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General Household Survey 2025

Measuring the progress of development in the country

Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

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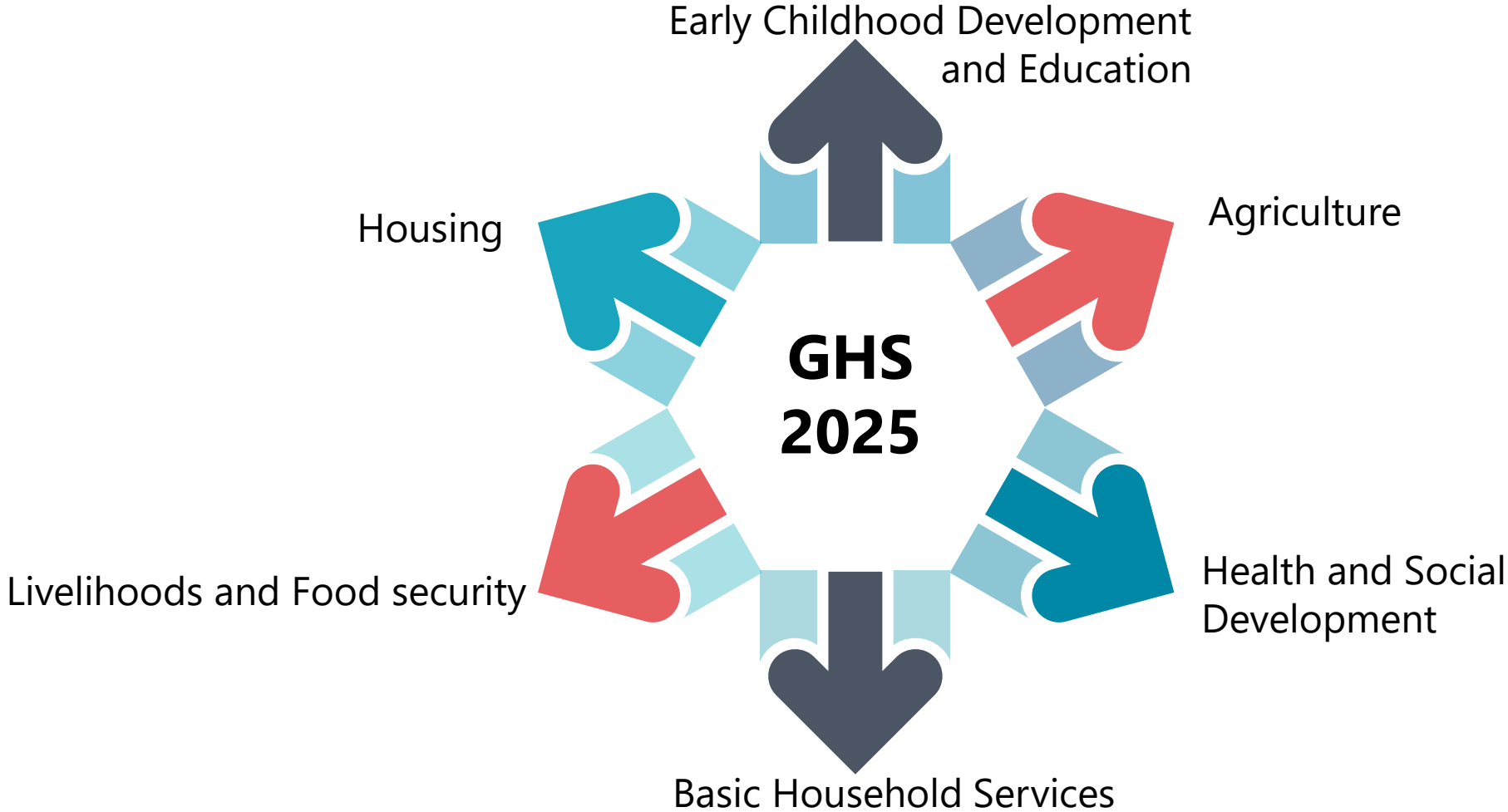
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IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



The **GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY** covers six main areas, and it was designed to track development over the 24-year period since its introduction in 2002



Focus on LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Results of the General Household Survey 2025

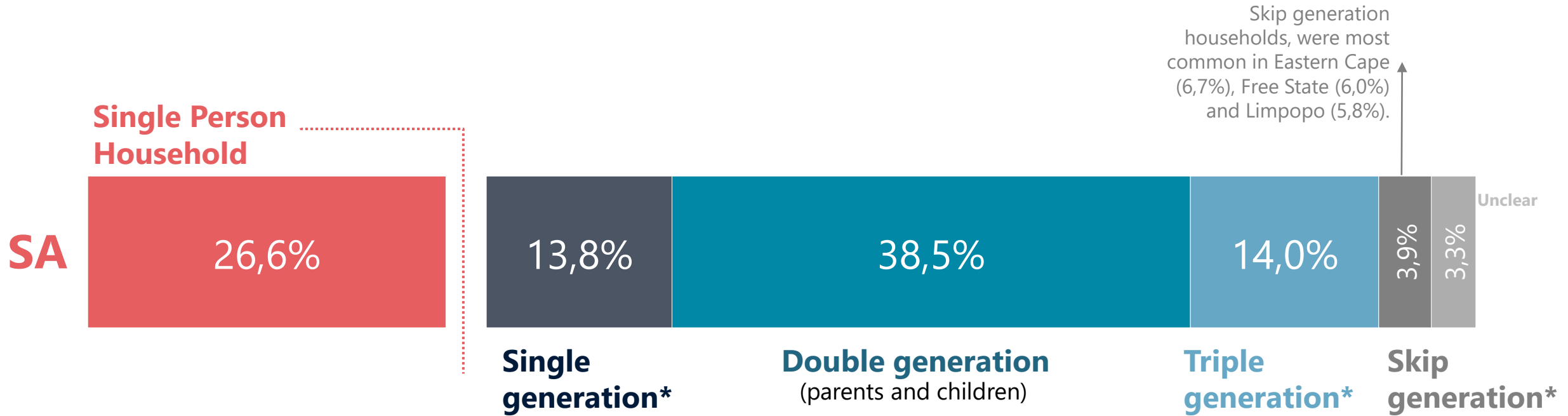
Fast Fact

South African households are very diverse encompassing single, nuclear and extended households. This reflects the country's complex social and economic history, as well as persistent challenges related to poverty and unemployment.



MORE THAN ONE-QUARTER (26,6%) OF HOUSEHOLDS CONSISTED OF A SINGLE PERSON, while 38,5% of households were double generation comprising of parents and children

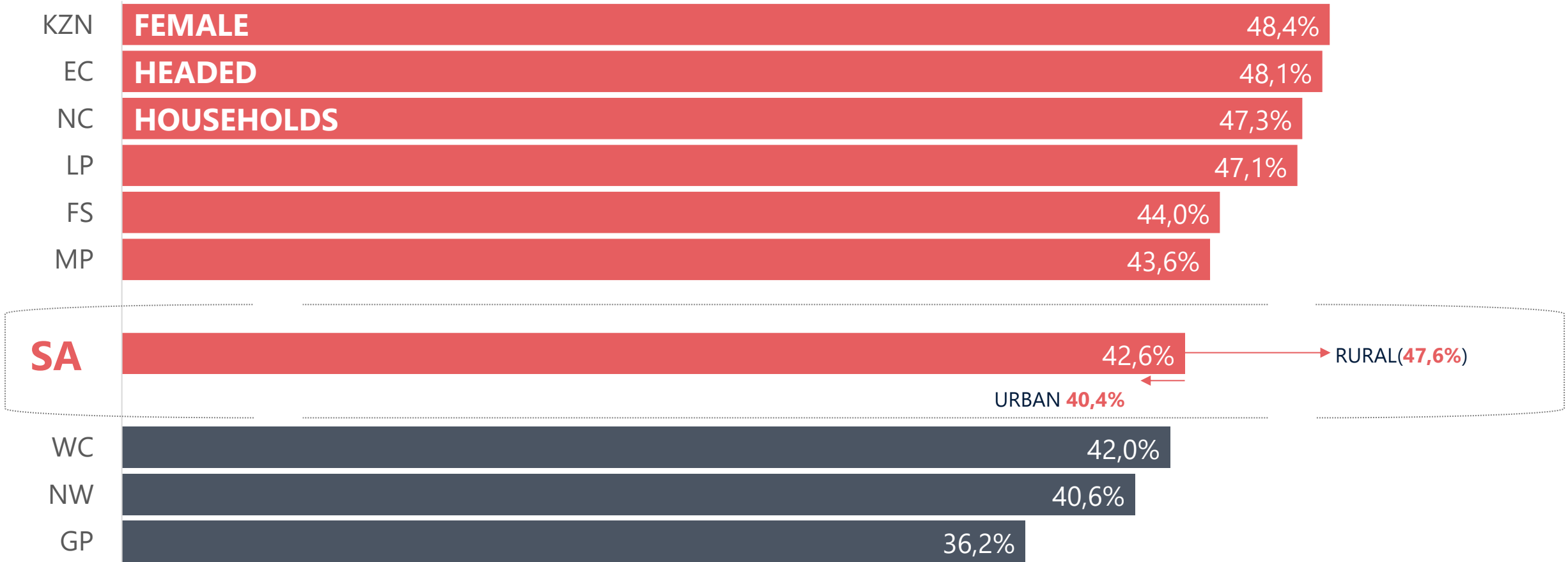
Percentage of households by household composition, 2025



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

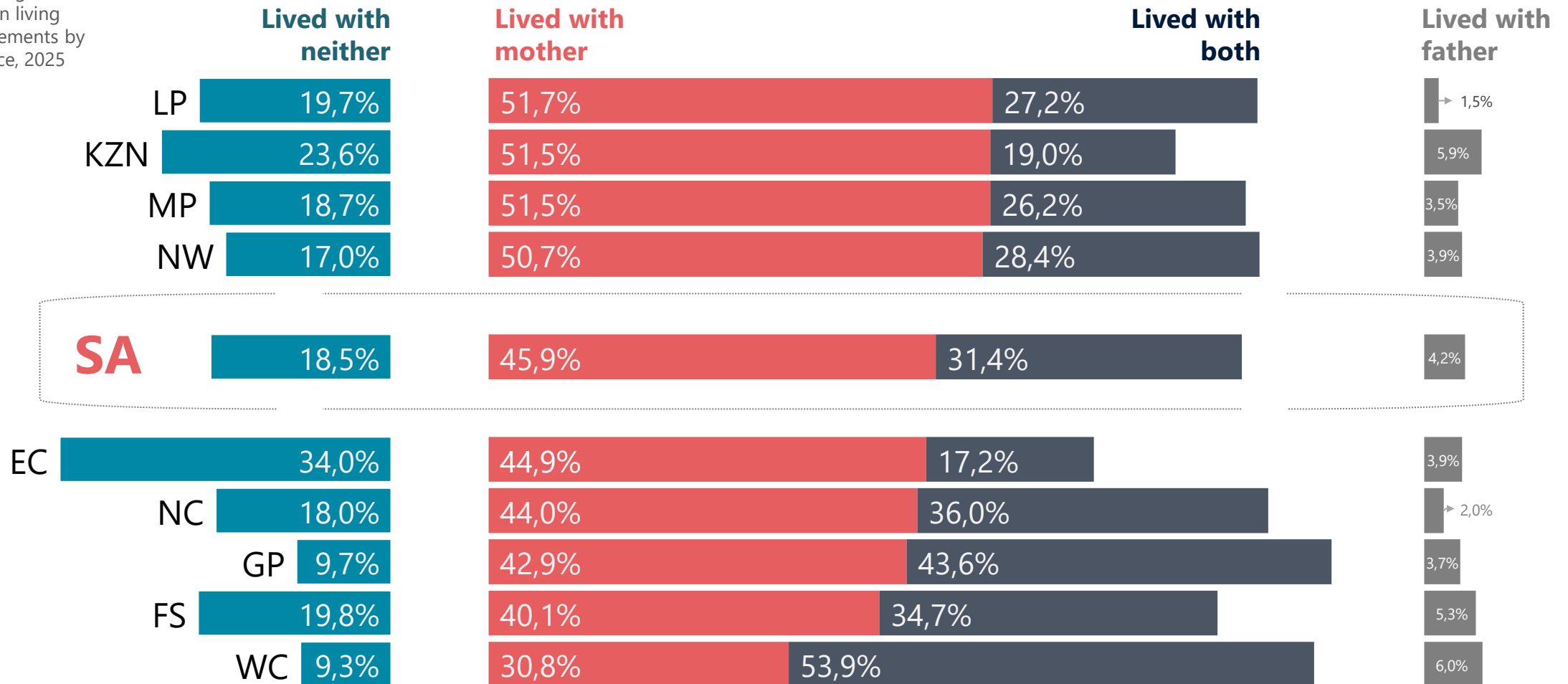
42,6% OF HOUSEHOLDS WERE LED BY WOMEN. In rural areas this proportion increases to (47,6%)

Percentage of female-headed households by province, 2025



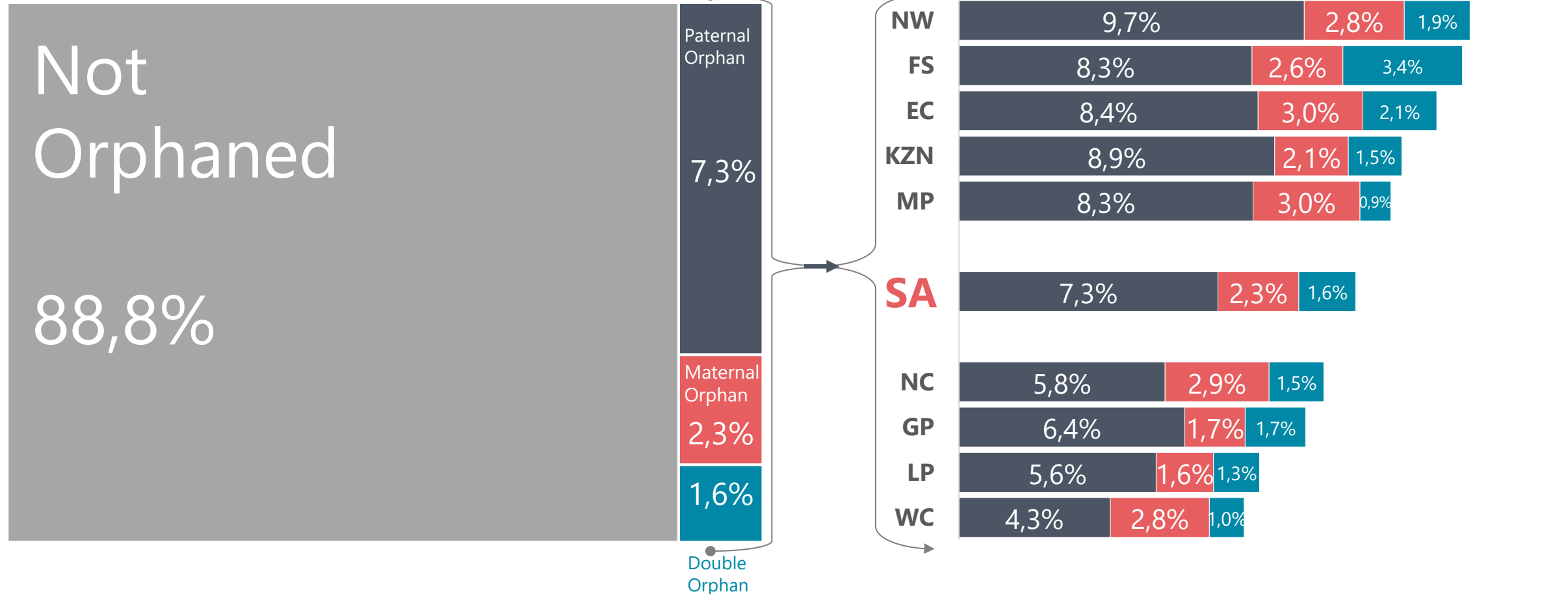
Nationally, **45,9% OF CHILDREN LIVED WITH MOTHERS ONLY** while less than a third (31,4%) of children lived with both parents

Percentage of children living arrangements by province, 2025



The **percentage of ORPHANED** (Paternal, Maternal and Double) children was the highest in **NW(14,4%)** and **FS (14,3%)** and **lowest in Western Cape (8,1%)**

Percentage of children by orphanhood status and province, 2025



Focus on EDUCATION

Results of the General Household Survey 2025

Fast Fact

Education in South Africa has been steadily improving, with increased access to schooling and higher enrolment rates. The introduction of no-fee schools and school feeding schemes have helped more learners attend school and complete their studies.



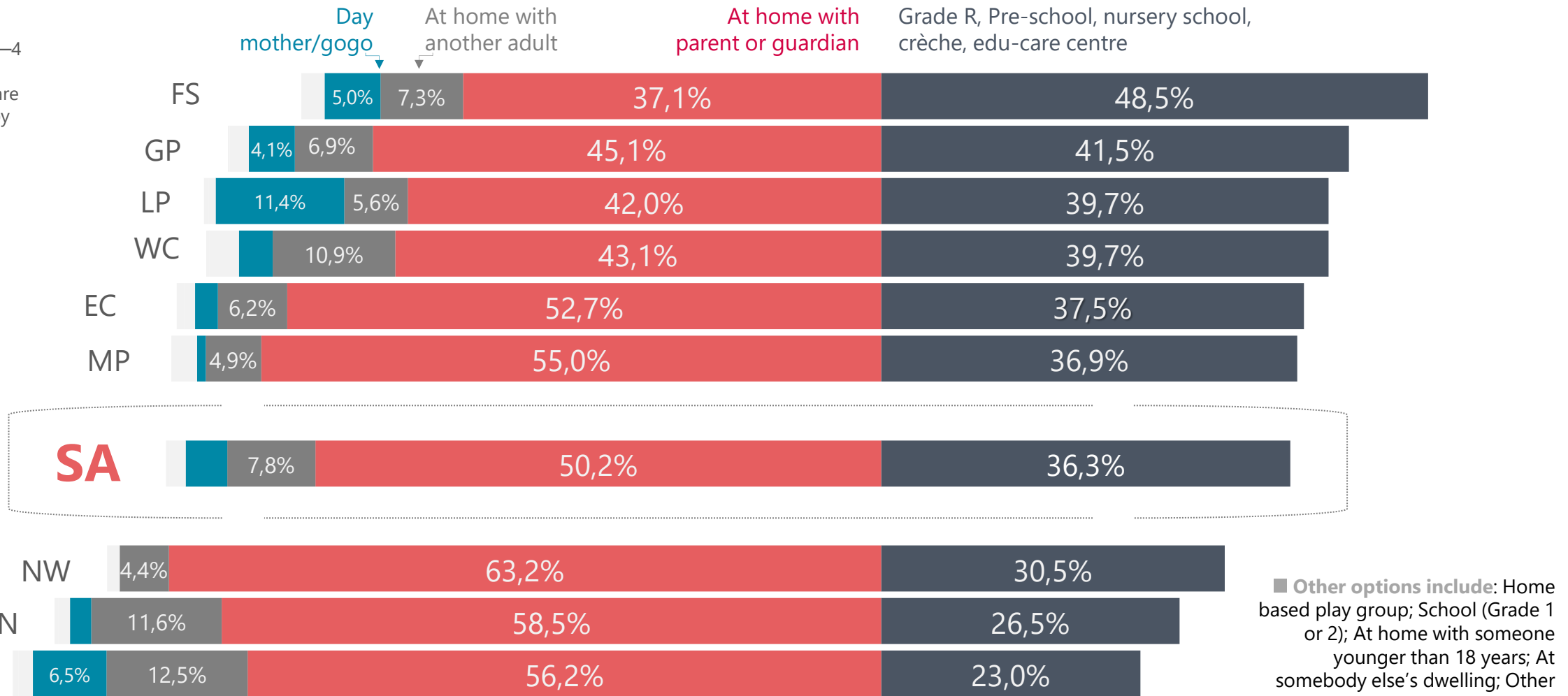
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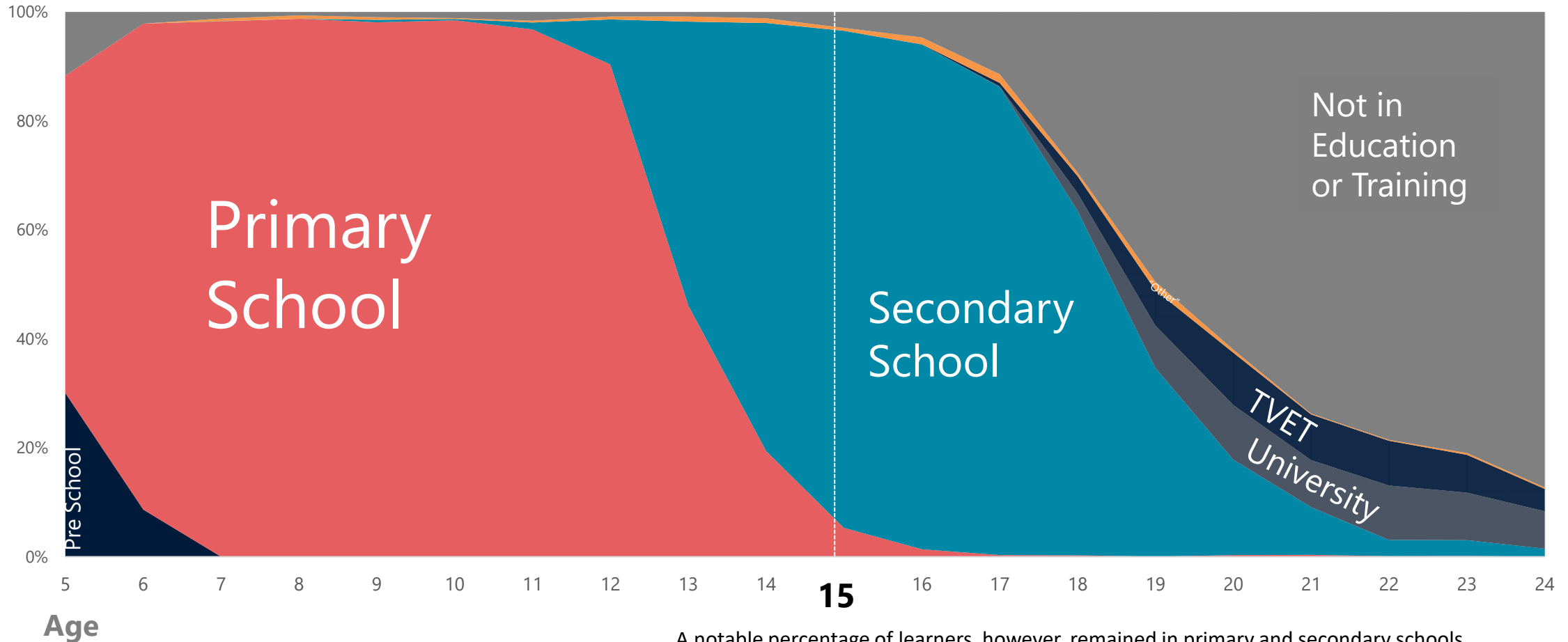
More than **ONE-THIRD (36,3%)** of 0–4-year-olds **ATTENDED ECD PROGRAMMES** offered at day-care centres, crèches, playgroups, nursery schools and in pre-primary schools

Percentage of children aged 0–4 years that used different childcare arrangements by province, 2025



PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS was almost universal (96,6%) by the age of 15 years (the last compulsory school age)

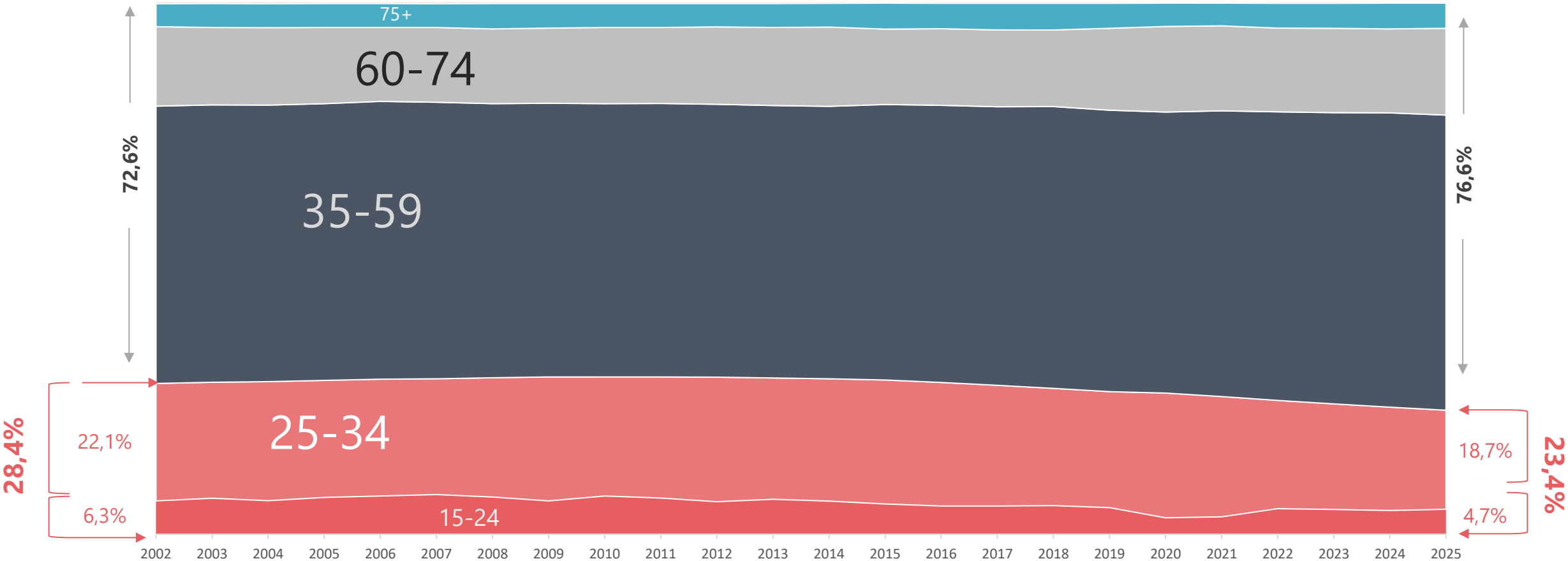
Type of educational institution attended by individuals aged 5–24 years, 2025



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

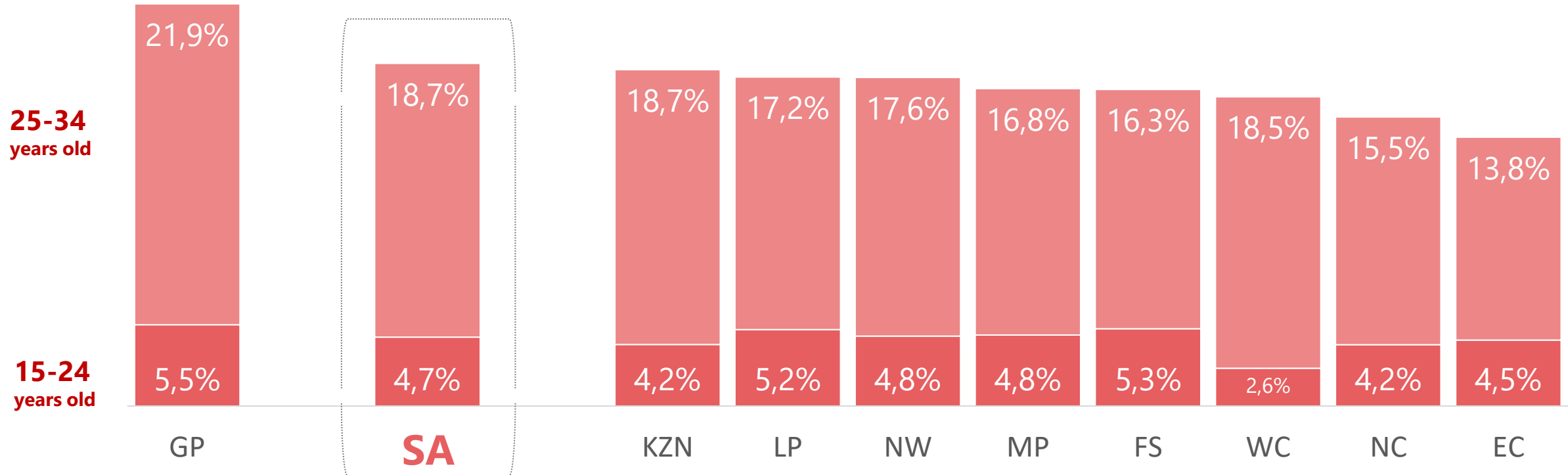
The percentage of **YOUTH HEADED HOUSEHOLDS DECLINED** from 28,4% in 2002 to 23,4% in 2025

Percentage distribution youth headed households, 2002-2025



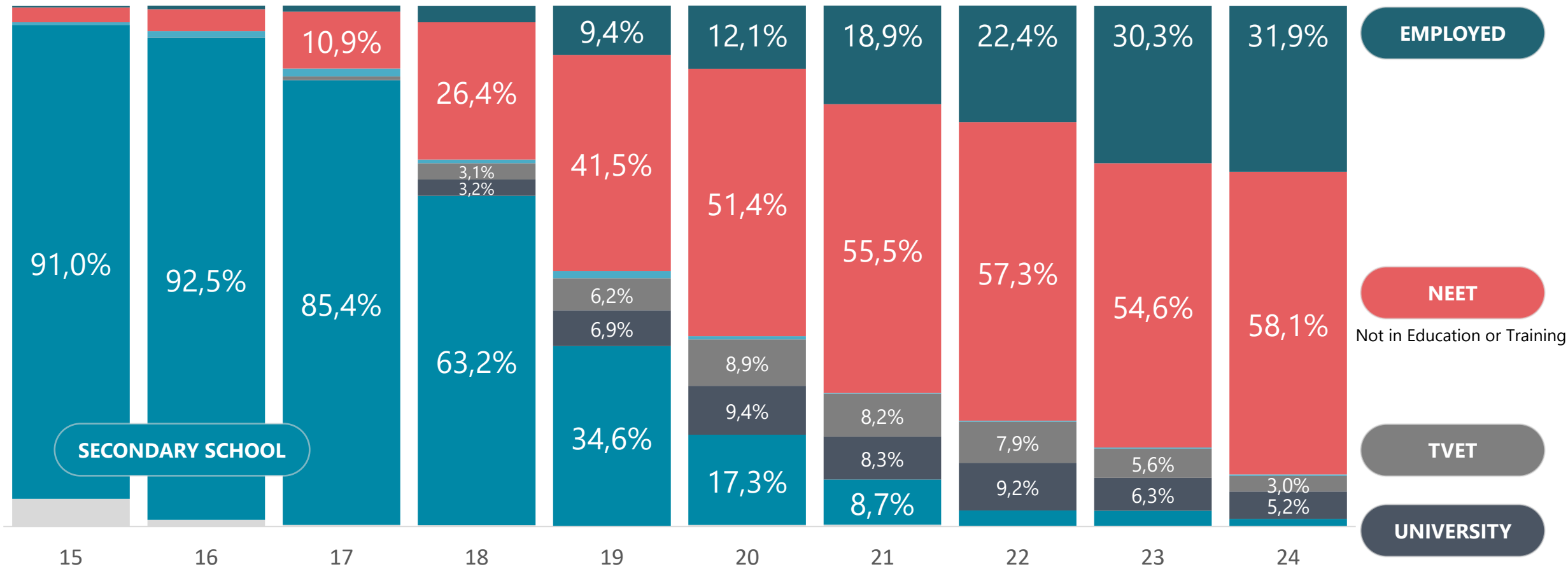
Around 1 in 4 households in Gauteng Province are headed by youth

Percentage distribution youth headed households, by province, 2025



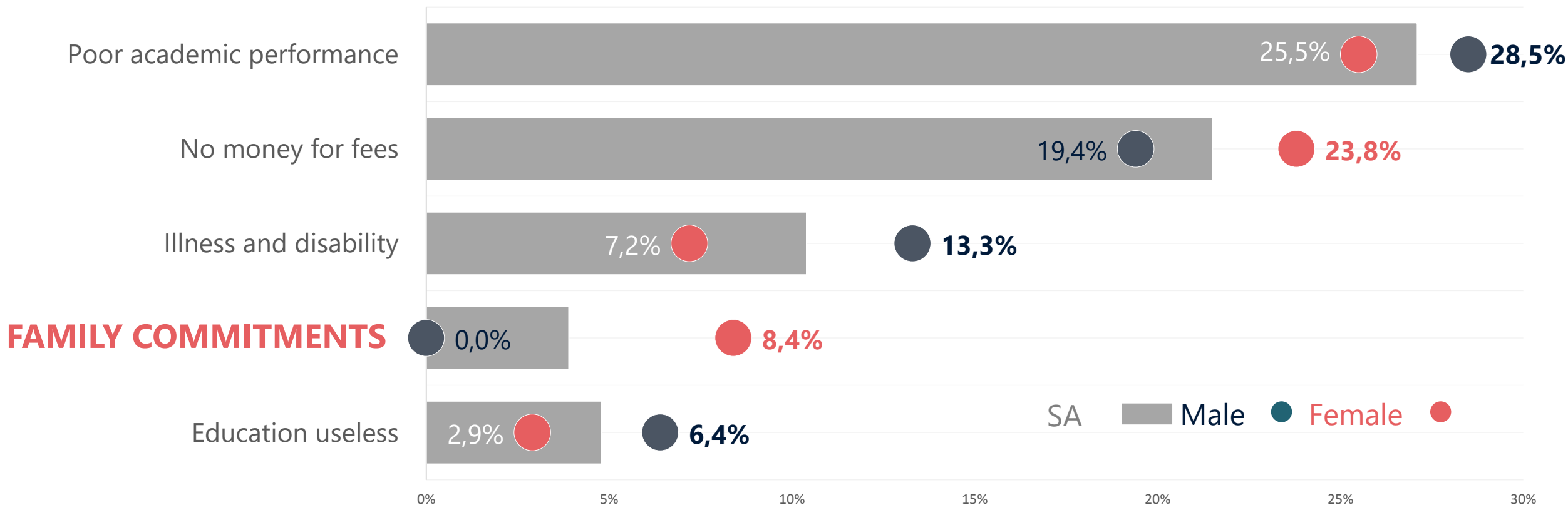
ALMOST THREE-FIFTHS (58,1%) OF YOUTH AGED 24 YEARS were not in education or training (NEET) in 2025

Type of educational institution attended by youth aged 15-24, 2025



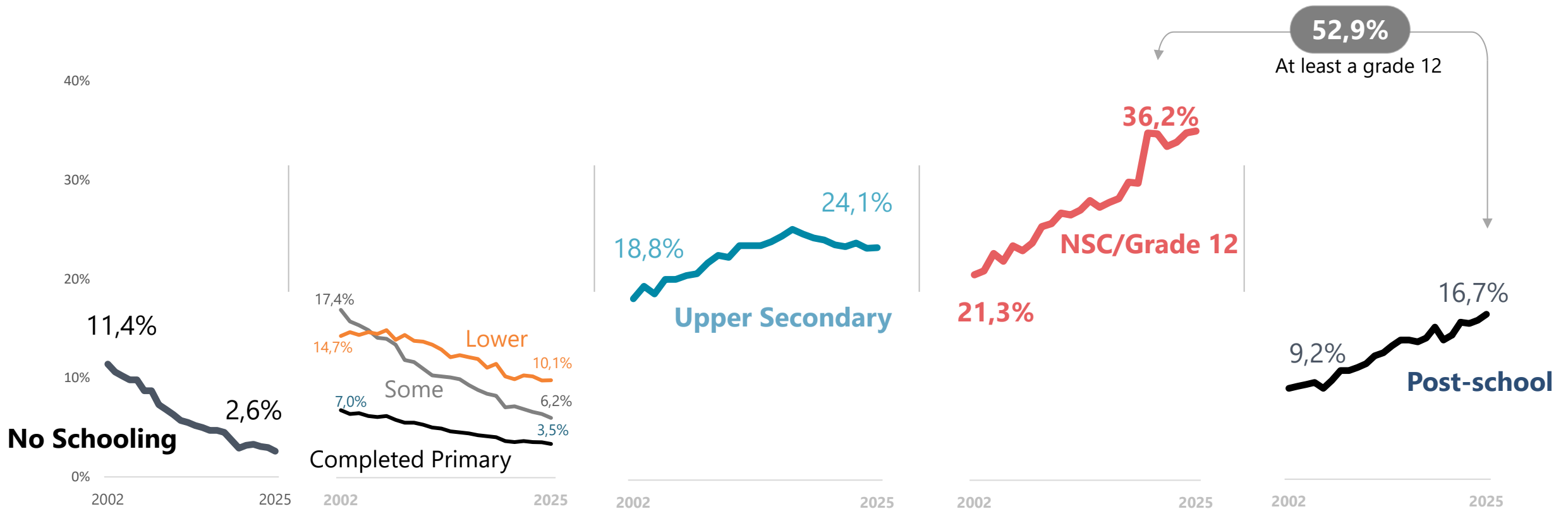
TOP REASONS for males not attending school was **POOR ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE**, with *large gender disparity* in **FAMILY COMMITMENT** as a reason for not attending school

Percentage distribution of selected reasons given by individuals aged 7 to 18 years for not attending an educational institution, by sex, 2025



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 52,9% IN 2025**

Educational attainment for persons aged 20 years and older, 2002-2025



Focus on HEALTH

Results of the General Household Survey 2025

Fast Fact

South Africa's healthcare usage patterns indicate a strong dependence on the public sector.



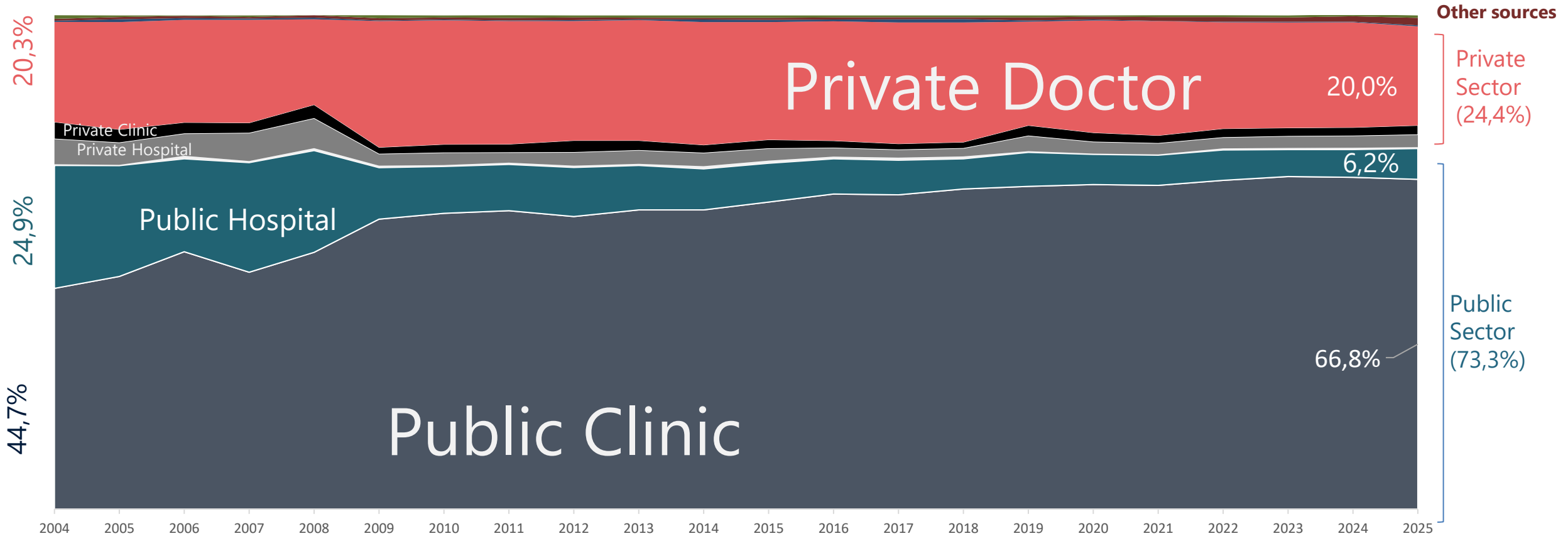
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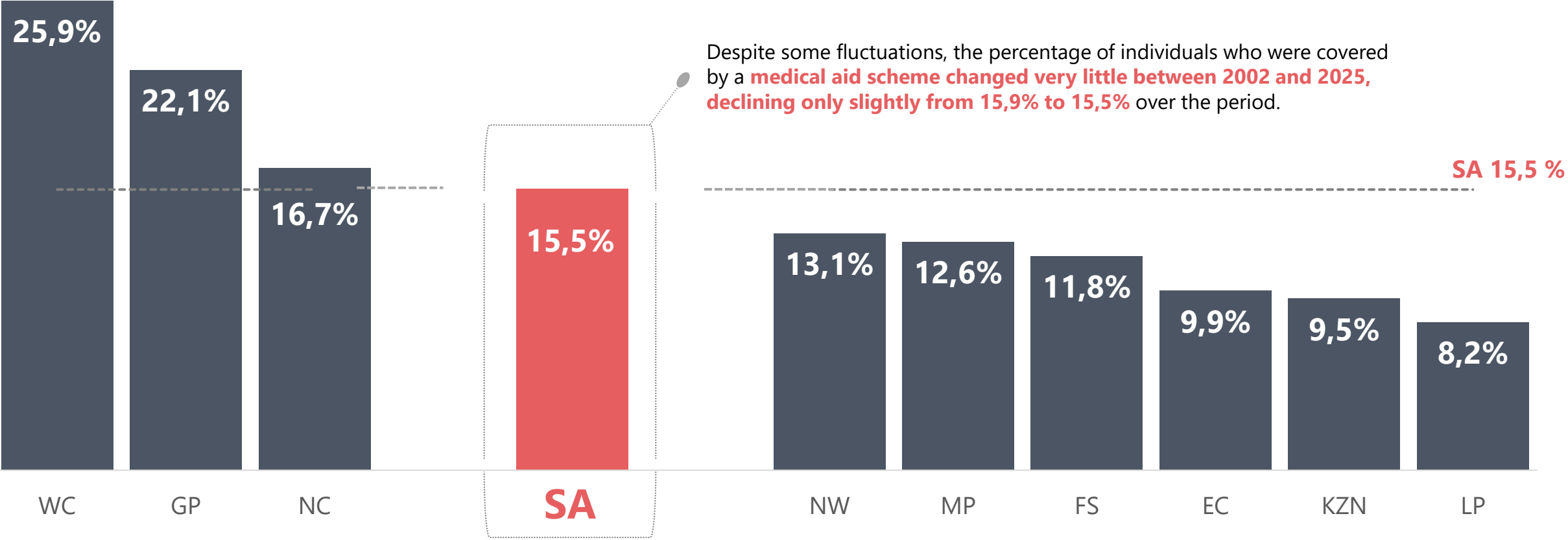
In 2025, 73,3% of household members first consulted personnel at a **Public Clinic or hospital** while 24,4% turned to the private sector

Percentage distribution of the type of health-care facility consulted first by the households when members fall ill or get injured 2004 - 2025



Medical aid coverage was most common in **Western Cape (25,9%)** and **Gauteng (22,1%)**, and least common in **Limpopo (8,2%)** and **KwaZulu-Natal (9,5%)**

Individuals who are members of medical aid schemes by province, 2025



Focus on GRANTS AND SOURCES OF INCOME

Results of the **General Household Survey 2025**

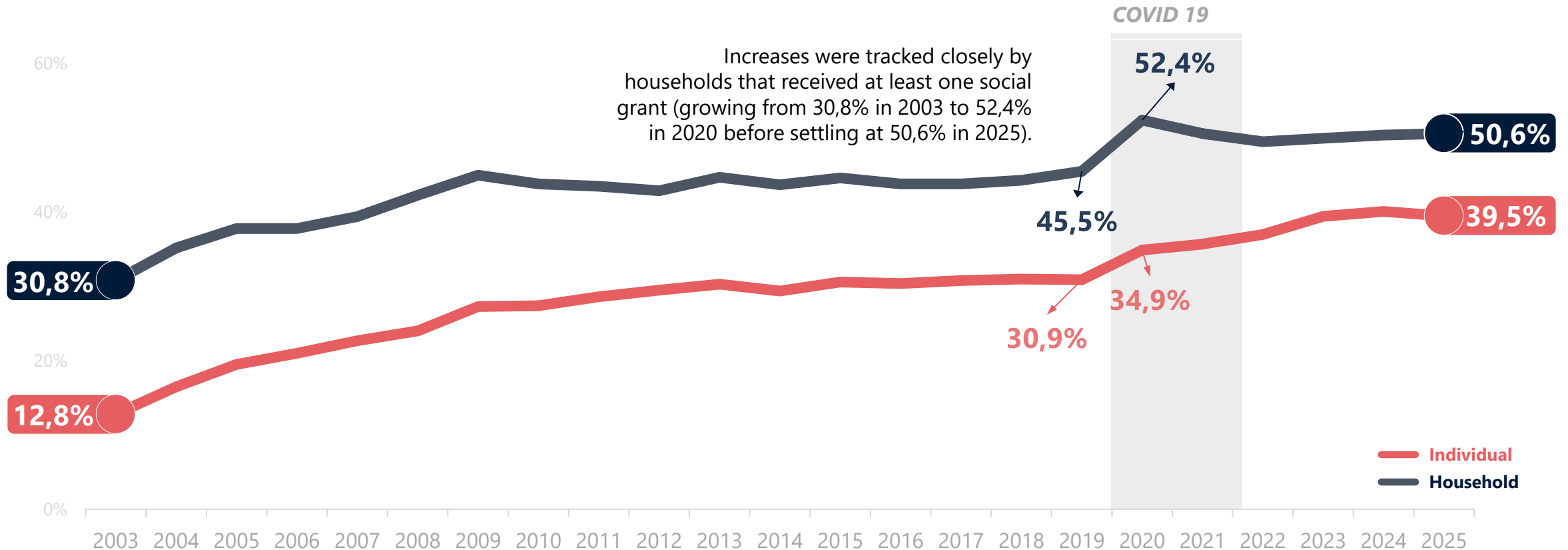
Fast Fact

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



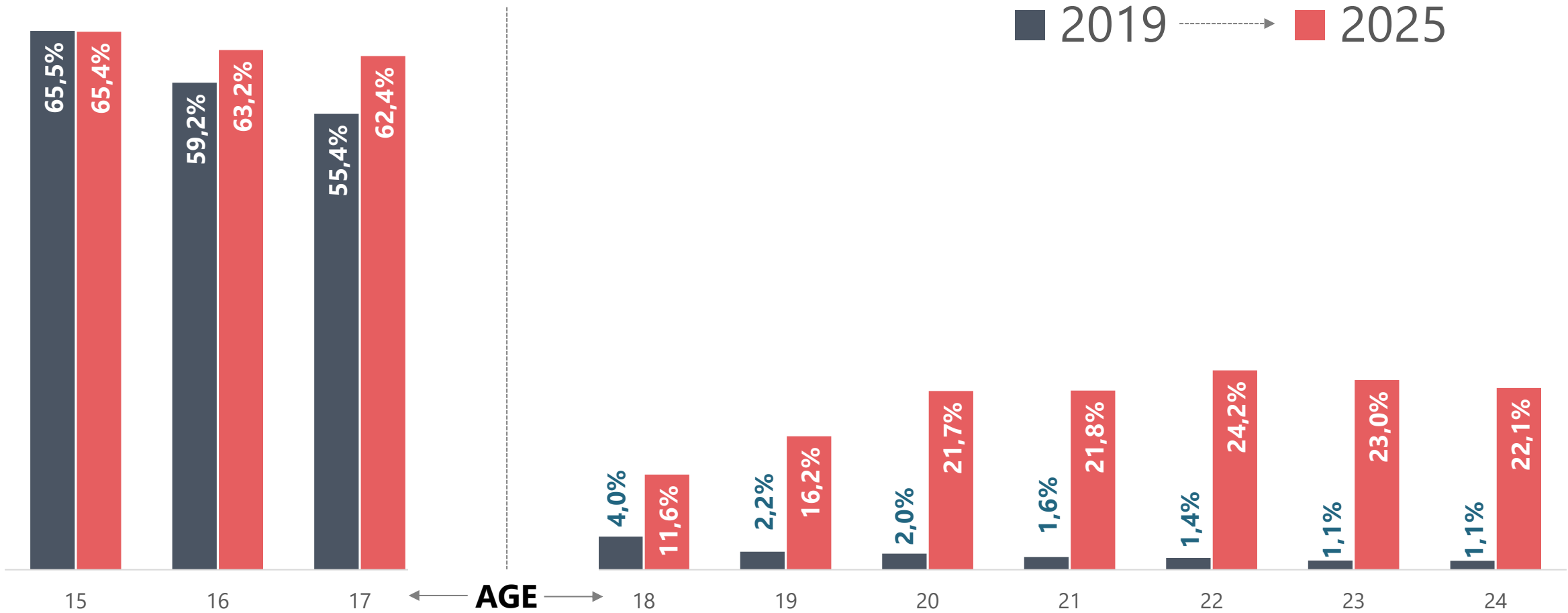
The percentage of **INDIVIDUALS** that benefited from **SOCIAL GRANTS** increased steadily from 12,8% in 2003 to approximately 31% between 2017 and 2019 before increasing to **39,5% IN 2025**

Percentage of households and individuals who have benefited from social grants, 2003–2025



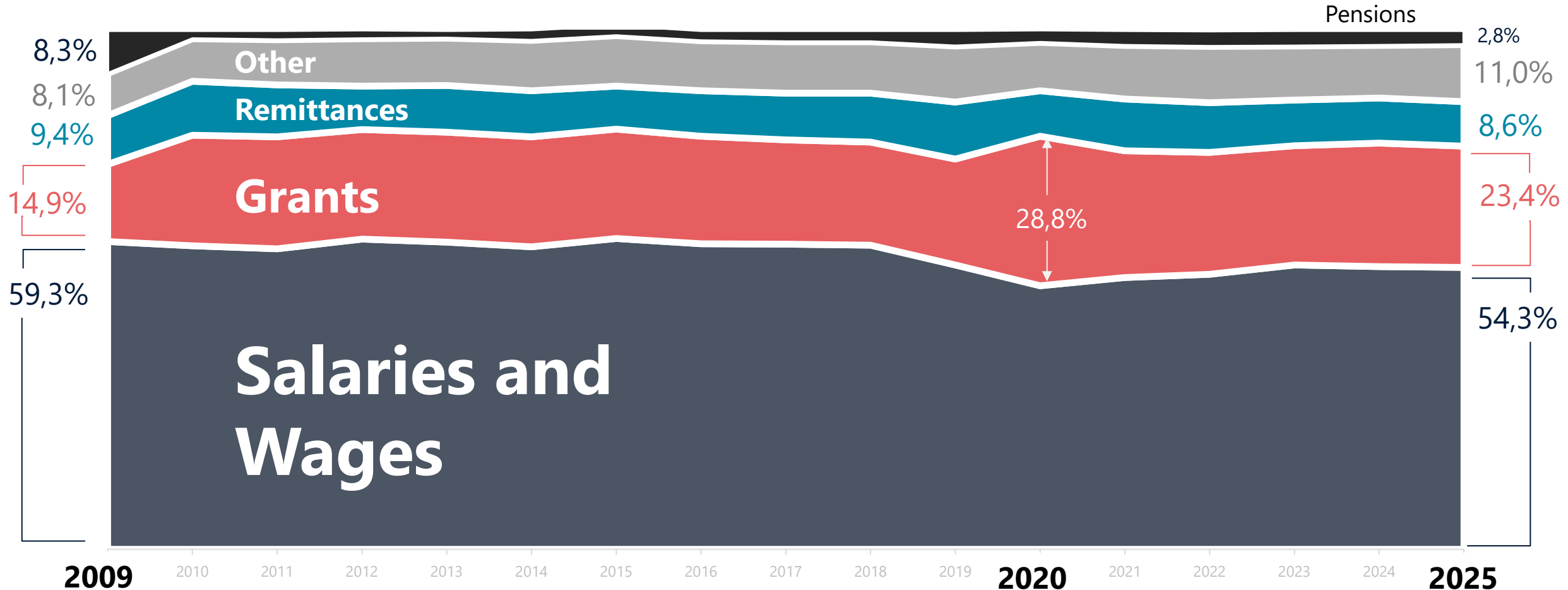
Compared to 2019, a **MUCH HIGHER** percentage of youth received grants in 2025 after the age of 18 due to the **INTRODUCTION OF THE SRD GRANT**

Percentage of youth aged 15-24 that benefited from social grants by single age, 2019 and 2025



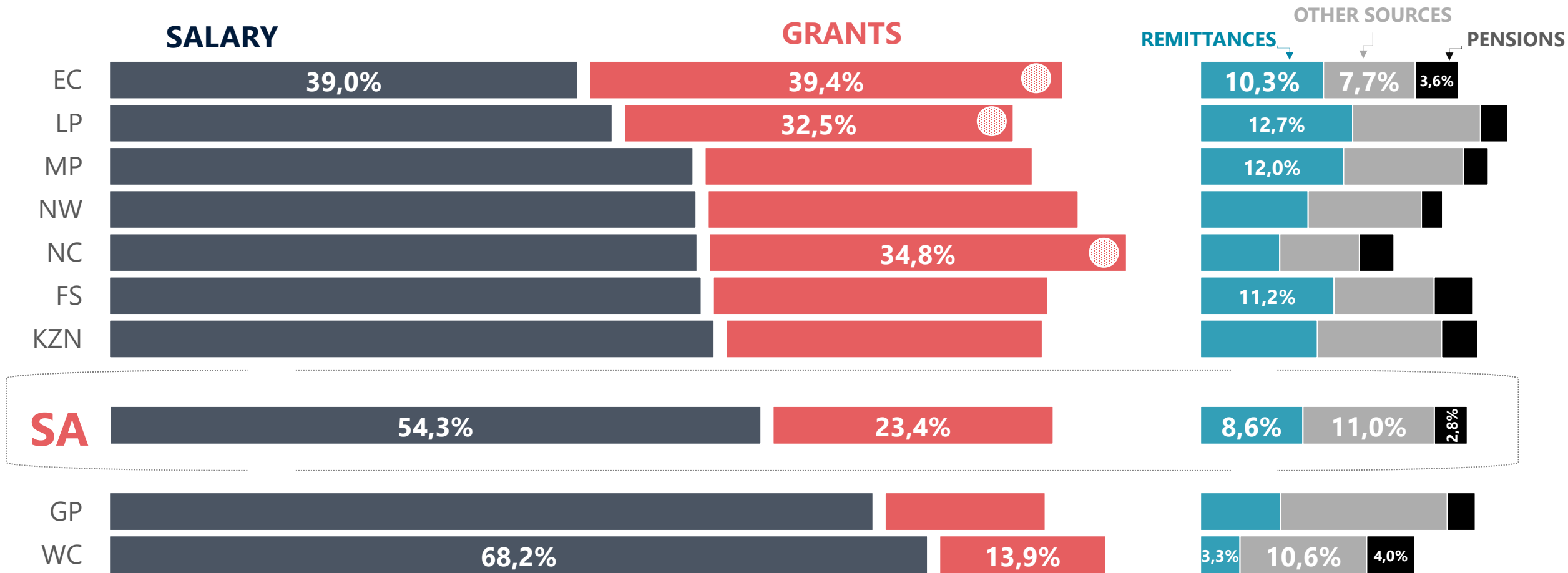
Households that **CONSIDERED SOCIAL GRANTS AS THE MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME** increased steadily from **21,3% IN 2010** to 28,8% in 2020 before declining to **23,4% IN 2025**

Percentage of households by main source of income, 2009–2025



GRANTS were particularly important as a main source of income for households in **EASTERN CAPE (39,4%), NORTHERN CAPE (34,8%) AND LIMPOPO (32,5%)**

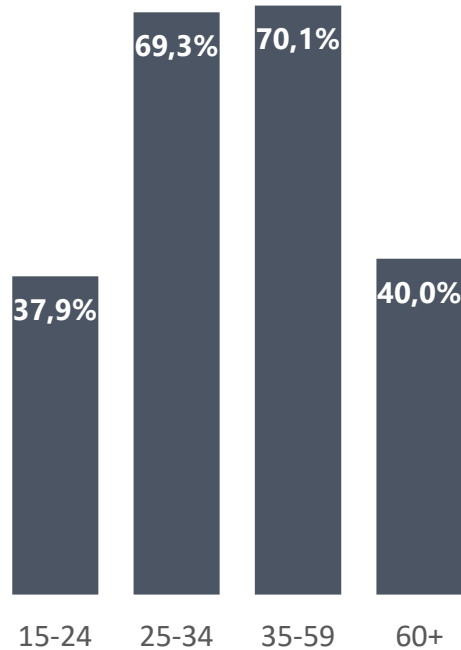
Percentage distribution of main sources of household income by province, 2025



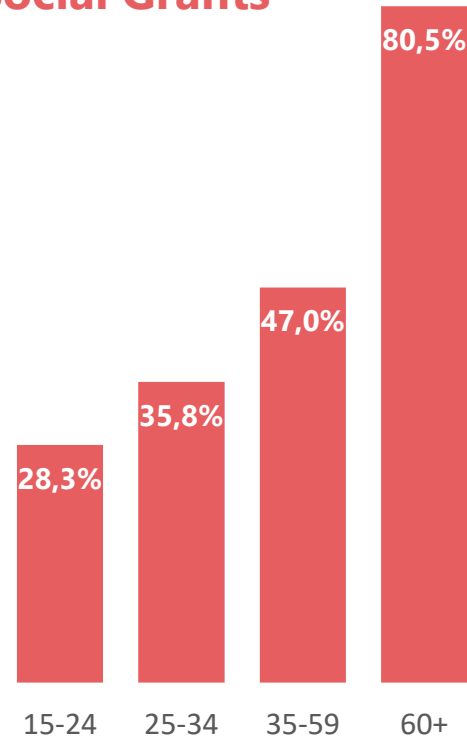
REMITTANCES were notably higher for households headed by youth aged 15-24 years at 46,9% stated as source of income

Source of income by age of household head, 2025

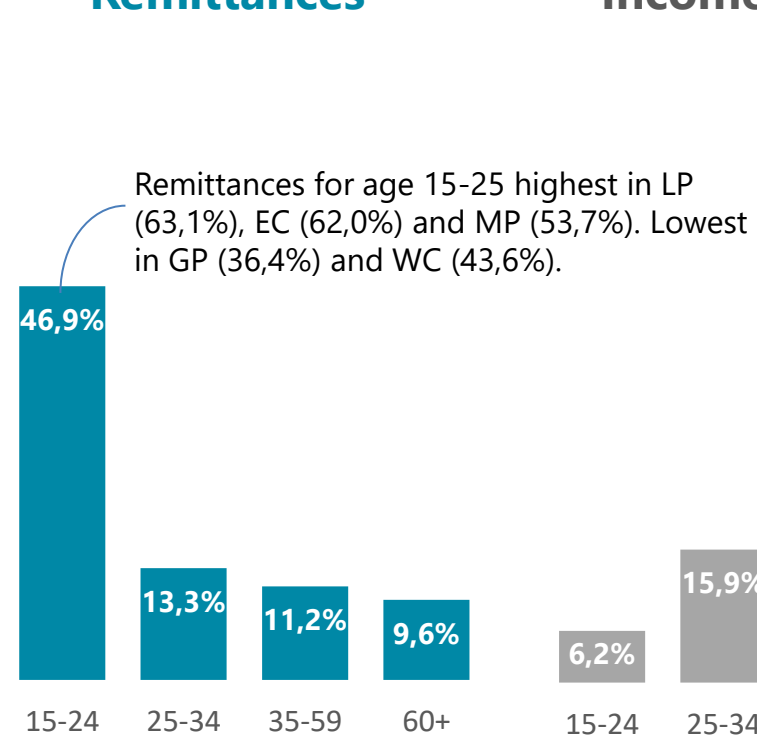
Salaries and Wages



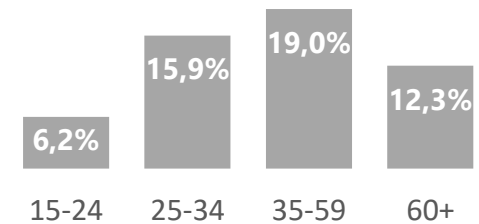
Social Grants



Remittances



Income from business

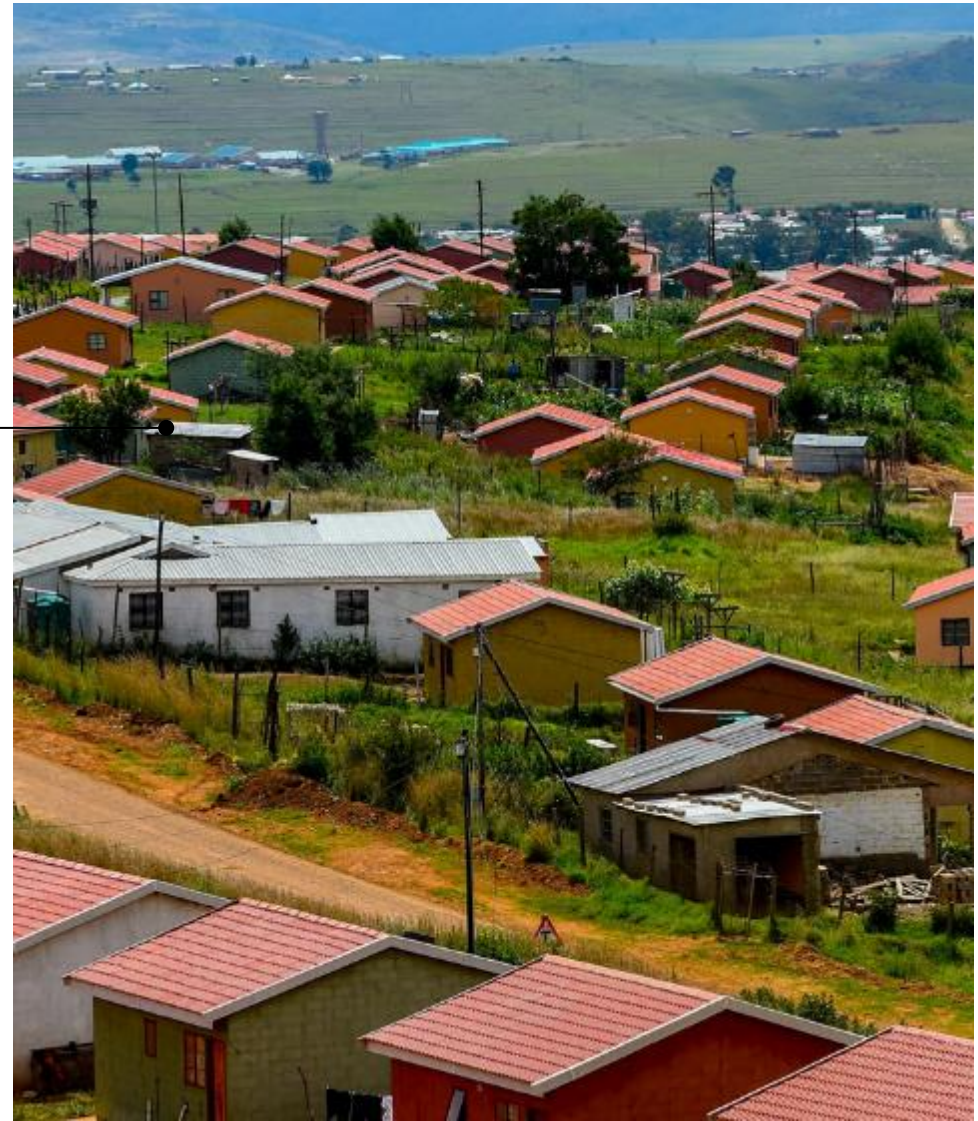


Focus on HOUSING AND SERVICE DELIVERY

Results of the General Household Survey 2025

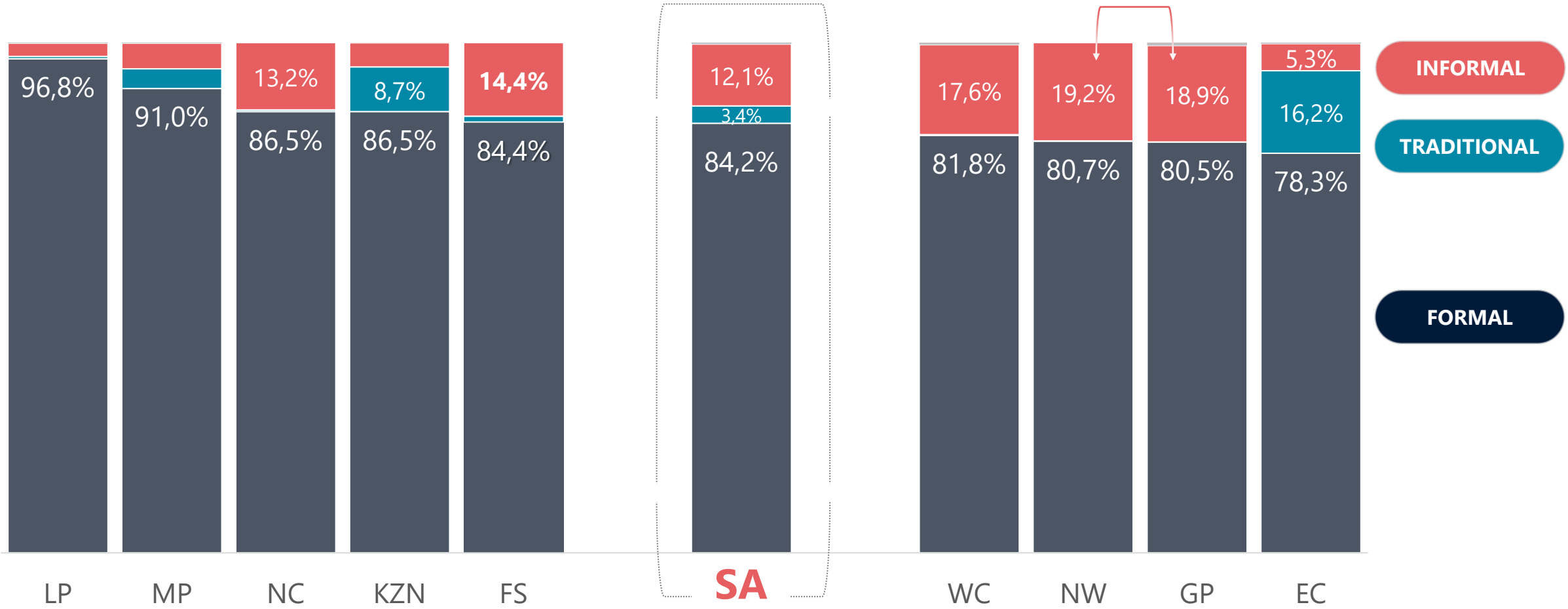
Fast Fact

Housing outcomes show that while most households have transitioned into formal dwellings and a majority enjoy some level of ownership, a notable share remains in informal or rental arrangements.



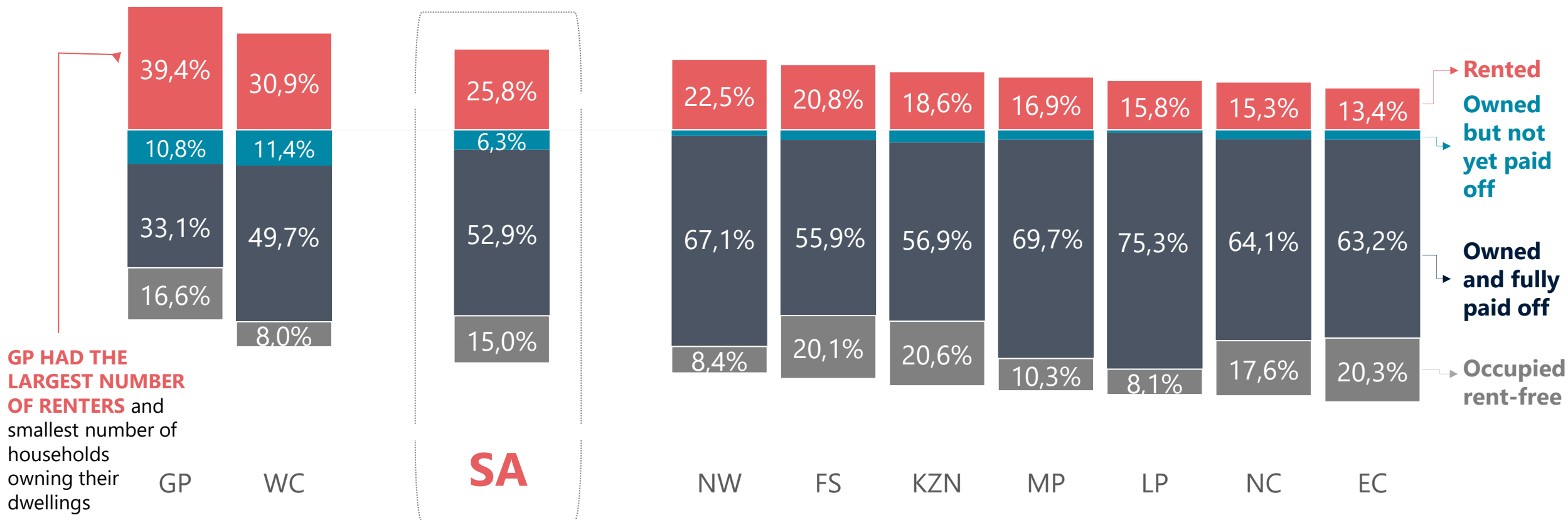
84,2% OF ALL HOUSEHOLDS resided in **FORMAL DWELLINGS** while 12,1% lived in informal dwellings

Percentage of households that lived in formal, informal and traditional dwellings by province, 2025



CLOSE TO 6 OUT OF 10 (52,9%) HOUSEHOLDS ARE OWNED *(paid off or being paid off)* while a further 25,8% rented their dwellings

Percentage distribution of dwelling units by tenure status and province, 2025



Focus on WATER AND SANITATION

Results of the General Household Survey 2025

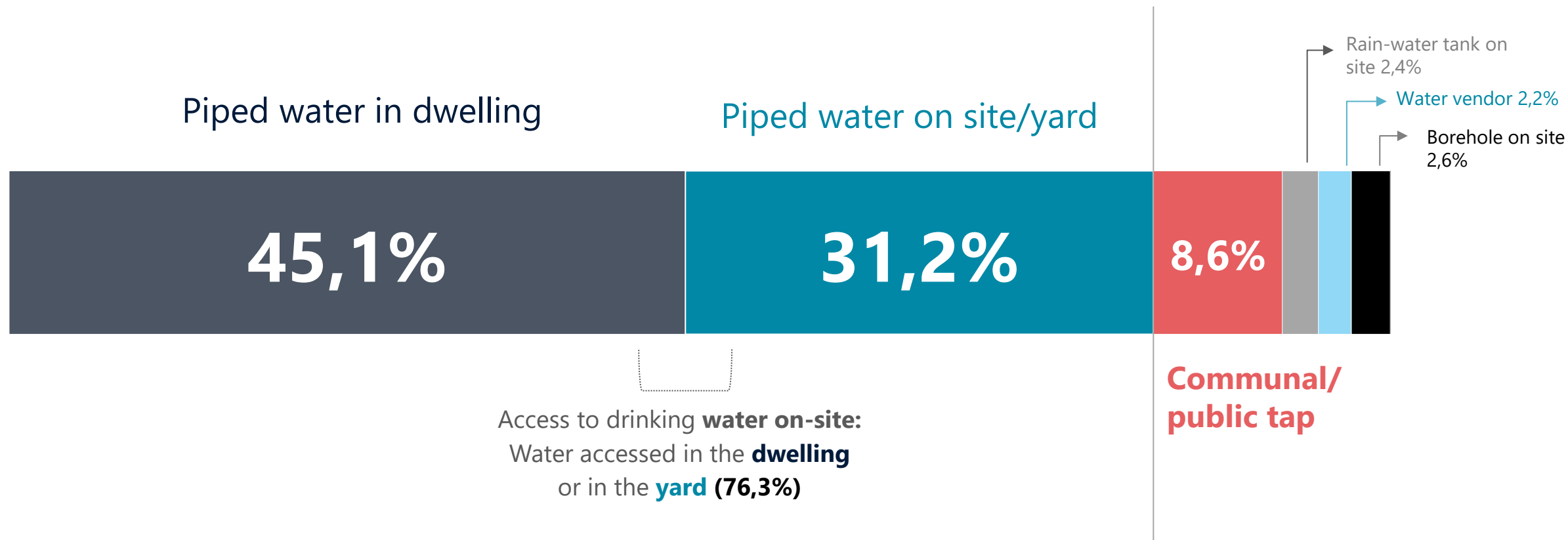
Fast Fact

South Africa's water and sanitation profile reflects significant long-term gains in access, evidenced by widespread piped water expansion and improved sanitation.



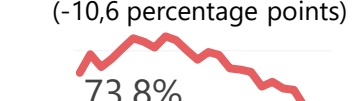
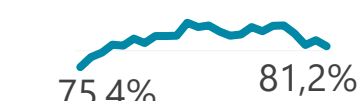
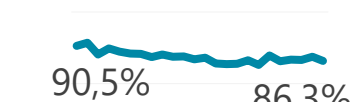
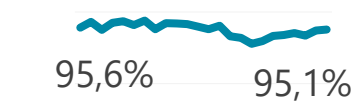
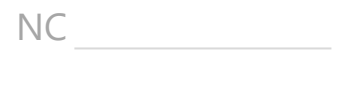
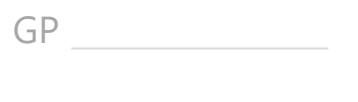
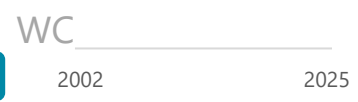
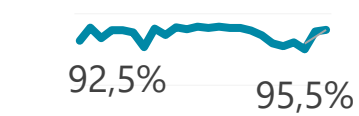
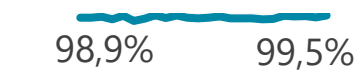
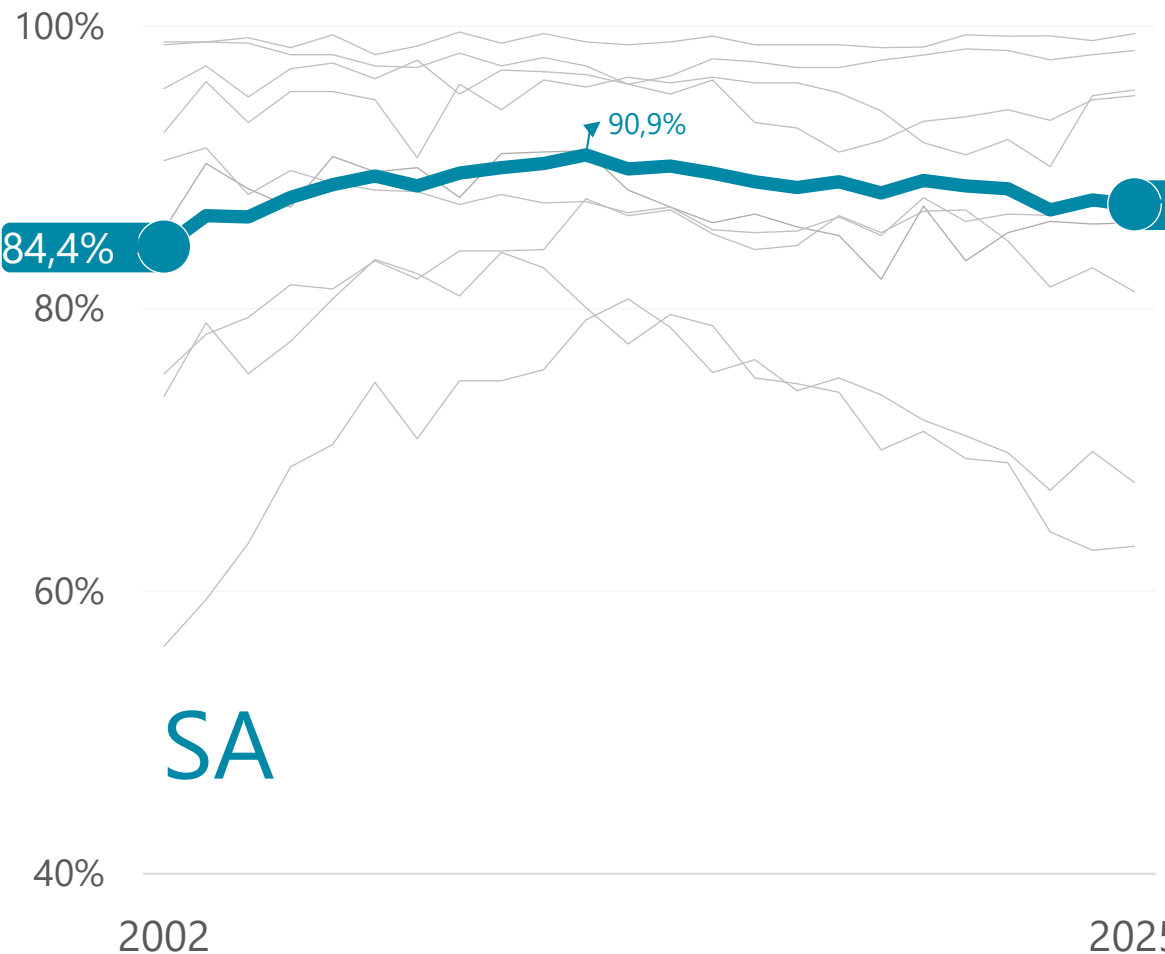
Three quarters (76,3%) of South African households have access to **WATER SOURCES IN THE DWELLING OR IN THE YARD**

Percentage of households by selected main water source (top 6 sources shown), 2025



ACCESS TO PIPED WATER increased by **3,3** percentage points to **87,4%** between 2004 and 2025. Households with piped water increased by 8,1 million since 2002

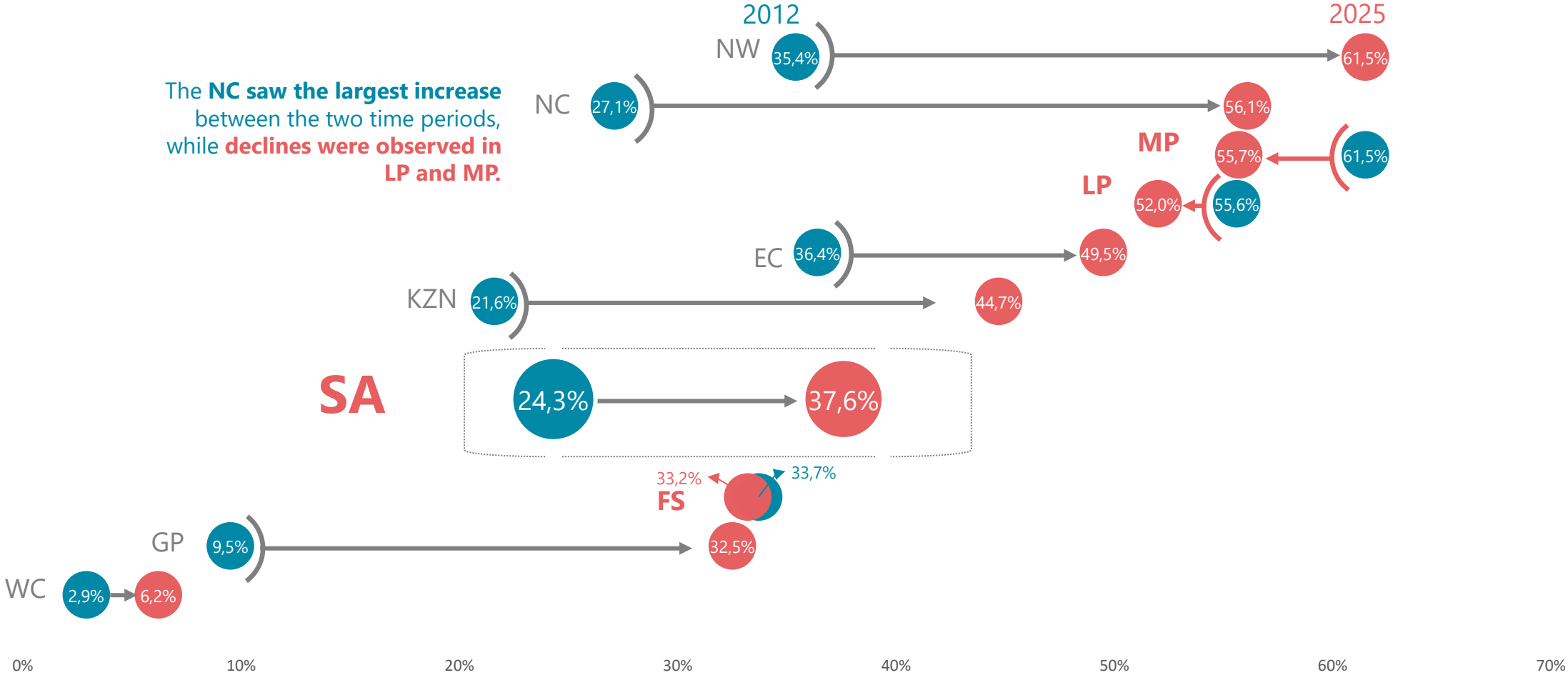
Percentage of households with access to municipal piped water, 2025



The **LARGEST DECLINE** was observed in **LIMPOPO** (-10,6 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 37,6% IN 2025**

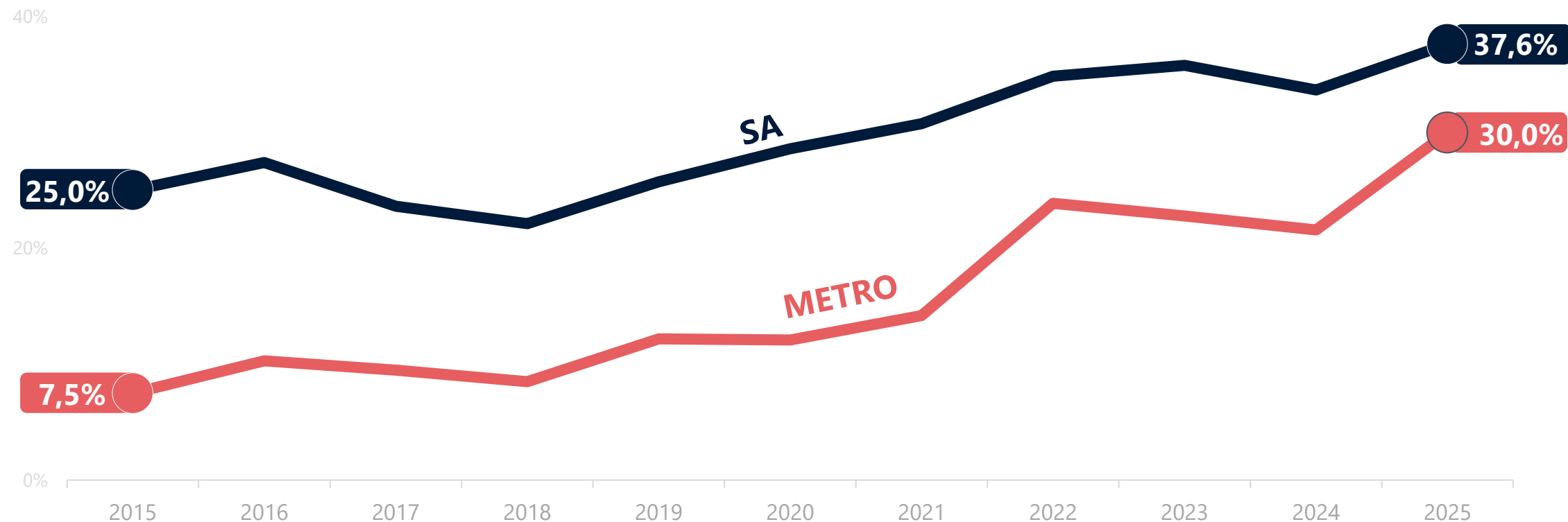
Percentage of households that experienced water interruptions lasting more than 2 days, or 15 days in total over the past year



The **NC** saw the largest increase between the two time periods, while **declines** were observed in **LP** and **MP**.

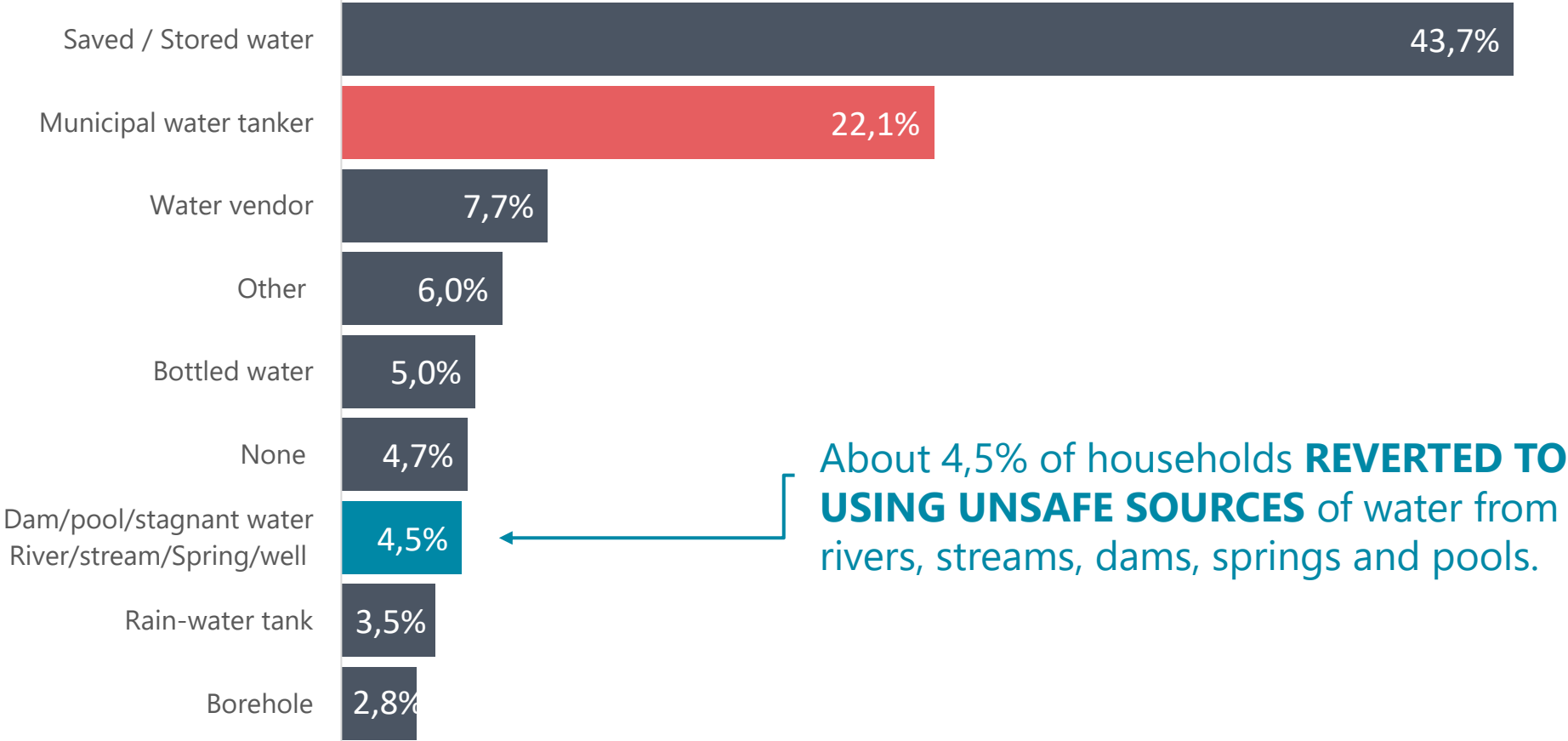
Households that experienced **WATER INTERRUPTIONS THAT LASTED AT LEAST 2 DAYS** increased from **7,5% TO 30,0% OF METROPOLITAN HOUSEHOLDS** between 2015 and 2025

Percentage of households that experienced water interruptions that lasted at least 2 days, 2015–2025



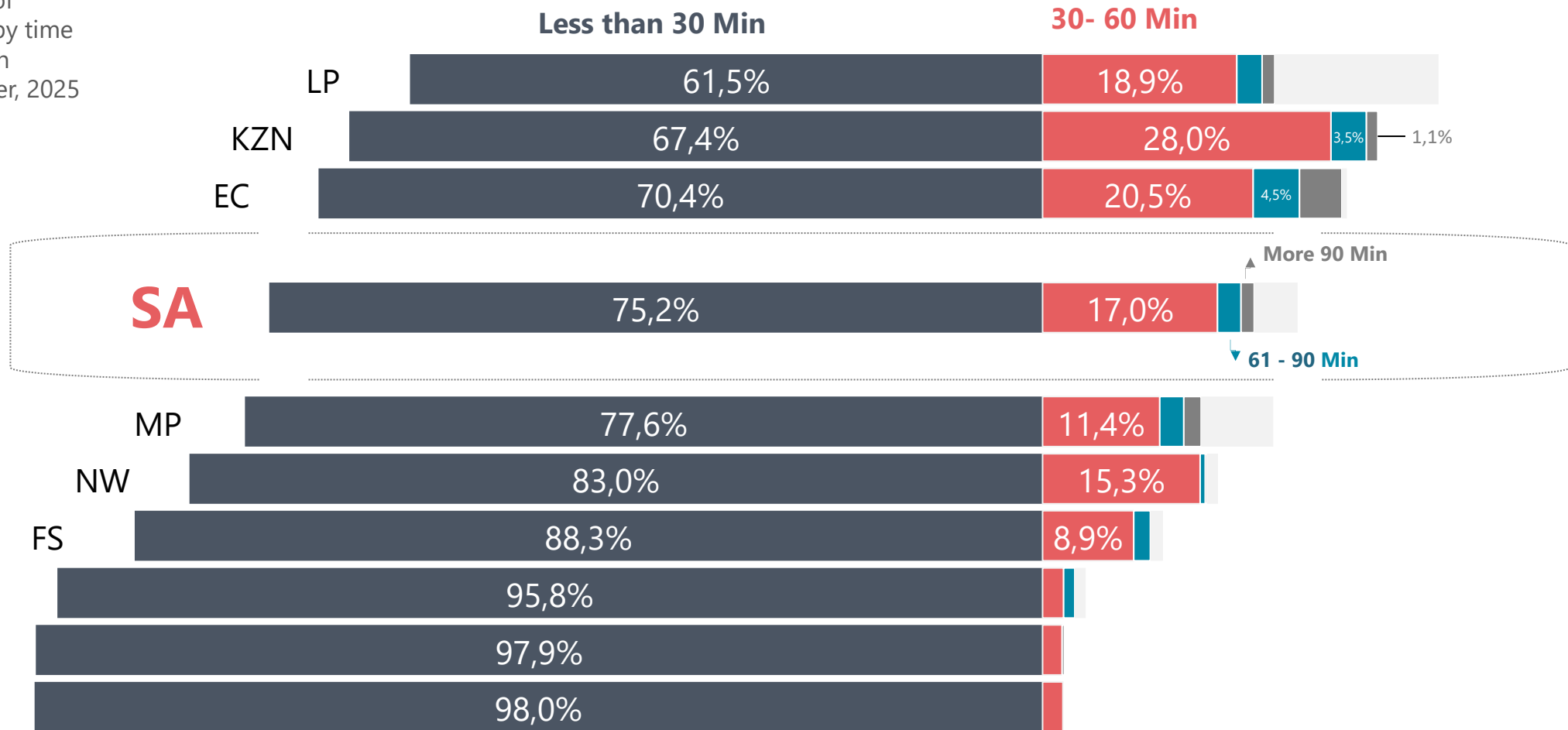
Approximately **22% OF HOUSEHOLDS** depended on municipalities to provide water using **TANKERS** as an alternative source **DURING WATER INTERRUPTIONS**

Percentage of households by alternative sources of drinking water used during water interruptions that lasted 2 days or longer, 2025



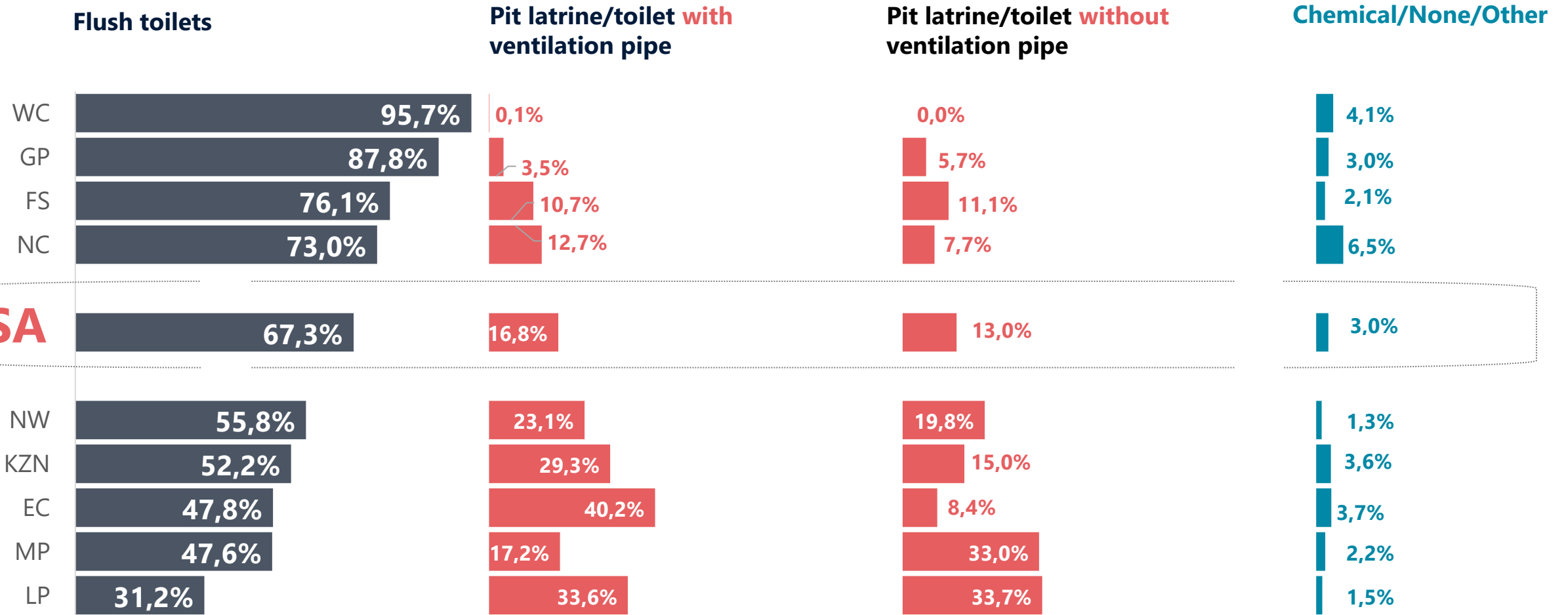
More than **one-third (32,6%)** of households in KwaZulu-Natal *without piped water* in their dwellings or on site **TOOK MORE THAN 30 MINUTES TO FETCH WATER**

Percentage distribution of households by time taken to fetch drinking water, 2025



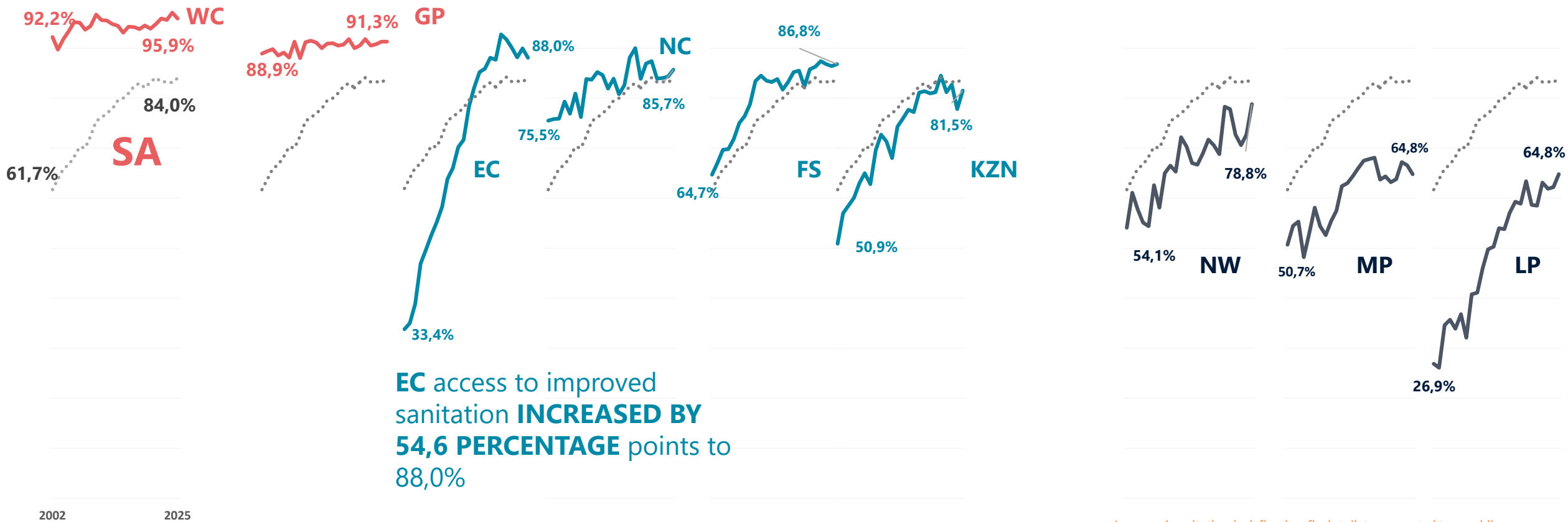
Two-thirds (67,3%) of South African households have **ACCESS TO FLUSH TOILETS**

Percentage of households by type of toilet facility and province, 2025



The percentage of households with **access to improved sanitation** increased by 22,3 percentage points between 2002 and 2025, growing from **61,7% to 84,0%**

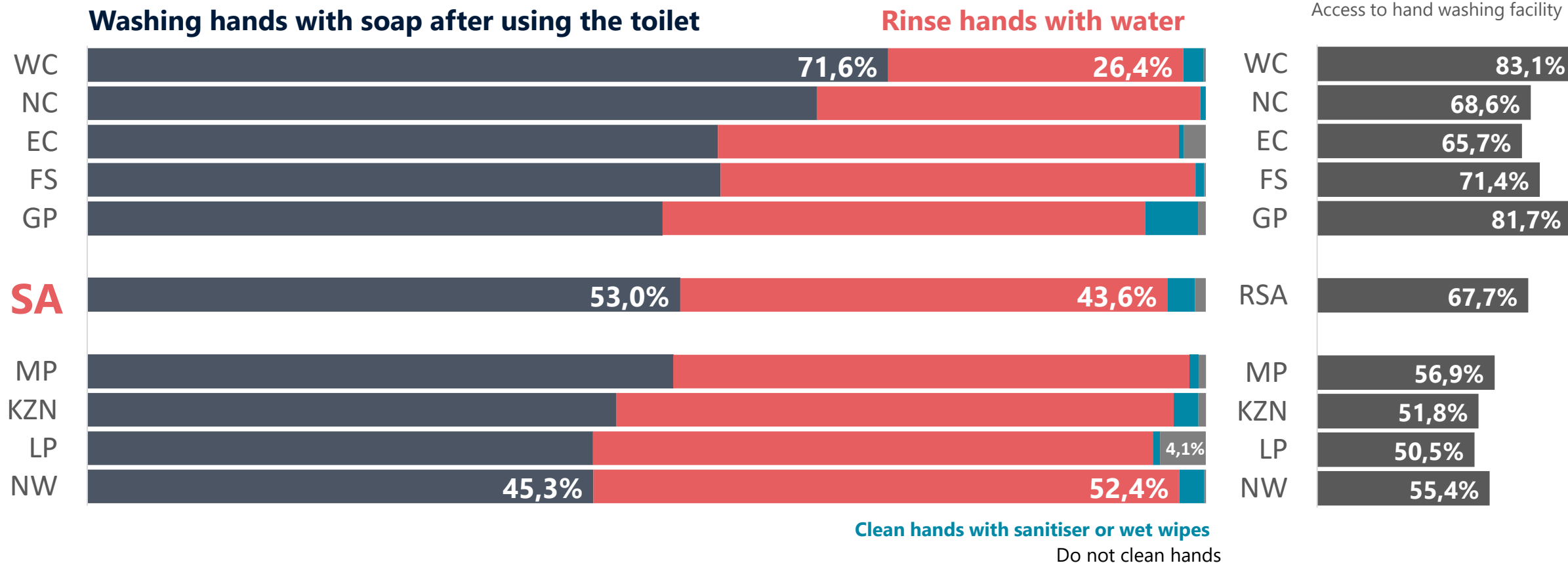
Percentage of households that have access to improved sanitation per province, 2002–2025



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

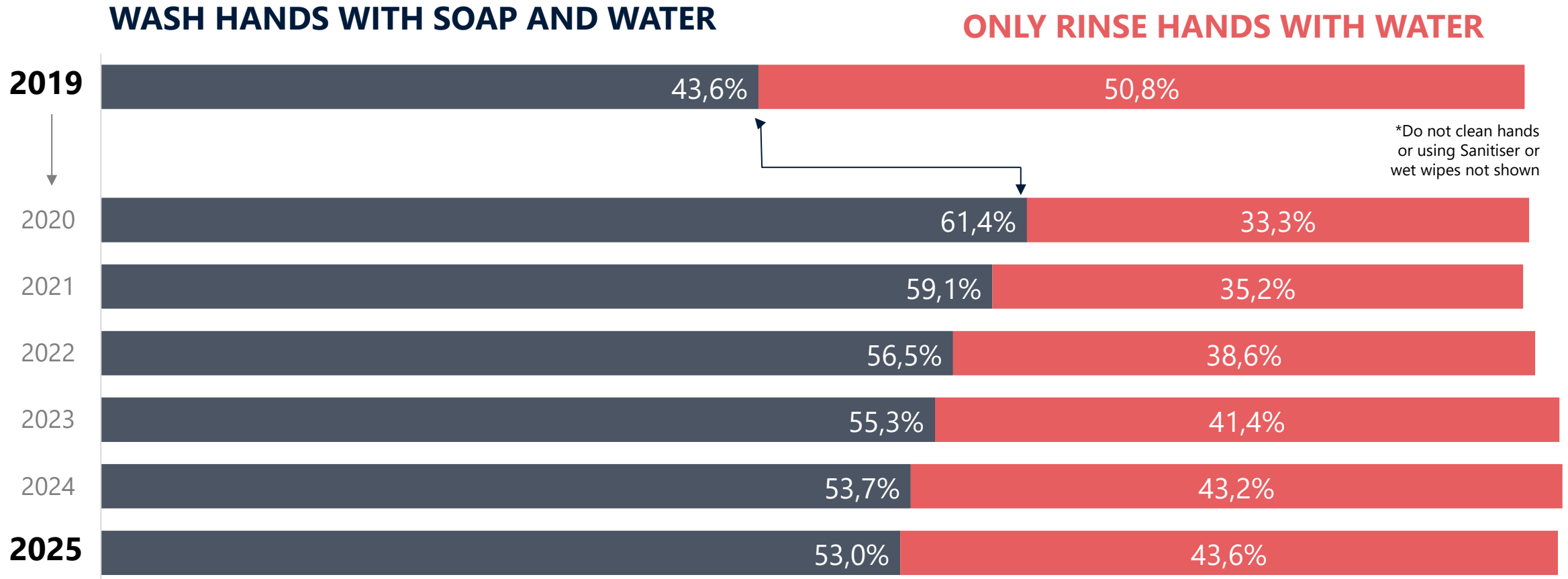
The majority (**53%**) **OF HOUSEHOLDS** indicated that their members **WASHED HANDS WITH SOAP** after using the toilet, while **43,6%** only rinsed their hands with water

Percentage of households by access to hand washing facility, 2025



REGULAR HAND WASHING became more common in 2020, however gradually decreasing in later years

Percentage of households by the methods usually used by household members to clean their hands after using the toilet, 2019 - 2025



Focus on ENERGY

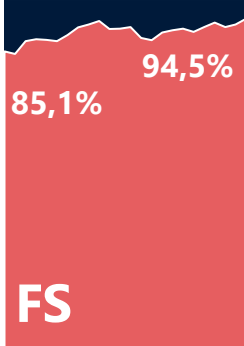
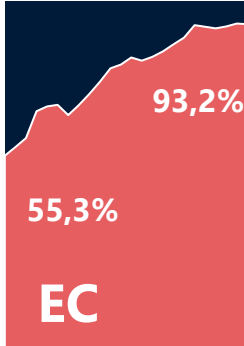
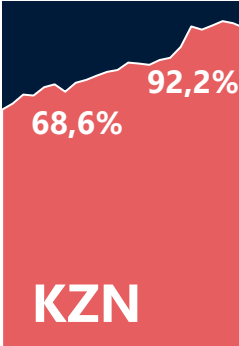
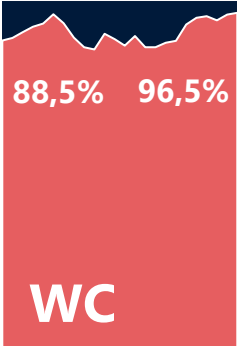
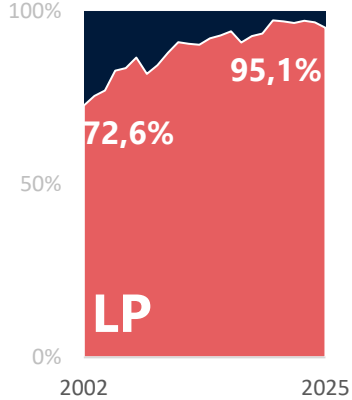
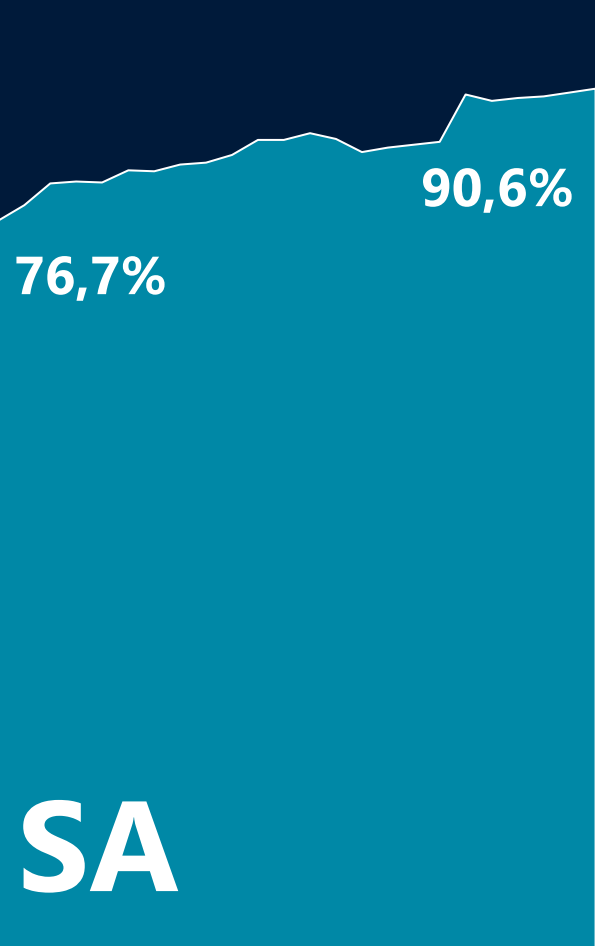
Results of the General Household Survey 2025

Fast Fact

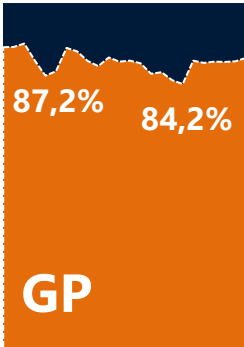
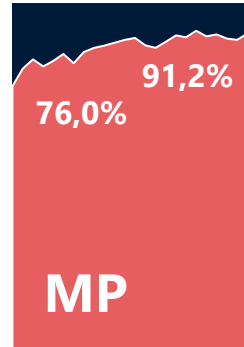
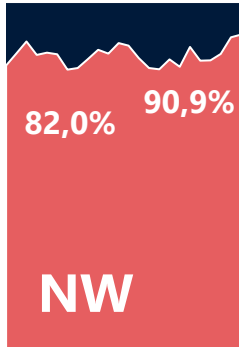
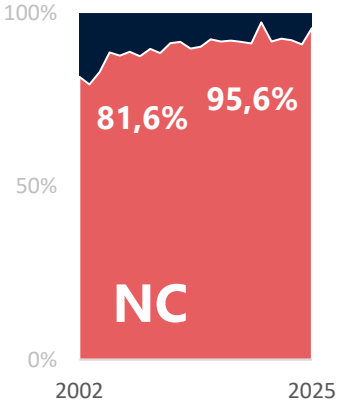
South Africa has achieved significant gains in electricity access from the national grid, yet this progress has not fully translated into consistent energy use for cooking, as many households continue to rely on wood, reflecting affordability and energy-use disparities.



The percentage of households that were **connected to the electricity supply** from the mains increased from **76,7% in 2002 to 90,6% in 2025**



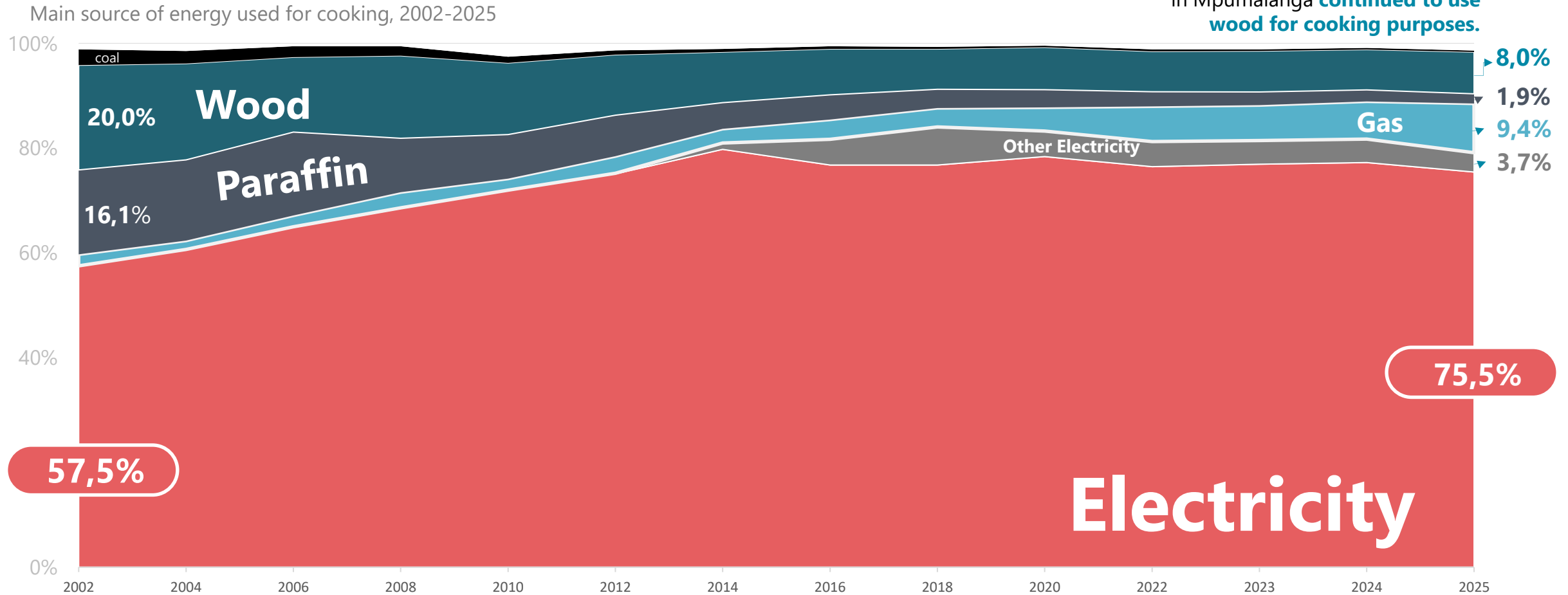
Percentage of households connected to the mains electricity supply by province, 2002–2025



Declining electricity connections in GP relate to rapid population growth.

Nationally electricity (75,5%) is used as main source of energy for cooking

A third of households in Limpopo (37,6%) and 16,3% of households in Mpumalanga **continued to use wood for cooking purposes.**

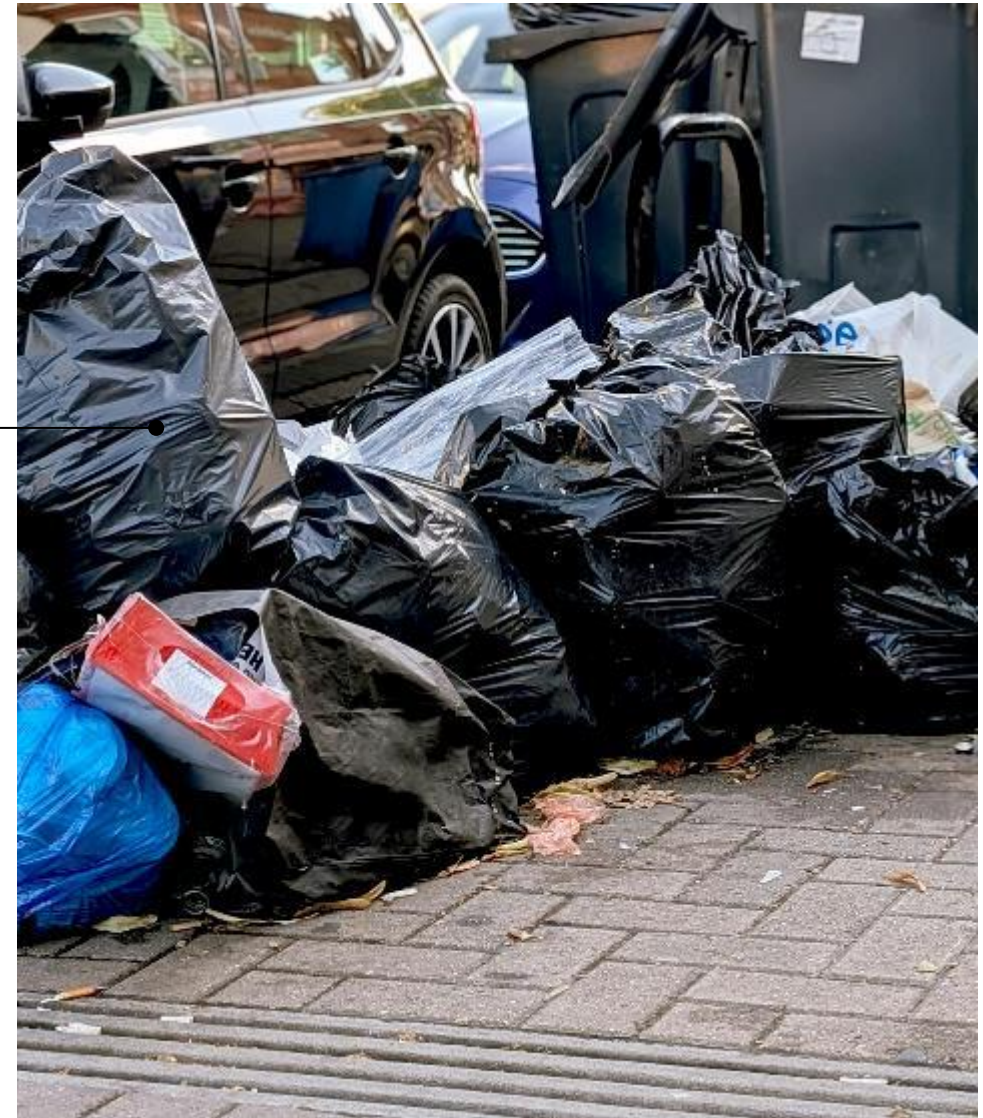


Focus on SOLID WASTE AND REFUSE REMOVAL

Results of the **General Household Survey 2025**

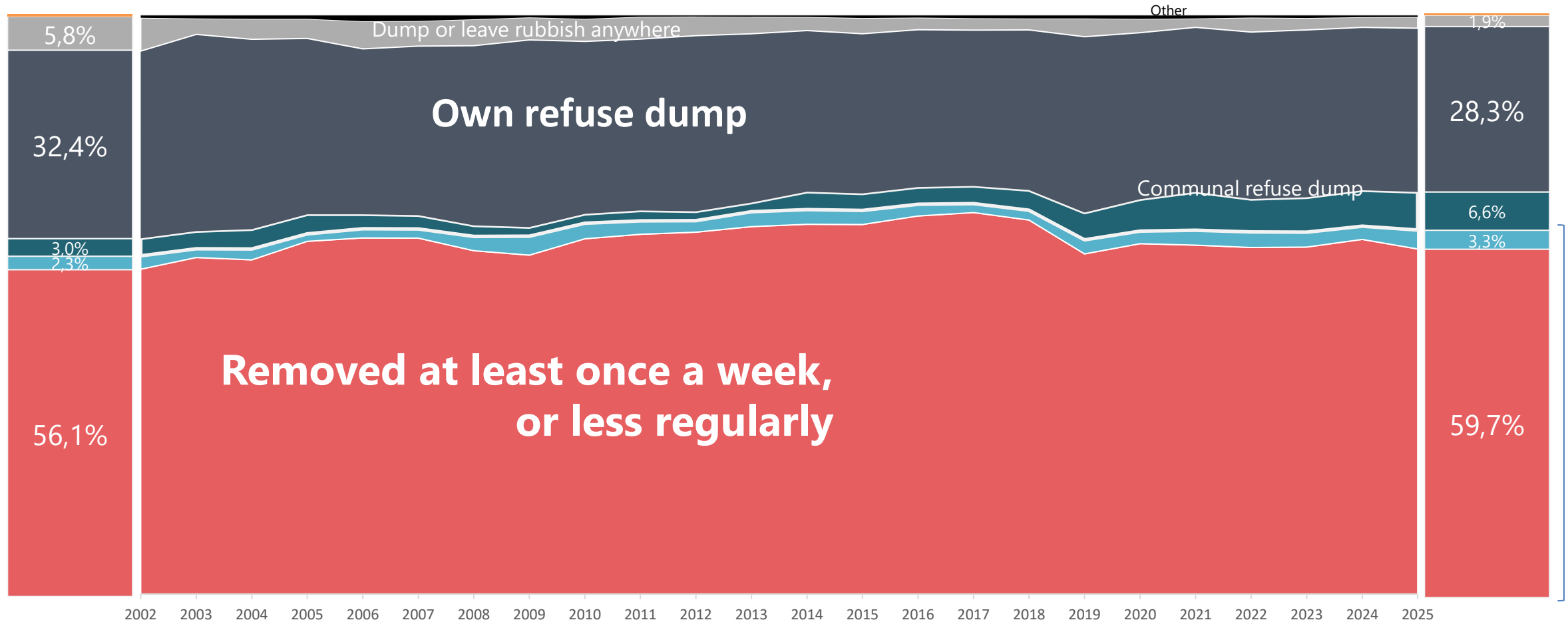
Fast Fact

South Africa's waste management trends point to modest long-term improvement in regular collection services, but with recent declines and persistently low recycling uptake—driven largely by time constraints, inadequate information, and limited perceived importance.



The percentage of households whose **SOLID WASTE WAS REMOVED WEEKLY** or less often **DECLINED FROM 66,4% IN 2018 TO 62,9% IN 2025**

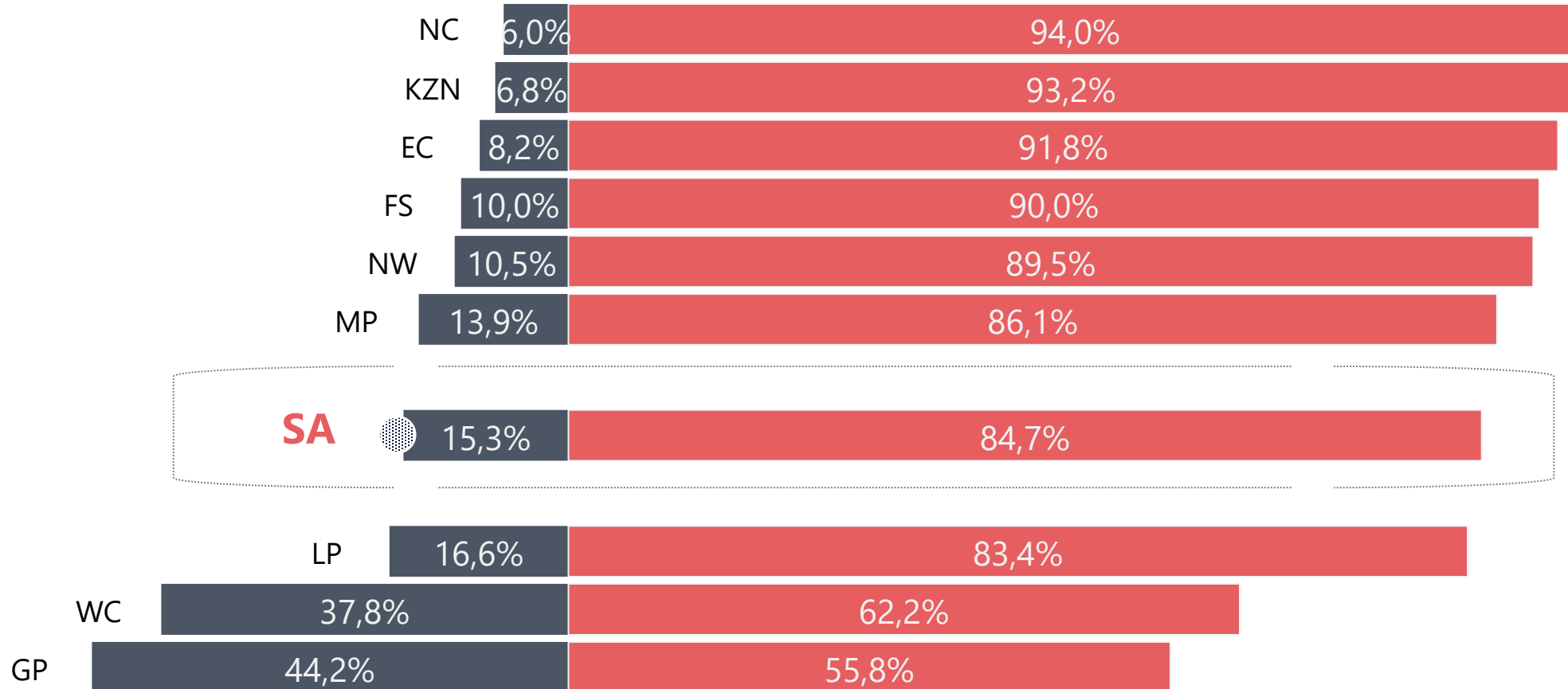
Percentage of household refuse removal, between 2002 and 2025



Households that **BURN WASTE FROM TIME TO TIME** was **MOST COMMON IN NC (94,0%), KZN (93,2%), EC (91,8%)** and FS (90,0%)

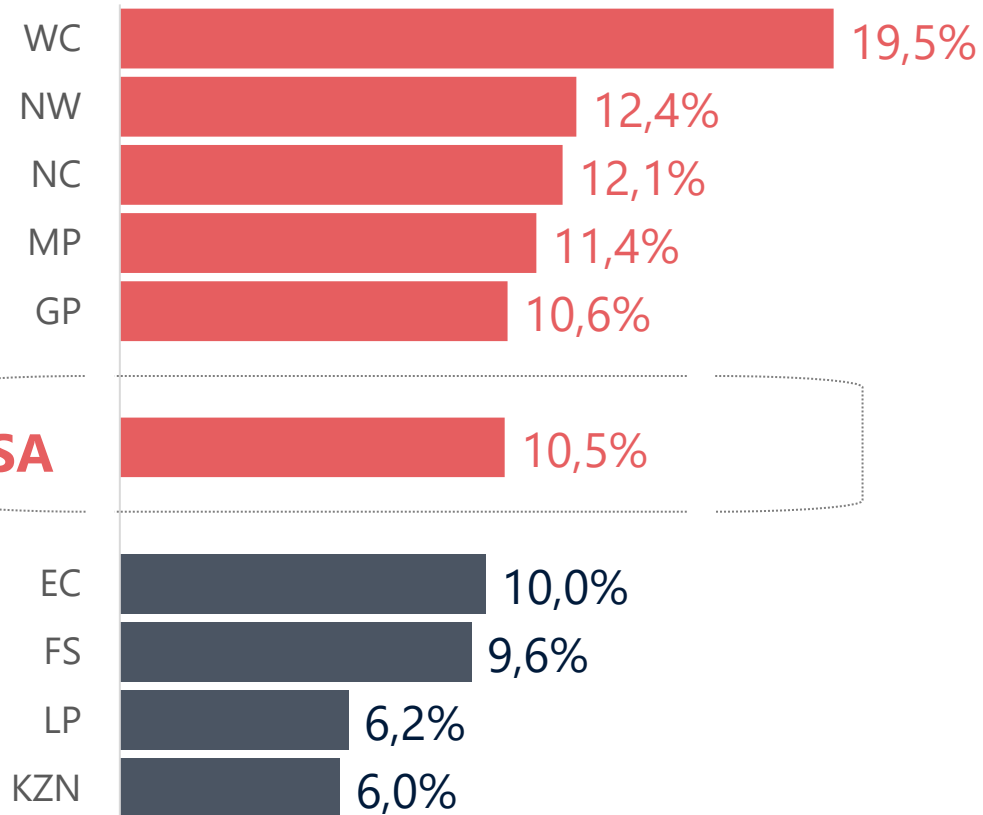
Percentage (%) distribution of households that burn some or all of their solid waste by province, 2025

NEVER BURN WASTE FROM TIME TO TIME

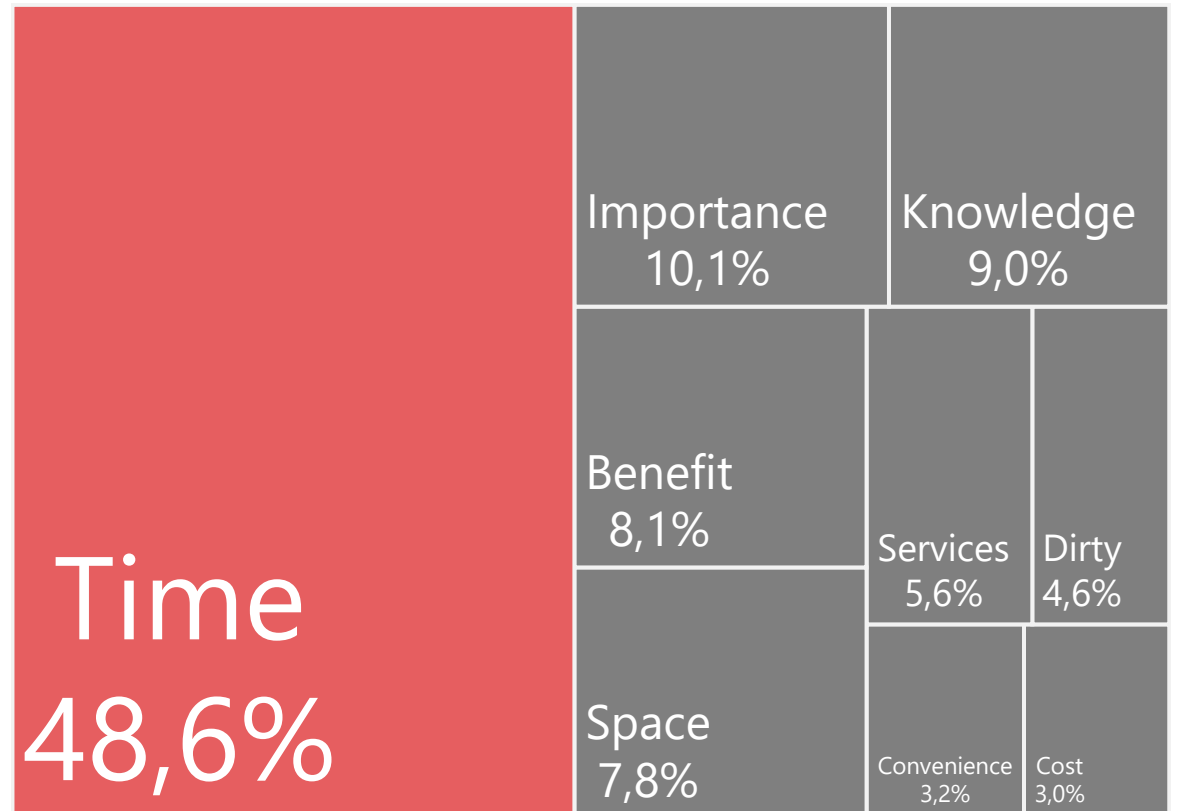


ONLY A TENTH OF HOUSEHOLDS SORTED WASTE FOR RECYCLING. The main reasons for not recycling were not having time, not considering it important (10,1%) and lacking knowledge (9,0%)

Households that separate or sort recyclable materials
from your household waste for recycling by province, 2025



MAIN REASONS for not recycling household waste

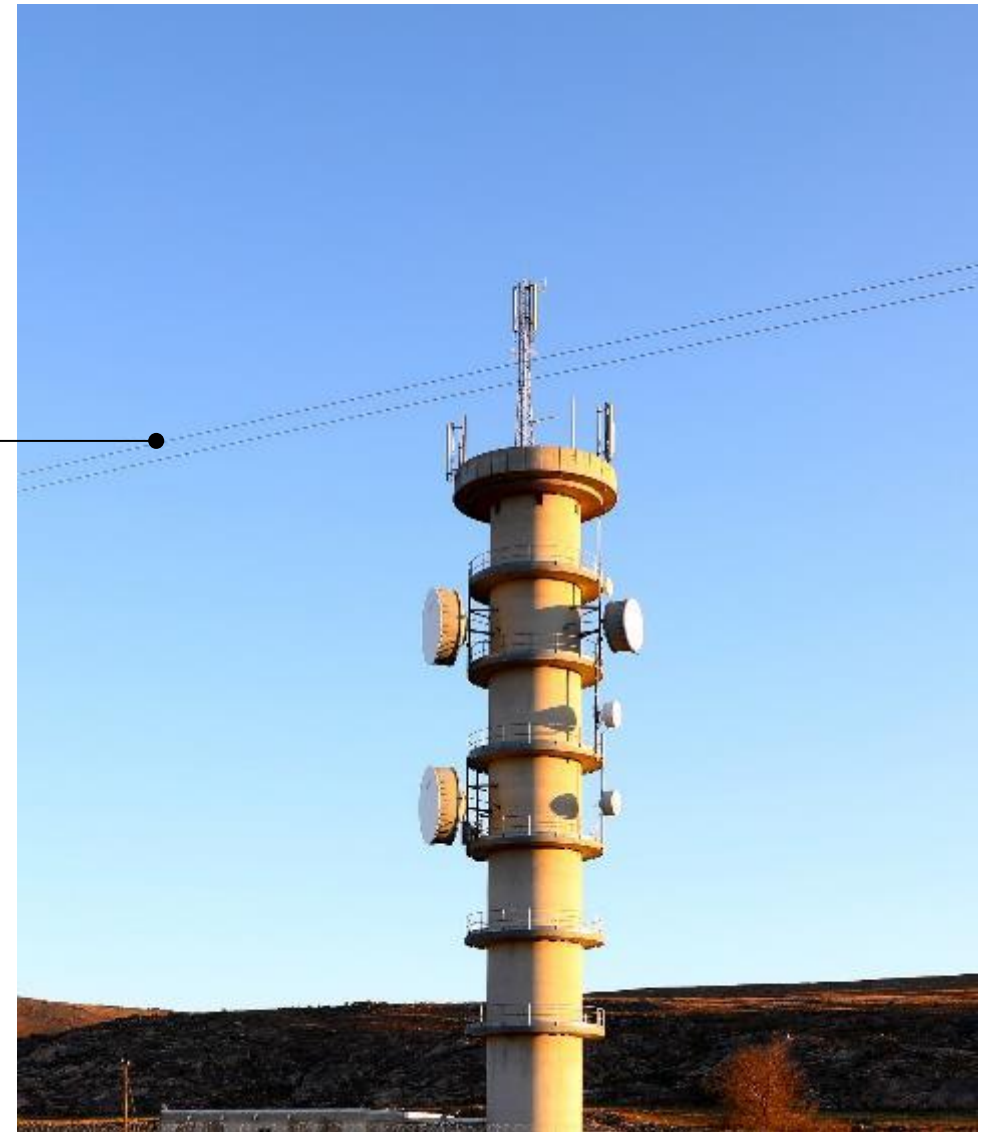


Focus on TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Results of the General Household Survey 2025

Fast Fact

Communication access trends reveal a significant decline in traditional mail services alongside a gradual rise in fixed internet connectivity, indicating a broader digital shift.

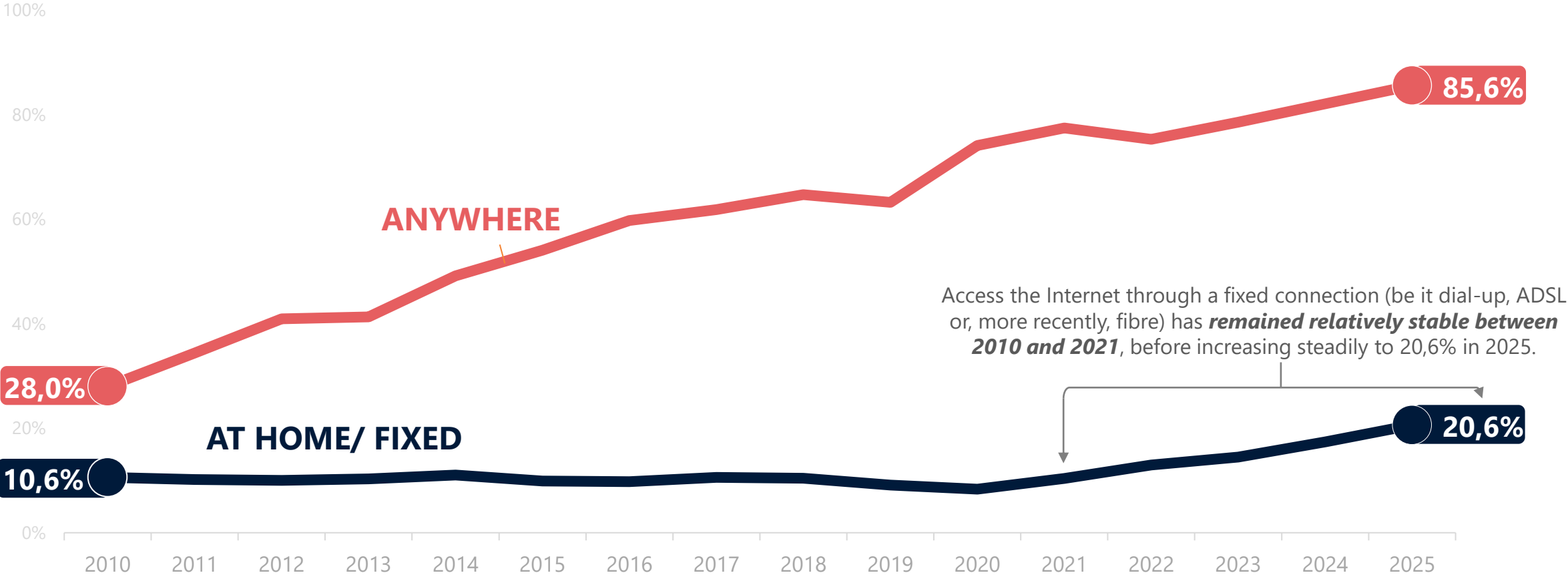


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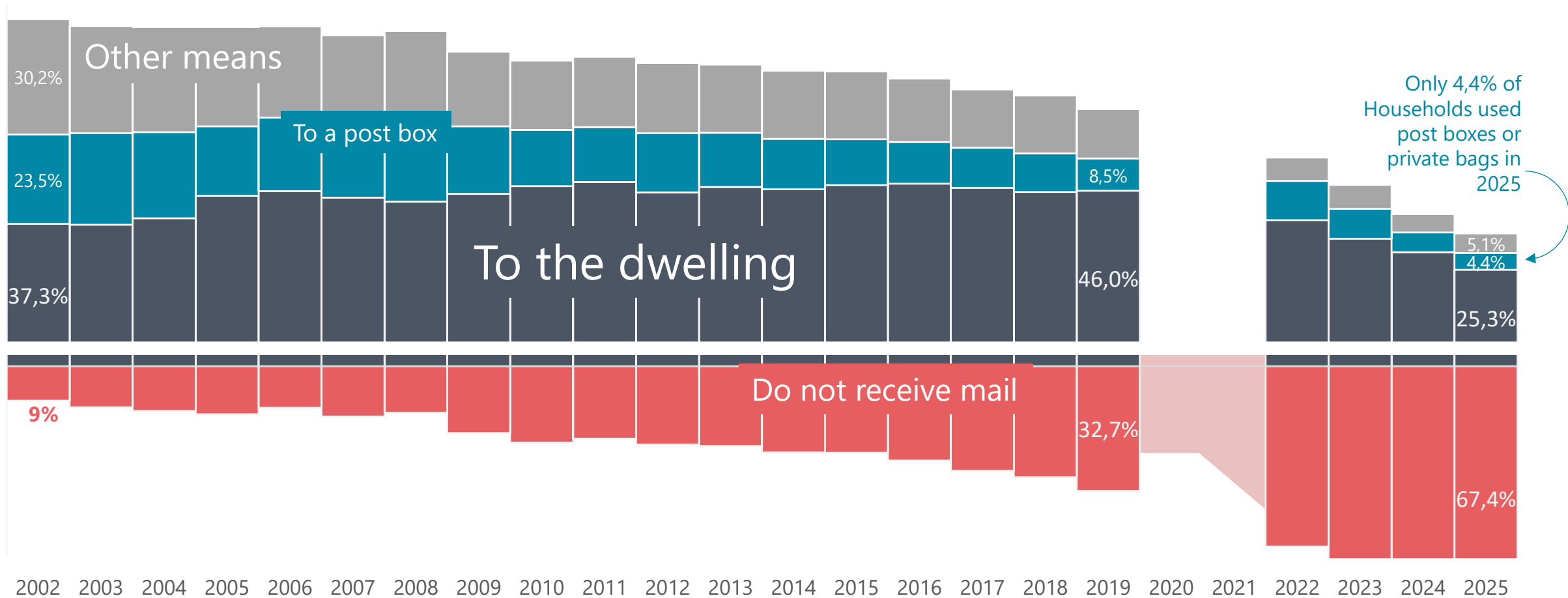
MOBILE BROADBAND – connecting to the Internet through a cell phone – increased by 57,6 percentage points growing from **28,0% IN 2010 TO 85,6% IN 2025**

Percentage distribution of households with access to internet at home or through all means, 2010 - 2025



HOUSEHOLDS **WITHOUT ACCESS TO MAIL SERVICES** increased from **9,0% IN 2002 TO 67,4% IN 2025**

Percentage distribution of households that received mail services by type of service, 2002–2025

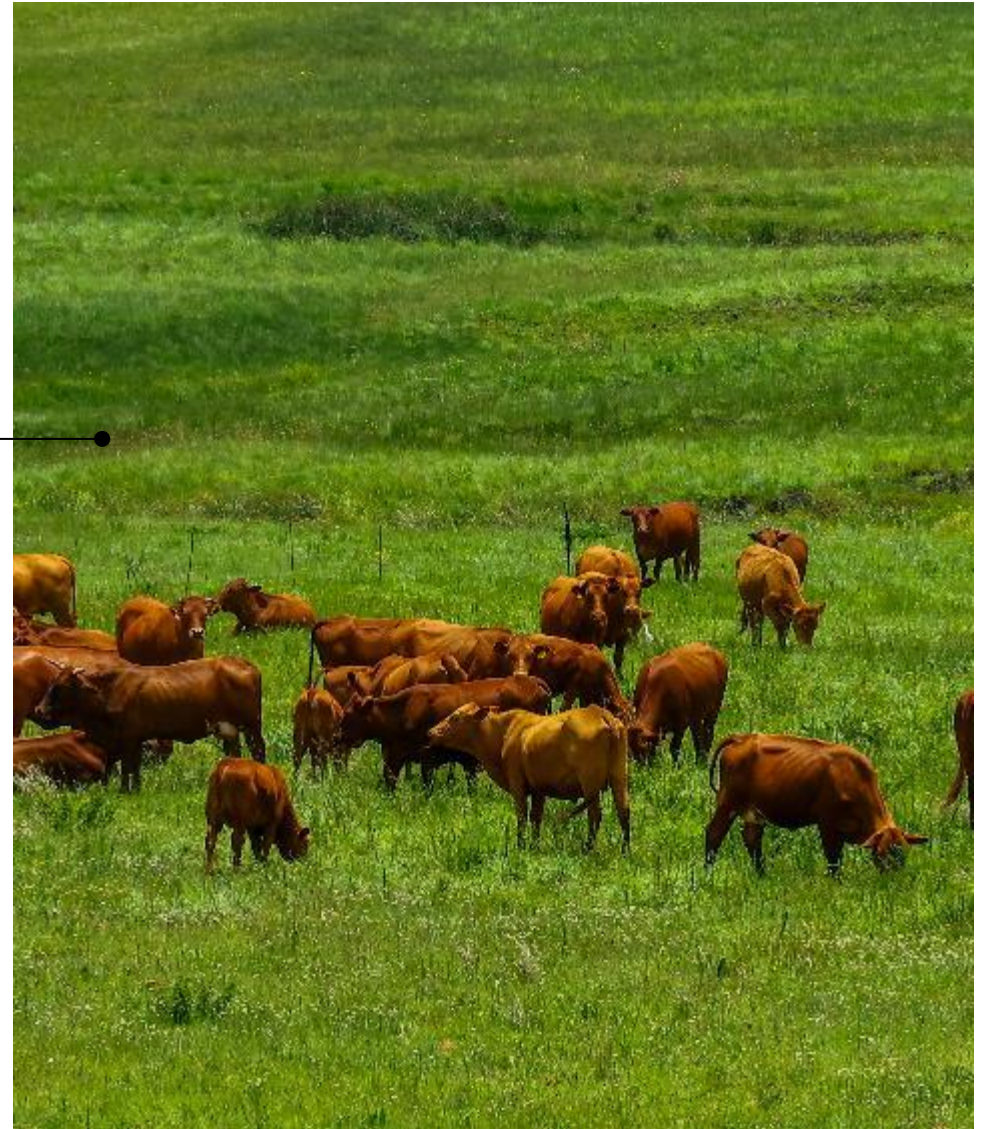


Focus on AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

Results of the General Household Survey 2025

Fast Fact

Most households that farm do so just to add to their food rather than earn money, but many still struggle to get enough food in some provinces.

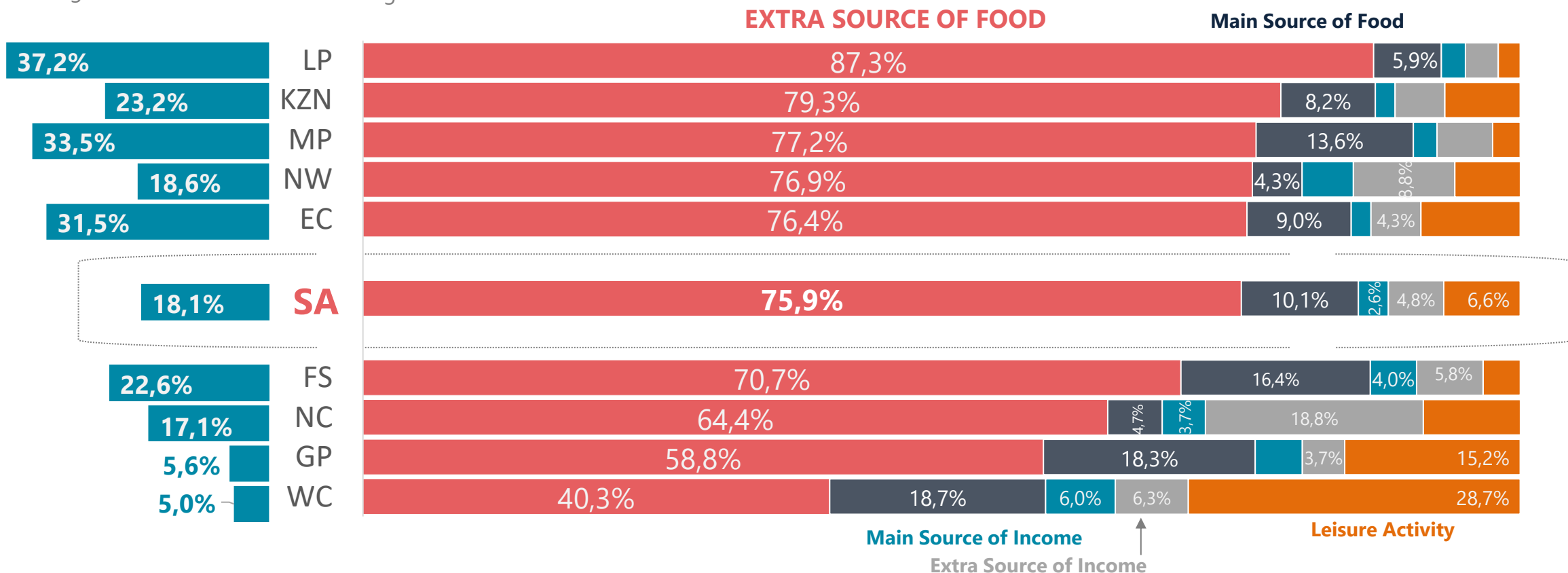


MORE THAN THREE-QUARTERS (75,9%) of households involved in agriculture did so to **PRODUCE EXTRA FOOD**, while 10,1% of household nationally participated in agriculture as their main source of food

Proportion of Agricultural households and main reason for involvement, 2025

Households Involvement in agricultural activities

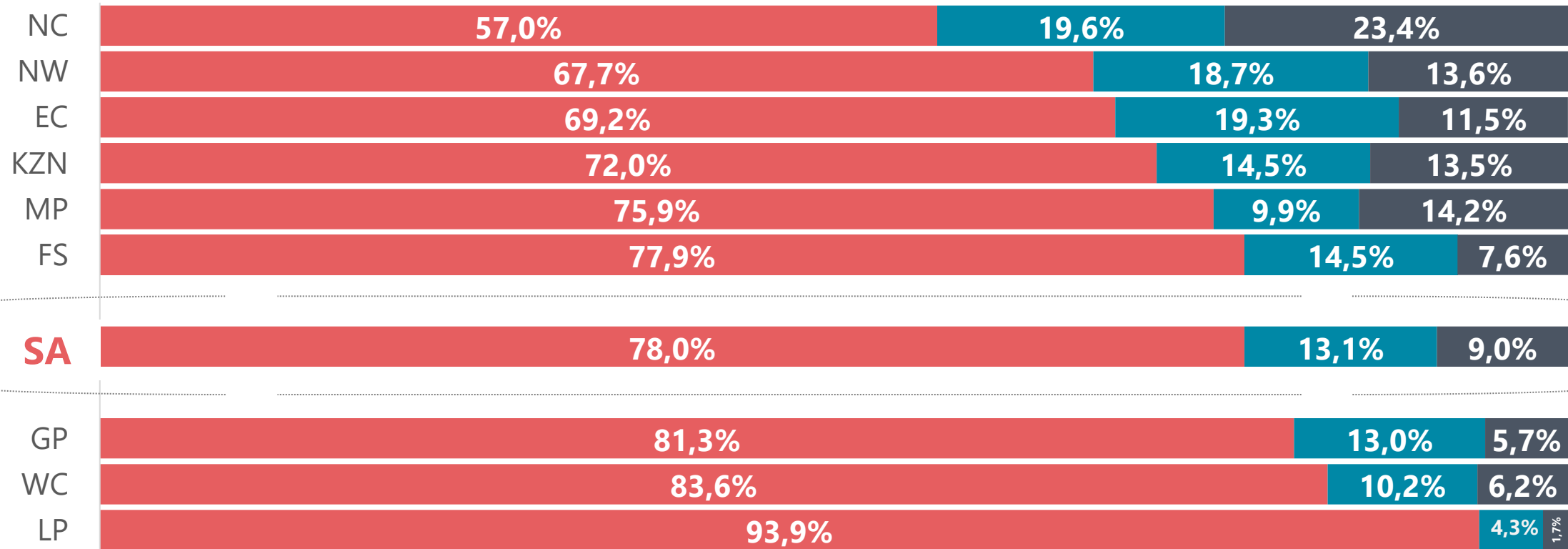
MAIN REASON for involvement in agricultural activities



22,0% of households considered their access to food as **INADEQUATE** or **SEVERELY INADEQUATE** in SA

Percentage of households experiencing food adequacy or inadequacy by province, 2025

■ Food access adequate ■ Food access inadequate ■ Food access severely inadequate



Focus on PET OWNERSHIP

Results of the General Household Survey 2025

Fast Fact

Accurate measurement of pet dog and cat populations is essential to understand their size, distribution and human–animal dynamics, supporting effective immunisation, sterilisation, and control of zoonotic diseases such as rabies.

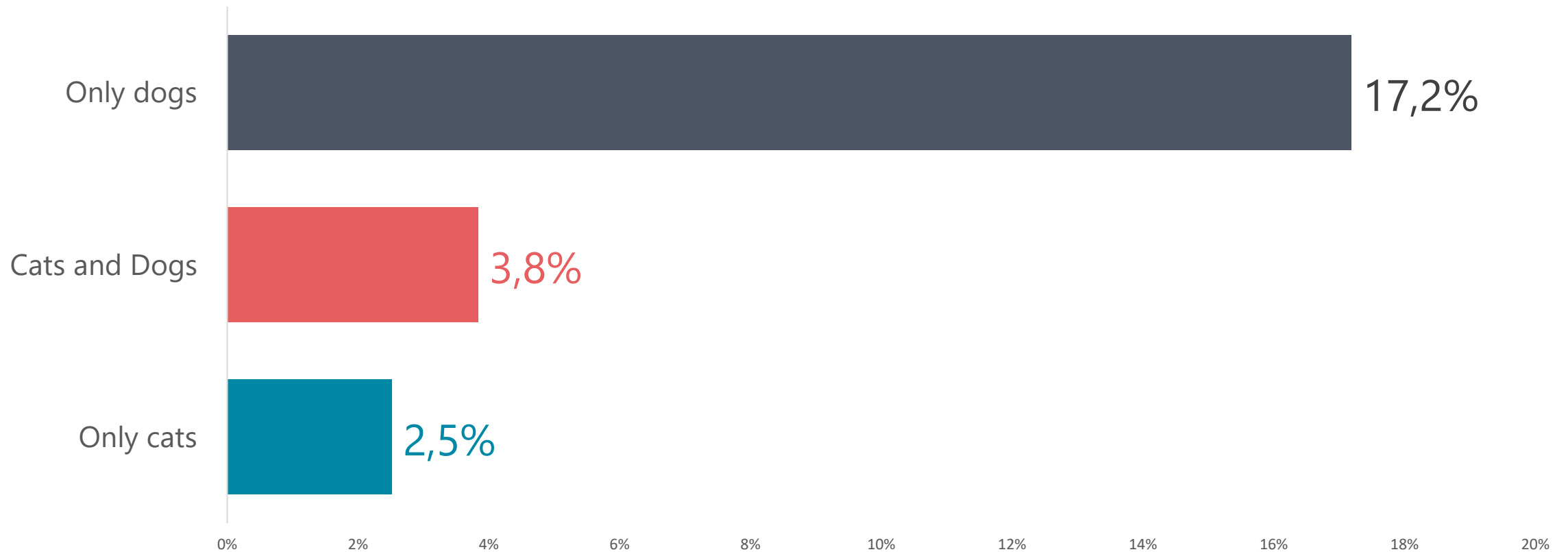


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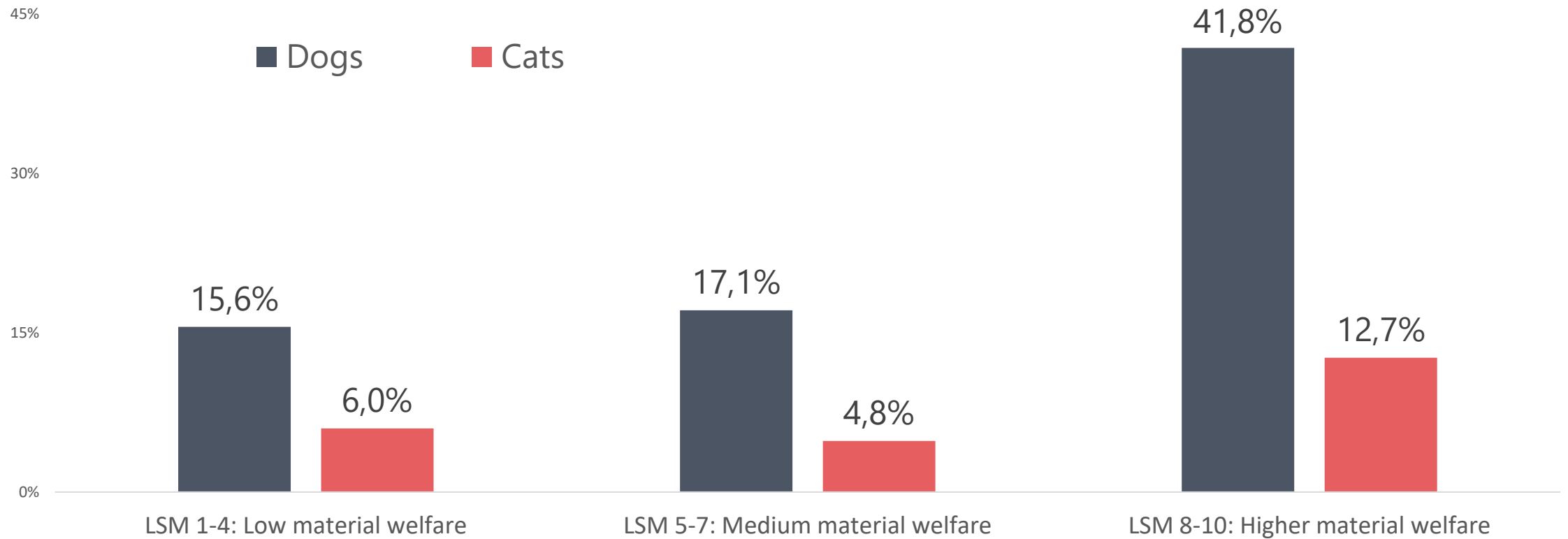
Households in SA owned an estimated **7,4 million dogs** and **2 million cats**. **3,8% OF HOUSEHOLDS OWNED DOGS AND CATS**

Percentage of households that owned dogs and cats, 2025



It is notable that the ownership of dogs and cats also increases with household wealth

Household ownership of cats and dogs by Living Standards Measures, 2025



Overview and Conclusion



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 2,6% in 2025, while the percentage of individuals with at least a grade 12 qualifications has increased from 30,5% to 52,9% over the same period.



Grants and Sources of Income

The percentage of individuals who benefited from social grants increased from 12,8% in 2003 to 39,5% in 2025, while the percentage of households that received at least one grant increased from 30,8% to 50,6% over the same period.



Food Security

Almost one quarter (22,0%) of households considered their access to food as inadequate or severely inadequate. The need was most pervasive in NC (43,0%) and least common in LP (6,1%)



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Housing

Although 12,1% of households still lived in informal dwellings, more than four-fifths (84,2%) of households lived in formal dwellings (up 10,7 percentage points from 73,5% in 2002). Traditional dwellings were most common in Eastern Cape (16,2%) and KwaZulu-Natal (8,7%).



Basic Household Services

Approximately 9 in 10 (90,6%) 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.



Basic Household Services

Three-quarters (76,3%) of households have access to piped water in the dwelling or in the yard.



Basic Household Services

Almost two-thirds of South African households have access to flush toilets while 84,0% had access to improved sanitation (flush toilets and VIP Pit toilets)- up from 61,7% in 2002.

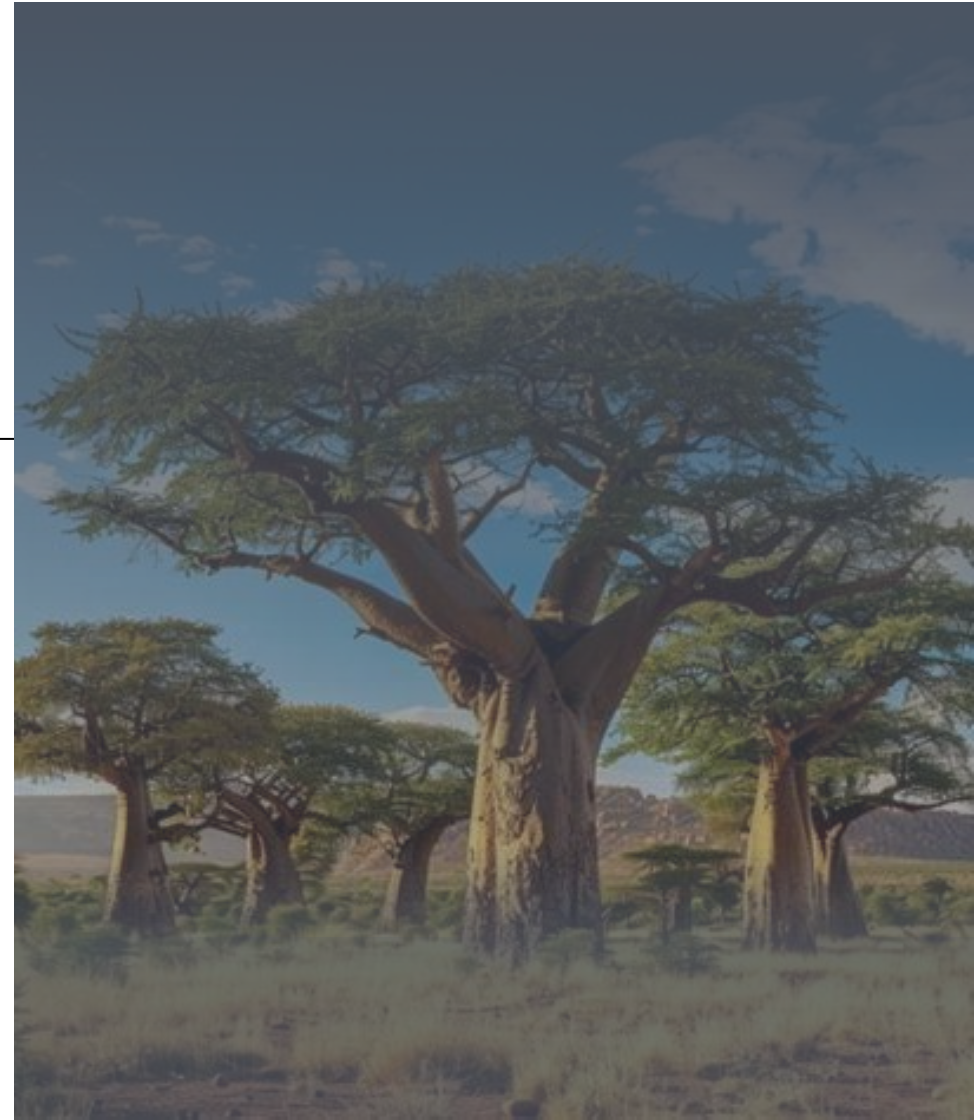


Basic Household Services

Refuse was removed for 84,9% of households in urban areas.

Ndzi hela kwala!

Results of the General Household Survey 2025



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