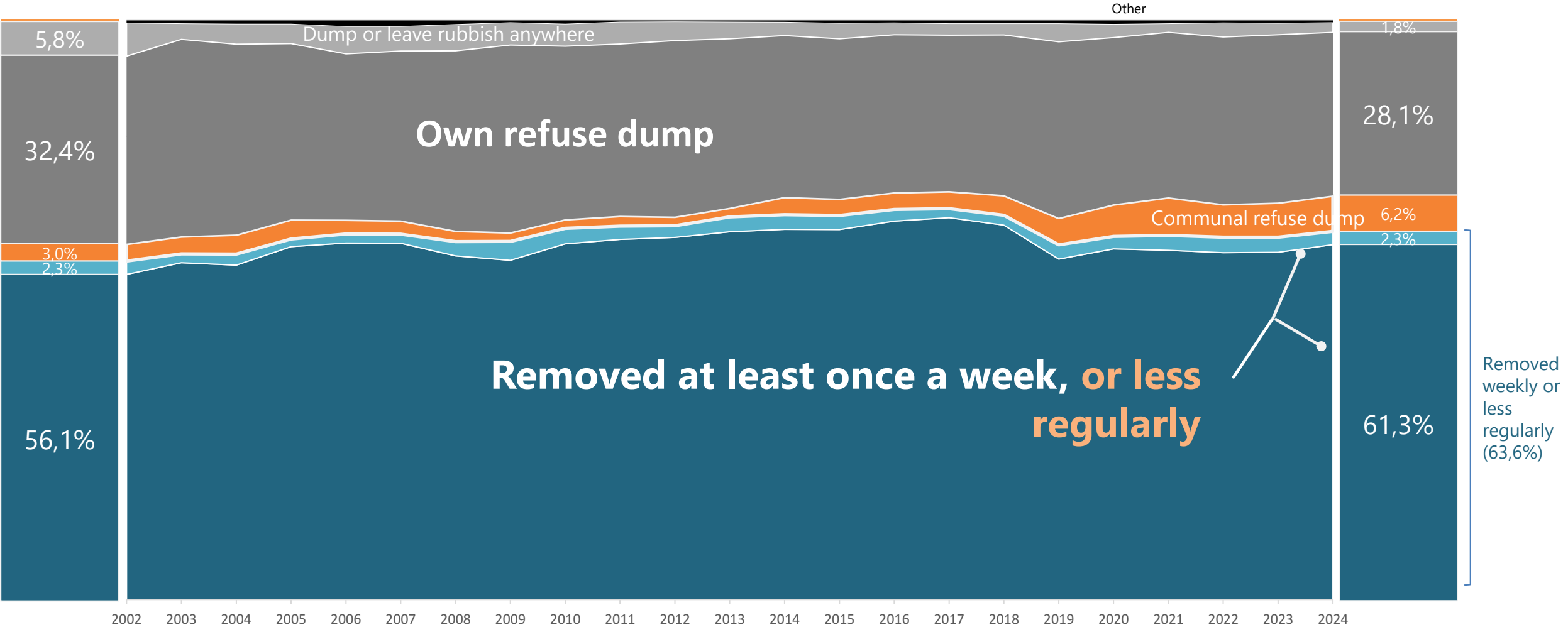
Solid Waste and Refuse removal



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Although the percentage of households whose solid waste was removed **weekly** or **less often** *declined from 66,4% in 2018 to 63,6% in 2024*, the latter figure is still higher than the figure of **58,4%** recorded in 2002.

Percentage of household refuse removal, between 2002 and 2024



Nationally, 14,5% of households never burned their waste.

Percentage (%) distribution of households that burn some or all of their solid waste by province, 2024.



Telecommunications

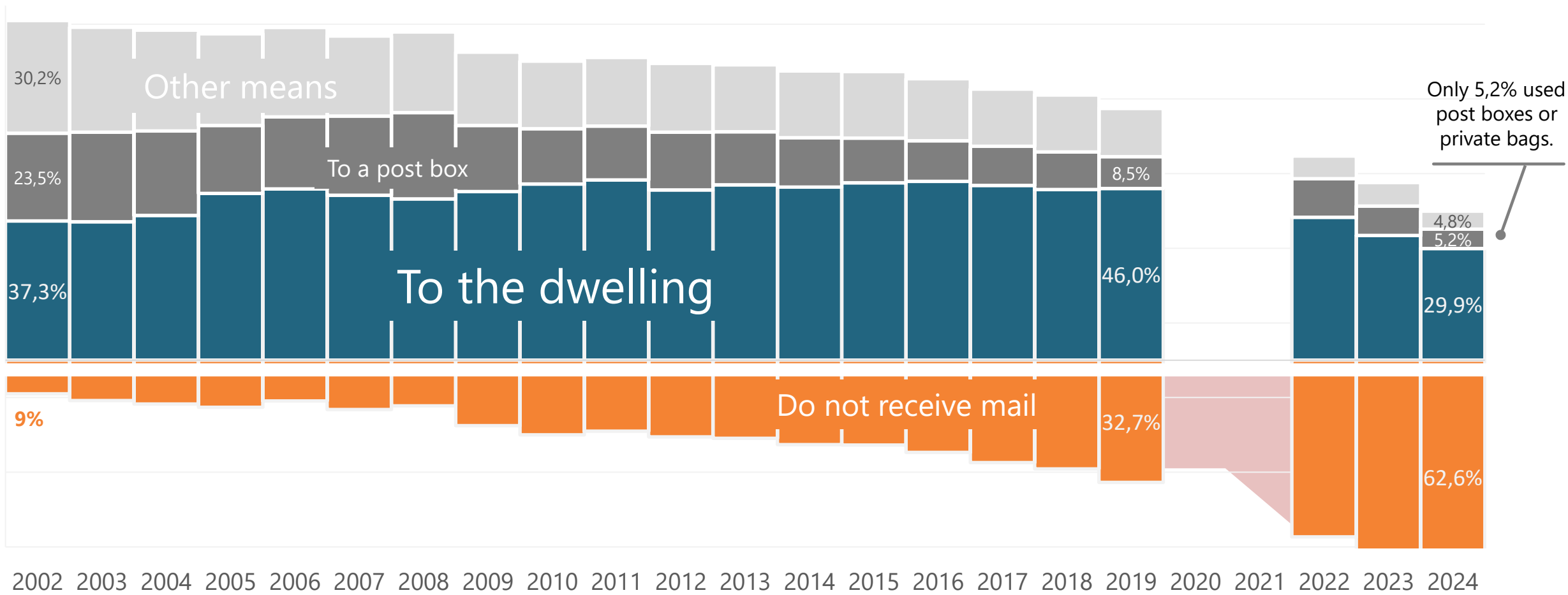


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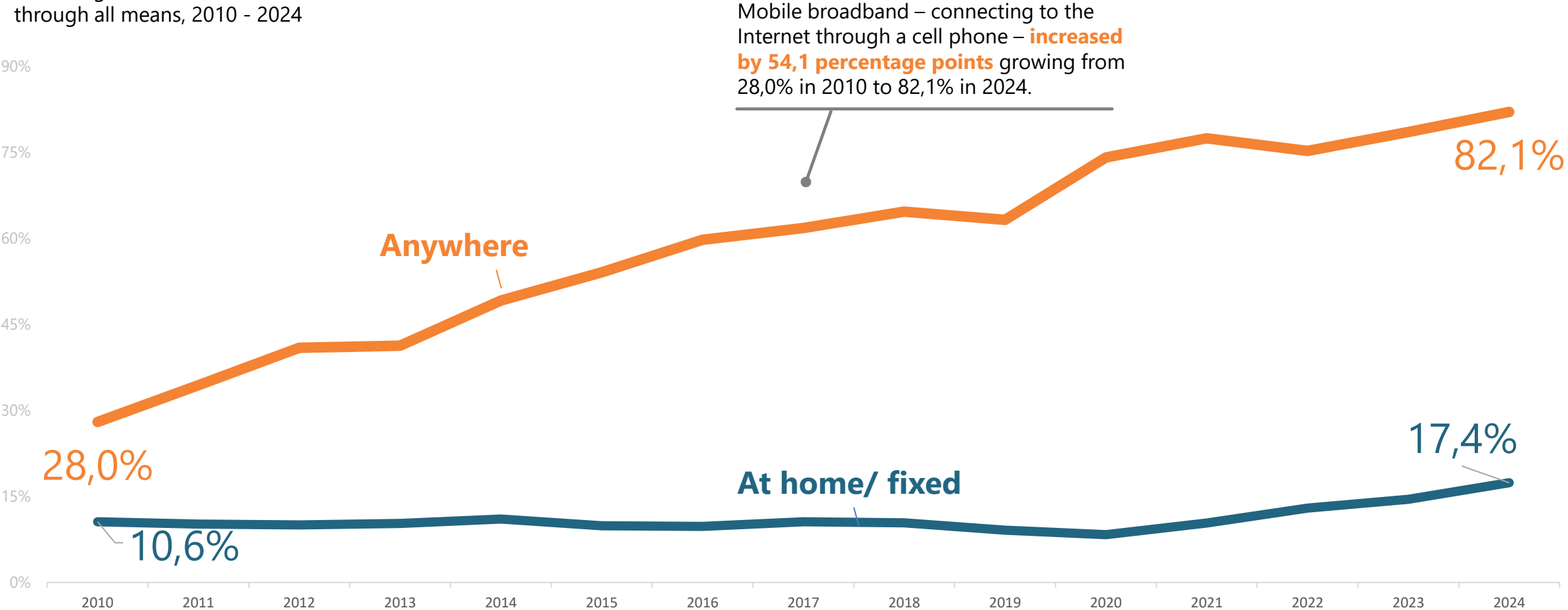
Households *without* access to mail services increased from 9,0% in 2002 to 62,6% in 2024

Percentage distribution of households that received mail services by type of service, 2002–2024



Access the Internet through a fixed connection (be it dial-up, ADSL or, more recently, fibre) has **remained relatively stable between 2010 and 2021**, before increasing steadily to 17,4% in 2024.

Percentage distribution of households with access to internet at home or through all means, 2010 - 2024



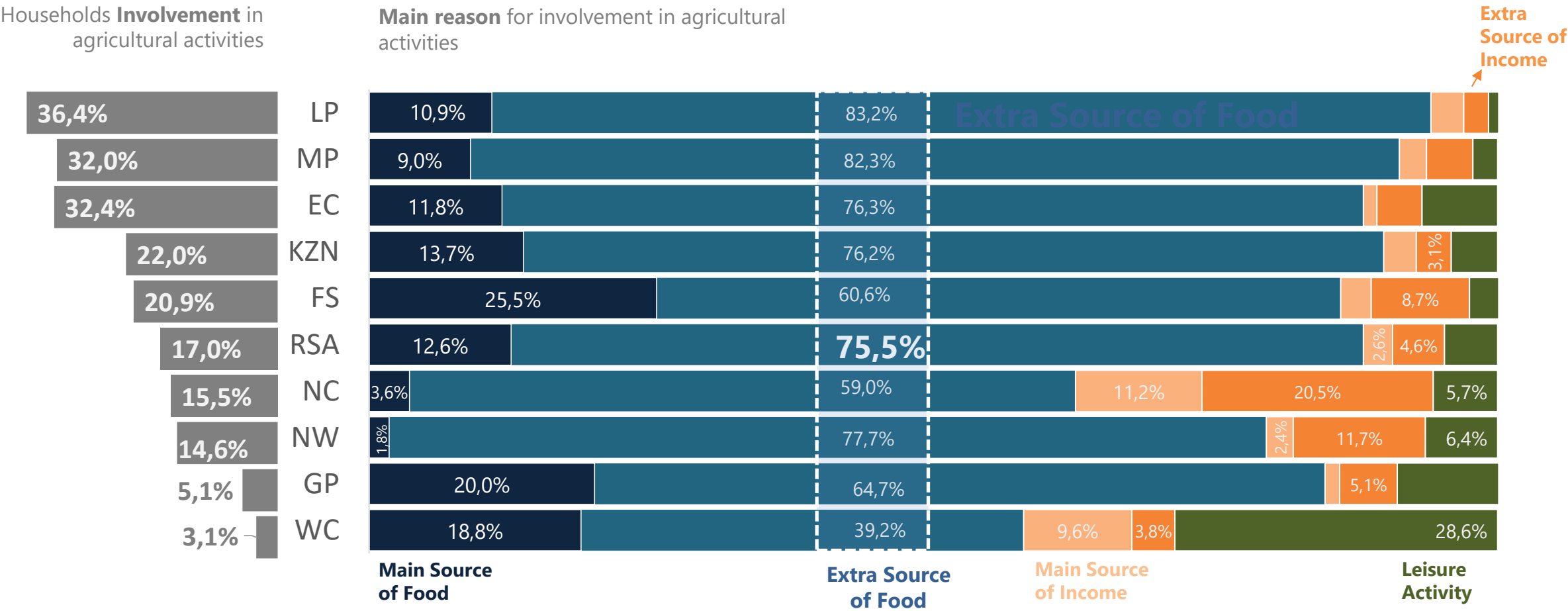
Agriculture and Food Security



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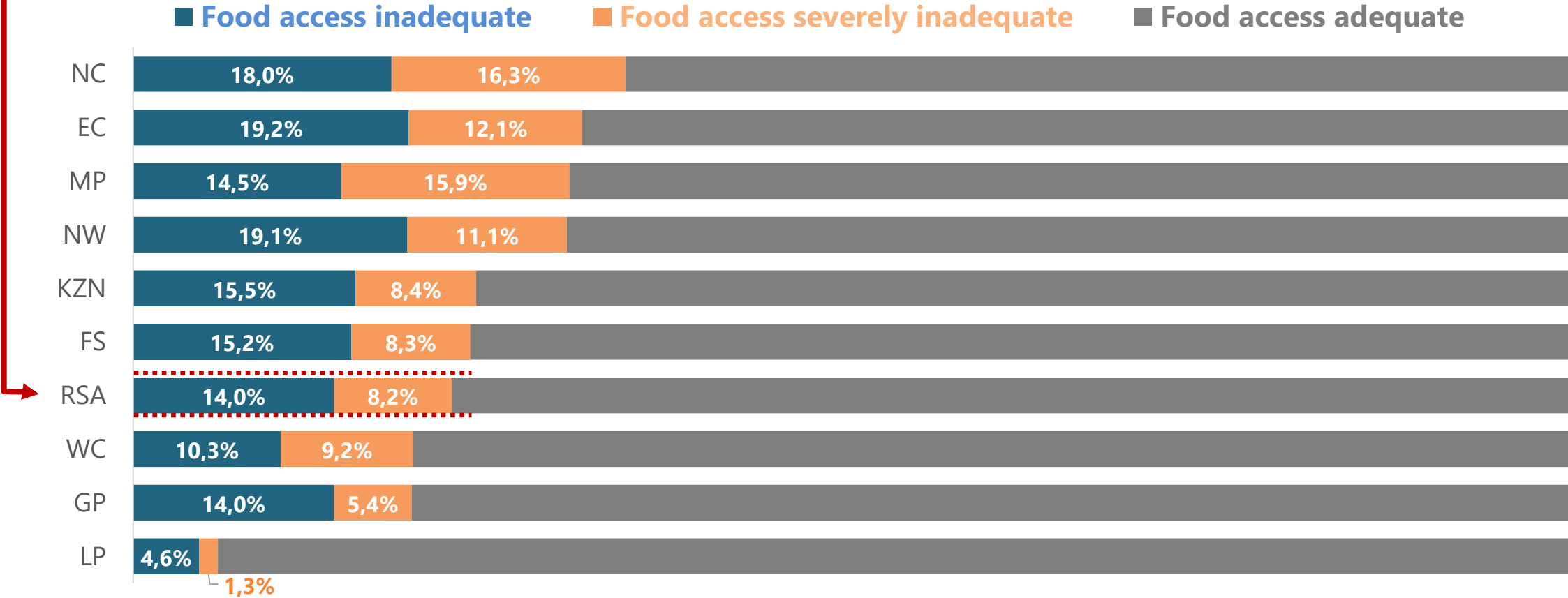
More than three-quarters (75,5%) of households involved in agriculture did so to produce **extra food**, while **12,6% of household nationally participated in agriculture as *their main source of food***. Only **2,6%** of households had agriculture as their main source of income.

Proportion of Agricultural households and main reason for involvement, 2024



Nationally, 22,2% of households considered their access to food as **inadequate** or **severely inadequate**. Food access problems were the most common in Northern Cape (34,3%), Eastern Cape (31,3%), Mpumalanga (30,4%) and KwaZulu Natal (23,9%).

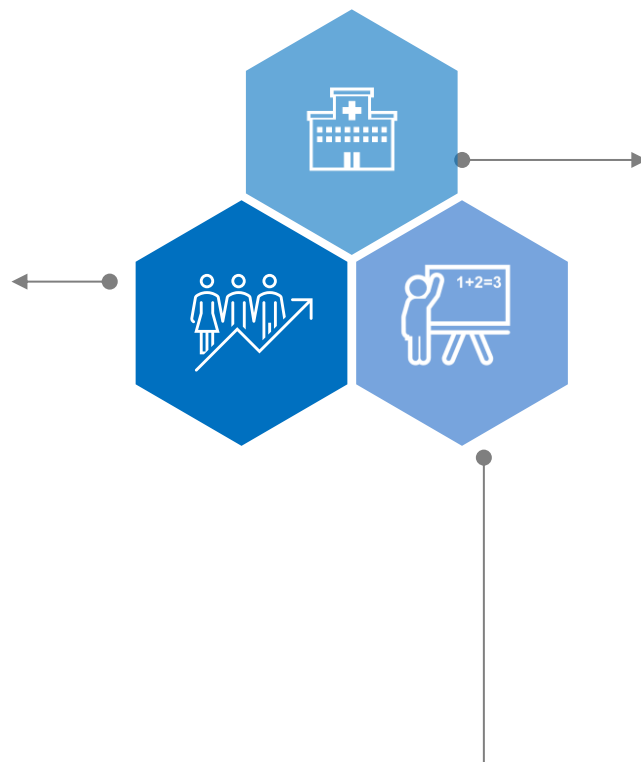
Percentage of households experiencing food adequacy or inadequacy by province, 2024



Overview and Conclusion

The percentage of **individuals who benefited from social grants** increased from 12,8% in 2003 to 40,1% in 2024, while the percentage of **households that received at least one grant** increased from 30,8% to 50,4% over the same period.

The increases were predominantly due to an increased uptake of the COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress grants



Early Childhood Development

After increasing sharply during COVID, the percentage of children aged five who did not attend educational institutions have almost declined to pre-COVID levels.

Educational Attainment

The percentage of individuals without any education have decreased from 11,4% in 2002 to 3,0% in 2024, while the percentage of individuals with at least a grade 12 qualifications has increased from 30,5% to 52,1% over the same period.

Overview and Conclusion

Almost one quarter (22,2%) of households considered their **access to food as inadequate or severely inadequate**. The need was most pervasive in NC (34,3%) and least common in LP (5,9%)

Although **11,7%** of households still lived in **informal dwellings**, more than four-fifths (**84,1%**) of households lived in **formal dwellings** (up 10,6 percentage points from 73,5% in 2002). **Traditional dwellings** were most common in Eastern Cape (17,7%) and KwaZulu-Natal (10,3%).



- Approximately 9 in 10 (90,2%) households in South Africa were connected to **mains electricity**. The use of LPG/Gas as a source of energy for cooking has increased notably over the past five years.
- Three-quarters (76,8%) of households have access to **piped water** in the dwelling, in the yard, or from a public tap.
- Almost two-thirds of South African households have access to flush toilets while 83,1% had access to **improved sanitation** (flush toilets and VIP Pit toilets)- up from 61,7% in 2002.
- **Refuse** was removed for 85,3% of households in urban areas.

GHS 2024

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